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# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District**

**VOLUME 6, ISSUE 28**

**DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017**

## Specialized Pathways

*By Karen Morrison, President Board of Education*

The 2016-17 school year is off to an exciting start, and we are glad to see so many of our students on a strong path toward reaching their goals.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified has state-recognized magnet middle schools with a robust academic environment in specialized pathways:

- Benton Middle School: Visual and Performing Arts
- Corvallis Middle School: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
- Hutchinson Middle School: Math, Science and Technology
- Los Alisos Middle School: Science, Technology, engineering, Arts and Mathematics
- Los Coyotes Middle School: Centurion Honors & Medical/Forensics
- Waite Middle School: AVID Highly Certified Site

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**Los Coyotes Middle School students learn how to examine and match fingerprints as part of the school's Medical and Forensics pathway.**

**Los estudiantes de la Escuela Intermedia Los Coyotes aprenden a examinar y combinar las huellas digitales como parte de la vía médica y forense de la escuela.**

## En Vías Especializadas:

*By Karen Morrison, Presidente de la Junta de Educación*

El año escolar 2016-17 ha tenido un comienzo emocionante y estamos contentos de ver a tantos de nuestros estudiantes en un camino fuerte hacia el logro de sus metas.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado cuenta con escuelas intermedias magnet reconocidas por el estado con un sólido entorno académico en vías especializadas:

- Escuela Intermedia Benton: Artes Visuales y Escénicas
- Escuela Intermedia Corvallis: Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Artes y Matemáticas
- Escuela Intermedia Hutchinson: Matemáticas, Ciencia y Tecnología
- Escuela Intermedia Los Alisos: Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Artes y Matemáticas
- Escuela Intermedia Los Coyotes: Centurión de Honores & Medicina/Forense
- Escuela Intermedia Waite: Sitio Altamente Calificado AVID

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## Numerous Achievements

*By Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent*

The school year is moving forward quickly, and our committed students, teachers, staff and administrators are filling 2016 with numerous achievements. Their dedication to success strengthens Norwalk-La Mirada Unified, and I am proud to be part of this community that works so hard to provide the best education for our students.

Our parents are among our most valued partners in ensuring that students are equipped with the foundational skills needed to be ready for college and careers. That is why our District holds "Coffee and Tea with Dr. D," parent engagement sessions every other month with administrators and myself. Parents can learn about various programs and facets of our District, including our technology upgrades and nutrition program, and address any questions they may have.

In addition to "Coffee and Tea with Dr. D," I also attend at least one PTA meeting at each school during the year to discuss the District's focus

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**Parents engage in discussions with Dr. Danielian during a "Coffee and Tea with Dr. D" session.**

**Durante una sesión de "Café y Té con la Dra. D", los padres participan en discusiones con la Dra. Danielian.**

## Numerosos Logros

*By Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent*

El año escolar está avanzando rápidamente, y nuestros estudiantes, maestros, personal, y administradores comprometidos están llenando 2016 con numerosos logros. Su dedicación al éxito fortalece al Distrito Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada, y estoy orgullosa de ser parte de esta comunidad que trabaja tan duro para proveer la mejor educación para nuestros estudiantes.

Nuestros padres están entre nuestros socios más valiosos para asegurar que los estudiantes estén equipados con las habilidades fundamentales necesarias para estar listos para la universidad y carreras. Es por eso que nuestro Distrito tiene "Café y Té con la Dra. D", sesiones de participación de padres cada dos meses con administradores y yo misma. Los padres pueden aprender acerca de varios programas y facetas de nuestro distrito, incluyendo nuestras actualizaciones de tecnología, y programa de nutrición, y abordar cualquier pregunta que puedan tener.

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# Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/868-9858  
 15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/670-9279 • www.nlmas.org



**Sharon Renfro  
Todd**  
Director

## Return of Free Childcare Services

Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School is excited to announce the return of free childcare services for our morning students at the Norwalk campus! Parents of children three to five years of age can now take advantage of this free service at the adult school. These students who would otherwise be unable to attend can now take classes to complete a high school diploma or equivalency, learn English, or prepare for a career.

The adult school is passionate about filling this gap for mothers and fathers who desire to increase their skills to attain

their higher goals for college and/or career. We believe that teaching the parents will in turn have the greatest positive impact on their families. According to the National Coalition for Literacy, a mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing all else. Through childcare services, the adult school is supporting adult education and family literacy.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



In this issue, the Superintendent and Board of Education president bring you up to date on the achievements this year and the specialized programs being offered. You will also read articles about preparing for college & career, the importance of partnerships and collaborating, building community spirit and school pride and so much more.

