



Art By Isaac Losacco

See inside for an article about this teacher. Who is it?

## Our New Bus Company

By Natalie Dudas

Our buses are important because they get us to and from school every day. Kids spend 13 years riding the bus every day to school and back home again. I decided to interview four moms and kids about what they thought about the new Datto bus company.

Moms in Redding agree how important our bus is to everyone. It seems that they are mostly satisfied with the service that our new bus company provides. The buses are usually on time. At first they were not, but most problems have been worked out. The answer to my question, do you like your driver? Everyone agreed that they "LOVE" their bus driver!

One mom said, "It's a long ride, especially if you are the first to get on and the last dropped off, which sometimes is not a good thing if you're on the bus for over an hour." Some kids agreed that it is not fair to be first on and last off the bus. Possibly the bus company could have arranged the route better.

All agreed the roads in our town are quite narrow and hilly and curvy. Some kids and moms thought the buses go too fast. A couple of moms drive their children so they know that their kids are safe, especially during bad weather.

There seems to be different opinions on the cameras. The kids don't think the cameras have changed anything and are not sure if they are really helping at all. While parents think they are a great addition. I am speculating if they are even being used.

Someone suggested that the bus drivers should get report cards from the kids and vice versa. I think this is a good idea. Maybe the bus company will someday ask us. Overall, it seems Datto is doing a good job and it was interesting to hear different opinions. I learned that if you wonder something don't be afraid to ask.

## Security Cameras: Pros

By Lily Fischer

Due to the new security cameras, many students feel like they are being watched 24/7. But many also feel their bus is insane with kids screaming and running up and down the aisles. And so the controversy is: are the security cameras a good solution?

While cameras may be unnerving for some kids, if you aren't doing anything wrong, then students have nothing to be concerned about regarding

cameras. The security cameras don't track you. They are used for safety purposes. For example, they are for catching bullies in action, but hopefully the cameras have discouraged anyone from being mean or rude. But if anyone is, these cameras are used as evidence. Without the cameras, it's just one person's word against another's. With these cameras, we can see what's true and what isn't. In this way, the victims aren't timid about coming forward for some help. The teachers or any adults can take a look at the footage and see exactly what's going on.

Did you know that major companies and firms use security cameras as well? This is almost for the same reasons, too: evidence. At major firms, the employees are trained in how to handle harassment, but even so, sometimes a camera is needed to back up all of the claims. Actually, these cameras are part of employees' rights.

Next time you go complain about the surveillance cameras, think about how it's only giving you more privileges as a student. Contemplate how employees look for this when job searching. Then try to be thankful for them, as they are there for your own health and safety.

## Are the Bus Cameras Just Causing More Problems?

By Melani Zuckerman

This summer, security cameras were installed in every school bus in Redding, ranging from two to three on each bus. Personally, I think this is a negative influence on kids riding the bus. There are many reasons why I think this. A few important ones are: the administration only checks the tapes when there is a complaint, it can be embarrassing when reviewing the tape, and some kids mess around with it. Riding the bus is a very different experience with security cameras watching your every move, and so some people avoid it.

The security cameras are only checked once a student complains of behavior while riding the bus. This is probably because it is too much work to check every single bus' tape every day. The school might think they have come up with a solution for the misbehavior, but they really have only made things worse.

Kids who have bad behavior on the bus sometimes threaten smaller kids not to complain so that the tapes are not reviewed. To me, this is bullying and bullying did not happen frequently on the bus last year. Bullying is not that big of a deal on the bus still, but you have to be prepared for it because it can happen. We would be much better off without cameras on the bus. Even if there are no threats, I am positive that most kids would not even think of reporting an incident on the bus because of fear they might be embarrassed.

Everybody has a fear of being embarrassed, and for the most part this stops kids from complaining on the bus. Most likely, everyone has done something at least slightly embarrassing on the bus this year. For example, maybe you break the rules slightly, and you don't want to get in trouble yourself. It may not be as bad as the kid you're complaining about, but it could get you on thin ice with the principal. For example, if you stand for a few seconds on the bus, you *can* get in trouble for that, and that would scare most people off from complaining. These cameras are just making things worse, and it is yet another thing for kids to mess around with on the bus.

Kids mess with a lot of things, and the cameras are just another thing on their list. Firstly, many kids make rude and inappropriate hand gestures down the aisle and to the camera. It is hard to sit still while this happens, especially if kids are crawling under seats to escape the cameras. You are left crunched in a ball just hoping your stop comes earlier than usual. Also, kids say profane language to the camera, which is even worse. Sometimes, kids even try and block the camera's view. One time, when I was on the bus, a kid took a post-it note and put it over the camera just for laughs. This required standing on the seat, which is surely a safety hazard. These cameras are just increasing the amount of rude behavior on the bus.

Overall, I think the installation of these cameras was a horrible mistake, and I would much rather have my parents drive me to school.

## The Inside Look: Mrs. Martin on the Growing Bus Camera Controversy

By Emma Thomas

I sat down with JRMS principal, Mrs. Martin, to discuss this growing school-wide discussion about buses. Some support the cameras saying they provide the school with a way to ensure the safety of its students. And it lets the school understand the bus situation. Others say that it's an intrusion on our privacy as students and as kids and think the cameras really don't help anything, and in fact make the bus situation worse. I have collected some information that will hopefully give the students a bit more insight on the core of the issue.

Q: What pros and cons did the JRMS administration evaluate when deciding to install the cameras?

A: When making the decision, we, the administration, looked at the possible cons of privacy infringement and the cost of the cameras. The possible pros we found were a better ride experience, safety, ability to understand bus issues better, and an overall better JRMS bus experience. In the end, the pros outweighed the cons.

Q: Is it just the Redding school system with the cameras? Or is it all systems belonging to this bus company?

A: Many school systems have these cameras, but having them is unrelated to what bus company the school uses.

Q: What is the defined purpose of these cameras?

A: The purpose is simply to ensure child safety on the Redding buses.

Q: How did the JRMS student body initially react to the installment?

A: In general, a majority of the students were more surprised than anything else.

Q: Who made the final decision to enact this program?

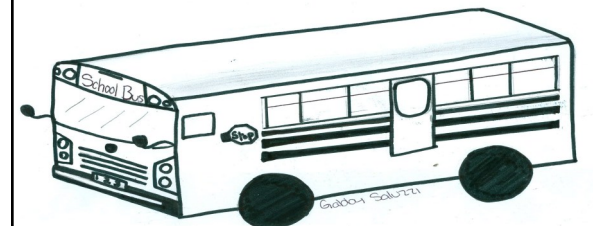
A: Mrs. Sullivan from Central Office.

Q: Is there audio?

A: Yes, the cameras do have audio.

Q: What are the cameras' vision?

A: The cameras can see from four different views.



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