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School News



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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2011

SUPERINTENDENT

We are Preparing for Next Year!

Welcome back! I hope your break was restful and that you were able to spend some quality time with your children. I wish you a very peaceful and productive second half of the 2010-2011 school year. Together, we have accomplished a great deal since September. I am, in fact, very proud of the work employees across the District have undertaken to ensure the success of all students. We also appreciate the support of our PTA groups, parents and communities. Together, we make a great difference for our students.

As you know, the changing of the calendar has brought a new Governor to Sacramento who, in his inaugural address, spoke of a coming year that will "demand courage and sacrifice." NLMUSD is filled with courageous teachers, administrators, and staff.



Dr. Ruth Pérez

¡Nos Estamos Preparando Para el Año Entrante!

¡Bienvenido! Espero haya descansado en sus vacaciones y que haya tenido la oportunidad de compartir tiempo de calidad con sus hijos. Les deseo una segunda mitad del año escolar 2010-2011 muy tranquila y productiva. Juntos, hemos logrado muchísimo desde septiembre. Estoy, en efecto, muy orgullosa del trabajo al que se han comprometido los empleados a través del distrito, para asegurar el éxito de todos los estudiantes. También apreciamos el apoyo de nuestros grupos de PTA, padres y comunidades. Juntos, hacemos una gran diferencia para nuestros estudiantes.

Como usted sabe, el cambio de calendario a traído un nuevo Gobernador a Sacramento, quien en su discurso de inauguración, hablo sobre un año entrante el cual va a "requerir valor y sacrificio." NLMUSD está lleno de maestros,

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Nourishing Minds and Souls



Chavez 5th graders have been learning how to play piano as well as drums. Sixth grade students are playing the guitar and all students can read music by the time they move on to middle school!

By Robert Rayburn, Principal Chavez Elementary School

This winter we are thrilled to report that our sixth graders are getting ready to attend outdoor science school! This program takes place in Crestline, right near Lake Arrowhead. Our students will get the opportunity to learn the California Science Standards, in the beautiful San Bernardino National Forest.

We are also extremely proud of our arts programs at Chavez. We believe that all children must have the opportunity to nourish their souls as well as their minds so the arts is a critical part of their complete education. We have a traveling visual arts teacher who integrates the California Visual Arts Standards with the academic standards for each grade level.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Looking Forward with Optimism

It is with great pride that I have served on the Board of Education for the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for the last six years. As our district continues to face budget challenges, our focus remains on what is best for all the children in Norwalk and La Mirada. High student achievement is your Board of Education's top priority. Research concludes that education in the arts has been associated with improved academic and personal success, thus increased opportunities in visual and performing arts will be made available to our students.

Parents also play a vital role in student achievement. Your continued involvement in your child's education will truly make a difference in their lives.

Our district firmly believes all students can achieve. It is with the passion and dedication of our teachers, principals, assistant principals, deans, classified employees and administrators that our students will be successful citizens.

I look forward to our future with optimism, as we move our students into the 21st Century.



Karen Morrison
Member



Board of Education Members: Karen Morrison, Pauline Deal (Vice-President), Ed Hengler, Ana Valencia, Lorraine Neal (President), Margarita Rios, and Darryl Adams.

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



It is easy to get excited about education when you read the articles in this issue. If it has been awhile since you have been in the classroom, you must be amazed at the subjects offered from arts to technology. However, no matter how much advancement there is in the classroom, one constant that does not change is the need for parent and community involvement. Thank you for caring about educating our youth.

This is our third issue covering the NLMUSD. We publish three times per year with the next issue May 18.

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**Covering the
NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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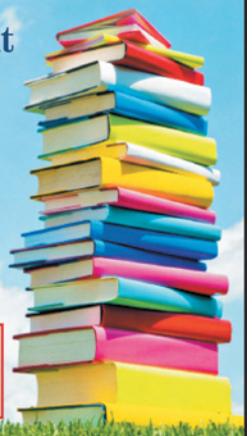
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Head Start *Pre-School*

Experiences for Fun and Learning



Laurel Parker
Director

Students in our programs have all kinds of experiences to have fun and to learn! All programs provide meal service during the day.

Besides learning through play daily, other fun experiences include study trips.

Annually, parents from our Policy Committee get together to rehearse and then perform "The Cat in the Hat" as a play for all the preschoolers. In addition, staff members from our Visual and Performing Arts Team perform one or two plays a year for the children. Soon, they will be starring in "The Messy Square," which is a play about table manners. Come visit and see for yourself!



