

**FREE**

# School News

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**Covering the Tustin Unified School District**

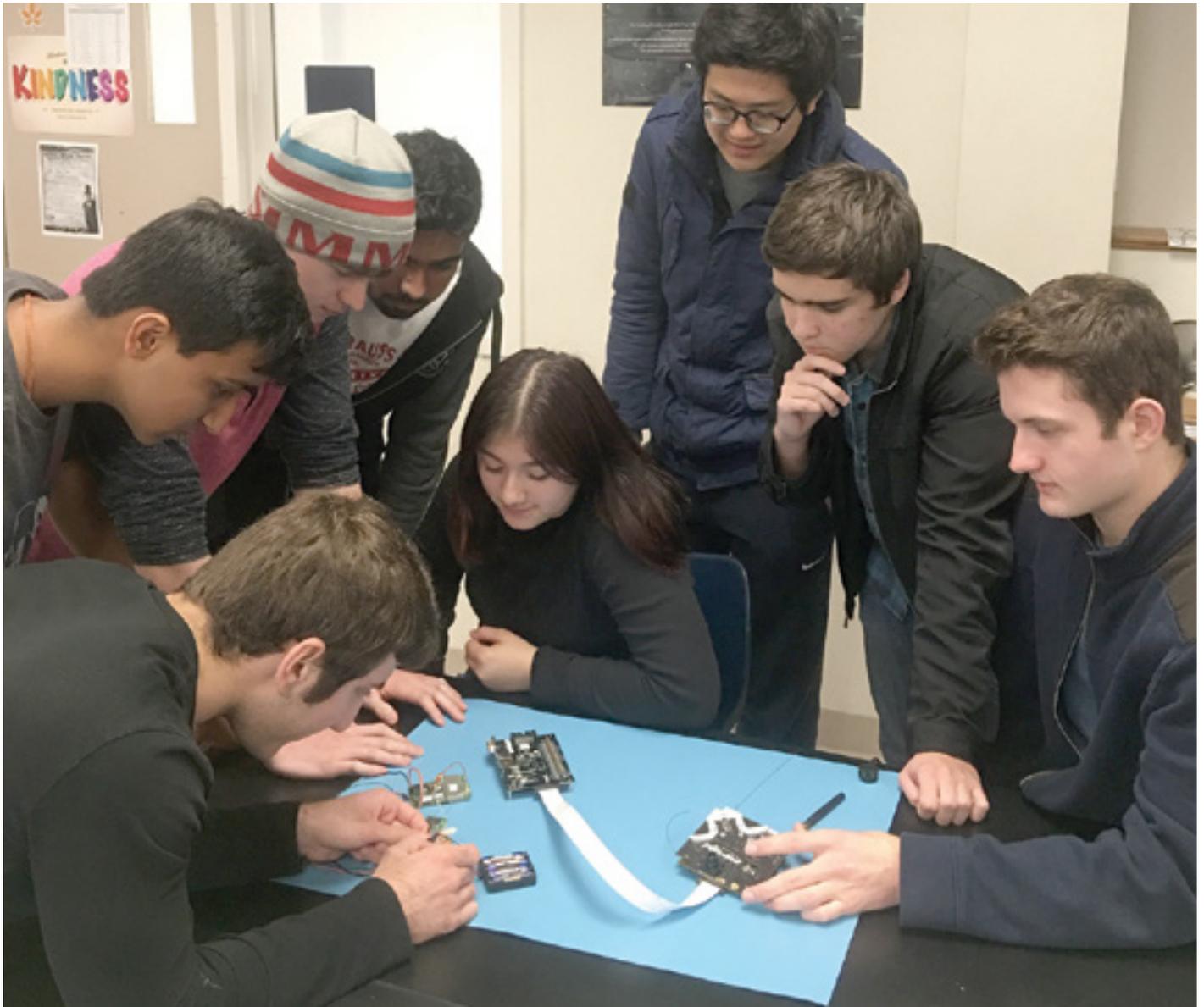


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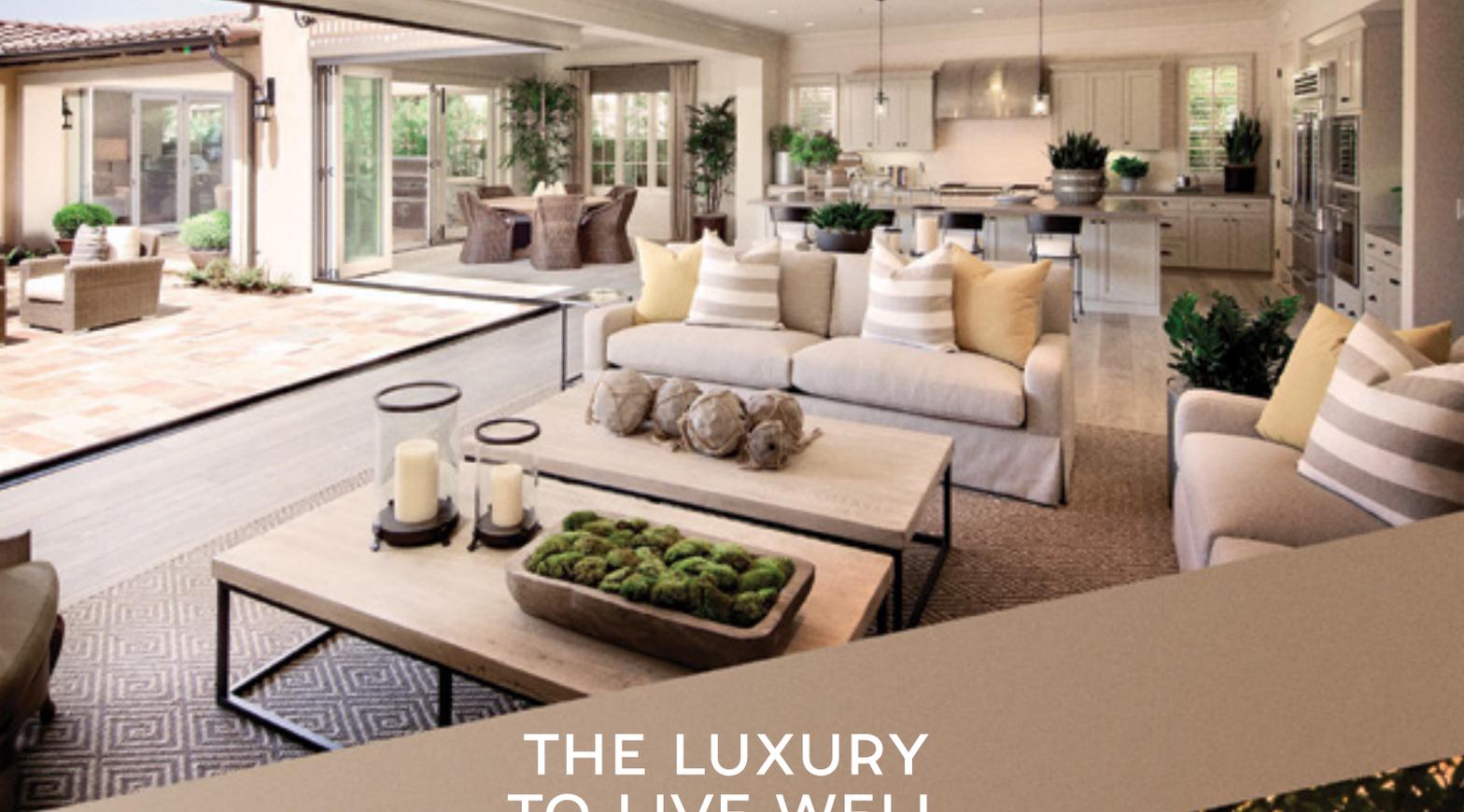
## TUSD Students Get Ready for Take-Off



**Beckman High School avionics students are seen working on the Irvine CubeSat project.**

(please see page 8)

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# Post-Election Thoughts



**Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.**  
Superintendent

## In Touch with TUSD

A few months ago the United States elected our 45th President. This entire election season has been historic for a number of reasons, and I want to share some post-election reflections.

