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School News

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Covering the Fullerton School District

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Summit at the White House



Dr. Robert Pletka
Superintendent

Fullerton School District, was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 100 top school districts from across the United States to participate in the first-ever National Connected Superintendents Summit on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at the White House in Washington, D.C.

Fullerton School District was recognized for their transition into digital learning. This unique conference brought together officials from throughout the United States to share with one another and the United States Department of Education promising approaches to using technology in the classroom.

Fullerton School District was chosen from over 800 applicants, and Dr. Robert Pletka represented the district at the White House as the only school district in Orange County to be recognized. The Fullerton School District received this recognition for many programs in the schools, but most notably, the 1:1 iPad Visible Innovation Program (VIP), iPersonalize, and All the Arts for All the Kids.

“School districts across the country are helping teachers harness the power of technology to create personal learning environments for all students,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “We want to make sure every child – whether he or she is in the inner-city, in a rural community, or on a Native American reservation – has access to knowledge and the chance to learn 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”



Junior High School students testing their Robotics creations at Nicolas STEM Lab opening.

The White House summit will be followed by a series of 12 to 15 regional summits, which will focus on the digital progress, both current and future, of local school districts. The events will also include the unveiling of digital tools that facilitate incorporation of technology into short-term and long-range education planning.

As a result of this recognition, the Department of Education has been invited to visit the Fullerton School District and observe the innovative programs offered.



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Parks Junior High School Wins 1st Place in Teamwork



Please see their story on page 7.



Crystal Olson '11, M.A.Ed. '12
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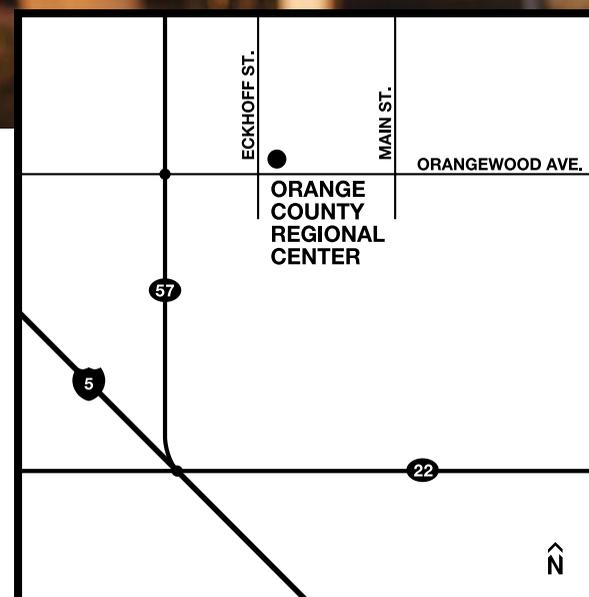
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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By now the students are well on their way to focusing on their goals for this school year. It is an exciting time to be a student with the technology changes. Coding and programming to some of us would fall into the category of foreign languages. (I now look to my grandchildren for consulting on such things as Skype.) I was among those with my VCR blinking 12:00 when it became obsolete. This issue is full of classroom activities to make you want to be a student again.

Our next issue is April 15.

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Acacia *Elementary*

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • www.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Karen Whisnant
Principal

Crafting Great Writers

Through our Cotsen partnership, Acacia collaborated with Momentum in Teaching to assist our implementation of Writing Workshop. The dynamic trainers are teachers who understand challenges faced in meeting the needs of each child. Through the training, real-life tools and practical solutions to assist with instilling a passion for writing and helping students find their voice were provided. “Never before have I had such amazing writing from my students!” is a common exclamation heard across campus.

Having learned the model on our own initiative, Acacia was ready for the next step. In January, we were met with the energetic expertise and humor of Momentum—the perfect pairing to jump-start us for the New Year.

“For the first time, I feel confident about Writer’s Workshop!” stated one teacher, followed with “I understand how to guide my instruction based on [student] needs.”

The momentum is building at Acacia! Writers are being crafted!