Children dressed for Pajama Day and enjoying an afternoon snack as well.

Adult School

Determined Success



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

At the age of 17, Lucia Ayala left her home state of Michoacan, Mexico with a second grade education and dreams of a better life in the United States. She was able to attend one year of high school before returning to working long hours

year after year. Determined to have a more fulfilling work life and be able to help her children succeed in school, Lucia enrolled in an ESL Level 1 class in the summer of 2005. On January 4, 2011, she completed the requirements for her diploma and became an official graduate of Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School. Lucia is now planning to work on a medical assistant career.

Our hats are off to Lucia for her determined persistence of success and the family who supported her along the way. Although it took years to accomplish, they know that diploma is an investment in their lives.



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SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

We continue to work hard to prepare our students for a demanding future world of global economic competition.

In fact, next year, the District will be offering Magnet Programs at several middle schools in Norwalk and La Mirada. Much work is underway as principals, teachers, and staff members develop specialized curriculum for these programs. Several partners are working with them to provide interested students with enriching curriculum and a specialized focus that aligns with our High School Multiple Pathways. Among those partners whom we greatly appreciate are the National Science Foundation, University of Southern California, Project Lead the Way, Cal Poly Pomona, and Biola University.

Corvallis MS will be opening as an Arts and Technology Magnet, Hutchinson MS and Los Alisos MS will become Math, Science and Technology Magnet Schools.

Benton MS's Academy of the Visual and Performing Arts will also become a Magnet School.

Another middle school is also working on a specialized area, but is not yet ready to announce their plans.

Currently, our High Schools continue to expand Multiple Pathways for students.

John Glenn HS – Film and Television; Norwalk HS – Fashion Design, La Mirada HS- Business. All of these are offered in addition to the High School Academies currently in place.

We look forward to 2011 with anticipation and excitement at the opportunities and potential this will bring to our students.

Though times ahead will be difficult as our new Governor deals with a \$25 billion deficit, we, at NLMUSD will continue to work hard for our well deserving students.



Dr. Ruth Pérez

administradores, y personal valientes. Continuamos trabajando arduo para preparar a nuestros estudiantes para un mundo futuro demandante de una economía global competitiva.

De hecho, el año que viene, el Distrito estará ofreciendo Programas "Magnet" en muchas

de las escuelas intermedias de Norwalk y La Mirada. Mucho trabajo está en marcha en lo que directores, maestros, y miembros del personal desarrollan un plan de estudio especializado para estos programas. Muchos socios están trabajando con ellos para proveer a los estudiantes interesados con un plan de estudio enriquecedor y un enfoque especializado que se alinea con los Caminos Múltiples de nuestra Preparatoria. Dentro de esos socios, a los cuales agradecemos mucho, están la Fundación Nacional de Ciencias, La Universidad del Sur de California, El Proyecto "Lead the Way", "Cal Poly Pomona," y la Universidad de Biola.

La Corvallis Intermedia se abrirá como una escuela "Magnet" de Tecnología y Artes, Hutchinson Intermedia y Los Alisos Intermedia se convertirán en Escuelas "Magnet" de Matemáticas, Ciencias, y Tecnología.

La Academia de Artes Visuales y de Dramática Benton Intermedia también se convertirá en una escuela "Magnet".

Otra escuela intermedia también está trabajando en un área de especialidad, pero todavía no está lista para anunciar sus planes.

Actualmente, nuestras Escuelas de Preparatoria continúan expandiendo Caminos Múltiples para los estudiantes.

La Preparatoria John Glenn – Cine y Televisión; La Preparatoria Norwalk – Diseño y Moda, La Preparatoria La Mirada – Negocios. Todo esto se ofrece en adición a las Academias de Preparatoria actualmente establecidas.

Esperamos el 2011 con anticipación y emoción por las oportunidades y potencial que esto aportará a nuestros estudiantes.

Si bien los tiempos por delante serán difíciles, ya que nuestro nuevo Gobernador trabaja con un déficit de \$25 billones, nosotros, en el NLMUSD continuaremos trabajando arduamente para nuestros muy merecidos estudiantes.

Norwalk Unified School District
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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Academy*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553



Michelle Green
Principal

A Laboratory for Learning

At Benton Middle School, we are committed to the academic achievement and personal development of each and every student on our campus. We offer electives that challenge and inspire our students to excel both academically and creatively.

