

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Torrance Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Preparing Students for the Future

It is essential for school districts to develop robust career technical education (CTE) programs in order to provide students with technical and

**Dr. George Mannon**

occupational pathways to post-secondary education and careers. Gone are the days when students waited to go to a junior or four-year college to “figure out” their career choices. It is necessary to lay out the college and career foundations for students early in their K–12 education to make certain they are well prepared for life after high school. Ensuring students are college and career ready when they graduate requires a well-rounded education. Combined with academic preparation, a rigorous CTE program equips students with real-world, 21st-century skills for high-demand careers.

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## Principles of Biomedical Science

By Lori Ikari, Biomedical Teacher, North High School

**Intrigued? What do you think this class is going to be about? What are students going to learn this year?**

There has been ample curiosity about this new course at North High. Biomedical Science is being offered for the first time this school year, and it was exciting to observe the reactions of students on the first day as they arrived to class, curious and ready to begin this new educational journey. The Biomedical Science course provides students with the basis for pursuing careers in the Biotechnology, which is part of the Health Science and Medical Technology industry sector. The students’ faces were priceless when I began the class by informing them that, “this year you will be investigating the fictitious cause of death.”



North High students experiment with different Health Science concepts in their Biomedical class.

Biomedical Science is an introductory course, part of a national STEM curriculum, which aligns with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Throughout the year, students will explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional person. While investigating the case, students will examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might of prolonged her

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION



### Ensuring All Students Succeed

I have had the privilege to serve the Torrance community as a School Board member for the past 13 years. As I begin my third tenure as your Board president, I am so proud of all the successes and achievements of our students. Every year, the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) team of administrators, faculty, and classified staff has the immense responsibility of educating and caring for over 24,000 students. They accomplish this goal by creating a welcoming and collaborative environment in which students have ample opportunities to thrive.

As I visit schools throughout the year, I get the opportunity to see the high-quality educational programs our students are consistently engaged in. At Magruder Middle Schools, seventh-grade students have the option to take the first year of Spanish for high school credit, and next year, the eighth-graders will be able to take the second year of Advanced Placement Spanish. This progressive program is designed to allow our students to complete high school credits prior to starting high school, enabling them to take other college- and career-focused courses during their four years. Elsewhere, at Fern Elementary School, the icreate lab provides students with a maker-space to

invent, design, experiment, and build. During their lab hours, students have created hovercrafts and cardboard creations, all valuable hands-on learning experiences which develop and advance their interests in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers. Over at Arnold Elementary School, students work in a writing lab to enhance their critical-thinking and writing skills. Students consider their reactions to a poem or use their writing to describe something from their unique points of view. In each instance, students are encouraged to expand their ideas and perspectives in order to further develop their writing skills.

In addition to the district’s stellar academic programs, our schools have award-winning sports and musical programs. Every week during football season, my husband and I look forward to Friday Night Lights. Our high school football games are community events where parents, extended family members, and friends, young and old, come together to cheer on and support our athletes. Each game demonstrates the discipline, determination, and sportsmanship of our teams and coaches. Though my boys are proud Saxons and I have a soft spot for all our North High School teams, I love having the chance to root

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 15



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Covering the  
TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

This is our 4th year publishing the excellence from the Torrance Unified School District and the good news just keeps on coming. The classrooms are a long way from the basic 3R's...on the front cover you can read about new Biomedical Science course at North High. The superintendent's message also shows how students no longer wait until attending a four year college to figure out their career choices.

Thank you for reading *School News* and taking an interest in our youth...our future!

## Torrance Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1397, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6418 • www.torranceeducationfoundation.org

### TEF Grants \$39,500 for STEM to TUSD Teachers

By Susan Swinburne, Executive Director

Torrance Education Foundation on October 25th announced 48 STEM grants to teachers for afterschool enrichment programs cultivating extracurricular learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

TEF's STEM Initiative has more than doubled in the two years since its launch, from 20 programs in 2014 to the 48 grants awarded this November. Many teachers returned for a second or third year, along with the largest number yet of new participants. Family STEM Nights topped the list of grants, with 18 events now planned during the school year. MathCounts, CyberPatriots, Robotics...find more details in our press release on our web site. Thanks are due to TEF's, members, sponsors and donors, whose generosity makes this important program possible.

Teachers, Principals and TUSD leaders celebrated on Tuesday, November 29 at a reception in their honor.



48 teachers received STEM Initiative Grants



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## Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

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### Negative Effects of Energy Drinks



**Saar Danon, M.D.**  
medical director,  
Pediatric  
Cardiology and  
Congenital  
Cardiac  
Catheterization,  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Energy drinks have rapidly become a go-to beverage for teens – according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, energy drinks are the most popular dietary supplement consumed by teens and young adults in the United States.

They may not understand, however, the harm energy drinks can have on their developing bodies. Here's what you and your teen need to know about energy drinks and their long-term effects:

- Almost one third of teens between the ages of 12 and 17-years old consume energy drinks regularly.
- Large amounts of caffeine may harm children's still-developing cardiovascular and nervous systems. A 24 oz. energy drink may contain the same amount of caffeine in four or five cups of coffee.
- According to the American Heart Association, drinking a single 16 oz. energy drink boosts blood pressure and stress hormone responses in young, healthy adults. These changes can lead to an abnormal, irregular heartbeat or even sudden cardiac death.
- Energy drinks may cause heart problems that develop later into adulthood, despite not being immediately present during adolescence.

Energy drinks should not be considered a healthy beverage option for children or young adults. If your teen is looking for a boost of energy, recommend a healthier option, like exercising, stretching or drinking a fruit-filled smoothie.

The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach provides total care for pediatric and young adult patients with congenital or acquired heart disease. Learn more at MillerChildrens.org/Heart.



Our specialty:

**Congenital Heart Surgery**

Josue's specialty:

**Drummer Boy**

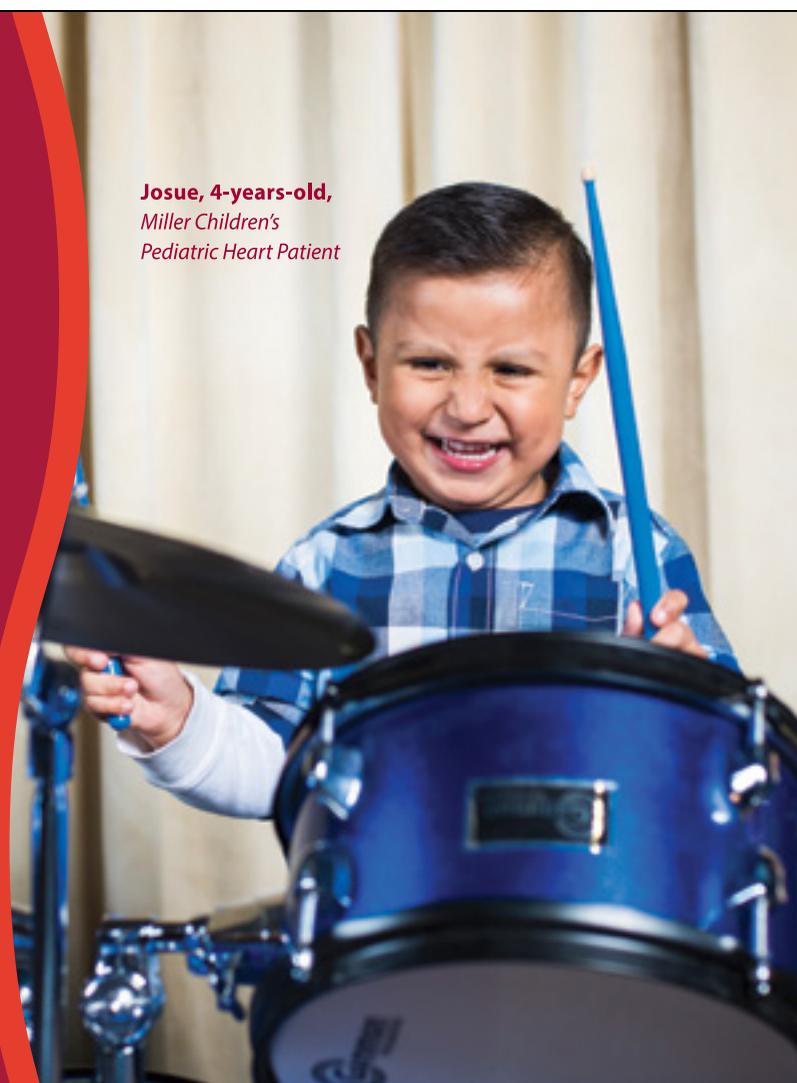
Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