Our next issue is February 8, 2017. In the meantime, have a fun Winter Break, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year! Thank you for reading *School News*.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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

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## Optometry



Merry Christmas and  
Happy Holidays from  
Norwalk Family Optometry

John Larcabal, O.D.  
Sandra Stevens, O.D.  
Diane Almanza, O.D.



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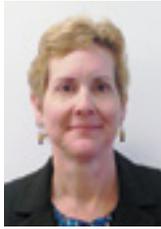
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# Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



**Laurel Parker**  
Director

## Quality Counts!

We are pleased to announce that all 10 of our preschool classroom sites are participating in the Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) initiative, funded by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP).

The LAUP has refocused its efforts on helping to build quality preschool centers across Los Angeles County. The quality is measured through assessing sites in three areas: child development and school readiness, teachers and teaching, and program and environment. Each classroom is rated on a 1–5 tier scale, with five being the highest score possible, and the scores across the site are averaged together to determine the tier level.

Seven of our sites last year were selected for participation in the quality rating system. They were DD Johnston, Foster Road, Huerta, New River, Nuffer, Ramona, and Sanchez. Based upon their assessed ratings of Tier 4, each site received funding for additional curriculum materials and extra time for teacher and para-educator planning. They will also soon be launching a parent component with “Read with Me” or “Lea Conmigo” backpacks that will be sent home weekly.

At the end of the year last year, Chavez was also selected and rated as a Tier 4 site. This year the Paddison and Gallatin sites were selected to participate and receive a QSLA grant, and they are in the process of being rated for quality. We are pleased to receive recognition by the LAUP that our programs are high quality, and we continue to work towards making sure that all sites will receive a Tier 5 rating in the future.

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**Ramona School Office**

14616 Dinard Avenue

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**[www.nlmusd.org/preschool](http://www.nlmusd.org/preschool)**

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**Head Start, Early Head Start and State Preschool are offered across multiple sites. Home base or center base options are offered to 0-5 year olds beginning in July and August. Classes are currently being filled.**

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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



**Dr. Michael Gotto**  
Principal

## Grant for the Arts

On Wednesday, October 26, 2016, Benton Middle School held its annual Red Ribbon Assembly. Students wore red to demonstrate their commitment to a drug-free life. During the assembly, Assemblyman Ian Calderon presented Benton Middle School with a \$5,000 check from the Barona Education Grant. The Barona Band of Mission Indians believe that education is the foundation for our future and, through the grant, helps make a difference in schools across California. Assemblyman Calderon endorsed Benton Middle School as part of the application for this grant. The funds will be utilized to support Benton's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) programs. Benton is proud to offer the following Visual and Performing Arts courses: 3D Art, Cartooning, Studio Art, Media Arts, Photography, Video Production, Band, Orchestra, Piano, Guitar, Choir, Drama, and Stagecraft. In addition, Benton offers Project Lead the Way courses (i.e. Design and Modeling; Automation and Robotics), AVID, and Leadership. Benton appreciates the support of the Barona Band of Mission Indians and Assemblyman Calderon.



# Chavez *Elementary School*

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



**Gabriela Galvez-Reyna**  
Principal

## Second Step Program

This past week, the staff and students at Chavez Elementary School began the Second Step social skills program. The Second Step program is designed to teach skills for social and academic success. Through skills for learning, students will learn how to focus attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and be assertive when asking for help. Through empathy, students will learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings, how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.

With emotion management, students will learn specific skills for calming down and how to manage strong feelings such as anxiety or anger. Problem solving will provide students with a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Each week, teachers will focus on a new skill from one of these four areas. Lessons, which are aligned with state standards, include real-life situations, mini-posters, and music and songs to reinforce the concept being taught, worksheets that delve deeper into the skill being taught, and home links in both English and Spanish that require students to work together with an adult at home to complete the skill-based activity. Students demonstrating positive traits of the week's focus skill can earn reinforcement tickets, which entitle them to be entered into a weekly drawing for prizes.

Short-term goals for the program include increased self-regulation, improved classroom behavior and increased on-task behavior. By the end of the year, we hope to see increased school connectedness with our families, improved peer relations and reduced aggression.

# Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

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



**Bob Easton**  
Principal

## Student Leaders

Developing student leaders is very important at Corvallis Middle School. During the summer, more than 40 seventh- and eighth-grade students were trained to serve as WEB mentors. WEB, which stands for Where Everyone Belongs, connects each sixth-grade student with an older student leader.

The WEB leaders learned team-building skills and how to lead small groups. Using their training, they have been meeting with their groups during lunch and engaging the sixth-graders in school activities. In addition, this year Corvallis introduced a



**AVID student leaders, Nia, Carla, and Marissa, present to parents at AVID Parent Night**

leadership class. These leadership students have learned to plan activities, as well as how to serve as positive influences on campus.

