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School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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Dual Language Program Looks to the Future



Student Ravenna Rodriguez explains to teacher Adriana Zamora how many dots there are during a math talk.



Students Macey Albarian and Christopher Calvo practice counting skills through counting collections.



Veeh teacher Bertha Picasso helps her students identify Spanish words and say them frequently through rhymes and songs. (story on page 7)

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Overcoming Poverty



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

Everyone in the Tustin Unified School District should take great pride in our 98% high school graduation rate – among the best in California! It reflects the efforts of parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and staff from kindergarten through high school, and it's significant that there is very little difference among student subgroups. Nearly all TUSD students successfully complete high school, regardless of their ethnicity,

home language, or family income. Yet, an achievement gap persists in other ways, most notably in achievement scores on state exams in language arts and mathematics. Our socioeconomically disadvantaged students reach proficiency at roughly half the rate of their non-socioeconomically disadvantaged peers. We can do better.

The District's Achievement Gap Task Force was established last spring and is meeting this school year in work groups to identify and recommend strategies and actions that will make significant progress in closing the achievement gaps that persist in the District. I appreciate the teachers, counselors, principals, staff and administrators who serve on the Task Force. They represent the District from kindergarten through high school and have great expertise in working with disadvantaged and English Learner students. The three work groups of the Task Force are:

1. Identifying current best practices and creating systems to ensure their widespread use
2. Meeting the unique social and emotional needs of the targeted student groups
3. Early identification and intervention strategies

I appreciate the Tustin Unified team and community for its bias toward action – we can only solve problems by taking proactive steps to address them. Together, we will make Tustin Unified schools even better for every student. Go TUSD!



Mark Eliot

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For the latest information:

 @TUSDschools and @SuptFranklin

 TUSDschools

www.tustin.k12.ca.us

State of the Schools Breakfast

By Mark Eliot

*Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District*

The Tustin Unified School District and Tustin Public Schools Foundation held their fifth annual State of the Schools Breakfast on September 26 in the Beckman High School Gymnasium. Over 320 people – administrators, staff, parents, city officials, business and community members – attended the event, which celebrated the accomplishments of TUSD and featured how the District is preparing student for success in college and careers.



Beckman High School String Orchestra performs for the audience.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin presented the keynote address. His topics included college success, career pathways, specialized engineering and robotics programs, Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School, Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program, 1:1 technology for students in grades 5-12, next generation science standards and California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests results for students. Dr. Franklin also emphasized TUSD's 2015 graduation rate of 98 percent – compared to 90 percent countywide and 82 percent in the state.

“We have a lot to be proud of,” Franklin said. “Our accomplishments and successes couldn't happen without the dedicated work of the teachers, administrators and staff, and great support from the school board, parents and the community.”

Entertainment was provided by the Beckman High String Orchestra, under the direction of Jim Kollias, and the District presented its new video, “Preparing Students to Thrive Now and in the Future.” The video can be seen on the TUSD Web site's Home Page at www.tustin.k12.ca.us under “Video Presentations.”

TUSD UPDATE

By Mark Eliot

Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District

TUSD Outperforms Orange County and California on State Tests

The California Department of Education has released testing results, and for the second consecutive year, students in the Tustin Unified School District outperformed the county and state averages of their peers in English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

California updated its standards and built matching assessments to shift student learning toward more complex skills. In just the second year of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), TUSD students achieved gains on tests designed to gauge preparation for college and career.

“Tustin Unified students are making great progress from one year to the next,” Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin said. “Not only are TUSD students performing at rates higher than the county and state, they also improved upon their results from last year in almost every category and grade level.”

Once again, student scores were grouped into four achievement levels – standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met and standard not met.

Overall, 63 percent of Tustin Unified students met or exceeded the English language arts (ELA)/literacy standard, compared to 57 percent of Orange County

students and 49 percent of students in the state. Last year, 56 percent of TUSD students met or exceeded the ELA/literacy standard. The 2016 results reflect a seven percent growth over the prior year. Generally, a three to five percent increase or decrease is considered statistically significant. Additionally, TUSD students made gains in every grade level on the ELA/literacy tests.

In math, 53 percent of Tustin Unified students met or exceeded the standard, compared to 48 percent of Orange County students and 37 percent of students in the state. In 2015, 49 percent of TUSD students met or exceeded the standard in math – a four percent increase over last year.

CAASPP replaces the previous Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) system and consists of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. Students take both a computer-based and computer-adaptive test, providing them with a wider range of questions tailored to more accurately identify the knowledge and skills they have mastered. The tests also include performance tasks that challenge students to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving, and to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems.

Tustin Unified’s 2016 SAT Scores Higher Than State and Nation

The Tustin Unified School District has announced that its 2016 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores continue to be higher than California and national scores. The District also reported over 950 college-bound seniors took the SAT last year.

High school students throughout the nation take the SAT each year. The test consists of math, critical reading and writing sections. The results are published by the College Board as part of the criteria used for admission to colleges and universities.

Tustin Unified’s average math score of 549 continues to be well above the state average of 500 and national average of 508. The District’s average critical reading score of 527 is also above the state average of 491 and national average of

494. The District’s writing score of 534 is much higher than California’s score of 485 and the national average of 482.

TUSD’s total mean score of 1610 significantly exceeded the state mean score of 1476 and the national mean score of 1484, according to Chief Academic Officer Kathie Nielsen.

For 2016, Tustin Unified students outperformed students in the nation by 33 points in critical reading and 41 points in math. District students averaged 49 points over the state average and 52 points over the national average in writing.

During the 2016-17 school year, Tustin Unified will target instruction to increase the number of graduates who participate in higher level courses and complete UC/CSU entrance requirements, Nielsen added.

TUSD Schools Named 2016 Title I Academic Achieving Schools

The Tustin Unified School District received notification from the California Department of Education that five additional elementary schools were selected as 2016 Title I Academic Achieving Schools. This distinction is given to schools receiving Title I funds that aid in meeting the educational needs of students living at or below the poverty level.

Helen Estock, Guin Foss, Robert Heideman, Loma Vista

and Marjorie Veeh elementary schools were notified that they were named 2016 Title I Academic Achieving Schools. The five schools join Barbara Benson, Benjamin Beswick, C.C. Lambert and Jeane Thorman elementary schools, which received their award last spring. All nine schools were also named California Gold Ribbon Schools by the state department of education last spring.

Tustin Memorial Academy Named a National Blue Ribbon School

Tustin Memorial Academy in the Tustin Unified School District has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the California Department of Education. Tustin Memorial is one of three Orange County elementary schools and 29 California public schools chosen for the coveted award. Overall, 279 public schools and 50 private schools were selected for the honor.