Our students can choose from a plethora of electives including: Guitar, Band, Orchestra, Choir, World Percussion, Art, Photography, Drama, Creative Writing, Media Arts, Computers, Technology, Yearbook, and AVID. These classes are led by teachers who are not only certified in their subjects, but have professional hands-on experience in their fields. These dynamic individuals go the extra mile to promote active learning because it is our belief that engaged teachers inspire engaged students.

So whether we are producing a musical or concert, competing on an athletic field, or contending at Mock Trial, Benton is a laboratory for learning, a place in which we are painting a portrait of promise, one student at a time!



Corvallis *Middle School*

11032 E. Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678



Bob Easton
Principal

Arts & Technology in Full Production

Corvallis is in full production toward becoming an Arts and Technology Magnet, which begins next school year. This magnet will serve students who are interested in developing the technology skills and experience in the arts that will prepare them for high school, college, and careers.

Please visit the school website (www.corvallisms.org) or school office for more information.

All students enrolled at Corvallis Middle School of Arts & Technology will be able to engage in a wide range of visual and performing arts, including ceramics, dance, music, art, and computer applications. Students with a deeper interest in the Arts can take advanced courses in digital photography and film-making, theater, and advanced music and arts classes.



A student imagines the possibilities as he creates a work of art!

Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934



Bart MacNeil
Principal

Learning to Read is Good, and Wanting to Read is Better

At Dolland Elementary, our goal is to help students to learn how to read easily, and to find reading enjoyable. Besides teaching reading each day, we have three ways for our students to have positive experiences with reading. First we earned a grant from Reading is Fundamental in Washington, D.C. so we can give each child a free book three times every year. Students get excited about finding a special book from the hundreds we lay out in the library. The fifth graders pictured here have saved their books going all the way back to kindergarten! Secondly, our students set reading goals each month. They find the kind of books they like to read, and they get a prize for making their goal. Third, we hold Alondra Library Nights five times yearly. Besides reading stories, and raffling off books, our students get library cards, and the opportunity to learn for a lifetime.



Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734



Susan Shanks
Principal

Learning to Love Learning

Our first graders are well-versed in the elements of Balanced Literacy. They may not know “Balanced Literacy” by name, but through the process, they are active, engaged learners. The role of the teacher is to be supportive and teach students to think, talk, and make connections. Our students use accountable talk and academic language as they turn and talk with their partners. This is taught at an early age and becomes routine as students advance through the grades.

Our teachers place students in close proximity to them and by sharing the text, it engages students in their learning. Students frequently make connections to real life, other characters or stories, and even other subject areas. It is truly exciting to see students taking charge of their own learning. Listening in to students’ conversations, Ms. Rouse can be very proud of the meaning making her students are achieving.



Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Learning with Our Hearts and Minds

Community service projects are an essential part of the Eastwood School mission and have a special place in the hearts of our school community. Eastwood School has a long tradition of supporting the troops with cards, letters, and favorite items. During October, we collected a 33 gallon container of candy for the troops and have calendared monthly donation projects that serve and support others. This year our theme is “Dress for the Cause.” On the first Friday of each month students, parents and staff members dress in a way that brings attention to our cause and bring items to be donated. For example in November for Crazy Socks Day we donated new pairs of socks to Children’s Hospital. Pajama Day in December will be bedtime story books followed by Wacky Hair Day and travel size care products.



Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Parents are Important to Our Success

Here is a glimpse into the support, programs and ways we make a strong home-to-school connection:

Parent Ed Workshops- every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m in Rm. 73 starting on January 25th (in partnership with Planned Parenthood)

Parent Literacy Nights- once a month beginning January 25th at 6 p.m. in our MPR

Parent Educator/School Counselor- Mrs. Sierra is at our school every Friday. She offers workshops, counseling and is able to connect community resources and referrals as needed.

Home Community Liaison- Mrs. Ovalles is available from 7:45-11:45 a.m. in the front office. She connects parents with resources such as health care (i.e. Health on Wheels).

Technology Classes Now Forming!- Marcella Alvarez, our Computer Media Tech, will be teaching parents how to integrate technology in the home starting the last week of February (inquire within).

PTA—We are proud to announce that we have a new President and board; Mrs. Mariana Martinez is our new lead and she has kicked the year off with a bang by getting local businesses to donate a plethora of supplies and incentives for our students.

A strong home-to-school connection supports our entire team to do their very best—parent, teacher and student.