Four months into his mother's pregnancy, an ultrasound revealed the unimaginable: a piece of Josue's heart was missing. With only three of the four heart chambers developed, Josue's mom turned to the Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. Josue was diagnosed with pulmonary atresia, a complex heart condition that required three surgeries over the course of four years. Now, with the final surgery completed, 4-year-old Josue rocks out to the beat of his own heart.

*From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.*



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**Josue, 4-years-old,**  
Miller Children's  
Pediatric Heart Patient



**Shayla Smith-Taranto**  
*Principal*

## PTA Brings Us Clifford the Big Red Dog!

Adams' PTA hosted a Scholastic Book Fair that helps students and their families have access to countless books on our very own school campus! The book fair is another great PTA community event that not only helps raise money for Adams

but also promotes literacy. Literacy is the key to student success and lifelong learning.

During the Book Fair week, we had a very special visit from an avid reader, Clifford the Big Red Dog. While visiting, Clifford read many books, took lots of pictures with his adoring fans, and even greeted students as they arrived at school.

Clifford wasn't shy! He brought lots of books from the book fair, joined story time for Family Night, and danced at our morning assembly. Students were also invited to bring a "grandfriend" to the book fair and were able to shop for books with their special guests.



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## Anza *Elementary*

21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • anzaelementary.org



**Barbara Marks**  
*Principal*

### 2016 Best of Torrance Award

The Torrance Award Program annually honors the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Torrance area. Recognition is given to companies and businesses that have shown the ability to use best practices and have implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value. In other words, the program focuses on quality, which is determined based both on information gathered internally by program coordinators and data provided by third parties.

Each year, the Torrance Award Program identifies companies and organizations that have achieved exceptional marketing success as part of their local community and business category. These are the companies and organizations that help make the Torrance area a great place to live, work, and play.

Anza Elementary School is extremely proud and honored to be chosen for the 2016 Best of Torrance Award in the Elementary Schools category. Though Anza's test scores have consistently been in the top of Torrance's elementary school rankings, this alone does not make a school great. Anza prides itself on supporting the "whole child" and embracing the community, from which we consistently receive generous financial support to meet the additional academic needs of our students.

We are excited to accept this award on behalf of the exceptional team-building efforts of our students, staff, and community. Only their combined efforts could make this fine system work as effectively as it does at Anza!

## Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • callemayor.tusd.org



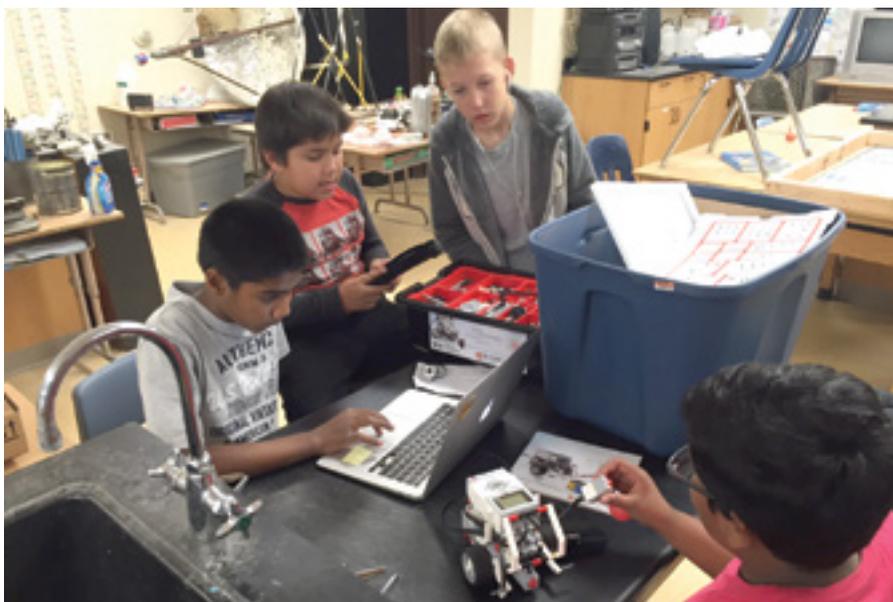
**Dave Mosley**  
*Principal*

### Learning Together

Calle Mayor Students are learning how to build and program a robot! Where is all this taking place, you may be asking? In the PTSA-sponsored Calle Mayor after-school enrichment club Robotics, as instructed by our own Mr. Schwartz and parent volunteers.

The students who are in the club are using the Mind Storm Lego Kit and a computer program to learn how to direct the robot to perform numerous tasks. The club gives the students an opportunity to build, problem solve, and work together to accomplish the task at hand, and also have a lot of fun in doing it. This is one more way that Calle Mayor Middle School, with the help of the Calle Mayor PTSA, is building after-school clubs based upon student interests to help enrich the high-quality learning that is taking place on our campus.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday, and look forward to seeing you during the spring.



## Arlington *Elementary*

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlingtonpta.com



**Dr. Vicki Hath**  
*Principal*

### Learning is Fun

Arlington Elementary is a place where learning is fun and hands on! Our Super Stars have been busy engaging with Math and Science! Students in our afterschool GATE enrichment class were challenged with a task to build a hands-free robot that created art. Applying their positive, Growth Mindset of 'I can do this', our students were up for the challenge! In addition to our enrichment class, all of our Super Stars were invited to enjoy some family time and mathematics! Families were invited to count, estimate, and apply their problem solving skills at our annual Family Math Night. Parents and children worked together in a fun-hands-on event that encouraged problem solving, perseverance, and fun!



## Arnold *Elementary*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4524 • arnold.tusd.org



**Justine Lang**  
*Principal*

### The Importance of STEM Education

Arnold Elementary recognizes the importance of STEM education for our students! Our teachers engage students in exciting learning experiences that foster their natural curiosity.