Beechwood

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • www.fullertonsd.org



Julie Graham
Principal

One Book to Connect the World

Global collaboration teaches students that they are part of something bigger than themselves, that the world needs to be protected, and that we need to care for all people. This fall, students in grades 3–6 participated in the Global Read Aloud movement.

In this “international book club,” students read the same book as other students around the world. Our Beechwood students conducted book discussions with peers from China, Hong Kong, Canada and Spain. They also connected with classes in six other states.

Ava Ortega said of the experience, “It was so fun because you can see other people’s thoughts and opinions on a book. You can read together with people who don’t live near you.” In addition to engaging in meaningful conversation about quality text, students learned appropriate blog etiquette and had virtual face-to-face conversations through Skype.



Commonwealth *Elementary*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • www.fullertonsd.org



Anita Lomeli
Principal

Our Tiger Techs

With an iPad in the hands of nearly every student at Commonwealth Elementary, a little bit of assistance with troubleshooting is often needed from time to time.

But our students and teachers need not worry! The Tiger Techs are ready to pounce on the problem. Several select sixth-grade students who have already demonstrated their exceptional skills in troubleshooting common iPad problems make up our stellar Tiger Tech Team. When teachers or students need additional assistance with apps, projects, or just stubborn glitches that won’t go away, appointments are made for a Tiger Tech to take a look at the problem and then troubleshoot.



Currently, Tiger Techs are also creating blogs to assist our iPad users with helpful tips for use with the most common school-wide apps. Not only are our students learning to become digitally literate citizens, they are also learning how to be problem solvers!

Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • www.fullertonsd.org



Julie Brandon
Principal

Creative Learning

Creativity, curiosity, collaborative, inquiry-based, hands-on and student centered are all words that can be used to describe our Reggio Emilia Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classroom. Fern Elementary School’s TK students are highly engaged and learn through observing, moving and listening. They are encouraged to express themselves and their learning in a multitude of visible ways. Our youngest Falcons are experiencing everything from science-themed units involving animals to engineering different structures that can protect the Three Little



Pigs from the Big Bad Wolf.

Another method used in TK classroom is the “provocation” that prompts students to explore and learn. “What happens to the balls and paint when you blow through a straw?” Students then try to find answers to the provocation with a hands-on activity. It is through these experiences that students become active participants in their own learning and create lifelong connections to the world around them.

Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • www.fullertonsd.org



Trang Lai
Principal

We're Up to Code!

Recently, interest in coding and programming has been on the rise at Robert C. Fisler School. For instance, this summer, two of our teachers, Becky Munson and Kim Bass, took OCDE's class on MinecraftEdu in order to bring it into their classrooms. With the support of Cynthia Rounds as advisor, we have put the Girls Who Code Club into place for our middle school girls. Our Fisler Foundation is also offering a variety of coding classes including Scratch and Python. We also have HTML coding and

robotics offered for our middle school students.

In December, Fisler School participated in the Hour of Code. From students to classroom teachers to parent volunteers, everyone had the opportunity to learn a new language: coding. Software engineer and Fisler parent Paul Kim joined his child's enthusiastic classroom as they engaged in coding, a skill for the future.



Golden Hill *Elementary*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • www.fullertonsd.org



Robert Johnson
Principal

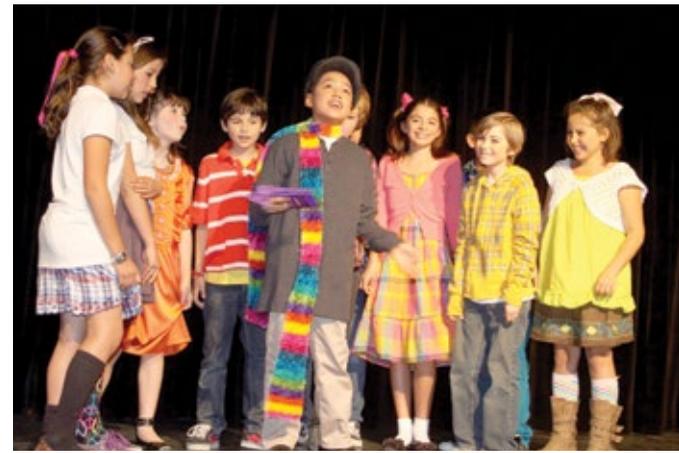
Theater Arts Thrive!