First, this election season included some very angry rhetoric and name-calling – and our students were watching and listening. How do we teach students that although adults at the highest level of national

leadership participated in this behavior, villainizing someone with an opposing point of view does not help to solve problems. Solving problems requires listening respectfully, considering different points of view, and looking for common ground. In the wake of this election cycle, all of us in TUSD will be vigilant for opportunities to reinforce civility, kindness, open-mindedness, tolerance and collaboration.

Second, elections are “either/or” events. There is a clear winner and loser. In this election, the winner did not gain the most popular votes, but he will take office in January and represent the entire nation. That is the nature of America’s elections. However, most decisions are not

made this way, especially in organizations that recognize honoring the views of only half of stakeholders is a recipe for failure. The Interest-Based approach to problem solving used in Tustin Unified builds on important principles: be hard on issues, not people; assume a charitable intent to individuals on both sides of an issue; and recognize that every decision involves not only the content of the problem, but relationships and processes. Elections decide who our leaders are, but I hope our elected leaders approach governing in a manner that brings people together – not one that drives people apart.

Finally, I am grateful to live in this great country under a democratic government. As Winston Churchill once noted, democracy is the worst form of government, except for all other forms. One of our tasks is to teach students how to function, participate and influence policies and decisions within the boundaries of our democracy. Only 25% of eligible Americans actually cast a ballot last month. In Tustin, where we pledge to prepare students “to thrive now and in the future,” we will inspire them to think critically, speak up, and participate in local, national and world affairs in order to influence their future.

WE ARE Tustin Unified, and we get things done.



**Mark Eliot**

*Director of Communications & Public Information*

300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • (714) 730-7339



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Are you looking for me for the contest on page 30?



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**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



This is our 13th year publishing the excellence from the Tustin Unified School District. There have been many changes in the classroom over the years, but the one constant is academic excellence. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

On page 8 you will read about the Beckman Team Avionics students attempting to make history. Also,

in this issue you will read about a Medical Certificate Program, Kindness Campaign, National AVID Recognition, Supporting Our Nation's Troops, and so much more...

We had a record number of entries in our contest last issue and I appreciate all of the comments when you email your answers. We have two contests in this issue. Have fun!

Our next issue is April 19.

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

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- Middle and High School Robotics League
- Tustin Connect Center K-8 Online School
- Early College Program
- Model United Nations
- International Baccalaureate
- Elementary, Middle and High School Music Programs
- Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program
- Columbus Tustin Middle School Math and Science Magnet Program
- 21st Century Classrooms
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- 13 Career Pathways

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# Thorman Students Surprised with New Bikes

By Mark Eliot  
Director of Communications and Public Information  
Tustin Unified School District

Approximately 100 third-graders at Jeane Thorman Elementary School were given bikes and helmets from a San Diego-based nonprofit group called Bikes for Kids.

Bikes for Kids makes surprise deliveries throughout California and chose Thorman – the only school in the county – as one of its beneficiaries this year. This was the first time in the organization’s 14-year history that they came to Orange County.

According to Principal Deanna Parks, Thorman third graders participated in an essay contest on empathy. During a special assembly on December 12 in the school’s multipurpose room, four students won a bike and helmet. Next, the organization gave away four more bikes. Then they pulled open the curtain in the multipurpose room and revealed 100 new bikes – one for every student in the audience. The kids went wild and were thrilled to find out they all were taking home new bikes for the holidays.



**Thorman third-graders react to surprise ‘bikes for all’ announcement.**

“It really was a magical moment for our third-grade students,” Parks said. “One that all of us, including the teachers, staff and parents, will never forget.”



**Students and adults pose with the new bikes in the school’s multipurpose room.**

The teachers, staff and students did not know about the bike surprise. Parks and the organization kept the bike give-away a big secret. The bikes were assembled the weekend before the big day by adult volunteers and local high school students.

Bill Pollakov, who founded Bikes for Kids with his wife, Debbie, assumed the role of emcee. “Who wants to win a bike?” he said over and over, stirring up anticipation and enthusiasm among the students. He also included a safety message and urged students to wear their bike helmets.

Over the years, Bikes for Kids has donated around 42,000 bikes to children in low-income families.



**Bikes, bikes and more bikes stand ready for their new owners.**

# T-Tech Academy Students are Going to MIT

By Ed Hernandez, T-Tech Academy Advisor  
Tustin High School

T-Tech Academy of Technology & Engineering is going to MIT! A team of 11 Tustin High School T-Tech Academy students was awarded a \$9,000 Grant from the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams Program.

InvenTeams are teams of high school students, teachers and mentors that receive grants up to \$10,000 each to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. The initiative of the Lemelson-MIT Program aims to inspire a new generation of inventors.

“The InvenTeams program represents the future,” said Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer from the Lemelson-MIT Program. “We place an emphasis on STEM-focused projects to develop interest in these fields among youth. With InvenTeams, our primary goal is to foster high school students’ passion for invention, in turn inspiring them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering or math.”



**The Tustin High InvenTeam members are: (f) Maraiiah Colarines, Melanie Acosta, Angelica Pelcastre, Bryan Ho, Hugo Ambriz, Erin Clement; and (b) engineering teacher Ed Hernandez, Sam Christy, Eric Baker, Jared Andreae, Brandon Rossano and Max Christy.**

The Tustin High InvenTeam, selected after an exhaustive two-year application process, is one of only 15 high school InvenTeams from across the United States to participate in this prestigious event.

T-Tech Advisor Ed Hernandez initiated the InvenTeam application process in April 2015, and attended training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) last year in June to help prepare the final proposal. A prestigious panel of judges composed of educators, researchers, staff and alumni from MIT, as well as representatives from the industry and former Lemelson-MIT Award winners, selected the Tustin High Tillers as one of this year’s InvenTeam grantees.

The funds will be used for the complete development and fabrication of a student-created invention over the next seven months. Tustin High’s challenge is to develop a machine to quickly and efficiently remove unsightly chewing gum from concrete floors, walkways and sidewalks. Chewing gum litter is the number two litter problem in the world, second only to cigarette butts.

The InvenTeams program will culminate with a trip to EurekaFest in June 2017 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts (MIT) to present their invention.

# Beckman Students are Out of This World

By Katherine Diep, senior, Beckman High School

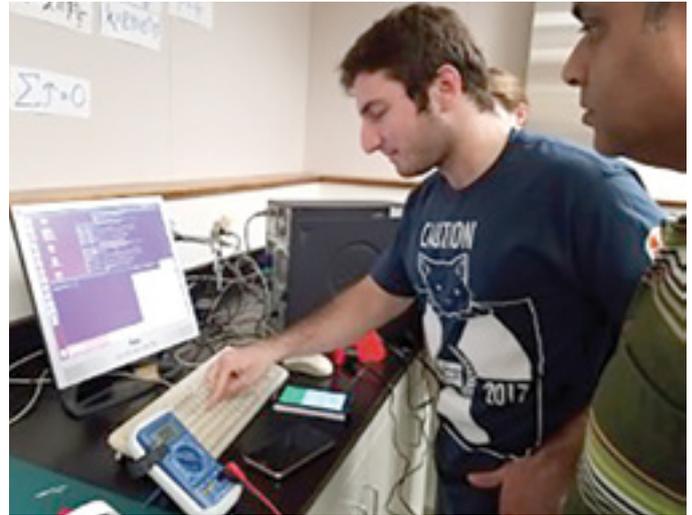
Every week, a select few Beckman High School students attempt to make history. Their mission is to send a functional satellite into orbit around the Earth, a feat that only a few other high school teams in the world have even attempted. They are the Irvine01 Avionics Team.

Irvine01 is a collaborative project involving Tustin Unified's Beckman High and Irvine Unified high schools. The Beckman Team is led by faculty advisors Dr. Paul Lewanski, Siu-Ling Si and Siu-kong Sit. The program's goal is to build and launch a CubeSat – a four-inch cube shaped nanosatellite. Each school's team has been assigned a specific purpose and set of responsibilities. The students at Beckman are Team Avionics, the brains of the satellite. Currently, Beckman students have been testing the radio and camera – the satellite's main components – along with working on various system circuit boards.

