

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 20

FEBRUARY–APRIL 2015

## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Doug Domene

Student safety is a primary focus in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. In fact, our District's Strategic Plan, titled The Advantage, challenges staff to work to establish and implement safety protocols at our school sites.

One new initiative developed by our district safety team along with the Learn from Morgan Foundation and the American Heart Association addresses the importance of providing students with the knowledge to assist someone who is in distress and in need of CPR. In order to meet this goal, the Learn from Morgan Foundation and the American Heart Association have partnered with the school district to provide CPR education for all ninth-grade Health classes.

Using CPR manikins, teachers will teach students how to respond to an emergency situation, should it arise. This effort will result in providing our students potentially lifesaving skills to use throughout their life. The District will be the first in the state to provide this type of large-scale training for students. While this class instruction would not result in CPR certification, interested students would be offered the option of CPR certification through an outside organization for the cost of \$15 per person.

The majority of the cost to purchase the CPR Anytime Kits, which include the manikins, was provided by generous donations from the Learn from Morgan Foundation and the REACH Foundation. There is no doubt that this effort will result in saving lives.

The PYLUSD staff and Board of Education are committed to student safety and will continue to find innovative ways to improve the safety of our schools and our community.

## Amongst the Top in Orange County Advanced Placement Scores

*From the District*

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified students once again posted Orange County's second highest pass rate in one of the world's primary exams that colleges and universities consider for college admissions.

Over 85 percent of Placentia-Yorba Linda students who took the Advanced Placement (AP) exam passed in 2012-2013. Results are released a year behind making the 2012-2013 scores the most recent. This is the second consecutive year that Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified ranked second out of the 15 districts with high schools in Orange County.

Not only do Placentia-Yorba Linda students have a high pass rate, the majority also score among the highest possible scores. Students can receive a score of 1-5. Out of the 3,646 exams that students took, 2,076 received a top score of 4 or 5, meaning that in over half of the exams Placentia-Yorba Linda students scored the highest possible score or in the top tier.

The AP exam, which is administered by the College Board, measures college rigor while students are still in high school since exam questions are developed by a committee of college faculty members in addition to AP teachers. Many colleges even award college credit for AP scores. According to the College Board's website, currently more than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the country offer college credit, advanced placement or both for qualifying AP exams. For students and parents this could be a cost-saver since students may earn credit in lieu of taking the



college course. Students may also be eligible to skip introductory college courses, propelling them into upper-level college classes. Admissions officers also take note of AP courses which could make a difference in today's competitive college admission process.

The 2012-2013 school year was the second consecutive year that PYLUSD continued to be the second-highest scoring in Orange County. Although scores have always been in the 80-percent range, scores have gradually increased over the past few years. Student achievement is the school district's first focus area in the district's five-year strategic plan called the "PYLUSD Advantage."

## School District Moves to Make Foods More Appealing

*From the District*

There's a new chef in town and his job is to bring a fresh new take to the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's menu items.

In November, the Board of Education approved the hiring of Ramon Solorzano as the first-ever school chef in the district.

"We know that nutrition is so important in helping kids focus in school and over the last year we have been greatly improving our menus to offer more nutritious foods that kids like to eat," said Nutrition Services Director Suzanne Morales, R.D., M.P.H., S.N.S. "Hiring a chef who can help us build greater food pairings, do more scratch cooking, and bring in more seasonal foods was a natural next step."

Solorzano's experience is global. In addition to holding a degree in hotel restaurant management, he has traveled across Canada and Latin America in 12 different countries advising over 100 restaurants as a Global Culinary Manager.

Adding daily entrée salads to the elementary menu, eliminating enriched grains and replacing them with whole grains, plus adding more fruits and vegetables are just a few of the many changes that the district has made in recent years. The district is also piloting customized salads that can be ordered online ahead of time. There is already a selection of daily entrée salads with proteins. At the middle school level, students are also enjoying "bowl entrees" with all-white chicken as well as whole grain rice. Reducing sodium while increasing nutritionally-sound food has been the goal.

Are the changes working? "We are seeing a year-to-year increase in the number of students choosing Food Services," said Morales. The district is now serving more than 800 additional lunches per day just at the elementary level compared to last year during the same time period.

See **FOODS MORE APPEALING** • Page 14

# R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yora Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylusd.org

## Annual ShamRock n' Run



**Julie Nibali**  
President

Roses are red, violets are blue, R.E.A.C.H. is green and so are you. That's if you put on your running shoes and join us for the 3rd Annual ShamRock n' Run March 15th at Yorba Regional Park.

We are an all volunteer foundation and our hard work is paying off for our students. This year we gave teachers \$6,000 for Visual Arts, donated \$5,500 towards a new 9th Grade CPR Education Program and a provided a popular children's recording artist Concert and Fieldtrip for our Preschool to 1st Grade Students.



**Middle School Intramural Track Meet – New Best Friends!**

We are not done yet; this year our upcoming events include our 2nd Annual Middle School Intramural Track Meet March 3rd, ArtWorks! (art gallery and sales) is April 15th – 22nd, and finally our 1st Annual Spelling Bee will be on April 18th.

Please go to our web site for more information on these and other REACH sponsored events.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik  
Neta Madison



February is here already and students are focused on academic goals in the final stretch for this school year. When you read the school articles, it makes you want to be back in the classroom. Science and technology have gone to a whole new level. Chromebooks, spelling bees, leadership classes, outdoor science camp...so much to capture the attention of students on their academic journey.

Last issue did not have a Word Search and I appreciate your emails asking why...there is one in this issue on page 10.

## School News Roll Call

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**Covering the  
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Meshel Negrete

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:**  
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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## Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



**Ken Valburg**  
Principal

### Celebrating Success!

Imagine the feeling of pride at hearing your name being announced for academic achievement in front of all of your friends and classmates!

