

The Silicon Valley Sun

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American Exceptionalism

Mrs. Oliver's fourth-grade class at Evergreen Elementary School prepares for its trip to the TV station.



AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

The parents of Mrs. Oliver's students – and in some cases their grandparents – get us out of jams with CTRL-ALT-DELETE.

Their names flash across your computer screen every time you open a piece of Adobe software, like Acrobat or Photoshop.

They put the big P in the middle of words and the pixels in the iPhone camera that took these pictures.

They took the bite out of the Apple.

In another decade or so these kids will be inventing whatever the Next Big Thing is.

Krithi, one of the fourth-graders in Mrs. Oliver's class, could be teaching English by then, but she likes math and science better and thinks she'd like to be an architect.



Krithi

"Big buildings," she said.

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AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

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Last month she was watching television and the announcer plugging NBC Bay Area's investigative news team said, "Our world isn't black and white. When you look closer, there's always more than meets the eye."

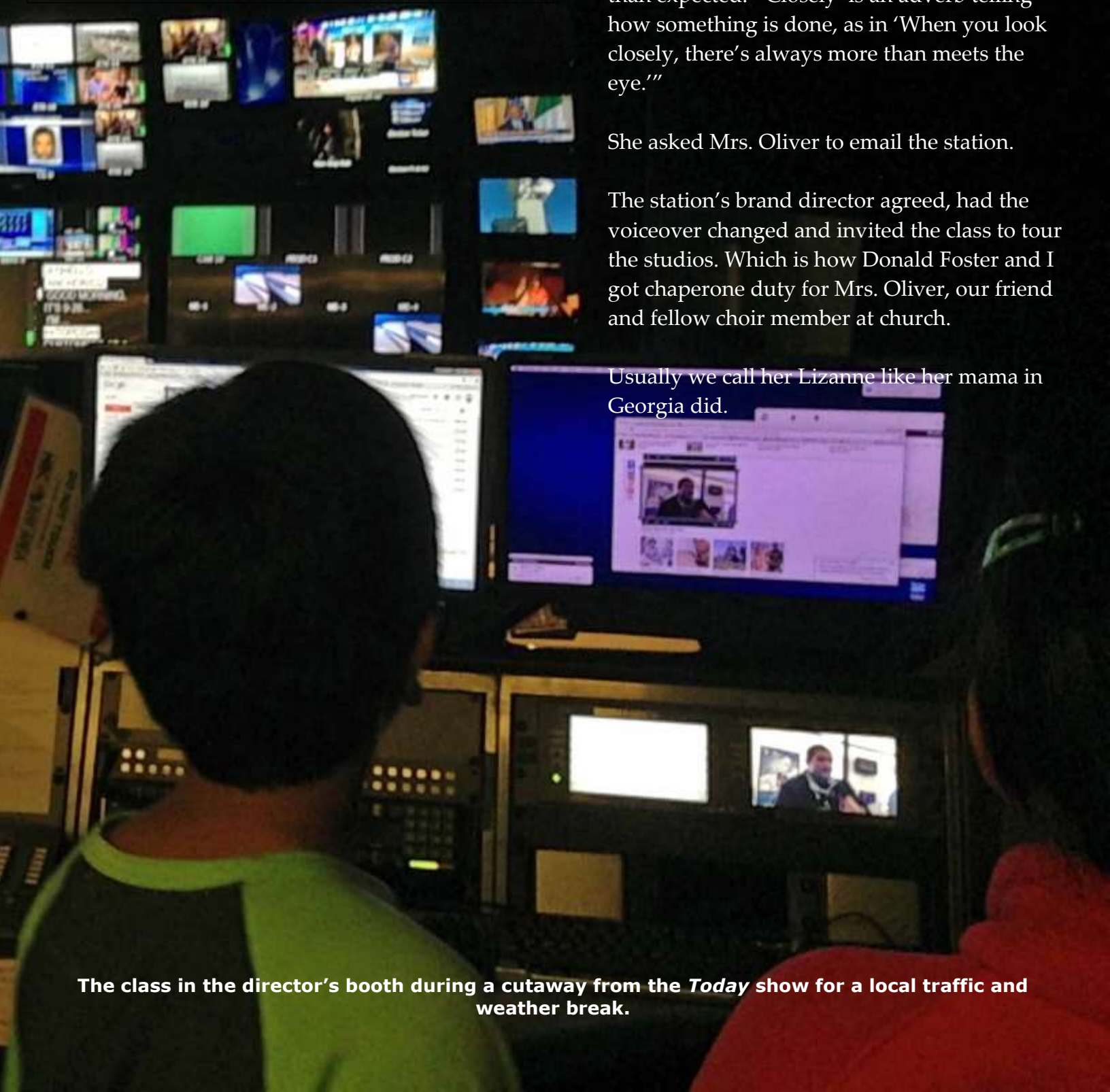
Krithi knew there's also more than the ear hears.

"There's a difference in the words 'closer' and 'closely,'" she said. "'Closer' is an adjective modifying a noun, as in 'It was a closer race than expected.' 'Closely' is an adverb telling how something is done, as in 'When you look closely, there's always more than meets the eye.'"

