

Kieran Comes Home!



June - 2020

Issue No: 353



By Bridget & Bryce Sorem

Kieran's Homecoming



May 16, 2020

After 7 weeks of daily NICU trips, the day finally came to bring our baby home. Kieran has come a long way from his 3 lbs 8 oz, and was double his birth weight at 7 pounds when he was released.

Now we truly feel like his parents and not just his visitors. To finally be able to kiss him without a mask on and hold him without latex gloves on is the greatest feeling in the world. Who would've thought that sleepless nights and constant diaper changes would be so welcome. Anything just to have him finally with us is a joy!



Kieran has been steadily gaining weight and doing great so far. He has been good to us! Early intervention services will begin soon, which are very welcome considering how premature he was.

Bryce has been keeping busy baking for our neighbors and selling bread, babkas, and biscuits (Bakery 901), and I've been virtually teaching.

The cats (Hugo & Chanel) seem to accept him as one of their own! Grandma and grandpa McCarthy have met him, but grandpa Sorem has been stuck in Arizona until it is safe to fly, which we are sad about. Lyle and Birdy will be here to meet Kieran in July, which we are looking forward to!

Bryce's furlough couldn't have come at a better time. We are extremely grateful to be able to love this little guy together for much longer than what Bryce would've been allowed from his job. Life is truly unpredictable, but we're learning and loving our time adapting!





***Bienvenido "Ben" A. Arboleda Jr.
October 28, 1952 ~ May 28, 2020***

We are incredibly sad to report that Ana's father, Bienvenido "Ben" A. Arboleda Jr, passed away last month. The entire family mourns the loss of such an incredible man. An American Hero, Father and Grand Father he will be missed. Following are a few items from the posts about his life.



Thank you for all your kind words. I am so grateful for technology because one of my dad's friends and coworkers has been sharing all these fun videos of my dad.

<https://www.facebook.com/zakary.zirbes/videos/3208120882566436/UzpfSTY3N-DY2MjkzODoxMDE1NzQxNzU5NTk2NzkzOQ/>

This was my dad before covid. Full of life, always singing or dancing, no underlying medical conditions, and working because he couldn't stand retirement. My dad never said my name, he always sang "Rica Ann" to call me and I will forever miss hearing that.



Obituary

Bienvenido "Ben" A. Arboleda Jr., 67, of Rock Island, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City.

A live-streamed viewing will be held from 8:30 am to 9:30 am on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 by visiting www.wheelanpressly.com/live-stream. A private Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rock Island, with military honors. Memorials may be made to the family.

Ben was born on October 28, 1952 in Bauang, La Union, Philippines, the son of Bienvenido and Placida "Ada" (Andrada) Arboleda Sr. Ben was a proud retired Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Navy for twenty years. He was also a retired U.S. Postal Service worker. Ben was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Masonic Lodge Eureka #69, Shriners International, High Twelve International, and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry. He enjoyed singing, eating, and working on cars. Ben will be remembered as being a hardworking, positive minded, friendly and loving man. He enjoyed meeting new people, and could light up the room with his big smile. Ben was very passionate about his work and his family. He was a man of true character and the way he talked about his family was always with true love. He's one-of-a-kind, beautiful, fun, funny, loving, incredible person.

Ben is survived by his wife, Remy Arboleda; children, Jason Arboleda, Maggie (Jeff) Perine, Ana Rica (Craig) Hartman, Kristiana "Kat" Arboleda, and Joshua Arboleda; step daughter, Nicole Noble; grandchildren, Rheagan Arboleda, Jaxon Arboleda, Lincoln Arboleda, Van Savage, Talia and Milla Perine, Matthew Hartman, Corbin and Josie Hartman, Judah Ray Bird, and Avery Levi Kauer; brothers, Dante (Marivic) Arboleda, Romeo (Mel) Arboleda, and Cesar Arboleda; nephews, Jan Paul, Warren, Eric, Froilan, and Jerome Arboleda; and sister-in-law, Yolly Arboleda. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jess Arboleda; and nephew, Kenzley Arboleda.