Three times a year the Bernardo Yorba Middle School student body gathers on our soccer field to celebrate and recognize academic success. Known as the BYMS Spirit Rally, it is organized by our eighth-grade Leadership Class. Recognized students are invited to stand and receive acknowledgement for their great academic accomplishments, as well as participate in fun activities.

During the course of the celebration there are three categories of students who are recognized: gold students with a GPA of 3.5–4.0, silver students with a GPA of 3.0–3.49, and bronze students with a GPA of 2.5–2.99.

During the first quarter, over 70 percent of our student body achieved a GPA of 2.5 or better, and 45 percent of them earned the gold award! Bernardo students had a very successful first quarter.



## Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



**David Cammarato**  
Principal

### Chromebooks Hit the Classroom

It is the goal of Brookhaven Elementary School to promote the use of technology in the classroom to enhance student learning and engagement. This year, the school district put 40 Google Chromebooks on campus, along with a roving cart to allow easy movement across the campus.

These Google Chromebooks are being used at every grade level for a variety of reasons. In some classrooms, Google documents have been utilized. This program allows teachers and students to communicate and edit writing assignments without printing out the paper. In addition, students can work in small groups to share a document and add their own information. Other classes have used them for research, typing, skill learning and test taking.

These Chromebooks have provided a traveling second computer lab on campus. This is a great addition, and we will be working with our PTA to try to provide another set of Chromebooks in the near future. These 21st Century Skills are building students' technology proficiencies and preparing them for the future.



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## Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



**Dominique Polchow**  
Principal

### Excellent Explorers

As children develop through the elementary years, they are absorbing a large amount of information, both academically and socially, as they learn how to become productive citizens in our world. Each month, Bryant Ranch Elementary School focuses on a new character trait that encompasses what an Excellent Explorer is. Our goal is to help children make smart choices that will positively impact their future. These traits help teach students to be safe, respectful, responsible and kind.

Excellent Explorers are: Efficient, using their time well; eXceptional, making smart choices; Prepared and ready to learn every day; Leaders who show good character at all times; Organized and aware of what they are doing and where they are going; Resourceful, always seeking ways to solve problems; Effective, producing the expected results and beyond; and Respectful to others and themselves.

Model students are celebrated each month at a special character awards assembly. This monthly assembly helps acknowledge students and their smart choices and reminds all Bryant Ranch Explorers to strive for excellent behavior. Our character program allows children to have a well-rounded educational experience, making school a safe and positive place for everyone.

## Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



**Ken Fox**  
Principal

### Off to A Great Start

Esperanza has some great things happening all across the campus!

Our Medical Sciences Academy has approximately 30 students working hard to prepare for the medically related events at the HOSA California State Leadership Conference in Sacramento. Esperanza students will be competing with other students from fellow California medical academies in events like medical assisting, biomedical debate, pharmacology, and pathophysiology, to name just a few.

Our Aztec Theatre Company participated in the Orange County Role About Theater Festival, and took first place in the technical category for costume quick change. The students also recently performed Hamlet for Kids at the Rancho Cucamonga High School One Act Festival. Jake Bannister (Hamlet) and Ariana Hans (Gertrude) received best actor and best actress recognition.

Our men's and women's basketball teams are doing great. The women's team just got back from a tournament in Alaska, where they competed and did wonderfully. Also, our men's team won the Irvine World News tournament back in December, and they are currently ranked No. 10 in Orange County.

The Esperanza freshman health classes will be providing CPR training in conjunction with the Learn for Morgan Foundation and the American Heart Association. All of our district health teachers attended a workshop to extend this opportunity to freshman students throughout the district. Our school district is one of the first in the nation to be offering this type of training to such a large number of students.

Lastly, in honor of the holidays, our special education students put on a special holiday boutique for the students and staff. The items were handcrafted, and made for great gifts for family and friends. It was an amazing boutique, and it was also lots of fun to see how proud the students were of their work.

## El Camino Real *High School (9-12)*

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • http://www.elcamino.pylusd.org



**Gordon Chamberlin**  
Principal

### Colorful Dreams

El Camino Real High School, in conjunction with North Orange County ROP offers a Visual Communications class to all High School students in the district. This exploration into the fundamentals of computer design, color theory and typography, taught by Reid Petersen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:30 pm offers students elective credits and gives them an introduction into the world of Graphic Design.

This last semester, one student, Mariah Aragon wrote and illustrated a children's book which is now posted on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and available for purchase. *Colorful Dreams* is a story about a panda who learns from a friend how wonderful the world can be.

Here's the link: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00S10UPW4>

Students also discover the world of print and web design, art genres that influence today's design, and how to make your art and design marketable.

## El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



**Carey Cecil**  
Principal

### Our Very Own Honored

In addition to a smooth and successful start to the 2014-2015

school year, El Dorado was elated and honored to learn that Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson selected EDHS Theater and Language Arts teacher Kathleen Switzer to be one of 11 finalists for the distinction of California Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Switzer was previously selected as PYLUSD Teacher of the Year and Orange County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Switzer, an EDHS graduate, earned the honor among the state's 350,000 teachers.



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## Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

### Enrichment and Learning Soar

Fairmont Elementary School is taking off in 2015! Rehearsals for our drama production, “Beauty and the Beast, Jr.” are underway with the performances taking place February 12–14 at the performing arts center. Tickets go on sale on Monday, January 26. Come see our fabulous Falcons in action!

Congratulations to first grader Carson Lim, who took first place at the district level in our PTA Reflections contest in the visual arts category. His entry will continue on to the county level. Students had the opportunity to submit entries centered around the theme “The World Would Be a Better Place If...”

