

# Kiwanis Honors Oak Avenue Intermediate School Students Ethan Banh, Samantha Lee, Olivia Kelly, and Brandon Naylor February 5, 2019



The Kiwanis Club of Temple City recognized four outstanding students from Oak Avenue Intermediate School. Accompanying the students were Oak teachers Mrs. Marta Bourjeili and Mrs. Winnie Joe.

**Ethan** is 13 years old and in Mrs. Bourjeili's class. He has a younger sister and enjoys playing video games, reading, sleeping, and thinking. Ethan said, "The best things about Oak Avenue are all the clubs, especially robotics, the teachers, and the Maverick Team". The best thing that ever happened was getting into Royal PIE Robotics and meeting new people. If he could change one thing, it would be to remove fossil fuels and use 100% renewable energy. If he could build one thing, it would be an interplanetary business on advanced Artificial Intelligence, or a powered exoskeleton. Personal goals are to get into a good college or university with a scholarship, become an engineer for law enforcement or armed services, and fit more sleep into his schedule.

**Samantha** is 13 years old and in Mrs. Bourjeili's class. She has an older brother and enjoys playing the flute and painting during her free time. Samantha said, "The best things about Oak Avenue is that it is academically challenging, yet enjoyable, Oak makes people feel welcomed and encourages students to speak out, and the delightful and engaging events throughout the year". The best thing that ever happened was when she was four and thought she was home alone, and her family surprised her with a cake. If she could change one thing, it would be to make the world cancer free. If she could build one thing, it would be a cancer treatment machine that would destroy cancer cells with a single treatment. Personal goals are to be more efficient with her time, learn a new language, and to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**Olivia** is 12 years old and in Mrs. Joe's class. She has a younger brother and enjoys playing soccer. Olivia said, "The best things about Oak Avenue are the Principal Ms. Millan and Vice-Principal Mr. Topalian, the teachers, and all my friends". The best thing that ever happened was when little brother was born. If she could change one thing, she would want to be more out-going around new people. If she could build one thing, it would be a giant house with a pool and pond for her family. Personal goals are to get all A's and B's, to be on the All Star team in soccer, and become better at horseback riding.

**Brandon** is 13 years old and in Mrs. Joe's class. He has a younger sister and enjoys programing games on computers. Brandon said, "The best things about Oak Avenue are all the clubs and activities, the Voyager Team that Rocks!, and the nice campus". The best thing that ever happened was over the course of three days to be invited as a VIP guest at a NASA event. If he could change one thing, it would be to unify all languages on the earth. If he could build one thing, it would be a Virtual Reality system like the one in the book Ready Player One. Personal goals are to program a tool on the computer like Garage Band, beating the game "Zelda, Breath of the Wild", and mastering the clarinet and oboe.

Each week the Temple City Kiwanis Club is pleased to recognize outstanding students and their teachers from Cloverly, Emperor, Longden, Oak Avenue, Temple City High School, and the Dr. Doug Sears Learning Center. Kiwanis treats students and their teacher to lunch. Students receive a certificate, a letter for their parents, a bumper sticker, a gift certificate from The Hat Restaurant and North Woods Inn, and a photograph of them receiving their award. Their photo and story will be posted on the Temple City Unified School District website and on their Facebook page.

Temple City Kiwanis has been serving our community since 1939. Members are dedicated men and women who desire to make a difference in the quality of life for the youth of Temple City. Kiwanis meets at 12:00 noon each Tuesday at North Wood's Inn Restaurant. To find out more about Kiwanis, please contact Jerry Jambazian at (626) 643-9460. You can also visit their website at [www.templecitykiwanis.org](http://www.templecitykiwanis.org).