



# The Howler

Dr. Augustine Ramirez

Intermediate School

March 2013

Volume 2, Issue 5



## Jerry Buss

By: Adam Danh



Jerry Buss was the great owner of the Lakers, one of the greatest franchises in the basketball world the Lakers. Jerry Buss died at age 80 leaving the game of basketball to the young people that want to follow in his footsteps. Jerry Buss left the game of basketball on Monday, February 18, 2013. He was 80 years old. Buss had been hospitalized for most of the past 18 months while undergoing cancer treatment, but the immediate cause of death was kidney failure. With his condition apparently worsening in recent weeks, several prominent former Lakers visited Buss to say goodbye. One thing that cannot be denied is that he molded the game of basketball into what it is today which is not just a sport but also entertainment at its finest. While Jerry Buss was alive he touched the lives of many great players in Laker history such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant, Jerry West, Magic Johnson, and Shaquille O'Neal as he molded the Lakers into what they are today which is one of the two most storied franchises in the NBA. Jerry Buss was a well-loved person in Lakerland as many great Lakers talked about him at his memorial service as a great business

mind, a loving boss and most of all a winner who delivered more than half of the Lakers titles in the years that he has been the main man running the operations behind the scenes as the Laker owner. He left an enormous shadow around the NBA as he became the standard for being an owner for any future owners that looked up to him due to his amazing accomplishments that most would only dream of realizing.

The Buss family stated, "It was our father's often-stated desire and expectation that the Lakers remain in the Buss family. The Lakers have been our lives as well, and we will honor his wish and do everything in our power to continue his unparalleled legacy." Jerry Buss will be missed as the owner of the Lakers and no one could have done better or even come close to accomplish some of the extraordinary feats he set as the smart and proud owner of the Los Angeles Lakers. Jerry Buss will always be remembered as the greatest owner in Laker history and one of the few people to revolutionize the game of basketball. He paved the way for any new minds who want to step up and further advance the game of basketball.

## Instagram

By: Atira Nopenkamm and Hailey Gomez

### PRIDE CALENDAR

- March 22nd- April 8th: Spring Break
- March 28th: 6th Grade Student Tours A/D Track
- April 13th- Math Field Day

Watch out Facebook! There's another way to share your life with friends and family. Instagram is an online photo-sharing and social networking service which allows you to share your life through your Apple or Android device. Instagram is a free app that is available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Instagram was created by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger. They launched Instagram in October of 2010 and it gained popularity fast. Today Instagram holds more than 90 million active users and will most likely hold more. When you are on Instagram, you can share pictures and share with your followers. You can take a picture from the app or select one from your camera roll. You can also "like" someone else's picture if you want to. Other users can also "like" your pictures too.

You can go on Instagram anywhere, as long as you have internet. When you share a picture, Instagram gives you the option to give your picture a filter. A filter will make your picture look even better. Some filters that are on Instagram are Amaro, Rise, Mayfair, and Nashville. It also gives you the option to blur out parts of a picture. On December 17, 2012, Instagram updated its terms of service to let it be able to sell its users' pictures to third parties without notification to the owner of the picture. Instagram also has hashtags so that like-minded Instagram users can find certain photos and people. You can also create your username and make a bio to tell more people about you. You can get as creative as you want. Overall, Instagram is a fun and interesting way to share your life with your friends and family.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Spotlight Interviews	2
Principals Honor Roll	2
Student Voices	3
Grease Review	3
John Mayer	3
Anjelah Johnson	4
Movie Reviews	4
Game Review	4
Book Reviews	4