Finally, students in our AVID and AVID Excel classes recently planned and presented information to their parents about preparing for college, and our AVID program, at a special AVID Parent Night. These students confidently presented information about the program and its curriculum to a large group of parents!

# Dolland *Elementary School*

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



**Lorena Sierra**  
Principal

## Enriching Partnerships

At Dolland, we want to ensure that we are meeting the needs of every one of our students. One way we have decided to approach how we inspire and design rigorous learning experiences for our GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) students is by establishing partnerships with some of our adjacent Norwalk schools: Edmondson, Sanchez and Waite Middle School. This collaboration has helped us design multiple opportunities to develop and build our students' skills and talents.

One example of the wonderful things we have already implemented this year is providing enriching art-studio experiences where students can explore various modalities of art expression and techniques. In



**Saturday Art Workshop: Dr. Debbie Nodelman Dolland Teacher**

addition, we have visited the California Science Center, and we have planned future field trips that will expose our students to various career paths.

We are very grateful for our team of schools and for establishing such an enriching collaboration. We look forward to continuing to build these opportunities for the benefit of all of our students! Go Huskies!

## Dulles *Elementary School*

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



**Shanti Gallegos**  
Principal

### We Celebrate Successes!

Dulles community works hard to promote a safe, positive environment through the schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Program (PBIS). PBIS includes modeling and reinforcing positive social behavior as an important step of a student's education.

During the first trimester, students and staff learned our C.A.R.E. behavior expectations. We encouraged all Dolphins to learn and apply them throughout the campus: C: Care about safety; A: Achieve your best; R: Respect yourselves and others; E: Embrace responsibility



**PBIS Team: Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Gallegos, Mrs. Williams, Ibraheem Y., Alissa M., Ronnie M., Christian G., Dylan B., Mr. Morin, Mrs. Villegas, Ms. Zamora, Mrs. Foote, and Mrs. Gijon**

Our Kiwanis-Kids fourth-and-fifth-grade leadership club prepares skits to teach C.A.R.E. expectations at our bimonthly Dolphin Assemblies. Students are also being taught expectations on the playground, at lunch and in our hallways. They learn how we C.A.R.E in each area to ensure that we all feel safe and respected at school.

"Students are actually learning how to embrace responsibility!" said parent volunteer/K-Kids advisor April Gijon. "I know my son is safe at Dulles."

## Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



**Yvette Cantu**  
Principal

### Educating the Whole Child

Eastwood community strives to nurture the whole child by offering a wide variety of instructional activities that develop content knowledge, talents, and self-esteem.

- All students participate in Fibo Art program
- All K-5th grade students have weekly music lessons
- All 5th grade students participate in African Drums and Dance with guest artists, which ends in a school wide performance
- All students perform during our annual International Day
- All students participate in 2nd Steps social/ emotional skill building lessons
- All Students participate in SPARK PE lessons
- 4th and 5th grade students have opportunities to build leadership skills as "Recess Jr. Coaches"

Every grade level attends several field trips and assemblies that bring to life the arts, social studies and science standards. Among the favorites are 5th Grade Science Camp, La Mirada Theater, visit with the mayor at city hall, Cerritos Performing Arts Center, Pioneer Days, Career Day, and Live Animal Show.

This year, with the organizational support of our PTA, Eastwood students are able to participate in several afterschool enrichment classes. Good News Club, Fibo Art, Chess Club, and Mad Science will be offered to students.

## El Camino *High School*

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



**Ryan Cummins**  
Director  
Alt. Education

### Fall Events

In the area of academics, the students at El Camino High School have had a busy month. The majority of our 12th-grade students participated in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and our 11th-grade students took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

We have also reached the 50-day mark, during which students have the opportunity to earn a full five credits in each of their courses. Students who earned the maximum number of credits will be celebrated during a luncheon hosted by the El Camino staff.

Additionally, our students had the opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test on November 16, which is designed for those who are interested in a future in the United States military.

The annual El Camino Softball World Series was held, pitting the juniors against the seniors. The juniors achieved victory, claiming three wins in the best-of-five series.

Finally, El Camino celebrated Red Ribbon Week, which included a classroom door-decorating contest and a raffle for students who participated in all of the activities during the week.

## Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



**Sharon Stewart**  
Principal

### Creating "Rose Petal Moments" to Motivate Students:

We believe in the importance of teaching the whole child and are adding more to our Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). In addition to individual classroom incentives and our school's Eagle Store, we've started another school-wide incentive called "Soarin' Eagles Pizza Party" with Mrs. Peraza (ESSS) and the Principal. The more tickets students earn, the more chances they have for the raffle drawing.

"My students were extremely motivated on a daily basis to earn tickets. Students earned Soarin' Eagle tickets for persevering through their academic goals, for peer tutoring their classmates using the AVID tutorial strategy, and other "caught being good" moments."