Students in third through fifth grades participated in our school-wide spelling bee just before winter break. The winners will next participate in the Parenting OC Magazine Spelling Bee in February. Congratulations to Luke Lopez, Samantha Jochum, and Elise Steifel on a job well done! Sixth-grade students also participated in a spelling bee, with the winners moving on to the next round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Best of luck to Christine Lee, Julianne Hussain, and Catherine Park, who were the top three spellers for sixth grade!

Finally, Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students this year are participating in GATE Academies at lunchtime. Recently our GATE students took a field trip to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County to “Think Like a Disciplinarian,” gathering information that they will turn into projects that will be presented at our GATE Family Night on February 26.

## Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



**Doug Slonkosky**  
Principal

### Well-Rounded Students

Glenknoll Elementary School focuses on developing well-rounded students, with activities that promote academics and personal development in a number of settings. In early January, our courageous sixth-grade teachers and students completed a four-day Outdoor Science Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. Students explored mountain trails, observed wildlife, and studied geological features. Our students were able to meet and interact with students from other schools and bunk together in cabins. All grade levels are planning field trips for spring.

Upcoming activities include a school-wide spelling bee on March 10, the Resources for the Enrichment of Academics, Arts and Athletics for our Children to reach their ultimate Heights (REACH) Foundation ShamRock 'n Run on March 15, our annual Jog-a-thon on April 17, our band and strings concerts on March 3, and our Vocal Concert at the Garden on May 14.



Glenknoll Sixth Graders at Outdoor Science Camp.

Dylan Contreras, Alexander Dimitriadis, Alexander Robinson, Caitlyn Viveros, Madison La Berge.

## George Key School *(K-12)*

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.pylusd.org/schools/georgekey



**Deby Six**  
Principal

### Holiday Traditions

The 2014 winter holiday season at George Key School brought together both old traditions and new!

Our Yorba Linda Sunrise Rotary Club treated students to gifts from Santa along with a generous donation of \$1,000 to help support their needs. A new tradition featured spectacular musical performances replete with jollies from Santa and gorgeous caroling by Mrs. Claus.

Kathy Eidson's Adult Transition Class has for many years been assembling emergency food bags every week for a local church. As an extension of this job training, the students held a special collection to support the Christmas Soup Kitchen the church. They collected over 100 hats and mittens for gift bags for the homeless.



Continuing another George Key Christmas tradition, Patti Linza and Grace Gordon's kindergarten through fifth-grade classes hosted a special student Math Bunco Party. Parents and staff members donated funds to help benefit the PYLUSD McKinney Vento families' Food Pantry.

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## Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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**Kelli Keller**  
*Principal*

### Breaking News

Glenview Elementary School started a Preppy K program! We are so thrilled to welcome these young students and their families to Glenview and offer this excellent academic option to our extended learning community. This year's Preppy K, or Transitional Kindergarten, students will turn five just before or after winter break and can benefit from the experience of a traditional elementary school environment with developmentally-appropriate curriculum. District families are fortunate to have these new five-year-olds starting this program mid-year!

According to the state's Transitional Kindergarten Web site, Preppy K is a "win-win-win for children, families and schools." Children are better prepared to succeed. Families have an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity, confidence, and skills they need to excel. Schools benefit because children will be better prepared to succeed academically and less likely to be placed in intervention programs or held back in later grades.

Please help welcome these new members of our learning community with a kind gesture, words of encouragement, help joining our parent organizations, or even more! We know that moving to a new, bigger school can be scary!

The Transitional Kindergarten program is an academic additive I have been fortunate to have had on all my sites while working as an elementary administrator. The program brings such balance to a school campus, and these students, with increased experience and confidence, often go on to become school leaders in their later years. It is a program that I would want for my own daughter! We are so grateful for the district's support in selecting Glenview as a Preppy K location and for the opportunity it will continue to provide for our families!

## Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



**Keith Carmona**  
*Principal*

### Extending Our Learning

Kraemer Middle School is a campus that seeks to provide many different co-curricular elective classes and campus clubs to support a wide variety of interests. "If students express an interest in a particular area, we will find a way to capture that on campus," said Keith Carmona, principal at Kraemer Middle School.

Kraemer is proud to offer one of the largest varieties of elective classes of any middle school in North Orange County. Within the realm of the arts, Kraemer offers a variety of vocal and instrumental music classes, speech and drama, online newspaper, multiple visual arts classes, and music appreciation. Students also have the option of taking any of four different foreign languages: Chinese, Japanese, French, and Spanish. In the sciences, Kraemer offers a year-long robotics course, computer applications, Honors high school biology, video productions, and a hands-on technology lab class. Leadership development and college success are focal points in the award-winning Associated Student Body (ASB) Leadership, Peer Leadership, and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs on campus. This vast array of options provides students with unique experiences within their school day and may be pathways to careers later in life.

For students who would like to extend their learning beyond the school day, Kraemer provides many different clubs and after-school activities for students. "Students who are connected to school with after-school activities perform better academically," Carmona said. "We want students to see the relevance of what they're doing during the day, and we believe that our after-school activities provide that. It's a bonus that they're a lot of fun."

Kraemer's after-school activities include: intramural sports, Science Olympiad, Math Counts, spelling bee, dance team, color guard, art studio, Battle of the Books, distance runners, hip hop, jam band, Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA), Geography Club, and National Junior Honor Society.

## Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



**Roann Turk**  
*Principal*

### Family Science Night

Golden Elementary hosted its second Family Science Night January 15, 2015. What a wonderful community event! Students and their parent discovered the wonder of the night sky and applications of many scientific principles. Kraemer Intermediate and Valencia High School provided teams of talented students. Kaitlyn Pak shared that the "coolest thing I experienced was seeing the Valencia HS Olympiad team. There were many scientific stations. I loved Family Science Night!"



**Katie W. was fascinated by the pig's heart.**

All the hands on experiments and demonstrations focused on a different aspect of science. "I found out I could power a light bulb with my phone! I dissected hearts, got shocked, and spun myself around with a bike wheel!" enthused Riana C. Students were able to view the night sky's dizzying display starting with the bright light of Venus. Golden students soared to infinity and beyond!

