

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Orange Unified School District**

**VOLUME 7, ISSUE 39**

**SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2012**

## **SUPERINTENDENT**



**Michael L. Christensen**

As we prepare for the start of the 2012-13 school year, I am very pleased to share the accomplishments of two OUSD alumni who competed in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. Mr. Shea Buckner, a 2005 Villa Park High School graduate, represented the United States, OUSD, and the Villa Park Spartans in Men's Water Polo. Ms. Courtney Mathewson, Canyon High School class of 2004, represented the United States, OUSD, and the Canyon Comanches, bringing home a Gold Medal for Women's Water Polo. Congratulations to Shea, Courtney, and all OUSD student athletes – past, present and future.

Despite the current state budget crisis, we continue to look for innovative ways to engage our students. For the approaching school year, we are launching a pilot Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program at Fletcher Elementary School. The first year of the program will provide Kindergarten and 1st grade level instruction in both Mandarin and English. As students matriculate through their elementary education, additional classes will be added by grade level. Students who take advantage of the Program will complete their elementary education fluent in Mandarin.

Though foreign language immersion programs in public school districts are rare, OUSD believes strongly in listening to the community and providing diverse educational options and opportunities for our students. The Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program is open to all OUSD students and, space permitting, available to students who wish to transfer into the District.

Orange Unified is a district focused on student success, where individuals are celebrated as they progress on their personal missions to achieve their best. This fulfillment of student potential is only possible through the unwavering support of our parents, teachers, support staff, and trustees, with whom I am proud to serve.

## **School Based Education—The Short-Cut to Learning**



**Saying good-bye to the lazy days of summer.**

*By D.H. Coop, Guest Columnist*

School is the short cut through the school of life. Learning is enjoyable and truly a life-long experience that is unlimited.

Standing on the beach and looking at the horizon it is easy to see how once the earth was believed to be flat. Today, of course, we know the earth is a globe we have divided into imaginary lines called the grid of parallel and longitude line for navigation. How did we get to this understanding?

Education comes in two forms: the school of life and school based education. The school of life is filled with joys and often hard knocks. We try something and, if it worked, we experienced joy and success. If it didn't work, we either learned from that experience and tried again or gave up and accepted defeat. The school of life can be as simple and painful as touching

a hot stove and learning not to do it again or as self-fulfilling as learning to tie a shoe. School based education offers the opportunity to learn from those who have gone before us.

In the past, when most of the world was involved in agriculture, knowledge doubled at a slow rate. Then when industry came along the speed of knowledge became faster. Today knowledge is doubling in some fields every three months. For example, the moment an educational book is completed it is likely outdated. The internet has made knowledge so available that fact has become blurred more than ever.

School is the short cut through the school of life. The horizon is not the end of the earth and the mountains are not as close as they appear. Learning is enjoyable and truly a life-long experience that is unlimited.

### **Electives Inside:**

**OC Dept of Education .....Page 3**  
**OUSD Alt. Ed/ROP .....15**

**OUSD Schools .....4-8, 13-15**  
**Word Search .....12**  
**Our next issue is December 5.**

**Pages 9-12**



# Fund Raising Solutions

- World's Finest Chocolate
- Cookie Dough
- Gift Catalogs

Pete Hambrick

**(714) 657-7127**

**(714) 357-6837 Cell**

14340 Bolsa Chica Rd., Suite J  
Westminster, CA 92683  
wfcpc@aol.com



Great for the entire school or clubs, AVID, Outdoor Science, classroom projects

**MC AT** MAINS, CLARK,  
ARECHAEDERRA & TIJERINA  
A Professional Law Corporation



David Mains

## Injured in an Accident?

Let us put our **INSIDER'S KNOWLEDGE** to work for you.

- 100+ years of combined personal injury law experience.
- We can send you to a doctor immediately to treat your injuries.
- We will immediately work on getting your car fixed.
- If we don't win your case, you won't owe us anything, even our costs.
- We offer **FREE**, no-obligation consultations.

**Call (800) 809-0369**

1851 E. First St., Suite 460 • Santa Ana, CA 92705  
[www.MainsLaw.com](http://www.MainsLaw.com)



**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



The golden days of summer have come to an end and it's back to school. Kindergarten students are entering the academic world and seniors are focusing on becoming the graduating class of 2013. We are excited with them and looking forward to bringing you the news from each school.

This issue is always a favorite as we publish the principal bio's. Do you remember as a child being so surprised to learn that your teacher actually had a family, a pet, and did all the things your family did? It is very interesting to read how many principals are graduates of OUSD. Enjoy!

Thank you for reading *School News*.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Covering the  
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
Leslie Rawlings • [Leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**COPY EDITORS:**

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:** Neta Madison

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Laura Brune

[@SchoolNewsRC](https://twitter.com/SchoolNewsRC)

[f SchoolNewsRollCall](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolNewsRollCall)



You can now launch our Web APP to your SmartPhone from our web site.

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call LLC

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. *School News Roll Call* and the school district do not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



*Affordable • Trendy  
High Fashion*



**zae's**

womens boutique

**714.974.9237**

5769 E. Santa Ana Canyon Rd, Suite K • Anaheim Hills, CA 92807

*Unique Gifts  
Gift Certificates  
Are Available*

# Color & Cuts by Teri

Family Hair Stylist in the City of Orange

**Feathers  
\$10 each**

**Back to School Special Haircuts 1/2 OFF**

Kids 11 & younger ..... Reg \$15

Kids 12 & older ..... Reg \$17

**Call for Appointment  
(714) 392-4042**  
See my haircut pictures at  
[www.terishair.com](http://www.terishair.com)

**New Customer Special  
Free Haircut**  
with  
Color or Weave Service

Work Boots • Purses • Luggage Repair • Custom Shoes • Furniture Reupholster

**JESMAN  
Shoe Lab**

30 Years Experience

**Quality Shoe Repair  
Expert Craftsmanship**

**(714) 998-3305**

1905 N Tustin

(In the Home Depot Center)

Formerly Michael's Shoe Repair

**(714) 771-3450**

2616 E Chapman

(E of 55 fwy near Chapman Medical)

Formerly Jim's Shoe Repair

[www.jesmanshoerepair.com](http://www.jesmanshoerepair.com)



**20% Off  
WOLVERINE**

Cannot be combined  
with other offers

Coupon Expires 10/31/12

**10% Off  
Shoe Repairs**

Cannot be combined  
with other offers

Coupon Expires 10/31/12

## Welcome Dr. Al Mijares



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent  
Emeritus

It is with great pleasure that I introduce your new Orange County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Al Mijares. Dr. Mijares was appointed by the Orange County Board of Education to complete my term, which ends on January 5, 2015. I am very pleased with the appointment and am confident that an excellent selection has been made.

Al has been a dedicated educator for 34 years, and he is excited to begin working on behalf of the students and families of Orange County. A native of California born in Pasadena, Dr. Mijares graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1971, and he received a scholarship to California State University, Northridge where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Child Development/Special Education. While working in the San Francisco Bay area as a project specialist for physically handicapped children in public schools, Al earned his Master's degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. He earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California.

Al's distinguished career includes several years of successful teaching experience in K-12 classrooms as well as serving as a principal in the Moreno Valley Unified School District and as Superintendent of the Bakersfield City School District and Coachella Valley Unified School District. He has held faculty positions as an adjunct professor at Chapman University and taught part-time at both Pepperdine University and Compton College. Since August 2006, Dr. Mijares served as Vice President of the Western Region for the College Board. Before that, he served as Superintendent of the Santa Ana Unified School District for more than eleven years.

SEE OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION PAGE 13

## Kids can be kids when their asthma is under control



If your child has asthma, consider this study of an investigational asthma medication designed with children in mind.

To qualify for this study, your child must be:

- 5 – 11 years of age
- diagnosed with asthma
- using an inhaled steroid controller medication
- still be experiencing occasional symptoms

The study requires six visits over 2 months

Qualified children will receive study related medical care, lab work, study medication, & reimbursement for time & travel.