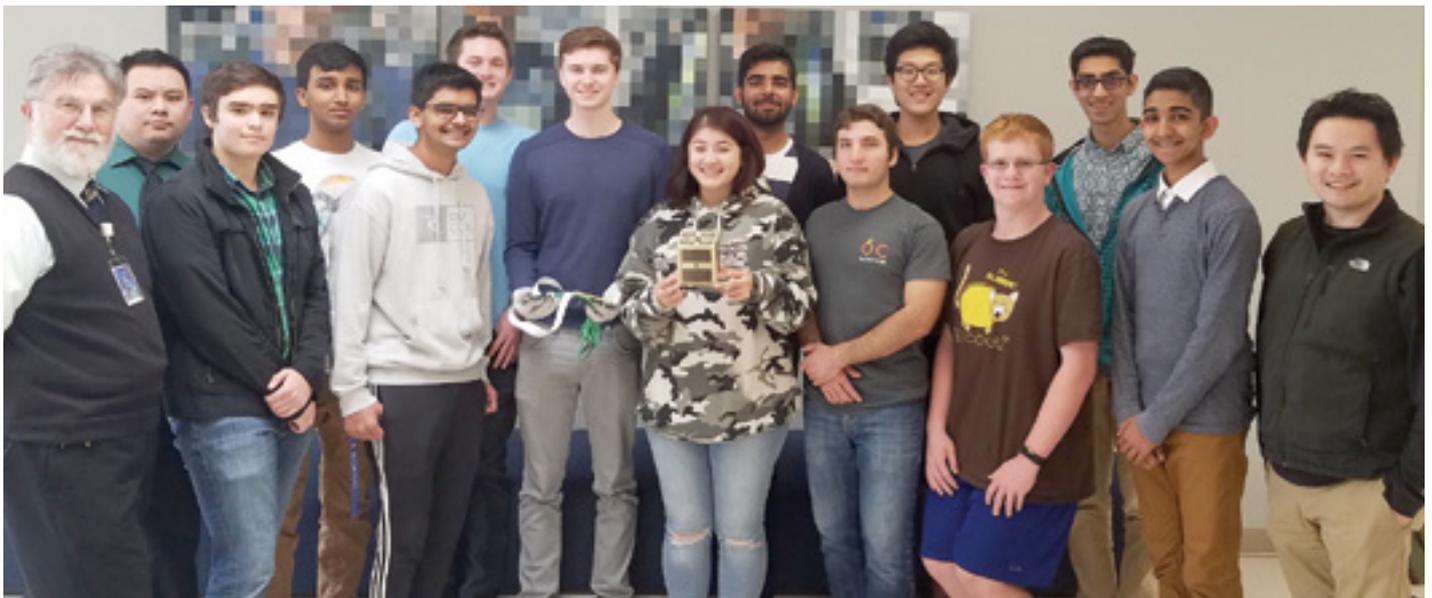
Last September, the CubeSat underwent radiation testing at U.C. Irvine to ensure that it will be able to endure the harsh conditions of space. It passed with flying colors. It will soon be given a thermal and shake test to simulate the environment during launch. Irvine01 is currently scheduled for launch from India in early summer 2017.

Beckman Team Avionics students have had many opportunities, including a visit to California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo for a world-class CubeSat convention, lectures by NASA personnel and Nobel Prize nominees, and collaboration with industry professionals.

"It's been an amazing experience to be able to meet the people whose works I have read about," said Tristan Weaver, a junior at Beckman. "I've dreamed about space since I was five, and now I actually get to work on a spacecraft that is going there!"



Beckman Avionics Team members work on the CubeSat project.



Beckman chemistry/physics teacher Dr. Paul Lewanski and the Beckman Avionics Team display a model of the CubeSat.

## Arroyo *Elementary School*

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



**Amy Jones**  
*Principal*

### Exploring Mustang Makerspace

At Arroyo Elementary School, we are excited to launch a new, exciting space for all of our kindergarten through fifth-grade students to explore—the Mustang Makerspace! A committee of committed parents and staff members has been working hard to collect donations and get the room ready for our opening at the end of the month. We're excited to see all Arroyo

students utilizing this space to create, explore, and design.

In the makerspace, students will be able to participate in a variety of activities. Students will tackle design challenges that will take them through the engineering design process, which is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Students can also participate in a variety of high- and low-technology options, including constructing structures using wooden building planks, creating art using recyclables, and much more!

We look forward to seeing all that students can create when given an opportunity to explore!



**Arroyo students Matt Ciecek and Max Quartly help with the Makerspace donations.**

## Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

3588 Bryan Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-2900



**Dr. Donnie Rafter**  
*Principal*

### Medical Certificate Program

Beckman High School's Medical Certificate Program started last year to allow students to explore careers in the medical field. This three-year program awards students with certificates each year and a graduation medal if they complete all three years.

In the fall of their first year, students take an online anatomy course consisting of 10 modules of human body systems created by science teacher Phillip Chow via Edpuzzle. Then they hear from 10 medical professionals in the spring.

In their second year, students receive the opportunity to hear from five additional non-doctor medical specialists, choose one specialty they are interested in, and then be mentored in that specialty by a parent volunteer as they complete a research project.

In their third and final year, students have the opportunity to complete hands-on lab dissections and be mentored to help them plan their next steps after high school.



**Beckman students listen to a medical expert in the biology classroom.**

## Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



**Jackie Christy**  
*Principal*

### **The Kindness Campaign**

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an approach to creating a positive social culture by way of directly teaching our desired school-wide expectations.

The rules at Benson Elementary are that students will be kind, safe, and responsible. Expectations are established for each rule at the various sites on campus, such as the classrooms or on the playground, so that each student can achieve social, emotional and academic success.

As a PBIS school, Benson Elementary focuses on recognizing those students who are following the rules with special “Bear Hugs.” The students can then save up their Bear Hugs and use them to buy things or events such as a pizza party with the principal.

This year, Benson Elementary is expanding its PBIS program with our

“Catching Kindness” campaign. Each Friday, one or two students get recognized for an act of kindness that was witnessed by a teacher. Acts of kindness do not need to be really big deals. In fact, the small, thoughtful gestures are the ones that can have the biggest impact on someone’s day!



**Benson students John Heilman and Aaliyah Hernandez, and, back row, campus supervisors Dawn Allen, Rita DeMint and Sharon Jamrozik help kick off school’s Kindness Campaign.**

## Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



**Stephanie Yang**  
*Principal*

### **Bobcats are Writers!**

This year, Beswick enhanced their instructional program with the focus on Writers Workshop as a school-wide Signature Practice. The heart of the practice is to foster a love of writing within our students so that they can communicate clearly and share their thinking.

The Workshop model provides students with in-depth experiences of the writing process as the teachers explicitly model, guide, and provide students with the choice and time they need to engage in skill-work as writers. Writers Workshop lends itself well to meeting the needs of all learners, making writing both enjoyable and rigorous for our student authors.

Nicole Eagan, a first- and second-grade combo teacher,

shares that, “I look around the room and I see all smiles! Students are talking, sharing, thinking and writing!”

Lindsey Vose, a fourth-grade teacher, expressed, “My kids are so inspired by writing this year. Not only are they motivated to work hard on their writing pieces, they love it and beg for writing time each day. The routine of the Workshop model gives me a great structure for each day, and I think it helps my students know what to expect as well. The “I do, we do, you do” philosophy is exactly what they need to help develop their writing skills.”

As a team, we have committed to ongoing inquiry and growth in the area of writing by learning with the expert consultants Momentum in Teaching, and through a Shared LAB professional development model with Thorman Elementary, as led by our amazing Connect Coaches.

## Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



**Maggie Burdette**  
*Principal*

### National AVID Recognition

Columbus Tustin Middle School has been selected as a National Demonstration School by the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a nonprofit organization that provides educators with proven, real-world strategies to accelerate the performance of underrepresented students so that these students and all students across the entire campus succeed in college, career, and life.