– Mrs. Burch, 2nd gr. teacher

"It created a lot of excitement around campus. Students were excited to tell me when they earned a Soarin' Eagle ticket and how many. It gave them something positive to look forward to and kept them motivated to work hard."

– Mrs. Peraza, ESSS

"This is the best day ever!" – Giselle, TK student

"I like this because it shows how good the students are and they will be more motivated to earn a chance to be in this next time." – Jasmine, 5th grader



**Students enjoyed the party that included pizza, balloons, music, games, and FUN!**

## Escalona *Elementary School*

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



**Bonnie Lytle**  
*Principal*

### Read to Succeed!

Escalona Elementary School students read to succeed! Our at-home reading program, Reading Eagles Are Dynamite (READ), motivates students to read by rewarding their at-home reading with recognition, praise, and the best reward ever... a new book!

We recognize that reading at home is an essential component of our reading program. It is a way for students to get extended practice and engagement in text at their "just right" reading levels.

Research findings support the need to read at home.

According to *Reading Research Quarterly*, students in second through fifth grades who ranked in the 98th percentile in reading achievement read an average of 9,091,000 words per year, compared to students who ranked in the second percentile and read an average of 8,000 words per year!

Students are encouraged to read daily, including weekends and holidays, and track their reading time in their READ logs. After logging 35 days, students are invited to choose a free book from a variety provided by Escalona's PTA.

Our hope is that daily reading becomes a lifelong habit.

## Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



**Sarah Gilbert**  
*Principal*

### Thinking Like Robots

Project Lead the Way is now K-5 at Gardenhill! We are excited to announce that this year our fifth-grade students have launched into robotics. The feedback from the students and parents has been very positive, and our classrooms are buzzing with excitement. Students are looking into engineering practices and are engrossed in their robotics lessons.

In Module 1, students learn about the history of robots, and work in teams to design, model, and test a robot that can remove hazardous materials from a disaster site. In Module 2, they will complete the programming challenge by building and programming a robot chassis. The students will then participate in the "Autonomous Vehicle Challenge." In teams, they will program their robot to transport blocks representing hospital materials to designated areas.



**Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Berchtold taking the lead in 5th grade robotics!**

Our students are learning to think like robots by using computer science to tell their robots what to do. Our engineers are definitely up for the challenge!

## Foster Road *Elementary School*

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



**Salvador Villagomez**  
*Principal*

### PTA Reaches for the Stars

We want to take this time to acknowledge all the hard work by all stakeholders in making Foster Road strive toward new heights. We would like to give a special acknowledgement to our Foster Road PTA. They have set a goal for exceeding all of last year's benchmarks, and they are well on their way.

Our parent membership numbers are up. Our kickoff fundraiser exceeded last year's totals. Our participation at PTA events is also on the upward trend. Our PTA-hosted Halloween dance demonstrated increased parent involvement and student enthusiasm. It was a smashing success filled with fun for all!

Most importantly, our PTA and parent volunteers just keep on dedicating more and more of their time and effort to bringing the Foster Road community together. We are excited about our annual Thanksgiving Feast, where we will be looking to provide 500 meals to local families.

We value teamwork and community spirit here at Foster Road, and our PTA has been a superb model for moving our school culture forward and outward. Our PTA and parents are definitely Foster Road STARS: safety, teamwork, achievement and responsibility = success!

## Glazier *Elementary School*

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

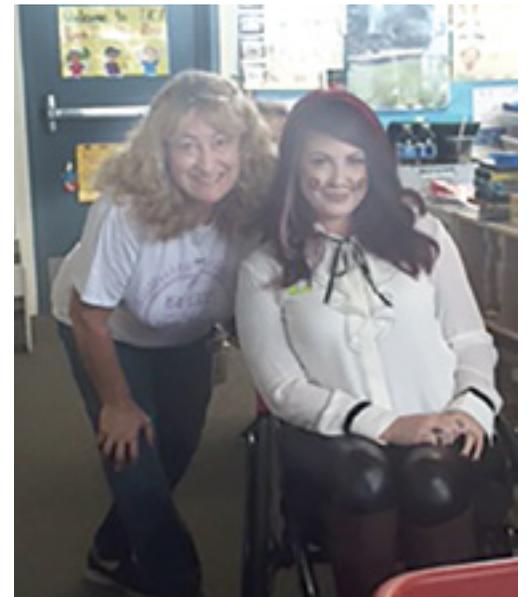


**Adriana Nakano**  
*Principal*

### Collaborating

Glazier Elementary School and the Cerritos College Teacher TRAC program have partnered up once again! The program works

collaborative with CSU-Long Beach and provides students an opportunity to complete their BA in Liberal Studies. Students receive hands on experience working with highly qualified teachers and students. The master mentor teacher provides the "future" teacher with experience working with children in the classroom environment.