Golden Hill has a long-standing tradition of student theater arts productions, beginning in kindergarten! Our youngest students perform *The Wide-Mouthed Frog*, and first-graders do "First Grade Goes Seussical!" Third-graders share our history in "Fullerton Is Our Town," and fifth- and sixth graders create a children's production of a Broadway musical. Finally, sixth-graders perform a mini-Shakespearean play during the annual Renaissance Faire.

As a benefit, students have a chance to help produce a full-scale musical and perform in front of a large audience. Besides acting, students assist with various production elements, including lights, sound and stage management. The results are extremely worthwhile. Research indicates that "students who participate in drama often experience improved reading comprehension, maintain better attendance records, and stay generally more

engaged in school than their non-arts counterparts." (American Alliance for Theater Education)

We're proud of our theater programs and know that in participating, students develop memories that will last a lifetime!



Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • www.fullertonsd.org



Robin Gilligan
Principal

Kindergarten Project Chosen for Showcase

Kindergarten students create on the iPad Minis, using apps such as iMovie, Strip Design and 30 Hands to share about helpers in our community. Students participate in the Partners for Prevention service-learning project to learn about doctors, police and fire fighters, how they keep us safe and healthy, and in turn, how they can help others stay healthy and safe.

To culminate the learning, students create videos and slide shows to share at the school Health and Safety Fair. Video

projects are attached to ThingLink and QR Codes for students attending the fair to access using the iPad Minis. This year, the kindergarten team was chosen to share their project and movies at the Orange County Student Technology Showcase in January.



Ladera Vista *Junior High School*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • www.fullertonsd.org



Randa Schmalfeld
Principal

We Gotta Crow!

The talented students of Ladera Vista Productions will present the classic musical *Peter Pan* this February. The show features over 60 students singing, dancing, and even flying their way across the Ladera Vista stage!

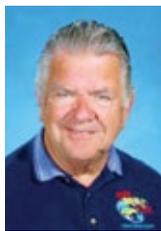
With the help of generous donations and grants, like the one pictured above from the Fullerton Education Foundation, the school is constructing professional sets, costuming in partnership with Fullerton High School, performing with live musicians and flying courtesy of a performer-flight-effects company. This timeless tale by J.M. Barrie features memorable music, great dancing and loads of fun with Peter, the Darling Children, the Lost Boys, Tiger Lily and her tribe, Captain Hook and his pirates, and of course, Tinkerbell!

Students make wonderful cross-curricular connections and gain an understanding of the technical aspects of putting on a musical theater production through this experience. The show opens on Feb 26. For more information, please call our office.



Laguna Road

300 Laguna Road, Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • www.fullertonsd.org



A Visit from Stray Wolf

For the past 14 years, Ronald Knighton, also known as Stray Wolf, has been visiting the kindergarten classes at Laguna

Road Elementary School. During the month of November, the kindergarten students learn all about Native Americans, but it is one thing to read about Native Americans and a completely different thing to actually see a Native American in the flesh.

During his annual visit, Stray Wolf shares items such as a dream catcher, a pouch made of rabbit fur, a walking stick made from a deer foot, moccasins made from elk hide, and rattles made from turtle shells. The highlight of the visit, however, is when Stray Wolf speaks to the students in his native Cherokee language and plays his wooden flute. The music that flows from his flute is magical and always brings a hush over the class.

What a privilege it is to have him visit our school each year!



Harold Sullivan
Principal

Maple *Elementary*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • www.fullertonsd.org



Golden Bell Awarded to Maple School

The California School Board Association recently honored Maple School with a CSBA Golden Bell Award at their annual conference in San Francisco. This award was in recognition of our exemplary Argumentation and Communication Leadership Academy (ACLA).