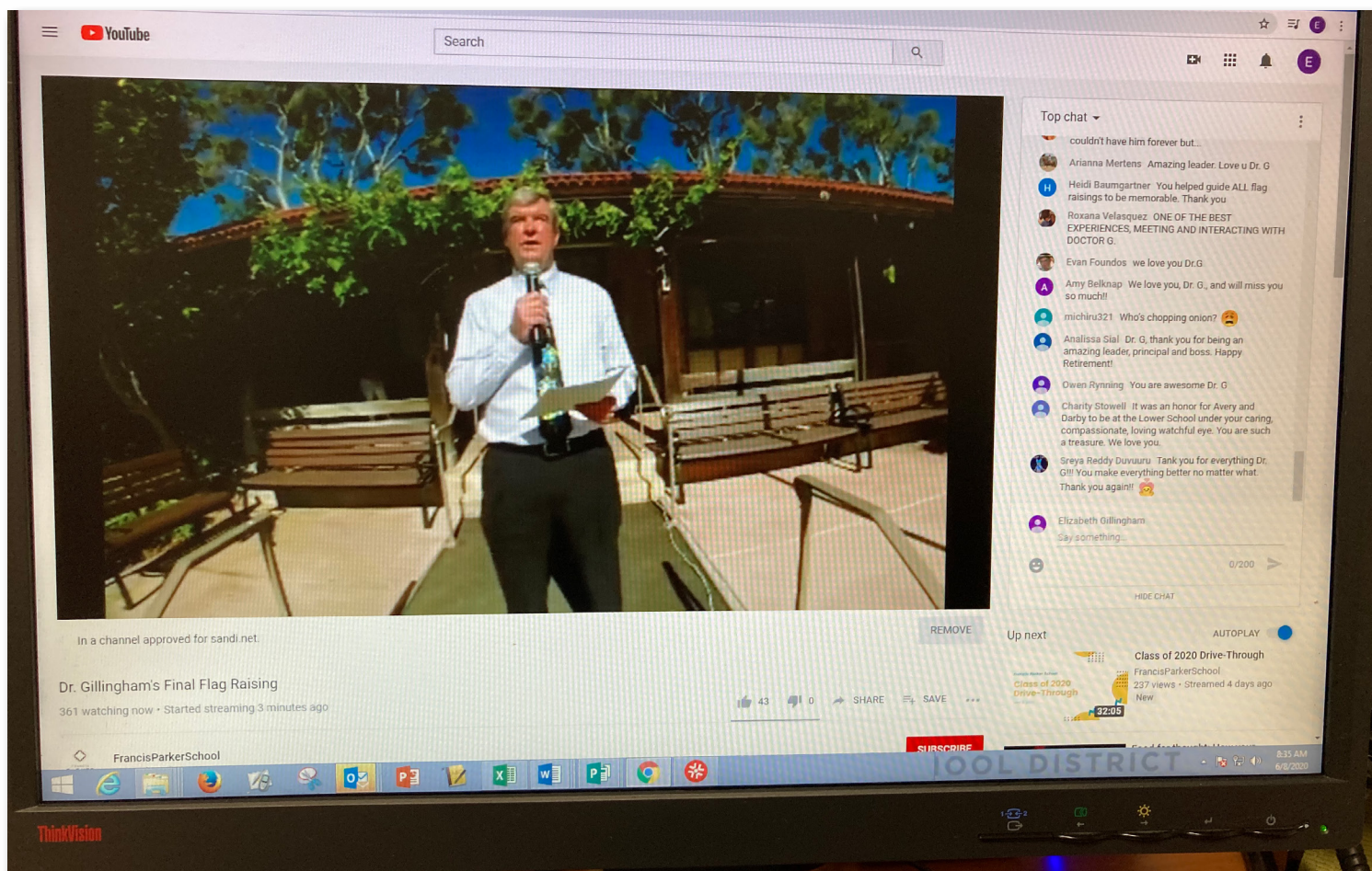
To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Bienvenido "Ben" A. Arboleda Jr., please visit our [floral store](#).



I love that we can plant trees in his honor - a grove of trees for an Arboleda - Ana

Bob Gillingham's Last Flag Raising

By Listy Gillingham

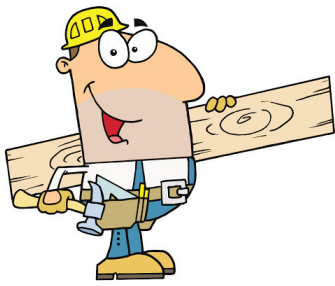


June 8, 2020 was a sad day at Francis Parker as close to 800 faculty, staff, friends, parents, and students watched Bob in his last career flag raising. Today was like no other, except he was in the quad all by himself staring at a flag that was already raised. A camera was in place and Bob took the microphone and started sharing his last thoughts with the Parker community.

Though, he hid it well, the moment did not get shared without a slight choking in the throat, as he began his last tribute. He started with the pledge, sang a solo birthday song to the "birthday people," and gave kudos to students, parents, and staff for events that had recently occurred. He also reviewed STRIVE for the day.

S. T. R. I. V. E.

The Lower School Code of Ethics: S.T.R.I.V.E. frames our expectations for students' conduct, attitude, and citizenship. Together, the students, staff and parents say it out loud as part of our weekly Lower School community flag-raising on Monday mornings:



