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School News

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Covering the Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach City, Huntington Beach Union High School, Ocean View, and Westminster School Districts

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A Commitment to Learning

*By Kirk Kennedy, Interim Principal
Fountain Valley High School*

In public education, teachers and administrators strive to create a classroom environment that challenges students and makes them aware of the world around them. Teachers bring the outside world into the classroom through textbooks, supplementary materials, guest speakers, technology websites, YouTube videos, interactive blogs, Google Chats, Twitter, and interactive lesson activities.

They also provide opportunities for their students to experience the world beyond the boundaries of the campus by participating in instrumental competitions, culinary events, field trips to museums and environmental habitats, listening to notable authors and vocal music tours, to list only a few examples.

In April, we had 104 Fountain Valley High School vocal music students, parents, and alumni travel to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall and the Statue of Liberty. In addition to their stellar performances, Vocal Music Director Kevin Tison also provided many other extraordinary educational experiences for his students. This included biking in Central Park,



exploring the architecture of the Brooklyn Bridge, climbing the Empire State Building, visiting the somber environment of the 9/11 Memorial, exploring world-famous museums, visiting the Immigration Museum on Ellis Island, attending three Broadway productions, holding an evening dinner and dance cruise along the Hudson River and New York Harbor, to mention only a few.

Bringing the textbooks to life through historical, cultural, scientific, recreational, and other educational experiences induces very powerful learning moments for our students. It creates memories that are unforgettable,

and will truly be treasured throughout their lives. As a personal witness to the New York tour, I am very proud of Mr. Tison and our vocal music program for their high level of commitment to learning, all across the curriculum.

As a school and community focused on providing a comprehensive education for our students, I hope we will continue to support a philosophy that encourages learning beyond the parameters of the school campus; one that always endorses the kind of educational knowledge that comes from the endeavors mentioned above.

Go, Barons!

Oak View Preschool—Nationally Accredited!



Board President Gina Clayton-Tarvin; Principal Joyce Horowitz, and the preschool staff with their National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation Award.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Congratulations Class of 2015!
In this issue you will read of the schools honoring their Teachers of the Year, Classified Employees of the Year, the end of year concerts, classroom activities, and programs. It is an exciting time with summer break around the corner.

Our AHA section offers lots of choices for planning your summer. The librarians remind you to include reading among your activity choices.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is September 9th.

Have a wonderful summer!



Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

17100 Euclid St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/966-7200 • www.fountainvalleyhospital.com

What Women Should Know About Stroke



Morgan Reider,
RN, BSN
RN Stroke
Coordinator

Many stroke symptoms are common to women and men: sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, confusion, difficulty speaking, vision problems, loss of balance or coordination, trouble walking, or severe headache. But some symptoms are unique in women: rapid onset of hiccups, nausea, fatigue, chest pain, face and limb pain, shortness of breath or heart palpitations.

Women and men share many of the same stroke risk factors. Strokes can occur at any age, but risk increases with age - chances double for every 10 years after the age of 55. A family history of stroke, high blood pressure or cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, being overweight and not exercising are also risk factors.

Some factors exclusive to women that increase their risk of stroke include:

- birth control pills
- natural changes during pregnancy that increase blood pressure and put stress on the heart
- hormone replacement therapy to relieve symptoms of menopause
- being postmenopausal and having a waist that is larger than 35.2 inches and a triglyceride level higher than 128 milligrams per liter
- suffering chronic migraine headaches

Women can reduce stroke risk by monitoring their blood pressure, not smoking, getting tested for diabetes, limiting alcohol and maintaining a healthy weight. Taking birth control pills is generally considered safe for young, healthy women. However, they can raise risk of stroke in some women who are over 35, smoke, have diabetes, and high blood pressure or cholesterol.

Strokes caused by blood clots (ischemic strokes) can be treated with clot-busting drugs such as tPA (tissue plasminogen activator). But in order to be effective, medication must be administered within three hours of the initial onset of symptoms. If a stroke occurs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Life starts here

 Excitement, nervousness, anticipation, and happiness are all words that describe the maternal experience.

We are here for you through it all:

- Childbirth and parenting education classes to prepare you for what's ahead
- Comfortable, state-of-the-art labor and delivery rooms that can accommodate high-risk pregnancies
- Routine and high-risk obstetrical services to handle every pregnancy and delivery
- An OB physician available around the clock 24/7 for any emergency
- A Level III Neonatal ICU, should you need it, that gives your baby access to a wider range of pediatric specialists, ventilation support systems, imaging capabilities, and surgeries without being transferred out of the facility
- Couplet Care—a postpartum unit where a single nurse is dedicated to helping you and your baby bond



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For more information visit www.fountainvalleyhospital.com/baby

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What is Prematurity?



Antoine Soliman, MD
Medical Director,
Neonatal
Intensive Care Unit,
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

With the advancement of medicine and prenatal care, prematurity is declining in the United States. In 2006, the pre-term birth rate was 12.8 percent and in 2013, it dropped to 11.4. Even with all of the advancements, 1 in 9 babies are born prematurely in the U.S. each year.

Prematurity is when a baby is born at least three weeks before the designated due date (37 weeks). A full-term baby is born between 37 and 40 weeks.

When a baby is born prematurely, they are more likely to experience health problems and may need to spend time in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Even if a woman has a "normal" pregnancy, there is still a risk of having a premature baby. Some known risk factors for prematurity, include:

- Previous premature birth
- Multiples (twins, triplets)
- Problems with uterus/cervix
- Chronic health problems
- Certain infections during pregnancy
- Alcohol, tobacco and drug usage

If a woman is experiencing a "normal" pregnancy and does not have any of the known risk factors, it is still important for her to go to her regular check-ups to ensure the health of the baby. Issues may arise, so it is important to be as prepared as possible and communicate with the physician during the entire pregnancy.



Two-Way Language Immersion Programs



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

The Orange County Department of Education's vision is to prepare all students for college and career readiness, as well as lifelong success. Yet as technology and globalization make our world smaller, we must also look at our programs through an increasingly international lens.

That raises an important question: How can we prepare our students to function and compete successfully across multiple languages and cultures?

Two-way or "dual" language immersion education, which clusters English-speaking students and speakers of a foreign language, is a good start. In fact, this strategy has gained traction in recent years based on its ability to achieve bilingualism and biliteracy for students while narrowing the achievement gap.

Indeed, research indicates that by the end of grade six, students in two-way immersion programs develop proficiency in English as well as the target language. They also develop deeper bicultural awareness and perform at levels that are at or above their peers on standardized tests.

Studies show that English-learner students who participate in dual immersion programs at the elementary level are less likely to drop out of school, more likely to enroll in higher-level mathematics courses and more likely to pass the high school exit exam. Beyond the positive academic outcomes, two-way language immersion programs provide additional cognitive benefits, improving problem-solving skills, reading abilities, memory and overall mental flexibility.

Here in Orange County, we are both ethnically and linguistically diverse. More than 26 percent of our students are not yet proficient in English and speak a variety of the world's languages, including Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic,



Our specialists are the leaders
in children's health care.

Jax and Piper were born 16 weeks early and were immediately rushed to the level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Miller Children's – where they were under the same roof as their recovering mother. Not even weighing 3 pounds combined, the twins were in the NICU for four long months of treatments and surgeries. Today, Jax and Piper are healthy 3-year-olds who love spending time with their family and building sandcastles.

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Intensive Care**

Their specialty:
Sandcastle Architects



Piper & Jax, 3-year-old,
Miller Children's
Level III NICU Patients

City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

10200 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/593-4400 • www.fountainvalley.org

Official Host Town



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor

The City of Fountain Valley is proud to be an official Host Town for the Special Olympics World Games LA2015. We will play a special role in the athletes' international experience, providing culture and support, meals, entertainment, training facilities and housing. The Special Olympics World Games LA2015 will be the largest athletic and humanitarian event in the world this year and we invite you to participate!

The Fountain Valley Host Town Committee aims to immerse these world class athletes from The Netherlands in the culture of Southern California, Orange County, and the community of Fountain Valley!

For information how you can get involved in this historic event, please visit Fountainvalley.org or contact our Community Services Manager at rob.frizzelle@fountainvalley.org.

Important FV Host Town Dates:

- July 20** FVPD Final Leg Torch Run
- July 21** Welkom (Dutch for Welcome) Party at Heritage Park
- July 22** Cultural Event in Huntington Beach
- July 23** Fountain Valley Cultural Event, Concert/Carnival in the Park

Please show your support for the Fountain Valley Host Town by donning the color orange for the athletes' 3 day stay in our city! #turnFVorange July 20-24, 2015.

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

School's Out for Summer!



Jill Hardy
Mayor

As another great school year comes to an end, it's time to get out the sunscreen and hit the beach!

Huntington Beach will host a number of great events again this summer. On June 20, we will attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Records with the most people surfing for ten seconds on a 42-foot surfboard. Our 4th of July Parade – "Sounds of Freedom" the city's 111th annual parade, will be featured on KABC, Channel 7. From July 21 to July 24, Huntington Beach will play host to the athletes of Australia before they complete at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. Next, the Vans US Open of Surfing comes to town July 25 to August 2 where the top surfers, BMX riders and skateboarders compete for top prizes.

I want to congratulate everyone on successful school year. See you at the beach!



Social Host Ordinance

A New Law to Prevent Underage Drinking in Huntington Beach

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operationsafehb.org

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Crystal Olson '11, M.A.Ed. '12
Master of Arts in Education: Special Education

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Azusa Pacific has a reputation for consistently producing innovative and comprehensively prepared educators. Our graduates serve as teachers, counselors, coaches, and administrators throughout Southern California, and are known in their schools and districts as leaders in the field.

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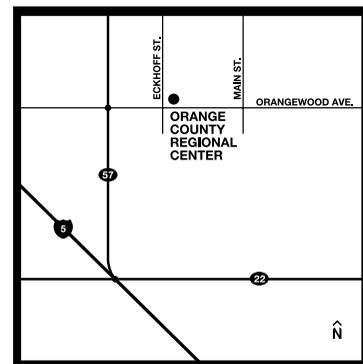
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Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

The Monster Concert: Rock On With Us.

One of the best things about working with students is that they always find new and creative ways to surprise us. Whether it is through their comments, questions, behaviors, or actions, children keep us young and inspired as adults. An example of a recent surprise that I experienced was at an event simply known as the Monster Concert, a joint effort between the instrumental music students from Fountain Valley School District and the instrumental music students from Fountain Valley High School.



Monster Concert wows huge crowd as parents, staff and community members enjoy the magic that music brings to our lives and the lives of our students.

For those of you who have never been to or heard of a Monster Concert, it is comprised of over 250 elementary and middle school students and over 300 high school students who perform in front of a crowd of more than 2,000 staff, parents, and community members. From Beethoven to Offenback, "Hawaii Five-O" to "Happy," students covered a variety of genres and artists. And, it was simply extraordinary!

I want to personally thank our music directors, Ms. Robertson, Mr. Katz, and Mr. Covacevich, for exposing and teaching our students the beauty of music. In addition, I want to thank Mr. Irons and Mr. Matthews from Fountain Valley High School for their continued support of our programs. Lastly, I want to thank all of the staff and community members who supported our efforts to put on one of the best Monster Concerts ever.

You see, there is something quite special when you take the malleability of young minds, the passion and creativity that music and the arts encourage, the collaboration and direction of highly-skilled instructors and bring them all together. As adults, we simply sit back and observe the magic that music brings to our lives and the lives of our students.

So while I was prepared to say, "Rock on," because of the concert's title, instead I say, "Welcome to the Fountain Valley School District. Pick up an instrument and join us!"

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ian Collins
President

An Exceptional Year!

In the Fountain Valley School District, it has been an exceptional year! I have had the pleasure as Board President to join the District in celebrating a number of notable accomplishments this year.

The District was pleased to recently announce the awarding of Gold Ribbon recognitions to all three of our middle schools. The Gold Ribbon Schools Award Program takes the place of the California Distinguished School Program which has been suspended for this year and next with the absence of State test scores. Fulton Middle School, Masuda Middle School and Talbert Middle School, the staff, students, parents and community are to be commended for their focus and collaboration in implementing highly effective signature practices that engage and reach all learners. Our middle schools are among only twenty-four recognized in Orange County. It is quite an honor to have 100% of our secondary schools earn this distinction!

In addition, and similar to all districts statewide, Smarter Balanced Assessments have been a major focus in the Fountain Valley School District. The implementation of SBAC has gone exceptionally well and our teachers, principals and staff are to be commended for their commitment to ensuring a smooth implementation.

Lastly, our Fountain Valley Schools Foundation underwent a wonderful renaissance this year under the guidance of President Judy Edwards. Judy's leadership inspired a renewed focus on growth and the Foundation has seen an outstanding expansion of its membership and increased support from our business and local community. We enjoyed a very successful Taste of Fountain Valley and are all looking forward to the First Annual Marc Ecker Golf Tournament in the fall. The efforts and commitment of Judy and the Executive Board of the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation is to be celebrated for sure!