## Russian Meteor

By: Joyce Zhong

On an ordinary Friday afternoon around 9:20 a.m., simple Russians wake up, go to school, and do their daily jobs. As strollers walk past, they suddenly see what is described as "fire in the sky." A huge eruption follows, and it sends people cowering for their lives. A meteor is to blame for all this havoc- 55 feet in diameter and 10,000 tons of stony material. Scientists say an event like this is bound to occur at least once every hundred years. Car alarms went off,

phone lines were disrupted, and windows were shattered. None were found dead, but 1,100 were injured. The Ural Federal University based in Russia has found 53 fragments, each about seven millimeters. Researchers claim the meteor had flown by Chelyabinsk, Russia and unleashed 500 kilotons of energy. When the fireball exploded, thousands of pieces fell to the surface. Some Russians claim that it had to do with aliens and the end of the world, but the

made of chondrites, an element that makes up most of the meteors found on Earth. Clips of the meteor were recorded by security cameras and the ones located on streets. Nobody was killed in this incident, but extreme footage have been recorded and uploaded into YouTube and other networks. The situation is safe, and NASA and other scientists are discovering more information involving the meteor.

## Locks of Love

By: Ashley Wilson

Locks of Love started in 1997 as a for-profit organization. It is now a non-profit organization that makes hair prostheses (custom-made wigs) and gives them to children and adults in need. It operates the whole year helping people with cancer, alopecia, and many other diseases. They make prostheses for long-term or permanent hair loss, and wigs for short term hair loss. The prostheses are made of real hair while the wigs are made of synthetic materials. The current owner of Locks of Love, Madonna Coffman, had

alopecia herself and it caused her and her daughter to lose their hair. From that experience she's made Locks of Love into a non-profit organization that gives prostheses to all fifty states plus Canada. Each prosthesis is made from six to ten ponytails. Around one-hundred prostheses are received each year by many different children and adults. The prostheses are formed from a mold that is taken of the recipients head. Each strand is hand injected into the silicone 150,000 times. The recipient's hair piece can be any color

they would like. To get a prosthesis the adult or child needs to provide medical information, a completed application, a photo of the child, financial information, and at least two letters of recommendation. These hair pieces can help children and adults feel more confident. The recipients will also know that someone cares for them. Everyone should definitely look into Locks of Love and see if there is anything they could do to help.





# SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEWS



## MR. KING

By: Kayla Alvarez and Vanessa Hayes



You've probably seen Mr. King roaming the halls of Ramirez with a giant smile on his face. Well there is more to him than meets the eye! Let's take a dive into the life of Mr. King! Mr. King is a science crazed wrestler from Chicago. During middle school, his favorite memory was when he won his Jr. high wrestling tournament, and his least favorite memories were of how he always got in trouble. If he wasn't a teacher he said he would be a firefighter or in the military. In seventh grade, Jenny Phillips was Mr. King's first girlfriend who dumped him for being short.

Even though he had a tough life he still wishes he could have done better in school. During his childhood he faced many difficult things, but through it all, he learned many important things like, "It's not what you do, it's how you do it. Be thankful for everything you have. Someone always has it worse than you; and whether you look at the glass half full, or half empty, at least you have a glass." Mr. King's favorite things to do outside of work are hiking, fishing,

camping, eating ice cream, all sports, and especially enjoying food. He also has some weird talents like being able to do the splits, one-legged squats, and being able to do pull-ups with his fingertips. Clearly, Mr. King and his muscles are helping students all over campus enjoy their learning experience here at school! He is a down to earth person that always makes people smile! If you see him teaching or just visiting make sure to say hi!

*"It's not where you're at, it's how far you've come."*  
Mr. King

## PARKER MANIER

By: Brianna Oropeza and Krystell Ceballos

Parker Manier is a multi-talented student at Ramirez Intermediate that has proven that he is one of a kind. From the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> grade he has been a very talented actor. He enjoys acting and singing just to entertain people. He also loves making people enjoy the performance and making them laugh. Parker is also a brave soul because he very comfortable with this entire enter



taining deal. He is also very multi-talented because he can act any part in a performance. Even though Parker is very talented, he still has the fear of forgetting his lines. Parker is also very relatable because he practices a lot like many people. When he grows up he wants to accomplish something that involves music. Also when he grows up he wants to be known as a worldwide

singer. Parker also loves all kinds of music specially the chorus because it explains the whole song. Like most of the students he also has a dream of traveling, but he would like to go to China. If he had one thing to change about himself he would change his wide feet. All in all, he is a very relatable and talented kid that is going to be doing big things when he grows up.



