



## Perris Press Release

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### Young Artists Converge on City Hall

More than 75 Park Avenue Elementary School students paid a visit to the Perris City Hall Campus this week to sketch the iconic fountain and historic administration building, visit the time capsule buried as part of Perris' 2011 Centennial and chat with Mayor Daryl Busch, who led them on a tour of the City Council Chambers.

The students, all fourth-graders, are learning about California government and stopped by to get an up close and personal look at City Hall.

They met City Manager Richard Belmudez, learned about the upcoming Tour de Perris bicycle ride and got the sit on the City Council dais in chairs usually occupied by the Mayor and council members.

"The kids were really enthusiastic and we had a great time," Busch said. "It was fun and learning experience."

Students in Cindy Weber's and Lilia Garcia's classes spent some of their time drawing the City's recently refurbished water fountain. The fountain is the chosen site for wedding parties and graduates looking for a unique photo op. They also sketched the front of the nearly 100-year-old City Administration building on D Street, site of the former Perris High School.

Lindsey Alvarado, 10, said she enjoyed the field trip to City Hall and noted that the campus has "buildings with pretty colors."

"It looks pretty," Lindsey said.

Briana Delao, 10, said she studied up on Perris history before making the trek to the campus. She knows that Perris was incorporated in 1911 and is named for Frederick Thomas Perris, the railroad engineer who surveyed the community and its surroundings. She knows the City's famous Rock House was built by Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Ragsdale as a private residence in the 1920s. The couple "personally selected the rocks" for the structure, Briana said. The Rock House remains a private residence to this day.

Itzamarie Arriaga, 9, said she learned that Perris has its own airport and attracts skydivers from around the world. Garcia said her class's trip to City Hall incorporated several lessons—Perris history, its architecture and its government functions. Drawing the buildings and fountain provided the exclamation point for a year's worth of study about municipal government.

"It's a beautiful campus," Garcia said. "We love the buildings, the fountain, the trees. It's all pretty amazing." Weber said she hoped the field trip instilled pride in Perris for her students.

"We want to generate a connection with their City," Weber said. "We want them to take pride in their City and learn about the wonders of this City."



Students at Park Avenue Elementary School studied municipal government this year.



Itzamarie Arriaga, 9, holds up a sketch of Perris City Hall while standing in front of the City's iconic water fountain this week..