El Camino *High School*

14625 Keese Dr., Whittier, CA 90604 • 562/944-0033



Darryl Brown
Principal

The Gift of Giving Back

The goal of developing productive citizens is at the heart of all educational programs. Productive students go on to become productive members of their communities, state, and country.

The Positive Alternatives Outreach program at El Camino High School is a student-based program, which provides community service and volunteering. Under the direction of Oscar Diaz, The Positive Alternatives Outreach program exposes students to the gift of giving back to their communities.

This service-based club has supported bingo nights for our senior citizens, preparation of Thanksgiving food baskets, as well as partnering with the Marine’s annual Toys for Tots Holiday gift giving program. The students involved with the Positive Alternatives Outreach program have remarked how much they enjoy their community experiences. These students are always eager to answer the call of volunteerism.

It is amazing to see the El Camino students engaged in their community. Moreover, the spirit of community and giving now permeates our campus and has become a part of our school culture. The Positive Alternatives Outreach program has created a solid bridge between El Camino and the communities from which our students come.

Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970



Bonita Lytle
Principal

READ to Succeed!

Escalona students READ to succeed! Our at home reading program, Reading Eagles Are Dynamite, also known as READ, motivates students to read by rewarding their at home reading with recognition, praise and the best prize ever, a new book!

Escalona eagles recognize that reading at home is an essential component of our reading program and is a way that students get extended practice and engagement in text that they can read and want to read. Research findings also support the need to read at home; students in 2nd through 5th grade who ranked in the 98th percentile in reading achievement read an average of 9,091,000 words per year compared to students who ranked in the 2nd percentile that read an average of 8,000 words per year! (Reading Research Quarterly)



Students are encouraged to read daily, including weekends and holidays and track their reading time in their READ log. After logging 35 days, students are invited to choose a free book from a variety provided by Escalona's PTA. Our hope is that daily reading becomes a life-long habit.

Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Learning Goals—Academic Achievement

Happy New Year! Foster Road students are back in session and setting their goals high for increased student achievement. Every student in Kindergarten through fifth grade made their individual learning goals for the next trimester of school.

Goal setting is a very important part of our students' learning, and it keeps them focused on what skills they need to work on to master their standards. It gives them the champion mind-set that brains can change and by putting in the effort and learning strategies to help them meet their goals build successes. Students learn in different ways and at different rates. The goals set are individualized for the student. As a school, we focus on a positive balanced learning environment with high-interest content and creating caring relationships that build students' resilience, self-esteem, and character. Yes, academic achievement is our direction with a purpose of enriching the minds and lives of all our students. We want our students to find passion, excitement, and pleasure in learning. Support of the whole child, hard data, accountability, relationship building, and enrichment mind-set, are the set of factors we follow at Foster Road.

Before we left for winter break, we were very grateful to Calvary Chapel of La Mirada for giving each student a school zipper sweatshirt. We are all nice and warm, and it looks great to see all the students wearing their school sweatshirts. What a wonderful community we live in, one who cares about our students. Foster Road School says, "Thank You."

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Fine Arts Academy

One special feature about Gardenhill is our afterschool Fine Art's Academy. This year we are partnering with the Southern California

Academy of Music to offer our students a variety of classes after school. Three different 8-week sessions are offered throughout the school year from October through December, January through March, and March through June. Parents pay a minimal fee to have their students participate. The classes offered this year are choir, piano, keyboarding, guitar, hip-hop dance, acting and art/art history.

Our students are so talented, and it is great to see them blossoming in the area of fine arts.



Actress Alyssa Zolman and Gardenhill actors in "Santa and the Star Search."

Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796



Kristine Cvar
Principal

Interventions to Assist Achievement

Glazier has been implementing various interventions to assist with increasing student achievement. Our Gladiators are participating in an intervention block called Response to Intervention (RtI) which is geared to target areas of need in reading. During this time, students receive explicit, small group instruction in the building blocks of reading. On-going progress monitoring is occurring daily and the flexible grouping allows for change of placement every ten weeks of formative assessment, instruction, and summative assessment.

Students in 5th grade are participating in math intervention through an on-line program called iPass. This program will also be offered to our 4th grade students. Our students have been showing significant growth with this math intervention in place.

In our afterschool Gladiator Academy, students are receiving intervention through the Cycles of Inquiry (COI). Pre and post data are analyzed to create the most effective targeted instruction for our students.

Go Gladiators!



Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431



Dr. Ligia Hallstrom
Principal

Embedded Support

Andrew Carnegie stated, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

At John Glenn High School, we are working together to support our students to achieve best results. Beginning in January, we have implemented a systematic Embedded Support after each period. The aim is that students will experience significant improvement in decreasing Ds and Fs, increase of students on track to graduate, and an increase of students meeting A-G requirements with the opportunity to go on to a four-year college. It is my leadership commitment to ensure that every student at John Glenn High School experiences success as well as know that we care and want them to have unlimited career opportunities.

We are optimistic about our results with Embedded Support on behalf of student achievement.

Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

Empowering to Succeed

At Johnston, we strive to provide all students the opportunity to participate in an environment that promotes behavioral, cognitive, physical, and emotional development. Our intervention program, ExCEL, which stands for Excellence: A Commitment to Every Learner, focuses on both academic and behavior strategies. Teachers, Coaches, and Instructional Aides work collaboratively on a regular basis to provide the best intervention and enrichment for every student every day.

In addition to academic rigor, we believe in providing our students with opportunities in the Arts. A highlight this year in our upper grade classrooms is our Piano Classes. It is exciting to see how engaged all our 4th and 5th grade students are when they enter Room 55 each week for their Piano Class.

At Johnston, our vision is to create a learning community that is empowered to succeed!



Hutchinson *Middle School*

13900 Estero Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268



Sara Siemens
Principal

Math, Science Technology Magnet Program opens Fall of 2011

Our Magnet Program is offered to students who have a strong interest in Math, Science and Technology and are seeking opportunities to explore their interests in a setting that promotes high academic standards. Students with an interest in Math will work at an accelerated rate taking Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2 while attending middle school. Science will be partnered with technology as students explore Environmental Science, Life Science, Pre-Aeronautics, Robotics, Chemistry and Electronics. Enrichment courses such as Photoshop, Video Production, and Digital Music Production will provide a platform for students' to integrate technology and creative self-expression. Opportunities for academic competitions, field trips, guest speakers and multi-media presentations will enhance coursework and academic learning.

Please visit our website www.hutchinsonhawks.org or contact our school office at 562-944-3268.



Eighth grade students use iPads and computers to research Newton's Laws of Motion.

La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431



Bill Seals
Principal

All-Around Success

At La Mirada High School, we strive to actively engage our students in meaningful learning while emphasizing the goal of optimum performance.

As our first semester comes to a close, the La Mirada High School family is celebrating many accomplishments. Last week, we had an incredibly successful Community Open House. Current, future and prospective Matadores joined together to observe a showcase of our successful programs. Our Matador Scholarship Academy (MSA) invited our present and incoming families to apply to our honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. LMHS offers 22 AP Courses to prepare our students for the best universities. In the last three years, LM students have gone on to Harvard, Yale, NYU, Brown, USC, UCLA, West Point and many other private and public higher-learning institutions. The 2010 graduation class earned \$4 million in scholarships and grants!

La Mirada High School fosters student growth in a nurturing and spirit-filled climate. Our athletic department is working together to demonstrate victories in our current basketball, wrestling and soccer seasons. In the Fall Show Tournament and Competition, our band took sweepstakes in every category. We had band students invited to march with the Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Parade Honor band, the All-Southern California Honors Band and the All-State honors Band. This year keeps getting better!

Go Matadores!

La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104



Terry Pace
Principal

Think, Create, and Collaborate!

What do you get when you have committed volunteers, dedicated teachers, and students that love to sing, dance, and act? You get a packed auditorium marveling in a Winter Wonderland performance!

December 14th found the La Pluma community gathered at Excelsior Auditorium to be entertained by over 400 La Pluma students in grades K-5. The evening highlighted our Visual and Performing Arts emphasis. Our K-2nd grade students entertained the audience with song and dance. We were mesmerized by a theatrical performance of the “The Nutcracker in a Nutshell” by our 2/3 combination class. Our 5th grade recorder band (directed by Ms. Cho) and our 3-5 Singing Panther Choir (headed by Mrs. Wheatley) capped off the evening with their musical and vocal talents.

Our students at La Pluma not only have rigorous and engaging academic experiences, but they also have the opportunity to experience the arts through music, song, dance, theatre, visual art, and photography. We are building better minds to think, create, and collaborate!



Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Meet the Masters

Did you know that one of the most prolific and publicized artists of the 20th Century started drawing and painting at the age of seven? Do you know which artist had a “blue period” after losing a close friend, and a “rose period” after falling in love? These are things that Lampton students recently learned about Pablo Picasso. Our students also learned how to view and interpret some of Picasso’s unusual “cubist” paintings, by looking for both a portrait view and a profile view in their subjects.

