

Noah
3rd Place
4th Grade, Covington School

I looked out the airplane window and saw the Manhattan skyscrapers below me slowly disappearing. I wondered what Los Altos looked like, since I had never been there before the big move. I was only four years old when we left the city I was born in and I was very excited! I used to live in a two bedroom apartment on the 20th floor of a tall building with my parents and older sister. I was only familiar with cold winters, parking meters, loud noises and trash on the sidewalk. When we arrived in California and pulled up to our new house, I was surprised to see that our house had a front and backyard – it was so spacious compared to our tiny home in Manhattan! When my dad left the car in the driveway, my sister and I asked, “But where do we pay for parking?!” Our street was so quiet compared to the crazy New York City streets. I found out quickly why California is called the Golden State – the sun shone over everything!

My parents sent me to Santa Rita for TK, and when I was six, I started Kindergarten at my current school, Covington. Before my first day, I was nervous to start at a new school since I didn’t know anybody, and it’s hard being alone. Fortunately, I quickly made friends, and one of them ended up living across the street from me! The kids were all kind, fun and welcoming. I loved meeting new people, making friends and trying sports such as soccer, baseball and basketball. I had not been able to play in New York so it made me love living in this community and attending this school. Moving to a new state was difficult but it made me stronger and brought me to an awesome place. I am thankful to live here in Los Altos.