## La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.laentrada.pylusd.org



**Libby Moore**  
*Principal*

### Where the World is Your Classroom

While students at the traditional district high schools are gearing up for their final semester, many La Entrada seniors will be graduating this week. That's because 40 percent of our senior class took the accelerated pathway and have already completed their high school requirements! These students have shown that they are college and career ready, as they have already enrolled full time in local community colleges. Congratulations to these "early graduates."

This semester the juniors have been busy attending test-prep classes. They will soon be taking the Smarter Balanced tests in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, and have been taking practice tests on their Chromebooks all semester. The sophomores are also attending test-prep classes during the second semester to prepare them for the California Standards Test in science, as well as the California High School Exit Exam in English/language arts and mathematics. Our students are well-prepared for all of the assessments that they will be taking during this second semester.

La Entrada High School offers open enrollment throughout the year. Students have a choice of enrolling in the traditional track completing courses by grade level, or in the accelerated program that includes both college courses and graduating up to one year early. Call the school today for an appointment with the principal to design your own personalized educational plan!

## Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp)



**Katherine Dailey**  
*Principal*

### Online and On Task

Our third-grade classes have been doing an incredible job utilizing netbooks! The amazing efforts of our team of third-grade teachers have helped ensure students understand how to best use the netbooks in the most effective ways to engage and focus on learning. These netbooks are proving to be beneficial in better preparing students for the spring online testing for third-through fifth-grade students as well.

Thanks to the generosity of Lakeview Elementary School's PTA, 64 additional netbooks have been purchased to extend the use of these tools in more of our upper-grade classrooms. Our staff continues their professional growth training in using netbooks and worked together to organize an empty classroom into a second computer lab. With multiple carts of netbooks, our goal is to reinforce keyboarding skills, Web site use, weekly participation by students and staff using digital media, and testing preparation.



## Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • [www.lindavista.pylusd.org](http://www.lindavista.pylusd.org)

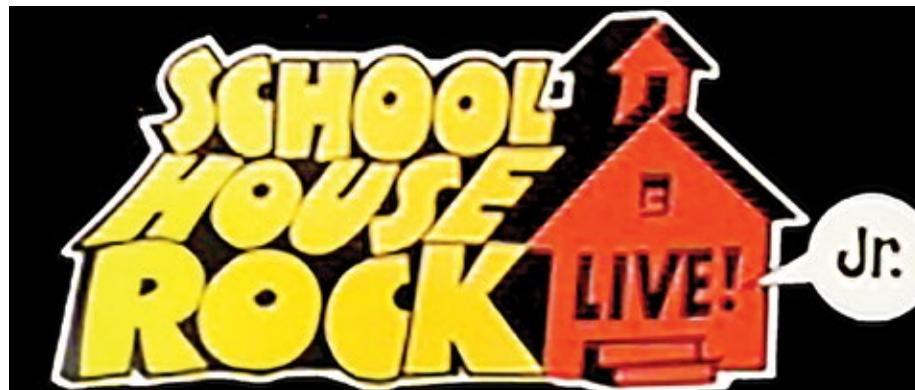


**Paula Kintsch**  
*Principal*

### That's Entertainment!

Linda Vista Elementary School is proud and excited to be presenting its first musical *Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr.* Grammar, science, and mathematics are just a few of the topics about which this animated musical can help entertain and educate.

Over the past six weeks our Linda Vista Lions have been hard at work preparing for opening night. Many, many thanks go to our wonderful PTA, and to all of the *Schoolhouse Rocks Live Jr.* committee members. We also want to thank our great director, as well as the wonderful parents who have put in many volunteer hours to help make this production successful.



We invite you to come and watch one of these fabulous productions at the El Dorado High Performing Arts Center. Opening night is Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m., with the other performance on Saturday, February 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.center-stage-theater.com](http://www.center-stage-theater.com). You can also buy tickets at the box office prior to each performance.

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## Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp)



**Tamie Beuwsaert**  
Principal

### Super Saturday School

Mabel Paine is once again offering our Super Saturday classes. Students with absences are now able to make up their days, and the school is able to recover the lost ADA. It's a win-win for all!

This year, the teachers have added our older students into the mix and are offering Saturday classes for kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Our teachers are instructing the students in technology such as coding, encouraging exploration through science, tapping into the creative talents of our students with art lessons, and working on developing healthy bodies with an extension of our running club.

Super Saturday School has become a much-loved day for both the parents and the students at Mabel Paine!

## Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • [www.melrose.pylusd.org](http://www.melrose.pylusd.org)



**Cynthia Alvarez**  
Principal

### Exciting Interventions

Our tutoring intervention is underway and will provide an extended-day program specifically designed to help our students improve their language arts skills. The instructional focus is to meet challenging Common Core State Standards. Students will receive stimulating and enriching opportunities to increase their literacy skills. This will enable teachers to work closely with each student to assist them in meeting their academic goals.

The Melrose Elementary School staff is now utilizing Thinking Maps—circle, bubble, double bubble, tree, brace, flow, multi-flow, and bridge—to support eight fundamental thinking processes. It can be effectively used to support higher-level thinking skills across the curriculum, especially with struggling students and English learners.

Saturday School is yet another way that our students are able to recover valuable instructional opportunities. Students use technology to work on grade-level standards.

Our parents and staff work together to support students in our shared goals through the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Advantage.



**1st Graders and Ms. Zamorskaia doing a circle map with all of their ideas about a rose (Thinking Process: Defining in context).**

## Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • [www.morse.pylusd.org](http://www.morse.pylusd.org)



**Cristina McCall**  
Principal

### We're Not Done Yet!

We can't believe that the first half of the school year has come to a close! Morse Wildcats ended the year with a fabulous schoolwide December holiday program that warmed the hearts of family and friends. January saw the wheels set in motion for more events.