**TK teacher Judy Ross and Cerritos College TRAC student, Bailey Spillane showing their Red Ribbon spirit on "I mustache you to shade out drugs."**

## Contest!!

This student is in one of the pictures in this publication. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Please put NLMUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by December 30, 2016. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



**Congratulations Melanie Lakey winner of the October Contest!**

## Glenn *High School*

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



**Greg Puccia**  
*Principal*

### Preparing for College and Career

John Glenn High School (JGHS) students and families are enjoying the fall semester with a number of activities focused on promoting our college-going culture.

The Class of 2017 is deep into the college application season. Over 120 seniors participated in a California State University/University of California (CSU/UC) application workshop in the JGHS College and Career Center. The students will also be participating in CSU/UC representative visits and an alumni college round table in the coming weeks as the deadline approaches. We are predicting the highest percentage of seniors qualifying for CSU/US admission in many years.

The entire student body of JGHS participated in the schoolwide SAT/PSAT testing day in October. This was the third year of schoolwide SAT/PSAT testing. When the scores are reported, parent workshops will be held to help families use the scores to make decisions about post-secondary options.

JGHS hosted the 2016 Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District College Fair on in October. Over 55 colleges were in attendance, and financial aid and the college application process were covered in parent workshops. Over 1,000 parents and students attended this incredible event.

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

## Johnston *Elementary School*

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



**Angela Togia**  
*Principal*

### Building Community Spirit and School Pride

At Johnston, we are proud to share all the opportunities created this year to connect with our community. Beginning with our beautiful new fence art, we had students, parents and staff join us to create this magnificent artwork on a Saturday morning. It took tremendous teamwork and people power! In the month of October, we also had a great turnout for our fund-raiser at a fast-food restaurant.

During our Red Ribbon Week, our wonderful Roadrunner families were encouraged to help others in need by donating hygiene items, socks and beanies. Our fifth-grade Roadrunner Representatives did an awesome job of collecting all the items. Johnston's Monster Mash was bigger and better than ever before with fun games, food, wonderful DJ music and our amazing parents who volunteered for Trunk-a-Treat.

Johnston PTA's hard work has definitely paid off in improving our school's events in order to build a stronger community spirit and Roadrunner school pride.



**A daily reminder that Johnston Roadrunners are Born for Greatness.**



## La Mirada *High School*

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



**Lisa Reed**  
*Principal*

### Future Educators

La Mirada High School's Apple Academy prepares students for careers working with children, with a focus on teaching. Senior Apples complete over 250 hours of hands-on experience working with children in elementary and middle schools.

This year, we are proud to announce that our senior Apple students are developing curriculum and lessons with high school teachers as well as with middle school and elementary teachers. Our seniors intern with veteran teachers at La Pluma and Eastwood Elementary Schools, Los Coyotes and Benton Middle Schools, and La Mirada High. Each senior intern enjoys a year of working side-by-side with a veteran teacher who mentors and supports the intern's development of lesson plans, teaching strategies, and overall college and career choices. In addition, the junior Apple students work with our district literacy coach, Frank Galvan, at La Pluma to provide one-on-one tutoring to struggling students.

Our mission is to provide a nurturing and rigorous program that enables students to make educated and experienced decisions about the future, which will directly affect the future for all the children in the community.

## La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



**Seryna Huynh**  
*Principal*

### Promoting Student Success

At La Pluma, we are firm believers in providing the best curriculum and challenging activities to promote and support the creativity, critical thinking, and analytical and collaborative skills necessary for the success of all our students.

In addition to our after-school music, choir, and Good News Club, we also offer math tutoring and a STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Our upper-grade students are implementing AVID strategies to prepare them for college and career readiness. We are also in the process of establishing an after-school computer programming class, and guitar and golf clubs.

We are excited to announce the start of our new STEM Club! Once a week after school, students who attend the Club learn about different topics in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. With the opportunity to work on fun projects like Scribble Bots, wind-powered cars, and solar ovens, our students can collaborate with their peers to create solutions to problems and develop their investigative and inquiry skills. Our goal is to continue to grow our students' interest in STEM to foster creative thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers, while at the same time increasing their opportunities and future success.

On the first day, students explored the role of engineering in the world and did a team-building activity. Some of the upcoming projects our students will be working on are Scribble Bots, where they use their knowledge of electricity and circuits to create an object that moves. Wind-powered cars will be an exploration of alternative forms of energy. Solar ovens also explore alternate forms of energy and introduce topics such as insulation.

At the end of every project, the students are required to write a brief summary to an exit-ticket question in their STEM journals to demonstrate their understanding of the project.