“This is an outstanding achievement for Tustin Memorial Academy,” TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin said. “The principal, teachers and staff at Tustin Memorial have worked hard to continue the tradition of academic excellence in Tustin Unified.”

All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on student scores. Tustin Memorial Academy was selected as a 2016 Exemplary High Performing School. In the past, Tustin Memorial was named National Blue Ribbon School in 2007 and California Distinguished School in 2006 and 2014.

“We are truly honored to receive this prestigious award,” Tustin Memorial Principal Sharon Maeda said. “It reflects the passion and commitment of

our entire school community in creating an exceptional environment for students to grow and learn.”

National Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at a national awards ceremony on November 7 and 8 in Washington, D.C., where each winner received a plaque and flag. Tustin Memorial Principal Sharon Maeda, former principal Wendy Hudson and 2016 Orange County/TUSD/TMA Teacher of the Year Courtney Smith attended the ceremony.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are public and nonpublic elementary, middle and high schools that are producing outstanding results for all students. They have demonstrated consistent excellence and made progress in closing gaps in student achievement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes effective school leadership and promising instructional practices.



Tustin Memorial Academy principal, teachers and staff celebrate their National Blue Ribbon School award.

Tustin Unified Announces Early Start for 2017-18 School Year

The Tustin Unified School District has announced an earlier start date for all TK-12 students in the 2017-18 school year. The first day of school next fall will be Tuesday, August 22, 2017, and the last day of instruction will be June 7, 2018. Parents will need to adjust vacation times and plan calendars to ensure students are ready for school mid-August.

TUSD is moving to an earlier start date in order to give students more time to prepare for tests such as Advanced Placement (AP), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and other college-level tests; coordinate college applications; and ease high school seniors' transition into colleges. Students will also be able to compete on equal footing with students back east who in the past had a greater number of instructional days before testing.

“Moving up the start date accomplishes a number of educational goals,” TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin said. “It allows students and teachers to finish the first semester before winter break and gives students more time to prepare for high-stakes exams. Additional instruction in core curriculum will better prepare students for success.”

A calendar committee was formed, consisting of representatives from various TUSD stakeholders, and met for several months to design a school calendar that was shared in focus groups of parents, teachers and staff. The calendar provides optimal instructional days for all students, timely and meaningful teacher staff development days, and a consistent school calendar for families with students at multiple levels. The change also aligns TUSD with many other school districts in Orange County, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) sports calendar and local colleges' schedules. The new calendar offers high school students a greater opportunity to take college summer school classes, which start in early June. For students preparing to get a job or an internship over the summer, they will have a longer period of time to get ready to go on to college and attend college orientations.

TUSD is announcing the early start schedule in advance to allow parents enough time to plan childcare and vacations.

The 2017-18 calendar is available online at www.tustin.k12.ca.us under Quick Links/School Year Calendar.

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This school year is going way too fast. Reading Dr. Franklin's message and the articles in this issue it is easy to see the students haven't let a moment go to waste.

Our next issue is February 15. Until then have a Happy Thanksgiving, fun Winter Break, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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TUSD Offers Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program

For the first time, the Tustin Unified School District is offering a Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program for elementary-age students. The program is being held at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School and is currently offering classes in transitional kindergarten (TK), kindergarten and first grade.

The dual language immersion program allows English learners and English proficient students to receive instruction in both English and Spanish in order to develop academic proficiency in both languages as they progress through the grade levels.

“The goals of the program are for students to develop communicative and academic second language proficiency, while developing their primary language proficiency as well,” said Maggie Villegas, Director of Elementary Education. The program also promotes biliteracy, bilingualism and multiculturalism, she added.

“Studies have shown that the younger a child is when exposed to a second language, the more easily a second language can be learned,” Villegas said.

Over 80 students in Veeh’s transitional kindergarten (TK), kindergarten and first grade classes are receiving the benefit of being able to academically master two languages along with enhancing their capacity to listen, think creatively, examine analytically, and develop better communication skills, according to Principal Rafael Plascencia.

“We are having the time of our life with the implementation of our Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program,” Plascencia said. “Not only are students having a ball learning in the classroom, parents are in the midst of organizing fun weekend events with other DLI families.”

Studies have shown the benefits of the language immersion program include:

Academic and educational benefits – English-proficient immersion students are capable of achieving as well as,

if not better in some cases, than non-immersion peers on standardized measures of reading and math.

Cognitive skill development – there’s a well-established positive relationship between basic thinking skills and being a fully proficient bilingual who maintains regular use of both languages. Fully proficient bilinguals outperform

monolinguals in the areas of divergent thinking, pattern recognition and problem solving.

Economic and sociocultural – the program will create a shared linguistic community and prepare young scholars to become leaders in a multicultural society and global economy.

“Since the start of this year, I have enjoyed watching all of my students gain a love of the Spanish language through songs, dance, chants and authentic literature,” said Veeh first grade dual immersion teacher Erica Zaragoza. “I’m proud to be giving my students a high quality education and lifelong gift of language.”

Kindergarten dual immersion teacher Bertha Picasso said, “It is remarkable to see how the students have established their own community of learners and mentors, resulting in a day-to-day opportunity to learn from and teach one another their native language and culture. At the tender age

of five, they may not quite understand that they will be the first future bilingual, biliterate global generation of TUSD becoming a part of the 65% of the world’s multilingual population.”

“Acquiring a second language takes time and our parents are definitely committed to the process,” said Adriana Zamora, transitional kindergarten (TK) dual immersion teacher. “I see students beginning to use Spanish more and more each day through songs and chants and parents are excited to hear them using it at home.”

Veeh Principal Rafael Plascencia added, “We look forward to seeing our pioneer students thrive and succeed in our dual immersion program for years to come.”



Teacher Erica Zaragoza and her students, Pablo Flores, Alexander Gonzalez, Lucero Millan, Luis Angeles and Melissa Vicente practice addition and subtraction.



Students practice counting in Spanish while signing the song *Diez Deditos*.

Arroyo Elementary School

11112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Amy Jones
Principal

CGI Math

The Arroyo Elementary School staff knows how important it is for students to be able to explain their mathematical reasoning. Because of this, we are focusing on Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in math as our signature practice this year.

Unlike traditional math instruction, where students are given the “rules” or algorithms for solving problems, CGI depends heavily on an inquiry based approach. This allows students the opportunity to explore a variety of ways to solve a problem, learning from their peers as they share out their solutions, and then share their thinking publicly. This process gives students the understanding that there is more than one way to tackle a problem, and that what works best for you may be different than what works best for another student.



Arroyo second-grade students use playing cards to reinforce math concepts.