ACLA students in grades four to six regularly compete in tournaments throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties in the areas of impromptu and public forum/congress. They are coached by CSUF Professor Willie Washington and faculty advisor Theresa Ryan.



The Golden Bell Award reflects the depth and breadth of the educational programs and governing decisions that support our students' changing needs. It highlights those best practices in education which seek out and recognize sustainable, innovative, or exemplary programs developed and implemented by California teachers and administrators.

For more information on how to begin a speech and debate team at your school, please contact the National Forensic League at www.nflonline.org, or visit our Web site at <http://www.fullertonsd.org/maple/>.

Orangethorpe *Elementary*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • www.fullertonsd.org



A Dual Ceremony

Orangethorpe School was a diamond in the rough that was in much need of some curb appeal. In order to let the public see what a heartwarming school Orangethorpe truly is, the Fullerton School District and community members invested in polishing this piece of coal and transforming it into that diamond. Some of the changes include fencing, grass, benches, painting, and a breathtaking student-created mural. Another major change was a new flagpole and flags.

In order to inaugurate the new look, there was a dual ceremony on January 13. To properly dispose of the old flags, there was an official flag retirement ceremony alongside the ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new mural. Many dignitaries, district personnel and Board members attended the ceremony.



Nicolas *Junior High School*

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • www.fullertonsd.org



Roller Coasters for Hands-On Science

During our second quarter, Nicolas Junior High School students demonstrated their understanding of advanced science concepts by creating roller coasters in their eighth-grade classes. This project-based learning activity was facilitated by science teachers Rick Briggs and Melinda Candelaria, and math teacher Shannon Glasby.

The students learned about potential and kinetic energy, as well as acceleration and speed. During these lessons they also learned to calculate speed and acceleration using mathematical formulas. The students then applied their knowledge of these scientific concepts to create a roller coaster prototype for an amusement park.

They also had to market their roller coaster by creating a video with their iPads from the VIP iPad program, and then demonstrate their creations during a lunch-time showcase. During this event, our Nicolas students also had the opportunity see how these fantastic creations worked in real life. The roller coaster assignment was designed during CaSMP STEM grant meetings.

Please visit us at www.nicolasknights.com!



Pacific Drive

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • www.fullertonsd.org



Yolanda Castillo
Principal

The Hour of Code

Pacific Drive teachers are boosting their students' interest in computer science by participating in a global movement called "The Hour of Code." This event is giving our students an opportunity to learn computer science, as well as develop their problem-solving skills, logical thinking, and creativity.

By targeting students at an early age, we hope that they will develop a strong foundation for success in their 21st-century career paths. They are learning programming concepts like sequencing, repetition, and conditional logic, all of which support and complement the Common Core State Standards.

Today you will find our kindergarten through sixth-grade students using several coding applications on their iPads. These skills will eventually allow them to design programs so that they can actually create games rather than buy them.

We want to instill confidence in our students for the 21st century, and remind them that no one is born a computer scientist. But with math, science, and plain hard work, almost anyone can become one!



Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • www.fullertonsd.org



Yolanda McComb
Principal

Inquiry-Based Projects

We weren't hearing reindeer on the top of the library in December. Instead, it was Miss Nelson launching parachutes from the roof!

Designed by third- and fourth-grade teams, this engaging STEM challenge required our students to "purchase" recycled materials, devise blueprints, construct designs, test products, maintain a budget, and record results. This assignment also encouraged them to work collaboratively with classmates to discover the scientific principles that explain how to successfully manipulate the forces between gravity and air resistance.

In the process, our young engineers also learned how the constraints of time and money can affect their results, along with how to compromise with others



about initial plans, and how to problem-solve when obtaining unexpected outcomes. The students truly learned a lot, and will undoubtedly remember this day for a long, long time. Inquiry-based projects, just like this particular STEM activity, are happening all over the place at Raymond!

Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • www.fullertonsd.org



Sherry Dustin
Principal

Regional Finals

For the 2014-2015 school year, Parks Junior High School had two robotics teams that made their way to regional finals at LEGOLAND, California. Both robotics teams spent 6-8 hours per week programming, creating, and building. Additionally, both teams culminated their season with a wealth of knowledge about teamwork, public speaking and CORE values. Both robotics teams are grateful for the partnership opportunities that Sunny Hills High School offered, and are especially appreciative of the expertise that the students from Sunny Hills provided! While at the Legoland tournament, the Parks Junior High School eighth grade team won first place in teamwork!



Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • www.fullertonsd.org



Estella Grimm
Principal

Primary STEAM Lab

Visitors from across the county came to celebrate the opening of Richman School's Reggio-inspired primary Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) lab last fall.

Aligned with Richman's STEAM initiative, the lab focuses on students in kindergarten through second grade. Studies show that 80 percent of all careers in the coming decade will require a background in STEM. Therefore, we need students to develop experiences and interests in these areas while they are young.

The goal of the program is to provide a variety of hands-on activities in the STEAM disciplines while providing an environment to explore and discover by using the four Cs: creativity, collaboration, communication,



and critical thinking. The activities are presented as "provocations," which is the inquiry-based strategy emphasized by the Reggio Emilia philosophy. Students build content for their learning through interactions with their environment and each other.

To schedule a tour, please contact Estella Grimm at (714) 447-7745.

Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • www.fullertonsd.org



Paska Juncaj-Yehya
Principal

The Unification of Theater Experience

Theater unifies groups, expresses important knowledge, reinforces group values, strengthens the individual, and defines and commemorates events. It provides a powerful multisensory mirror reflecting social issues, challenges, and accomplishments.

—California Department of Education

As a Visual and Performing Arts School, Rolling Hills prides itself on the numerous musical theater performances that are produced each academic year. Rolling Hills Roadrunners take pride in their performances in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Students have opportunities throughout their educational years to experience academics infused with music, visual arts and storytelling.



Students in MP3 K-3 multiage class performing in Scrooge.

Among the outstanding high-quality programs at Rolling Hills, a special legacy exists for our performing arts component. Teachers, parents and community members work together tirelessly to create these unique musical theater experiences for our Roadrunners. It is with great pride that we showcase the talents of our creative students!

Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Lane, Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • www.fullertonsd.org



Paula Pitluk
Principal

A Random Acts of Kindness School

In a continuing effort to encourage positive behavior, Sunset Lane students and staff kicked off 2015 with a Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) assembly! Greeted by teachers, the principal, and high-energy music, students in grades Transitional Kinder through 6th watched a video demonstrating acts of kindness by adults and children and shared instances of kindness they had observed or done. Sunset Lane is committed to being grateful for our good fortune and for paying that good fortune forward. In the works is our Random Acts of Kindness Wall. Stop by and see our kindness grow.



Valencia Park *Elementary*

3341 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • www.fullertonsd.org



Helene Morris
Principal

Fueling Professional Development

Professional development is a top priority at Valencia Park. It is for this reason that we are excited about the strategies our teachers are learning during their first year of participating in the Cotsen Foundation's Art of Teaching program.

Through this opportunity, teacher Kyle Myers was selected to be released from the classroom for two years to serve as a mentor to the following six "fellow" teachers: Caroline Boehm, Jenny Mortensen, Lupe Escobar, Paul Ramirez, Cindy Rowe, and Tracy Ramont. These already strong teachers are receiving in-depth

professional development in math and language arts. What is most exciting though is that they are also sharing their learning with the rest of the staff.

In January we rang in the New Year with a professional development day. Our Cotsen teachers led staff in training about Cognitively Guided Instruction math (CGI), reader's workshop, and balanced literacy. One thing we learned for sure is that being a teacher also means being a life-long learner!



Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • www.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Hilda Flores
Principal

Out of This World Opportunity

Fifth-grade students and teachers at Woodcrest School secured a coveted opportunity to attend STARBASE Academy at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. During five weekly sessions, students learned from experts in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as they were called upon to solve complex, real-world problems.

Collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking were key as student teams worked together to digitally design and build crash-resistant rockets with the potential to keep a raw egg pilot safe. Students celebrated their efforts with a culminating event, which sent their rockets hurtling into a solid wall to test the safety of their designs. Not all eggs survived, but the learning students gained will have a lasting impact on the development of essential skills for today's STEM careers.

We look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come.



School Nurse Corner

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • www.fullertonsd.org

Working in Partnership

The Fullerton School District and the School Nurses work in partnership to promote student health. As the health services expert, the School Nurse serves as the health professional for the school community.

The District employs
3 full-time nurses and
1 part-time nurse.

Jane Bockhacker, Susan Cravello,
Nancy Rader, and Joan Abuhamad.

Some of the services provided include:

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- Health assessments and participation in development of Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for students with special needs
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- Vision and hearing screening; chronic disease management and education (eg. Diabetes, Asthma)
- Medication administration
- Monitoring of immunizations
- Management of communicable diseases
- Crisis team participation
- Making recommendations for health curricula and guidelines for school district health policies
- Serving as a health care provider liaison between the school and community

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Business Services

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Susan Cross Hume, CPA, CIA, CGMA
Assistant Superintendent

Increased State Funding Benefits FSD Students

Thanks to significant increases in State funding, the Fullerton School District has been able to implement new programs and services that are improving the educational experience for our students.

FSD receives 87% of its revenues from the State of California. Due to the improvement in the State's finances, the District has also enjoyed an increase in revenues for both the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, with further improvement expected in the future. (State finances have improved due to a better economy, as well as increased tax revenues resulting from the passage of Proposition 30).

Through the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) process, the Board of Trustees solicits feedback and gathers input from our stakeholders regarding District goals and how to achieve them. Last year's

LCAP provided important information to the Board and District staff in preparing the 2014-15 budget, which includes significant new investment into programs and site budgets. Major increases have been added for Common Core implementation, site-based programs and expenses, and various program enhancements.

For detailed information regarding the District's finances, please see the District website or call the Business Services Department.

Budget Additions – 2014-15

Common Core Implementation

- Technology, professional development, instructional materials, staffing

Site-based Additions

- RTI, health clerks, library/media tech support, playground supervision

Program Enhancements

- Transitional kindergarten, music/arts, Ladera Vista arts program, NJHS STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Math)

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us

What is LCAP?



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

As part of California's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required to develop, adopt, and annually update a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP system provides an opportunity to engage a broad group of stakeholders in determining how to invest financial resources to achieve positive outcomes for students. Involving parents, students, teachers, and community members in the planning process is a step in the right direction toward local control, flexibility, and accountability.

LCAPs are designed to:

- Describe measurable, multi-year goals for student outcomes.
- Demonstrate how the district's budget will help achieve those goals.
- Assess how well the plan's strategies improve outcomes each year to encourage continuous improvement.
- Address specific needs of students from low-income families, English learners, and foster youth.

State Priorities

California has identified eight priorities for improving student outcomes that must be addressed by school districts in their LCAPs.

1. Basic Services – provide students access to fully credentialed teachers, instructional materials that align with state standards, and facilities maintained in good repair.
2. Implement Academic Standards – implement California's academic standards, including the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics, Next Generation Science

Standards, English language development, history social-science, visual and performing arts, health education, and physical education.

3. Parent Involvement – seek parent input in decision-making and promote parent participation in the educational programs of all students.
4. Pupil Achievement – improve student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures including test scores, English proficiency, and college and career preparedness.
5. Pupil Engagement – measured by school attendance, chronic absenteeism, dropout, and high school graduation rates.
6. School Climate – measured by student suspension and expulsion rates, and other means, such as surveys of pupils, parents, and teachers on the sense of school safety and connectedness.
7. Access and Enrollment to Courses in a Broad Course of Study – student enrollment in a broad course of study in all of the subject areas, including those classes that provide Advanced Placement study.
8. Other Pupil Outcomes – measuring other important student outcomes related to required areas of study, including physical education and the arts.

What is the Status of LCAPs in Orange County?