**If interested, please call Patti at:**

**(714) 633-6363 ext. 3067**

**CHOC PSF, AMC, Division of Allergy & Asthma**

Sherwin Gillman, MD and Mark Ellis, MD

725 W. La Veta, Ste. 100 • Orange, CA 92868

E-mail: CKGEAMC@aol.com • Web: www.air-docs.com



765 N. Tustin Street  
Orange, CA 92687  
(714) 771-7474  
www.brightdental-orange.com

- As you start the school year, why not prepare for prom? Visit our office for a consultation we can help you have a whiter, brighter smile!
- Clear Braces available so it will not interfere with your social life.
- Play Safe Ultimate Oral Protection Sports mouth guards available at a very low price.



### Get Acquainted Special Offer

**\$35.00** (\$149 value)

- X-ray • Oral Cancer Screening
  - Evaluation • Diagnosis & Treatment
- some restrictions apply

### Extractions

**\$150.00** (\$195.00 value)  
some restrictions apply

### Orthodontic Braces

**\$2999.00** (\$6000.00 Value)  
• Will Cover Ortho Records  
some restrictions apply

## Let us help your organization bring home the bacon.



We wouldn't be here without the communities that support us.

We offer in-kind donations, gift cards and fundraiser events. Host an event Monday - Wednesday at Slater's 50/50 and 20% of the day's proceeds will go to your organization.

Visit any Slater's 50/50 or call for details.

**Anaheim Hills**  
On the corner of Fairmont & Santa Ana Canyon  
6362 E Santa Ana Canyon Road  
(714) 685-1103

**Huntington Beach**  
On the corner of Beach & Adams  
8082 Adams Avenue  
(714) 594-5730

www.slaters5050.com

# Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169



**Sandra Miller**  
*Principal*

Ms. Miller has been in education for 17 years serving as an elementary teacher, vice principal, and principal. She holds a Bachelors degree in English with an emphasis in Literature from California State University, Fresno and a Masters Degree in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Development from California State University, Long Beach.

Ms. Miller and her two daughters, Marisa 14 and Emma 10 who live in San Clemente. This will be Ms. Miller's fourth year at Anaheim Hills Elementary.

# Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, Ca 92808 • 714/532-7027 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/cr



**David Appling**  
*Principal*

During David's career in education, he taught multiple grade levels also serving as a master teacher and BTSA Support Provider. Leaving the classroom, Mr. Appling spent 4 years as a reading intervention resource teacher where he implemented the Scholastic Read180 technology reading intervention program. Moving to the district level as a curriculum specialist for 3 years, David supported the interventions, ELD, and CORE curriculum professional developments for the 24 Anaheim City School District schools. David served as a vice principal for Clara Barton and Horace Mann before moving to Orange Unified School District.

For the last three years, Mr. Appling has led the Canyon Rim staff, students, and community as Principal. David A. Appling, Jr. is entering his fourth year as the Principal of Canyon Rim Elementary School. The past three years has brought focus to data, interventions, Best First Instruction in the classroom, and common and consistent practices across the grade levels. Making The Connection has been the motto for teachers this past year having students make the connection of what they are learning in the classroom and how it will be assessed.

Appling was raised in the city of Los Alamitos, California and a product of its K-12 public educational system. After graduating from Los Alamitos High School, he continued his education earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the California State University of Long Beach. David received his teaching credential and Masters of Science in Educational Administration from National University in the city of Costa Mesa, California.

Away from the principalship at Canyon Rim Elementary School, Mr. Appling enjoys traveling around the world. Appling belongs to the Orange County/Long Beach Softball League where he spends much of his time at practice, weekend games, or traveling to various states competing in tournaments. Last but not least, he enjoys spending time with his family.

Appling looks forward to collaborating with the teachers, parents, students, and community of Canyon Rim Elementary School as they move forward achieving student success.

# Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171



**Karen Hanson**  
*Principal*

Dr. Karen Hanson is beginning her second year at Canyon Hills School. She brings with her a unique blend of experience in the fields of both health care and education. As a Registered Nurse, she has worked in the hospital setting, as a school nurse, and as a school health administrator. She then transitioned into the area of special education administration and recently earned a doctoral degree in education. Dr. Hanson has spent much of her career working with students with special physical and educational needs. She is committed to continuing the positive work done by the staff and families at Canyon Hills School for our special students.

# California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104



**Laurie Dieppa**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Laurie Dieppa is happy to be the new principal at California. She has been an employee of Orange Unified for 15 years. This will be Mrs. Dieppa's sixth year in administration with OUSD. She holds an Administrative Credential, a Reading Specialist Credential, as well as a Multiple Subject Credential and CLAD certification with the state of California. Her background as an English language and reading resource teacher continue to serve her well as an instructional leader.

The City of Orange has been home for her and her family for more than 27 years. Her plans for the new school year include continuing successfully implemented programs and an emphasis on Best First Instruction. Mrs. Dieppa is excited to begin working with the staff and parent community at California Elementary School as part of a team committed to the success of all students.

# Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103



**Jeremy Mortensen**  
*Principal*

Jeremy Mortensen is the new principal of Cambridge Elementary School. He enjoys spending time with his wife and children, traveling, going to the beach and surfing.

Mr. Mortensen was a principal in Colton Joint Unified School District. This year marks his third for year as Principal as well as having an additional three years of experience in Administration. Moreover, Mr. Mortensen was teacher of the year in the Fontana Unified School District and continues to enjoy assisting and inspiring kids each and every day. Mr. Mortensen has also lived and worked in different locales around the United States and the world including North and South Carolina, California, Canada, and Australia.

Jeremy Mortensen feels that it is a true honor to continue his career with Orange Unified School District as principal of Cambridge Elementary School and looks forward to many great things happening at Cambridge in the years to come!

# Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/canyon

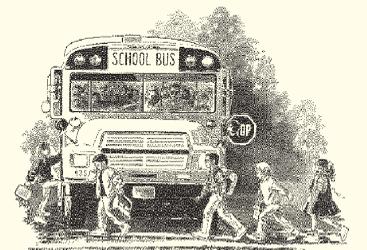


**Dr. Greg Bowden**  
*Principal*

Dr. Bowden has had broad experience in his 34 years in education. He taught a variety of subjects at the elementary, middle school, high school, and university levels. His administrative career began at El Rancho Middle School as assistant principal, and he was promoted to be principal at Crescent Intermediate. He then moved to become principal of Running Springs Elementary, which was recognized as a California Distinguished School in 2006. In 2007 he became Principal at Canyon High School.

Dr. Bowden holds degrees from San Diego State University, Pepperdine University, and the University of San Diego. In addition to his experience in public schools, he has taught courses for Azusa Pacific University and Concordia University in the school administration programs. In 2005 he was honored as OUSD Elementary Principal of the Year, and recognized in 2011 as the ACSA Region 17 Orange County High School Principal of the Year.

Please Drive Safely  
Students  
Are  
Back In School



# Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/chapman



**Sandra Schaffer**  
Principal

Sandra Schaffer is excited to begin her fifteenth year in the Orange Unified School District. Prior to making this move, she was Principal at Handy Elementary for seven years and Fletcher Elementary for five years. Her career in Orange USD began as an Assistant Principal at West Orange Elementary. She has enjoyed working at all three schools, and is now looking forward to my new assignment at Chapman Hills.

Graduating with a Bachelors in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University, she decided to become a teacher. She attended Chapman University's credential program, and enjoyed teaching elementary school in LAUSD and Pomona Unified while working on her Masters and Administrative Credential from Cal State, Fullerton. Mrs. Schaffer's aspirations to become a principal led her Orange USD, where she has had the good fortune to work with so many wonderful students, parents, and teachers over the years.