As the year comes to a close and our excitement for the continued success of our district grows, I remain proud to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of this outstanding district. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we wish you a safe summer and look forward to seeing you in September!

Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • www.FVschools.org



Judy Edwards
President

Save These Dates!

The Fountain Valley Schools Foundation provides funding for districtwide curriculum enrichment that enables these and other improvements to our local schools. Elementary school students enjoy more options for learning and creating music. Middle school students can sign up for hands-on robotics programs that teach principles of science and technology. Every student benefits as they move through the grade levels from kindergarten through promotion to high school.

Having just elected officers and having the largest starting Foundation board in many years to support us, we are ready to leap forward toward further success on behalf of the 6,300 local students we help. Making local schools better improves every measure of success that makes for strong, attractive communities.

Save these dates: Friday, Sept. 25 at noon: Ball Drop and Picnic at Fountain Bowl parking lot, followed by our inaugural Mark Ecker Golf Tournament on Monday, Oct. 5. Get your foursome ready to golf with us! You will be joining a winning team and helping build a stronger future for our students and our community! See our website for more info!

Our officers for 2015-16 are Judy Edwards as president, Chelsea Sievers and Eduardo Higuchi as first co-vice presidents of events, Bonnie Hanson and David Truong as second co-vice presidents of community outreach, Tom Antal as secretary and Minnie Blanco as treasurer. Each of them appreciates all you do to help build up the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation and our local schools!

How can you help? Support our membership campaign. Enroll as a business partner. You will be joining a winning team and helping build a stronger future for our students and our community! Please visit our website for news of upcoming events!

Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



Ian Collins
President



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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.fvnsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courreges.html



Chris Christensen
Principal

Congratulations Donna Thibodeaux

Courreges Elementary School is proud to select Donna Thibodeaux as our 2015 Classified Employee of the Year. Donna has been a valued part of Courreges School for over 20 years. She began as a part of the school community as a volunteer when her own children attended Courreges. She then went on to become one of the first kindergarten aides – almost 20 years ago.

Since becoming an aide Donna has worked tirelessly to encourage teachers, help mold children, and look out for their best interests. She often spends her own time, beyond working hours, to help with projects the students are working on, or just help mentoring and working with the students who need just a little extra help.

We are honored and proud to select Donna Thibodeaux as Courreges Elementary School's 2015 Classified Employee of the Year.



James H. Cox *Elementary (K-5)*

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.jhces-fvnsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Patrick Ham
Principal

Multicultural Day Cox Elementary

Cox Elementary celebrates the wonderful diversity of our student population. We have students from all corners of the globe. It is common sight to see our students from diverse cultures and ethnicities playing and collaborating together in the classrooms and on the playground. At the start of Spring, 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Hopkins and Principal, Mr. Patrick Ham help coordinate the Multicultural Day celebration. It is a 35 year old tradition which includes the "Across the Globe Fashion Show" along with the Ane Thanh Lion Dancers.

Our celebration represented more than 100 students and 30 countries. We celebrated the wonderful diversity that is Cox Elementary School!!!



Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6-8)*

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • <http://fultonms.fvnsd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



Kevin Johnson
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Peer Mentors

Fulton is proud to announce that it has been recognized by the California Department of Education as a Gold Ribbon school for the 2014-15 school year.

One of Fulton's signature practices earning Gold Ribbon status is the peer-mentor elective offered to seventh- and eighth-grade students. Peer mentors are motivators and models for SDC students in generalizing academic, language,

vocational and social skills. By having peers as part of academic classes, SDC students have access to not only whole-group instruction but also cooperative learning groups for collaboration. By having typical peers during times of academic instruction, SDC students actively engage in learning as they are provided with a structure through which they may acquire knowledge and those skills necessary to function in classrooms and in the community at large. Inclusion opportunities are available through electives, PE and general-education courses.



(b) Drew Nordfelt, Nathan Linares, Sadie Templin,
(f) Jack Pinkham, Abigail Edwards, Taylor Ford, and Delaney Schultz.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.regs-fvsd-caschoolloop.com



Erin Bains
Principal

Making a Difference!

Gisler Elementary School is extremely fortunate to have so many parent, grandparent, and community volunteers, who make our school an outstanding place for students! Our teachers appreciate the support they receive in the classroom with projects and working with students in small groups. We should also mention our Art Masters assistants, who help our students become the next Rembrandts and Cassatts.

Volunteers donate countless hours to run numerous programs such as our book fairs, Donuts for Dads, job-a-thon, and Reading Club. We even have parents and grandparents who serve on committees, such as School Site Council and the English Language Advisory Committee. Dedicated parents also give their time to keep our students safe by volunteering to help in our crosswalk.

Our carnival chair and committee are currently at work, as they always are, planning an amazing carnival. (It will be held on June 12, and all are welcome!) Every member of our PTO, especially our Executive Board, deserves our praise for the work done day in and day out for our students.

As the principal of the school, I would like to thank every Gisler volunteer who enhances the learning and lives of our students. They put our students first. For that, I encourage everyone to offer a word of thanks to all them. Go, Gisler Gators!

William T. Newland *Elementary (K-5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.wtnes-fvsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Chris Mullin
Principal

Share a Snack!

We recently held two community events at Newland: Dads and Doughnuts and Lunch on the Lawn. We invite parents and family members to come to Newland and eat with their students in a picnic-like atmosphere and experience our campus.

These fantastic events help build strong bonds and community support. We know that when students find their school environment to be supportive and caring that they are less likely to become involved in bullying and other problems and are more likely to develop positive attitudes toward themselves and others.

It also allows student to foster a sense of pride in their school and share this with their families.

Both events were well attended by students and family members. Additionally, I have been pleased to hear many positive comments regarding these events. These days are always a wonderful way to promote Newland and the family.



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6-8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masudams.fvsd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jay Adams
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

Student Leaders

The Masuda Middle School Associated Student Body (ASB) makes up the school's biggest pep squad and activity-planning team. Activities Director Jenn Johnson encourages ASB students and their peers to make positive life decisions and provides opportunities to create an encouraging and supportive school environment. Students learn leadership skills, communication skills, how to be positive role

models, how to embrace social responsibility, and how to plan and implement countless school functions.

Eighth-grader Gracie Mendoza says she joined ASB because she enjoys leadership, and it helps her to become a better and stronger leader for her school and her family as well. Nico Damschen, another eighth-grade member, states that the best thing about ASB is that it builds leadership qualities in our students so they'll be better adults when they grow up.

Masuda's motto is: "Take a Second and Make a Difference." The ASB students are out and about—and doing just that! We're so grateful for the difference they make on our campus and in our community on a daily basis!



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.ioes-fvsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Erik Miller
Principal

Careers in Action

To help our kindergarten and first-grade students get a little better idea about "life in the real world," Oka recently held a Career Day.

We were fortunate to have L.A. City Fire Captain Tim Werle, Major Jon Stiebner of the United States Marines, Chris Hubbard (Huntington Beach lifeguard supervisor), Fountain Valley School District Superintendent Dr. Mark Johnson, two professional ballerina dancers, and two police officers, including one K-9 unit.



Officer Emerson with students inside the SWAT vehicle.

Students had a chance to hear from each professional as they explained some of the details and highlights of their careers. They also got to experience some of the fun in action, as they went inside the various vehicles, played with Perro, held some of the tools and devices used in life-saving rescues, and even did push-ups for boot camp.

Oka is extremely grateful for these professionals sharing their time and expertise, but most of all, for the inspiration they provided to our students.

Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K-5)*

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.uhpes-fvsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Teacher of the Year

To close out our exciting school year, we wanted to recognize Mrs. Kim Kha, our Teacher of the Year. She is an extremely dedicated first-grade teacher who gives her heart and soul to make sure that each student who leaves her classroom has mastery of the standards and a sense of self-worth. She runs her classroom with extremely high expectations, and the children always rise to the challenge.

The most amazing part of Mrs. Kha is her heart; she is filled with unconditional love and compassion for her students. Kim

treats the children as if they were her own. Her dynamic personality and patience allows her to engage students so they may understand the concepts she is teaching and why they are learning it. As you watch her teach a child, you can see her face light up. Kim is a true educator, and her students will remember her forever.



Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School (6-8)*

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbertms.fvsd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

Gold Ribbon School Visit

In April, Talbert Middle School had the honor of being visited by the Gold Ribbon Schools team from the Orange County Department of Education. The focus of their visit was our school's STEAM program. The children and staff members met the challenge, and proved why Talbert Middle School is an amazing place!



From the ROV showcase, to iMovie and student presentations, the day was filled with both excitement and a sense of pride that showcased all the hard work our students have been displaying this year. The highlight of the event was when our students wowed their visitors with their ROVs in a pool that was set up for the occasion. It was exciting to watch, and led to the school being given a 2014-2015 Gold Ribbon Award.

With this recognition Talbert Middle School will continue to grow its STEAM program, and prepare its students with a well-rounded education that will continue to foster a life-long love for learning.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.htes-fvsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Kathy Davis
Principal

Walk Through the Revolution

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! King George III and nearly 100 Patriots and Loyalists once again lived that period in our history when a determined group of farmers

defeated the mighty British military in their fight for independence.

The presentation "Walk through the American Revolution" is where history comes to life! All three fifth-grade classes were transported back in time to witness the people and events of the past. This program allows students to actively participate in an exciting retelling of our nation's beginning through the use of games, music, imagination, and storytelling.



Mrs. Haukness's 5th graders the day of their presentation. The three 4th grade classes also enhanced their Social Studies curriculum with their presentation of "Walk Through California."

Huntington Beach City School District

20451 Cramer Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com

SUPERINTENDENT



Middle School Is Awesome!

Huntington Beach City School District was just informed by the state of California that both of our middle schools, Dwyer Middle School and Sowers Middle School, have been recognized as Gold Ribbon Schools for exemplary programs. This incredible honor for both of our middle schools reflects the incredible work of our staff at both sites and their dedication to our students and their academics.

There is more to our middle schools being awesome than just the award; awesome happens on a daily basis at both of our middle schools. Each middle school has incredible programs in core subjects but also allows students to: take a foreign language; build things; participate and compete in band, orchestra, show choir, and other programs; participate in school sports against other middle schools; and so much more. Middle schools offer clubs for students to participate in, dances, and other fun activities. However, this is the time of year when my office begins to receive questions about middle school and the concerns parents have regarding their children leaving the elementary school family that they have been a part of for the past six years and heading off to that really big middle school, and my reply is always the same, "Middle school is awesome!"

Middle school is an incredible place with many caring and incredible staff members who work hard to meet and exceed the needs of students. Middle school is where students begin to take more responsibility for their academics, have choices in the courses they take, and develop lifelong interests in areas such as science, drama, literature, mathematics, arts, music, and the list goes on and on. Of course, there are challenges at the middle school level. Parents often talk about the challenges of their children reaching the teen years; now imagine that for over 1,000 students all in the same space. This is also the time when parents should not only be asking their children about their challenges but also asking them to come up with possible solutions to each of the challenges and how they might be implemented. As they work through this process, remember there are many staff members available to help in many different ways with suggestions to face those challenges and then help with implementation.

Challenge your child prior to middle school. What activities will he become a part of? What will she do to stretch and grow? How will he work to make sure he can say, "Middle school was awesome!" on promotion day in just three short years? Life is filled with challenges, and middle school is one of those challenges. Just remember, in another three years, the next worry is about high school and leaving the family you have created over the last three years at your middle school. And, just so you know, high school is also awesome.

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Shari Kowalke
President

Hitting the Right Note

In the Huntington Beach City School District music is alive and well!

As the school year comes to an end, concerts are being performed by both our elementary and middle school students. These concerts include band, orchestra, choir, show choir as well as Broadway musicals, just to name a few. Beyond the music, our students are much more than performers – they are ambassadors for the Huntington Beach City School District.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Music in the Parks Festival in which the Sowers Middle School concert band, choir, girls show choir, and mixed show choir competed under the direction of Terri Wilson. At this incredible event I saw our student ambassadors in action. From the moment they arrived at Sowers Middle School, they were poised and professional. Like a well-oiled machine, the students loaded instruments, props, costumes and their personal belongings like pros.

The competition began with the concert band, narrowly making their performance time, due to some transportation troubles. Like true ambassadors, they kept their cool, took a deep breath and gave a performance that was perfection to the ears. Following that was a location change and a pitch-perfect performance by the choir. With time to spare, the Sowers students remained poised while they patiently waited for their show choirs' time to shine. Boy, did they shine!

