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School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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Common Core Shifts with Emerging Technologies

By Robert Rayburn, Principal
Chavez Elementary School

The days of chalk dust and static knowledge have shifted to what we now call the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. We are living in a time where technology makes possible, to all people, the opportunity to learn anything humanity has ever discovered instantly, and on-demand. As our schools start teaching with the new standards, the role technology plays is undeniable. Students will be assessed on computers and iPads, with the results of those assessments almost instantly available to teachers, parents and community. We will be able to tell if students can use the information they have learned to solve complex, real-world problems and to create new learning. We will rapidly know how far and how quickly students



Ivan demonstrates how to manage operations with integers to the class from his iPad onto the flat panel display.

have grown academically. Teachers will be able to know immediately what students have learned, and how deeply they have understood, where they are advanced and where they need more help. Waiting months for that information is a thing of the past. The ability to do this sets us on a course where children, now in our schools, will be better prepared for college, career, and life than ever before in history. It is very clear that all students must be technologically literate if they are to succeed in this new world. Norwalk-La Mirada schools are busy making sure that every lesson we teach takes advantage of modern technology as a means to increase student learning as well as teach students how to use the massive potential of technology to vastly expand what they are capable of accomplishing.

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SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome back to another exciting year at the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.

The District looks forward to welcoming our new and returning students as they start another year of academic excellence and, of course, fun!

Before the new school year begins, we start to receive data from standardized tests and other benchmarks that serve as report cards for school districts. I am pleased to announce that these benchmarks have shown that our students continue to thrive.

For example, 92 percent of our students graduated in 2013, as opposed to the national average of 78.5 percent; our Standardized Testing and Reporting numbers were up while the rest of the state was down; and our Academic

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Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Bienvenidos a otro año emocionante en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada.

¡El Distrito espera dar la bienvenida a nuestros nuevos y antiguos estudiantes en lo que comienzan un nuevo año de excelencia académica y, por supuesto, de diversión!

Antes de que comience el nuevo año escolar, comenzamos a recibir los datos de los exámenes estandarizados y otros puntos de referencia que sirven como boletas de calificaciones para los distritos escolares. Me complace anunciar que estos puntos de referencia han demostrado que nuestros estudiantes continúan prosperando.

Por ejemplo, el 92 por ciento de nuestros estudiantes se graduaron en el 2013, en comparación con el

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Ed Hengler
Board President

Welcome to the 2013 - 2014 school year. We are looking forward to a successful school year with increased student achievement at all of our district schools.

Norwalk - La Mirada teachers, principals, classified staff, and administrators are dedicated to serving our customers, parents and children. Parents are welcome in District schools and are invited to be fully involved in educating their children. Please help your children to maintain good attendance to their classes.

The District Mission is to prepare all students to succeed as we continue to focus on increased student achievement, English language proficiency, career and job readiness, respect for life and property, and successful transition

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By Ed Hengler
Presidente, Junta de Educación

Bienvenidos al año escolar 2013 - 2014. Esperamos tener un año escolar exitoso con mayor rendimiento de los estudiantes en todas las escuelas del distrito.

Los maestros, directores, personal clasificado y administradores de Norwalk - La Mirada están dedicados a servir a nuestros clientes, los padres y los niños. Los padres son bienvenidos en las escuelas del distrito y se les invita a participar plenamente en la educación de sus hijos. Por favor, ayude a sus niños a mantener una buena asistencia a sus clases.

La Misión del Distrito es de preparar a todos los estudiantes para tener éxito a medida que continuamos un enfoque en el aumento de rendimiento estudiantil, el idioma Inglés, competencia, la

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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. By now students are settled into their classes and routines. This is our 4th year publishing the excellence from the NLMUSD. Each year brings exciting changes in technology and budget challenges—this year it's Common Core Standards.

It may be just me, but “wait a minute” seems to be a sign of my age. With social media and our ability to access everything we ever wanted to know instantly, patience truly is a virtue. Thank you for taking the time to read *School News!*

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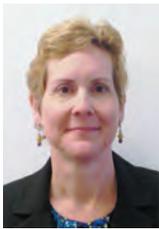
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Head Start *Pre-School*



Laurel Parker
Director

Welcome to Preschool!

This year we moved our preschool classes to Huerta and D.D. Johnston Elementary School, and added a new half-day class at Ramona at the end of September. All of our classes and sites use the same high-quality curriculum, and have highly trained staff. Although budget cuts in the Head Start program caused the closure of two classes, the program still serves 873 children across nine sites in the district.

We are exploring the national accreditation process this year to determine whether the program should apply for the distinction. The accreditation is offered by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which is a professional organization for early childhood educators and educational institutions serving children ages zero to eight.

The leadership team reviewed the standards, and found that our program currently meets the majority of them. The next step is to visit local accredited sites to gather more information. These visits will take place in October. If the program decides to go through with the process, it will take at least a year from the time it is started to determine whether or not NAEYC accreditation is granted.

Other recent events included policy committee member elections, training for board and policy committee members from October 7–10 at Ramona, parent workshops and parenting classes, and activities designed specifically for fathers/father figures. On October 1, all fathers and father figures were encouraged to bring their children to preschool on “Be a Hero” day.

Adult School



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

Prepare for College or Career Right Here!

Most economists agree that more than ever, the key to a well-paying job is a college degree. According to a study by Georgetown University, nearly 60 percent of today’s available jobs requires a college degree. At the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School, we have classes that will prepare you to confidently transition to college or career training.

If you haven’t had the opportunity to complete a high school diploma or earn a GED, we offer teacher-directed and online classes through which you can fulfill the requirements needed for a diploma or prepare for the GED exam classes in which 21st-century skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, and media and technology literacy are part of everyday learning.

We also have English as a second language classes and a variety of computer-productivity classes that will increase your skills for college and career. For information, please call our office.