# Lampton *Elementary School*

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



**Cindy Rayburn**  
Principal

## Towards Emotional Intelligence

As part of our multitiered systems of support, Lampton teachers have provided explicit instruction on school-wide and classroom behavior expectations for many years. This year, all of our teachers are using a social-emotional curriculum called “Second Step” in their classroom as a way to build emotional intelligence among our students.

In the Second Step program, Lampton students are learning about the essential skills they need for learning, such as attention, listening, and following directions. They study and practice how to recognize and predict feelings and maintain

friendships. Later lessons will work on showing compassion, handling emotions, and managing conflict.

The lessons for each grade level are age-appropriate, and use engaging strategies such as songs or video clips, and such methods as puppetry in the lower grades and role-playing for the older children. Our students are connecting these lessons to their life inside and outside of school.



**Lampton First Graders Showing-Off Their “Attenta-Scopes”**

# Los Coyotes *MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet*

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



**Jacob Muñiz**  
Principal

## Proud of Our School

Los Coyotes Middle School is proud of their student athletes. We recently participated in the sports tournament and did quite well. Kudos to Mr. Younger, Ms. Rodriguez, and most of all, our student athletes.

LCMS’s other goings on include: Green team sponsored an ewaste event; W.E.B. garnered the Golden Bell Award; Leadership sponsored Spookfest; and we recently qualified to apply for California’s Gold Ribbon award. Obviously, we are very proud of our school community and all of its accomplishments thus far.

Go Team Centurion!



**LCMS Football players**

# Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



**Mike Garcia**  
Principal

## October Activities

We are off to an amazing start at Los Alisos Middle School! This year Los Alisos has two competitive robotics teams! Our VEX team will compete in February at John Glenn High School in a district robotics competition. Our Bot Ball team will compete in Burbank on April 29.

Red Ribbon Week, which was held October 24–28, was a huge success! Students participated in activities that helped raise awareness about the negative effects of drug use. Performances

were held during lunch with the support of the Mighty Lancer Band from Norwalk High School and the Mighty Eagle Band from John Glenn High School. Thank you, band members!

On October 26, we held our fourth annual Halloween Haunt. Our Associated Student Body (ASB) and Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) leaders did a wonderful job setting up a frightening haunted house. The students who were brave enough to enter got a good scare!



**School can be a scary place, especially at Haunted Halls!**

# Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



**Rachel Garcia**  
Principal

## Red Ribbon Week

Moffitt Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week in October. The campus was decorated with red ribbons and red balloons to help send the message that “Moffitt is proud to be drug free!”

Each day emphasized a positive choice and stressed a drug-free life. On Monday, students “Dressed for Success” with a free-dress day. On Tuesday, students showed that they have the “Power to Stay Drug Free” by wearing their favorite superhero shirt. Students wore red on Wednesday to show that they were

“Proud to be Drug Free” and received red vines at recess from Moffitt PTA. On Thursday, students said “Peace Out to Drugs” by wearing peace signs and tie-dye shirts. Students emphasized the message “Lei Off Drugs” by wearing leis and Hawaiian shirts on Friday.

At Moffitt’s Red Ribbon Assembly, students were excited to have Norwalk Public Safety, Rocky and McGruff at Moffitt to share the meaning behind Red Ribbon Week!



**We Love Our Drug-Free Selfies at Moffitt!**

## Morrison *Elementary School*

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



**Rudy Gonzalez**  
*Principal*

### Art of Teaching Fellowship

At Morrison, one of our goals is to constantly refine our teaching practices. For this reason, we are honored and excited to begin working with the Cotsen Foundation for the Art of Teaching. Their mission is to “transform experienced and capable educators into excellent teachers.”

Seven Morrison teachers were chosen for this Art of Teaching two-year fellowship. They include Gary Roels, second grade; Erik Hartl, first grade; Lisa Lambuth, Cotsen mentor; Renee Caloca, TK; Ardell Hucko, fourth grade; Lori Knight, first grade; and Laura Iovino, first grade. This mentoring program provides numerous opportunities for the fellows and mentor to attend trainings around research-based strategies to improve teaching and learning. In addition, they work together weekly to plan lessons and apply these strategies to their daily teaching.

We are thrilled to embark on this journey with the Cotsen Foundation to continuously grow as educators in order to provide our students with exceptional learning opportunities.



**Morrison teachers involved in Cotsen fellowship.**

## New River *Elementary School*

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



**David Hoffman**  
*Principal*

### A New Sound

Incorporating technology in the classroom is a major theme at New River Elementary School and in the district as a whole. Supplementing the wonderful technology and the support supplied through the district’s 20/20 Learning Initiative, New River has added one additional piece of technology to all of our classrooms.