*"It's not what you do, it's how you do it."*  
Mr. King

# PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

## 7TH GRADE

Victoria Ayala  
Mallory Bell  
Valerie Berumen  
Karishma Bhakta  
Jack Brown  
Jillian Cantu  
Maisie Chau  
Spencer Chavez  
Kyle Chen  
Henry Cox  
Charisma Del Toro  
Somya Desilva Leonguerrero  
Shubh Dhruv  
Jaclyn Dominguez  
Justice Donato  
Chelsea Echenique  
Diana Escamilla  
Micaela Estrada  
Austin Fair  
Ian Felter  
Megan Fernandez  
Matthew Ferry  
Bryce Fields  
Jason Fox  
Nathan Franco  
Alyssa Gomez  
Haley Gomez  
Aleena Gonzalez  
Elizabeth Gutierrez  
Miranda Gutierrez  
Jessica Halterman  
Janus Han

Romney Harris  
Calvin Heng  
Alexis Hernandez  
Justin Ho  
Kenneth Javier  
Nicholas Jongeneel  
Abby Kale  
Anwar Kalid  
Andrew La Rocca  
Tomas Lam  
Kayla Long  
Lisette Macias  
Rami Madani  
Heidi Martinez  
Jillian Martinez  
Grace Mcallister  
Nicole Mccammon  
Kalyssa Mcglothen  
Delanie Mckeon  
Rhea Mehra  
Alexis Montes  
Roman Munoz  
Amin Netter  
Kaylene Ng  
Cindy Nguyen  
Atira Nopenkam  
Lukas Noto  
Gabriel Nwagbala  
Kevin Ong  
Noelani Origel  
Angel Patel

Vani Patel  
Madelynn Perkins  
Rushil Rawal  
Cassie Regalado  
Megan Romasanta  
Daniel Roney  
Alexander Rosales  
Mariah Camill Rosario  
Madelyn Ruffin  
Andrew Ryan  
Brendan Santos  
Trevor Seifen  
Ramdan Shaat  
Jeffrey Sloom  
Jill Su  
Omar Tamayo  
Alyssa Umemoto  
Samantha Valle  
Katelinh Vu  
Jasmine Walker  
Heather Willeford  
Ashley Wilson  
Lillianne Wong  
Annalise Yates  
Yue Yin  
Isabella Ying  
Jaehee Yoo  
Danyi Zhang  
Oscar Zuniga

## 8TH GRADE

Arya Anand  
Gabriela Arevalo  
Janak Babaria  
Kaitlynn Barbosa  
Aaron Barillas  
Cayla Barnes  
Jaret Barnhart  
Bria Beale  
Carina Calderon  
Jorge Collado  
Trace Daniels  
Desiree Edmonds  
Addisyn Fair  
Tyrese Green  
Sawyer Hamm  
Jenna Hanson  
Karrington Hawkins  
Charles Hickman  
Jason Holguin  
Madhumita Kolluri  
Jules Labador  
Kaela Larios  
Tawny Le  
Samantha Lee  
Heather Lee  
Eliza Leyco  
Annie Luu  
Vivian Ly  
Bill Mansiantima  
Gianna Marquecho  
Brittany Marrero  
Kali McNally

Giselle Morales  
Joan Moreto  
Alanna Murdock  
Daniel Najd  
Samantha Navarro  
Michelle Onyeyiriuche  
Emily Pan  
Ryan Park  
Neel Patel  
Meera Patel  
Katherine Pearson  
Thomas Phan  
Danielle Ramon  
Jonathon Richardson  
Braden Riley  
Alexandra Rio  
Daphnie Lynn Rivera  
Joanna Rivers  
Astrid Sandoval  
Sabrina Sauri  
Jamie Shin  
Armish Siddiqi  
Evelyn Sun  
Jirat Taepwong  
Natalie Tafesh  
Brendon Thompson  
Michelle Tseng  
Keenan Vanderbeck  
Frederick Villa  
Marinelle Villanueva  
Ashley Wong  
Joseph Yadrick  
Catherine Yang  
Josh Yow