Joseph Williams
A proud graduate!

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Optometry

We cannot always build the future for our children, but we can build our children for the future.
—FDR

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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

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



Michael Gotto
Principal

Setting the Stage for Stardom

Welcome to the 2013–2014 school year! I am truly honored to be joining the extraordinarily talented students and staff of Benton Middle Magnet School. At Benton, students receive standards-based instruction in their core academic classes and electives from highly qualified teachers and industry experts. With an emphasis on Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA), the course offerings give students the unique opportunity to develop their artistic and creative skills in a variety of courses.

This year's theme, "Setting the Stage for Stardom," captures the essence of what Benton is all about. The entire staff works tirelessly to provide students with experiences that allow them to shine. Throughout the year, students will take center stage as singers, dancers, actors, musicians, artists, photographers, designers, leaders, readers, writers, speakers, scientists, historians, mathematicians, and more.

As principal, I am committed to ensuring a safe, positive, and rigorous learning environment, where every student belongs. To accomplish this, we need the support of our community to provide our students with the best possible middle school experience so that they are prepared for high school and beyond. As we implement the new Common Core State Standards, it is critical that we work together to increase student achievement. This year, we have adopted three school-wide commitments, which all students and staff members will incorporate into daily lives: collaboration, critical thinking, and perseverance. These three commitments will serve to meet the Common Core outcomes of college and career readiness.

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678 • www.nlmusd.org



Bob Easton
Principal

Preparing for College and Career

This year, schools all over the nation will be making the transition to the new Common Core State Standards. The new learning standards are focused on preparing students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school.

The vision of the magnet program at Corvallis Middle School of Arts and Technology is well aligned with this goal, as we seek to ensure our students are receiving a rigorous and relevant education. In addition to developing literacy in all content areas, our aim is to ensure all students develop the skills to be proficient users of technology. The shifts in learning will place more emphasis on students explaining their critical thinking and problem solving, as well as using evidence from complex texts to support their conclusions.

We look forward to partnering with our parents and community to support our students during their middle school years.



Students using technology for rigorous learning.

Chavez *Elementary School*

12110 E. Walnut St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3565 • www.nlmusd.org



Robert Rayburn
Principal

Standards and Technology

At Cesar Chavez Elementary, we believe that a technology-rich educational experience is a requirement for the modern world.

Chavez is leading the way with innovative technologies like interactive whiteboards, computers and iPads. Our initiative with i-Ready has led to fundamental changes in how computers and iPads can help our children dramatically increase their proficiency on the state and Common Core Standards at every NLMUSD elementary school.



A Chavez 4th grade student demonstrating a Schoology Common Core Standards lesson on his iPad.

New this year is interactive technology for iPads. In our sixth-grade magnet class, students can instantly share their work and collaborate on class projects in full HD video and sound. Each teacher is also learning how to use Schoology courseware which, paired with our iPads and computers, can create a learning environment just like a modern university.

Technological literacy is required for success in college, career and life. Our Chavez students are prepared for success in the modern world!

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Living Healthier Lives

At John Dolland Elementary School we care about good nutrition and health.

In an effort to encourage our students to live happy, healthy and productive lives, each of our teachers has joined with the Network for a Healthy California to introduce their students to healthier nutritional choices. In partnership with the school district, the goal is to introduce children to good-for-your-health fruits and vegetables, as well as daily physical activity.

The beauty of this program is that our teachers now receive monthly packages of locally grown fruits and vegetables for their students to study and taste. They also learn about their harvest, and how each can be used as part of an everyday recipe.



Dolland Elementary's new mural, courtesy of Network for Health California and NLMUSD.

As a result of this participation, we were recently granted a mural to honor the great effort that our students have made towards living healthier lives. Way to go, Huskies!

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Robin Padgett
Principal

Excellence

Dulles Elementary School is celebrating our students' excellence on the California State Standards test. Dulles' API improved 16 points, to reach an impressive high of 843! This score is an indication of the high expectations that our teachers hold for their students, one that both challenges and nurtures their academic progress.



We indeed have exceptional parents and staff members who work together to help make Dulles the kind of strong educational environment that helps support children in their journey towards excellence.

Dulles is a great place to learn, and we want to build a life-long love for learning in all our students. The Dulles PTA is dedicated to providing enrichment programs and events to promote school spirit and foster a positive school community. We are also planning several school events to highlight our students' achievements and talents.

So thank you, Dulles PTA, for all of the hard work and time that you dedicate to our wonderful school!

Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Reaching Great Heights

We believe that all students can reach great educational heights, and it's our responsibility to create a learning environment that allows all students to soar. Our highly qualified teachers work collaboratively to create a program filled with enriching experiences. We strive to meet the needs of the students by delivering instruction that includes clear objectives, teacher modeling, guided practice, and independent application of skills and concepts.



Enter our doors and you will see students engaged during whole-group lessons, eagerly sharing ideas and responding to open-ended questions. You can observe students working cooperatively in small groups as they strive to solve problems and chart their solutions or using technology as they research current topics.

Eastwood is eagerly moving toward Common Core State Standards. All are invited to the yearlong Parent Academy, which will focus on new standards, instructional shifts, and computerized assessment.