All 27 districts in Orange County, including the OCDE ACCESS program, have developed their LCAPs and were approved by the Orange County Superintendent of Schools in August. These LCAPS are posted on our website for public review. I am pleased to report that after a collaborative process to ensure that the needs of all students are addressed in a fiscally responsible manner, all districts have moved ahead with full implementation of their plans. Looking forward, Districts will provide annual updates for stakeholders and local boards regarding progress toward their LCAP goals.

I encourage you to get involved with your local school to share your thoughts about how to best meet the diverse needs of our students. Your valuable insight will help ensure that Orange County students lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.

For more information, and to view district LCAPs, visit <http://ocde.us/lcap>.



Note-ables

Build It Back Again



Kate Karp



I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks. *Build It Back Again* by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.

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

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Whole Health Everyday Word Search Contest

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

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

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**Congratulations to Isabella Nonles
 Winner of the October Word Search Contest!**



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Remember When?

Technology... Things of the Past



Charlene Ashendorf

"I've got gadgets and gizmos a-plenty. I've got whozits and whatzits galore. You want thingamabobs? I've got twenty! But who cares? No big deal, I want more". If you are not familiar with these lyrics, you might just have to ask a little girl! Most likely she is familiar with Ariel and "The Little Mermaid."

Doesn't it seem that young people are bombarded by "must have" stuff? I remember a simpler time. I can remember the words as if I uttered them yesterday: "Mom, It's lovely and it lights up and every one of my friends has one." Yes, I had to have one too... that turquoise princess phone. Of course, today, many nine year olds have a cell phone; and landlines, well, kids may not be familiar with that word.

When the Brownie Bullet camera (in the yellow box) was introduced, I had to have one! Photos, film and processing (all terms dropped from our vocabulary) cost me my weekly allowance time and again. But just anticipating the results of my photo shoot was exciting!

At the age of nine I had already written my first short story. The operative word here is "written" as in pen and paper written. The tale of a young girl and her elephant growing up on Mount Kilimanjaro when a chasm in the earth separates the two was one I couldn't write fast enough. I begged my parents to buy me a typewriter. That dream became a reality in 1961 with the release of the IBM Selectric. What a fabulous invention, it was. No longer would the typewriter use the typebar that moved up with great force to strike a ribbon. This mother of all inventions used a typeball that actually pivoted. And what's more, it could be removed and changed which introduced a multitude of fonts! The Selectric changed my life. More coveted than the television, the Selectric was every writer's dream. Now granted it was not a computer with spell check, but ultimately a self-correcting feature became life changing to this young writer. Enrolling in a typing class in middle school added confidence, speed and accuracy to my budding interest in writing.

The history of technology includes many wonders, we never dreamed of: the computer, a PC, the MAC, a tablet, a chrome book, kindle, and the iPad. However, looking back, nothing can compare to the imagination one was forced to unlock with the IBM Selctric. Yes, Growing up with "technology" means many different things for many of us. Most of them, like us... obsolete.

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/emash>



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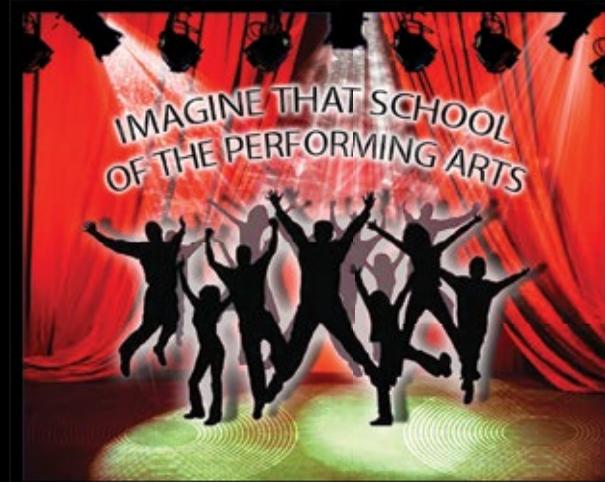
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