The second act of the Music in the Parks Festival is a trip to Disneyland for the remainder of the day. Never missing a beat, the students transformed from their performance-ready attire into their Sowers Music Department spirit wear and were ready to go. Entering the park as ambassadors, they were off to enjoy their friends and celebrate their many months of hard work and dedication.

Finally, all of the schools that competed in the Music in the Parks Festival gathered together for the awards ceremony, and a mini-Disney show. The anticipation was heavy and the student ambassadors were humble and full of grace.



Sowers was victorious! Terri Wilson and her students took home six trophies, including best overall band performance and best overall show choir performance. Adding the exclamation mark on the day was two additional individual awards for solo performances. As the ceremony came to an end, the students gathered around Terri Wilson and thanked her. I felt as if many of them were not simply thanking her for that moment, but for everything she has taught them. The gratitude came from deep in their hearts, as if they knew she had given them so much more than an award.

We arrived back at Sowers Middle School minutes after midnight, and just as the day had begun, our student ambassadors unpacked the buses, set everything right before heading home and saying good night.

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Educational Services

20451 Cramer Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888



Jenn Kinkel
Director
Early Childhood
Education

Transition to Kindergarten

Do you remember the last time you changed jobs or moved? Just before that significant change, how did you feel? Nervous? Excited? Think for a moment about the strong emotions young children might encounter prior to their first day of kindergarten.

Depending on their experiences in early childhood programs, children may enter kindergarten classrooms with the necessary skills that will define their success during this vital educational year. We know that children who thrive in new settings are strong self-regulators and are able to filter out distractions. They can focus on one task and remain persistent despite appropriate challenges. These children have strong communication skills with both adults and with peers, and they understand the idiosyncrasies of group structure and routine. They also comprehend the overarching concepts of print and basic numeracy and are intrinsically motivated to learn.

Alternately, there are many children who have had little or no exposure at all to group experiences, appropriately challenging learning opportunities, or high-quality preschool programs. These children often remain at a statistically significant disadvantage by the end of their kindergarten year, as they have spent much of that time learning the skills that are usually developed in preschool.

Fortunately for us all, federal, state, and local government entities are working together to expand access and increase the quality of early childhood education programs. Orange County has a variety of programs to meet the needs of each child, whether or not their families are financially restricted. These programs serve to ensure that each and every child is given the early experiences that will result in school success!

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/dwyer



Dr. Morgan Smith
Principal

Transforming Our Culture

I often have meetings with families who are interested in moving to Orange County, and the first thing they research is the quality schools. Families choose where to live based upon where their students will be going to school.

Choosing to move to Huntington Beach and attend Dwyer has been a popular one for the last several years, and here is the reason why. Our students have access to GATE and honors classes in English language arts, mathematics, and science. Dwyer also has STEM electives that allow them to build and program robots and design and print with a 3D printer.

We have band, orchestra, and choir. We even have animation and computer graphics, as well as advanced pathways for art and Spanish that allow students to matriculate to the high school and directly into intermediate level classes. It's providing these options for students to succeed that propelled Dwyer to become a 2015 Gold Ribbon School.

We have also transformed the culture of our classrooms by increasing opportunities for student access to technology, and by supporting connections and success in visual and performing arts and physical education. Dwyer recently overhauled the face of its student access to technology with the combination of wireless infrastructure and investment in technical personnel and professional development training. Students enrolled in PE are increasing their engagement in activities, receiving immediate feedback, and as whole, participating in larger numbers than ever before.

Within our VAPA programs, students are also finding more ways to connect to their school and community. Our teachers serve as the bridge of vertical articulation; recruiting our feeder elementary students early for our many opportunities, and working closely with our parent community and neighboring Huntington Beach High School to prepare for future student success. Our teachers have also developed course pathways that help students successfully apply to the Academy of Performing Arts at HBHS.

John H. Eader *Elementary*

9291 Banning Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-2451 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/eader



Debbi Randall
Principal

Ready for Reading

The Eader Elementary School Eagles have always loved reading, but with our new library media center, there are even more Eagles in line for extra reading and research!

Our original library, which has been part of the school since its opening in 1965, was

transformed into a spacious, new media center, thanks to funding from the district, our PTA, and site funds.

The plan started in December with a vision, which morphed into our great, motivational learning environment. The new area is about double its previous size to accommodate the new books, furniture, and 40 touch-screen laptops. New Common Core State Standards nonfiction books were ordered, and more of the high-interest books students most often check out were added, as well as other learning tools.

Mrs. Beckman, our library-media clerk, is excited to be in her new space and loves opening before school and at recess to accommodate extra reading and learning time for our students!



Eagles lining up for more great books!

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

9682 Yellowstone Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8302 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/hawes



Julie Jennings
Principal

Grades of Greatness!

As the 40th anniversary of Hawes Elementary School draws to a close, we're far from done with our learning. During this time of year, our students apply their learning in project-based activities that demonstrate an integration of mastery of Common Core Standards.

In our fifth-grade, students take the math and social studies standards to a new level with Market Day, in which sellers create products and buyers use "money" earned for purchases. In another project, fifth-graders integrate their knowledge of science and math using creativity to create launchable water rockets. Our fourth-graders participate in Gold Rush Days and travel through a California time capsule on a field trip to the Lazy W Ranch. In third grade, our students create a passion project iMovie that depicts one of their passions through video production. In second grade, many of our students have applied their learning through the presentation of a musical. These students have learned songs, lines, actions and more through amazing full productions with scene changes, costumes, choreography and other things! To culminate a yearlong project in animal adoption, our second-graders will travel to a zoo to make a donation to its animal-adoption center and learn about the animal from behind the scenes.

As a school, all of our students participate in our grade-level Spring Sings and demonstrate their learnings from our choral-music program. In June, our entire school will perform in our Class Act Bravo Assembly to demonstrate their learning of Bernstein, the joy of music and meter. Through this assembly, our students will dance, sing, create their own lyrics to the tunes of Bernstein, display artwork, and use rhythm sticks to perform!

At Hawes, the learning never stops! We are Hawesome – 40 years of pride and strength!

Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

19231 Harding Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-3348 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/perry



Renee Polk
Principal

Congratulations, Mrs. Moloney!

We're proud to recognize Mrs. Lisa Moloney as both our Perry and district Teacher of the Year! One parent said it best: "I just wanted to let you know how often your name comes up in the most complimentary of ways in all sorts of contexts—how beloved you are, and how many lives, people and children you have touched and helped."

Mrs. Moloney's unequivocal attention to the whole child distinguishes her as an educator. She is a leader among teachers and extends herself beyond the classroom. She has served on the HBCSD Special Education Planning Committee, as president of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for WOCCE and FVSD, and as a mentor and master teacher. She was recently honored by the OCDE as an outstanding educator of English learners.

Mrs. Moloney is fluent in sign language and Spanish, which she utilizes to liaison with and educate the community. She is recognized as a teacher trainer for a number of techniques and at last count provided our district with 45 trainings in just the past four years!

An area of great pride for Mrs. Moloney is her creation of a community special-needs support group, Gateways. She founded Gateways in 2007 to help parents of children with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

We all agree that Mrs. Moloney's compassion for students and her passion for teaching and helping people is an inspiration!



Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

6701 Garfield Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/841-7081 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/seacliff



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Health, Fitness and Fun

Huntington Seacliff Elementary School embraces healthy living with everything from garden lessons about growing and preparing its bounty to jogging and running.

It all started with the planting of seeds in August. Since that time, delicious tomatoes, broccoli, peas, and cabbage have grown to maturity. Watering, weeding, and cooking these delicious veggies have been topics for the Green Team to learn. Fifth-grade students are responsible for developing a schedule and dutifully watering the plants each week.

When winter came along, more than 100 parents came to an early morning meeting to find out how their children could join the Seacliff Sprinters to increase student fitness by jogging and running. After a quick presentation by the head coaches, Mrs. Rose, and Mrs. Roznit, over 120 students enthusiastically joined the team. They even ran laps on the first day! From that day forward, every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., students met with their grade-level coaches—some amazing parent volunteers—and parents to run, race, join in relays, and have some fun to accumulate 25.2 miles. Many of these students then entered the Orange County Kids Marathon on May 2 and ran their final mile to reach 26.2 miles and receive the official OC Marathon finisher's medal. To end the year, Huntington Seacliff families will participate in a Saturday Family Fun Run, which includes a fun but challenging obstacle course.

We celebrate fitness and health all year long at our school!

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

8800 Burlcrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/moffett



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Running for Fun

The Moffett "Run the OC" program began last year as part of an effort to support our students' need for movement, and to provide an engaging life activity opportunity. Coordinated through parent volunteer Rhonda Douglas, over 143 students experienced a variety of activities that were equal to running the first 25 miles of the Orange County Marathon.

These activities include running and movement games that are geared towards developing balance and coordination. For the final mile of the Marathon, the students meet at the Orange County Fair Grounds and run with the other Marathon participants.



Students participate in Run the OC activities with parent coordinator, Rhonda Douglas, in the background.

Following the completion of the 26 miles, the students are awarded a medal for their efforts at one of our school's morning flag assemblies in front of their peers. Twenty-five percent of the students at Moffett participate in the Run the OC. As is shown by our participation numbers, there is a great amount of enthusiasm for this program among our students.



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John R. Peterson *Elementary*

20661 Farnsworth Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-1515 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/peterson



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

Kindergarten Loves Ladybugs!

Many children love ladybugs and delight in finding them on leaves and flowers in the spring. In kindergarten at Peterson Elementary School, students completed a unit on ladybugs that encompassed science, math, symmetry, informational reading, writing, and art.

The children learned concepts by building ladybug models, reading about the life cycle of the ladybug, and studying what they eat and how they protect themselves. Through chanting, poetry, singing, informational reading, math problems, thinking maps, and role-playing, the children learned that ladybugs

are insects that are good for the garden. The unit culminated with students dressing up as ladybugs and going on an “aphid hunt” in the kindergarten playground to find and eat sweet lollipop “aphids.”

The kindergarten students, under the guidance of Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Voss, and Mrs. Anderson are now expert entomologists.



Mrs. Anderson's students prepare to fly into their science lesson on ladybugs.

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/sowers



Dr. Cynthia Guerrero
Principal

Successful Transition

As we near the end of the 2014–2015 school year, we begin to reflect on the past year, but look forward to the next chapter. For many, the next chapter will be moving on to the next grade. For some, the next chapter is moving on to another level: elementary to middle school; middle school to high school; high school to college or career; career to retirement. These are transitions in life that we all face and moments that cause us to make decision that develop who we become for the next transition, our new identity.

At times, we experience failures through the transition; other times, we experience high levels of success. Each of us has resiliency skills to help us through these transitions in life: resources; connections to others who have gone through similar experiences; confidence; perseverance; support; mentors; positive influences; and goals.

So, as we near another transition, we want to send our best wishes to our 395 eighth-graders as they move onto high school. We welcome our incoming sixth-graders as they begin their new chapter as middle school students. We have our school visits on June 1 and 2 for new students and incoming sixth-graders. We will also have a sixth-grade parent night on June 2 at 6 p.m. to assist our parents in supporting their children through the transition of middle school. Additionally, we have Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) Day in August, to become familiar with the school campus, and registration day, to receive schedules, take school identification pictures, and get off to a great start for the 2015–2016 school year.

Please check our school website in June and August for updates at <https://isms.schoolloop.com/>.

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

770 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-1469 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/smith



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Playground Art

Smith School has a beautiful new addition to its playground! Parent and artist Cathy Young developed the idea to paint a mural on one of the handball courts to beautify our campus and provide a backdrop

for school photos. Students were encouraged to submit a drawing to be chosen as the mural picture. A team of teachers, parents and administrators chose the winning submission, and fifth-grade student Willow Dickey's drawing was chosen and painted on the wall. Smith parents Chelsea Panter and Audrey Honeycutt worked with Ms. Young and spent more than 60 hours painting the amazing mural.

Shown in the picture is our winning student artist, Willow, and the incredibly lifelike images of current students at Smith School. And if you look closely, you will see me as well. Students, staff and parents are thrilled with the beautiful addition to our playground!



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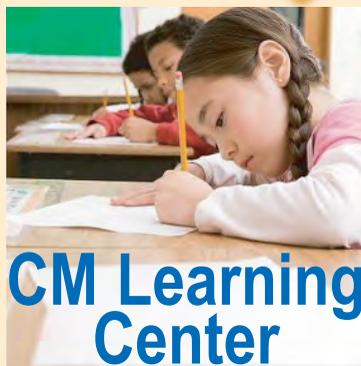
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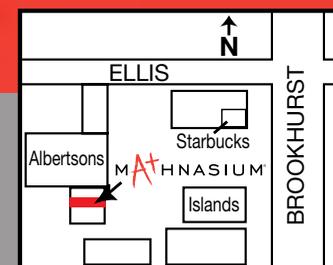
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Summer Reading Program (SRP)!