Columbus Tustin joins approximately 150 other AVID National Demonstration Schools and was selected through an application process, screening, and review, which included a site visit. AVID is implemented in over 5,600 schools across the nation, meaning that less than 3% of AVID schools earn the distinction of AVID National Demonstration School. Schools recognized as National Demonstration Sites have proven their ability to successfully implement the AVID Elective course and take the strategies schoolwide to impact all students and create a more engaged, college-ready student body.



**Columbus Tustin AVID students and staff display AVID National Demonstration School banner (f) Principal Maggie Burdette and students Arianna Corona, Celine Lombardi, Melany Brondo, Gabrielle David, Dyan Jaime, Xitlalli Salgado, Edgar Cendejas, Aileen Gomez, Pilar Ruiz, Ryan Alvarez, Mindy Moran, Sebastian Moreno, and AVID teacher Rich Avellana; (b) AVID teacher Katryn Henry and students Juan Peralta, Stephanie Muro, Roderick Nakamura, Jose Miranda, Brisa Ruiz, Alan Perez Vazquez, Samantha Core, Ariel Vong, Emily Garcia, Christopher Aguilar and AVID teacher Chi Deticek.**

## A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



**Erick Fineberg**  
*Principal*

### Engaging Students and Taking Risks

Welcome to the new year – 2017! This is a good time to reflect on the great things we are doing and what is next. We are excited to approach

the second half of the school year as we continue to focus on our three primary focus areas with our students: Build Relationships, Take Risks and Engage in Rigorous Curriculum. Along those lines, students will continue to be working



**Currie students collaborate as they analyze text using strategies learned in their Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) class.**

towards strengthening our writing skills. There will be lots of student writing, opportunities to practically apply their learning through writing in group projects and performance assessments, along with a continued commitment to student growth both academically and socially/emotionally. This is going to be a wonderful year and we look forward to the next six months with our students and the great things they will learn and be able to do over that time.

## Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



**Wendy Hudson**  
*Principal*

### **Into the Wilderness**

Our fifth grade students will soon be traveling to the San Bernardino Mountains to experience four days of learning in an outdoor classroom. This opportunity, partially funded through grants, affords every student the chance to step outside of city life and learn such basics as teamwork and cooperation, while studying environmental education.

In addition to becoming plant detectives through their environmental classes, students will learn about water conservation, the homes and habitats of birds, and study the food chain and food web. Adventure classes include archery, climbing, and orienteering, where students will learn to use a compass to navigate forest terrain. Night hikes provide the chance for students to study astronomy, as well as to learn about the nocturnal world of owls and other nighttime creatures.

We can hardly wait to hit the trails in February and get dirty!



**Estock fifth graders learn about bird homes from their guide before embarking on a hike.**

## Foothill *High School*

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



**Dr. Michael Williams**  
*Principal*

### **Students Visit Set of Popular TV Series – Baby Daddy**

Encouraging and supporting students to be college/career ready is a focus for the Foothill High community. We're constantly looking for ways to implement real world experiences both within and outside the classroom. Our secretary, Cheryl Sewitsky, is the grandmother of Sura and Kayleigh Harris, who have played the role of "Emma Wheeler" for three seasons on the popular cable TV comedy "Baby Daddy." Foothill film and television instructor Chris Price and his advanced film class were invited to visit the set of "Baby Daddy" at the CBS Studio Center. Through their combined effort, Cheryl and Chris provided our students with firsthand experiences of high impact careers by allowing them to watch filming and speak to the creator of the show, the director, producers, writers, actors, and production. It's our wish that opportunities like this allow our students to find success in their college/career choices, hopes and dreams.



**Foothill film and television students visited behind-the-scenes at the "Baby Daddy" TV show.**

# Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



**Kelly Fresch**  
*Principal*

## Oceans Rock!

Guin Foss Elementary School hosted a Family Science Night in December with the theme “Oceans Rock!” More than 500 students and parents attended.

The night included two presentations of projected vivid photos and videos accompanied by descriptions of ocean. The host shared details about the food chain, life undersea, and the many human uses of ocean life besides provision of food. In addition, students enjoyed a hands-on opportunity to hold multiple preserved ocean creatures, including a starfish, a blowfish, a lobster, a sea turtle, and a sting ray. Students were also able to string their own shark-tooth necklaces and dig for colorful shells in tubs of sand. Parent volunteers provided support and served dinner to all in attendance.

What a great way to learn and explore together in a night of fun—all for free! Guin Foss used Title I parent involvement money to host this educational experience, and we were proud to see so many families in attendance!



Guin Foss third grader Presley Price holds a starfish.

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## Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



**Sean Lindsay**  
*Principal*

### Running with Cops

Heideman has successfully forged an important partnership with the Tustin Police Department. For more than a year now, the officers of Tustin PD are exceedingly fine partners in

providing afterschool opportunities for Roadrunners to play sports afterschool.

There are two Heideman educators at the heart of this partnership: fourth-grade teacher Jonathan Parker and community liaison Veronica Rivas. They coordinate, encourage, organize, show up, promote, nurture, motivate, and create. Due to their tireless efforts in partnership with Tustin PD, Heideman has activities like Run with a Cop and Turkey Bowl



**Heideman Heroes Jonathan Parker and Veronica Rivas were recognized by the Tustin Police Department.**

that have become cherished events among students and their families.

The Tustin Police Officers Association noticed their efforts and honored Jonathan and Veronica at their annual Awards Banquet on January 13 at the Marconi Automotive Museum.

Many thanks to Jonathan, Veronica, and the Tustin Police Department. Heideman is proud and thankful for all of their hard work.

## Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



**Beth Rabel Blackman**  
*Principal*

### Students Build to Learn

The students of Heritage Elementary, STEAM Magnet School, have a favorite place to build: the Heritage Innovation Lab. This dedicated maker space is a space for students to build, create, and explore Heritage's science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) curriculum.

Classes come to the lab to work on projects, for art instruction, to build as part of the engineering process, and to create with technology. The lab includes video production equipment, as well as robotics equipment for applied computer programming. Students use the Innovation Lab for both structured lessons and open creation time. Teachers have noted that students are excited to work in the space and take charge of their learning when in the lab. In just a few short months, the Heritage Innovation Lab has become an extension of the classroom, and allows students to explore their learning in depth.



**First graders built musical instruments in the Innovation Lab, with the support of parent volunteers, as part of a science unit on sound and light waves.**

# Hewes Middle School

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



**Eric Killian**  
Principal

## Supporting Our Nation's Troops

Principal Eric Killian and Assistant Principal Dr. Katie Males of Hewes Middle School were each presented with a Patriot Award in December by Reginald Fields, California Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteer in recognition of extraordinary support of their employee serving in the Guard and Reserve.

"The Patriot Award was created by ESGR recognizing individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before them have answered their nation's call to serve," said Jim Combs, California ESGR state chair.

Mr. Killian and Dr. Males (U.S. Army Veteran) were each nominated for being highly supportive of the California Army National Guard Reserve Component employee, Capt. Michael Meek. Capt. Meek serves as a special education teacher for students with behavioral needs at Hewes. His dual roles have been an honor to support at the school.



**Hewes counselor Joanne Motter, Assistant Principal Dr. Katie Males, Principal Eric Killian and teacher Capt. Michael Meek participate in recognition ceremony at the school.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

East Orange County Water District (EOCWD) is proud to be the sewer service provider for our community. We implemented a 50 percent rate reduction over the summer and are providing high-quality service and local representation.

Our annual sewer line cleanings help keep the system operating safely and smoothly. Consistent water flows also play a role in keeping sewer lines flowing and controlling odors. Less water in the sewer, as a result of water conservation, can mean less "pushing" of solids through the system and the possibility of odors as the solids decompose.

Odors can also intensify with warmer temperatures and during heat waves – even underground – but they will subside as temperatures cool down.

### **What should I do if I detect an odor around my home?**

Odors will most likely be temporary but if they persist, contact EOCWD, and we can come out to clean the public sewer line and get those solids flowing again. To report a concern, call 714-538-5815 or email [admin@eocwd.com](mailto:admin@eocwd.com).