On the first day of the school year, teachers found new microphone and multi-media sound systems in their classrooms.

And teachers and students have raved about the implementation. Teachers have noticed better control in the classroom, better student attention, and less fatigued voices at the end of the school day. Students also love the system. It comes with two microphones, and many classrooms utilize the second microphone for student presentations, allowing even the quietest students to speak with confidence and be heard by everyone.

The New River Knights are huge fans of our new sound systems.



**New River 3rd grade teacher Linda Fox wears a Redcat microphone.**

## Norwalk *High School*

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



**Dr. Christina Stanley**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating Student Achievement

Norwalk High School students are setting goals and getting ready for college! They recently attended College Fair with Assembly Majority Floor Leader Ian Calderon, and the annual NLMUSD College Expo at John Glenn High School. NHS students also took the SAT and PSAT on October 19, after a month-long campaign of daily testing tips and student assistance in accessing their College Board and Khan Academy accounts.

NHS counselors also visited the twelfth-grade classes to present financial aid information, and hosted a parent night. Mr. Choy from Cal State LA covered a range of topics, including loans, grants, and awards.

Our students also celebrated Spirit Week, Homecoming activities, Red Ribbon Week, and a television show appearance. October at NHS was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our Link Crew hosted a Unity Awareness Day and an anti-bullying campaign to bring our students together and celebrate what makes us unique. We also recently recognized 30 students who reclassified their English learner status.

The Lancer Dancers and NHS Lancer Band performed at Pep Rallies, football games, the Arturo Sanchez Halloween Parade, a fall concert, and a television taping. Our drama students are gearing up for this year’s production too: Treasure Island!

Student-athletes at NHS also make us proud! Our girls’ cross country team is ranked No. 10 in the state for Division 3. Our varsity football team won the Mayor’s Cup, while girls’ volleyball and tennis are preparing for the playoffs.



# Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



**Makara Sar**  
Principal

## Students and Dads Getting to Know Each Other

John H. Nuffer hosted our second annual Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Pizza Night. WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at an official WATCH D.O.G.S. @ school. They get a chance to volunteer in the classroom, play with students at recess, help during lunch and even have a school lunch with their children. The DOGS love giving High Fives and playing with the students. The lines to play handball with a dad are similar to the lines at Disneyland. They are definitely our

Rockstars! Their presence is amazing as 40% of students do not have a father at home and their guidance in school will last a lifetime.



# Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



**Alicia Rubio**  
Principal

## Full Technology Integration by 2020

Sanchez, along with all the other district schools, is moving toward full technology integration by 2020. Jackie Nguyen, one of our fantastic second grade teachers, was selected to be a model classroom for other district teachers. Last year, her classroom was provided with iPads, Chromebooks and headphones to enrich student learning while allowing Ms. Nguyen to differentiate instruction. This is helping support the other second grade teachers in the district, all received the same equipment at the beginning of the year, to see firsthand how technology can be useful in supporting student learning. Our 4th grade classrooms also received iPads for 1 to 1. It's exciting to see how engaged students are when they're able to use tools that help enrich their learning.



Jackie Nguyen sharing some effective technology tools with other teachers.

# Southeast Academy *High School*

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



**MSgt. Marty Schafer**  
Director

## Preparing for Success

Whether cadets need career and college guidance from our counselor, or help on an assignment from our teachers, Southeast Academy High School is designed to provide support from start to finish. At Southeast Academy, we take our cadets' education personally by allowing them to take advantage of available resources so that each of them can achieve their future goals.

In our oath, cadets state that "Failure is Not an Option." For our cadets to be successful, we focus on a team that is working together to give them the best opportunity to successfully

complete their high school education and college A-G courses.

We also believe that most cadets need to prepare and develop skills for a career. To meet this objective, Southeast Academy concentrates on leadership and character development. Leadership and character is developed in the course of handling any number of leadership roles. When cadets become leaders in a school, they care about how they are willing to do more than just participate. Cadets become willing to take responsibility for themselves and the efforts of others, and will connect those efforts to successful outcomes.

Character attributes may be especially apparent when the cadet outcomes help Southeast Academy and the people they mentor. Our investment in developing well-prepared cadets will pay dividends in their future. At Southeast Academy High School, our cadets receive a top-notch education and the opportunity to develop skills for success in any career. Attending Southeast Academy High School is just the beginning in their preparation for success.

# Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
Principal

## Collaboration is a Key to Waite's Successes!

Waite students and teachers are building deep partnerships in classrooms and in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), resulting in great relationships and higher achievement. Through our data-driven planning, our implementation of strategic vocabulary instruction, and our methods for engaging students, we are making middle school a great experience, as well as ensuring Waite is great! Some of our recent highlights include selection by Biola University for a vocabulary study, selection as a model school for secondary reading strategies for future teachers in Biola University's teacher education program, and an expanded partnership with CSUF for hands-on science exploration at Fullerton Arboretum. Our dedication to college awareness and career planning was exemplified with 115 Panthers attending the College & Career Expo—the highest of any middle school! Stop by and see us in action for yourself!



areas and initiatives, and support parents on how to stay connected with their children's progress. I look forward to these sessions and the contributions of our parents and community members.

I recently organized the second annual Superintendent's PTA Luncheon on Oct. 22, where I met with board members and members of our school's PTA to boost understanding of our math curriculum. The District's math consultant, Guillermo Mendieta, gave an interactive, hands-on presentation on the importance of math concepts for our students, and how parents can strengthen those skills in everyday situations. Guillermo provided math kits with erasable sheets for parents to take home to strengthen math understanding.

It is important that our District provides a way for our families to support our students' learning from home. The more opportunities in which we can equip parents with tools to support their children's education, the greater levels of success we will see throughout our District.

Thank you all for your continued dedication toward ensuring that our students are ready to pursue their dreams.



**Dr. Hasmik Danielian**  
Superintendent

Además de "Café y Té con la Dra. D", también asisto por lo menos a una reunión del PTA en cada escuela durante el año para discutir las áreas de enfoque e iniciativas del distrito, y apoyar a los padres en cómo mantenerse conectados con el progreso de sus hijos. Espero con gusto estas sesiones, y las contribuciones de nuestros padres y miembros de la comunidad.

Recientemente organicé el segundo almuerzo anual de PTA del Superintendente el 22 de octubre. Donde me reuní con miembros de la junta directiva y miembros del PTA de nuestra escuela para mejorar la comprensión de nuestro currículo de matemáticas. Guillermo Mendieta el asesor de matemáticas del distrito, dio una presentación interactiva y práctica sobre la importancia de los conceptos matemáticos para nuestros estudiantes y cómo los padres pueden fortalecer esas habilidades en situaciones diarias. Guillermo proporcionó paquetes de matemáticas con hojas borrables para que los padres los llevaran a casa para fortalecer la comprensión matemática.

Es importante que nuestro Distrito proporcione una manera para que nuestras familias apoyen el aprendizaje de nuestros estudiantes desde el hogar. Cuantas más oportunidades tengamos para equipar a los padres con herramientas para apoyar la educación de sus hijos, mayores niveles de éxito veremos a través de nuestro distrito.

Gracias a todos por su continua dedicación para asegurar que nuestros estudiantes estén listos para perseguir sus sueños.



**Norwalk-La Mirada Unified parents learn new ways to reinforce math concepts at home during the Superintendent's second annual PTA luncheon at Huerta Elementary School.**

**Durante el segundo almuerzo anual del PTA de la Superintendente, en la Escuela Primaria Huerta, los padres del Distrito de Norwalk-La Mirada aprenden nuevas maneras de reforzar los conceptos de matemáticas en sus hogares.**

**Upcoming Superintendent-Parent Forums:**  
6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017, Nuffer Elementary School  
9 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2017, La Mirada High School

**Próximos Fóruns de la Superintendente para Padres:**  
6 p.m. jueves, 19 de enero de 2017, Escuela Primaria Nuffer  
9 a.m. martes, 11 de abril 2017, Escuela Secundaria La Mirada

## Board of Education



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## BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

Students can pursue their passions and develop a foundation of skills needed for college and careers.

We invite the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified community to explore our middle school pathways during the District's annual Magnet Fair from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 2017 at Excelsior Adult School. Parents and families can learn about our enriched curriculum, which provides our students with real-world applications of their education while developing a core base of knowledge in their desired careers.

We remain dedicated to the education of our students, and continue to provide opportunities for our community to be involved in the success of our students.

Los estudiantes pueden seguir sus pasiones y desarrollar una base de habilidades necesarias para la universidad y carreras.

Invitamos a la comunidad de Norwalk-La Mirada unificada a explorar las vías de nuestras escuelas intermedias durante la Feria Anual Magnet del distrito de 6 a 8 pm el lunes 12 de enero de 2017 en la escuela de adultos Excelsior. Los padres y las familias pueden aprender acerca de nuestro enriquecido currículo, que proporciona a nuestros estudiantes la aplicación de su educación en el mundo real, mientras que desarrollan una base principal de conocimientos en sus carreras deseadas.

Seguimos dedicados a la educación de nuestros estudiantes y continuamos ofreciendo oportunidades para que nuestra comunidad participe en el éxito de nuestros estudiantes.

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Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



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\*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com). Past performance does not predict future results. Source: [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com)



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit [ScholarShare.com](http://ScholarShare.com) for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.