Brian and Drew Remodel their Kitchen and Dining Room

By Brian Riel

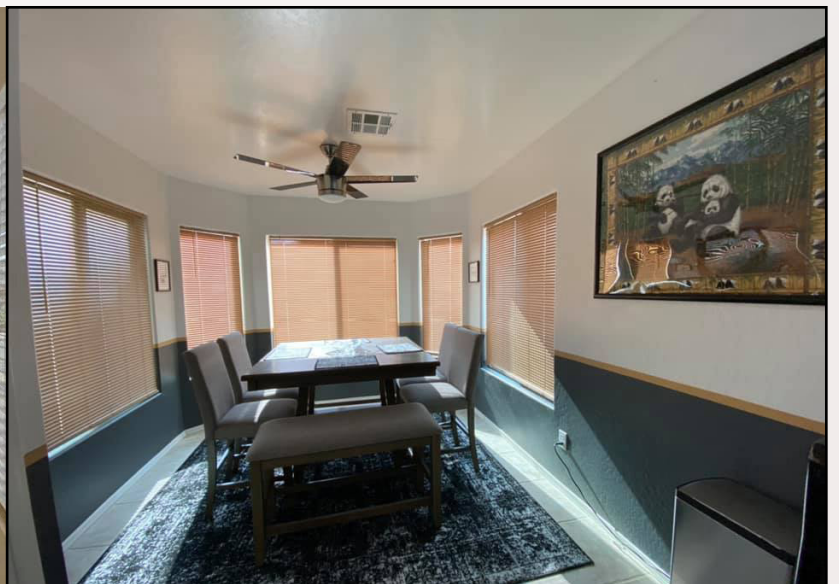


So, Drew Riel and I have lived in on our home for almost 5 years! And with Covid19 we decided to redo our kitchen and dining room.

So, about a year ago our garbage disposal broke. We figured eh we can replace it later. Well we finally got one (thanks for the birthday present mom & dad) and figured well because we have a new garbage disposal might as well get a new sink. So, we searched and found the one we liked. However, it didn't work with our facet, therefore we got a new faucet!



Then we thought, should we really mount a whole new sink and faucet if we plan to do redo the countertops soon anyways? Then we got to thinking, if we redo the countertops, we will need to do the cabinets too! Oh, and we can't forget painting.



And if we do the kitchen, we need to do the dining room to match.

This is how it snowballed and turned into a whole new kitchen and dining room remodel. We had always known we wanted to do a panda theme because a tapestry Drew has from his mom and some artwork my mom had given us. With everything decided it was time to get to work.

Everything was DIY. We assembled the new appliances and installed them ourselves. We sanded, stained, and finished the cabinets ourselves. The granite wasn't done by us for obvious reasons, but we did mount the new sink ourselves. We did the backsplash ourselves. and we painted everything ourselves. We are proud of our work for a first big project like this! I have attached some pictures for your viewing pleasure. They are the before and after photos.





By Listy Gillingham

The Year of Car Parades!



Who doesn't love a parade especially if it's in YOUR honor? What does it take to get people to leave the comforts of their own homes to jump into their cars and drive to a not-so-near (Scripps Ranch) part of town to have five minutes of glory shown to one person? Birdy Hartman Hall is the answer to all of those questions.

A former parent got the ball rolling feeling the frustration we all feel about not being able to throw a HUGE party for Birdy that she would never forget. The parent put out the word and over 50 families joined us in a car rally complete with decorations and many surprises for Birdy. All to say thank you for a lifetime commitment to Francis Parker and particularly their kids who got to enjoy a magical year with the legend known as Mrs. Hartman.



From snail races (yes, they had to go into their yards and collect them); to an actual circus; to kindergarten Open House (where the kids teach their parents how to predict, measure, and learn math topics); to Apple Books and End of the Year Videos to celebrate their time together, to jammie days, and the infamous special hugs that Birdy gave to every kid along the way.

Seniors who had her 12 years ago, middle school students, and current students all lined up in cars with posters and pictures to show their appreciation for Mrs. Hartman and to demonstrate that her impact was truly everlasting!

Her proudest moments are around teaching students to read by using phonics and site words which she knew was the way to unlock to mystery of reading to a five-year old. Birdy led the kindergarten team for many years and I would say that the best part of Birdy's teaching career was how she continued to challenge herself to grow. She loved the traditions they started and continued with new and fresh ideas to keep current with whatever the best practices were. It's no wonder that there was an audible sobbing sounded across San Diego when Birdy announced she was truly going to retire. Though her legacy remains with her team to carry on, she certainly won't be forgotten as she has been credited many times of one of Parker's best teachers.



FAMILY SHORTS



We have a first grader!

When I grow up, I want to be: a toy maker

Favorite food: bean & cheese burritos

Favorite color: green

Favorite book: Goosebumps

Best friend: Penelope, Felix, William M

Favorite thing: swimming!

What a crazy time to be alive.

We love you B!

Annie Mulholland is with Kevin Mulholland.
 April 16 · 🧑‍👦
 Happy happy birthday Kevin Mulholland! Evie has a present for you, I think she hid it in her diaper! 🥰🥰 We love you!!



Chava Fionda Benesch
 June 11 at 8:40 AM · 🧑‍👦
 So excited! Starting June 15th I'll be back on the bike teaching Spin at Studio Sweat on Mondays at 9:15am!!! Hope y'all are ready for me!!!
 And just in case you want to see what you're in for, check out the Studio Sweat on demand Facebook page on Weds at 7am, get on your bike and get ready to ride eith me! 🐾
 I hope you'll come check us out. Beautiful studio with awesome instructors and personal trainers!



Krissy Lines
 May 18 at 8:09 AM · 🧑‍👦
 Puppy looooooovin'