We plan on holding a CGI Parent Night in order to provide our families with a deeper understanding of this model so that they will be better able to support their children at home.



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Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

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Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

Dual-Enrollment Business Classes

In every graduating class of high school seniors, there are numerous students who tell us that they “want go into business” when they graduate. But rarely have they had any real exposure to business classes.

This year, in a unique partnership with Irvine Valley College (IVC), Beckman High School students are able to take college-level business classes. These classes are taught on Beckman’s campus by experienced IVC professors during the regular bell schedule and are part of the students’

regular school day. Students enrolled in these business classes take part in a series of four courses, including: Introduction to Business, Market Validation and Research, Business Models, and Pathways to Success.

By completing the yearlong program, students earn three University of California/California State University transferable units, an additional four Irvine Valley College units, and a certificate of proficiency from IVC. They also earn valuable exposure to business concepts and theories, which will give them an advantage when applying to college as business majors.

The program currently has 37 students enrolled and has generated extremely positive responses from the students.



Students in the IVC Business Class learn about managing the production process.

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Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

12712 Elizabeth Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7531



Jackie Christy
Principal

The Four Cs

As an Apple Distinguished School, Benson Elementary School's Salute to Our Schools story is about the way our teachers and students are using technology to enhance education through the four Cs: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking.

Our presentation in the district's board room displays what Benson students are creating using technology. And when the QR codes are scanned, these projects demonstrate how students are using today's tools to modify and redefine instruction.

The four Cs are used daily in every classroom through hands-on lessons. All students at Benson are being taught rigorous standards with engaging strategies that are supported by technology. But the Four Cs do not come at the expense of the three Rs—reading, writing, and arithmetic. They enrich instruction in the Common Core State Standards, ensuring that students are on their way to becoming college and career ready.



Benson teacher Katy Erickson, third-grader Christian Kerr, fifth-grader Spencer Kerr and Principal Jackie Christy proudly stand in front of the school's display in the TUSD Board Room.

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

1362 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7385



Stephanie Yang
Principal

Welcome, Mrs. Yang!

Stephanie Yang has been named principal of Benjamin Beswick Elementary School. Mrs. Yang has been in education for 11 years—the past five years in TUSD. Most recently, she served as assistant principal at Hicks Canyon Elementary School.

Mrs. Yang joined Tustin Unified as coordinator of curriculum and special projects, and launched the district's 21st century technology-focused elementary music education program for third-through-fifth-grade students. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from California State University, Long Beach. She is currently working toward her doctorate in educational leadership.

In 2015, Mrs. Yang was named Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year by the Tustin School Management Association.

"I'm excited to get to know and build strong relationships with the Beswick staff, students, parents and community," Mrs. Yang said. "I look forward to working together to create a rigorous 21st Century learning community for all of our students."



Principal Stephanie Yang gets to know her students at Beswick School.

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

17952 Beneta Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7352



Maggie Burdette
Principal

Statewide Garden Grant

We are proud to announce that Barbara Stachelski, a dedicated special education teacher at Columbus Tustin Middle School, has received a statewide grant for \$1,200 to support the creation of a school garden.

The creation of a garden is an amazing opportunity to boost student interest in science, math and language arts. Students will use math and art concepts to develop a design for the garden. As they learn to cultivate a variety of plants, students will also have valuable opportunities to develop language acquisition and writing skills as they record their experiences. They will be working closely with a professional chef to learn how to prepare healthy meal choices with the fruits and vegetables they grow. This will provide a venue to develop their social skills as they collaborate to nurture the garden and literally experience the fruits of their labor.



Students celebrate the receipt of their garden grant. (Front) Anthony Santiago, Jason Lenning, David Orozco, Jeremy Cardiel, Jonathan Martinez, Javier Serrato and (Back) teacher Barbara Stachelski, Nikki Reyes, Diana Nolasco, Kailey Casanova, Michael Hernandez, Doreyda Nunez, Ashley Small, David Perez, Juan Trespalacios, Joseph Lewis, Dominik Mendez and Principal Maggie Burdette.

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7360



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Getting the Job Done

You're hired! That's the phrase our students from the first- and second-year Entrepreneur class were hoping to hear after their mock interviews. The students had the opportunity to meet with professionals from over 30 different careers. These career representatives interviewed the Entrepreneur class students first, and they were then able to ask career-related questions of their special guests.

The students learned how to complete a resume and prepare for a job interview. Entrepreneur teacher Zachariah Samarin prepared them by discussing professional attire, the value of a handshake (before and after the interview), eye contact, enthusiasm, and the importance of first impressions. The students also learned self-promotion skills such as answering questions with reference to strengths, skills, and abilities, and how these will contribute to a position in a future career.

We are extremely proud of our Entrepreneur students for a job well done, and commend Mr. Samarin for preparing them to be highly qualified future leaders in their careers.



Tustin Public Schools Foundation President and restaurateur Armen Karamardian speaks with entrepreneur student Rogelio Valencia as other professionals work with students.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Wendy Hudson
Principal

The Robots Are Coming!

Estock Elementary School has already formed our Robotics team for the 2016–17 school year! Sixteen fourth-and fifth-grade students were selected from a competitive application process to be part of the team, which emphasizes collaboration and the design process while teaching teamwork, leadership and communication. Teams of students are tasked with designing and building robots to play against other robots in a game-based engineering challenge. Matches are played on a “field” and include the Robot Skills Challenge in which one robot takes the field to score as many points as possible under driver control. In the Teamwork Challenge, two robots work collaboratively to score points.

The Estock Robotics Team works under the guidance and expertise of fifth-grade teacher Jen Sandland and



The 2016 Robotics Team prepares for their final competition.

meet during lunch and after school to practice and plan for the competitions. We can't wait to watch our Estock Eagle team compete in the competitions this year!

Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/ 730-7464



Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

The Knight Spirit!

Foothill High School has had a wonderful history and a winning tradition even from the beginning. In October, the first graduating class of 1966 enjoyed their 50th reunion with over 200 participants and a campus tour. They exchanged some fun, awkward and emotional stories about all the experiences over the many years.

Desiring to build school spirit in their senior year, 1966, the class president decided to build a football graveyard of all their conquests. She and her dad made gravestones of the teams they were about to play throughout the season. One by one, they engraved an RIP and the score. The students enjoyed a weekly assembly to bury their competition and rallied to an undefeated season initiating Foothill's Legacy of Excellence!

The Class of 1966 is impressed with how far Foothill has advanced and the opportunities available to our Knights.



Foothill's first Graduating Class (1966) poses for a group photo during their visit to the campus.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

18492 Vanderlip Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7552



Kelly Fresch
Principal

Going for the Gold

Guin Foss Elementary School was recently awarded the Gold Award for a successful six years of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) implementation. We are proud of the hard work that goes into supporting PBIS school-wide.