# STUDENT VOICES



## THE UNDER DOGS

By: Kaelyn Gordon

Do you see that aide? She picks up your trash everyday that you thought disappeared. Did you see that janitor? He cleans up spilled water, Gatorade or that stupid prank you pulled in the bathroom. See that office lady? She's the one who makes sure your day runs smooth. See that lunch lady? She keeps your food tasting great rather than rotten. A lot of people play a big part of your day and sometimes you don't even realize it. These hard-working people spend their time, that could be spent on otherwise, cleaning or cooking or keeping tabs for you. Just so you can talk about how much you hate them and think their jobs are a joke. Aid's have to spend two hours plus working with mostly disrespectful kids who are supposed to be our country's future. Lunch ladies slave away in a hot kitchen space working to feed you while you insult them. Janitors spend hours keeping our school clean while you ruin the commons or the bathroom. Office ladies make sure you're here or verify your grades while you're rude and disrespectful toward them. Take a step back and appreciate those around you. Notice those who work hard and go without recognition. For whom? For you!

## CHEWING GUM AT SCHOOL

By: Rami Madani and Kenneth Javier

Gum isn't allowed in school. You are punished if you are chewing gum at school. It is time for a change. Gum should be allowed in school. It's been proven that gum can help you achieve better test scores. Researchers at the Baylor College of Medicine proved that chewing gum helps you. The researchers had two groups, one group who chewed gum and the other who did not chew gum. The group who chewed gum got better test results than those who did not. Next, the stress at school can annoy you sometimes. At lunch time, your brain will start to focus on the flavor of the gum. By doing this, you will not have to worry about the upcoming test and you can relax on your free time. Finally, people who have ADHD should chew gum because they need to focus. Chewing gum will help those who have ADHD focus on a test, and lectures that are important. Clearly, chewing gum will help students perform better on tests and be more successful in class. Don't you think that students deserve every opportunity to be successful?

## FREE CELLPHONES

By: Haley Gomez and Cassandra Gonzales

Do you think people should get free cell phones? Recently, a new federal program has been approved by California's Public Utilities Commission that gives the homeless or needy free cell phones. We believe that the homeless or needy should receive free cell phones. For example, they would only get a free phone if they make less than \$15,000 a year and they have to have any kind of public assistance, such as Medicare or food stamps. That limits it down so that only people who really need it get a free phone. Next, the people who receive free cell phones would be able to talk to their families and friends. They could plan get-togethers to see their families. Finally, the people who qualify will get a basic cell phone with 250 text messages per month. That way the people with the free cell phones will be limited on the use of it, so that they will make sure that they are using the phone to its full potential. Clearly, we think that giving free cell phones to the homeless and needy is a good idea. Only certain people would get one, they could talk to their family, and they will be limited on the use of their phones.

## LET KIDS VOTE

By: Jillian Cantu

If adults get to vote for a President or pass a law of important political matters that will affect the future of all generations, then shouldn't kids vote? I think that letting kids vote is important because we are innovative, have great ideas, and know what issues we are passionate about. Young people have learned the skill of having innovative ideas because we listen, engage, and learn. We are not afraid to try new things. Our vote should count because our nation needs a different point of view. Kids can work well together with adults and compromise to help make our country great. Kids are concerned about safety, conforming to rules everyday, working well with a diversity of people, and caring for the environment. This passion comes from the work we do in school everyday. We are also well informed by our parents, the television, newspapers, books, computers, and other technology devices. Kids should have the right to vote because we are well informed about our world. Our great nation was founded on opportunities. Kids should have the responsibility to vote so that as we get older we understand how laws are created and passed. Then we will have an understanding of our system of government and how it can affect us. In conclusion, kids should vote because we are intelligent people. Equality is a word we have been learning about for a long time in history. If we are given the right to vote, it will affect the decisions that politicians make for our country. This would bring fairness and equality to all people including us kids.