**Learn more at [www.eocwd.com](http://www.eocwd.com)**



## Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Deena Vela**  
*Principal*

### **Bringing Smiles to Children in Need**

Bronson Mejia is a remarkable third-grade student at Hicks Canyon Elementary. Bronson and his family have lived through a difficult loss. Three years ago, Bronson's little brother Donovan was diagnosed with cancer, and he passed away a year later.

This was a devastating time for Bronson and his family. They decided to start a foundation called Donovan Smiles, which is an annual toy drive. They collect unwrapped gifts for children in local hospitals. They deliver the gifts to the children in the hospital to let them know that they are not alone and that the community cares for them.

Bronson and his family coordinated and led the annual Hicks Canyon Donovan Smile Toy Drive event in which students collected countless amounts of toys that brought smiles to children during the past holiday season.



**Hicks Canyon student Bronson Mejia and teacher Melody Cooperrider collect toys for children in need.**

## Hillview *High School*

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



**Tim O'Donoghue**  
*Principal*

### **Warm Welcome, Grateful Goodbye**

I am pleased to welcome Frances Torres, who has been named as the community liaison for Hillview High School. Ms. Torres has worked for Tustin Unified in a wide variety of roles since joining the district in 2000. She has worked as an office assistant and nutrition assistant in both the Adult Education and Nutrition Services departments.

As a community liaison, Ms. Torres will help strengthen the relationship between home and school. Some of her responsibilities include translating, providing resources and contact referrals, helping with



**Hillview's new community liaison Frances Torres works with the students, staff and parents.**

the English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings, and supporting our office and administration staff.

When Ms. Torres is not in school, she enjoys shopping, cooking and gardening.

I also want to congratulate and thank Sue Warmack for her 24 years of service at Hillview. Ms. Warmack did an amazing job as a campus supervisor and office assistant, helping numerous students and their families. Ms. Warmack was the most senior member of the Hillview staff, and I wish her well in her retirement.

## Ladera *Elementary School*

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



**Dr. Jennifer Harrison**  
Principal

### A Day in the Life

Ladera Elementary School hosted the kickoff to its guest speaker series called “Future Ready Careers.” Our first guest speaker was Shawn Fenton, Ladera parent and director of quality assurance at SeaSpine, Inc.

Mr. Fenton is a biochemical engineer who works with cadaver bones and chemicals to create new bone material for patients who have suffered from traumatic injuries. He shared with our students in their new Future Ready Lab some interesting stories about his exciting career, and his passion for science and engineering. Ladera’s goal is to expose its students to potential careers in STEAM fields to spark their interests and help them see where their passions can lead to in the future.



**Ladera third graders Gianna DiLellio, Kavya Thackrar and Olivia Alforque work collaboratively on a STEAM project called “The Egg Drop.”**

The students then began their first STEAM Challenge Series in which they worked collaboratively in groups to build a protective container for an egg. Their goal was to cushion a fall from 10 feet by using material from our Lab Makerspace.



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## Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



**Katy Sheyka**  
*Principal*

### Fostering Curiosity and Creativity

The Loma Vista Elementary School community is excited about the development and launch of our new Cougar Creativity Lab. Our vision is to

provide a space for students and teachers that supports the Next Generation Science Standards, our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) instruction, and the engineering design process while fostering curiosity and student creativity!

In this innovation lab, students will participate in highly engaging, 21st-century learning opportunities. The first



**Teacher Krista Johnson's second-grade students, Levi Morrissey, Alejandro Contreras and Israel Chavez watch to see if their Artbot will work.**

project was creating artbots. Collaborative teams were provided with supplies and charged with building robots that actually drew on paper. The student engagement and enthusiasm were incredible!

Our curriculum and instructional support coach, Kathi Denny, is developing literacy-based engineering curriculum to support teaching and learning in the lab. Loma Vista teachers have started a book club to read *The Innovator's Mindset*, by George Couros. They are discussing topics

such as how to provide students with more opportunities to create and promote their ideas beyond the classroom.

## Myford *Elementary School*

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



**Rena Fairchild**  
*Principal*

### Fifth-Graders Graduate DARE

Myford's fifth-grade students recently completed a Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (DARE) sponsored by the Irvine Police Department. DARE's vision is about, "Teaching students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives."

Officer Hom taught our students valuable life lessons that will positively impact their lives, such as having them practice how to best handle the various situations they may face in the future. In addition to drug resistance, they also learned about school safety, internet safety, community safety, and bullying awareness and prevention.

On January 12, our families joined the fifth-graders and celebrated their growth and learning at the DARE graduation. All of the students spent time reflecting upon how they will continue to make good personal choices. They also wrote pledges stating their goals for the future.

In addition, the students demonstrated their learning through poems, posters, and essays. Several students were recognized for outstanding contributions in these areas.



**The Irvine Police Department recognized D.A.R.E. poem, poster, and essay contests winners: (f) Areli Flores, Kristina Tu, Shaheera Ali, Lindsay Machin, Charisse Hickman, Camryn Daniels, Jessica Ahn and Ledge Allard; and (b) Irvine Police Lieutenant Michael Kent, Brandon Cruz, Felicity Lorenz, Executive Assistant to Mayor Pro Temp Lynn Schott, Savanna Esquivel, Irvine Police Officer Fanny Hom, Cooper Fleischmann, Maryjo Chaanine, and Irvine Mayor Donald Wagner.**

## W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



**Melinda Smith**  
*Principal*

### **The Outdoor Classroom**

Eighty-seven Nelson fifth graders spent four days at Outdoor Science camp in Running Springs, an elevation of 6,700 feet. Our fifth graders experienced nature first hand. Daily excursions included hikes to Jenks Lake and a night hike where students learned about astronomy under a blanket of stars. Counselors also taught lessons in ecology, geology, and the eco-system native to the San Bernardino Mountains using Angeles Oaks as the classroom. This experience also included archery. Students received instruction on how to draw a bow and launch an arrow. Many of our students also climbed a rock wall for the first time, putting their trust in others while they learned the art of belaying. But I'm sure the highlight was the SNOW! Snow fell two of their four days providing a unique playground, magical environment, and an experience they are sure to treasure.



**Fifth graders Kimberly Carranza, Mark Christian Fernando, Angelin Nguyen, and Monique Arceo try their hand at archery.**

## Orchard Hills *School*

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



**Cindy Agopian**  
*Principal*

### **Fifth-Graders Think Outside!**

Over 200 fifth-grade students attended Arrowhead Ranch in early December. The students went on discovery hikes, were entertained by staff at a fun-filled skit night, and explored the stunning night sky without any light pollution during exciting astronomy hikes.

Throughout the week the students participated in wildlife presentations with a variety of animals, including the Australian porcupine and a teacup pig. They hiked Strawberry Peak with a beautiful view of the world from the top of the mountain (at 5,000 to 6,000 feet). They also learned about the types of trees in the setting, and photosynthesis.

The students enjoyed a variety of foods too, and were very mindful of eating everything on their plate. The week ended with a very successful skit night where we were literally rolling on the floor laughing! Our students felt a huge sense of accomplishment for overcoming any fears and personal obstacles they might have had during this week.



**Orchard Hills fifth graders, Tyler Emory, Marco Zavala, Aidan Navarro, Luke Hamburger and Jack Terry explore the outdoors at Arrowhead Ranch.**

## Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Brooke Carreras**  
*Principal*

### Helping Others

The Peters Canyon Student Council decided to focus on helping those in need during the holiday season. Their chosen philanthropy was the Holiday Sunday Supper, which was held in December at St. Paul's Church in Tustin.

Hillview High School, Sycamore High School, and the Tustin Adult Education staff had organized the campaign throughout the TUSD, and our Student Council wanted to help. Under the guidance of teachers Becky Salazar and Nicole Franco, our fourth- and fifth-grade students wrote special speeches that they delivered to all of the classes on campus. They also made posters to advertise the event to our students and the community.