Recently, our school participated in the Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week. This global movement, involving millions of students in over 180 countries, is the largest learning event ever. Students learn about the importance of coding and how fun and easy it is to do! Several classrooms offer additional coding opportunities for students throughout the year to develop their problem-solving skills, including the use of small programmable robots and coding apps like Scratch Jr. and Kodable. Learning how to program teaches students how to trouble-shoot and think critically. We are excited about encouraging future coders!

Additionally, Arnold classrooms promote STEM learning throughout the year by emphasizing the engineering-design process, the nature of science and the importance of mathematics in our everyday lives. There are even classrooms that participate in Mystery Skype, which is a global guessing game that helps students learn about geography, science and culture. During Halloween, third-grade students participated in STEM stations where they created pumpkin catapults, designed candy towers, built and tested bone bridges, and launched marshmallow shooters. Students in many grade levels constructed towers as part of engineering challenges and developed their critical-thinking skills through claim-evidence-reasoning activities. During our Annual STEAM Fair, students pursue their wonderings, create design improvements, and showcase their evidence as they discover information about a wide variety of phenomena. This year, we will be adding a Family STEM night, an event where students can teach their parents about a wide variety of topics through fun, hands-on experiences.

As you can see, Arnold Elementary is excited about exposing students to STEM-related activities at an early age. Go Alleycats!

## Carr *Elementary*

3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • carr.tusd.org



**Richard Peterson**  
*Principal*

### A Special Event

On a special evening in late January, our Carr Elementary students were treated to an “Hour of Code,” beginning at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Hour of Code is when our students can sit down and practice building software for websites, apps, and more.

Today’s students need to learn about the technological world, as there are over 500,000 computer science related jobs in our country. Employees are looking for people who can collaborate and problem solve, and this is a way to do it.

This activity is made possible at Carr because one of our super and enthusiastic teachers, Ms. Tara O’Brien, wrote a grant and received funding through the Torrance Education Foundation. Ms. O’Brien prepares the materials and is in charge of the Hour of Code. As a member of the Millennial Generation, Ms. O’Brien is adept with technology, and is able to help our students get the most out of their Hour of Code.

We at Carr Elementary are grateful to Ms. O’Brien for preparing this grant, and also to the Torrance Education Foundation for making this project a reality for the school.

## Casimir *Middle School*

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • casimir.tusd.org



**Susie Holmes**  
*Principal*

### Tradition of Giving Back

Casimir students have a long tradition of giving back to the community. This year is no exception and it has started out with a bang. Our fall community fundraiser was a class competition for nonperishable food items to donate to our local Salvation Army for distribution to needy families in Torrance. Our Student Council guided by Ms. Chelsea Machado and Mrs. Cheryl Thom coordinate this event and inspire the students to healthy competition. This year, for every food item taken in a “sabotage” could be made in the form of a Kleenex tissue box. The students

enjoy bringing the cans as well as sabotaging their favorite teacher to beat. This year’s winner was once again Mr. Aaron Rose’s advanced band class. Casimir was able to donate over 1,000 nonperishable food items and our health office is brimming with tissue.

## LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • launch.tusd.org



**Teresa Lanphere**  
*Principal*

### Holiday Marketplace

At LAUNCH, we just completed our Holiday Marketplace for students. The Holiday Marketplace is an opportunity for our young three- and four-year-old students to have hands-on experience in selecting and buying a special gift for their mom, dad, or family member.

Students use their knowledge of selection, counting, money, and words or other methods of communication to make their purchases. They then go back to their class to wrap their gifts.

Parents and staff donate items for purchase at the Holiday Marketplace, and each student develops a list of people for gift giving. The students bring their money (each item is just one dollar) and staff and volunteers assist them in making their selections.

This event is especially meaningful to the gift recipients, as the LAUNCH staff and volunteers help the students, who often struggle to communicate effectively, to do something special for their family without the parents having to facilitate it. There are lots of special treasures that will soon be making it home to families for holiday gift giving!

## Edison *Elementary*

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • edison.tusd.org



**Jayne Okazaki**  
*Principal*

### Leadership and Compassion

It has been my privilege and honor to become the new principal at Edison Elementary School. This year we implemented the Team Kids Challenge, a five-week program that nurtures compassion in our youth to empower capable, resilient leaders and philanthropists among our students. Every student, Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade, gets the opportunity to work alongside police, firefighters, parent volunteers, and Team Kids mentors to come up with tangible ways to address real-world issues.



The Team Kids leadership is comprised of our fourth- and fifth-grade students. The leadership students also help to fulfill three weekly service challenges, which address community needs. This includes planning a carnival, which occurs during the final week to raise funds for and benefit causes chosen by the students. Our students selected dog shelters, hunger, cancer, and a toy drive as their causes.

Helping others helps our students to increase their sense of self-efficacy as they learn they can impact real social issues, regardless of age.

## Hickory *Elementary*

2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • w1.hickory.tusd.org



**Edna Schumacher**  
*Principal*

### A Collaborative Community

Hickory Elementary School is a place where all students can learn and access quality education no matter what their race, religion, or background. And Hickory’s Special Education team is one of the driving forces behind student success.

Our team embraces the Response to Intervention (RtI) model, a three-tiered system that eliminates the “wait to fail” approach and allows students to get support immediately and actively. Tier I encompasses the core instructional practice. Tier II is targeted small group instruction. Tier III is intensive individualized instruction.

At the first two levels, teaching strategies are put in place to help support students within the general education environment. As soon as data reveals a consistent problem among a group of students or for a single student, an intervention strategy is developed to tackle the academic, behavioral, or social problem. If the problem persists after consistent data collection and regular assessment, more intensive testing is performed for the potential development of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

In addition to the formal intervention approaches, our school’s strategy is effective because of the genuine excitement and commitment within the school community. There is cooperation and collaboration between administrators, parents, teachers, and instructional assistants.

## Fern *Elementary*

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



**Debbie Mabry**  
Principal

### Mixing It Up

For just one day, students were asked to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. We quickly discovered that hundreds of students were happy to join the fun. Students “mixed it up” through music, dance, and conversation. These simple acts promoted kindness and inclusivity!

Following lively dancing during recess, our Kids Care Crew grouped students into table groups. Each table was assigned a Kids Care Crew host to help keep the conversations going



at the tables. Our fourth- and fifth-grade Kids Care Crew student leaders support social and environmental responsibility, and they did a great job with this responsibility. All the students who participated were surprised by how quickly the lunch period passed! The next day, students were invited to make friendship bracelets for their new friends.

We knew that our Mix It Up event was a success when dozens of students asked, “Can we do this again?”

## Lynn *Middle School*

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • bertlynn.tusd.org



**LeRoy Jackson Jr.**  
Principal

### Producing Fluent Readers Quickly

Bert Lynn Middle School takes pride in our learning community’s diversity, and we welcome a good number of families from other countries every quarter.

Historically, our English Learners (ELs) reflected languages from Korea, Japan, China, and Spanish-speaking countries. Recent demographic shifts reflect a growing number of students from countries that speak Arabic, Persian, and a variety of languages from Southern Asia.

As a three-year institution, meeting our EL population’s needs is an ongoing challenge, especially with the large number of students reading at below grade level. Our “Beyond-the-Bell Program” is built around small reading groups that meet three days a week. We are very happy to report that the majority of our EL students quickly progress through leveled reading books and learn to read and write at grade level within two years.