## WOLF PACK



## PRIDE

### ELECTIVE APPLICATIONS

By: Kaelyn Gordon

Calling all Ramirez Wolves! Do you want to be in ASB? Do you want to be the person who plans the next dance or lunch time activity? Do you want to be in drama? Do you want to be the next Sandy or T-bird? Do you want to be in band? Elective application for all of these classes and more are available on our school website. Electives are fun, but a privilege. With that being said, make sure your grades are in check. ASB is an unforgettable experience. You're able to be apart of a club where you can truly express yourself. Drama is a perfect way to let all of your emotions out. Drama is an extraordinary opportunity for anyone: fun plays, new friends, and a new way of life. Band is the ultimate way to have fun. In band, you can play any instrument of your choice. You get to express yourself in ways you never knew before. The deadline is May 3, 2013. Remember Wolves, electives are tons of fun and a gift. I recommend going online now to reserve your spot!

### STAR TESTING

By: Bailey Carasand Brianna Oropeza

Attention all students! It's that time of year again for STAR testing. We'd just like to encourage every student to eat and rest well and above all to try your best. The scores not only reflect how amazing our school is as a whole, but are important individually for class placement next year. For 8th graders especially, this means that it will affect the classes and electives you will be allowed to take next year in high school. Hopefully, the importance of this test has set in, but don't worry as long as you try your best, there's nothing to be disappointed in. Unfortunately, with the test, comes some great measures

that need to be taken. The state requires that there should be no electronics of ANY KIND during the test. Having such electronics including cell phones, iPods, calculators and more will result in disciplinary actions. Our school will get in huge trouble. Electronics are prohibited before, during, and after the test to ensure everyone will have less distractions and can accomplish up to their full potential. It is asked that on testing days that you put them inside of your backpacks and turn them off until all tests are collected from your classroom.

## The Reviews Are In GREASE WAS A HIT!

Mrs. Brasher stated, "Hands-down the best student performance I have ever seen."



The cast of Grease said, "This production was an exciting and nerve wracking time for the cast of Grease. Working hard since December 1st with intense rehearsals we managed to put on a great play. Working with PDM was a blast! We learned so much when it came to acting, confidence, and having a great time. We grew so close coming from not knowing each other, to pretty much a family. It was an honor to work with the fabulous Mr. Paul-Dean Martin. It was an amazing learning experience while having so much fun. With many great reviews we can say that we put on an awesome show. We want to thank everyone that helped out and made it possible from PDM, Mrs. Scott, and our wonderful parent volunteers. We can't wait to re-join the amazing cast for Anastasia. We encourage everyone, even if you aren't in drama class, to come out and participate as we put on another exciting play."

"On Friday, March 1st, the students of Ramirez put on the most inspiring performance I have ever seen. I am so proud of all of the students who starred in Grease. They showed me that anything is possible through hard work and dedication. Our production of Grease was beyond fantastic. The feedback we received after the show was phenomenal. Teaming up with PDM Young Actors was an amazing experience. It was truly an honor to work with Paul-Dean Martin. Not only did he teach my students the foundation of acting, but he transformed them into Broadway stars. He challenged me, motivated me, and inspired me as a mentor and I am so grateful for all of the time and hard work that he invested into the Ramirez Drama program. With his help, and the help of parents, teachers, staff and the community, Ramirez drama has created a name for itself. The debut of Grease is only the first of many more musicals to come." quoted, Mrs. Scott

"What a fantastic night of theatre.....the entire cast took me back to my high school days where "Grease" was everyone's favorite musical! Every kid was a standout and they've made a memory they'll have forever!" remarked Kathi Burns

Sharon Bernard, delightfully said, "I attended the wonderful play on Friday night. I must say many of those students appear so ready for the high school level. Congratulations to your entire cast and crew!!!! A JOB WELL DONE!"