Edmondson *Elementary School*

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

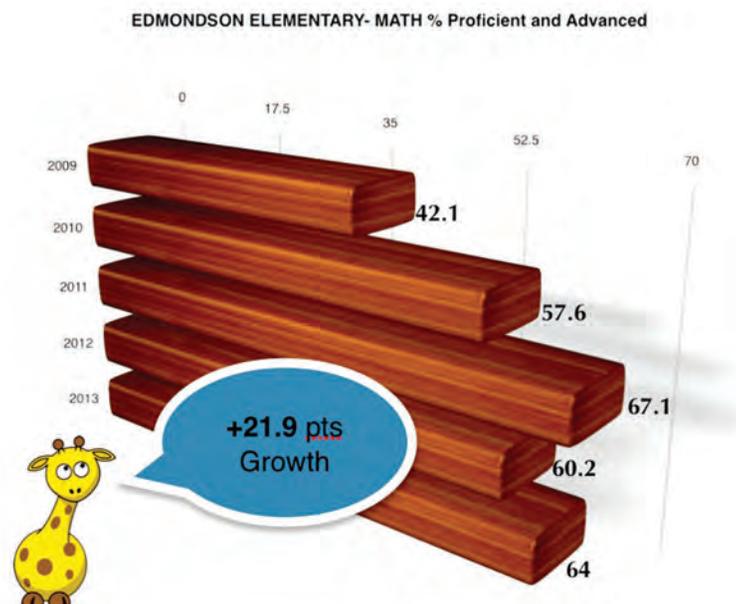


Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Rising to the Challenge

We are excited about this school year because of the new learning it will bring to all of our students, and we are off to a great start. Our promise to you: we are challenging our students to be problem-solvers and think critically, as well as to become Eagles of Character!

Eagle pride is at an all-time high. In terms of test scores and school improvement, I am very pleased to report that we met our school-wide Academic Performance Index (API) growth target to exceed 790 API. As you can see from the graph, the staff has established a five-year positive upward trend in our reading and math scores.



In addition to relying on high levels of student achievement at Edmondson Elementary School, you can count on Eagles learning to exhibit trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

This year the Edmondson Eagles will be demonstrating good character while problem-solving and thinking critically.

El Camino *High School*

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



Darryl Brown
Principal

Summer Intersession Success

For the second year in a row, El Camino High School has provided an Intersession program over the summer to support students in need of year-round credit recovery. The program offers 12th-grade students the opportunity to graduate and participate in the district-wide summer graduation in August.

The first Intersession produced 20 graduates, bringing the 2012 June and August graduate count to 152, a school record of graduates! This past summer, an additional 15 students met graduation requirements, bringing the total 2013 graduate count to 121.

The Intersession program also provides an opportunity for many 10th- and 11th-grade students to catch up on credits and become eligible to return to their home high schools.

Congratulations are in order for an outstanding job of coordinating the Intersession program. For their hard work and dedication this summer, the El Camino community thanks: Mr. Garcia, our Dean of Students; Ms. Mejia, our counselor; Ms. Endara, our school secretary; and Mrs. Jolley, Mrs. Calhoun, and Mrs. Santiago, our Intersession teachers.



Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908 • www.nlmusd.org



The Halls Are Alive...

Listen to the sounds of school. It is beautiful music. We are on a roll with our new school year, and the students are energized and ready to learn. Foster Road is moving on up and very proud of their API-increase score of 843. Our continued success is making a difference in our students' lives.

This year, we are shifting to the new Common Core Standards. It is our big year of change and challenges. Together, we will be working closely to offer guidance and resources to make this transition easier with more rigor and relevance for our students.

Each grade level will be designing powerful lessons to stretch their students' thinking and problem-solving skills. During direct and small-group instruction, teachers will be developing new strategies and techniques to implement the common core as they are increasing their students' text complexity. They will be using a variety of ways to embed content that will supercharge their students' learning in the classroom.

We are very fortunate to have our visual and performing arts program continue. To quote Dick Clark, "Music is the soundtrack of our lives." Research shows music actually affects our physiology with respect to heart rate, respiration, and blood pressure. The emotional benefits of music are available to anyone. Bringing out the rhythms in our students will also bring out the playfulness and excitement in their learning. We are looking forward to this great year ahead. We welcome volunteers to share their wealth of knowledge with our students.

Glazier *Elementary School*

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



The Gladiators Are Back On Track!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another new school year at Glazier. It has been great to see all of our incredible students and parents again!

Our Glazier Gladiators are now back in full swing and ready to "take on" the Common Core. In addition to transitioning over to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), our focus for the 2013–2014 school year will include participation in visual and performing arts, technology implementation, and character development through our Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBS).

Our staff has also been collaborating on how to create more effective and safe learning communities within the classroom. This includes "building community" among our students, staff and families.

In closing, the staff at Glazier is looking forward to forming a positive partnership with all of our Glazier families! Go, Gladiators!



Our students are showing their "Gladiator" spirit.

Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org



Our Eagles Soar

The Escalona Elementary School staff is excited about the start of this new school year. We are committed to inspiring and empowering our students towards success! Our educational program is designed to meet the varied academic and social needs of our students while also fostering a love for learning.

Escalona teachers and support staff are highly trained, and are committed to implementing educational techniques and strategies that will prepare students for middle school, high school, college and career. We also pair our academic efforts with a stress on the importance of good character.

Students practice respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness and good citizenship, and are recognized for their positive behavior choices. Escalona's visual and performing arts programs are also expanding this year, with the addition of a music intern to provide weekly music classes for the students.

We also believe in the power of parent participation, and the importance of a strong home and school partnership. Because we value the work of our parent volunteers, I encourage you to join our PTA and become involved in the many fine programs and events we offer throughout the year. Your volunteer efforts and participation in school activities will have a positive and lasting impact on your child.

I continue to be so very proud of our students' success on the California Standards Test. Escalona continues to excel, and I am happy to announce that our 2013 growth API is now 907! Way to go, Eagles!

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Scoring High, and Still Jumping!

Gardenhill is excited about the 2013–14 school year! We are so proud of the success of Gardenhill and are so pleased with our incredible API score of 915! We achieved this score through the efforts of our amazing staff, students and parents who work tirelessly together to create an outstanding school in academics with a caring, nurturing environment.