The group collected approximately 14 boxes of toys and food which were used to provide grocery boxes and Christmas gifts to over 300 families in the city of Tustin. The students shared that being able to help the children who are in need during the holidays really "fills their own buckets!"



**Fourth- and fifth-graders on the Peters Canyon Student Council and teachers Nicole Franco (left) and Becky Salazar (right) display boxes of food and toys for individuals in need.**

## Pioneer *Middle School*

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



**Tracey Vander Hayden**  
*Principal*

### Wildcats On the Move

Pioneer's learning community is already starting out 2017 by making our "Mission Possible!" Pioneer has been named as a Model Professional Learning Community (PLC) At Work for schools across the nation. Pioneer is one of 200 schools in the

U.S. and Canada that was awarded this honor. Pioneer is recognized for sustained success in raising student achievement and continued support by its staff through ongoing professional development to improve instructional practices that meet all students' needs. In addition, special education teacher Julie Buetow was selected for California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) Region 11 Educator of the Year award. She is one of the finalist who has made exemplary contributions to middle level education. Finally, Pioneer was one of three schools selected to participate in



**Pioneer's first Femineer Club sponsored by Mrs. Chappas and Mrs. Smith.**

Cal Poly Pomona College of Engineering Adopt a Femineer School Program. This partnership will support Pioneer's Femineer Club with creative robotics curriculum, t-shirts, and transportation to the Femineer Summit. Go Wildcats!

## Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



**Will Neddersen**  
*Principal*

### **Celebrating Authors and Writing**

Red Hill recently celebrated our authors at a schoolwide writing celebration. Red Hill teachers use Writing Workshop for writing instruction. Writing Workshop has allowed students the opportunity to become authors who publish a piece of writing in various

units. All students go through the writing cycle from drafting, editing, to publishing in each unit. Our classes then have writing celebrations where students share their published piece with classmates. Red Hill's Connect Coach, Kathi Denny, suggested the staff have students share their writing with all students on campus at a writing celebration. Mrs. Denny decorated the multipurpose room and displayed all students writing. Classes

came into the multipurpose room and were able to hear selected writers share their piece. Once the sharing was done, students were able to go and read fellow students writing from different grade levels. Students enjoyed the experience and are asking when is the next celebration.



**Red Hill students read fellow students published writing in the school's multipurpose room.**

## Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



**Deanna Parks**  
*Principal*

### **Parents Leading Recess Fun**

Over 30 Thorman parents were trained to volunteer during lunch recess time through the program Padres en Acción. They

started with a series of six training classes that covered topics in nutrition, physical activity, parent engagement and advocacy. Following the six-session training, these parents have volunteered on the playground providing consistent and long-term physical-activity opportunities for students with enjoyable, organized games from a Hula-Hoop version of musical chairs to learning to jump rope.



**Parents Norma Zamora and Maria Zepeda lead a game of musical hula hoops.**

The fun music blasting on the playground and roars of laughter can be heard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and students come to school asking if our parents will be here at lunch today! The parents leading the games are not only loved by students but they also reduce recess-time conflicts and teach children important social skills like taking turns and sportsmanship.

It takes a village to raise a healthy child, and at Thorman, our village is thriving!

# Tustin Adult School / Sycamore *High School*

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



**Virginia Burrows**  
*Coordinator*

## High School Equivalency Certificate

Nora Tapia is working hard at a subject many of her fellow adults find daunting. Two nights a week, Nora

can be found in Tustin Adult School's Math Success Center, where she is preparing for the math portion of the HiSET exam, one of three high school equivalency tests that the State of California recognizes for determining skills equivalent



**Mario Vasquez, teacher, with student Nora Tapia**

to a high school diploma (the other two exams are the GED and the TASC.) "Every day I attend I learn something new. My teacher, Mario Vasquez, helps me understand all types of math, but especially Algebra." Nora plans to take her test after spring break and says that she knows she will pass. "I am building my confidence every day. It is never too late to go out and look for your dreams to come true, and I would like to go to college. Earning my HiSET certificate will help me get closer to that dream."

## Tustin Connect Center *Online School*

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



**Dr. Dustin O'Malley**  
*Administrator*

## Welcoming New Teachers

I am pleased to introduce our two new middle school teachers, Naomi Halili-Dove and Tait Donelson, who have brought their talents and passion for teaching to help provide a world-class blended-learning experience for our TCC students.

Mrs. Halili-Dove is an experienced middle school teacher who has been teaching and inspiring students for over 15 years. She was selected by her school staff as Teacher of

the Year two different times during her career, and she is highly respected by students, staff members and the school community.

Mr. Donelson also joined our staff this year to support our growing student enrollment. Prior to joining our staff, Mr. Donelson taught middle school math and science outside Santa Cruz, California. Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Donelson was a professional ski instructor at Mammoth Mountain.

We are fortunate to have these two exceptional educators join our dedicated Tustin Connect Center staff.



**Students Janey Whittington, Riley Doherty, Leyton Melching, Kyan McCarville, and Caden McCarville collaborate and receive support from teachers Naomi Halili-Dove (left) and Tait Donelson (right).**

# Tustin High School

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



**Christine Matos**  
*Principal*

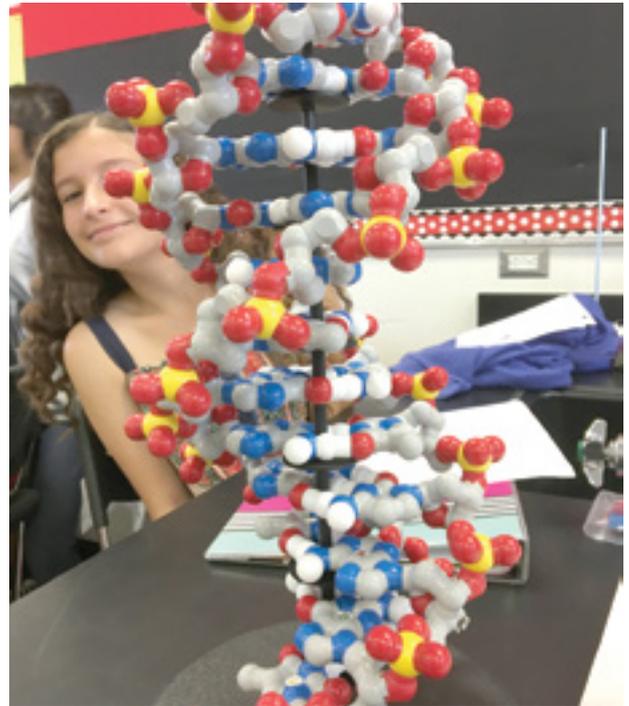
## Applying Science to Solving a Mystery

*By Ian Williamson, Teacher,  
Principles of Biomedical Science,  
Anatomy and Physiology*

The moment students walk into the Principles of Biomedical Science classroom, they are immersed in the mysterious death of Anna and asked to investigate, document, and analyze evidence to solve the case.

The course provides an introduction to biomedical science through exciting hands-on projects and problems. Students investigate concepts of biology and medicine as they explore health conditions that include heart disease, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, hypercholesterolemia and infectious diseases. They determine the factors that led to the death of a fictional woman as they sequentially piece together evidence found in her medical history and her autopsy report. Students investigate lifestyle choices and medical treatments that might have prolonged the woman's life and demonstrate how the development of disease is related to changes in human-body systems.

This course is designed to provide an overview of all the courses in the biomedical science program and lay the scientific foundation for subsequent courses.



**Tustin High freshman Jocelyn Flores looks over a model of a DNA molecule in the biomedical science classroom.**

# Tustin Memorial Academy

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



**Sharon Maeda**  
*Principal*

## STEAM Opportunities are Endless!

Tustin Memorial Academy scholars are focusing on becoming the next generation of problem solvers, critical thinkers, innovators and leaders through creative exploration and a keen focus on process. Students are discovering their potential through growth mindset and engaging, purposeful science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) opportunities.

Recently, students participated in makerspace experiences in our innovation lab with Trash 4 Teaching and Child Creativity Lab, where energy levels and deep thinking soared. Through a schoolwide focus on the engineering design process—ask, imagine, plan, create, test improve, share—our curious-minded scholars continue to discover the power of open-ended thinking and collaboration.