Mrs. Schaffer is thrilled to begin working with the Chapman Hills community. She is dedicated to working with the staff and students to meet their goals reaching every child's potential. Through diligence, laughter, and commitment, we can achieve great things.

# El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs



**Rebecca Martinez**  
Principal

Mrs. Rebecca A. Martinez is delighted to be the new principal of El Modena High School. Her story is one that people only dream about. She began her career as an El Modena High School Special Education Instructional Aide and decided that she wanted to pursue an educational career. So after returning to Santiago Canyon College to acquire her AA degree in Liberal Studies she then transferred to Chapman University to obtain a BA degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in English along with her Multiple Subjects Credential with an emphasis in English and a Masters in Special Education.

Mrs. Martinez taught English at El Modena High School for 16 years while also serving as the coordinator of the Collaborative Technology Program, a California Partnership Academy, Pep Advisor for 12 years, Vanguard Club President for 9 years and El Modena High School Interact Advisor for 4 years. In September of 2009, she returned to Chapman University to obtain her Administration Credential. She is excited to be able to work with an outstanding staff, students and community providing leadership and support.

Mrs. Martinez says "My mission is to encourage all Vanguard stakeholders to communicate, collaborate and challenge each student to seek success with relevant skills needed for today and their future." She is looking forward to a phenomenal 2012-2013 school year. Go Vikings!

# El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/rancho



**John Besta**  
Principal



**Michele Walker**  
Principal

El Rancho Charter School will continue with a concept seen at few schools throughout the United States—two principals.

Mrs. Walker oversees the academic programs with a specific goal of ensuring all students learn at a high level.

Mr. Besta is responsible for business and operations functions of the school. His goal will be to build a new science building and a new arts building on the El Rancho campus. John Besta has just completed his 15th year as the El Rancho principal and has worked in Anaheim Hills schools a total of 25 years. Michele Walker has completed her second year as El Rancho principal and has been at El Rancho a total of eight years.

# Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/cv



**Dr. Ken Miller**  
Principal

I am beginning my sixth year as a member of the Leadership Team in Orange Unified School District. I served as Assistant Principal, Curriculum/Instruction and Athletics at El Modena High School and now I serve as Principal at Cerro Villa Middle School. Before joining Orange Unified, I served as social studies teacher and football coach at the comprehensive high school level for over four years and a Vice Principal for nearly ten years in the Downey Unified School District. I sought a leadership position in Orange Unified because I wanted to be part of the outstanding team that provides such a great education for all children including my own children.

My wife Jennifer and I have two children: Katelyn, 16, attends Canyon High School and Kenny, 14, attends Villa Park High School. We have a black Labrador retriever named Justice and a cat named Chaplin. These individuals firmly believe they are the third and fourth Miller children.

My daily experiences in Orange Unified have been excellent as the District Leadership and staff have truly made me feel right at home. I am thrilled to be a part of the OUSD leadership team and I am absolutely elated to be part of the Cerro Villa Middle School family.

# Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Drive, Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ci



**Randi Leach**  
Principal

Randi Leach earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA, and then attended USC where she earned her Masters Degree in Special Education and both an elementary and learning handicapped teaching credential. She began her teaching career as a 3rd – 8th grade Special Day Class teacher in the Castaic Union School District.

Randi Leach taught for 12 years in the Westminster School District where she served as a New Teacher Mentor and Math Mentor for many years, creating their District "Math Mania" competition. Over the years, she also provided staff development for teachers in Orange County and presented annually at county and state reading and math conferences. In 1996 Randi received the OCDE Excellence Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education and was named Westminster School District's "Teacher of the Year."

Randi Leach began her administrative career in 2001 as the Assistant Principal of Handy Elementary in the Orange Unified School District. She then served seven years as principal of Canyon Rim Elementary and the past two years as principal of Crescent Elementary. Randi's passion for curriculum and instruction continues as she was a member of the OUSD writing team for years, creating and presenting Staff Development for teachers and principals in order to support effective instructional strategies. She was honored as an OUSD 2008 "Administrator of the Year" and she is currently serving on the Science Steering Committee and the District's Curriculum Council.

Mrs. Leach looks forward to the 2012-13 school year, as she continues to work with a hard-working and dedicated staff and a supportive Crescent community.

## Save Green!



## Go Yellow!



### School Bus Ride

Round Trip only \$335 per year  
Bus Pass Office (714) 538-8295



# Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157



**Amy Hitt**  
Principal

Amy Hitt has been the principal at Esplanade School since 2008. Before that time, she worked in Anaheim City School District where she served as a vice principal, curriculum specialist, teacher on special assignment, and classroom teacher. Ms. Hitt has worked at several schools teaching third through sixth grades, and specializing in curriculum, program evaluation/assessment, and technology. She has an Administrative Credential from California State University, Fullerton; a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Azusa Pacific University; and an undergraduate degree in Professional Writing from Baylor University. Ms. Hitt's roots in Orange run deep—she attended Orange Unified schools as a child and still lives in Orange, very near Esplanade. Her children also attend Orange Unified schools as seventh and tenth graders in the 2012-2013 school year. Most importantly, Ms. Hitt loves the community of committed learners represented by Esplanade's staff, teachers, parents, and students. The school's similar schools ranking shows how seriously the whole community takes teaching and learning.

# Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181



**Helen Chung Lu**  
Principal

This will be my fourth year as principal at Fletcher Elementary School and it has been my sincere pleasure and honor to be a member of this great school community. I feel fortunate to continue at a school culture focused on student learning, a commitment to high expectations, innovation and collaboration. It is my intention to carry on these important traditions and practices.

I am excited to be able to closely work with everyone to make our school even better. My goal is to provide the leadership that will facilitate a school environment to provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each student to the best of our ability. The educational program must be academically challenging, engage each student by linking the curriculum to previous knowledge and experience, and also to promote further exploration of new ideas. Parents, teachers, support staff, and administration all have an important role to encourage our children to become active learners. It is my sincere desire to provide expanded opportunities for our students to acquire the skills to become productive citizens in a vastly changing society. We are looking forward to another successful year at Fletcher Elementary School!

# Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183



**Michelle Owen**  
Principal

Michelle Owen joins Orange Unified as the principal for Handy Elementary. Prior to coming to OUSD, Mrs. Owen served the Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District as both an Assistant Principal and Dean of Students and also taught mathematics in Indiana. With over a decade of experience, Mrs. Owen brings with her a strong understanding in data-driven school improvement, professional learning communities, targeted instructional delivery, and school and community partnerships.

Mrs. Owen holds a Master of Science degree from Indiana University, a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Indiana, and will graduate from Pepperdine University with a Doctorate in Education, Leadership, and Policy in the Spring of 2013 with a focus in academic language development for Long-Term English Language Learners. Mrs. Owen is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the Association of California School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the California Association for Bilingual Education.

# Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178



**Kelli Keller**  
Principal

I remember being young and feeling troubled when I watched a group of girls from my elementary school make fun of an elderly man who had taken a custodial position at our city's first McDonald's restaurant. As the frail, graying man stooped to pick up the trash the young girls had left behind, I forever vowed to stand up and to fight for others. I never forgot that day or that emotion, and the experience has helped to make me the person I am today.

I am an educator who believes that my position as an educational leader is to stand up for the future of our community's children and the people who serve them. I believe that all our students deserve the right to learn in an environment that is safe, accepting, engaging, challenging, and provides the opportunity for continued achievement throughout life. Our students must be competitive and held to a high standard to thrive in society and I am determined that Fairhaven will be their first step to meet this worldly challenge.

I am a member of the Fairhaven community and live within a stone's throw from the school with my husband and two children. As a parent and teacher first, my desire is to maintain a culture where I would be confident to send my own children to school. I received my Masters' degree locally from Chapman University and enjoy the connectedness when I run into my students and their families at our local stores or restaurants. I believe in neighborhood public schools and I believe it is our duty and honor as adults to create learning environments that ensure our children's success. Please join me and become a Fairhaven Falcon!

# Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/imperial



**Ginette Kelley**  
Principal

Gigi Kelley earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from CSU Long Beach. After graduation, her first professional job was as a Prevention Education Specialist working in partnership with schools in Southern California.

Gigi returned to school, earning her California Teaching Credential from CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching career took her first to Rialto as a classroom teacher and then to Fullerton School District.

Hearing the call of administration, Gigi returned to school to earn a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She remained in Fullerton, however she moved out of the classroom and into district administration. She served that district as a Program Specialist for Gifted and Talented (GATE) program and also the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program. She also had the opportunity to serve as Interim Junior High Assistant Principal.

Through her experiences as an educator she has had the opportunity to develop new and innovative approaches to student success by creating, planning, and implementing instructional practices for district-wide programs. In 2005 she was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, bringing innovative technology to classroom instruction. She developed and teaches a curriculum for a teacher GATE Certification and is currently an adjunct professor for Hope International University.

Now as Imperial Elementary School's newest principal, Gigi Kelley looks forward to working with teachers, students, and the rest of the Imperial community.



# Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187



**Andrea Roman**  
*Principal*

Ms. Andrea Roman has devoted her career to public education. Prior to becoming the Principal of Jordan Elementary, Ms. Roman had the privilege of teaching Kindergarten, second and third grade in two large districts. From her teaching experience, Ms. Roman was able to gain a sound perspective on how to address the various needs of diverse student populations. In addition to her teacher experience, Ms. Roman has also worked as an Elementary and Secondary site administrator for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree and her teaching credential from the University of California, Riverside and her Master's Degree and Administrative Services Credential from the University of Redlands. Ms. Roman strives to inspire all children, even at the youngest age, to look toward a higher education and make those pathways available to them and their families by providing them a positive and academically challenging learning environment.

Ms. Roman loves her job and enjoys working with teachers, parents, and most importantly students. This will be her second year at Jordan Elementary and looks forward to working with the families, students, and staff that make Jordan a special place to work and learn. Her family is also very important in her life. She is married to her wonderful husband Albert, and has two amazing children, Ashley and Albert, Jr. When she sees the students she interacts with on a daily basis she also sees her own children in them. She treats them as if they were her own children. When she is not spending time with her family she uses her time to give back to the community. She is a proud member of a Kiwanis Service Club and has also served on various community boards. In addition, Ms. Roman has also been involved with several scholarship committees that directly assist students pay for their college education.

# Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6201



**Sally Hughson**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Sally Hughson became the principal of Linda Vista Elementary School in August of 2008. She has been an educator for 20 years. She has worked at Cambridge, Handy, West Orange and Running Springs where she was the Assistant Principal. Mrs. Hughson taught lower and upper grades and was a reading resource teacher, ELD resource teacher and an Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Hughson grew up in the Orange area and attended Orange Unified schools beginning in kindergarten and graduated from El Modena High School. She earned her BA in Communication Disorders and a Master degree in Educational Administration from California State Fullerton; she earned her teaching Credential from Chapman University.

Mrs. Hughson lives in Santa Ana with her husband Steve of 32 years. Her son Grant lives in Tustin and her daughter Katie and husband Danny Quesada live in Orange. Mrs. Hughson enjoys trips to Catalina, relaxing in the desert, walking in Peter's Canyon and spending time with her family and friends.

2012-2013 will be Mrs. Hughson fifth year at Linda Vista. She looks forward to a distinguished year with the supportive teachers, staff and the community.

You have  
a **SHARE**  
in her future.

Please  
see our ad  
on the  
back cover.

**SCHOLARSHARE**  
CALIFORNIA'S 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

**TIAA CREF**  
Financial Services

# La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6155



**Connie Smith**  
*Principal*

La Veta Elementary Principal, Connie Smith, celebrates 31 years in education. Her experience includes classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator.

Connie's many professional associations and accomplishments include former Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, past member of the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and Orange Unified School District's 2010-2011 Administrator of the Year.

Connie also shares her administrative expertise by serving as an assessor for the Orange County Department of Education in their Developing the 21st Century Principal program.

Connie was born and raised in Orange County. She has been married to Phillip Smith for 19 years and has two sons in high school, Garrett and Grant.

Smith says, "I am looking forward to my second year at La Veta working with an outstanding team of teachers, support staff, parents and young scholars."

# Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/lampson



**Dr. Maria Chairez**  
*Principal*

Lampson Elementary School has a newly appointed principal, Dr. Maria Chairez, who has extensive experience as an administrator and educator. Dr. Maria Chairez was working as the principal in the Clark County School District and as the principal, she helped the school become a Five Star School and in turning student performance around. During her 21 year tenure she also worked as a Director to create a new Alternative High school which helped graduate students and in 2001, she helped open a brand new middle school as an assist principal. Previously, Dr. Chairez worked with the California Department of Education as an Administrator, a consultant in special education and bilingual education for 10 years. Her classroom experiences included Ventura Unified and Glendale Unified.

She has published numerous articles and has a special interest in dropout prevention and special education issues. Upon her appointment as the principal, Dr. Chairez was excited since she will be able to join her daughter who currently lives in Orange. Her husband Don, plans to relocate his law practice and he looks forward to becoming an active members of the community as well.

# McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6384 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/mcpherson



**Jeanne Bentley**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Bentley has been a public educator for over twenty-five years. She is beginning her eighth year at McPherson Magnet School. Prior to receiving her Masters of Science in Educational Leadership and an Administration Credential at CSU Fullerton, she taught first through sixth grade in both Stockton and Tustin Unified School Districts. She was a GATE coordinator, assessment coordinator, and an elementary teaching assistant principal.

Principal Bentley is committed to the school mission Knowledge-Inspiration-Discovery-Success: KIDS. "McPherson Magnet School is a unique and welcoming place for our students.

I am looking forward to continuing my work with a rich school community of educators, support staff, and families. It takes teamwork to continuously improve the educational experience for our students."

Principal Bentley feels it is a great privilege and a responsibility to motivate, educate, and empower all children in an ever-changing 21st century.

Mrs. Bentley is happily married to her husband, Jack, and is the proud mother of Cheryl, Ryan, and Skyler. In her spare time, she spends time with her two pugs, Merry and Pippin, works in the garden, and enjoys trips with her family.

# Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Road, Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203



**Dominique Polchow**  
Principal

As a former roadrunner, who attended Nohl Canyon, Mrs. Polchow is looking forward to her fifth year as principal. With homegrown roots in Anaheim Hills, she truly enjoys serving the community she lives in. Polchow always knew she wanted to work with children and make a difference in their lives. With this in mind, she obtained her bachelor's degree at California State University Fullerton, in Child Development, with a minor in sociology. She continued her education at National University, where she received her master's in cross cultural education, a multiple subject teaching credential, with Cross Cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certification, as well as her administrative credential.

On a personal note, Polchow is a wife and mother. She has been married for eleven years and has a son who is in second grade. She enjoys reading, loves shopping and decorating, and traveling with her family.

As we return to the 2012-2013 School-Year, Principal Polchow looks forward to again, working with a top notch school community. Polchow's passion as an educator is offering the very best to each child, so he or she can reach their highest potential as a learner.

# Orange *High School*

525 N Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ohs



**Ernest Gonzalez**  
Principal

Ernest Gonzalez is the proud principal of Orange High School. He grew up in a small city east of Los Angeles. After high school, he completed his undergraduate work at the University of San Diego. Go Toreros! After completing his teacher credentialing program, Mr. Gonzalez earned a Master of Arts degree and administrative credential from Azusa Pacific University.

Mr. Gonzalez has served nineteen years in education. In that time, he has been a teacher, AVID coordinator, activities director, federal and state project director, and assistant principal. Although his experience has spanned kindergarten through twelfth grade, his passion lies at the high school level.