Closing the achievement gap for EL students required us to recognize the shift in reading instruction from “learning how to read” at the elementary school levels to “reading for learning” in the middle school. After three years of program development, we are delighted to share our design as part of our Golden Ribbon application, which recognizes outstanding educational programs and practices, and is run by the California Department of Education. Cross your fingers and wish us luck, because hopefully we will announce the application result in the next issue.

## Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • jefferson.tusd.org



**Kara Heinrich**  
Principal

### A Model Learning Community

On Tuesday mornings at Jefferson Middle School (JMS), you’ve no doubt heard that “the JMS team is meeting in PLC”. The term Professional Learning Community (PLC) is used in educational circles to indicate a school that is serious and committed to continued growth as a community. So what is a PLC?

A PLC is not a staff meeting. It involves much more than educators getting together to discuss a book. A PLC represents the systematized focus on continuous student and staff learning. Called the most powerful professional development and change strategy available, PLCs, when done well, lead to positive growth in student achievement.

JMS is a model PLC in the community, with schools from other districts asking and observing “what we do and how we do it.” Most recently the University of Japan at Soka brought graduate students over to tour and observe JMS as a model school-wide learning community.

Our PLC entails whole-staff involvement in a process of intensive reflection upon our instructional practices, desired student achievement, and monitoring of outcomes to ensure success. Jefferson’s PLC enables our educators to continually learn from one another via shared visioning and planning, as well as in-depth critical examination of what does and doesn’t work in enhancing student learning.

The focus of our PLC is ongoing “job-embedded learning,” rather than one-shot professional development sessions. The process involves intensive reflection and job-embedded learning through six steps: study, select, plan, implement, analyze, and adjust. Prior to beginning the process, we review student achievement data to identify essential skills or standards where there is a gap or area of need.

The added benefit of this process is the growth and emphasis of educator leadership, active involvement, and deep commitment to our school development and care. PLCs therefore benefit us as educators just as much as they do our students.

## Madrona *Middle School*

21364 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4562 • madrona.tusd.org



**Chris Lipsey**  
Principal

### We Celebrate Faculty Grant Winners!

Torrance Education Foundation gathered together 48 teachers from across Torrance Unified to award STEM

grants. Madrona Middle School is proud to announce two teachers from our campus who were awarded for their work in the fields of math and science.

Keith Conner won a STEM grant for competition costs, instructional materials and supplies for Madrona’s Math Counts team. The grant will fund our students’ participation in this highly competitive program that pits our best and brightest math students against other schools.

Heather Rocha was also rewarded for her work with two grants. One was for Madrona’s competitive Science Olympiad team, and the other was for her continuing work of bringing science to the community to fund our annual Family Science Night.

Please join us in congratulating these teachers for their hard work and dedication!



**Ms. Rocha and Mr. Conner received their grants from TEF.**



**Katherine Castleberry**  
Principal

## Fun with Core Values

This fall, Lincoln launched the inaugural year of its FIRST Lego League. The nine-student team was headed by Diane Konishi, James Choung, and three CAMS high school mentors: Nathan Carlos, Connor Lee, and Ronan Konishi (a Lincoln alumnus).

The students spent 14 weeks working on the Animal Allies themed challenge. Their research project focused on creating a real-world solution for improving the quality of life of domesticated horses. Students created a presentation board as well as made a model of their invention.

For the robot game, the students learned how to program their robot to maneuver around a playing field to perform tasks like pushing a shark tank to a specific location and placing a bee onto a cube to release a cylinder.

The students also learned about Core Values, which are teamwork, inclusion, "coopertition" (an FLL term), and gracious professionalism. They learned that competition and mutual gain go hand in hand with team-building.



# Ships 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Torrance in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by March 15, 2017**

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

- |            |              |             |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| BATTLESHIP | FRIGATE      | SUBTENDER   |
| CARGO      | GUNBOAT      | SUPERLINER  |
| CARRIERS   | ICEBREAKER   | SUPERTANKER |
| CONTAINER  | LANDING SHIP | TANKERS     |
| CRUISER    | MINE SWEEPER | TRANSPORT   |
| DESTROYER  | OILERS       | TUGBOAT     |
| FERRY      | REPAIR       | YACHT       |
| FREIGHTER  | SUBMARINES   |             |



# Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • magruder.tusd.org



**Chris Sheck**  
*Principal*

## **Aquí Hablamos Español!**

Whether it is for the purpose of connecting with people from around the world, increased employment opportunities, traveling and studying abroad, or simply for personal fulfillment, research overwhelmingly supports the acquisition of a second language.

That being the case, Magruder students are in luck. Spanish I is offered to both seventh- and eighth-grade students on campus. Upon successful completion, credit can be earned towards graduation and foreign language requirements for UC/CSU

college entrance. The students are challenged and engaged in a variety of activities, such as listening to and conversing with a partner, writing poetry, reading a mini-novel, and researching Spanish/Latin American culture online.

Our program follows the National Standards for Foreign Language, where students effectively focus on the five goal areas of Communication, Connection, Comparisons, Cultures, and Communities. Bilingual literacy enriches a child's mental development, creates more flexibility in cognitive abilities, increases performance on standardized tests, and helps students learn a greater appreciation of other cultures ... which is why Spanish is spoken here!



# North *High School*

3620 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4412 • northhighschool.org



**Dr. Ron Richardson**  
*Principal*

## **Busy and Successful**

North High School students continue to excel in both their educational and extracurricular programs and activities. Our students scored well above the state average on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exams last spring, showing tremendous growth. Additionally, students took over 760 Advanced Placement exams, an indicator that our students continue to rise to their potential and expand their knowledge base. North High's Saxon Marching Band continues to make strides as a strong competitor in the Southern California region. We are also very proud of our Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program, which continues to be one of the finest in the nation.

North High is home to a very diverse student body. Our students speak over 16 different languages and have a strong sense of culture and community. Every year, our multicultural week is a student favorite. It is our yearly celebration of the cultural traditions that make our school community vibrant and rich. Last spring, over 1,200 students and their families gathered for the annual iCARE Family Fun Night, where they enjoyed music, dancing, food, and over 20 arts and crafts booth. These activities are made possible by the hard work of student body and the faculty and staff members who support their efforts! Our diversity makes us stronger, and our students learn valuable lessons in tolerance, kindness, and mutual respect from these events.

As we wrap up a busy first half of the year, we know the second half will be even more successful!

# Richardson *Middle School*

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • richardsonmiddleschool.org



**Ian Drummond**  
*Principal*

## **Growing and Improving**

Students at Richardson Middle School will return from winter break to find our Richardson Middle School modernization project well underway. Fences went up around the first phase area, and construction has begun on our two new science labs, which are scheduled to be completed at the end of January. We will be utilizing these new facilities as early as the beginning of the third quarter. Modernization will continue throughout the entire second semester of the school year, addressing one building wing at a time. We are all looking forward to seeing the updated school facility, which will definitely be worthy of the exceptional RMS students. The modernization project should be completed over summer break—just in time for the 2017–2018 school year. We would like to thank the community for supporting Measures T and U, which provided the financial resources necessary for this project.

The RMS leadership class coordinated with the Adopt-A-Family program throughout December to bring some holiday cheer to families in need. The leadership students worked every day at lunch in order to facilitate donations. They then wrapped every gift for the families. This charitable endeavor is just one of the many positive experiences the leadership class has brought to RMS this year. We spotlighted our leadership students and all of their efforts at the Torrance Unified School District Board meeting on December 5.