Some of the exciting programs that students can look forward to this year are our new band program for every student, our visual-arts program, our literacy initiative, our 21st-century technology emphasis and our partnership with Biola University. Biola teaches their "Introduction to Teaching" course on the Gardenhill campus, and Biola students observe our teachers in action while helping in our classrooms.

Our first community fund-raiser is our annual Fall Festival on Oct. 18. Volunteers come together to create a fun-filled evening with games, activities and food from our local area. Come join the fun!

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Glenn *High School*

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



Greg Puccia
Principal

Seamless Transitions

As we begin the 2013–14 school year at John Glenn High School, we are very excited about the progress that was made during 2012–13. The students, teachers, classified staff and JGHS families were very pleased with the 20-point growth in the school's API.

The class of 2014 is busy getting ready to apply to colleges around the state and country. We are anxious to see where this group of outstanding young men and women land as they ready for this exciting phase in their lives.

Our ninth-to-eleventh-grade students have settled in and are working to meet the respective expectations of their grade-level course work. We look forward to assisting them with each transition and preparing them for CAHSEE exams and the SAT and ACT tests and also prepping for their time as JGHS seniors.

Fall activities include football, volleyball, tennis and cross-country, the homecoming dance and Back to School Night. We will be holding a ninth-grade parent orientation night in October as well. Please check our school website for dates and times for these exciting events.

JGHS is always open to visitors, and we welcome guests interested in our school and programs. Visit the school website for program and contact information.

Johnston *Elementary School*

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



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

Off to a Great Start!

We are off to a great start at D.D. Johnston Elementary School! Building great character one pillar at a time is the key to our success. Students have academic and social success because we devote time to helping children learn how to be effective communicators, responsible citizens, and caring, trustworthy individuals. Our staff is committed to providing children a safe place where they can take chances and succeed. Roadrunners are learning all day long! Even in the playground, students practice strategies they have learned that assist them in solving

their problems out on the schoolyard. So come and pay our school a visit and see how Roadrunners do business. Come and play "Ro Sham Bo!" with us. Or as you know it, Rock-Paper-Scissors.



Students use Rock-Paper-Scissors to determine who goes first in a game of four square.

Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



Sara Siemens
Principal

We're Ready for Those Standards!

Hutchinson Middle School, a California Distinguished School, is excited to partner with students, parents and the community for the 2013–14 school year. Our school year will find us transitioning to the Common Core Standards with a strong focus on project-based learning, student inquiry and critical thinking.

Our 1 to 1 iPad Academy is entering its second year and has tripled in student participation. Over 200 students will utilize iPads daily as a tool for research, project development, digital textbooks, word processing, student responders and formative

assessments. Our Math, Science and Technology Magnet will introduce students to environmental science, structural engineering and foundational principles of engineering and robotics. Our Pre-Advanced Placement program has expanded to all grade levels, offering rigorous curriculum to students seeking honors challenges.

We are excited about our new school year and are committed to provide students with a quality academic environment. Explore our website!



Hutchison's 6th grade Math Science Technology Magnet Summer Orientation Day.

La Mirada *High School*

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



Bill Seals
Principal

Welcome, New Matadores!

On September 5, La Mirada High School (LMHS) was ecstatic to welcome 587 incoming ninth-grade students. Initial teacher reports suggest that these students are intelligent, well-behaved, and eager to learn. The class of 2017 has huge shoes to fill, but, with the support of teachers, counselors, family, and friends, I am confident they will exceed our lofty expectations.

I would like to give these students a few words of encouragement. First of all, develop excellent study habits and seek the advice of mentors. The first few weeks set the tone for the school year. If you are succeeding at the end of the first quarter, you are more than likely to experience success throughout your four years at LMHS. Be sure to ask your teachers, Link Crew leaders, counselors, and older friends for help. They know what it takes to be a successful student.

Get involved in clubs or activities. We have excellent extracurricular activities at LMHS. Be it band, drama, athletics, or a club, students who are involved in school generally experience greater success throughout their high school careers.

These next four years will fly by, and, before you know it, you will be graduating. Last year's graduates were accepted at prestigious colleges and universities, including: Harvard University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Berkeley; Boston College; and Northwestern University. These opportunities await you, and I know you will make the entire LMHS community proud!

Good luck to the class of 2017!

La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Terry Pace
Principal

Catch It!

The La Pluma Team is excited about the 2013–2014 school year! We welcomed over 450 students in the first few days of school, and observed their excitement as they worked to catch our Panther P.R.I.D.E.

We will soon be digging into “the core” of the new Common Core State Standards, and will be teaming together to develop Perseverance with learning, Responsible citizenship, Independent thinkers, and students Determined to succeed and strive towards Excellence!

Our mission remains focused on inspiring students to lead and care about others, to think critically, and to learn cooperatively. Thank you to our PTA, too, as our students will once again have enriching experiences that support creativity with music, choir and art activities.

Teaching students to care and lead will also be embedded in our work, with character education and our Positive Behavior Supports. This will not only teach them to be children of character, it will also stress the importance of being safe, respectful and responsible.

We look forward to the days ahead, as we dig deeper with our intervention and acceleration web-based programs. These will assist us in diagnosing and prescribing student academic needs in the areas of reading and math. We are truly committed to reaching even greater heights through a continued focus on student achievement!

We hope you'll “catch” the Panther pride and join us on our journey of new learning! We invite you to visit us at www.laplumaelementary.org.

Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Mike Garcia
Principal

Where Everyone Belongs

I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve as the new principal of Los Alisos Middle School, where great things are taking place!

This has been evident in the continued growth of our school's API, where we have gone from an 804 school to an 815. I am confident that with the commitment of our amazing teachers, helpful support staff, and dedicated parents, we will continue to grow even more.

On September 3, we had over 330 sixth-graders and 75 eighth-graders attend our WEB orientation (Where Everyone Belongs). Our eighth-grade WEB leaders, the WEB coordinator Ms. Dufresne, and a group of dedicated teachers all made this an extremely successful event.