She asked Mrs. Oliver to email the station.

The station's brand director agreed, had the voiceover changed and invited the class to tour the studios. Which is how Donald Foster and I got chaperone duty for Mrs. Oliver, our friend and fellow choir member at church.

Usually we call her Lizanne like her mama in Georgia did.



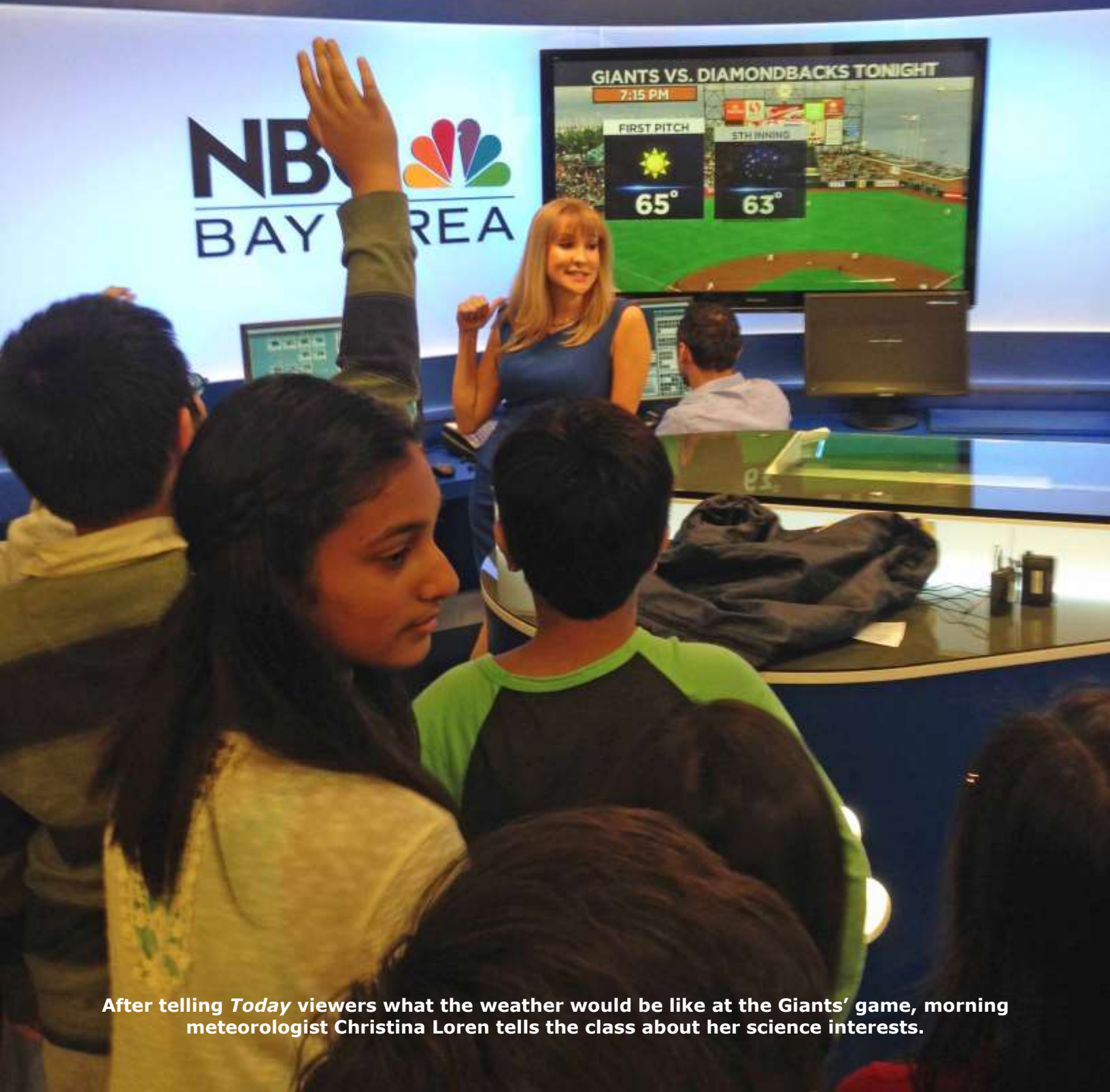
The class in the director's booth during a cutaway from the *Today* show for a local traffic and weather break.

Morning traffic reporter Mike Inouye (out of the frame) put the class in front of a green screen to show how he could "put" them in AT&T Park, where the Giants would play the Arizona Diamondbacks tonight. On the monitor showing the kids at left, the green backdrop has been replaced by the live feed from the ballpark.



Mrs. Oliver's class

Neha	Amna	Kasey	Sritha	Neel	Rishi
Renee	Nishika	Elijah	James	Samarth	Samuel
Pratik	Prati	Chloe	Alyson	Lina	Mia
Deven	Dhruv	Muna	Jairong	Marvin	Angela
Mark	Benjamin	Joel	Sanya	Raza	Krithi



After telling *Today* viewers what the weather would be like at the Giants' game, morning meteorologist Christina Loren tells the class about her science interests.