On a personal note, he is married to Denise Quan, a high school counselor. They have two children Christian and Kaleiah, ages 9 and 11. The Gonzalez family enjoys traveling together and spending time with friends and family.

Gonzalez says, "Orange High School is truly a special place. I love working with our dedicated parents, students and staff, they are the best!"

# Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265



**Kathryn Martin**  
Principal

It is an honor and privilege for Mrs. Kathy Martin to join the Panorama Elementary School family as Principal this year. Mrs. Martin is a product of Orange Unified, having attended OUSD schools for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Mrs. Martin earned her BA in psychology from UCLA, and will forever be a "Mighty Bruin." She admits she morphed into an Anteater for a short time while earning her teaching credential at UCI. She received her MA in Education from Concordia University in Irvine. Educational Technology is a passion of hers, and Mrs. Martin recently published her first book, *What Every Educator Should Know About Google*.

Having been in education for more than twenty years, Mrs. Martin can attest to the fact there is no nobler profession or purpose than helping to shape the next generation. Not a day goes by that she is not grateful for and humbled by the outstanding professionals in the Orange Unified School District. John Wooden put it best when he said, "The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team." Mrs. Martin is proud to be working with the star students, fantastic families and excellent educators at Panorama. Go Panthers!

# Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/olive



**Katherine Rizzo**  
Principal

Welcome to Olive Elementary School, Home of the Ocelots! It is with great pride that Katherine Rizzo is principal of Olive Elementary School.

Mrs. Rizzo comes to Olive with 23 years of experience in education having experiences ranging from school secretary, teacher, project specialist, assistant principal and principal. This is her eleventh year as an elementary principal and she considers it privilege to be a part of such a hardworking, knowledgeable, and supportive school.

As an educator, Mrs. Rizzo will make every effort to ensure that every child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. She believes that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. Without a doubt, the most successful students have family members who communicate regularly with the school. Mrs. Rizzo feels that working together can make a difference in the lives of students at Olive Elementary.

# Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207



**Larry Hausner**  
Principal

Larry Hausner is currently beginning his second year as principal at Palmyra Elementary School. Prior to this assignment, he served as Administrative Director, principal at both Villa Park and Cambridge Elementary Schools. "Palmyra is a terrific school community, and I am looking forward to continue working with the parents and staff to maintain the excellent educational experience Palmyra offers." Hausner said.

Education was second career for Hausner after 10 years as a sportscaster. He hosted and produced a weekly television show for SportsChannel. In addition, he was a segment host for both the Angels and Dodgers pre-game shows. Also, he was the play-by-play voice of the Honolulu Sharks and Hilo Stars of the Hawaii Winter Baseball League, along with the San Bernardino Spirit, Rancho Cucamonga Quakes and the Palm Springs Suns.

Hausner began his teaching career as a substitute teacher in both Tustin and Saddleback Valley Unified School Districts. He said, "I taught everything from kindergarten through 12th grade, including many different special education settings. My goal was to teach anything and everything so I could find where my true love was." He quickly realized that elementary students were his true calling.

He grew up in Tustin and graduated from Tustin High in 1986. Hausner earned a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in radio, television and film in 1991 from California State University, Fullerton. He later earned his multiple subjects credential from Chapman University and his master's degree in school administration from Azusa Pacific University. Currently, he is in the Doctor of Education program at the University of Southern California.

Currently, Hausner resides in Rancho Santa Margarita with his wife, Nicci and his children Riley (14) and Jacob (12).



**Our next issue is  
December 5...enjoy  
the Fall holidays!**



This section features enrichment opportunities for children to find their passion!

## Magic Book Garden Family Reading Time



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

Would you set aside just 20 minutes a day for a special family activity if you knew this would greatly increase your child's reading skills and overall enjoyment of reading? A friend of mine, Lisa, is a second grade teacher and she and her high school teacher husband have a kindergartner and a second grader. Lisa was concerned because she couldn't get her son, the second grader, to read on his own. So she and her husband decided to begin Family Reading Time, a quiet time for each family member to read something of their own choosing. Since both parents work full-time and the kids have lots of activities, this was no easy feat. But Lisa, being a teacher herself, understands the power of modeling in the learning process.

**The rules are simple:** Turn everything off! That means no telephone calls, TV, iPods, electronic games, etc. Everyone in the family chooses something to read. Even

pre-readers can enjoy a book by looking at the pictures. That's what Lisa's kindergartner did before she started to bring little books home from school that she could actually read on her own. Don't be concerned if your child picks books that you think are too easy. Practice with easy books will increase confidence and improve fluency.

Set a timer to begin. 20 minutes is a good start, but you can adjust the time that fits your schedule. You might have your kids help you make a sign for your front door that says, Shhhh! Family Reading Time is in Progress.

Relax and enjoy your reading time! As a parent, this might be the only time you get to read the newspaper or an actual novel.

Remember, Family Reading Time should not replace Read-Aloud Time. This is the irreplaceable warm and fuzzy time, usually around bedtime, when you read to your children, typically from books slightly harder than their reading level.

Family Reading Time models your interest and love of reading. And because you value reading, your children will too.

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: [www.magicbookgarden.com](http://www.magicbookgarden.com)

# True Youth NFL Flag Football



Boys and Girls Ages 5 – 14



## Wanna Play?

- Games are played on weekends
- Nine games guaranteed/ one practice per week
- Part of NFL Flag
- Great way for kids to make friends & be healthy
- Girls are welcome to play flag football

Fall Season Starts October 6

Register online early to save and to guarantee your spot!

Register online [TrueFlagFootball.com](http://TrueFlagFootball.com)

(714) 206-9283 • [mattschubert@trueflagfootball.com](mailto:mattschubert@trueflagfootball.com)



# ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

## YMCA OF ORANGE Licensed Childcare

### Preschool Program

Our Preschool program provides a nurturing and stimulating environment for children 2.5 to 5 years of age from 7am to 2pm. Children experience a curriculum rich in cognitive and creative skill building. Our preschool is set in a culturally diverse environment that serves to strengthen each child's sense of self.

**\*Child must be potty trained**

### Afterschool Program

The YMCA of Orange provides quality, affordable school age childcare for children and youth. We provide a nutritious snack and a well-rounded curriculum that is designed to challenge and entertain your children and help them realize their full potential. Homework support is provided each afternoon, Monday through Thursday.

**Call today to schedule a tour! Space is limited!**

**Location:** YMCA of Orange Youth Center  
2241 E. Palmyra Ave.  
(@ Chapman Ave. and Yorba)

**Questions:** Brittney Sandell, (714)633-9622  
Brittney@ymcaoforange.org



Orange Regional Competitive Aquatics

# ORCA

Local to Orange since 1989

## Water Polo and Swim Teams

Boys and Girls ages 5 and up

**714-648-2111**

[www.orca-aquatics.com](http://www.orca-aquatics.com)



## Positive Parenting

### The Countdown is Over!



**Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel**

The reality is that school has started! Please do not respond to a child's concern about school starting by beginning, "It will be fine," or "You'll like it once it gets going." Most children are afraid of the first few days of school because it is not familiar: new teacher, different classmates, unknown curriculum. And every child takes to the next grade his/her successes and failures from the previous year.

I don't think most parents realize that their children take on or mirror their stress. Having taught school many years ago and raised children I can validate that most kindergarteners (or other age children) who experience anxiety about being left at school the first few days, is mostly a parent anxiety issue.

It is important to prepare a child for school: appropriate dress, school supplies, and a schedule within which the child can function. If a parent started a bedtime schedule at least one week before school started, there will be less of a transition for the child. Sleep deprivation is one of the top concerns for children's health, so a firm bedtime is essential. Can't get a child to get up in the morning? Use my Minute Drill technique from *Don't Feed the Dragon*. "You are on the Minute Drill. You have one minute to be out of bed and moving. Each minute after the fee minute will cost you 15 off of when you get up (or go to bed) tomorrow.