Cathy S. DeLeon
Regional Branch
Manager

SRP! Read to the Rhythm! Summer reading begins Monday, June 22, at Westminster Public Library and runs until Saturday, Aug. 1. Boogie on over to the library and sign up for this year's music-themed program. Participants will keep track of the hours they spend reading to win exciting prizes. For more information, call or visit the library or check us out online.

Special-guest performers will join us Monday's at 3 p.m. These special events are open to children 2–12: June 22, Cory Hills Percussive Storyteller: SplatBoomBang!; June 29: Abbit the Average: Comedy Magic and Juggling Variety Show; July 6: Swazzle Puppet Show: Superconductor!; July 13: Wild Wonders

Animal Show: Jungle Boogie; July 20: Birdie's Playhouse, with music with a Latin twist; July 27: Annie Banannie, Balloon Storyteller.

Teen Summer Reading Program 2015 runs from June 22–Aug. 1. Drop by the Westminster Library to sign up and get rewards for time spent reading. There will be teen special events on every Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. SRP volunteering opportunity is open to teens ages 12–18, and training sessions are still available June 9 and 16 at 3:30 p.m. Teens who are interested in contributing their ideas for library programs and materials are invited to join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB), which meets monthly. New volunteers should pick up an application and contact the library for dates and times prior to attending.

Note-ables

Love Me for Who I Am



Kate Karp

"Please don't try to fix me. Love me for who I am. I may not talk the way you talk, but I've got some things to say...And I may not walk the way you walk, but I've got some place to go." *Love Me for Who I Am* Grammy-award nominee Brady Rymer has taken diversity and inclusion to a new and worthy level.

Love Me was inspired by Rymer's work with children at the Celebrate the Children School in Wharton, N.J. The school specializes in alternative learning styles, including autism and other communicative disorders. Rymer's lyrics celebrate the children there and surprise us with the realization that the

feelings and thoughts in them are universal among us.

Rymer and the musicians provide catchy folk- and reggae-flavored tunes. The CD art was created by Zoe Kakolyris, an artist with Asperger syndrome who is also deaf. The songs themselves deal with identity, discomfort, tuning out, moving around—or not—and other traits that characterize autism but have a broader reach.

"Picky Eater," "I Don't Like Change" and "Who Wants to Wear Shoes?" describe a special-needs child's extreme discomfort with certain sensations or things that go off pattern. "So Many Ideas" addresses the frustration of not being able to communicate feelings and ideas—"I've got so many ideas in my head, Yeah, they're hard to get out, I wanna scream and shout"—ever have writer's block? "Wiggle Alive" and "Squish Me, Squeeze Me" are about physical issues. "Squish Me" brings to mind the "hug machine" invented by Dr. Temple Grandin, arguably the most celebrated person diagnosed with autism; as a teenager, she created the machine to deal with stress and sensory overload.

Grandin herself commented on *Love Me*, saying "I really liked it. I hope it gets widely played." Such an endorsement is underscored by the five percent of the sales that will go to Autism Speaks, a nonprofit research and advocacy group.

Visit www.BradyRymer.com to find out more about his work with understanding autism.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

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Summer Activities



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

The sign-up for the Summer Reading Program begins on Monday, June 22. Check out materials from the Library and win prizes. Prize opportunities vary for children, teens, and adults. The last day to pick up a prize is on Saturday, August 8.

Here are a few of our programs: Monday Movies at 3:30 p.m. from June 22–August 3 (Children’s Movies Rated G or PG). Tuesday performances are from June 23–August 4, with family friendly programs for all ages. Wednesday Storytimes are at 10:30 a.m. from July 1–August 19, with stories, songs, and fun designed for ages 2–5. Thursday Arts and Crafts programs are at 3:30 p.m. from July 9–July 30. Visit or call us for more details!

We also have a Shelving Program for teens 16 years and older who need community service hours for graduation requirements, honor society, or college preparation. Teens may pick up an application from the Library.

Boys Town California will be presenting a six-week class called “Common Sense Parenting.” The class is free, and will provide training to parents or caregivers of children age 13–18 years who wish to build on existing parenting skills, or learn new ways of dealing with their children’s behavior.

Registration and first class begins on July 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., and will be held on the next five successive Mondays at the same time. Each class builds on the previous one, and is taught by a professional parent trainer. For class content information, please contact the Boys Town California Family Support Services office at 714-558-0303.

The Friends of the Fountain Valley Library sell gently used books for all reading interests, including children’s fiction and non-fiction. The Friends also conduct movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1 p.m., with refreshments for the older teens and adults.

Huntington Beach Central Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • www.hbpl.org

Summer Fun at the Library



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services

Many special events, programs, and storytimes are being planned for our library this summer.

Our annual Festival of Folktales, which celebrates the start of summer vacation with games, shows, and fun activities, will take place on Tuesday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Library. This year’s summer reading program is called “Read to the Rhythm.” Beginning on June 22 through July 31, children, teens, and adults can register online at www.hbpl.org. They can use their online log to keep track of their summer reading. Teens and adults can also keep track of the books they read and earn raffle tickets for gift baskets.

The children can choose to keep track of the books they read or listen to, or the time they spend reading. When they reach a certain amount of reading they are able choose a prize from our coupon box. Children who complete the program will be able to choose a prize from the treasure chest and a book. The summer reading program’s goal is to read at least three hours a week.

The children’s reading program will end with a special free event at the Central Park Bandstand. This special program will take place on Saturday, August 1 at 10:30 a.m. All reading program participants and their families are invited to attend. Children who attend the concert will also be entered into a raffle to win a giant stuffed Little Critter doll, as well as other fun prizes.

Teens aged 12 to 18 who are interested in being Summer Reading Program volunteers may start applying online on May 1 at hbpl.org. Look for the Teen Summer Application button. Teen volunteers will be invited to a teen pizza party at the end of the program.

Information about upcoming library events can be found on the Library’s Facebook page and website.

Bicycle Parts–Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put FHOW in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| BASKET | FRAME | LIGHT |
| BRAKES | GLOVES | PEDALS |
| CHAIN | GOOSENECK | REFLECTOR |
| CHAIN GUARD | GRIPS | SEAT |
| CRANK | HANDLEBARS | SPOKES |
| FENDERS | HELMET | TIRES |
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Congratulations to Alyssa Nguyen
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!



We thank Barkate Orthodontics for sponsoring our contests.



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Think



In a small group environment our professional tutors partner directly with school curriculum and TK – 12 classroom teachers to prepare, review or frontload to ensure students' success in the classroom.

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Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • www.ovsd.org

SUPERINTENDENT



Gustavo Balderas, D. Ed.

The Ocean View School District is participating in The *STEM Learning Ecosystem: Leadership for Articulated STEM Programs Institute* which is a professional learning institute designed to strengthen the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education programs.

Some of the benefits of this outstanding program will include:

- 18 months of high-level, engaging professional learning at no cost to the school district;
- Professional learning on the integration and articulation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS);
- Increase education and awareness around the implementation process to help educate parents and the broader community;
- Advantage of being on the forefront of establishing STEM Learning Ecosystems and helping to build the infrastructure for a scalable model;
- The opportunity to coalesce a team of STEM leaders within the district and local community;
- Team building and leadership development for district leaders, afterschool, and informal STEM teaching partners;

We are excited about participating in this great learning opportunity offered by the Orange County STEM Initiative (OC STEM), the region's largest collaborative of funders and community leaders in support of STEM education.

Circle View *Elementary*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5035 • www.ovsd.org



Carol Furman
Principal

Beautifying Our Campus

Circle View was a recent recipient of a brand-new tree on campus, thanks to the hard work and planning of Girl Scout Troop 1754.

In an effort to both provide shade and beautify our campus for the years to come, this group of fifth-grade girls researched many possible trees for our campus. They also enlisted the help of the Huntington Beach Tree Society, which donated a beautiful magnolia!

During an Earth Day assembly for their fellow students, the group presented information about the Girl Scouts, the importance of trees, and facts about their project. All of this was done as part of their effort to receive the Bronze Award, which is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve.

We are so proud of the efforts of these wonderful fifth-graders! Thank you for helping to beautify our campus at Circle View!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President

Gifted and Talented Education

Since the mid-1960s, Ocean View School District (OVSD) has offered a program for identified Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students. Today, OVSD designates Circle View Elementary School, for grades three through five, and Mesa View Middle School, for grades six through eight, as the magnet schools where GATE students are homogeneously grouped together for all of their academic instruction. This research-based magnet setting, which is offered by only a few districts in the county, provides a six-year curriculum continuum to enrich and accelerate learning experiences, promote the development of higher level and divergent thinking skills, encourage creative expression, develop leadership skills, foster healthy self-esteem, and initiate career exploration.

The GATE Magnet Program provides an all-day setting, which offers flexibility in scheduling and a wider range of educational opportunities. It provides students with a longer period of time for enriched and accelerated learning experiences that stress the students' preferred styles of learning. It is very important that students receive instruction based on their academic strengths.

All OVSD teachers have been trained to differentiate instruction for GATE students within the regular classroom setting. Most of our school sites offer GATE Cluster Programs for those students who wish to remain at their home schools. However, it is with proud distinction that we offer GATE students an opportunity that is not available in our neighboring districts—the GATE Magnet Program at Ocean View School District!

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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College View *Elementary*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org



Kathy Smith
Principal

Happy Feet

Visit College on any Friday afternoon and you will hear the happy tapping of feet in the multipurpose room! These joyful sounds were made possible through a generous grant from Ballet E'Tudes, a division of a local dance studio in Huntington Beach.

The boys and girls in our kindergarten and third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade classrooms are having a ball learning to tap dance.

The grant provides for free dance instruction and the use of tap shoes for the hour-long lessons.



Dancing and the performing arts are more than just a lot of fun. They also provide our children with opportunities for collaboration, creative thinking, problem solving, team building, and communication. On behalf of our students, I want to express how we are eternally grateful for the wonderful educational opportunity that Ballet E'Tudes has given our College View children. Thank You!

Harbour View *Elementary*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Making Summer Fun Count!

Providing children with interesting experiences gives them a broader framework for new information they might encounter in books, and when children have lots of experiences to draw on, they have a better chance of making a connection with what they read! This summer, you can help your child build background knowledge with these fun ideas.

Take summer field trips. Go to the park, the zoo, the aquarium, a sports event, a historical landmark or a children's museum.

Go on a hike or to a natural attraction in your area. When you're indoors, watch a TV program about volcanoes, the rainforest or famous Americans, or use the web to take a virtual field trip to a faraway place.

Talk about it—the plants and animals you see, the rules of a game, the history of your city or any new experiences your child has. Ask questions that get your child to talk, like “If you could be one of those animals we saw today, which one would you be?” or “Why do you think those boulders were shaped like that?”

Follow up with a book. Find out what interests your child, and visit the library to get more information. Check out books about whales or hockey players or whatever captures your child's attention. You could even have your child create his or her own book with photos or illustrations of your activity and a commentary. This is great writing practice and makes a wonderful summer memory book.

Building background knowledge isn't just fun—it's also a great way to spend your summer!

Golden View *Elementary*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • www.ovsd.org



Elaine Burney
Principal

Museum Night

By Tracy Souders, Second-Grade Teacher

On the first of April our second-graders held their second annual Living Museum Night. Living Museum was the culminating project of a unit that's designed to answer the question, “What Makes a Hero?”

Students investigated various heroes from their social studies and literature books, and worked in teams to establish the characteristics necessary for a person to be classified as

one. Then, using these factors, they chose their own hero to research. This included aspects of the hero's childhood, adulthood, and major accomplishments.

The students then created a doll that incorporated the components of their research. They also prepared two to three famous quotes that represented their subject.

At the Night of the Living Museum event, the students came dressed as their hero. With a touch of a button this figure came to life as the students recited their quotations. It was a fabulous evening for all, and a highlight of our school year.



Evelyn Garcia.

Hope View *Elementary*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Day to Unite

We had a fabulous Hope View Day in April, in which all of our students from the three other sites met at Hope View.

The day was split, with half of our students walking to Marine View for the much-anticipated Imagination Machine Assembly. We're grateful to the Marine View staff and students for allowing us to use their facilities. The Imagination Machine Assembly featured talented actors performing wonderful stories written by our very own students. Our Hope View students authored stories and poems representing many genres. Several stories

were selected and acted out, to the joy of their authors! It was a great assembly, inspiring writing at all our grade levels. We are grateful to our PTO for funding this experience.

While half the school enjoyed the assembly, the other half participated in our fabulous Jog-A-Thon coordinated by Mrs. Betancourt and MC'd by Mrs. Zehnder. We are grateful to all our volunteers and Jog-A-Thon supporters and sponsors. We thank Mrs. Sjogren, a well-respected fifth-grade teacher at Hope View, for her vision and leadership in making the day a success. A special thanks also to the entire Hope View staff, students and families for your participation on this very special day! It was truly a day to bring staff and students together to unite on our home campus!

