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Celebrating the Achievements of Children™

Amazing Kids! of the Month

Amazing Kids! is proud to highlight the Amazing Kids! of the Month!

Each month, we showcase kids who are accomplishing *amazing* things. We hope that by telling their special stories, we will inspire other kids to accomplish their own amazing achievements.

Amazing Kids! of the Month for December, 1998:

**Amazing Journalists, Artists, Photographers, Poets, Writers, Musicians, and Multimedia Artists from the Illuminations Club,
El Segundo High School, El Segundo, California**



An excerpt from *Illuminations 98*, a CD-Zine

by high school students at El Segundo High School:
Artwork by the talented student artist, Anne Marie Green

This month we highlight the **amazing** work of Illuminations, a journalism club,
and the **amazing** talent found at El Segundo High School, El Segundo, California.

Introducing Some Amazing Journalists and Talented Students from El Segundo High School...

For the final month of 1998, Amazing Kids! is pleased to highlight the work of a wonderfully talented group of students from [El Segundo High School](#), part of the [El Segundo School District](#) in El Segundo, California. ([El Segundo](#) is a friendly city, situated close to the Los Angeles International Airport and the Pacific Ocean.)

As you browse through the following pages, you'll see inspiring [samples](#) taken from the **Illuminations '98 CD-Zine**, an award-winning publication which features art, music, photography, short stories, poetry and video work by students at El Segundo High.

Under the direction of [Mr. Gen](#), an English and Journalism teacher at El Segundo High, students from the [Illuminations Club](#) have produced the [CD-zine*](#) for the past two years (this school year marks their third year). This group of amazing teens are currently working on their latest CD-zine, which will be finished in May, 1999. A real team effort, club members work for one hour a week at lunch throughout the school year to create the CD. It is a result of much hard work of devoted journalism students, and some very talented students from El Segundo High!

It's not surprising to know that all their hard work has paid off. These up-and-coming young journalists have consistently won *first place* awards for journalism excellence in national competitions! They have been recognized by the Columbia School of Journalism, known for being one of the top journalism schools in the nation. For several consecutive years, they have won first place honors by the National Scholastic Press Association and the American Press Association.

This past spring (1998), the students were recognized at the National Journalism Convention in Seattle, Washington. The people who attended were mostly adult professional journalists. But that didn't phase Illuminations Club president Casey Brazeal. Casey, a senior at El Segundo High, is responsible for coordinating the production of the CD-zine. Casey gave a presentation to the entire group of journalists, demonstrating the 1997 Illuminations CD-Zine! Talk about *amazing*! (not to mention, brave!)

 **Check Out the Amazing Talent at El Segundo High:**

Artists	Musicians
Photographers	Poets
Writers	Videographers

 [Read about Casey Brazeal, the Amazing Illuminations President](#)

 [Read about Mr. Gen, the Amazing Teacher Behind Illuminations](#)

 [Illuminations CD-Zine Credits](#)

 [A special message for teens](#)

(A CD-zine is similar to a magazine, but is published in a compact disk or "CD" format)

Help Support the Illuminations Club

After seeing the amazing creative work on **Illuminations '98**, you might want to have your very own copy! The club is selling them for \$8 each. Proceeds go to helping support the Illuminations Club activities.

For more information, please call Mr. Gen, the director of the club, at El Segundo High School at: (310) 615-2662, or email him at: randjgen@telis.org.

Or write to Mr. Gen at the following address:

**El Segundo High School
640 Main Street
El Segundo, California 90245**

The students thank you for your support!

Introducing Mr. Gen: Amazing Teacher!

Mr. Gen is one of those *amazingly* dedicated teachers, who really gives 200% effort in his teaching. Mr. Gen is the teacher who started the Illuminations Club. He has led the club to receive its many awards which recognize the outstanding journalism work of its student members.

Who is Mr. Gen, and what are his thoughts on teaching and technology in the classroom? Below Mr. Gen tells us in his own words.

.....

A Word About Teaching from Mr. Gen:

I've been teaching at El Segundo High School for the past eight years. Before high school, I taught at the university level. Presently I teach 9th grade English, Journalism and the Academic Decathlon team. Once a week during lunch, the Illuminations Club meets in my room to work on the multi-media CD-ROM magazine. The CD is a product produced by students, designed by students, and sponsored by students. The members of the club receive no academic credit – they do it for the sake of learning and the joy of producing something, which the community can enjoy. Illuminations is an opportunity for students to showcase their work and interests. I believe that my job as an educator is to provide students with opportunities. Most students make the best of the opportunities presented to them provided if they capture the vision of what can be.

I am presently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Technology at Pepperdine University. It is a very exciting program. I look forward to planning and implementing the curriculum and technology needed in the classroom of the 21st century. I believe that technology is a tool that will empower students from every background, and it is the responsibility of society to place these tools into the hands of each student.

El Segundo High School's homepage:
<http://www.esegundousd.com/ESHS/home.htm>

Mr. Gen's Personal homepage:
<http://hale.pepperdine.edu/~rmgen/cadre4>

A Special Message from Amazing Kids! for all you teens:

YOU CAN BE AN AMAZING TEEN TOO!

It's no secret...every person has the potential to be amazing in their own way. Sometimes we just need a little help in finding out what our special talents are!

If you are doing some amazing things too, we want to hear about it! Send us your stories about your amazing accomplishments, so we can tell the world just how amazing you are! We are always looking for new stories. And don't be shy! We'd love to hear from you!

Here's an idea you might want to try:

WHY NOT HELP OTHERS SEE THEIR OWN POTENTIAL?