Children do well with routines: Get up, get dressed, eat breakfast, etc. Have each child put their backpack by the door before they go to bed. Lunches can be put together night before, leaving making a sandwich the only task that is left. I used to have lunch duty when I taught school and can tell you that we could feed a small country on what school children trash every day. I recommend that a school has a 10 minute rule: No one can go play before the bell/whistle. Many children fail to eat their lunch because playing is more inviting.

As for academics, my standard was, "Do your best in school." When I work with teenagers, I tell them that their "ticket" to more choices with what they can do with their life is an education. If you do your child's homework, your child doesn't learn the skill and rapidly becomes lost in school. If your child doesn't do homework and work in the very first weeks of school, that child gets behind and lost.

YOU are not going to school, your child is! Watch your expectations and pay attention to the needs of your child. No two children are alike; some need more help than others in making school a success. Every child needs your love and support.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 35 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. [www.ParentingSOS.com](http://www.ParentingSOS.com) and Kindle

## Note-ables

# Make Believers, 23 Skidoo



Kate Karp

The title of this inventive collection of contemporary musical styles may be initially deceptive—none of the songs, even the one about “Jack and the Beanstalk,” concern fantasy play. Instead, they’re vehicles and metaphors intended to make believers out of children—believers in themselves.

The performer and writer of the songs, hip hop artist Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, has gathered an ensemble of musicians that include vocalists from indie bands, his wife and his preteen daughter. The instrumental backup features horns from tuba to trumpet, great percussion, and strings, including an appearance

by indie-folk cellist Ben Sollee. The songs, all penned by Skidoo, concern the issues that preadolescents encounter as they prepare to face the world. They are written as much for parental enlightenment as for a motive force for young people.

“Gotta Be You” deals with issues of popularity. The song, scatted by Skidoo’s daughter, Sati, takes the cliché out of “Be your own best friend.” The doo wop-infused “Nightmares Disappear” lifts the fear from the night, leaving only its beauty and the security of a safe adult. “Snowforts and Sandcastles,” a gorgeous and radio-hit-worthy number, can best be described as a double monologue of melody and hip hop. “High Five for the High Dive” not only sends the guys off into summer but also revels in the bravery “from the wading pool to the high dive, so high that it looks like a sky dive.” And the trip back to school will come up before they rinse the last drop of chlorine from their swimsuits—“Back Home” traces the first day in a new school as related by a nervous student to his best friend, the dog.

Adolescence can be a difficult period and one during which children and parents may find communication difficult. To this purpose, and in another play on words, *Make Believers* works as a musical bridge. Available on Underground Playground Records.

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



www.cityoforange.org

## Community Services Department

### Special Events

Hotline (714) 744-7278

#### Treats in the Streets Autumn Festival

Thursday, October 25, 2012

Old Towne Orange Plaza • 4-7 p.m.

Celebrate the fall season with an evening full of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy. Activities include games, trick or treating, a costume parade and entertainment for participants of all ages. Our local non-profit groups will provide delicious food items and tasty treats for a nominal charge. Parents, please leave masks and pets at home.



#### Veterans Day Tribute

Sunday, November 11, 2012

Veteran Memorial at Depot Park

100 N. Atchison St. Orange, 92866 • 2 p.m.

Help us honor past veterans and current military personnel with patriotic music and inspirational speeches. If you are a veteran or active military member interested in participating in the program or you have a photo to share for the display at the event, please contact Lisa Tamburelli at (714) 744-7294 or ltamburelli@cityoforange.org.



#### Tree Lighting Ceremony & Candlelight Choir Procession

Sunday, December 2, 2012

Old Towne Orange Plaza • 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer and family fun as we sing traditional carols of the season with the Orange Community Master Chorale led by Musical Director, Michael Short. Our local non-profit groups will provide delicious food items and tasty treats for a nominal charge.



**Sullivan Solar Power**  
Leading the Solar Energy Revolution



### Thank You!

These events would not be possible without the generous contributions of our Community Partners! To receive information on how you can become a Community Partner and market your business in Orange, please contact Megan Hanley at (714) 744-7293 or mhanley@cityoforange.org for a brochure.

# KIDS/TEENS ACTING CLASSES

Fall Session • Weekly Classes Start Sept 11

Increase confidence, creativity, self-esteem



Work as part of a team

Gain new communication skills

Make new friends

Media Partner: COAST KIDS

South Coast Repertory

Call for more info (714) 708-5577  
or visit [scr.org/education](http://scr.org/education)

Folino Theatre Center • 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • Segerstrom Center for the Arts



1st Annual Neck Tie  
**Readers Rule!**

Available now at



**LONG BEACH**  
5440 E. Del Amo  
562-429-2425

**TEMECULA**  
28860 Old Town Front St.  
951-693-2422

**ANAHEIM**  
1025 E. Orangethorpe  
714-680-6681

**RIVERSIDE**  
4103 Tyler  
951-689-6400

**UPLAND**  
940 N. Central  
909-982-9695

[www.cmschoolsupply.com](http://www.cmschoolsupply.com)



**Baby Boomer Clothing Co.**  
240 Main St. • Seal Beach, CA 90740  
(562) 598-1666  
KidBoomer240@yahoo.com  
Baby Boomer Clothing

School Smarts  
**Back to School**



**Rajeshri Gandhi**

The period just before a new school year can be as stressful as it is exciting, for both students and parents. Start your school year with less anxiety:

Start preparing for the first day of school 10-14 days ahead of time. This amount of time allows students to complete (or start!) any summer work that was assigned, complete school-related shopping trips and for students' bodies to acclimate to "school year" routines.

Talk with your child to gauge sources of excitement and anxiety. Getting to know your child's apprehensions makes you aware of potential triggers and better allows you to coach him/her. Having this knowledge will also allow you to communicate with his/her teacher better should a situation arise.

Use the new school year for a new start. Encourage your child to enter the new year without any old baggage (conflicts with classmates, apprehensions about academics, etc.) Help your child learn the lifelong lesson on how to use time as a healer.

Prepare your child for major changes, especially if your child is transitioning to a new school. Every new school year holds changes and change can cause anxiety. You can help address questions and ease your child's fear. An older student can serve as a mentor, answer any 'technical' questions and provide your child a peer/ 'in house' expert.

Prepare yourself financially for the start of school. Starting a new school year is expensive! Request the school supply list ahead of time. Calculate additional classroom costs (projects, fieldtrips, uniforms etc) and optional choices (sports, scouts, lunch, etc) to budget and talk with your children ahead of time about their choices.

Go through steps 1-4 above for yourself. As a parent, you have your own set of emotions about sending your children back to school and working through your anxiety allows you to be best prepared to help your child.

Rajeshri holds a BS from the University of Michigan and a MA in School of Leadership with Principal Certification from Harvard University. She uses her background in public and private schools both teaching and administration to collaborate with students, parents and schools about the various educational options available. Rajeshri may be reached at rgandhi24@gmail.com www.rajeshrigandhi.com

# Leadership 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 is the word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put OUSD in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by October 15, 2012**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

Congratulations!

Winners of the June Word Search Contest!  
Carla Parsons, Kristen Lima, and Ian Russell

Word Search by Gunnar Coop



# Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361



**Deborah Backstrom**  
Principal

Mrs. Debbie Backstrom was born and grew up in Southern California. She began her education in Downey, where she attended elementary, middle and high school. She continued her education receiving an Associate of Arts Degree in Sociology from Cerritos College. She continued her education graduating from California State University, Long Beach with a degree in Sociology. She also received her teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach. Mrs. Backstrom received her Administration credential and Master of Science Degree from California State University, Fullerton.

Mrs. Backstrom's career in education began in 1984 where she was employed as a teacher for Orange Unified School district. Her passion has always been working with students and guiding them to be the "BEST" they can be. Since 2000, Mrs. Backstrom has served in an administrative capacity. Before coming to Portola, Mrs. Backstrom was the Principal at Richland High School in Orange.