Connect Coach Dr. Brandee Ramirez is working closely with teachers to implement schoolwide STEAM literacy challenges to infuse depth-and-complexity thinking prompts with all students. The possibilities and opportunities for TMA students have no limit, and they are proving daily that they are up to the challenge!



**Students work together on a STEAM project in the TMA iTEAM Headquarters Lab.**

## Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



**Tracy Barquer**  
*Principal*

### Students Teach for Tomorrow

Tustin Ranch students are developing “future ready” skills in the school’s “creativity den.” This innovative space allows students to explore all types of technology tools and a green screen. Students say they hope to become mechanical engineers, computer programmers, and software developers.

Entrepreneurial skills are blossoming as well as students develop business plans for their projects and leadership skills are honed as students now are teachers too. Enthusiasm for learning is at an all-time high. Students are truly 21st century learners, collaborating with wiki projects, building background knowledge through internet research, creating animated stories, and communicating with each other and their teachers on our district learning management system. Besides working on computer coding, programming mini robots, and the 3D printer, students are anxiously awaiting our robotics team competition and more hands on learning for 2017. Go Cool Coyotes!



**Fifth grade student Zachary Izquierdo teaches kindergarten students to code.**

## C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



**Dr. CK Green**  
*Principal*

### Femineer Program

At Utt Middle School, creativity, problem-solving, and engineering come together in the Femineer Program.

The mission of the Femineer Program is “to inspire additional females to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in their education and career.” Created by California Polytechnic University,

Pomona, the Femineer Program introduces middle and high school students to computer science and engineering in a fun, creative, and project-based way.

This year, the Utt Femineers are participating in the Creative Robotics curriculum, where students build and program robots of their own design. Using Hummingbird Robotics Kits, Femineers learn to code using the Scratch programming language and use various sensors, motors, and LED lights to control and operate their robots.

This April, Utt’s Femineers will head to the university for the Femineers Summit, where they will showcase their robotic creations. We can’t wait to see what our Femineers can do!

Three cheers for the Femineers!



**Seventh-graders Jamie Fisher and Tiffany Guillen from Utt’s Femineers explore learn to program their control boards.**

# Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



**Rafael Plascencia**  
*Principal*

## Students Soaring to Success

Marjorie Veeh ended 2016 spreading warmth and kindness within the community, and began 2017 with inspired hearts and minds. Student Council organized an extremely successful canned food drive and met their goal to provide Families Forward with

some holiday cheer. Families celebrated with a school-wide holiday performance leading into break. Since returning, students at Veeh have participated in a Native American Museum hosted by a fourth grade class, have been active participants in STEM challenges guided by their teachers, and traveled the world virtually to explore destinations such as visiting penguins in Antarctica, touring Intrepid Air and Space Museum in New York, and stopping

by a turtle hospital in Florida. Veeh students have learned to be active and global citizens, and most certainly have left an imprint on the hearts of the many who have connected with them. Veeh has much to look forward to as the year progresses.



**The hard-working Veeh Student Council includes, from left, Daphne Garcia, John Flores, Christina Lopez, Jason Avendano, Laila Gutierrez, Samuel Delgado, Jhernice Yandoc, Miguel Mendoza and Cynthia Cantoran.**

## Tustin Public Schools Foundation

150 El Camino Real, Suite 140, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/832-6299 • [www.tpsf.net](http://www.tpsf.net)



**Carol Burby Garrett**  
*Executive Director*

## New Programs, and a Summer Academy

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation has awarded grants to each TUSD school through the “Classroom and School-Wide Grant Program.” Grants were awarded for Makerspace Labs, Outdoor Ed Science Camp, robotics kits, STEAM hardware, and Fibo Art. Grants will also help fund 21st-century classrooms, desktop computers, a Garden Learning Center, and our Writers Workshop.

In addition, we also have our “Innovative Grant Program,” which is in its second year and has received many creative out-of-the-box ideas. Board and community members blindly reviewed all of the submissions and awarded the funds this month.

The Tustin Summer Academy is gearing up for another summer full of innovative learning. This year the

theme will be “Survivor,” and camp will take place from June 26–July 20, 2017 at Orchard Hills School. Your favorite STEAM and technology classes will be returning, and with a few new and exciting courses. Registration opens March 1, 2017, and can be found at [www.tpsf.net/summeracademy](http://www.tpsf.net/summeracademy).



**Tustin Connect Center Students are excited to begin using their new robot kits, funded by TPSF.**

## Business Services

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



**Anthony Soria**  
Chief Financial  
Officer

### New Synthetic Turf Fields

Beckman, Foothill and Tustin high schools all kicked off 2017 with the opening of new synthetic turf fields. Each respective project differs in size and scope; however, the total playable space for the three combined sites exceeds 485,000 square feet. The completed work includes grading, utility re-routing, drainage improvements, and ultimately preparation for turf installation.

Synthetic turf play surfacing brings forth many benefits such as exponentially increased playing/practice time as fields can be used daily regardless of weather conditions and do not require rest periods. Tustin Unified has seen an escalating need for durable fields that can accommodate multiple sports teams and activities and was also experiencing high costs in maintaining grass sports fields. Synthetic surfaces allow TUSD to conserve water and maximize playing time under very heavy use.



**Aerial view of new synthetic turf field at Beckman High School.**

These projects will also help the District meet new water reduction mandates as set forth by the Governor.

## Educational Services

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



**Kathie Nielsen**  
Chief Academic  
Officer

### Adding Up to Success

Five years ago, the TUSD Board of Education created the goal of improving the number of high school students taking four years of math. This goal was in response to data provided by colleges that indicated greater success

for students who continued to take math courses that increased in rigor all the way through the high school experience.

The TUSD school sites have done an outstanding job with their four-year planning and promotion of higher-end math, which will assure that our students can successfully continue taking math. When the goal was set during the 2012–2013 school year we had 796 TUSD seniors enrolled in a math course of Algebra 2 or higher. That number has swelled to 1,401 seniors in the 2016–2017 school year, a growth of 76 percent.



**TUSD 2015 Teacher of the Year and Beckman High School mathematics and computer science teacher Johnny Gonzalez prepares his students for academic success.**

The work of the K–12 math teachers in accomplishing such amazing results should be celebrated. It is another reason why TUSD Connect is leading our students towards increased opportunities and greater success than ever.

## Nutrition Services

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



**Teresa Squibb**  
*Director*

### Did You Know?

All the meals for the elementary students in Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) are prepared and packaged at the Pioneer Middle School central kitchen. Our goal is to prepare and serve nutritious good quality meals to Tustin students. We cook over 5,000 healthy meals at the central

kitchen, wrap them up, heat them, and deliver them to our school sites.

We strive to excel in food safety practices. In fact, are proud to have received awards of excellence from the health department for our outstanding practices in food safety and sanitation.

Pioneer produces and serves a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to TUSD's elementary students. Our garden-fresh salads are made with mostly California-grown produce, including romaine, grape tomatoes, chickpeas, cucumbers, and corn. More than 400 salads are produced daily to ensure freshness. We also serve fresh, baby carrots, cucumbers slices, broccoli slaw, apples, and grapes, and we feature seasonal fruits and vegetables on our menus.



## Technology in TUSD Schools

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



**Dr. Crystal Turner**  
*Assistant  
Superintendent  
Administrative  
Services*

### Writing Realized

Kelly Morgan, a fifth-grade teacher at Peters Canyon Elementary School, has a passion for using technology with students. Recently, Mrs. Morgan engaged her students in a writing activity that doubled

as an essay contest for Daughters of the American Revolution. Students were asked to write a journal entry as if they were a US national park. They discussed the history and explained why the park was a national treasure.



**Peters Canyon Elementary fifth-grade student  
Aidan Stone-Walsh, with parents Benjamin and Lyndy.**

Mrs. Morgan wanted to provide students with access to an expert and contacted Lauren Carter, a national park ranger for the Petrified Forest. They arranged a video call. Aidan, a student, compiled the questions to find out what does a park ranger do, what kinds of animals live in the park, and what kinds of plant life exists. The essays have been submitted to the contest, and students are still waiting to hear.