During our midyear Discipline Assembly, 64 Wildcats were recognized for having zero absences and tardies, and over 70 students received recognition for having been "Caught in the Act" of demonstrating preparedness, responsibility, kindness and respectfulness during a two-week period. The Imagination Machine Assembly celebrated our students' writing as it came to life through live performances. Our Student Service Organization once again spearheaded the fantastic service-learning project Pasta for Pennies, presented by a local restaurant, by leading our school in aiding thousands of children and adults in the fight against blood cancers like leukemia.

We're looking forward to many events yet to come!



## Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • [www.parkviewpylusd.org](http://www.parkviewpylusd.org)



**Kathie DiRocco**  
Principal

### Gearing Up for Science Fun!

Parkview School is known for its exceptional performing arts activities, and this year we will be providing another great example with our latest spring musical, Oklahoma! Performances will held be on Thursday, May 7, and Friday, May 8 at the PYLUSD Performing Arts Center.

Parkview has much more to offer, too. We are excited to be featuring a new science technology and engineering course for elementary students that utilizes LEGO Simple Machines and Mechanisms. The National Science Teacher Association explains the science standards core idea of engineering design as including three component parts:

The first part is the defining and delimiting of engineering problems by stating what's to be solved as clearly as possible in terms of the criteria for success and any constraints or limits. The second part is that designing solutions to engineering problems begins with generating a number of different solutions in order to see which ones best meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

The third is that optimizing the design solution involves a process in which the possible solutions are systematically tested and refined. The final design is improved upon by trading off less important features in favor of those that are more refined.

The class will culminate their unit with a playground design project that the students will present at Parkview's Open House event on April 2.

## Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • <http://www.riovistaschool.org>



**Rafael Plascencia**  
*Principal*

### Code of Great Scholarship

Rio Vista continues to be a dynamic learning community as we continue to venture into new and engaging arenas of teaching and learning. We concluded 2014 with an Hour of Code schoolwide. Each classroom Preppy K through fifth grade used the iPads or Chromebooks and spent an hour learning to code. We also offered an after-school family-coding event in which parents came and learned to code with their children.

Beginning in January, students in grades 1 through 5 have been selected to participate in our Student Technology Club. This group meets during lunchtime, and it's an exciting time in these classrooms. The focus of this lunch club is STEM. Students are interacting with apps like Bee-Bot and Kodable that focus on teaching students computer programming or coding. With apps like goREACT, students are working as virtual chemists. Mathematical concepts through virtual geoboards and roller-coaster designers are two ways our students are gaining problem-solving skills.

Part of our mission is to challenge our students to become responsible, ethical and engaged citizens. We continue to partner with the Orange County chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with our Pennies for Patients service project. For the past two years, we have raised over \$10,000, and with our first collection this year, our students collected \$2,525.96!

In the upcoming months, we are eager to announce we will be adopting college readiness at Rio Vista. Symbolism is an integral part of the school culture. Each classroom has adopted a college or a university. We look to promote the school culture that every child has the right to be prepared to attend college and that it is the responsibility of adults in the school to develop exceptional systems that make that dream a reality.

## Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • [www.rubydrive.pylusd.org](http://www.rubydrive.pylusd.org)



**Diana McKibben**  
*Principal*

### On the Move

Ruby Drive School has been on the move. Many doors opened for our students due to wonderful parent support, successful grant writing on the part of teachers, and service from students.

The fourth-grade classes explored Irvine Regional Park on December 18. The field trip was a great success, helping students round out their studies in environmental science by exploring our Southern California regions, plants and animals. It also provided a good cross-curricular reference to the early California Indians who lived in our region. The students had a great day hiking, playing games, observing and sharing information with guides.

Miss Eppink and Mrs. Cerda's classes traveled to the California Science Center in Los Angeles. The day included visiting the Galapagos through IMAX in 3D, a guided audio tour of the Pompeii exhibit, and viewing the Endeavor space shuttle with guides.

The sixth-grade friends are supporting their second-grade friends in developing computer literacy and basic word-processing skills while learning how to use Google Docs on netbooks. A huge thank you goes out to our sixth-graders for showing an excellent example of Ruby Drive citizenship.

CASA and the kindergarten team provided entertaining performances at Winter Wonderland in December. The CASA performers, under the guidance of Ana Carrillo, set the mood, and dancers, under the direction of Katherine Burrows, were on the mark and enthusiastic, performing three dance routines. The kindergartners, directed by Ceci Ybarra and Jason Pike, sang with gusto and looked adorable in costume while telling the Gingerbread Man story through a stage production.



## Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • [www.rosedrive.pylusd.org](http://www.rosedrive.pylusd.org)



**Dr. Linda Adamson**  
*Principal*

### Compassion: A Perfect Time to Bring It On

The recent holiday months allowed several opportunities for our students to work together and help others in need. TEAM Roadrunners, our motivated fifth-grade student leadership team, initiated the spirit of giving through their sock donation drive and, together with our student body, were successful in collecting enough socks to fill a giant garbage bag.

This was followed by our second annual Snow Night, which offered not only a night of magic but also the perfect opportunity for our students to give back to the community and those in need by donating toys for our Spark of Love toy drive. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our Rose Drive families, we filled a truck to the brim with new unwrapped toys that were delivered to a major entertainment venue right before the holiday, all in the hope of brightening the holidays for so many children in need! Not only was this the perfect way to show December's character trait, compassion, but we also observed, yet again, teamwork and generosity in action and the obvious priority our community places on thinking of others during this special season.

Our annual kindergarten/PK holiday program was the perfect way to end this magical season. Students, appropriately dressed in bow ties and reindeer hats, entertained us with a total of nine holiday carols, to the absolute delight of their beaming family members!