Our Safe, Motivated, Academic, Respectful, and Team players (SMART) program keeps our students motivated to make good choices at school. Students receive SMART cards when they are caught making good choices. If

students collect 25 cards in a trimester, they get to participate in a positive rewards party, such as a sidewalk chalk, movie, dance, or bring your own device party. Students also submit individual cards for weekly rewards at our Friday flag ceremony.

We feel strongly that this rewards-based program of positive recognition for positive behavior keeps students from moving to the TIER II or TIER III support system. However, if necessary, we have multiple staff members ready and available to help students who need extra academic or behavioral support.

Congratulations to Guin Foss for this recognition!



The Guin Foss PBIS Team team includes, Anne Hobbs, Christina Barlet, Principal Kelly Fresch, Gretchen Carrera, Coach Elizabeth Cometa, Parent Brenda Miyashiro, Pam Erickson and Beth Milkovich.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

15571 Williams St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7521



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Learning and Playing Together

Diane Ackerman once wrote, "Play is our brain's favorite way of learning." As educators, we know firsthand about the deep connection between play and learning. When school is at its best, they can feel like the same thing at the same time! Whether it's academics, social skills or sportsmanship, learning is going on during meaningful play.

Heideman is doing its best to add cooperative play opportunities to its community goings-on. Our ever-popular Friday Night Games started in October. Well over 100 students are participating in organized games with their peers for an hour after school on Fridays. A variety of parents, teachers and community partners are the adult leaders for all the various game stations.

Good times, laughter and healthy physical exercise make the Heideman field a beautiful place to be on a Friday afternoon.

One of the great American sporting traditions in the fall is football! Thanks to our incredibly dedicated partners at the Tustin Police Department, interested Heideman Roadrunners get to play flag football two days a week after school. As we get close to the Thanksgiving holiday, these student athletes will compete in a friendly competition we're calling the Turkey Bowl.

Last, we have "Padres en Acción." Three days a week, a group of dedicated and incredibly generous parents prepare and facilitate games during lunch recess. Soccer, basketball and a variety of games are expertly planned and implemented.

Heideman is not only a great place to learn—it's a great place to play as well!

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7339



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

From Research to Curating

The students of Heritage Elementary, a STEAM Magnet School, have opened their own Heritage Museum that showcases the history of Tustin and the old Marine base where the school is located. Students spent the past month researching and exploring various time periods, including the Native Americans, explorers, settlers and World War II, when the base and blimp hangars were built.

Through various design challenges, students learned about the operation of the blimps in the two hangars south of our property. Students applied their new knowledge of Tustin's history by creating artifacts, models and presentations synthesizing their new learning. The fourth- and fifth-graders, the curators of the Heritage Museum, combined artifacts from all the classes in the museum. They consulted with expert curators from the Bowers Museum and explored many virtual museums to learn how to best lay out the floor plan and display the collection. The museum served as a feature of the school's ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Oct. 14.



Fifth-grader Max Barraza and fourth-grader Corbin Black present their WWII blimps display in the multipurpose room's Heritage Museum, created entirely by students to showcase the history of the former Tustin Marine Corps air station and local area.

Hewes *Middle School*

13232 Hewes Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7348



Eric Kilian
Principal

A Chain Reaction

Rachel's Challenge is a program that our PTA brings to Hewes every three years. It inspires our students and staff to bring positive changes to their school. Rachel Scott was a victim of the Columbine High School shootings, and she left a legacy by reaching out to those who are different, who are picked on by others, or who are new to their school.

Many Hewes students and teachers attend our Friends of Rachel Club (FOR) every month. Not only do they participate in team-building and encourage each other during these meetings, they also plan acts of kindness on campus, such as sitting with someone new, "high five zones," and posting positive messages. The FOR Club will also continue to support the MaxLove Project and participate in activities like the Great Kindness Challenge.

The Hewes FOR Club meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the school. They are certainly sending a positive chain reaction on our campus!



Hewes FOR Club members respect their school and community.

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Deena Vela
Principal

21st-Century Coaching

Tustin Unified School District Connect Coach Brandee Ramirez (Coach R) is an amazing 21st-century educator who works to support all teachers at Hicks Canyon Elementary School (HCE) with innovative practices. She is “Making A Splash” with technology integration in all areas. She collaborates with teachers on specific topics and helps them to discover different ways to incorporate technology into instructional practices.

Coach R. also works with fourth-grade student leaders known as the TECHsperts. Currently, the TECHsperts are collaborating to create a 21st-century innovation lab using the engineering design process. This space will allow HCE students to create and learn beyond traditional classroom walls.

Coach R leads monthly JOTs That POP professional development sessions. She uses this time to share new ways to incorporate technology tools, including SeeSaw, Canvas, Haiku, and Google.

Technology isn't the only thing Coach R. loves. She also loves reading. She may always have a device in one hand, but you will most likely find a book in the other!



TUSD Connect Coach Brandee Ramirez reads “Making a Splash” to kindergarteners and talks about Mindset.

Hillview *High School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7356



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

New Staff Members Join Us

Hillview is proud to welcome three new staff members!

Mari Aviles is a longtime Tustin resident and district employee. She is also Hillview's new secretary, replacing Betty Fernandez. For the past 20 years, Ms. Aviles has worked as a community liaison at Robert Heideman Elementary School, a paraeducator at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School, and a secretary at Beckman High School.

Jesse Lomeli and Cesar Armenta are Hillview's newest campus supervisors. Mr. Lomeli has worked for TUSD for the past nine years at Columbus Tustin and Hewes middle schools. He is a retired Los Angeles police officer who served on the Homeland Security Task Force.

Mr. Armenta has worked part-time for TUSD for the past four summers in Maintenance and Operations. In addition to his part-time position at Hillview, Mr. Armenta works custodial at the Orange County Courthouse. When not working, Mr. Armenta enjoys spending time with his family and watching the LA Rams play.



Hillview staff members, from left, Cesar Armenta, Mari Aviles and Jesse Lomeli are new additions to the school.

Ladera *Elementary School*

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7505



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

Math for Makers

Ladera Leopards don't just do mathematics—they “make” it! When you walk the classrooms at Ladera Elementary, it isn't uncommon to see students building, creating, and exploring right before your eyes, in all subject areas. This year more than ever, the teachers at Ladera are focused on creating learning opportunities that emphasize the four C's: communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

For the activity pictured here, students were practicing their math facts using dice. The students added, subtracted, and multiplied their numbers depending on what facts they were working on and compared their number to that of their partner. The student with the highest number took a building block. When all building blocks were accounted for, the students then created something new with the building blocks they had earned.