Lake View *Elementary*

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Science in Action

By Janie Williams, 4/5-Grade Teacher

Since becoming a NASA Explorer School 10 years ago, science has been an important instructional focus at Lake View School. All grade levels teach earth, life and physical sciences throughout the school year. Here is what fourth-graders have been up to lately!

During the months of March and April, Lake View fourth-graders studied earth science, focusing on “fast changes on Earth.” These changes include landslides, earthquakes and volcanoes. Our student-created volcanoes erupted in the sand area of our playground. It was our own Ring of Fire in action!

In April, we also studied electricity. We learned that objects have positive and negative charges. A buildup of electrical charges on an object is static

electricity, which can be a “hair-raising” event! We learned that opposite-charged particles attract—that’s what made those balloons stick to us and the wall.

As you can see, we got a “charge” out of studying electricity—pun intended!



Static electricity you can see!

Marine View *Middle School*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org



William Lynch
Principal

Award-Winning Scientists

Congratulations to our students for their success at the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. This year the event celebrated its 60th anniversary and was again held in conjunction with the Orange County Fair Imaginology at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Marine View Middle School was fortunate enough to have 17 projects make it to the county level. We had a record number of award winners, with two of our projects winning awards.



Jacob Jackson earned a special award from the National Association of Corrosion Engineers International for his project titled “Metal Be Gone.” Ethan Lee earned an honorable mention award in his category, energy conservation/alternative energy, for his project titled “Solar Power.” Both young men earned certificates and medals and were recognized at the awards ceremony. Jacob also received a stipend and an invitation to the Corrosion Society dinner.

It was a great year for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) at Marine View.

Mesa View *Middle School*

17601 Avilla Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org



Randy Lempert
Principal

Final Stage Performance!

The Mesa View Performing Arts program is creating a production titled “The Best of Broadway,” featuring songs and scenes from Annie, Newsies, Matilda and Hairspray. The large cast of 64 seventh- and eighth-graders comprises debuting and highly experienced singers, dancers and actors.

Learning how to perform requires great dedication both during and after school. Students have learned techniques related to performance onstage while also gaining experience in design, painting sets, stage-crew duties, and managing sound and lights. They have been incredibly successful this year working as a team and relying on one another to make every element of the show come together.

Please join us for our final production of the year! Performances of “The Best of Broadway” are on Thursday, June 4, and Friday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Mesa View Gymnasium. Ticket donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and can be made at the door. See you there!



Oak View *Elementary*

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org



Francesca Ligman
Interim Principal

A Safer Oak View Neighborhood

Led by fifth-grade teacher Karl Von Schonfeldt, our Student Council recently teamed up with Orange County Health – Safe Routes to School Coordinator Megan Beard to conduct a walkability audit around the neighborhood. The team had their clipboards and cameras in hand to help assess the various routes that our students take to school.

The group looked for sidewalk bumps, street lights, graffiti, safe places to cross the street, and corners that needed a stop

sign or had restricted views. The Student Council will be compiling this data and presenting it to a panel made up of important officials, including some of our very own board members as well as neighborhood police officers.

These fifth-graders are making crucial recommendations about how the city can make our Oak View neighborhood a safer place. The students came back from their visit so excited about how they were involved in a process that will bring positive change to our community.



Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/843-6938 • www.ovsd.org



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Families of Readers

Oak View Preschool presented 14 parents with certificates of completion for their hard work during the eight-week Latino Family Literacy Project. The project is designed to help parents to gain confidence in reading out loud and provide them with an opportunity to learn English vocabulary and literacy skills, which will enable them to teach their preschool-age children. Participants were given one book per week, written in both English and Spanish, to take home and read to their children. Parents discussed, listened, and shared their reading experiences.

Each week the participants developed their family photo albums while listening to music and enjoying snacks. They engaged in discussions about the storybooks and how they relate to their families and cultures. Parents filled out pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires, and some of their answers and the changes in their reading lifestyles were impressive. Several parents went from reading randomly to reading every day; others increased their reading time from five or 10 minutes to 20 to 30 minutes daily.



One participant wrote, "I enjoyed socializing with other parents, letting my children see the hard work their mom is doing, and also talking about our culture."

We are very proud of the families who participated and their desire to find new ways to nurture a love of reading in their children.

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

located at Pleasant View School, 16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000



Paul James
Principal

Camp OVPP

Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is excited about this year's summer program called CAMP OVPP. OVPP, part of the award-winning Ocean View School District, provides early literacy and knowledge to preschool-aged children who are three to five years old. Our summer program is scheduled to begin on June 29 and will conclude on August 26. Each week our "little campers" will follow a theme, learn new concepts, and have fun in a safe, nurturing environment. The camp schedule will consist of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water play days, special visitors, special events, and much more.

In addition to our summer program, the 2015–2016 school year will begin on Wednesday, September 9. OVPP offers a developmentally-appropriate, academic preschool experience that lays a strong foundation for K–12 education. The OVPP program is aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations and will provide children with the opportunity to develop their cognitive, social, emotional, physical, linguistic, and creative abilities.

Star View *Elementary*

8411 Worthy Dr., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Real-World Education

Every year, Star View students welcome visitors from the Junior Achievement organization. This organization is composed of businessmen and businesswomen who donate their time to instruct students on commerce, life skills in relation to money and budgeting, and banking. The students love this day because the volunteers are "real-life workers" and teach them "stuff we need to know to be grown-ups."

The students in kindergarten through fifth grade all have different curricular areas that the volunteers will focus on. The day's lessons are filled with games, activities, group work and stickers! Junior Achievement tries to build their lessons around what the students are learning throughout the school year and enhance their knowledge to apply their skills to the real world.

We can't wait until next year when the real-life workers visit our Stars again!



Spring View *Middle School*

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org



Jason Blade
Principal

Leading the Way

Throughout the year our Leadership and Bridges students are tasked with three goals: make Spring View the best place it can be, be the best you can be, and lead by example. Under the guidance of teachers Mr. Vanatta and Mr. deLachica, both our Leadership and Bridges classes have more than met these goals.

Being a part of the Leadership or Bridges class is a privilege, but it comes with responsibility. The students must dedicate many hours of free time to help with various duties around the school. Among other things, our Leadership and Bridges students organize intermural sports for the sixth-graders, plan dances, sign and dance in our BEST Fest celebrations, help integrate new students into the Spring View family, and much more.

I am proud of the hard work and dedication of our Leadership and Bridges students. All of our students can look to them every day as a great example!



Sun View *Elementary*

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-9643 • www.ovsd.org



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Celebrating Our Accomplishments

Another wonderful year is coming to a close. The last month of school is a busy time for everyone. We culminated the 2014–2015 year with Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium state testing and celebrated our wonderful staff, moms, and volunteers.

PTO hosted a breakfast for moms, dads and special people and coordinated a successful jog-a-thon. Kindergarten, second, third, and fourth grades performed musical songs and dances, and our music teacher, Mrs. Robles, orchestrated the fourth- and fifth-grade music program. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade debuted their creative skills in the annual Talent Show, and the fifth-graders spent a week at the Tiger Woods Learning Center. All students celebrated their hard work and academic accomplishment with an end-of-the-year school-wide barbeque. And we would be remiss not to mention the annual Fishing Derby at Carr Park, as Sun View Elementary School students hold the title.

We accomplished a lot together, thanks to all the helping hands that continually join together to enrich the quality of our school and the lives of our students!



Village View *Elementary*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

Helping Our World

First-graders at Village View Elementary School learned all about keeping our Earth green while on a field trip to a local grocery store. Village View recycles at our school each and every week, and our students learned that our local grocery store recycles their cardboard boxes into bales of cardboard.

Composting was a new concept for our little ones to learn about as well! The fruit and veggies that are past due are composted at the grocery store, too. The store uses energy-efficient lighting throughout the store as well as in the freezer cases. The first-graders were thrilled to make the connection that

the grocery store and Village View both have skylights to help with natural lighting.

Each student walked out the door with a reusable bag to help do his or her part in keeping our Earth green!



Vista View *Middle School*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org



Joe Santos
Interim Principal

Vista View Spirit

Albert Einstein once said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” This past month, the Vista View Middle School community experienced the loss of a teacher, Heather Szabo, to cancer. Heather was beloved by all and was a wonderful representative of the Vista View spirit that makes our school a special place. Her spirit lives on in her colleagues, who saw an opportunity to honor Heather and teach students about compassion, generosity, and thoughtfulness.

English language arts and physical education teacher Samantha Sears coordinated a lap-a-thon to raise money for the fight against cancer and support Heather’s two daughters. The day was filled with active student participation, commemorative T-shirts sales, and shared memories and cancer awareness through talks given by staff and friends who knew Heather Szabo. Ms. Sears afforded the Vista View students and community a day to raise awareness and honor a beloved teacher in a meaningful and educational way.



“Pink Day” staff honors and remembers Heather Szabo.

Westmont *Elementary*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org



Susan Broderson
Principal

A Wonderful Year

I can’t end the 2014–2015 school year without reminiscing about all of the wonderful events and activities that have happened at Westmont this past year.

In September our students and teachers were eager and excited to get back to learning. We immediately started providing programs and activities to enrich student learning. The school purchased the Accelerated Reading program, a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children’s independent reading practice. We also invested in upgraded software to support math and reading programs.

The School Site Council approved the purchase of 105 HP Stream laptops and three laptop carts, in addition to math and reading software. The students also participated in training from the American Red Cross on emergency preparedness, while our teachers were trained by reserve officers from the Westminster Police Department on medical emergencies. Our wonderful PTO bought emergency supplies and lockdown kits for all classrooms.

Our community joined us on campus for Special Person’s Day, a literacy picnic, three book fairs, two musical concerts, Imagination Machine, and so

much more. Our Open House was a great success too, with a big barbecue kick-off and tours of brightly decorated classrooms full of student work.

It has been a wonderful year of working together with our students, parents, and staff that makes Westmont such a great school.



Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7311 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps

Robotics Elective Captivates Students!

Johnson Middle School is one of the only middle schools in Orange County to offer a robotics class as an elective to its students. Established in 2013, the 12-week robotics class encourages critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity – also known as the four Cs of 21st-century learning. Robotics is also a great way to get students excited about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) topics.

The class focuses on the fundamentals of STEM and the Engineering Design Process (EDP). Small groups of three or four students build prototypes and then assemble and program the robots while learning the math and science behind it. They build little replicas of National Aeronautics and Space Association (NASA) Mars Rovers and test various accessories, such as a scoop, a solar panel, or an antenna, on their robots.

Teachers Phil Hunter and Cindi Heinle developed the curriculum for the robotics class using EV3 LEGO Mindstorms. Ms. Heinle has extensive training through the Orange County Department of Education and is one of only about 50 STEM specialists in the county.

“This class really ignites student engagement and energizes the learning process,” remarked Ms. Heinle. “One of the things that makes this class so unique is that we follow the Engineering Design Process, and my students truly leave the class as mini-engineers. But the best part is that they are having fun and feel like they’ve achieved something significant.”

The Engineering Design Process (EDP) includes: Step 1 – State the problem or need; Step 2 – Research the problem or need; Step 3 – Develop the possible solution(s); Step 4 – Select the solution; Step 5 – Construct/build the prototype; Step 6 – Test and evaluate; Step 7 – Communicate the solution; and Step 8 – Redesign.



This year approximately 300 students in seventh and eighth grades participated in the robotics elective. The program has been so well received that next fall Johnson will add an advanced robotics class, and Stacey and Warner Middle Schools will offer the beginning robotics class. It is exciting to see this challenging class grow, and our teachers have amazing things planned for next year. Robotics rock!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mary Mangold
President

Vietnamese Dual Immersion

It is with great pride that Westminster School District will offer the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program in California starting in the fall of 2015 with two classes at DeMille Elementary School. Like our traditional kindergarten classes, our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion classes will be full-day kindergarten, with only 24 students in each class. The students will receive 50 percent of their instruction throughout the day in English and 50 percent in Vietnamese. The benefits of dual language immersion are bilingualism, biliteracy, cultural proficiency, global citizenship, academic achievement in all subject areas, 21st-century skills, increased family involvement, and the Seal of Biliteracy Pathway Award attainment at third, fifth, and eighth grades.

We are excited to report that we have hired our first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion kindergarten teacher. She is a highly qualified, experienced teacher who has worked in our district, lives in the area, and is a perfect fit for this program!

California State University, Fullerton's National Resource Center for Asian Languages (NRCAL) is authoring curriculum for our program as well as providing advanced professional learning and coaching for the teachers. Our partnerships with NRCAL, Orange County Department of Education's Multiliteracy Pathways, Vietnamese Language Schools of Southern California, Highline School District, and the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce help to make this a stellar program for students in Westminster and all over Orange County.