At Lampton, we believe that being educated includes learning about art and culture. Each year, our students learn about artists like Picasso, Rembrandt, and Van Gogh in our “Meet the Masters” program. They attend art history assemblies where they see examples of the artwork and inspirations of famous artists and learn about their styles. Our teachers have also been trained to guide students to produce art in the style of these artists. Come “Meet the Masters” with us at Lampton!



Los Alisos *Middle School*

14800 S.Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865



Developing Math, Science & Technology Magnet

A team of expert Los Alisos teachers are working on developing the Math, Science & Technology Magnet! The Magnet program will offer a rigorous standards based instructional program that emphasizes Math, Science and Technology. The program is designed to target students who have expressed an interest in Math, Science and Technology by integrating these subject areas throughout the curriculum. This creates a high interest program for students that will insure their academic success in all areas. We invite you to explore our website and learn more about our school, and this exciting magnet program www.losalisosmiddle.org. Los Alisos is a GREAT place to learn!



Los Coyotes *Middle School*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368



Dr. Sylvia Begtrup
Principal

Providing Enrichment Opportunities

Productions are in the works at LCMS. Our drama class completed their first production in which they developed and performed shadow puppet theatre pieces. The photo showcases students performing their rendition of Repunzal. This course is an introduction to a variety of theatre skills, including voice and movement activities meant to improve vocal strength, inflection, enunciation, and stage presence. During January, students will study professionally written scenes. The students will interpret, practice, block, memorize and perform for other classes at the end of the trimester.

We offer a plethora of other learning opportunities before, during and after school for our students. Courses include: band, chorus, drums, photography,



AVID, Spanish, ASB/yearbook, keyboarding, iPASS, and medieval art. We also offer dance, art, guitar, drama and video production, sports, medieval arts and sciences as after school enrichment activities. We invite you to examine our website to learn more about our school at www.loscoyotesms.org.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071



Maureen Bixby
Principal

Mustang Pride!

We are happy to announce that all Moffitt students are taking full advantage of our state of the art media center. Students from Kindergarten through sixth grade have access to our new Mac lab before, during and after school. The Moffitt media center offers a variety of engaging educational software and interventions that enhance our core curriculum. A few of the interventions provided through our media center include: Study Island, iPass, Reading A-Z, Education City as well as many other internet based applications. The Moffitt students are quickly growing into technological learners and they are proud to call themselves Mustangs!



Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Every Student a Reader... Every Parent a Partner

Research shows that there is a direct correlation between student success and parent involvement. At Morrison, it is an expressed goal to involve ALL our parents in the education of our students.

It is our mission as a school to not only educate our children, but also support our parents in providing them with tools to support their learning at home and increase their effectiveness as parents. To this end we have developed partnerships with outside organizations to offer parent education classes. We work with Cerritos College, Planned Parenthood and Grupo Crecer. A sampling of some of the classes offered are; The Role of the Family in Achieving Academic Success, Self-Esteem: The Key to Academic Success, Communication Skills, and ESL Classes. We have up to 140 parents on our campus on any given week but we are always looking for more to join us.

We would like to extend an invitation to any parents in our learning community to be a part of our success at Morrison by partnering with us as participants in our classes.



New River *Elementary School*

13432 S Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848



Michelle Centeno
Principal

iPass

At New River Elementary we are excited about the implementation of our new 5th grade math intervention program called iPass. Participating students are taken to our computer lab daily to work on the iPass program. iPass gives a comprehensive pre-assessment that determines which mathematical concepts a child has mastered and which "gaps" they have in their learning. The program then takes each student through a series of individualized lessons designed to re-teach the concepts the student needs to help with. This allows the child to fill in the gaps. On-going formative assessments monitors each child's progress and moves them on to the next concept when they are ready.

Our iPass students are also provided with small group instruction to ensure that they are being taught the content covered in our district's 5th grade math curriculum maps that are aligned to state standards. Our iPass instructor reviews student progress and modifies instruction as needed.

Students enrolled in our iPass program can use the program anywhere they have internet access (at home or in their classroom) to continue developing their math skills at their own pace. The program provides lessons teaching math concepts from early levels through Pre-Algebra. Learning rates vary depending on each child, however, data shows that students can grow up to one year for every two months they are in the program!

Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431



Dina Wilson
Principal

Norwalk High Debuts New Dance Program

On January 13th, our new dance program produced the first dance recital at Norwalk High in recent history! The performance was the first collaboration between the students and our new Dance & Drama Director, Mrs. Yolanda Rubio-Soto. The recital, entitled "Global Arts Dance" featured six dances that were choreographed and performed by the students. The dances represented different cultures and different historical periods, from modern pop to Polynesian dance.

The addition of a dance program this year is a wonderful compliment to our already outstanding Visual & Performing Arts department. In only a few short months, this program has engaged so many of students in a healthy and positive activity. The dance program "has given the opportunity to enhance self-esteem for us all." Wendy Sanchez, NHS Senior.

Norwalk High School was glad to have found a teacher with the experience and training needed to teach both dance and drama to our students. Mrs. Rubio-Soto has herself performed on Broadway and in many television productions and commercials. She brings real world experiences to the classroom and works hard to help students pursue their dreams as well.

The dance recital was just the beginning! We encourage everyone to join us in the coming months for our Spring Musical—a true collaboration for the arts department with participation from our dance, drama, fashion design, visual arts, graphic design and choral and instrumental music programs!

Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788



Sherry Herrera
Principal

A Winter Tradition

The winter holidays are a very special time at Nuffer Elementary. Each year the Norwalk Rotary Club hosts a party for the students in the Sander Unit. This has been a tradition for 40 years and we can't thank them enough for their dedication!

This year the party included holiday songs sung by the Norwalk High School choir followed by a spectacular song and dance rendition of Jingle Bell Rock performed by students from the special education wing. The highlight of the party was, of course, the visit by Santa himself riding a Harley! Santa distributed gifts, made



Aaron Jones loved chatting with Santa.

possible by the generosity of the Rotarians, to each child. There was hardly a dry eye in the cafeteria! Every party needs a feast, which our Sander Unit staff provided for Rotarians, choir members, and visitors.

Later in the week, Santa was back to visit and take photos, courtesy of Los Alisos Middle School.

Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365



Maribel Galan
Principal

Measurable Goals to Achieve Academic Success!

Sanchez Educators are working with students to set specific goals to meet academic targets. Goal setting works!

In 1979, MBA Harvard University students were asked if they had set clear, written goals for their future and made plans to accomplish them. Ten years later, the members of the class were interviewed again, 13 percent of the class who had goals were earning, on average, twice as much as the 84 percent who had no goals at all. Those who had clear written goals were earning, on average, ten times as much as the other 97 percent put together.

At Sanchez, students in grades 2nd to 5th reflected on their performance and developed a written goal they want to achieve on the next District Benchmark along with specific actions they will take to reach their goal. Sanchez is planning for success!

Waite *Middle School*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981



Willie Norman
Principal

Why choose Waite?

We have several options by which students can build a solid foundation, both academically and socially. Some of Waite's highlights include: NCLB-certified "highly qualified" teachers in every classroom; Advanced technology applied school-wide; Championship sports teams; Extended learning opportunities, support, and activities through the 21st Century Learners after-school program; AVID program; Art and Band electives; Honors-level course selections; Math and Language Arts enrichment programs; Multicultural dance club; ASB; Peer Mediation groups; Rescue program (mentoring with the fire department); Awards/Recognition events (Principal's Honor Roll, Noontime with Newcomb, Donuts with the Dean, Trimester Awards, etc.) and On-site adult ESL classes during the day.

We are using technology to advance academic achievement for all of our students. Technology is incorporated across the campus in a variety of capacities: Powerpoints, blogging, web pages, and student-led investigations using the internet have helped expand perspectives on ideas and topics as well as complement the textbook materials and standards-based topics; ipass software has provided math enrichment, while Power School software has helped teachers more easily identify the progress and trends of student attendance, assignments, and test results. Technology has opened up many lines of communication and has helped increase the resources students can use in their quest for higher academic achievement.

These are just a few of the ways that Waite students are working to prepare for brighter futures.

Southeast *Academy*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Cadet Promotions

The Cadet promotion system is designed to allow Southeast Academy Cadets to demonstrate qualities of leadership to advance in rank. Promotions are based on points (cutting score) that are awarded on the basis of academic grades; leadership abilities, physical fitness participation, community service, and recommendations from their chain of command and teaching staff. Initially all Southeast Academy cadets are appointed to the rank of cadet private and will continue to get promoted providing their cutting score meets the requirements. During our promotion ceremony cadets have a family member, teacher or a cadet in their chain of command pin on their new rank. Our last promotion was February 2nd.