Not only did students have an opportunity to demonstrate their learning of math facts but they also had the opportunity to use their creativity and build!



First-grade students “make” mathematics in teacher Sara Blair's classroom.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

13822 Prospect Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7528



Katy Sheyka
Principal

Cultivating a Community of Writers

This year, Loma Vista embraced a new signature practice, Writer's Workshop, with the goal of fostering a joy of writing within our students. The workshop model lends itself well to reaching all learning levels, making writing very personal and enjoyable for our young authors.

The impact on student motivation has been incredible! “I think the thing that stands out most to me is that when my students hear that it is time for Writer's Workshop, they all cheer!” said special education teacher Leann Liana.

First-grade teacher Jillian Trujillo added, “Seeing how choice empowers students to believe in themselves as writers energizes me.”

“By linking yesterday's skills to today's teaching point, we are able to create momentum that moves our writers through the writing process in a very real way,” said third-grade teacher Laura Shaler.

In November, we will celebrate all of our authors in our first schoolwide writing celebration, cultivating a community of writers!



First-grade writing partners Suzette Ramirez and Samantha Bravo edit their spelling.

Myford *Elementary School*

3181 Trevino Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1875



Be Awesome!

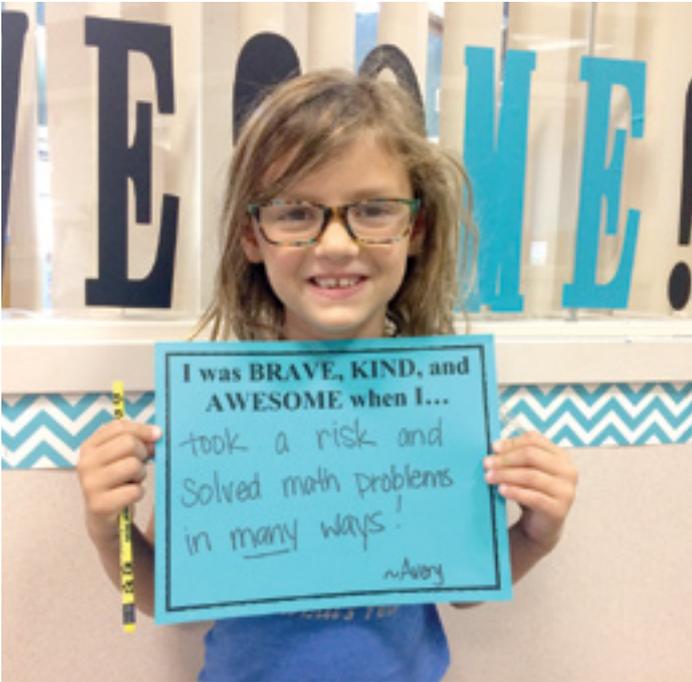
Last year, Myford students focused on using our Superhero Powers of Kindness. This year we are adding on and encouraging our students to be brave!

Bravery comes in many forms, and there are countless opportunities for our students to be brave. They can share out in class, try something new, or stand up for what is right.

Being brave requires a growth mindset,

knowing that you'll fail, but then also knowing that you'll learn and grow.

Rena Fairchild
Principal



Myford student Avery Kamper was BRAVE when she took a risk with her learning.

Every Friday, our students are recognized publicly when they reach out to a new friend, or when they take risks with a new math strategy. Other times the acts of bravery are more personal, and we honor and respect those as well. Our students take the initiative to recognize each other, and by the end of the year our "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Awesome!" program will be completely filled with student examples!



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W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

14392 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7536



Melinda Smith
Principal

Parents Play a Big Role

Nelson parents are busy supporting a variety of activities on our campus. We are proud to welcome Padres en Acción to the Nelson family. Over 25 parents attended the six-session training. These volunteers will lead our students in structured activities, such as field hockey, three days each week during lunch recess throughout the school year to help our students to make active choices on the playground.

Coffee with the Principal is a great way for parents to stay informed. Each week, parents are invited to learn about the current happenings. Recently, our Connect coach, Rosanne Mann, led our parents in a makerspace challenge so that they can experience how our students will use the Creation Station. Using the engineering/design process, parents got into groups of three to create pom-pom launchers. After identifying the challenge, parents planned, created, tested, and improved upon their designs. We ended by testing the distance of each launcher.



Parents Amanda Cuellar, Patricia Huerta, and Lucy Casillas test their pom pom launcher in a makerspace challenge.

Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/730-2078



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Author Shares Writing Process

By Laurie Lawver, Librarian

Author Tom Rogers visited Orchard Hills School on October 5 to share his book, *Eleven*, with our fifth-grade students. They learned firsthand about the author's writing process and how to persevere when faced with writing failure.

Eleven is a historical fiction novel set in New York on September 11, 2001. What started out as any other day for a boy yearning for a dog on his 11th birthday suddenly became a day filled with so many emotions. This important book reminded us that everyone has a story and that tragic events can happen to anyone.

Mr. Rogers encouraged our Hawks to question and explore history through our conversations. *Eleven* may be a story about individuals and chance, but it taught us about the power of being together and loved. We are so grateful for Mr. Rogers' time.



Tom Rogers takes a selfie with the Orchard Hills fifth-grade classes.

To find out more about this presentation, view the video created by fifth-grade teacher Liz Root at <https://goo.gl/F7iyNg>.

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

26900 Peters Canyon Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7540



Brooke Carreras
Principal

Walking to School

In October, the Tustin Police Department, Kiwanis Club of Tustin and Peters Canyon PTO teamed up to sponsor International Walk to School Day at Peters Canyon Elementary in Tustin Ranch. Students and their parents met up at six locations throughout the community and walked as a group to campus.

The students learned about crosswalk safety, the benefits of walking to school, and the impact of traffic on the community. Once students arrived at school, they were welcomed by Tustin police officers, Kiwanis members and PTO volunteers and were treated to water, stickers and pencils for their participation. The Tustin Police Department brought Bravo the police dog, which was a big hit with the students!

Following a short assembly, the students were presented with donated playground balls and school supplies. Two classes with over 89 percent participation were treated to a yogurt party, compliments of the Tustin Police Department.



Peters Canyon students and parents participate in International Walk to School Day.

Pioneer *Middle School*

2700 Pioneer Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7534



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

What is Your Hope for Our Students?