Demand for this program is great! One class is already full, and we expect the second class to fill up quickly. If you have a child entering kindergarten in the fall and you are looking for a program that will give your child a competitive edge in the future, then please consider enrolling your child in our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program.

Please see www.wsdk8.us for the most current information about our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program and parent information meetings or call (714) 894-7311 ext.1080.

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Anderson Elementary (K-6)

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Volunteers Make a Difference

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.” - Margaret Mead

At Anderson Elementary School we know our volunteers make a difference everyday. They generously give their time, skills, and talents. You make Anderson great and we THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. Because of you, all of this is possible. Wow, you are amazing!

Classroom Helpers, Copying, Movie Nights, Book Fair, Spirit Wear, Fundraising, Holiday Fair, Preparing Student Materials, School Site Council, Parent Teacher Association, Field Trips, English Learner, Advisory Council, Clerical Support, Trick or Trunk

Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/clegg.aspx



John Staggs
Principal

Change for Hearts

Our Clegg Cougar Cubs are always looking for ways to support others and give back! Our ASB students – together with our amazing Clegg community – recently held a “Change for Hearts” drive!

In honor of Heart Month, we set out to collect as much money as possible for donation to a wonderful organization in Costa Mesa called the Hopeful Hearts Foundation. This nonprofit group provides financial support for families with children suffering from congenital heart disease (CHD). They also strive to raise awareness of CHD, along with providing funds for research, all with the end goal of improving the outcomes for those affected by this disease.

The organization also delivers care packages to local hospitals and works directly with leading physicians on research projects. For two weeks Clegg



collected money brought in by the students. Together they raised over \$1,500.

Founder Terra Chez came to Clegg to personally thank our students, parents, and staff members for making such a difference in the lives of children affected by CHD. Giving back strengthens character, teaches compassion, and shows children the importance of helping others.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

“Egg-Citing” Egg Drop

By Thanh Huynh, and Amanda Phan, Students – 6th Grade

On April 3, Demille Elementary School held a successful egg-drop competition for students in fourth through sixth grades. In an egg drop, there is science. An egg is delicate and can easily break. Students had to remember that weight and packaging are critical. If a contraption is too heavy, the student’s chances of succeeding decrease. If it is poorly built, the egg is likely to fall out and break before the drop.

Over 30 students constructed amazing contraptions to protect their eggs. The Orange County Fire Department came out to



help drop the eggs. It was fun to watch the eggs drop 75 feet from the ladder of a fire truck. Fortunately, approximately 20 eggs survived the drop. Many went splat all over the blacktop, and that was the best part!

Students from several grade levels came out to watch. The egg drop was very fun for everyone!

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx



Donna Brush
Principal

School Beyond School

Before- and after-school programs are designed to enhance student learning. Eastwood’s Extended School Program (ESP) follows a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) framework.

Homework completion and physical exercise are part of the daily routine, but beyond that, students are actively engaged in curriculum-based activities. The AfterSchool KidzLit program helps students relate to and understand their world through literature. The AfterSchool KidzMath program uses cooperative games and storybook-based activities to promote mathematical understanding and social development. Students spend time working in the computer lab as well as on Chromebooks and are seen building extraordinary structures while using toy construction materials. They love working with bubbles and rockets and enjoy watching SciGirls—and yes, the boys, too—where they have learned



We Love ESP.

about indigenous plants and marine biology.

Creativity is fostered through art activities that are aligned with both literature and seasonal themes.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx



Maria Gutiérrez-García
Principal

Professional Learning Day

Finley staff members are truly lifelong learners who continuously seek ways to increase their knowledge and efficacy with the students they serve. In March, during a scheduled half-day professional learning collaboration session, Finley upper-grade teachers arranged to have district instructional support specialist Genise Battaglia demonstrate a close-reading lesson based on a primary-source document by John Smith. All third-, fourth- and fifth-grade teachers met in Sarah Bosworth’s fifth-grade class to witness the lesson that included Guided Language



Genise Battaglia, Westminister School District Instructional Support Specialist, modeling a close reading lesson as Finley teachers observe during their Half Day Professional Learning Collaboration Session in Sarah Bosworth’s fifth grade classroom.

Acquisition Design strategies such as the Process Grid.

With support from student teachers, our second- and first-grade School Leadership Team representatives joined in on the fabulous learning opportunity that featured rigor and cognitive academic language.

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx



Dr. Dena Kiouses
Principal

Much to Appreciate

In May, our students, parents, and PTA honored staff members during Staff Appreciation Week with a luncheon, flowers, coffeehouse visit, letters, and treats. This amazing outpouring of appreciation from the Fryberger community was very much valued by staff.

So this month, our students and parents were asked what they appreciated most about Fryberger School. The various student responses were as follows:

I really love our library, our librarian is so nice! We have a fun computer lab. I really like ST Math. We have great teachers; which means that I am getting a great education.

I like the activities like jog-a-thon and movie night. I like having my own Chromebook to use at school. The principal greets us in the morning; that is my favorite thing. We have a big field and giant toy structure, and we have many choices at recess.

I like PRIDE, the leaders are fun and they help you with homework. PRIDE clubs are fun and you get to choose your club. I like our salad bar, I like getting to make my own food choices. Noontime Sports is really fun, I like that we have teams and rotate through different sports.

Student council has great ideas to make school fun. We have caring teachers and staff; I like that the custodian always calls me by my name.

The parent responses were as follows:

I appreciate how involved the staff is; they interact with students. We have so many activities to participate in as a family. Fryberger is clean and the staff is so friendly. Fryberger School is very welcoming. I know my child is getting a great education.

Obviously, Fryberger School has great academic programs and varied activities for its students, and many parent participation opportunities. Our students, parents, and staff members all create a community that together provides a unique educational experience truly appreciated by all!

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx



Mark Murphy
Principal

International Night

Hayden Elementary has a diverse population with many different cultures that contribute to our great school and community. These amazing cultures were on full display last month at our annual International Night. Our International Night gives our students and families an opportunity to share their traditions in the form of dance and music. We had many students and community members perform traditional dances, play instruments, and sing in their native languages along with the fabulous Hayden Choir. We also had families bring their favorite traditional dish to share with the rest of the community.

This great night could not have taken place without the help of some amazing people. A special thank-you to Lucille Schmitt for leading our choir as well as to the entire ESP staff including Susan Lopez, Ms. Hahn and our fabulous PTA for their support. I would also like to thank all of the families that came out to support our terrific community event.



Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx



Daniel Owens
Principal

Optimal Fitness

Johnson Middle School is excited to announce the opening of our state-of-the-art Fitness Center.

Our students will now have the opportunity to participate in organized training. They will be receiving instruction for a safe and effective workout routine within their scheduled physical education class. Instruction will include a desired number of sets and repetitions to build strength, as well as cardiovascular exercise to build endurance.

The recently opened Fitness Center, as well as the new gymnasium, will offer our students a one-of-a-kind educational experience. The Center is designed to give students the opportunity to learn workout concepts and conditioning techniques used to obtain optimal fitness. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness.

Emphasis will be placed on students learning personal fitness, including health-related fitness and wellness concepts, along with self-assessments and other activities.



Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us
714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Beverlee Mathenia
*Executive Director,
Early Education
& Expanded
Learning*



Reagan Lopez
*Administrator
Student Services*

An Early Start

John F. Land School houses an Early Start Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and who reside within our surrounding school districts. This program is available for students who meet eligibility criteria, and have an Individualized Family Service Plan through Regional Center of Orange County.

Children eligible for this program are younger than three years of age, and demonstrate developmental delays in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development, physical development (including vision and hearing), communication development, social or emotional development and/or adaptive development.

This program boasts an excellent student-to-teacher ratio, with two teachers who have been working as early childhood education specialists for several years, and four classroom assistants. Children typically attend this program



two days per week.

Classroom lesson plans focus on the support of cognitive skills, play skills, gross and fine motor skills, self-help skills, vocabulary development, and social-communication skills; and all within an individualized, developmentally appropriate context.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx



Kathy Kane
Principal

Yoga Comes to Meairs

Written by Ms. Houlihan's 4th grade class

At Meairs Elementary School this year, two kindergarten classes, one first grade, one second grade and one fourth grade class have had the opportunity to participate in yoga. Yoga is all about peace and happiness. It can help you become strong, healthy and flexible. It has also taught us how to concentrate and focus in our classrooms. Most importantly we realize how lucky we are to have Ms. Becky and her helper, Nana Gladys volunteer to teach us the many poses and breathing exercises. Some of our favorite poses are, the cobra, superman and the turtle. All of the kids agree that Ms. Becky is the best yoga teacher in the world. Namaste.



The 4th grade enjoy their weekly yoga class with Miss Becky and Nana Gladys.

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Above and Beyond

I am fortunate to be part of a team of teachers that goes above and beyond the call of duty to make school an engaging place for children. Our preschool teachers often work after hours to plan fun, physical, creative and hands-on activities tied to their pre-kindergarten standards. Our kindergarten team uses their collaboration time for a group study of *The Daily 5* by Bousher and Moser, taking their discussions and instruction to a higher level. Our first-grade teachers have worked as a team to monitor their intervention groups and their toughest discipline challenges. Like most teachers, they students as "our children."

The second-grade team has done an amazing job with their unit on fossils. As you enter each classroom, you can see the continuity and obvious teamwork as they use Thinking Maps, Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) strategies, use charts to record student learning, provide thematic visual representations, provide realia, and more! Their culminating event was the Fossil Museum in May.

The third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teams have been spending countless hours incorporating more nonfiction writing and technology into their weekly lessons. You can walk into any upper-grade classroom and see that students have become very proficient in using their netbooks, and they are writing on a regular basis.

We also have a core group of teachers who are further extending their time to support fund-raising events for all the "extras," such as field trips to make learning fun. I am inspired and impressed by all of the hours that they spend attending monthly PTA meetings and supporting all of the PTA events. All of this extra work and planning reveal that, for many teachers, it is not just a job; it is a mission to make school a special place for students and their families.

Thank you, teachers!

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Schroeder PTA Rocks Better Together!

Here at Schroeder School we are blessed with a wonderful PTA! Our PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairs work very hard to ensure that every Schroeder student and family has the opportunity to have a very enriched school experience while they attend Schroeder. We have Family Nights (Bingo, pottery painting), Birthday Book Club, iMom/All-Pro Dad, Dining Nights, Family Campout, fundraisers, Student of the Month, Red Ribbon Week, Trunk or Treat, Lunch on the Lawn, Skate Night...the list goes on and on! I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to our Executive Board, our committee chairs and all of our wonderful volunteers. Schroeder School is a special place because of you and everything you do! I am looking forward to 2015-2016 and all that we will do together!



Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx



Shay Reardon
Principal

Students Run the OC!

At Sequoia Elementary School, our school community is supporting healthy lifestyles for our families. Sequoia has hosted two Family Fitness Nights this year and also partnered up with Champions for Change for parent nutritional classes. This year we have added other exciting opportunity for our students to become more physically fit.

Many Sequoia students participated in a fabulous event called Kids Run the OC Training Program. Participating students met each Tuesday and Thursday for 12 weeks with dedicated volunteers to accumulate 25.2 miles before the OC Marathon. During these afterschool sessions, volunteers guided students while they ran, enjoyed movement activities, and also learned about a healthy lifestyle.



On May 2, students and parent volunteers met at the Orange County Fair and Event Center to finish the last mile of the marathon. The students truly enjoyed this amazing experience and look forward to the challenge next year.

Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Competitive Archers

Our new Archery Club is off and running with 22 students who are eager to become competitive archers. A funding grant allowed us to begin a new club with new equipment to build a competitive team in the next few years. Mr. and Mrs. Dandridge, Stacey teachers are our team advisors and have attended training as well. Students first learned all the safety requirements for archery and now are in the field practice for 2 hours two days week. We appreciate the talent of Mr. Duignan, a Stacey parent, for his support with getting the grant and helping us to teach our students how to be a great archers! Interested students will be able to join the club next year in the fall. Check it out!



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/webber.aspx



Kevin Whitney
Principal

Answer Yes!

Please think about your elementary school as you read this brief survey. Is your elementary school instructing children with 21st century expectations? Do all students in grades K-6 use a Chromebook on a daily basis to research topics, experience individualized instruction, or create evidence of learning using Google Platforms? Is your child receiving instruction in the arts and music? Are your teachers embracing 21st century instruction? Are they leading the way? Are the students engaged in learning? Do students have multiple opportunities to serve as leaders? Is the PTA thriving and growing? Does your principal have an open-door policy?

Can you tell that all staff, teachers and the principal deeply care about the well-being of each and every child? Does your principal hold Learning Chats with the parents? Is the school leading the way?