West Point Candidate

Class commander Casey Batley received a presidential nomination from the office of President Barack Obama. He will graduate this June and is the first graduate of Southeast Academy High School to receive an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. The scholarship that accompanies the appointment is worth \$200,000 over four years. His decision to attend West Point was based on their unique traditions. Cadet Captain Batley wants to be academically challenge and feels good about the extreme high standards. As the class commander at Southeast Academy High School he credits his leadership position for developing the leadership skills necessary to be successful at West Point. Cadet Captain Batley said, "I look forward to serving our country as a Military Officer, Go Army beat Navy!"

School News

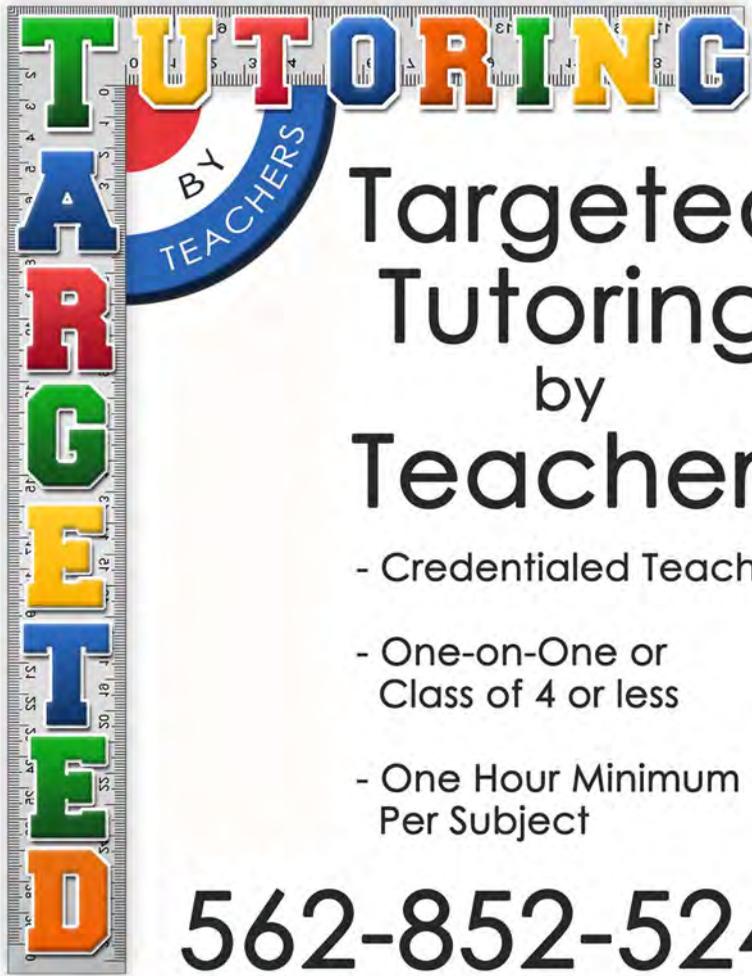
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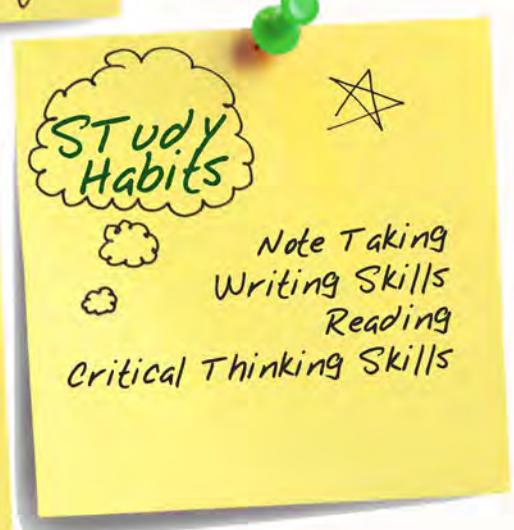
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



Targeted Tutoring by Teachers

- Credentialed Teachers
- One-on-One or Class of 4 or less
- One Hour Minimum Per Subject

562-852-5241



String Instruments Word Search Contest

NEW Rules!!!

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

Entries must be received by March 15, 2011

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| Balalaika | Guitar | Sitar |
| Banjo | Harp | Ukulele |
| Bass Viol | Harpsichord | Viola |
| Cello | Lute | Violin |
| Clavichord | Lyre | Zither |
| Contrabass | Mandolin | |
| Dulcimer | Piano | |



**Congratulations to Jesse Flores
Winner of the December Word Search Contest!**