Pioneer Middle School kicked off the year with guest speaker Jeremy Poincenot, who inspired teachers, students, and parents with his story of turning his personal trauma into triumph. Jeremy's message focused on the importance of relationships and the need for interdependence, "Individually we are limited; together we are limitless!" He encouraged

students to recognize their power to positively impact another persons' life. Jeremy spoke with the teachers in the morning, the entire student body in the afternoon, and addressed the parents in the evening. Following this positive message teachers recorded their "Hopes for their students," on a 30-foot poster, while students recorded "What is their hope?" at lunch on an additional poster, and the parents will be invited to write their hopes for their children during Pioneer's Fall Festival. All three posters will be prominently displayed on the outdoor stage providing a daily reminder that Pioneer's Mission is Possible!



Guest speaker Jeremy Poincenot talks to Pioneer students about limitless possibilities.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

11911 Red Hill Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7543



Will Neddersen
Principal

Going to the Polls

For the 2016 election season, Red Hill Elementary School wanted to expose students to the democratic process of going to the polls to cast their votes. Red

Hill's student council annually has elections for its Board members, including president, treasurer, and other positions. The election typically involves third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students.



Students went to the polls to place their vote.

For this election, all students in first through fifth grades were invited to cast their votes. The candidates wrote and delivered speeches about why they felt they deserved fellow students' votes. Every classroom listened to the speeches to determine who they would vote for.

On Red Hill's Election Day, classes entered the library and found "voting booths," where they were able to cast their votes on an electronic tablet using a Google Form. As students left the polling place, they received I Voted stickers. The experience led to further discussion of the voting process in the classroom.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7364



Deanna Parks
Principal

Lab Model Format

This year, Thorman Elementary School teachers have the unique opportunity to receive professional development using the knowledge and

skills within the Tustin Unified School District. Thorman and Beswick Elementary Schools have teamed up for professional development. The sessions will be held nine times this year.

Teachers completed a needs-based assessment survey at the beginning of the year to determine the focus of each professional development session. The development sessions rotate monthly between the two campuses. Teachers attend short 90-minute sessions to learn with their grade-level peers. This structure allows teachers to receive specific content knowledge at the appropriate grade level and in a particular area of Balanced Literacy. This is followed by a lesson modeled by the Connect coaches and a time to debrief, ask questions,



Connect Coach Kerri Braun modeling a writing small group to Thorman and Beswick teachers.

provide feedback, and collaborate. Teachers are also given time to plan for their own students and apply their new learning.

Tustin Adult School / Sycamore *High School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7395



Virginia Burrows
Coordinator

Citizenship Preparation Classes

At Tustin Adult School, students from more than 16 countries are currently enrolled in the classes they need to meet their future goals. In citizenship class, students prepare for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) interview, which requires a demonstration of English literacy and fluency. Applicants must talk about their personal background and answer questions about U.S. history and government.



David Salazar and his wife, Ana Isabel Rivas, review government and history questions for the citizenship oral interview.

Attending night classes twice a week, Ana Isabel Rivas and her husband David Salazar present a courageous example of motivation, determination, and perseverance. Because life was difficult during the Civil War in El Salvador, they immigrated to the U.S. in 1989. Their six children were born here. Now that the children are older, Ana and David have time to attend Adult School and become American citizens. They feel gratitude for their life in the U.S., a place of safety, opportunity, and freedom.

Tustin Connect Center *Online School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7395



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Administrator

Effective Blended Learning

Tustin Connect Center is a blended learning school where students learn from a mix of effective online learning and traditional face-to-face instruction. The online learning component allows students to have greater flexibility with their time and ownership of their learning. The classroom instruction provides students with meaningful opportunities to receive academic support and to collaborate and communicate with their peers.

Tustin Connect students have the opportunity to receive classroom instruction twice a week at Collaborative Learning Days and Lab Hour Days. Students enjoy these face-to-face instructional days in large part because of the small student-teacher ratio. Students receive the individualized attention and support they need to reach their full academic potential. As online and blended learning continues to grow in popularity as a research-based alternative to traditional education, Tustin Connect is proud to offer an effective model that meets the diverse needs of students and families throughout Orange County.



Tustin Connect students Camron Murray, Athena Struppa, Isabella Spurgeon, Elliot Kim, Parker Lee, and Bella Williams collaborate during Writer's Workshop.

Tustin High School

1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7414



Christine Matos
Principal

New Look for Tustin High School

If you have not driven by or visited Tustin High School's campus recently, you may be unaware of the amazing transformations. Upon entering our parking lot, the most striking change you will notice is the expansive entrance to the front of the school. There are now new student drop-off, loading, and waiting areas and new landscaping and lighting.

Once entering our campus and heading toward the back of the school, you will notice our brand-new, two-story Humanities Building. This building is approximately 14,000 square feet and features 12 classrooms and a conference room. The building is surrounded by an inviting performance plaza, where students can be seen socializing, studying, and enjoying outdoor classes.

In addition, both our library and little theater have received facelifts, and the re-landscaping of the new Tiller Park has been completed.

These are exciting times at Tustin High!



A view of the new entrance to Tustin High School.

Tustin Memorial Academy

12712 Browning Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7546



Sharon Maeda
Principal

Striving for Excellence!

Tustin Memorial Academy is honored and proud to be named as a National Blue Ribbon school among 279 public and 50 private schools nationwide. According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Blue Ribbon schools are on education's cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices."

TMA is moving its science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) integration forward with the initial phases of designing a student-led/student-developed innovation lab to include robotics, digital-media arts, coding, makerspace and more! Through the support of PTO and the incredible collaboration of teachers, parent volunteers and student Tech Club members, all K-5 students will be creating and problem-solving in true STEAM fashion. A new parent STEAM/Technology Committee is being developed, and they will be working collaboratively with staff and students to create innovative programs and exciting forward-thinking opportunities for the scholars at TMA!



Tustin Memorial Academy principal, teachers and staff celebrate their National Blue Ribbon School award.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

12950 Robinson Dr., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7580



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Cool Coyotes Care!

Tustin Ranch Elementary School hosts several clubs in conjunction with our strong parent volunteers: Running Club, Tech Club and the Theater Arts Performing Club. Now, our students, teachers and parents have joined to create a new service club.

Our Cool Coyotes Care Club partners with Operation Warm Wishes to support service projects for the less fortunate. At our first meeting, students decorated bags with positive messages of hope and encouragement. The bags will hold toiletry kits for the homeless. In October, we collected gently used costumes to be distributed to children who would not otherwise have them.

“This new club has instilled a new sense of pride, empathy and friendship among our students,” teacher Linda Chaplin said. “Planning the projects has expanded to our scout troops as well as to all our students during lunch and recess times. It is truly heartwarming to see how truly caring our students are for one another.”



Tustin Ranch students, from left, Kelis Aguilar, Tyla Denson, Christina Carmona, Iris Rainville and Ethan Quang Nhat enjoy being part of the Cool Coyotes Care Club.