Parents of the Webber Wolf Pack answer "Yes!" to these questions.



Ms. Vu and Kindergarten Kids using Chromebooks.

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx



Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

A Cultural Celebration

By Jasmine Mohammed and Taina Sy, Students

Every year, Warner Middle School has an international celebration! This event is much like a carnival, celebrating many different nationalities. Here at Warner there are students representing countries all over the world.

Multicultural Day on April 1 was a colossal event. Participants included cheerleaders from Westminster High, the Korean Club, the Washington D.C. Club, and members of the Westminster community, who showcased every nationality in a unique and special way.

Warner sold tickets for delicious food from different cultures, including egg rolls, tacos, rice cakes, corn, pizza, and many more selections. Dancers performed dragon dances, hip hop dances, and jazz.

Multicultural Day is a day to celebrate different cultures from all around the world. It takes many talented people to create such an astonishing day.



Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx



Rob McKane
Principal

Blended Learning

Blended learning is the use of technology tools in the classroom to support learning. Like many districts throughout the state, the Westminster School district has provided one-to-one laptop computers to our second- through eighth-grade students. Beyond that, students and teachers have been given access to a suite of Google tools such as those for word processing, presentation and spreadsheets that can be viewed by and shared with others. Programs such as Storybird, Discovery Learning, ST Math, Accelerated Reader and Imagine Learning are also useful tools to support learning. These programs are accessed in the classroom and can also be accessed from home on computers, tablets and smartphones.

Yes, the way we do business at schools is changing, but the basic tenets of education remain: Connecting prior knowledge to new information, gradual release to independence and practice, practice, practice will always be keys to success in education no matter what tools students use. Having greater access to a wider variety of tools and information, however, presents many more opportunities for learning than does a single textbook or adopted materials.

In the end, our goal of providing 21st-century learning tools to students to support them in becoming college and career ready continues. Communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity, or the four C's, will be skills students will need to master to compete in the 21st century. Because of these new tools, strategies and techniques, our students are in a better position to compete in this changing world.

Huntington Beach Union High School District

5832 Bolsa Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/903-7000 • www.hbuhsd.edu

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Thank You for Supporting Our Students!

Just recently, I had the now rare and even more valued opportunity to have dinner with my 26 year-old daughter, Sara, and her husband, Morgan. As they have been married for two years now, my wife and I often wonder about...well you know... becoming grandparents! Halfway through dinner, they began to ask questions about what it was like to raise children and the challenge of being parents. We thought for sure this was it! We would hear the magic words, but instead (and yes, it was a little bit of a letdown) they sincerely wanted to know about the role of parents through our eyes. It was one of the memories Sara shared that led me to this brief article.

Sara recalled her fourth-grade classroom and later another memory from her sophomore year. The commonality in both cases had to do with volunteerism and the role her mom played in shaping her views. She vividly recounted that fourth-grade year and how proud she was that her mom was volunteering for the teachers to make copies, staple, and organize papers for the classroom. The next memory came from her 10th-grade year and how her mom again (there is a theme, and, yes, I was there from time to time) volunteered to help with yearbook and physical education clothes sales for the start of school. She admitted she was a little more embarrassed and even shared a teenage concern or two with her friends. Quickly, though, she added that, deep down, she was thrilled and so appreciative.

It was the connection that her husband, Morgan, shared that reminded me of the work that has been done for our students from kindergarten through graduation. Each day, our families find ways to support their students, as well as all the other students who are connected to this educational journey. Morgan said, "I guess it will be really important for Sara and me to volunteer a lot at school." Yes, Morgan, it will!

As the excitement for graduations begins to fill the air, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank all of our parent and community volunteers. I am confident that, just as Sara has fond memories of support, our students today carry the very same special moments of support with them as well. From PTSA to booster clubs, and Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) to so many who were always ready for action at the first call or e-mail for help...THANK YOU! Wishing everyone a smart, fun, and restful summer vacation...you earned it!

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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A Lesson from Our Students

Recently a group of educators gathered to discuss how online learning might look like in our district. As the group settled in and prepared to begin their work, a great sense of excitement and optimism was felt throughout the room. A robust agenda featured a balance of professional learning, collaboration, and consensus building aimed at answering the essential question of "How can we utilize our existing technology tools to create opportunities for students to learn in an online environment?"

Throughout the morning, the group video-conferenced with colleagues from another district, gained in-depth knowledge of available technology tools from expert teachers, brainstormed possible course offerings, and discussed minimum requirements. The conversations were rich, productive, and student-focused, all things that one would expect from a group of highly-experienced, professional educators.

Midway through the day, a group of four students walked into the room. They were invited to share their insights into online learning from the student perspective. The students were able to articulate sincere, valuable information, which moved the group. Through their discourse, themes began to emerge. Students value the importance of building a learning community with their peers, and students want to build relationships with their teachers, even in an online environment.

Not only did these two themes frame the remainder of our conversations that day, they provided a precious reminder we will not soon forget. For all the smart, professional work that is constantly done on behalf of students, when we stop to listen, it is often the students who provide us with the most critical lesson of all: TEACHERS MATTER.

We will continue to meet and develop online learning environments for our students. And as we do, we will remember the message from our students: No matter what type of learning environment we create to meet the needs of our students, never forget that teachers matter.

During this time of staff appreciation, I would like to thank our entire school community for making a difference in the lives of our students.



Blake Diamond
Student
Representative

The 2015 Finale

As the curtain is falling on the 2014-2015 school year, a new curtain is about to open, and the Class of 2015 is on center stage. Looking at the year in review, one can nostalgically recall homecoming, spring break, CIF playoffs, prom, and all the other important events of the school year. However, there is a not a single day more important than College Commitment Day, held on May Day. This day nationally marks the beginning of higher education for many high school students, and I was really proud to be a part of College Commitment Day at Huntington Beach High School (HBHS).

Pendants of every color, excessive numbers of balloons, nearly 110 individual college posters, and an unmeasured amount of emotion were all aspects of the College Commitment Day celebration at HBHS. After a brief opening by Principal Dr. Rocky Murray, all students signed their respective college posters in front of their friends and families. The entire celebration, held during an extended tutorial, was incredibly moving and an excellent way to reward seniors for years of hard work.

However, the amount of hard work for many students climaxes during the two weeks of rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) testing, held this year from May 4 to 15. As AP enrollment increases, these tests become increasingly important to students and their parents. Of course, the fine educators that teach these courses have taken steps to prepare students to the best of their collective abilities. For example, the AP Statistics teachers of the district hosted a district-wide Saturday seminar at Fountain Valley High School in order to adequately review all of the topics prior to the exam. Excellent staff members, supportive environments, incredible resources, dogged effort, and personal motivation are all reasons why students of Huntington Beach Union High School District are slated for success past high school.



Coast *High School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • www.coasthighschool.com



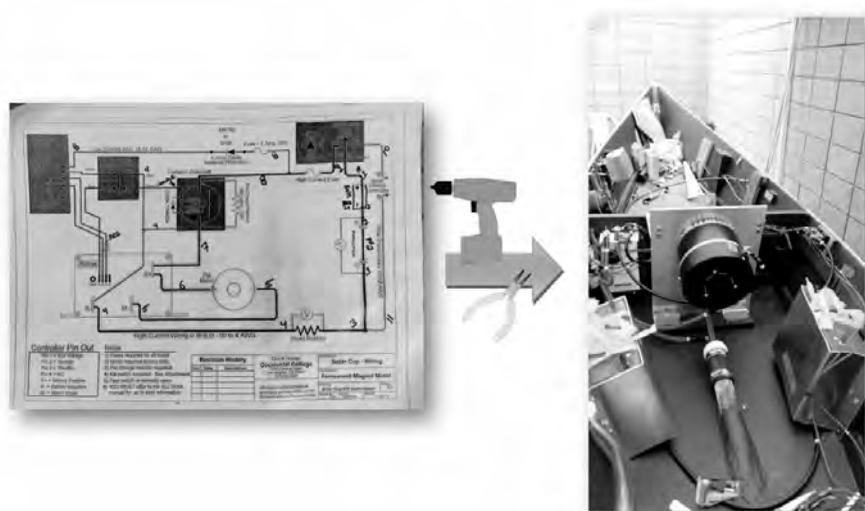
Steve Curiel
Principal

STEAM Boat

Most of us have had the pleasure (though some might not use the word pleasure) of assembling a piece of furniture or a bicycle from a set of instructions. These days, the instructions have lots of pictures and few words in order to make the process easier. If all goes well, you have a comfortable chair to sit in or you can see the joy of a child riding the new bike.

Now imagine reading the instructions in the picture included with this story of the electrical component layout of the solar-powered boat the Coast High School Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Club is building. The result of their work is also pictured.

The solar-powered boat was entered into a competition in May with other schools across Southern California at Lake Skinner. The math and science that students needed to learn to build the boat are rigorous and, of course, relevant. If their calculations were off, it would mean hours of work troubleshooting or poor performance in the competition. The stakes were high for the team, as both students and staff poured their hearts and souls into the boat. Now team can bask in the satisfaction of building something amazing, something few students have the opportunity to do.



From diagram to reality, students complete the installation of most of the electrical components for their solar powered boat.

Edison *High School*

21400 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-1356 • www.edisonchargers.com



Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

Prom Season

Nearly every high school in America celebrates spring, and has a prom event near the end of the term. Edison High School is no different, and many of our Special Abilities Cluster juniors and seniors (SAC) attended our event.

Thanks to the efforts of the Edison Best Buddies Club, over 100 special needs students from the entire district got to enjoy a real prom activity. With over 150 members, the Edison Best Buddies organized their second "Best Buddies Prom" and invited students from Edison, Fountain Valley, and Westminster High Schools.

Best Buddies is an international organization that pairs special needs individuals with their peers. At Edison, these students meet each Friday to enjoy lunch, games, special events, and plan activities such as the prom.

On March 20, our Best Buddies decorated the SAC gym with an "Under the Sea" theme and prepared treats for the over 100 attendees. Nico Fujii, our Edison Best Buddies secretary, remarked on how great it was to see the students free to express themselves on the dance floor.

Nico enjoyed the evening with his Best Buddy, and was excited to see him dancing, talking to new people, and "Coming out of his shell!" Yes, they could have danced all night!



Prom King Sam Meyer and Queen Delaney McVey.



Best Buddies GraceAnna Condon, Mackenzie Quenneville, and Justin Smith enjoy a Conga line.

Fountain Valley *High School*

17816 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-3301 • www.fvhs.com



Kirk Kennedy
Interim Principal

A Commitment to Learning
(Please see our story on the front page.)



Huntington Beach *Adult School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4227 • www.hbas.edu



Steve Curiel
Principal

Shaping Adult Learning

At the California Council for Adult Education (CCAEE) 2015 State Conference, I was pleased to see one of our best instructors, Mrs. Suzanne Hammoud, honored as one of a handful of adult education teachers across the state for excellence in teaching. Mrs. Hammoud has been teaching in various locations and in various capacities throughout her 18-year career. She has done private tutoring of adults in English, French, and Spanish. She was also taught as a Spanish instructor at Purdue University. She spent 10 years as a teacher in advanced English as a

Second Language (ESL) instruction at Downey Adult School before coming to Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS) three and half years ago.

Mrs. Hammoud has been a key developer of many classes, assessment tools, and curriculum for students, including: an ESL placement test; promotion exams for each level; pacing guides for ESL; PowerPoint presentation lessons; high school diploma and General Educational Development (GED) classes; Career Technical Education classes; a pre-college ESL transition class; advanced Internet research lessons and essay writing courses; a detailed writing packet for intermediate and advanced ESL students; goal-setting charts, innovative conversation and debate groups; and games that verbally reinforce lesson concepts. Mrs. Hammoud is always looking for ways to improve and adapt her teaching to meet the ever-changing needs of both our students and our communities.



Suzanne Hammoud receives Excellence in Teaching Award at 2015 CCAEE State Conference

As the secretary of the local CCAEE chapter, she volunteers her time promoting HBAS through various school activities and fund-raisers. She also attends Legislative Day in Sacramento and brings students with her to help our local legislators understand the importance and positive impact adult education makes in California. HBAS and adult education in California are better because of the efforts of Mrs. Hammoud.

Huntington Beach *High School*

1905 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-2514 • www.hboilers.com



Dr. Rocky Murray
Principal

Doing the Right Work

As a principal and educator, there are a number of groups and activities I connect with that become integral parts of the school year. Working to serve the students, staff, and community involves many connections, relationships, and networks. Each meeting, group, and activity has a purpose. This year, one committee stands out and has become a central component to this school year and the future focus of Huntington Beach High School.

Along with my colleague and the principal of Ocean View High School Dr. Dan Bryan, I had the opportunity to co-facilitate a task force focused on increasing the educational opportunities we are providing our English Language Learner (ELL) students. This work is critical, as it helped us understand the current reality for our ELLs and assisted in providing direction for where we should be going. Not only is this work smart, but it is also incredibly enjoyable!