**. We hope to see all of you at our Production of Anastasia in May 2013.**





Music is an inspiration. Music is a way to feel better. Music is supposed to be relatable. Nowadays, music is just made to make money. There are a few music artists who truly sing from the heart. John Clayton Mayer always knew what his destiny was. He knew that his fingers and his voice was meant to do something and he was meant to be somebody. John was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on October 16, 1977. He lived a normal life: two-parent household, religious, two brothers, and went to school. He always felt lost in the midst of the world. It was as if you were looking at the crowd, and he was the one that blended in. Until one very special, life changing day. Thirteen-year old John was watching a very well-known movie, "Back to the Future", when Michael J. Fox played his guitar solo. From that day on, he became fascinated with the guitar. He forced himself to finish high school for his mother, but he hated every minute of it.

# John Mayer

By: Kaelyn Gordon



He knew that he wasn't going to college. He was going to be a musician and singer. He was signed to Columbia Records in 2001. From that day on was pure success: "Your Body Is a Wonderland," "Gravity," and "Daughters." Over the course of his career he had some bad moments and some scandals but who hasn't. After John was diagnosed with nodes he really grew up. He took two years to really evaluate his life and realized it's not about the way you fall but the way you get back and show people you can do it. He did just that with his new album, "Shadow Days." John Mayer knew he wanted to be a singer, but he wanted his music to natural and flow. He's done that and more. He sings the truth. I guarantee there is at least one song, of his, that you can one-hundred percent agree with. Go to the nearest store and buy his newest album, "Shadow Days."

## MOVIE REVIEWS

### PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

By: Vickey Rodriguez

Arrg Me Harty! Get ready for another exciting adventure with Captain Jack Sparrow and Barbossa. Are you up for the adventure? Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides was directed by Rob Marshall. The brilliant writers are Ted Elliott, Terry Rossio, Stuart Beattie, Jay Wolpert, and Tim Powers. Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides is about how Jack Sparrow and Barbossa enter on a quest to find the elusive fountain of youth. They discover that Blackbeard and his daughter are after the elusive fountain of youth as well. The fountain of youth is a little water fountain, whoever drinks a sip will not die, but whoever drinks from the other cup will die. Who do you think will get there before the other and have a sip of the fountain of youth? I wish I could say, but I don't want to spoil your interests in finding out. In my opinion, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides was fantastic. I would definitely recommend this movie to others because it has adventure and a little bit of love. I mean who doesn't love adventure and some love? I do. Now my challenge to you is to go out and view this wonderful and amazing movie.

### LET'S TOUCHBACK

By: Brianna Oropeza and Cassandra Gonzales

Would you give up everything you love for a second chance at your dream? On April 13, 2012 the director Don Han field created a life changing, inspirational movie called "Touchback". The main actors, Brian Presley, Kurt Russell, and Melanie Winskey have all played a part on the inspirational and relatable part in "Touchback". "Touchback" is all about the choices made for a life with loved ones or a life of fame. Scott Murphy is a crippled middle-aged man with a drive to play football. However, he has a broken leg that cannot be fixed so it's impossible to play again. One day of faith he has a chance to fix his life all over again and play football to become a pro. The one thing is at what cost? "Touchback" is one of the most amazing movies we have seen. It's an unbelievable story line with an exciting twist. If I were you I would rent this unforgettable movie tonight!

## Anjelah Johnson

By: Brianna Oropeza and Cassandra Gonzales



"That's how we do it!" Watch out comedy here comes a new comedienne and she's making us all go wild. With her spot on skits she has amazed us all with her pure talent of being a comedienne. On May 14, 1982 in San Jose Anjelah Jhonson was born. Anjelah was born as Mexican and Native American. Anjelah was a very normal child and as she grew up she became a pleaser to please people with her amazing comedy jokes. Anjelah was always multitalented person for example she is a comedian, actress and was a former NFL cheerleader. She has featured in "The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" and in "The Box". Her comedienne side is also hilarious. She first started with The Nail Salon skit now she's been progressing and making new ones for her fans. All in all, Anjelah Jhonson has made a great impact on American society because she has created a few amazing and hilarious skits that will truly be worth your time. As soon as you can I recommend you to go to YouTube and watch all of Anjelah's videos.