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

13601 Browning ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7573



Dr. CK Green
Principal

New Assistant Principal Joins the Team

Ray Hernandez has been appointed as the new assistant principal at Utt Middle School. Prior to joining the Utt family, he taught for 11 years as an elementary teacher for the Anaheim Elementary School District.

After leaving the classroom, Mr. Hernandez served one year as an elementary assistant principal for the Magnolia School District. He then served two years as

principal. During that time, the work of his staff to support students led to the school being recognized as a California



Ray Hernandez is all smiles as the new assistant principal at Utt.

Title I Academic Achieving School and a Gold Ribbon School.

Mr. Hernandez received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Vanguard University, and he earned his administrative credential from California State University, Fullerton. Mr. Hernandez is excited about the opportunity to contribute to the wonderful Utt family. He is looking forward to personally meeting all of the wonderful students and families of Utt Middle School.



Our next issue is February 15, 2017 — Have a fun Winter Break!

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7544



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Diversity and Leadership

We have had a wonderful start to our school year at Veeh School, one that is celebrating diversity, promoting college-readiness, and encouraging leadership on our campus. Our Veeh Viking Victors are working together to spread kindness, encourage problem-solving, and help motivate their

peers to follow school rules.

At Back to School Night, performers recently transported Veeh families to experience Hawaiian culture through dance. Elections for student council just concluded, and it was an inspiring race. We had an overwhelming number of students step up to the plate to run for a leadership position on campus. We are proud of all of the students who had the courage to run, and know that each one of them has the ability to both inspire others and continue to inspire their peers throughout the entire school year, regardless of the outcome.

Veeh is definitely the “Place to Be, the Place to Belong, and the Place to Become.”



Veeh student Hawaiian dancers perform for parents at Back-to-School Night.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

150 El Camino Real, Suite 140, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/832-6299 • www.tfsf.net



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Dinosaur Dash Starts Off On the Right Foot

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation held its 26th annual Dinosaur Dash on November 6. After 26 years, the Dino Dash is still running and biking to support our local schools. This year’s event was a Dino-Mite success – thanks to the help of school staff, students, parents and community members.

The community’s support greatly impacts students and teachers in Tustin Unified. This

year, proceeds will benefit many innovative and engaging classroom projects across all 28 TUSD schools. Many grants will focus on engineering, coding and technology in the classroom. Last year, a grant allowed students to design and build a nano-satellite that will be launched aboard a NASA vehicle. Funds also went to build and irrigate a garden, where the fruits and vegetables were used for a Farm to Table concept. Grants will help fund robotics, classroom technology, collaborative art projects and more. Additionally, the Classroom and Innovative Grant Programs are open to all TUSD teachers with creative and out-of-the-box ideas.



TUSD middle school students line up for the cross country 5K race at the Dinosaur Dash.

Business Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 302



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

Construction in Full Swing

Tustin Unified School District staff embarked on managing or directly performing 127 construction-related projects across 28 schools this past summer. Each project varied in scope and complexity and ranged from a few hundred dollars to \$9 million for the campus renovation at Thorman Elementary School. The majority of the scheduled projects were completed over the summer break, while others, such as the Pioneer Middle School gymnasium/locker

room improvements and the classroom addition at Arroyo Elementary School, will still be in the works during the school year.

Students and staff at Tustin High School kicked off the school year in a new Humanities Building. The project consists of 12 new classrooms, new furniture, state-of-the-art technology, restrooms, an elevator, and a workroom. The project was completed in approximately six months. Other Measure L improvements underway at Tustin High include an enhanced entry/parking lot, field upgrades, and a remodeled little theater and library.



Tustin High students enjoy new Humanities Building and renovated "Tiller Park."

Educational Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 309



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic
Officer

AVID Seniors = 100 Percent Success

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) is a powerful tool for closing the achievement gap by ensuring academic success and college readiness. AVID continues to prepare Tustin Unified School District's middle and high school students by empowering AVID and content-area teachers with strategies to engage learners. These strategies for success are considered "the plate that the curriculum sits on" when utilized schoolwide in classrooms.

AVID continues to grow and prove successful in TUSD schools. This year, Columbus Tustin and Currie middle schools began the AVID Excel program, tailored for English learners by focusing on literacy and language acquisition. Currently, there are nearly 1,500 AVID and Excel students in 45 classroom sections. As for the success of AVID students and closing the achievement gap, 100 percent of TUSD's 2015–16 AVID seniors at three comprehensive high schools completed A-G requirements, 100 percent graduated from high school, and 100 percent applied to four-year colleges!



Foothill High School's AVID seniors celebrate college eligibility success.

Nutrition Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 342



Teresa Squibb
Director

Meatless Monday has a Recipe for Success

For the third consecutive year, Tustin Unified's Nutrition Services Department is offering Meatless Monday to our elementary and middle schools and Mostly Meatless to our high schools. Nutrition Services makes it easy for students to try a variety of meat free meals. Freshly made macaroni and cheese, homemade cheese enchiladas, fiesta bowl and penne pasta with soyriso and kale are a few of the entrees available to students.

Nutrition Services partnered with the Humane Society of the United States to sponsor a Plant Strong Culinary Workshop. Forty eight staff members from Tustin Unified and surrounding Orange County school districts attended the workshop. Vegetarian and vegan entrée requests are on the rise from students throughout Orange County and the workshop provided ways to promote and develop tasty and affordable plant based entrees. During the workshop, staff participated in a recipe demonstration of meals such as noodles with stir fried tofu and bok choy or fiesta bean shakers.



Columbus Tustin Cafeteria Staff, from left, Vanessa Santos, Patty Lee, Mercy Sanjurjo, Elvira Daniel Jorge LaVayen sport their Meatless Monday aprons.

Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 306



Dr. Crystal Turner
*Assistant Superintendent
Administrative Services*

Tech-Sperts Lead the Way

*By Garrett Kerr; Coordinator,
Educational Technology*

Tustin Unified students are finding many ways to get involved in their school and support their classmates and teachers.

Groups of students at Columbus Tustin and Pioneer Middle Schools, Orchard Hills School, and Beckman and Foothill High Schools have been forming Tech Clubs under the direction and guidance of their on-campus digital-learning coaches.

The students receive training and support from the coaches as well as their IT team to perform low-level maintenance and troubleshooting on student devices. They also provide one-on-one instruction for students and teachers. The students have even led professional development at their sites.

Similar groups are popping up at the elementary school campuses, with titles such as Tech Buddies and Tech-Sperts. This is yet another example of our TUSD students working collaboratively with staff to create a stronger learning environment and get experience in the real world. TUSD is better together!