The ELL Task Force consisted of 15 certificated and classified staff members from the Huntington Beach Union High School District. Each comprehensive school site was represented, along with the district office. By having representatives from across the district, we were able to capture a vivid picture of the services and opportunities being offered to our ELL students, and their families. The group was able to look outside of their individual school sites and think from a global perspective.

The goal for the task force was to present recommendations to the district to enhance our programs and impact students in a positive way. The synergy of the group was excellent, and was matched by the passion of its members. At the end of the day, the task force was able to create recommendations for our individual campuses.

It is imperative as a school that we continue to seek ways in which we can improve. It is equally important to choose four or five areas because, if we choose too many, nothing will get done well. We have a lot of focused work ahead of us, and it will be exciting to see the progress we make. We will continue to make a great school even better!

Ocean View *High School*

17071 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-0656 • www.ovhs.info



Dan Bryan
Principal

It's All Adding Up

I pick times during the year to give the staff data. It is testing season, and many students at Ocean View took their AP and IB tests this May. I recently gave the teachers a piece of data that showed that Ocean View students have increased their enrollment in four-year institutions by almost 50 percent over the past seven years. Our senior enrollment in two-year colleges has steadily dropped by 25 percent over that same period of time.

In 2014, 81 percent of juniors and seniors enrolled in a third- or fourth-year math class at the Algebra II level or higher. In the same year, 54 percent of juniors and seniors enrolled in a third- or fourth-year science class beyond chemistry.

Next year, the State of California will use college-readiness and standardized test data to measure the effectiveness of California high schools. This new way to evaluate high schools shows a more complete picture about how well we are preparing our students for college and work.

Going back to that piece of four-year university enrollment data, I am pleased to see that students are acting on the belief that they can attend a university. That data also tells me that they have taken the right amount of rigorous courses to qualify them for a four-year university.

One last piece of our students' postsecondary equation is added at the end of every May, and that's our Senior Exit Interview. Students must complete their Efolio, an electronic portfolio in which the students reflect on what they have learned while at Ocean View. This shows how their work in the classrooms has helped them to become better collaborators, critical thinkers, innovators, achievers, and people who can persevere.

To us at Ocean View, it is a simple equation. We want to help our students gain deep knowledge about their subject areas, and also allow them to develop the skills they need to succeed wherever they go beyond our doors. The data shows that it is all adding up!

Marina *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/893-6571 • www.marinavikings.org



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Home Away From Home

Marina High School has been my home away from home for the past eight years. This the 2014-15 school year is my final year at Marina High School. I take great pride in all of the amazing things that our staff, students and community have accomplished over these past years. The Home of the Vikings is at an awesome place and is ready to take even bolder steps forward as they strive to continue providing an amazing education to its students and a school focused on community.

Over the past eight years this school has become a place its staff, students and community take great pride in. Together we have become a California Distinguished School, we boast of some of the highest AP scores in our district, our programs to assist struggling learners continue to grow and improve. Recent parent and staff surveys show an overwhelming degree of approval for what is happening here! Here's a very abbreviated list of some of our accomplishments...

- Advanced Placement Scores continue to grow as do the number of AP courses we offer.
- English Learners continue to achieve at a high rate with over 28 redesignated this year.
- Common Formative Assessments are offered in all courses, something unique in our district.
- Marina's graduation rate is one of the highest in our area
- Our CTE program offers a wide variety of career choices for our students
- A-G classes continue to grow in number and achievement
- "Restorative Practices" in student behavior management have been implemented
- A Viking Mentor Program has become part of our culture
- Marina continues to offer an effective AVID program
- We have grown from 100 computers for student instruction to over 700
- The Marina campus, surrounded by our own "moat" has never looked so good
- A new marquee was constructed and community partnerships continue to grow
- Our PTSA is focused on involvement and support of teachers, students and community.

All in all, The Home of the Vikings is ready to take another GIANT LEAP as a new Principal takes the helm at Marina High School. Thanks for eight GREAT years and remember...

"Once A Viking, Always A Viking"

OC DEPT OF ED • From Page 4

Mandarin and Spanish. Our diversity is, without question, one of our greatest strengths. But we also know that meeting the academic needs of English learners poses great challenges.

Well-executed two-way language immersion programs hold extraordinary promise, supporting the academic success of English-learners as well as their fluent-English counterparts. As we look to achieve our vision of college and

career readiness and success for all students, two-way language immersion programs have the potential to build on the strength of Orange County's diverse population and support our goal to prepare all students to successfully compete and lead in the 21st century.

For additional information, and a list of Orange County schools that offer dual-language immersion programs, I encourage you to visit www.ocde.us/SSI and click on the "Dual Immersion & World Languages" link to the right of the page.



Social Host Ordinance

A New Law to Prevent Underage Drinking in Huntington Beach

What is a Social Host Ordinance?

A Social Host Ordinance is a law that prohibits adults from hosting drinking parties for minors. Teen drinking parties are a nuisance and threat to public safety. Recognizing this, the City Council of Huntington Beach adopted a Social Host Ordinance on March 4, 2013.



UNDERAGE DRINKING IN YOUR HOUSE = \$750 FINE



Not in our house.

OperationSafeHB.org



Penalties and Enforcement

Violators will be cited and face a \$750 fine. If police are called out a second time within 12 months, violators face an additional \$1,500 fine. The third violation in 12 months carries a fine of up to \$3,000. The Huntington Beach Police Department is conducting party-focused patrols to monitor home parties and respond to community concerns regarding underage drinking.

Why Not Host Parties for Minors?

A recent study of over 6,000 youth found that teens who received alcohol from a parent or a friend's parent at a party consumed more drinks and were twice as likely to drink regularly and binge drink (Foley, et al.). Additionally, teens often have harmful experiences at parent-sanctioned drinking parties and young people may still get behind the wheel or get into a car with someone who has been drinking.

Huntington Beach Police Department is cracking down on underage drinking and enforcing the law.

What You Can Do

Report loud parties where persons under 21 appear to be drinking. If you are hosting a party where alcohol is being served, monitor your alcohol and make sure no minors are drinking. Call the police if minors refuse to cooperate or the party becomes unmanageable.

You will not be cited if you request assistance before someone else files a complaint.

operationsafehb.org



Valley Vista *High School*

9600 Dolphin St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/964-7766 • www.vvhs.info



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Goodbye, Good Luck!

June is a bittersweet time of year as we say goodbye and good luck to our graduates and retirees. It's also a time when we recognize the special efforts of our students and staff.

At our recent Golden Eagle Awards ceremony, we recognized 61 of our 91 graduating seniors for academic achievement, effort, leadership skills, and service to our school and community.

Ivan Sevilla and Josh Holland are our outstanding graduates of the Class of 2015. Both exemplify the positive attitude, strong commitment to achieving goals, and hard work required to

overcome obstacles. Two teachers were recognized for their ability to inspire students: English teacher Seena Rich, an HBUHSD Co-Teacher of the Year, and social studies teacher Meghann O'Conner, our Fountain Valley Rotary Club Teacher of the Year. Our Classified Employee of the Year is Jordin Gabriel, a full-time early-childhood assistant at our on-site child development center, the NEST.

Thanks for Everything!

We're saying good-bye to two longtime teachers. George Higi, our English and woodshop teacher, was especially focused on helping students pass the English portion of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). In his woodshop courses, Mr. Higi taught basic skills and personal skills, both essential to life and employability. He designed and produced special furniture for the campus, including toddler-size tables and benches for the NEST. He also loves to tell great fishing stories—some of which may be true—and prepare delicious barbecue for staff meetings and celebrations. Kathi Richey will be very difficult to replace. A 31-year HBUHSD veteran, she's taught levels from preschool to high school consumer and family studies courses. Ms. Richey left the district to lead the Child Development Center at Santa Ana College but returned and joined us in 2006 to establish the district's on-site Cal-SAFE program that includes courses for pregnant and parenting teens, training for childhood-development assistants, and the NEST. She was honored as HBUHSD Co-Teacher of the Year in 2012.

Saying good-bye to people who have become essential members of a small, close-knit community of learners is always difficult. We are looking forward to discovering what successes lie in their futures.

Westminster *High School*

14325 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-1381 • www.whslions.net



Joe Fraser
Principal

Turning Up the Heat

Westminster High School students can "take the heat in the kitchen." The Advanced Culinary team of Elizabeth Castro, Shae Dela Pina, and Jonathan Quispe won the grand prize in the Kid Healthy Cooking up Change® competition in April and are heading to Washington, D.C. to compete for the national prize of creating healthy menus in schools.

Cooking up Change® challenges teams of high school culinary students to create menu items that are not only healthy but also meet nutritional guidelines and fit strict ingredient and preparation limits, which reflect the experience and capacity of school food service. The program allows students to get involved in the conversation as campuses across the country strive to serve healthy great-tasting school food. Local culinary industry experts serve as mentors to each team and a panel, made up of community members, evaluates each menu to determine the winner.

Culinary instructor Dianne Antonio leads Westminster High School's team, along with chef mentor Richard Reilly. This group of talented students will take their menu of Mexican street tacos, esquite, and peach empanadas to the national competition in June at the U.S. Department of Education, where they will compete against teams from Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Jacksonville, Memphis, Orlando, Washington, D.C., and Wichita.

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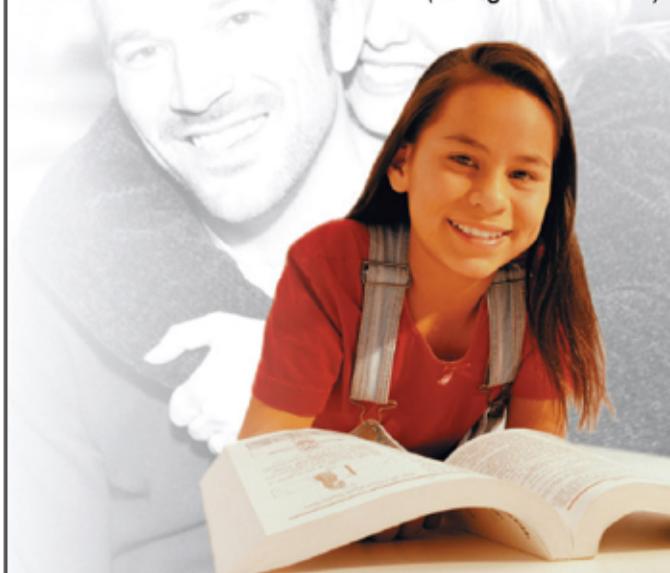
The Importance of Summer!

What Students Should Know Upon Entering Each Grade

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my sons relate to their enthusiastic help."
-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &
Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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Elementary School

Kindergarten – Students should be familiar with all letters and many basic sight words.

1st-3rd - Early elementary students need to become proficient readers and memorize all basic math facts. Any issues with comprehension and phonics can be worked on with our summer reading programs (If students are still counting on their fingers by the end of third grade they will be overwhelmed with the amount of math covered in later grades).

4th & 5th - Extremely important years for future academic success.

Students should understand fractions and decimals, and be able to interpret word problems. Students need to draw conclusions when reading and be comfortable writing structured paragraphs.

Middle School

6th - Come October, we will have more 6th graders than any other age.

The jump from the friendly confines of an elementary classroom to having more than one teacher leaves many preteens shell-shocked. Most of our sixth graders are overwhelmed with the amount of math covered, and lack the study skills for the transition to middle school. If your student has struggled with any area during elementary school, these deficiencies will become amplified in middle school.

7th & 8th - Writing and Algebra are the two areas 7th and 8th graders tend to struggle with the most. If your child passes into Algebra 1 for 8th grade, it is important to master all core math concepts, as there will be no time for review.

High School

9th & 10th - For some reason all high school students think summer means brain freeze. Maybe we should tell them summer break is three months because most children used to work on the farms for their parents. Now, we allow them to spend endless hours on the beach and hang out playing PS3 and Xbox. Our athletes spend countless hours practicing for the upcoming sports season, but do nothing to help themselves academically. Summer is a great time for course reviews and previews, especially in math and science courses.

11th - Junior year is the most stressful for students planning to go to a four year college. Unfortunately, many 11th graders try to cram for the numerous standardized tests at the end of the year when their classes are the most difficult. The Tutoring Club has individualized test prep for both the ACT and SAT standardized tests. Students who take our classes during the summer can devote all their attention to the tests, and not worry about sports and academic obligations.

12th - If students have not taken any of their standardized tests they have until November of their senior year to complete them. Students should use the summer to prepare for the exams so they can focus on college applications in the fall.

If Tutoring Club can be of assistance,
give us a call today!

Fountain Valley/Huntington Beach (Brookhurst and Ellis)
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