We look forward to the year ahead and the many more opportunities for our students to continue to demonstrate compassion and collaboration, experiencing for themselves all we can achieve when we work together.

## Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/sierravista/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/sierravista/index.asp)



**Cynthia Rex**  
*Principal*

### A Legacy of Learning

The Sierra Vista Elementary School Eagles have been SOARing to Success for 50 years! This year's golden anniversary highlights the dedication of hundreds of teachers, students, and parents, who have built a strong educational community at the corner of Placentia and Bastanchury Avenues.

The grand celebration will be held on Friday, March 20, 2015, and all who have had any connection with the school are invited. Festivities will begin at 10:15 a.m. with displays of memorabilia and a generation wall of photos of past students whose children and grandchildren now attend Sierra Vista. During the outdoor assembly at 10:30 a.m., tributes will be given to past teachers, principals, and staff members, along with student performances from every grade level. At 5 p.m., the campus will host a carnival, where alumni and families can enjoy good food, music, games, and activities together.

Come and enjoy the spirit of Sierra Vista as we celebrate the great legacy of learning and working together for 50 years.



Sierra Vista students gather on the field to honor 50 years of learning!



**Monica Barrera**  
*Principal*

## Engaging Our Students

Topaz Elementary ended the year on a positive note! Hundreds of toys were donated to our Topaz families to enjoy over the holiday season. In addition, Mr. Sundstrom, Topaz's beloved PE teacher, donated bikes and scooters to our students. We are ready for the 2015 school year!

As part of our GRIP Program, 16 staff members have volunteered to be mentors to some of our students. This incentive is part of our PBIS efforts to keep upper-grade students engaged and motivated at school. We kicked off our Mentor/Mentee Program with a Muffins with Mentees breakfast during which both parties were able to get to know each other. Mentors will continue to meet with their mentee for a minimum of 20 minutes per week. We have set our course for student success, and we are grateful for the parent involvement and support that are imperative to reaching our academic goals.



## Musical String Instruments 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put PYLUSD in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by April 15, 2015**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| BALALAIKA   | LYRE     |
| BANJO       | MANDOLIN |
| BASS VIOL   | ORGAN    |
| CELLO       | PIANO    |
| CLAVICHORD  | SITAR    |
| CONTRABASS  | UKULELE  |
| DULCIMER    | VIOLA    |
| GUITAR      | VIOLIN   |
| HARPSICHORD | ZITHER   |
| LUTE        |          |

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P	L	O	J	N	A	B	S	O	E	M	U	O	L	K
P	I	Y	H	I	I	T	H	I	I	H	I	L	E	A
V	H	S	U	C	K	C	W	Z	T	V	T	B	C	H
P	S	J	S	I	I	K	P	U	S	A	A	I	P	V
E	A	L	Z	S	P	V	K	S	Q	L	R	P	Z	G
T	Y	N	P	X	A	U	A	R	A	V	Z	G	Q	X
N	Q	R	A	X	L	B	T	L	S	A	H	U	V	C
G	A	C	G	E	E	J	A	P	C	N	D	L	D	Q
H	Z	L	L	A	N	I	G	R	I	V	C	D	X	D
M	S	E	G	Y	K	C	B	L	T	A	E	D	H	D
F	K	L	M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N	N	I	V	H
C	X	A	H	Y	G	I	A	I	S	C	O	O	K	K
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**Tyler Robert Armstrong**

I am 11 year old, Tyler Armstrong, mountaineer. At age 9, I set the World Record as the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Aconcagua (22,841 feet). I also set the

record for the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney (14,505 ft) in a single day (age 7), and was the second youngest to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft) (age 8).

Everyone always wants to know why a kid would want to climb mountains? I wanted to start climbing because when I was 6 I watched a nature documentary on the Great Divide. What was interesting about that documentary was that you hiked all the way from Canada to Mexico! Also, my dad had just come back from a hiking trip and showed me some videos. After the video was over I was inspired by what he just had accomplished! The next night I told my parents I wanted to start hiking! Then, after my dad got home I told him, "Let's go jogging." At first I could only go about a quarter mile. The next time I went jogging my goal was a half mile and it kept building from there. About a month later after a lot of hard work, it was time for my first hike!

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- Rob Viviano**, Boys Youth Director, former St. Louis Player, Chapman University Asst. Coach
- Bob Ammann**, GK Director, Former Professional Player
- Dale Ervine**, Former US National Team, Former Professional Player



**[www.anaheimsurf.com](http://www.anaheimsurf.com)**

My first hike was for about 6 miles and I could climb only to about 5,000 feet elevation, but at that time it was very challenging to me. I slowly made it to the top of the mountain and back, but I still made it all the way! The next day I was very sore. About a week later I told my dad that I wanted to do something bigger. We went on the internet and found more mountains and longer distances, I was ready for my test - Mt. Baldy (10,064 ft)! My dad decided to take a difficult trail up Mt. Baldy for 6,000 feet of elevation gain and 12 miles round trip. That day was very tough and tiring, but I was ready because of my hard training. When we got to the top I could see every thing. I was so high I could see LA! It



was amazing that everything was under me, even the clouds! And right there I knew what I wanted to do... Mountain Climb!

After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record by ... (to be continued)...

Publisher's note: I read an article about Tyler and immediately invited him to be a guest columnist. He is such an inspiration and I want our readers to hear his amazing stories. If you can't wait for the next column, please enjoy Tyler's web site! [www.topwithtyler.com](http://www.topwithtyler.com) and [www.facebook.com/topwithtyler](http://www.facebook.com/topwithtyler) and [www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler](http://www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler)

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# Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



**Cindy Freeman**  
*Principal*

## Future Scientists

On January 8, a group of Travis Ranch Middle School eighth-grade girls and one boy participated in the annual Bridges to Tomorrow conference, sponsored by the American Association of University Women. The goal of this conference is to show students a variety of career opportunities available to them in the fields of science and math and to help close the gender gap in these fields.