Our music students provided yet another inspiring performance at the winter concert on December 7 at Armstrong Theatre. Ms. Willett did an amazing job preparing all of her students for this yearly production. All levels of music students performed, including Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Jazz Band, and Choir. The Flute Ensemble provided an encore performance the following night at our annual RMS Book Fair.

# Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



**Christie Forshey**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Diversity

Riviera's International Fair was held on Friday, November 18th after school. Students visited 23 country booths and received stamps in their Passport to the World! Parents and volunteers set up booths to represent the cultures of our students and families, provided food tastings, crafts and shared artifacts to teach students about diversity. Groups of students performed for over 1000 attendees including: a Bollywood dance from India, a "Machida" karate demonstration and past Riviera student-

Dylan Johnson provided entertainment with drum rhythms from around the world. Current student, Shay Sullivan presented a world flag display. To date, he has created over 100 world flags and has memorized others! This annual PTA family event is an amazing celebration of our diverse learning community.



**A snapshot speaks more than words.... so see the beauty of this event as we celebrate Riviera Elementary's 651 unique and special students!**



# Seaside *Elementary*

4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • seaside.tusd.org



**Michele Bauer-Bean**  
*Principal*

## Super Sundays

Seaside Elementary School received a makeover thanks to dedicated, involved parents! Once or twice every year, the Seaside PTA organizes Super Saturdays, when students, staff members, and parents come to school on the weekend to spiff up the place. Projects vary from weeding the student gardens, raking leaves, and washing walls to building book shelves, repairing furniture, and painting.

This year, Super Saturday became Super Sunday, and we were remarkably successful in getting things done. Our tetherballs now hang securely, we have new basketball nets, our student gardens are usable, and our handball courts are freshly painted with decorative stencils.



We really can't say enough good things about the Seaside community. It is through the positive partnerships and relationships between parents and staff members that the children benefit in all areas. Indeed, our community is what makes Seaside, and Torrance, so special!

# South *High School*

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • shs.tusd.org



**Dr. Scott McDowell**  
*Principal*

## Food for the Needy

During the annual canned food drive, the South High School student body and Associated Student Body (ASB) collected and donated 15,650 cans of food, which averages nearly eight cans of food for every single student in the school. The senior class, in its winning effort, gathered over 6,000 cans. Food was distributed to the Salvation Army, the Watts Powerhouse Church, and St. George's Church in Hawthorne, all in time for their Thanksgiving outreach programs.

According to ASB Commissioner of Clubs and Activities Karin Sasaki, "It's important for South High students to come together in order to help others in our community."

In their over 20 years of effort, South students continually aim for that

elusive 20,000-can mark, nearly eclipsed in 2012 with 19,625 cans. Regardless of the final tally, South students know they are helping families across Los Angeles and the South Bay each and every year.



# Shery *High School*

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • shery.tusd.org



**Jamie Jimenez**  
*Principal*

## Kind, Accountable and Respectful

Shery High School is in full swing with our PBIS program! Our new motto is at Shery High is “We are kind, accountable and respectful.” Based on these three behavioral expectations, our staff developed both schoolwide and classroom matrices describing what it looks like to be kind, accountable and respectful in all settings on campus. Everyone on our campus, including certificated and classified staff and all students, use the same positive language when talking about behavior and working toward the same goals.

We have instituted a number of positive celebrations for our students, including a quarterly luncheon to recognize the outstanding students of each quarter. We invite parents to come enjoy their children’s success! We also do weekly contract winners, conduct perfect-attendance awards, invite families to our Breakfast Social, and give out Knightly tickets, which are good for various rewards when students are being kind, accountable and respectful.

We have definitely noticed fewer behavioral issues on campus since we have been all working together to create a positive and warm environment!



# Torrance *Elementary*

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torranceel.tusd.org



**Dr. Kelly Joseph**  
*Principal*

## Bringing Us Together

Torrance Elementary has once again pulled off another successful Jog-a-Thon. This year the theme was “Be Anything YOU Want to Be.” The students dressed in costume and took on the track one grade level at a time. From superheroes to princesses,

school spirit to a simple wig, all of our students were included in the fun. With the entire school body cheering them on, and their parents watching them from the stands (teachers and school faculty included), our students had a blast!

The Jog-a-Thon wrapped up Torrance Elementary School’s activity filled Red Ribbon Week, where the students pledged to be drug free. They participated in Red Ribbon Spirit Week and pledged to be drug free by “socking it” to drugs, being heroes not zeroes, and staying in the game.

Torrance Elementary students also received a special visit during their annual Red Ribbon assembly from the WBC Champs.

The students were dressed in red when WBC Cares arrived at the assembly for the first time. The event was emceed by radio personality Erika Garza. Also in attendance were WBC Diamond Champion Leo Santacruz, three-time world champion Israel Vazquez, WBC International Champion Maricela Cornejo, former champion Bam Bam Brandon Rios, three-division champion Daniel Ponce De Leon, and the WBC’s Nancy Rodriguez and Pepe and Cecy Sulaiman.



It was great to have the boxing community speak to our students about saying “no” to drugs and following their dreams. Overall, this was a positive event for our 500+ students at Torrance Elementary. They were left with the kind of memories that may impact their future decisions in life.

Torrance Elementary School looks forward to more successful events that will bring our community together and enrich the lives of students both on and off the campus.

# Torrance *High School*

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • ths.tusd.org



**Karim Girgis**  
*Principal*

## What a Fall!

High schools are busy year-round, and we're no exception. Fall was filled with classroom success and extracurricular activities.

Our teachers continue to lead our students through the development of the schoolwide tutorial program. Our leadership team, which comprises administrators, counselors and teachers, has made great progress in developing a program that encompasses common skills, character building and tutorial time. Thanks go to our math and English teachers for their continued professionalism in developing assessments and strategies for

targeting students most in need of extra help.

Torrance High's Marching Band and Color Guard under the leadership of Carlos Anwandter traveled to Fresno in November to compete in the state championships. They finished third in Division 2A, the best result in 20 years. The band also won the Irvine Invitational in October. We're very proud and are anticipating the spring competition season!

With our historic auditorium under modernization, our Theater Department produced their fall play in our smaller Little Theater. The production of *Almost, Maine* was a great success. Kudos to Mrs. Duvall, her staff and especially our students for a fabulous show! Next fall, as part of our Centennial celebration, Mrs. Duvall and her father, Chuck Slater, will co-produce a play involving our students and alumni. Stay tuned for information!

In athletics, fall brought us a few firsts and some continued success. For the first time in our school's history, both boys and girls cross-country qualified for CIF finals in the same year. In the gym, girls volleyball returned to playoffs for the first time in eight years, reaching the second round. Girls golf continued its dominance of the Ocean League, capturing its third straight league title.

2017 will begin our Centennial celebration! Visit our website for updates about upcoming events.

# Torrance *Adult School*

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tastusd.org



**Dr. Wayne Diulio**  
*Director*

## Making Us All Feel Better!

Torrance Adult School's motto is "Education that Works." This is an indicator of our commitment to provide programs that benefit all adults in the South Bay community. One of our programs is Allied Health, in which students receive not only excellent training but also qualify for employment as either a pharmacy technician, a medical assistant or a medical billing and coding specialist.