As a result, our sixth-graders had a smooth first day at Los Alisos Middle School, and were able to make connections with the eighth-grade students that will help them throughout the school year.



A group of new 6th graders with their WEB Leaders.

Lampton *Elementary School*

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



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Positive Play

Lampton Elementary School began two new programs this year to support positive behavior. Each of our students has learned Lampton's 3Bs: Be respectful, Be responsible, and Be safe. These expectations are reinforced throughout the campus, from the cafeteria to the hallways. In the few short weeks we have been in school, teachers and staff have already noticed increases in positive behavior across the campus.

On the playground, Lampton is promoting positive play and fitness with our new Playworks program. From the start of school until dismissal, our Playworks coach, Coach D, organizes games and activities

for students on the playground.

Approximately twice a month, she meets with each classroom to teach students the value of positive play through the games she sets up for their recess breaks. Many of our fourth- and fifth-grade students are vying for coveted jobs as junior Playworks coaches, who help keep these games organized and running smoothly.



Lampton's Playworks Coach and Junior Coaches keep things running smoothly at recess!

Los Coyotes *MS Centurian Honors Magnet*

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



Dr. Christina Stanley
Principal

Weaving Our 'Web'

Los Coyotes Middle School welcomes you to the 2013–14 school year. We have much to celebrate! This summer, we hosted our second annual WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) orientation for incoming sixth-grade students. This program pairs eighth-grade student mentors with our sixth-grade students to help with the start of school and throughout the year. Response to and attendance at this event was outstanding! It was great to see student-led small groups as well as students making connections with new friends, mentors and teachers. On the first day of school, our WEB leaders and Leadership students were on hand to help new and sixth-grade students become familiar with the campus.

We are proud to offer our new Medical and Forensic Magnet class rotations and look forward to growing this new program. This will be a year full of exciting accomplishments, amazing experiences, high student achievement and more celebrations!



WEB advisor Lisa Concannon talks with the students.

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Maximizing Student Potential

At Julia B. Morrison School, we are excited about the possibilities and opportunities we will encounter this year. We are looking forward to working with all our stakeholders to make this our best year yet!

We have been awarded the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award for the fifth year in a row! We are one of the five schools in the state of California that has earned this distinction, out of 6,000 qualifying schools. Morrison was also awarded the prestigious Golden Bell Award for closing the achievement gap with English-language learners using English Language Development (ELD) and Academic Language Development (ALD). Morrison is very proud of all our students, teachers, and staff members for their hard work!

We continue to be committed to our goal of providing a caring, positive, and safe learning environment, where each child is encouraged to make responsible choices and to develop the academic skills necessary to reach his or her maximum learning potential.



New River *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Centeno
Principal

Be Safe!

New River Elementary had a safe and excellent start to the 2013–2014 school year!

Parents and students noticed the new front gate that the district installed during the summer. The gate will be locked during instructional hours, but parents and visitors with school business will be given access to enter and check into the office. The gate will help provide more security to ensure the safety of our students, which is always a staff priority.

Focus on safety was also noticeable during our annual “Recess Rodeo.” Every student in the first- through fifth-grades went through different stations and learned the rules of each of the recess and lunch activities they can participate in.



New River teacher, Mrs. Brantzeg,
modeling how to “be safe” at recess for her students.

Teachers and support staff talked with the students, and modeled how to play games appropriately and use equipment safely. It was a fun activity that also taught our children how to follow one of our most important school rules: “Be safe!”

Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Maureen Bixby
Principal

On the Road to Success

Opening day was a success at Moffitt Elementary! We welcomed over 500 students and 80 staff members to the new school year. The students showed up dressed for success in their school uniforms, and ready to learn.

At Moffitt Elementary we are committed to excellence. Our staff implements proven strategies known to promote critical thinking, develop academic language, and increase comprehension in all areas of the curriculum. In each of our students we strive to instill a love for learning and a drive to seek new knowledge.

In addition to a rigorous standards-based curriculum, we also provide additional opportunities to support our students both inside and outside of the classroom. Student academics are supported and enriched through our MaxTime intervention, GATE program, Playworks, ASES Academy, a state-of-the-art media center, and a music program for all students in the fifth grade.

We are looking forward to another successful year at Moffitt Elementary!



1st Grade students ready to learn at Moffitt!

Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Ryan Smith
Principal

Success for Our Students

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2013–2014 school year at Norwalk High School. I am proud to be the school’s new principal and want to thank the entire school community for the extremely warm welcome.

The summer months were a busy time for our faculty and staff, as we spent countless hours preparing for the upcoming school year. Throughout the summer, teachers and staff came together to discuss our school’s vision, instructional strategies, lesson design, and new ways to ensure that our students are successful.

I am proud to report that our Academic Performance Index (API) increased for the seventh straight year to 701, the highest level in school history! While we are proud of our increased test scores, our vision for our graduates goes beyond a simple number. We are dedicated to ensuring every graduate is ready for both college and career. With this as a focus, we are aligning our efforts and resources to ensure that students have access to rigorous curriculum, excellent instruction, and personalized support.

I invite you to visit our school and learn more about the excellent work that we are doing. We are proud of our partnerships with the PTSA, the city of Norwalk, and other groups, and we encourage you to become involved. Norwalk High School has a lot to offer, and it is our privilege to serve this community.

Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



LaTasha Buck
Principal

Educating Great Citizens

Welcome back to Nuffer Elementary School! We have good news to celebrate: our Academic Performance Index (API) has increased by eight points! That may not seem like a lot to brag about, but as was reported by *The Los Angeles Times*, students' academic performance has fallen two points on average statewide. We're proud that Nuffer has demonstrated growth in academic achievement, but more importantly, we will continue to focus on improving student learning!