Mrs. Backstrom has been married to her high school sweetheart for 40 years. Mr. Backstrom retired last year after teaching for Orange Unified School District for 37 years. They have one daughter who is married and two beautiful grandchildren. "I am so excited to be a part of such a wonderful school district and especially to be at Portola Middle School." My door is always open to all students, parents, and staff. I look forward to another great year.

# Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167



**Ed Madrid**  
Principal

I was born and raised in a small town setting. I loved the small town living that helped me become the person I am today. We moved around in the Southwest as my father sought opportunities for advancement in public education. Both my parents were in education.

My mother was a Kindergarten teacher and my father became a district administrator. Our discussions around the dinner table usually centered on schools and students. With that kind of family life it was easy for me to step into education as a career.

I taught for several years in southern California then moved into administration as an assistant principal at the middle school. I've had the wonderful opportunity to work in elementary, middle, and high school levels. Each level presented challenges which I have enjoyed. The most rewarding aspect of my profession is to observe the transformation that students undergo as they take advantage of what schools have to offer.

Richland High is a unique school that offers students a second chance. With a caring staff, support from home, and the hard work of the students we have continued to increase the number of graduates over the last four years. I look forward to working with the students at Richland.

## OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 3



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent Emeritus

Dr. Mijares is the recipient of several honors, including the American Association of School Administrators Leadership for Learning Award, the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 2005 Educator of the Year Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens' 2004 Excellence in Education Award, the Association of California School Administrators' Diversity Award, and the California School Board Association's Merit for Outstanding Leadership.

I am confident that our youngest citizens will continue to receive outstanding educational services under the leadership of Dr. Mijares. He has the background and leadership skills needed to support the Orange County Department of Education's vision of world class education where every student succeeds. I wish Al the best as he takes on this new and exciting challenge.

# Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271



**Elena Rodriguez**  
Principal

Prospect Elementary's principal Elena Rodriguez is an alumnus of Orange Unified School District. Once graduated from Canyon High School, Mrs. Rodriguez, pursued a degree in Child Development at Cal State University at Fullerton. She realized then, that she loved working with children, but was unsure of what career path to take. Mrs. Rodriguez went on to earn her teaching credential at Chapman University and begun her career in Orange Unified School District as a bilingual 1st grade teacher at Sycamore Elementary in 1994. A few years later she became the Assistant Principal at Sycamore while it was still a multi track school. After three years as Assistant Principal and completing her Masters Degree at Azusa Pacific University she became principal at Imperial Elementary in Anaheim Hills. Mrs. Rodriguez served as principal at Imperial Elementary for five years. The time at Imperial was an outstanding training ground to develop skills a principal needs to lead a school community which had prepared her for her next principalship at Fairhaven Elementary, a Title I/Program Improvement school. The three years at Fairhaven enabled her to enhance her leadership skills in working with the diverse communities our district serves. Now entering her fifth year at Prospect, she looks forward to continue the path to increased student achievement by working collaboratively with staff, students and community.

Mrs. Rodriguez' children are also products of Orange Unified School District. Her 19 year old son Robert, who graduated from Canyon High in 2011. Now after getting remarried in September of 2010, she now has a 8 year old step son, Angel, attending Prospect Elementary School with her. Having had her own children attend the same schools she did and now her step son at Prospect, it brings her enormous pride to be a member of the Orange Unified School District family.

# Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Drive, Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512



**Lydia Roach**  
Principal

Mrs. Lydia Roach became the principal of Running Springs Elementary School in May 2007. She has been an educator for 29 years and has worked in various elementary schools in the Orange Unified School District including Handy, Riverdale, Canyon Rim, Lampson, and Running Springs. Mrs. Roach has taught both primary and upper grades, was a bilingual resource teacher, and a reading resource teacher. In addition, she was the assistant principal at both Running Springs and Lampson for four years.

Mrs. Roach grew up in the city of Orange and is a product of the Orange Unified School District. As a student, she attended Esplanade Elementary, Fairhaven Elementary, Santiago Jr. High and El Modena High School. Mrs. Roach continued her education at San Diego State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree and an elementary teaching credential. She then graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Master's degree in Educational Administration and an administrative credential.

Mrs. Roach currently resides in the Anaheim Hills area with her husband Russ of 28 years and her two children Kyle, age 23, and Lara, age 18. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two golden retrievers Brody and Bailey. Mrs. Roach is excited to be a Redhawk and looks forward to continuing to work with the wonderful families in the Running Springs community!

**Save Green!**



**Go Yellow!**



**School Bus Ride**

Round Trip only \$335 per year  
Bus Pass Office (714) 538-8295

# Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/santiago



**James D'Agostino**  
Principal

Jim D'Agostino is in his second year as the principal at Santiago Charter Middle School. He takes pride in being visible to parents and students and demonstrates that by greeting everyone each morning as they enter the Santiago campus. His philosophy of making everyone feel welcomed and valued into the school, while continuing to strive toward academic excellence, is part of the leadership style that he brings to the school and the entire school community. His friendly demeanor and positive attitude have been a great fit for Santiago.

Mr. D'Agostino has completed all the course work required to earn his doctorate in educational leadership and is currently working on his dissertation. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership and a bachelor's degree in history and government. Mr. D'Agostino has taught both general education and special education classes and has been a school site administrator for the past seven years in the Orange Unified School District and at Santiago. Mr. D'Agostino also has a background in business and was an owner and operator of several businesses prior to committing his full attention to being an educator. He loves working at Santiago, as it ties into both the business and educational aspects of his professional background.

Mr. D'Agostino credits his staff and faculty for receiving the honor of being named a California Distinguished School in 2011 and the 56-point Academic Performance Index (API) growth the school has earned from 2009 to 2011! He looks forward to continued academic growth in the years to come and to working in partnership with all of the schools within the El Modena High School attendance area and the Orange Unified School District to ensure that every student receives the best possible education.

# Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/sycamore



**Erika Krohn**  
Principal

It is with pride that I will be leading Sycamore Elementary for a third school year. As a product of Orange Unified School District, it is an honor that I get to work with the staff, students, and families of this school and district.

I have earned a Bachelor's degree at California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at Chapman University, and a Master's Degree at National University. Prior to coming to Sycamore, I taught 4th, 5th and 6th grades for several years in Rowland Heights with a concentration on English Language Development, was a vice principal/special projects coordinator for three years, and a principal for six years at a Title One school in La Puente.

On a personal note, I'm committed to public education in order to better the world for all children, including my 9 year old daughter, Kendall, and 6 year old son, Wyatt. I am an avid reader—both for entertainment and education. My favorite activity outside of school is skiing Mammoth with my husband and kids.

I am looking forward to keeping the positive momentum moving forward at Sycamore. Our staff and community have been working collaboratively to provide extraordinary learning experiences for Sycamore students.

# Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275



**Dr. Bobbie Lansman**  
Principal

My tenure as an administrator in OUSD began in 1994, and I have been afforded many unique and memorable opportunities.

My education includes a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from USC, a Masters Degree in Reading and Language Arts, a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Summa cum Laude) in Social Studies and three teaching credentials. I am fortunate to have been principal at four different OUSD schools earning Distinguished School and Title I Academic Achievement Awards with wonderful and talented school teams. I also had the honor and privilege of planning and opening Running Springs Elementary School. Each administrative experience has truly been dynamic and fulfilling. I feel extremely

fortunate to begin my fifth year at Serrano Elementary School, and my 18th year as principal. I am proud to have been recognized as the 2006 OUSD Administrator of the Year.

Although I have lived in a number of states across the country, I am a native Californian. I currently live in the city of Fullerton with my husband. We are blessed with a wonderful family, including two fabulous grandchildren. Our younger daughter is completing her final year of medical school.

I feel fortunate to have had such diverse, challenging, and amazing administrative opportunities. I am looking forward to a fantastic and exciting school year with the wonderful Serrano community, and all of OUSD.

# Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254



**Antionette Coe**  
Principal

Mrs. Antoinette Coe is beginning her fourth year as principal at Taft Elementary. She stated, "I am proud to be a part of the Taft Family and look forward to another great year." She has been with Orange Unified School District for 11 years serving as a literacy coach and teacher. Before joining the Taft staff she most recently served as the assistant principal for both La Veta and Lampson Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Coe was born and raised in Southern California, attending elementary, middle, and high school in Anaheim. She received a bachelor's degree and a multiple subject teaching credential from California State University, San Marcos. Mrs. Coe earned an administrative credential from University of California, Irvine and a master's degree in administration from California State University, Fullerton.

Currently, Mrs. Coe resides in Yorba Linda with her husband Eric, a director at a local staffing firm. She has three children: her daughter Taylor (19), her son Zachary (17), and her youngest daughter Madeline (15). In addition to spending time with her family, she is a member of National Charity League Yorba Linda where she volunteers to support local charities.

Mrs. Coe is passionate about learning and continues to share her enthusiasm with the students and staff at Taft Elementary. Her goal is to educate students and assist them in realizing their fullest potential. Her dream is for all students to leave Taft Elementary School with the desire to be successful and have a life plan in process.

## Orange Unified School District Board of Education



**Timothy Surridge**  
President



**Dr. Alexia L. Deligianni**  
Vice President



**Mark D. Wayland**  
Clerk



**Rick Ledesma**  
Member



**Kathryn A. Moffat**  
Member



**John H. Ortega**  
Member



**Diane Singer**  
Member

# Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020



**Ed Howard**  
*Principal*

Preparing students for what is next in their lives has been what Ed Howard has been doing for the past 24 years in the Orange Unified School District. As a Social Studies teacher and coach at Orange High School, Ed learned the importance of quality first instruction and creating a learning environment where students feel welcomed and are inspired to reach beyond their own comfort zone. Coaching Baseball and Football for over 11 years taught Ed that students want to be challenged and be held to high expectations. He learned that students will live up to the expectations of those that are leading them if those expectations are reasonable and the student is motivated to be successful. As an Athletic Director and Director of Athletics for the District, Ed learned how to build programs by including all shareholders and getting the right people in position to create and sustain quality.

Starting his seventh year as the Principal at Villa Park High School, Ed draws on the lessons he has learned and relies on the relationships he has built to help guide VPHS into being the highest quality high school it can be. Doing things the SPARTAN way has become synonymous with greatness. Ed and his administration work hard every day to make VPHS a school that is a source of pride for the community it serves. In the classroom, on the playing fields, or in the community it is Ed's goal to have the Spartans lead the way.

Ed was born in the Bronx, NY and moved to Orange in the 6th grade. He attended Serrano, CV and VPHS. Ed went on to Cypress JC and then to California Lutheran University where he received his degree in Political Science and his Single Subject teaching credential. Ed was fortunate to be the recipient of the Sparky Anderson baseball scholarship while at Cal Lutheran. After several years in the classroom Ed went back to school and earned his Master of Science in Educational Administration.

Still living in Orange, Ed is blessed to have a wonderful and supportive family. His wife Annie is his greatest motivation to succeed. His daughter Savannah and son Eddie are his greatest source of pride. Ed enjoys traveling, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

# Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba



**Kerrie Torres**  
*Principal*

2012-2013 is here and Yorba Middle School is ready to open the doors and welcome another school year. Ms. Kerrie Torres and her staff at Yorba are energized and prepared to launch the 2012-2013 school year. The 2011-2012 school year showed significant gains in student achievement and they are well on their way to continue increased student performance and student learning.

This will be Ms. Torres' third year as principal at Yorba Middle School and her 14th year in education. She received her teaching credential from the California State University Los Angeles, her masters degree from the University of La Verne and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from California State University Fullerton.

In 2012, Ms. Torres welcomed a new baby girl to her family whose birth emphasized the importance of family, partnerships and ties to the community. As the principal of Yorba, she is committed to work together with teachers, parents and students to create an atmosphere reflective of family where everyone is valued in a positive and engaging learning environment. Ms. Torres says, "Parents are part of the Yorba Middle School family and I encourage all parents to participate in their child's education and to become a regular part of our school community. In 2012-2013, I will focus on building a solid instructional program which includes a redesigned English Language Learner program, a new technology program and a well developed arts department. It is our goal to provide each student with an education that they can connect to. Welcome to the Yorba Middle School family!"

# West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/wo



**Jennifer Bourgeois**  
*Principal*

Orange Unified is happy to welcome Jennifer Bourgeois. Jennifer feels honored to be serving as Principal of West Orange Elementary School. She is very excited about joining the Warrior Family!

Ms. Bourgeois earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pure Mathematics from the University of California at Riverside, a Master of Arts degree in Education with a Crosscultural Language & Academic Development emphasis from California Baptist University. She is a doctoral candidate for a Ph.D. in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University. She is beginning her fifteenth year in education. During that time, she has been a teacher at the elementary and secondary levels, a mentor, a coach, a supervisor and an administrator.

Ms. Bourgeois looks forward to getting to know the families and students during the upcoming year as the West Orange community reaches their dreams.

# Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Drive, Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281



**Debra Larson**  
*Principal*

Principal Debra Larson is a longtime Orange County Native, educated in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and living for 35 years in the Anaheim Hills area. She has taught for 25 years in Orange Unified School District (OUSD). Throughout her career, she taught kindergarten through sixth grade, spent three years as an assistant principal and six years as principal at Anaheim Hills Elementary School. She was chosen as the California Teacher of the Year among the state's first year teachers in 1986. She currently serves as the principal of Villa Park Elementary, where she has been for three years.

Larson earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California. She did not choose a career in teaching until her youngest daughter was nearing school age. After serving as a parent volunteer in her daughter's classroom, she decided to pursue her teaching credential at California State University, Fullerton and began teaching when her youngest daughter was in first grade. She later received her administrative credential from Azusa Pacific University.

"It is a privilege to be the principal of Villa Park Elementary," Larson said. "I know I have chosen the perfect profession, and I gain energy from the students, staff and parents I work with every day. What else do I need in a profession, knowing that I can make a difference in the life of one child."

# OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • www.orangeusd.org



**Dennis McCuiston**  
*Coordinator*

Dennis McCuiston, Coordinator of Alternative Programs and ROP, started with the Orange Unified School District in 1995 as a Campus Supervisor at Orange High School.

In 1998 Mr. McCuiston was hired as a special education Special Day Class (SDC) teacher at Portola Middle School where he also served as the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education (DATE) coordinator. After one year he was transferred to Orange High School where he taught RSP and later became the Special Education Department Chairperson. For the next five years Mr. McCuiston taught Health Science classes and served as Head Baseball coach for the Panthers.

In 2006 Dennis became the Orange High School Athletic Director and then the Assistant Principal of Facilities, WASC, Attendance, and Discipline in 2008. He was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP in 2011 and oversees Community Day School, Home School, the new secondary Ed Options program, and Independent Study.

Mr. McCuiston studied Sociology and Criminal Justice at Chapman University and Education Administration at National University. Dennis is married to his wife Julia and has a daughter (Avery) and son (Luke).



You have  
a **SHARE**  
in her future.

**THE WORLD IS AT HER FEET. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.**

Help keep it that way—by opening a ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan account. With a wide variety of investment portfolios and low fees, ScholarShare is how Californians save for college: tax-free, qualified withdrawals for tuition, books and some room and board costs—for use at most colleges, universities, vocational and trade schools. With just a \$25 minimum contribution, you can start making her dreams, a reality.



**SCHOLARSHARE**

CALIFORNIA'S 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

[scholarshare.com](http://scholarshare.com)



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit [ScholarShare.com](http://ScholarShare.com) for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Program Manager. The ScholarShare 529 Twitter and Facebook pages are managed by the state of California.  
C5317