One of our recent graduates is Marc Pomerleau, who completed the Pharmacy Technician Program at Levy Adult Center. The program included three months of classroom work followed by an on-the-job externship. Marc was placed at a pharmacy in Torrance. Upon completion of the entire program and after passing the county licensing test, Marc was hired in the inpatient pharmacy at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center.



**Teachers Yowanda Salter (L) & Letitia Babaran-Wang (R)**  
with Pharmacy Technician Marc Pomerleau

Marc is just one of the success stories for Torrance Adult School, where we want to help you meet your academic, personal and professional goals!

# Walteria *Elementary*

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4487 • www.walteriaelementary.org



**Efren Ponce**  
*Principal*

## Community and School Come Together

Walteria Elementary and Edison Elementary schools had the privilege of hosting Team Kids this year, a first in TUSD. Team Kids is an organization that empowers students by introducing them to the value they have in our society and the power they have to make a difference. They work closely with local fire and police departments to support their mission.

The Walteria Leadership Team, made up of fourth- and fifth-grade student volunteers, led the way. They organized and guided the school through three different challenges that allowed them to take leadership roles to make a difference in our community. Challenge number one had students gather donations to help our four-legged friends, challenge number two supported a canned-food drive to help needy families for Thanksgiving, and challenge number three called for students to host a toy drive in support of Spark of Love.

The Walteria student body and our community came together in support of the students in their mission to gather resources for those less fortunate. The culminating event, a student-created carnival, took place in December. The event brought together police officers and firefighters to support the event. Students organized fun games that the entire school had the opportunity to participate in. Money raised during this event will be donated to a cause chosen by the Walteria Leadership Team, and the team elected to support Providence Little Company of Mary. The event was very successful, and Walteria will be looking forward to making it even bigger and better in the future. Go Wildcats!

# Victor *Elementary*

4820 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • victor.tusd.org



**Bill Baker**  
*Principal*

## Keeping the Peace

Victor Elementary implements a peer mediation program where students can help other students resolve conflicts. The types of problems include disagreements on the playground, rumor and gossip, and name calling.

Naturally, serious issues are handled by the school administration. Peer mediators do not "make decisions," but rather work towards a "win-win resolution" for both sides in order to avoid further trouble. This process has proven to be very effective at Victor. Office referrals for these types of matters have declined substantially.

The key to this program is how it helps change the way our students understand and resolve conflict in their lives. This includes improved self-esteem and school climate for learning, better listening and critical thinking skills, and reduced disciplinary actions. These skills are transferable outside of the classroom, and will help our students for years to come.

## Towers *Elementary*

5600 Towers St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • towers.tusd.org



**Sandy Skora**  
Principal

### Our After-School Activities

At Towers, we have many opportunities for our students to expand their learning after school in a variety of classes.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our academic chess class, who donated extra-large chess pieces for our life-size chessboard. The chessboard was an Eagle Scout project by former student Andre Jang. It was quite an undertaking, and is a very popular area during recess. Thanks to all of our other after-school classes as well.

“Engineering for Kids” offers a look at aerospace engineering, with students designing flying machines each week. Our “Watch Me Draw and Watch Me Sculpt” cultivates the artistic side and increases fine motor skills. Our “Mighty Math” sharpens math skills, and the Hip Hop Dance Program works on athletic coordination. The students in the Hip Hop class have even developed a tumbling program for the Towers Variety Show!



The “Bricks for Kids” class inspires imagination by building with Legos. We also provide our kindergartners with Spanish classes by Yak Academy. Go, Towers Timberwolves!

## Wood *Elementary*

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • wood.tusd.org



**Dr. Shawn Johnson**  
Principal

### The Gift of Art

Beautiful things are taking place at Howard Wood Elementary School! During the 2016–2017 school year, Wood is participating in an initiative with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) designed to create a sustained arts presence in the lives of students and their families.

The program supports the California Common Core State Standards and the California State Content Standards for the visual arts, language arts, and social studies by allowing students to make meaningful connections between learning and LACMA’s art collections. Six artist-led workshop sessions are presented in every classroom, and curriculum materials and professional development opportunities are included. Bus transportation was provided for fourth- and fifth-grade students to hone their perceptions and explore how visual elements work together to create meaning. Students are learning to not just look at art but to really see it through careful observation and conversations about the strategies involved in creating works of art.

The program includes curriculum materials and professional development opportunities for teachers. It also provides museum memberships for all students and teachers. This partnership will be in effect for two years.

Thank you, LACMA! We are touched by your generosity through the gift of art!

## West *High School*

20401 Victor, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4299 • www.whs.tusd.org



**Pam Metz**  
Principal

### With Great School Spirit!

The West High School student body, and specifically the students in ASB, creates a wide variety of activities and events to encourage school spirit and get all students involved in the life of West High. Student involvement in West High’s 60-plus clubs and organizations begins in the fall with Club Rush. ASB officers and representatives as well as club officers get feedback from students at all grade levels when planning activities. Some events are strictly for fun, such as Spirit Week, during which time students can dress up for the theme of the day. Rallies are especially exciting, as students wear class colors and compete in some of the wackiest games ever.

Other events help support a cause. Recently, the National Honor Society sponsored a canned-food drive during which students brought in food that was credited to their grade level. Participants in the winning grade—the Class of 2017—received a pizza party. Clubs and organizations such as Robotics, Math Club and Science Olympiad compete with teams from other schools. Others like American Red Cross, Key Club, Interact and Tutorial Club focus on providing service to the community. Cultural clubs give students the opportunity to explore the history, customs and unique qualities of cultures from around the world. Many clubs focus on specific student interests. Longstanding interest clubs include Ping-Pong Club, Games Club, Friendship Club, Environmental Club and Art Club.

West High strives to create opportunities for every student to get involved in activities and enjoy life while in high school.

## Yukon *Elementary*

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • yukon.tusd.org



**Elaine Wassil**  
Principal

### Responding to Student Needs

It takes a lot of hands joined together to meet the diverse needs of all our children at Yukon Elementary School. To assist with this important task, we welcomed a new Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTI & I) resource teacher. With her help, Yukon analyzes children’s reading levels and flexibly groups students in a timely and continual way to meet each child’s needs. This allows the children to grow more proficient. Just as importantly, we become aware if a child is sliding behind his peers. When that happens, Yukon can respond immediately and stem the slide while the discrepancy is small, allowing for a timely fix.

Every Monday, the principal, each grade-level team, and our RTI & I teacher meet for an hour to assess each student’s progress, discuss the needs of the grade level, and look for ways to target instruction to get maximum results. This process allows “I can” goals to guide student efforts and teacher responses and gives us a way to assess our progress toward those goals.

According to research, frequent, informal assessments and feedback within an RTI framework are an effective way to significantly increase learning. Teachers feel supported in a meaningful way that is helpful to their students. Of the many ways researchers and educators have tried to improve education, the RTI model has proven to be one of the best.

Yukon is thrilled to have the opportunity to implement this highly researched and effective model successfully. It is rewarding to see the growth that is already happening with the help of our RTI & I teacher and our whole-school, collaborative focus on student learning.

