

**Kiwanis Honors Oak Avenue Intermediate School Students  
Connor King and Samantha Thomas  
March 3, 2020**



The Kiwanis Club of Temple City recognized two outstanding students from Oak Avenue Intermediate School. Accompanying the students was their teacher Ms. Marlisse Reina who was recognized as the District's 2018 Teacher of the Year.

**Connor** is 14 years old and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He enjoys video games, drawing, coloring, Anime, and hanging out with his friends. Connor said, "the best things about Oak Avenue are the people, my friends, and teachers, the good food at lunch, and the nice campus". The best thing that ever happened was coming to California and finally getting friends which is something he never had. If he could change one thing, it would be to have better drawing skills. If Connor could build one thing it would be a In-n-Out in every state and country. Personal goals are to work on upper body strength, get really good at video games like SmashBros, and learn the sport Hurling.

**Samantha** is 14 years old and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She has a younger sister and enjoys reading, writing, drawing, and cartoon animation. Samantha said, "the best things about Oak Avenue are being able to experience being on a team in a semi-sheltered environment, and the opportunities that are presented to you". The best thing that ever happened was switching middle schools and being able to start fresh was the best thing that ever happened to her. If she could change one thing, it would be the stigma around mental health. If Samantha could build one thing it would be a abstract sculpture of a ghost to represent how anxiety can feel. Personal goals are to improve in art, branch out, fix her procrastination, and get outside more often.

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 for North Woods Inn for \$10, 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).