In addition to quality academic instruction, Nuffer guarantees that our students receive a well-rounded education! Our character development program, Character Counts, is now tied into our Positive Behavior and Instruction Support Plan and Progressive School-wide Discipline. Our goal is to encourage values that we expect all students to use when making decisions at school and at home.

Our music program is coming back! The research is clear that music helps students learn, so we're pleased that we can offer our students percussion and recorder lessons, chorus, and even music therapy!

Helpline Youth Counseling services will be offered again to provide family counseling services that range from individual student counseling to group social skills counseling—and parenting workshops, too.

We offer many great opportunities to support learning at Nuffer! Not only do we want our students to be well-educated, but we want them to be great citizens who can make great contributions to society because they've been taught to think critically, to be self-sufficient, and to care about the world around them.

Southeast *Academy*

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



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Raising Expectations

Southeast Academy High School gets set for the next wave of education reform, which is all about raising expectations. As we continue to incorporate Common Core State Standards into the classrooms, our goal is to better prepare our cadets for the rigors of college and a competitive work force. Creating opportunities, solving problems, and giving cadets the freedom to devise multiple solutions best describe the educational experience at Southeast Academy High School. We want to challenge our cadets academically while giving them ample opportunity to

explore their career interests.

Monitoring achievement keeps cadets on track and encourages them to work together. Experienced senior cadet squad leaders inspect younger cadets' homework daily, providing advice and support. This encourages cadets to listen to one another, talk to their peers about homework and tests, and debate their responses. This system of additional checks helps to inspire our cadets to work hard on their education. Failure is not an option.



Morning homework inspection.

Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Gains and Greatness

We're off to a great start at Sanchez! Sixty parents came to meet our new principal at the "Coffee with the Principal" event on Wednesday, September 18. During the meeting Ms. Rubio explained her goals for the school, and the parents relayed their ideas about the ways they think Sanchez can become a better place for our students.

All of the parents chose to remain for a Title 1 training that followed. They heard about the funds our school receives for Title 1 and how they are used. They also learned about the changes that are coming as a result of the new Common Core State Standards.

Our parents were very engaged and excited about the upcoming school year, especially after hearing that Sanchez made a 20-point gain on the state tests taken in May. All were in agreement that Sanchez is moving in the right direction, and that together we are building a great school for our students.



Parents meet new Principal, Alicia Rubio at Sanchez Elementary Schools' Coffee with the Principal event.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Willie Norman
Principal

Its Great to be a Panther

Waite Middle School is a special place. The caring and collaboration provides an academic

comfort ability and trust that is second to none.

Together we continue to build upon the positive school culture and advocate for the diversity and unique needs, talents, and gifts of each of our students. Also, we continue to academically soar and flex the minds of our young Panthers using "School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports" (Sugai & Horner, 2002), "Effective Behavior Support" (Lewis & Sugai, 1999), "Applying Positive Behavioral Support and Functional Behavioral assessment in our schools pursuit of excellence in learning!"



Students show their Panther Pride.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

Performance Index rose for the sixth straight year.

This kind of success is attributed to our very dedicated and focused parents, faculty, staff and most importantly our students. From a strong transitional kindergarten program that prepares our students to be academically challenged, to our career academies that lay the groundwork for the challenging high school programs, there is no question that our students are reaping the benefits of a strong academic environment.

As we move forward serving our Norwalk and La Mirada families, I anticipate many more years of success. We have begun implementation of Common Core Standards and we are reviewing the impacts the new state funding structure will have on our schools. With the leadership of our very capable and student-focused Board of Education, I'm confident each year will see high academic achievement in a rich learning environment that helps our students to achieve greatness.

Norwalk-laMirada Unified School District
12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
562/868-0431
www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENTE • From Page 1



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

promedio nacional de 78.5 por ciento, nuestros números de los Exámenes y Reportes Estandarizados aumentaron, mientras que el resto del estado se redujo, y el Índice de Rendimiento Académico se elevó por sexto año consecutivo.

Este tipo de éxito se atribuye a nuestros muy dedicados y enfocados padres, profesores, personal y lo más importante nuestros estudiantes. Desde un programa de kínder de transición fuerte que prepara a nuestros estudiantes para ser académicamente desafiados, a nuestras academias de carreras que sientan las bases para los programas desafiantes de secundaria, no hay duda de que nuestros estudiantes están cosechando los beneficios de un ambiente académico sólido.

A medida que avanzamos prestando servicios a nuestras familias de Norwalk y La Mirada, anticipo muchos años más de éxito. Hemos comenzado la aplicación de los Estándares Comunes y estamos revisando el impacto que la nueva estructura de la financiación estatal tendrá en nuestras escuelas. Con el liderazgo de nuestra Junta de Educación muy capaz y con enfoque en los estudiantes, tengo confianza de que cada año verá un alto rendimiento académico en un entorno rico de aprendizaje que ayuda a nuestros estudiantes a alcanzar la grandeza.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

to higher education.

We will be seeking community support to bring District academic, athletic, and performing arts facilities to the level of surrounding Districts.

Have a blessed 2013-2014 school year in the company of your family.



JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN • From Page 1

carrera y la preparación laboral, el respeto por la vida y la propiedad, y el éxito de la transición a la educación superior.

Estaremos buscando apoyo de la comunidad para llevar a las instalaciones de lo académico, deportivo, y las artes escénicas del distrito a nivel de los distritos circundantes.

Que tengan un año escolar 2013-2014 bendecido en compañía de su familia.

Please Drive Safely
Students are Back in School

Board of Education



Jesse Urquidi, Ana Valencia, Karen Morrison, Board President Ed Hengler, Darryl Adams, Vice President Margarita Rios, and Chris Pflanzler.