Tech Genius Club students from Pioneer, Orchard Hills, and Columbus Tustin and their advisors Miriam Prell and Gina Dearborn visit an Amazon Fulfillment center.

Yang Masters United TAEKWONDO Center



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2016-2017 USA Taekwondo National Team Member
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- * APPROXIMATELY 1-16 COACH TO PLAYER RATIO
- * CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- * DAILY PRIZES AND AWARDS

THANKSGIVING CAMP
November 21st to 23rd
Days: Mon/Tu/Wed
Time: 9am - 12pm
Cost: \$90
Location: Columbus Tustin Park
Ages: 5-14

CHRISTMAS CAMP
December 19th to 23rd
Days: Mon/Tu/Wed/Thu/Fri
Time: 9am - 12pm
Cost: \$120
Location: OCGP
Ages: 5-14

NEW YEAR'S CAMP
December 26th to 30th
Days: Mon/Tu/Wed/Thu/Fri
Time: 9am - 12pm
Cost: \$120
Location: OCGP
Ages: 5-14

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www.WestCoastTaekwondoTustin.com

Come Join Us!



Naomi's Book Review



Naomi

A Magical Box

The Secret Kingdom

by Rosie Banks is a book full of mystery, suspense, adventure, thrills and excitement.

This book is about three girls called

Jasmine, Ellie and Summer who found a magical box that gave them a riddle. That the girls couldn't solve. Therefore the box sent the three girls to another world where they saw fairies, kings, queens, and trolls. Where they also went through different stages in weather. After going through all that adventure the three girls solved the riddle. Then the box sent the three girls back home. Where they made sure to put the box in a safe place where no one could ever find it again.

I give this book 5 stars because it is interesting and has many different scenes that just make me want to keep reading it over and over again. This is why I recommend this book to everyone.

Naomi is a fourth grader that enjoys reading and writing. But aside from her joy of reading she loves to play the piano, drawing, coloring and be involved in any school event. She rates her book from 1-5 stars with 5 being the highest.



Lacrosse-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 TUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2016

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

ATTACK	HEAD	RULES
CLEATS	HELMETS	SCORE
COACH	MIDDIES	SHAFT
CREASE	MOUTH	SIDE LINES
DEFENSE	GUARD	STICK
FIELD	NET	TEAMS
GOAL KEEPER	PLAYERS	UNIFORMS

Congratulations to Elle Pruitt
Winner of the September Word Search

Word Search by Kai Coop



Alana's Book Review

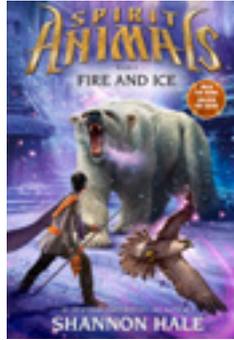


Alana F.

Spirit Animals Fire and Ice

By: Shannon Hale

Follow the team of Meilin, Abeke, Conor, Maya, Tarik, and Rollan as they travel across Arctica to find Suka the polar bear in hopes



of retrieving her talisman. After losing one of the teammate's family members, the team thought they had received their fair share of broken families but they seem to have thought wrong. What will happen when a close relative to one of the team members shows up in Arctica as a minion of the Devourer?

I won't spoil who this story is mostly about (although you can probably just look at the cover and tell) so that you will be surprised at who the relative is. I'd probably give this book four stars because while this is a fantastic story, it outlines one of the main character's confusion and depression so it makes me depressed.

Alana F. is a student columnist invited to review her favorite books for our readers. She rates the books on a scale of 1—5 with 5 being the highest.

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Richard's Book Review



A Twist On a Classic

Chickerella

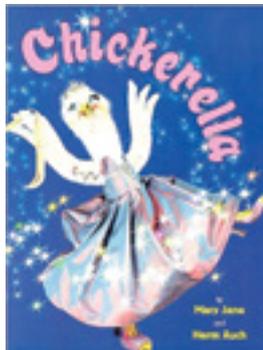
Written and Illustrated by Mary Jane Auch

In the beginning it is like the usual Cinderella story about how chicken Cinderella, named Chickerella gets an Evil Stepmother, and starts living in a coop behind the house. Then, because of her poor diet, the eggs she lays become more and more

transparent, until they are pure glass. When it's time for the Prince's ball, the Fairy Goosemother appears and helps Chickerella go to the ball, but

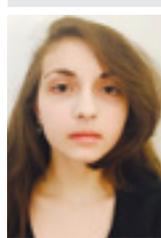
warns her that she must be back by midnight. So, Chickerella goes to the ball, meets the Prince, and when the clock strikes midnight, Chickerella runs away and leaves behind a glass egg! The next day the prince sends his servants to look for the chicken who laid the glass egg. When they find Chickerella, the Prince tells her that instead of getting married,

he wants to start a fashion line with her! When the Fairy Goosemother hears this, she appears and asks if she could help and design clothes for the line. In the end the three friends start a successful clothing line and live fashionably ever after! I liked that the book starts like the usual Cinderella story, but has a funny, unexpected twist, ending in a fashion show instead of a happy marriage.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

Christina's Book Review



Captivating to Read

Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Lost Souls

written by Liz Kessler, is about the main character Emily, who keeps seeing a mysterious ship appearing and disappearing

without a trace, only at certain hours each day, growing fainter each time. Emily and her friends try to figure out the mystery behind it, and the closest they could get to solving it is that a similar looking ship had recently disappeared with all its passengers on board. Later Emily finds herself near the ship and bravely accepts the challenge to solve its mystery once and for all. She meets people having a good time, without any care in the world about their past. Emily comes to realize that these people are the missing passengers of the missing ship and that they had their memories of the past slowly erased, and now they are stuck on this ship that is temporarily suspended in between our world and Atlantis. Emily only has a few hours to save the doomed passengers before they are all trapped in another dimension forever. With quick thinking Emily manages to find a way to save everybody and reunite them with their families.

I liked this book a lot. The story unfolded smoothly and was very captivating to read, keeping me guessing and worrying along the way with the main character. The suspense is great and the story itself is mind-boggling.

I rate this book 5 out of 5, with five being the best.

Christina J. is a 7th grader. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself, in 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).



Michael's Book Review

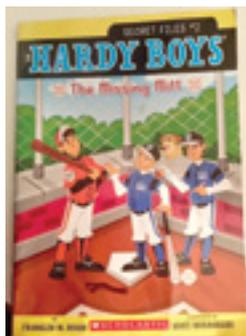


The Missing Mitt

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their Team the Bayport Bandits were all ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's

mitt was special because his dad Winner Prime had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.

Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing



baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.



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