Kelly Morgan demonstrates what is possible by combining teaching, technology, and access to experts.

# TUSD UPDATE

*By Mark Eliot*

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

## TUSD Holds Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for THS Humanities Building and New School Entrance

The Tustin Unified School District held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Humanities building and school entrance at Tustin High School.

The event was attended by TUSD Board of Education members, District and school administrators, teachers, staff, parents, civic leaders and members of the community.

Following the ceremony, individuals went on school tours led by student leaders.

The building features 12 classrooms that house social science classes and the Model United Nations (MUN) program. The project was funded through the Measure L modernization program.



**Participants at the Tustin High Humanities Building Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony included, from left, Board members James Laird and Francine Scinto, Co-ASB Presidents Alejandra Solares Bautista and Omar Meza, Tustin City Council members Chuck Puckett and Beckie Gomez, Board members Jonathan Abelow and Lynn Davis, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin and Principal Christine Matos.**

## Tustin Unified Launches “Destination TUSD”

No matter what ignites your passion as a learner, the Tustin Unified School District has a school or program for you. TUSD is quickly becoming a “Destination District” for students from across Orange County. Many families are also relocating or having their students transfer to take advantage of the innovative instruction, high graduation rate and set of supplemental opportunities offered at every TUSD school site.

A new website called [www.DestinationTUSD.org](http://www.DestinationTUSD.org) contains information on everything from the new Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School to the Elementary Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program to the Tustin Connect Center online K-8 school. “Destination TUSD” also contains information on how students can become involved with TUSD elementary music, competitive robotics, coding and other components of TUSD Connect, the District’s 21st century instructional Initiative.

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## TUSD Teachers of the Year Honored by OCDE

The Tustin Unified School District’s 2016 Teachers of the Year – Courtney Smith, kindergarten teacher at Tustin Memorial Academy, and Zachariah Samarin, seventh grade Core/entrepreneurship/leadership teacher at A.G. Currie Middle School – were honored by the Orange County Department of Education at its annual Orange County Teachers of the Year Dinner on October 25 at the Disneyland Hotel. Both teachers represented the District in the 2016-17 Orange County Teachers of the Year program. Smith was named one of four Orange County Teachers of the Year. Samarin was selected as a semifinalist in the program. Five Tustin Unified teachers have been named county teachers of the year in the past six years.



**TUSD 2016 Teachers of the Year Courtney Smith and Zachariah Samarin were recognized at the Orange County Teachers of the Year Dinner.**

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## TUSD 2017 Administrators of the Year Honorees Announced

The Tustin School Management Association has announced its 2017 Administrators of the Year Honorees. They will represent the Tustin Unified School District in the 2017 Orange County Administrators of the Year Awards Program, sponsored by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17:

- Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year  
Kathie Nielsen, Chief Academic Officer
- Secondary Principal of the Year – Christine Matos,  
Principal of Tustin High School
- Middle Grades Principal of the Year – Eric Kilian,  
Principal of Hewes Middle School
- Elementary Principal of the Year – Katy Sheyka,  
Principal of Loma Vista Elementary School
- Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year – Michelle  
England, Assistant Principal at Foothill High School

- Special Education Administrator of the Year  
Cherie Kuntz, Coordinator of Special Education
- Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year  
Frank Mackay, Director of Personnel Services
- Technology Administrator of the Year – Garrett Kerr,  
Coordinator of Educational Technology

ACSA annually recognizes outstanding administrators for their leadership skills, professionalism, creativity, innovation, and commitment to a quality education. Orange County Administrators of the Year will be announced in the spring. The 44th annual ACSA “Administrators of the Year and Friends of Education Awards” Dinner will be held in May 2017. Region 17 represents 28 school districts in Orange County.



## Contest!



This Mr. Ruler is two places in this publication. When you find him, email the **page numbers** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
(Please put TUSD in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by March 15, 2017. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

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## Keira's Book Nook



Keira

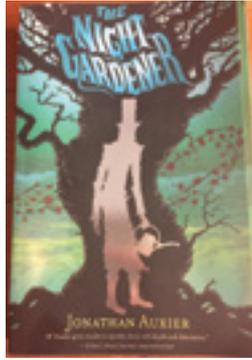
### A Spooky Story

*The Night Gardener*

By Jonathan Auxier

This spooky story

is about two kids, Molly and Kip, who go on a journey to earn money. When they arrive at a mysterious house in the middle of the forest, they learn a haunting secret about the people that live there. Will they find the source of the mystery before it's too late?



This book makes me want to read more from this author, because it is so suspenseful and amazing! However, I would not recommend it for little kids. I rate it 4 out of 5 apples, because although it's fascinating and fun, it is also scary!

Keira Fukuwa is a fifth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys jazz dance, art, crafts and traveling. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 being the highest.

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## Michael's Book Review



Michael H.

### A Hilarious Book

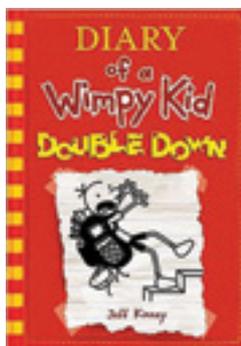
Greg's imagination is at it again. He talks about how he feels like his life is being filmed and people are watching his every move. He also talks about how his family

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.



## Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

### SWAY

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.



## Christina's Book Review

### 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).

# Lucy's Book Review

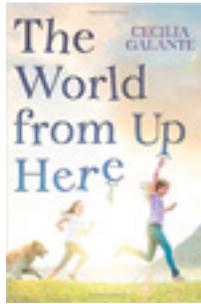
## The World from Up Here



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.

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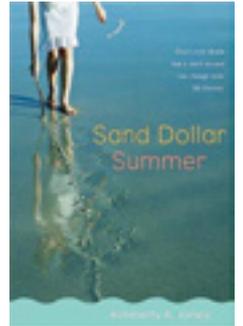
## Courtney's Book Review



**Courtney M.**

### Sand Dollar Summer

The book *Sand Dollar Summer* by Kimberly K. Jones is about a mom and her two kids Lise and Free. After Annalise dropped the kids off at school she went to go get groceries, but



on the way home someone slammed into Annalise and she had many broken bones. But once she gets a little better they go to Fiddle Beach, Maine. As they passed all the great beach houses they continued on for at least another mile. They found a tiny shack and it was old, stinky, and basically going to fall down if you touched it. Meanwhile Annalise wanted to get in the water, but Lise had never been in the ocean and she was terrified.

If you want to find out what happens next, check out the book. I would rate this book with a 4 a good read.

Courtney likes to play Softball, Football, and ride her bike. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

## 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 TUSD 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.

Congratulations **Stephanie Cecena**  
Winner of the November Contest!

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CUMULUS	SQUALL
CYCLONE	STEBER
DEW	STEVENS
DUST STORM	SWARTHOUT
FAHRENHEIT	TEBALDI
FOG	THERMOMETER
FROST	THUNDERSTORM
HAIL	TORNADO
HUMIDITY	TRAUBEL
HURRICANE	TYPHOON
HYDROMETER	VANILLA



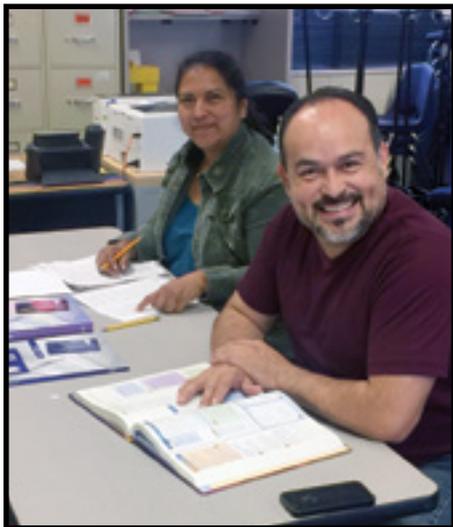
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