**Our next issue is April 19.  
Thank you for reading *School News*!**

**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page**



**Dr. George Mannon**

Recently, the district was awarded a \$3-million grant to expand and grow our CTE programs at our middle and high schools. Through the grant, the district has been able to increase Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) course offerings at the secondary level. Students are able to take coursework which provides them with a framework in a myriad of industry sectors, including health science and medical technology, architect and engineering design/technology, visual and digital arts, game design and integration, carpentry and millwork, 2D/3D animation, web design, digital animation, computer science, and cyber security. The knowledge base and skills students acquire in these courses help them to succeed in their post-secondary education and careers with technological skills-based learning experiences.

Our school district holds high expectations for our students because we know that they can meet the challenge and grow their knowledge base. Life after high school is becoming increasingly demanding, whether students decide to go to college or begin their careers. By raising the bar, we are preparing our students to compete in today's global, knowledge-based economy.

**PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE • From Page 1**

life. The activities and projects throughout the course will introduce students to human physiology, basic biology, medicine, and research processes while allowing them to design their own experiments to solve problems.

The course started with various team building and cooperative learning activities to get the students use to working, communicating, and depending on one another to complete tasks. In early October students put on their investigator hat and started analyzing and dissecting the crime scene. Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) was the first career introduced in this class. Additional careers that will be explored in this unit include: 911 Operator, Emergency Medical Technician, Crime Scene Investigator, Blood Splatter Analyst, Forensic DNA Analyst, Medical Examiner, Toxicologist and Morgue Assistant.

Throughout the course, students will be using the latest technology to perform advanced biology experiments like DNA extractions, gel electrophoresis, and gram staining. Students will have an opportunity to dissect a heart, model glucose-insulin communication, and conduct blood glucose testing. Students will learn to take blood pressure and read electrocardiograms (EKGs). Students will be examining the following; diabetes, sickle cell anemia, heart, and infectious diseases. Students will also be exploring the following potential career: Biochemist, Food Scientist or Technologist, Nutritionist or Dietician, Endocrinologist, Primary Care Physician, Certified Diabetic Educator, Ophthalmologist, Clinical Researcher, Podiatrist, Psychologist or Psychiatrist, Hematologist, Cardiac Technician, Cardiac Nurse or Physician, Molecular Biologist, Nuclear Medicine Technologist All to determine cause of death.

I began teaching at North High School as a Physical Education teacher and Certified Athletic Trainer in the fall of 2007. I obtained my Health and a Career Technical Education (CTE) in Health Sciences and Medical Technology credentials shortly after. I began my Athletic Training career in 1997 after receiving my Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Long Beach. I obtained my first Master of Arts from Azusa Pacific University and worked as a part-time softball instructor/coach, fitness advisor, and Athletic Trainer at Rio Hondo Community College. In 2002, I received my second Master of Arts from Argosy University and teaching credential. For me, this was a chance to provide a valuable, real-world learning experience for my students associated with the Health Science industry. I am excited for the new adventure my students have embarked on.

**Board of Education**



**Terry Ragins**  
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**Mark Steffen**  
Member

**BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page**

for all our teams. Our young athletes continue to make remarkable strides in their sport of choice, going on to play in college and professionally. Recently at the Marching Band Showcase, I was immensely entertained by the musical talents of students from all four high schools. The marching bands showcased their best segments, which they had performed in competitions. I am always so impressed by and proud of the mastery of our budding musicians. These are only a few examples that demonstrate and highlight the dynamic learning going on throughout our district.

In December, I attended the California School Boards Association's conference. At this annual event, School Board members from all over California gather to share best practices from their districts, grow their leadership skills, and expand their knowledge on a variety of topics from increasing parent engagement to learning how to increase learning opportunities for all students. As I spoke to Board members from other California districts, it reinforced what I already knew: TUSD administration, faculty, and staff have been proactive and strategic leaders in the area of student growth and achievement.

In the coming year, I look forward to my role as School Board President. Together we will continue to ensure all TUSD students succeed.

**2 Games in 1!**

**Kids  
Teens  
Adults!**

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**info@sumdiceyfun.com**

# Reading is FUN

## Michael's Book Review

### A Hilarious Book

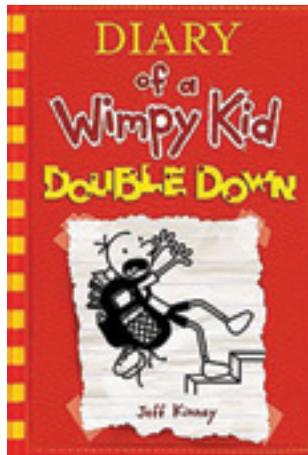


Michael H.

Greg's imagination is at it again. He talks about how he feels like his life is being filmed and people are watching his every move. He also talks about how his family is secretly a bunch of robots, and worries that what his mom said about his nana watching over him since she died is literally true. His mom thinks video games and TV are turning his brain into mush. She tells him to explore his "creative side."

This is all happening near Halloween and Greg feels like frights are coming his way from every direction. He joins the band. That would make his mom happy and he would be invited to the Halloween party. Going to the party he freaks out when he realizes his mom isn't just dropping him off she plans on staying. Will she embarrass Greg and ruin his whole plan?

I give this book 5 stars although it didn't have a main story line it was hilarious and can't wait to read the next one.



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.

## Richard's Book Review

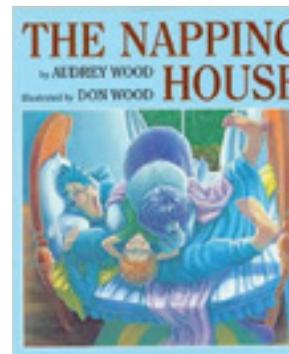
### Fun Campy Story



Richard J.

*The Napping House*  
By Audrey Wood

The characters of the rhyming story of *The Napping House* are the Granny, the Child, the Dog, the Cat, the Mouse and the Flea. One rainy, lazy day all the people and animals in the house climb into grandma's bed and fall asleep, one after another, stacked on top of each other. Then, while everybody is fast asleep, one character — the Wakeful Flea ends up rudely waking everybody up! It bites the Mouse, who scares the Cat, who claws the Dog, who thumps the Child, who bumps the Granny, who breaks the bed, so that nobody is sleeping or napping in the Napping House anymore! The style of this story is similar to the rhyming story of *The House That Jack Built*. I liked this campy story and with its many pictures on every page by Don Wood. It is a fun, colorful and easy book to read.



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.

## Alana's Book Review

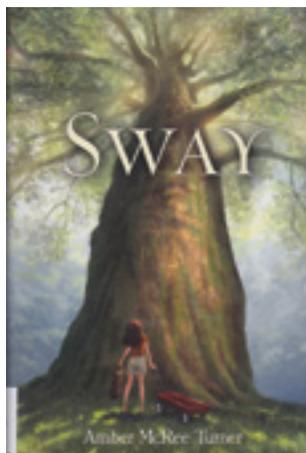
### SWAY



Alana F.

Cass Nordenhauer is a young girl whose ultimate dream is to be a volunteer for the Southern Mobile Aid Response Team alongside her mom, Toodi. So when Toodi finally returns home from a rescue mission, Cass is ecstatic to see her again. But after a confusing conversation with Cass' dad, Toodi drives away in tears and Cass' dream is seemingly squashed. Afterwards, Cass' dad decides that he and Cass should go on an adventure together, and the pair hit the road to explore the countryside. Along the way, Cass' dad introduces her to Sway, a seemingly magical power which can change the way that one thinks in a matter of seconds. With the power of Sway, can Cass find a way for her family to be reunited, or will any memories of a stable life be forever lost to the wind?