COMMON CORE • From Page 1

At Chavez Elementary School for example, each classroom has been equipped with wireless Internet access, a Smart Board, computers and iPads. For the last 2 years, each student has had an online learning account for i-Ready, a computer adaptive assessment, progress monitoring, and individualized instruction program. i-Ready immediately adapts the lessons students take in reading and math to their exact strengths and challenges. Teachers get instant information on how to help or accelerate each of their students. Just 2 years ago, that kind of data was only available on occasion, and would take weeks to obtain. Learning is tailored to each student, linked to the latest standards, and results are available to teachers, parents, and the students themselves instantly. The teachers and the principal have regular, student-initiated discussions with students as young as Kindergarten about their academic progress using up to date, standards-based data. The students understand these discussions and are highly motivated to keep growing and learning. Parents can drop in anytime and engage in high level discussions about their child's exact academic progress on every standard and every skill at every grade level. In the 6th grade magnet classroom, in addition to all the other technologies available throughout the school, each student has their own iPad, and the class is equipped with a modern flat panel display and a device that turns the flat panel into a wireless High Definition audio-visual display for the computers and iPads in the class. Every student can access this technology with the teacher's permission, to demonstrate deep



understanding of the subject, or even take on the role of instructional leader when invited. Students learn that their thinking is important and can inform others, they learn to trust their ability to create their own understanding and explain it to others effectively, deeply understanding "why" not just "what."

Our teachers are planning lessons that bring the full range of human knowledge directly into the hands of our students using Schoology's online course creation tools. Parents can be given access to view all the lessons and materials, and assignments in Schoology. Students are transformed from passive listeners and watchers into active collaborators, learners, tutors, scholars, and investigators in all learning activities. Knowledge alone has become just the beginning of learning; using knowledge to create is the new, more rigorous goal. Teachers can plan as teams across distance, using what each does best to lift all others to higher levels of excellence. This is happening today in NLMUSD and is a crucial part of our strategy for excellence on the new Common Core Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment which are designed to guarantee that all students succeed in being ready for college and career.

Come visit our schools to see how NLMUSD is putting the power of understanding into the hands of our children through integrating modern, emerging technology. In NLMUSD learning is alive, tech savvy, and getting better each day. We are teaching students that they are the creative engines of their own future.

Halloween Safety Tips



Jodie Lynn

There are some real threats to the safety of our kids during the highly anticipated Trick or Treat night. To make this vastly projected event run smoothly and to keep everyone safe, here are a few tips that parents need to consider and talk about beforehand with their kids.

Have your children dressed in aged appropriate costumes. Make it large enough to wear one layer of normal clothing underneath for warmth, but if it's too big or long, they can easily trip and hurt themselves. Make sure all materials are fire-retardant.

Be sure that it has a retro reflective strip placed between the shoulders and knees to alert drivers on the street and other kids, especially large groups. Should the costume not have these types of panels woven into the material, retro reflective tape can be bought just for this purpose.

No running. Tell your children there will be no running allowed. Falling down is one of the number one injuries of children during trick-or-treating. Have them stay on sidewalks and/or walk facing traffic if there are none.

Do not allow them to cross yards. Even though many people keep their lights on during the evening, most of the time, they do not shine over the entire yard. There could be something in the yard that could trip or hurt your child. In fact, sometimes, there are holes or low points in the lawn that cannot be avoided.

Stay with children under the age of 12. If your child is younger than 12, stay with them. If you are allowing them to go with another adult other than yourself, be sure that your child knows the name of that person and vice versa. It's always a good idea to have the name of your child, address and phone number written on a piece of paper and tucked away in a pocket or pinned to their costume on the inside of the waist. Remember, when a child is excited, frightened or hurt, they forget facts. Tell them what the piece of paper is, what it says, why it is there and when to use it.

Monitor toddlers and young children for putting things in their mouth. Keep an eye on toddlers and young children as they try to begin eating their candy right away. As a rule of thumb, it is best for none of the kids to eat any treat until someone has gone through it. However, with little ones, they will instantly put goodies into their mouths, wrapper and all, possibly provoking a choking hazard.

Establish a safe route and return time. Draw up a simple map of your neighborhood and mark approved houses with a red marker. These should be people that you know and trust. Give them a time of when to return home and have a "no room for discussion" rule.

Use face paint instead of masks. Face paint is now preferred by most safety agencies as the safest way to dress up the face for Halloween. Be sure the paint meets the Federal Standards of Cosmetics in order to prevent possible rashes or use a homemade recipe where you know which ingredients have been used. If you do go with a mask, be sure that the holes for the eyes, mouth and nose are open enough to avoid safety challenges in seeing, talking and breathing.

It's a special night so monitor your children closely by supervising the younger ones or as a sidewalk supervisor by "hanging out" with the older ones from a distance. Stay safe and have fun.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.



Supporting Military Families



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

People can get into huge discussions about whether deployment soldiers is necessary or whether war is the answer to solving problems. But the fact remains that thousands of men and women are paying a price to serve our country. They give up precious time with their families, risk being wounded or even losing their lives, and come home forever changed by the trauma they have seen. Whether you agree with the cause they are fighting for or not, these families deserve our assistance.

Imagine you are a young mother (or father) and your spouse has just left for duty. You are alone with three children and fear you may be alone forever. You develop a system of survival, dealing with your children's reactions to becoming a single-parent home. A year or two later, if you are one of the fortunate ones, your spouse returns home unharmed physically. You expect your spouse to jump into the parenting arena and take half of the burden—but your spouse can't because of the trauma of the wartime experience. Perhaps the children start misbehaving to get the absent parent's attention, and a new version of chaos takes over. Or maybe the children have trouble adjusting to the new situation and don't respond to the discipline of the parent who has been absent.