This conference draws students from Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Some of the speakers this year included women from the fields of forensic science, food science, traffic engineering, and even the National Aeronautics and Space Association (NASA)! Participants heard a keynote speaker in the Plummer auditorium of Fullerton College and then went from classroom to classroom to hear women speak about their careers and give advice for high school and college planning purposes.

Our students returned to school excited about what the future holds for them!



Approximately 80 Travis students in front of the Plummer Auditorium at the "Bridges to Tomorrow" Conference on January 8, 2015.

# Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
*Principal*

## Embracing Technological Change

Tuffree has placed a strong emphasis on developing the 21st-century skills our students need for achieving academic success, including technological skills. A major benefit of our use of the latest technology is the positive effect it has had throughout the entire campus.

In traditional teaching – such as lecturing, working from textbooks, or taking notes – the students hold a more passive role. But by using technology their motivation and learning increases. Students who use technology as a tool for communicating with others are taking an active role in their education, as opposed to the passive one that comes from receiving information transmitted by teachers, textbooks, or broadcasts.

Students now make choices about how to generate, obtain, manipulate, or display information, or execute solutions. Moreover, technology helps them define goals, make design decisions, and evaluate progress. Our teachers also create links between curriculum and technology in order to provide students with the experience they need to adapt to the ever-changing digital world of the future.

It is routine to see our students using Chromebooks to review their primary research sources, as they can instantly link to visual images, vocabulary references, or databases. This helps them strengthen their learning experiences and also create multimedia presentations based upon the information they've gathered.

We are now beginning the practice of "bringing your own device" to help extend these learning opportunities. To be creative and collaborative in today's world, it is necessary to know how to use these new tools. The future workforce will demand such skills. Our teachers also know that constant practice can help students improve their success with the current computer-based state achievement tests.

Our world is constantly changing with this increased application of technology. Tuffree teachers are actively embracing the educational transformations that will benefit their students. Please come take a look!

# Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.tynes.pylusd.org



**Debra Silverman**  
*Principal*

## Everyone Is Learning

Teachers at Tynes Elementary School are lifetime learners! On January 14, the staff attended an extended professional dialogue session focusing on the new English Language Development (ELD) standards for students learning English as their second language.

Teachers were presented with information about the school's English Learner data, reviewed the district ELD program, and discussed shifts in the new standards for English learners. Grade-level teams examined the new standards to understand how they are organized across grade levels. Teams then spent time jigsaw reading excerpts from the ELD framework and sharing insights.



First grade teachers Suzanne Wilson and Carolyn Kim review Verb Tense study with the Tynes staff.

Later, the staff listened to presentations by their expert peers on how to integrate the standards throughout the day and across content areas using our district research-based teaching methods and Whole Brain Teaching. Finally, the staff enjoyed a lasagna dinner as they collaborated to improve teaching in their classrooms and the performance of English learners at our school.

## Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.pylusd.org/schools/valadez/index.asp



**James Hardin**  
Principal

### Synergistic Technology Lab

We're proud to provide our students with the opportunity to participate in the Synergistic Technology Lab. The lab is an 18-module program in which students will learn, investigate and apply 21st Century Skills in disciplines of flight technology, robotics, rocketry and space, simple machines, music and sound, oceanography, sophisticated computer applications, electronics, energy-power-mechanics, engineering towers, engines and many other technologies.

Students will work in groups and spend approximately seven days at each module, getting through nine of the 18 modules in a semester. During this time, our students will accomplish discrete objectives and activities. For example, one of the modules is flight technology in which



students learn the principles of flight. Students use a computer flight simulator to experience piloting an aircraft. Partners evaluate each other and prepare a written critique of each other's flight. Students are introduced to navigation and plot a course using angular measurement and mathematical computation.

## Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



**Connie Roe**  
Principal

### 21st Century, Here We Come!

Van Buren continues to be an active place for all! First, our Roadrunners enjoyed participating in our annual Jog-a-Thon. Students asked family and friends to sponsor their run, and off they went! Parent volunteers assisted students every step of the way. After the run, students enjoyed cold water and a Popsicle to cool things down. Our Roadrunners raised nearly \$24,000! Money raised will support the many enrichment activities provided by our fantastic PTA. Thank you to all participants and volunteers!

With this year's return to Wednesday PLCs, teachers are off and running, too! Each week, they are actively reviewing student data, discussing instructional strategies, and creating programs necessary to maximize student achievement. Additionally, through our district's Professional



Development Academy, teachers are attending trainings in cognitively guided instruction, Step Up to Writing and Project Read/Written Expression in order to further support our students as they strive to become 21st Century learners.

## Valencia *High School (9-12)*

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



**Rick Lopez**  
Principal

### Off to Higher Learning

As principal of Valencia High School, I am proud to share the exciting news that many of our seniors have received in recent days as universities are announcing Early Action / Decision Admission results. Ashley Chen -University of Indiana; Tiffany Chen -Ohio State University; Jack D'Aquilla -Tulane University (Presidential Scholarship); Erin Fung -New York University; Iliana Garcia -Emerson; Emmery Llewellyn -Baylor / Whitworth / Denver; Bethany Pan -Baylor / Denver; Jennifer Pi -Fordham University; Jean Marc Saouma -Kansas State / Nevada Reno / Tennessee Wesleyan; Bailey Shafer -Hofstra / St. Mary's / Santa Clara / Whitworth / Whittier / LMU / Fordham; Neemit Shah -Baylor / Massachusetts; Kassidy Williams -Dartmouth; Claribel Wu -Brown; Terry Yau -Case Western University; Joseph Yen -Stanford; and Taylor Youngquist -University of Tennessee. Many of these students have also been recognized by the National Merit Recognition Program and are enrolled in the prestigious VHS Academy.



## Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.pylusd.org/schools/wagner/index.asp



**Patrick Brown**  
Principal

### Dogs and Children: What Could Be Better?

*By Judy Lighthipe, 3rd-Grade teacher*

On any school day, it is not unusual to see volunteers arrive to help in classrooms. At Wagner School, however, once a week we see a very different kind of volunteer at our school. These are the BARK dogs and their volunteer owners who come to read with children.

Founded in 2007, BARK (Beach Animals Reading with Kids) is a volunteer program that encourages children to increase their



reading skills and self-confidence by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. Students who participate spend 15 to 20 minutes once a week for eight weeks reading with dogs in the library. Children also receive a bookmark with pictures and information about their dog. We are grateful to our librarian, Mrs. Janet Vash, for implementing this wonderful program at our school. Currently, over 30 children at Wagner have had fun learning with their canine friends.

## Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

7575 E. Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



**Shirley Fargo**  
Principal

### Science Family Night

Our PTA hosted a recent Science Family Night in November. Thirteen teachers and 16 parents worked together to help our participants conduct experiments and explore the laws of science.

Some of their scientific learning involved identifying the differences in fingerprints. Mrs. Muller taught about polymers using baby diapers, and the guests also learned about Newton's First and Second Laws of Motion through the use of rockets and centripetal force.



They even learned about angles and pressure by using straws to build structures. They shot projectiles and observed the force of displacement when Mentos were dropped into diet soda. Employees from Newton's Lab also joined in the excitement with a station called "Elephant Toothpaste."

This well-organized event was created and organized by Woodsboro parent Mrs. Stephanie Mancini, who also has two sons in the GATE program. Because of her expertise, and the support of our parents and teachers, we had an extraordinary evening!

### FOODS MORE APPEALING • From Page 1

The district is not only focusing on more nutritious food but also expanding its reach. This summer, a "Seamless Summer Meal" program was offered for the first time to provide free summer meals to low-income families, many of whom are living at poverty level according to federal income guidelines. This district served 13,000 more meals over last year during the summer months. The district continues to serve after-school snacks at six schools for more than 600 students who may not eat until late in the evening. Breakfast is also offered at 22 schools.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Morales stated. "The aim is to change the way school lunch is perceived in the PYLUSD and offer students healthy, tasty options they enjoy."

Expanding fresh and nutritious meal offerings that adhere to or exceed current state and federal regulations is one of the district's driving initiatives in the district's strategic plan called the "PYLUSD Advantage." The purpose of this initiative is to foster a culture that promotes emotional health, safety and well-being of students, staff and parents.

## Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



**Cameron Malotte**  
Principal

### Time Travel

The seventh and eighth grade students at Yorba Linda Middle School travelled back in time to Medieval Europe as the Imperial Knights visited.

This educational and entertaining assembly was held

on the athletic field and featured a living history lesson with displays of horsemanship, javelin skills, jousting knights, and hand to hand combat, both on horseback and on foot. The seventh graders waved their black and red pom poms while cheering on the evil Black Knight while the eighth graders cheered on the eventual victor, the Blue Knight. Special thanks to our PTSA for providing the funding for this enjoyable event.



## Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



**Dave Flynn**  
Principal

### Newsworthy Happenings

January marks the end of our 1st semester 2014-15 and a fresh start for students and staff as we prepare for 2nd semester and the next 18 weeks. Highlights from 1st semester include:

*U.S. News and World Report Daily Beast* ranked Yorba Linda High School 116th Best High School in the nation and 22nd Best High School in the Western States.

*Newsweek* announced Yorba Linda High School as one of "2014 America's Top Schools" across the nation.

The College Board reported that Yorba Linda High School students taking the SAT scored 40 points and 60 points higher than the national average in Reading and Math respectively.

Yorba Linda High School has 15 National Merit Semi-Finalist, Commended Scholar and National Hispanic Recognition Scholar students.

The Yorba Linda High School PTSA and Counseling Department sponsored 8 Mustang University Nights for our parents and students.

The Counseling Department hosted 55 representatives from colleges and universities for our Juniors and Seniors to hear about each of their programs.

This year we have "on staff" tutoring before and after school in Math, Language Arts, and Spanish.

The Yorba Linda High School PTSA Career Day 2014 welcomed 48 community members on campus to talk with our students about possible future career opportunities.

These are just a few of the "great" newsworthy happenings at Yorba Linda High School. Stay tuned for the next 18 weeks as we prepare our students for the Advanced Placement Exams, State Standardized Testing and the California High School Exit Exam. We expect great results from our Mustangs!!



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

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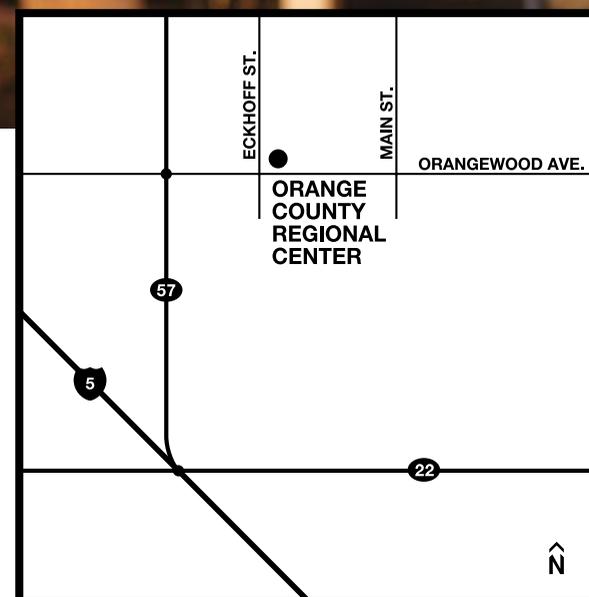
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