I enjoyed this book immensely and would give it five out of five stars because I really appreciate how countless youth nowadays could relate to Cass and her home situation.



Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

## Lucy's Book Review

### The World from Up Here

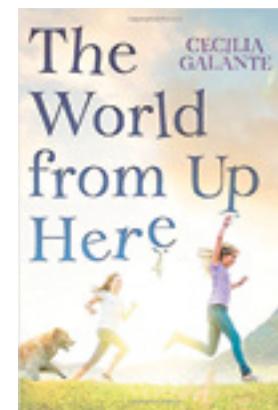


Lucy Davis

Author: Cecilia Galante  
Wren Baker has never been brave. She hasn't ever stepped out of her comfort zone, or done something risky and unpredictable.

That all changes when her mother is put in the hospital, and Wren doesn't even know why. Her dad seems to cover everything up, and he sends her to live with her aunt and "perfect" cousin, Sliver. Soon after her move, everything she's doing is dangerous, from riding a spooked horse to trekking up a seemingly haunted mountain. To top it off, what was supposed to be research for a history project turns into one of the most scary experiences of her life. Throughout her adventures, Wren is learning more about her own past than she ever thought she would.

Cecilia Galante's novel is fantastic, and I give it five bookworms out of five for its suspense and thoughtfulness.



Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

## A Story with Deep Meaning Side Stories



Christina J.

By Lloyd Alexander  
*The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen* is a story about a Prince who, following the advice of a wise old man named Master Wu, sets off to deliver six specially chosen items to give to the King of an amazing Kingdom. Master Wu chooses some strange, random items as gifts: an iron sword, a leather saddle, a wooden flute, a bronze bowl, a sandalwood box, and a kite. But, there is a reason he chooses these gifts. They are all magical, and they are all eventually needed, not to give to the King, but to hand out, one by one, to other people to help these people with their struggles, which creates interesting separate stories about what the receivers of these items do with their new magical power. For instance, the sandalwood box contains a special ink with which the artist using it can draw objects and animals that come to life though the canvass and it helped the artist earn his living and improve his life. Kite in the shape of a bird allows the person holding it to fly, and it helped a girl flew away at the hour of grave danger! And at the end of the story the Prince learns that there is no King of an amazing Kingdom, and the purpose of his journey was to help his people and see life outside of the castle walls. I liked that the story was written in a way similar to classic Chinese literature and has deep meanings in each of its side stories, that all reconnect to the main story.

I give this story 4 out of 5 stars, with 5 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).



## FRAM Soccer Club Tryout Dates

<p><b>2006</b>  <b>February 1st</b>                  Boys 4:30-6 pm                  Girls 4:30-6 pm  <b>February 8th</b>                  Boys 4:30-6 pm                  Girls 4:30-6 pm</p> <p><b>2004</b>  <b>February 13th</b>                  Boys 6-7:30 pm                  Girls 6-7:30 pm  <b>February 15th</b>                  Boys 6-7:30 pm                  Girls 6-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>2005</b>  <b>February 13th</b>                  Boys 4:30-6 pm                  Girls 4:30-6 pm  <b>February 15th</b>                  Boys 4:30-6 pm                  Girls 4:30-6 pm</p> <p><b>2003</b>  <b>February 13th</b>                  Boys 7:30-9 pm                  Girls 7:30-9 pm  <b>February 15th</b>                  Boys 7:30-9 pm                  Girls 7:30-9 pm</p>
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### MARCH 8th

03, 04, 05 Team tryouts with specific teams at their training sessions

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### Earthquake Insurance Attractive Options

So, it's not a matter of if, but of when, the "big one" will hit. According to some geologists, we are overdue.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the California Earthquake Authority (CEA), the agency that issues the coverage through your local agent, has significantly expanded the options available to consumers. That can help make the coverage more affordable.

A few of highlights of the changes are:

~ Now there are deductible choices ranging from 5 to 25 percent. And the insured now never has to pay any portion of the deductible to receive benefits under the coverage.

~ They are now offering higher limits for personal property coverage and for loss of use - the coverage that pays should you not be able to live in your home.

~ New coverage is also offered is coverage for breakable personal property, exterior masonry veneer, chimneys, and "green" home features.

~ And the discount available for retrofit that results in earthquake hazard reduction has risen to 20%.

The CEA was established in 1996 by the State of California and is now well funded to prevent homeowners and renters from loss resulting from earthquake damage. If you have not looked at the options available for a few years, 2017 may be a good time to take another look.

They have a great website that offers a premium calculator and allows you to customize your coverage. Here is the web address: <http://www2.earthquakeauthority.com/Pages/default.aspx>

CathyLyn Brooks, CRS, GRI is affiliated with Main Street Realtors. She has worked as a real estate broker since 1980, is a graduate of USC, the UCI paralegal program, and serves FINRA as a public arbitrator. Consumers should seek legal and tax advice pertaining to their transactions.

# Weather Words 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Torrance in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by March 15, 2017**

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

BAROMETER	FROST	STEBER
BLIZZARD	HAIL	STEVENS
CELSIUS	HUMIDITY	SWARTHOUT
CIRRUS	HURRICANE	TEBALDI
CLOUD	HYDROMETER	THERMOMETER
CUMULUS	ICE STORM	THUNDERSTORM
CYCLONE	MIST	TORNADO
DEW	RAIN	TRAUBEL
DUST STORM	SLEET	TYPHOON
FAHRENHEIT	SNOW	VANILLA
FOG	SQUALL	

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L R E K C U T L H W M M S S I
D E C E L S I U S Z R U Q B D
F B S T I A M L V O R U L U L
A E W M H I E T T R A I S Q A
H T A A D E Y S I L Z T C S B
R S R I T P R C L Z S Y U Z E
E Y T A H E F M A T C L I R T
N Y H O D H F R O L U C E W A
H H O N H Y D R O M E T E R L
E N U D D W M N U S E D G E L
I H T U A F E C T M T T B A I
T S N O W N C O O R G U E Z N
U I A L H U R R I C A N E R A
Z S D C H M A O Z R R I A Q V
P M J K V B P S T E V E N S U

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**Congratulations to Saranya Raj  
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!**

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KITCHEN

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Expires 03.01.2017



## Bettolino Kitchen New Year's Crossword

2017                      Italian food  
Bettolino                New Year  
Celebrate                Resolution  
Count Down              Rose Parade  
Family

G	R	S	V	B	G	Y	I	G	F	B	N	D
C	O	U	N	T	D	O	W	N	B	D	O	E
C	S	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	S
H	E	X	C	V	B	B	S	Y	F	V	Q	S
N	P	N	S	N	X	X	K	N	C	G	I	X
R	A	E	Y	W	E	N	A	A	7	1	0	2
Y	R	P	R	E	S	I	J	L	K	B	H	R
D	A	O	N	I	L	O	T	T	E	B	C	S
Z	D	K	H	A	X	W	P	Z	H	W	R	V
T	E	D	T	D	M	O	O	Y	E	D	W	R
L	J	I	Z	A	Y	L	I	M	A	F	S	Z
T	Z	X	F	E	D	M	B	A	H	Z	U	W
O	N	Y	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	T

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