Since Desert Storm, I have worked with deployed families, helping them to construct and re-construct their discipline system so that the children are provided the safety of a consistent front, whether it is one parent or two. While it is imperative for a military family to establish consistent boundaries and consequences, it is equally important that every parent do so. Through my Web site (parentingsos.com), my books, and private parenting coaching sessions, I constantly encourage parents to vacuum the chaos out of their homes and teach children to take responsibility for their choices.

For families where a military spouse is deployed, the assistance of other families is often appreciated. Take the children to the park with your children, invite them over to watch a movie, or take the family a dinner. Any act of kindness distracts them from the grief of being alone will likely be a blessing. Military wives often feel out of the normal arena and yet are experiencing otherwise normal life. What moment of kindness can you deliver to such a family? Their sacrifices are for the safety of our country; we need to make sure they feel like a positive part of our communities and care about them as people.

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

Note-ables

Recess



Kate Karp

Recess is here, and just in time, too. Award-winning musician Justin Roberts, along with his Not Ready for Naptime players, has whipped up a whimsical collection of songs to play, imagine and relax along with and have a generally good time in the process. Just like recess.

Everyone, whether a dreamer or a doer, has a song here. "My Secret Robot" and "Otis" cocern a couple of most unusual imaginary friends—the name Otis is a clue to one of them. "The Princess Wore Pink" is a fantasy of how a gently subversive individual—OK, she happened to be a princess, so she had perks, but she used them for leadership—made a much-needed change to her town. "Looking for Trains" is a lovely, lilting song reminiscent of autumn evenings with an added flavor of Simon and Garfunkel. "Every Little Step," dedicated to Roberts's dog, Udo, sounds just like what a dog would think and feel: "There's no trouble as big as my heart is wide." And if you're a teacher and "School's Out (Tall Buildings)" doesn't choke you up with happy tears, I don't know what will.

The collection is available on CD, and there's a limited edition that includes a pop-up robot and special web links for craft activities and bonus media.

Who among us hasn't waited for that last enchanted click of the minute hand that rings the bell? Take a little break and enjoy *Recess!*

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

Keep Halloween Spooky, But Safe



Divya Joshi, MD
Chief Medical
Officer

The chance to dress up in costume, run around the neighborhood after dark and stock up on sweets, makes Halloween the highlight of the year for many kids — from toddlers to teens. However, roughly four times as many children aged 5-14 are killed while walking on Halloween evening compared with other evenings of the year, and falls are a leading cause of injuries among children on Halloween.

Make this year's Halloween trick-free and safe for your entire family.

Trick-or-Treating Tips

- Accompany young children (under age 10) on their trick-or-treating rounds.
- Ensure that your child knows their home phone number, the cell phone numbers of parents and any other trusted adult who's supervising and how to call 911 in case they get separated from the group.
- Give your kids flashlights with new batteries to help them see where they are going to prevent falls and help them be seen by vehicles.
- Have them wear reflective sneakers or other reflective items to make them visible to traffic.
- Limit trick-or-treating to your neighborhood and the homes of people you and your children know.
- Trick or Treat on well lit streets.
- When your kids get home, check all treats to make sure they're safely sealed and there are no signs of tampering, such as small pinholes, loose or torn packages, and packages that appear to have been taped or glued back together. Throw out loose candy, spoiled items and any homemade treats that haven't been made by someone you know.
- Don't allow young children to trick or treat while eating hard candy or gum, it could cause choking.



- For older kids who are trick-or-treating on their own, make sure you approve of the route they'll be taking and know when they'll be coming home. Also be sure that they follow the same Halloween Safety tips you taught them when they were younger:
 - go in a group and stay together
 - only go to houses with porch lights on and walk on sidewalks on lit streets (never walk through alleys or across lawns)
 - know to never go into strangers' homes or cars
 - cross the street at crosswalks and never assume that vehicles will stop
 - carry a cell phone, if possible
- Oh, and use the opportunity for a teaching moment on moderation in eating candy!...(Without spoiling the fun.)

These tips can help your family have a spooktacular and safe Halloween.



Halloween 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 NLMUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by October 31, 2013
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BLACK CAT	GHOST	SPIDER
CANDY	GHOUL	SWAMP CREATURE
CARVE	GRAVE	TRICK OR TREAT
CEMETERY	HAUNTED HOUSE	VAMPIRE
COSTUME	HALLOWEEN	WEB
DECORATIONS	JACK O LANTERN	WEREWOLF
FRANKENSTEIN	MUMMY	WITCH
FRIGHTFUL	SKELETON	ZOMBIE

Congratulations to Billy Monfort
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!





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SAT/ACT Program

Expires December 1, 2013

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for the academic support you and your staff have provided to my son during the past year. I can attest to the significant impact the Tutoring Club experience has made in his life. As a result, he has earned A's and B's and is less frustrated when given difficult homework assignments. Beyond this, he has developed the academic self-confidence needed to be successful. I attribute a great deal of my son's academic success to the team at the Tutoring Club. Thank you for making a difference!!"

Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College

"I am the mother of 3 children and my oldest son was having reading problems. The Tutoring Club helped my son and myself to learn new reading strategies. With Tutoring Club's help my 6 year old son was able to sound out words and read. He is very proud of himself and I am so happy and proud of him as well. He couldn't have made the growth without the Tutoring Club. Thank you Tutoring Club for giving my son the help he needed."

Mother of 1st grader – SES Student
Norwalk-La Mirada School District

"My son always fought me to do homework, and this would be an all night thing. I tried everything, and then found the Tutoring Club. Putting him in the Tutoring Club's the best thing I could have done for him. His 2011 California Standards Test was proficient in everything!!!!"

Mother of student at
Landell Elementary, Cypress

Let Us Help With Homework This Year

(714) 995-READ (7323)

Cypress/Garden Grove • Campus View Center (Valley View at Lincoln) 9111 Valley View St. Suite 115, Cypress, CA 90630