## GAME REVIEW

### DONKEY KONG COUNTRY RETURNS

By: Rami Madani

It's that game everyone has been talking about: Donkey Kong Country Returns. Donkey Kong Country Returns was released on November 21 2010. It is only available on the Wii game console. Donkey Kong Country Returns was developed by Retro Studios and produced by Kensuke Tanabe. The game mainly focuses on enemies called Tikis and how Donkey Kong and his pal Diddy Kong try to stop them from taking over their island. Not only do the Tikis take over their island but they hypnotize the islands animals to get rid of Donkey Kong, Diddy Kong, and their bananas. On their adventures Donkey Kong and Diddy Kong encounter 8 bosses in different worlds such as the forest and ruins. Before you can play the boss levels you must play some other levels before you can unlock it and if you get stumped a super guide will be in the level to show you how to beat it. During the game there will be letters that spell out K-O-N-G or puzzle pieces that make a picture in each level. If you collect all the K-O-N-G letters in a world you will be awarded a bonus level which you must beat in order to get a step closer to unlocking the last level. Throughout the game bananas, coins, and balloons are items you will find in each level. Balloons represent the number of lives you have. If you collect 100 bananas you will be granted another balloon. Coins are use to buy items in a shop called "Cranky Kong's Shop" owned by Cranky Kong who seems to be a relative of Donkey Kong. In the shop you can buy balloons, an extra heart, squawks a parrot who tells you when you're near a puzzle piece, and banana juice a drink that makes you temporarily invincible. There are over 50 levels in this game. In conclusion Donkey Kong Country Returns is recommended to fans of bananas, monkeys, gorillas, and adventure.



## BOOK REVIEWS

### WINTERLING

By: Jillian Cantu

If you love mystery, wonder, and secrets that are soon to be discovered then this is the book for you. The author, Sarah Prineas, wrote this book because she wanted to have the reader use their imagination and explore a whole other world. A girl named Fer doesn't really fit in at school and she wants to have more in her life than what she has now. When she runs away to the forest she meets a strange boy who was attacked by two dogs. Her grandmother immediately knows who the boy is, and Fer is confused. Her grandmother then had to explain everything and tell about her parents. Under strange circumstances Fer travels through a portal called the "Way". Fer is compelled to understand why spring has not come in her own world and she believes this place has the answer. The boy she had met in the forest is now apart of this adventure. Fer is only allowed to ask him one question and Rook, which is the boys name, must answer it. I love this book because the author mesmerizes me with the plot of the story. This book is the one that will thrill you when you read it. I recommend this book to you because it is adventurous and is exiting. This book is the perfect one to read during your free time.

### THE ALCHEMIST

By: Josh Tolley

Do you like fantasy books, dreams, nightmares and things that will make you shiver? Well then, read this book!! It has magic, sorcery, and creatures and if those are not things that grab your attention well they get lost ..... GET LOST!!!! The Alchemist by Michael Scott is about twins named Josh and Sophie who are dragged into a terrible chase. The more they try to get out the more they get dragged in. Believe me, they have tried- but every time they do they are almost killed by something from their nightmare. They find out that they both have pure aura. Josh has a gold aura and Sophie has silver aura. It is talked about in the prophecy which states, "The 2 that are one and the one that is the same, the two silver, and gold". It also talks about how one of the twins has the power to destroy the world and the other has the power to save the world. I think this book was amazing and there are five others. I really think you guys or girls should read this because it is full of suspense, action, and excitement, all the things you need to have a fantastic book. If you don't read it....well then your loss.