If you know someone who needs a little encouragement, why not tell them what you think is special about them? Maybe *you* can be the one to help them uncover their own special talents!

Amazing Kids! is looking for teens like *you* to be **Amazing Teen Volunteers and Ambassadors**. If you'd like to join Amazing Kids! in helping to spread the word, please email us at: info@amazing-kids.org.

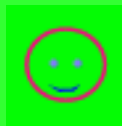
HELP US SPREAD THE WORD:

It's cool to be an Amazing Kid!

Calling All Amazing Kids! We Need Your Help!

If you are, or know any kids who are, doing *amazing* things, [we want to hear about it!](#)

Send us your stories, so we might be able to feature you too someday! Please be patient, and we will do our best to tell your story some day -- hopefully soon!



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Amazing Teen, Casey Brazeal

How Does She Do It?

Casey Brazeal is a senior at El Segundo High School in El Segundo, California. Casey is the president of the Illumination Club, and is in charge of coordinating the production of the yearly "CD-Zine" by the club. You'd think that was enough work for a busy senior to take on...but wait! There's more!

Casey is also the Editor-in-Chief of her high school newspaper, *The Bay Eagle*. Each month, she writes some very bold editorials which she writes from the heart. Some of her opinions might not be the ones that are the most "popular," but Casey bravely stands by her convictions.

Casey is a G.A.T.E. student, with 3 Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and two honors classes. She is also the secretary of the Key Club. Casey wants to work in the publishing field when she graduates from college.

Seeing the *amazing* work she has accomplished so far, Casey will no doubt be a successful, *amazing* adult someday! Good luck, Casey!

(For copies of the El Segundo High school newspaper, The Bay Eagle, call the school at: 310-615-2662.)

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Amazing El Segundo High Artists Illuminations '98 CD-Zine

Here is some of the artwork of the *amazing* artists found on the Illuminations '98 CD-Zine:

 Art Collage 1:	Jong O, Leonard Alyson, David Baldwin, Krystie Bello, Casey Brazeal, A Carson
 Art Collage 2:	Marina Cunningham, Lisa Christy, Neil Collora, Stephanie Cullen, Sarah Collins, Christian Cockrell
 Art Collage 3:	Janice Gibbons, Chris Foote, Mascarena Dominick, Chris Evans, Michelle Eberley-Haller, B. Eisen
 Art Collage 4:	Anne Marie Green
 Art Collage 5:	Parra Hirman, Juliana Henriquez, Shuan Gonzales, Whitney Hawcocu, Dustin Grey, Jason Hanley
 Art Collage 6:	Jenny Johnson, Tiffany Hunt, Cheng Iev, Ryan Jaunzemis, Barbara Joelson
 Art Collage 7:	Darren Laos, Sarah Lowery, Kristin McDonald, Brandon McGrath
 Art Collage 8:	Cassie Milne, Beth Mulhall, Matt Mulhall, Emily Murphy, Melissa Neff, Chris Neville
 Art Collage 9:	Hiram Parra, Vanessa Pearson, Lauren Nicholai, Vanessa Pearson, Brandy Parrys, Davantis Nikolas



**Sample Student Art Taken from Illuminations '98 CD-Zine
Produced by the Illuminations Club, El Segundo High School**

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<u>Photographers</u>	<u>Poets</u>
<u>Writers</u>	<u>Videographers</u>

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Amazing El Segundo High School Poets Illuminations '98 CD-Zine

Here are sample poems of some of the *amazing* poetry found on the Illuminations '98 CD-Zine.

The last selection, *Ars Poetica*, is a choral reading of a poem by Archibald MacLeish (Quicktime movie format: .mov). It is performed by the Illuminations students.

 Why?	Crystal Castle
 My Brother	Viren Dahya
 Anhelo (<i>en espanol</i>)	Carlos Ramierez
 Unanswered Questions	Christina Teoh
 The Test	Tamiko Tsurudome
 Guess Who?	Harrison Turner
 Ars Poetica Quicktime Movie (566 KB)	Archibald MacLeish (<i>recited by Illuminations Club</i>)

Why?

By Crystal Castle

Hate, put-downs, envy
These are all words to describe jealousy,
If a girl sees another who is prettier than she,
She tries to do what she can to make the other seem ugly.
It's not fair, we should all be made to feel beautiful,
Even if we aren't Miss America,
Everyone deserves a chance,
For people to not only see the outside beauty but the beauty
that is inside,
The most important beauty of all.

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Illuminations 1998

Illuminations Magazine is a nationally recognized and awarded high school magazine. It is produced by a student club at El Segundo High School.

Illuminations President

Illuminations Vice-President

Illuminations Secretary

Graphics Editor

Magazine Adviser

Front & Back Cover Design

Back Cover Art

Casey Brazeal

Sarah Briney

Hanna Song

Adam Jacobson

Ray Gen

Adam Jacobson

Kristin Cunningham

Illuminations Magazine is a product of the GATE students at El Segundo High School. Contributions were made by the student body.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr. Hart, Mr. Garza, and Dr. Watkins for their support of this project. Thanks also to the following faculty members who especially encouraged their students to submit their work: Anne Green, Larry Westover, Al Carson, Linda Brown, and the English Department. Finally, a special thanks to the School Board for their encouragement.

Send inquires to 640 Main St., El Segundo, CA 90245. The cost of the CD-Zine is \$8.00. The viewpoints expressed are not necessarily those of the El Segundo Unified School District, School Board, nor Faculty.

[Additional Credits](#)

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