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School News

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Covering the Torrance Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 13

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Powerful Teaching, Meaningful Learning

By Dr. George Mannon, Superintendent

In the 21st century, classroom culture has evolved. Advances in technology and the changing work place are impacting students at school and in their everyday lives. How are teachers meeting the needs of our 21st century learners? By creating dynamic learning opportunities that encourage students to be creative, to collaborate, and to communicate. Today's students, are the leaders of tomorrow, but also the leaders of today. Innovation and entrepreneurship are no longer limited to adults, but if given the opportunities to gain knowledge through experience, students can be the innovators and entrepreneurs of today. All over our District, teachers are building and promoting a deeper understanding of concepts by developing avenues for creative and imaginative inquiry and application. At the recent Cardboard Regetta, teams of middle and high school female students, planned, designed, and built cardboard boats to sail across the length of a pool. Sink or sail, students gained invaluable critical thinking and problem solving skills during this project, which could not have been possible in a traditional classroom setting.



In another school in the District, 5th grade students learned about ecosystems and food chains by dissecting owl pellets, rather than flipping through a textbook. They are fully immersed in trying to distinguish the types of interactions the owl may have had with other animals by brushing away fragments of fur and feathers to uncover various bones. This hands-on experience adds value to classroom instruction with an inquiry-based lesson, enabling students to learn in a relevant, real world context.



It is increasingly imperative for the 21st century student to gain a mastery of fundamental subjects, themes, and skills in order to be successful throughout their K-12 journey, but also so that they may succeed in work and life beyond high school. Our Board, Administration, teachers, and staff recognize the changing needs our 21st century learners, and they continue to make instruction meaningful by providing valuable learning opportunities for all our students.

Supporting Parents



Terry Ragins
President
Board of
Education

Last month I attended rededication events for several of our “renovated” schools, including Jefferson Middle School. As I walked around the newly modernized facility, I recalled a time long ago when the school was actually an adult school site. I was a new mom taking “Mommy and Me” classes with my newborn first son. As long as I can remember, the District has always found ways to provide parent education opportunities to support our children’s growth and development.

Part of that mission was the annual DELMAC – District English Learner Multicultural Advisory Committee – Parent education Conference. The one-day conference focused on topics and issues parents deal with every day as they navigate the K-12 journey with their kids. This year’s conference focused on raising a 21st century learner and all the challenges that parents face in the digital age – from the impacts of social media to how to develop students’ writing and math skills. Knowing about and understanding these relevant topics helps parents set academic goals with their children and then achieve those goals. I was honored to present a workshop at the conference, with my school board colleague Martha Deutsch, about the value of parent involvement in the educational process. Parents DO make a difference and we both firmly believe that it is critical that parents realize and utilize their power to benefit their students.

Sports Therapy Training



South High Sports Therapy students get hands-on training working on student-athletes by providing them physical therapy and wrapping up injuries. The trainees have won regional and national recognition in various sports medicine competitions

See BOARD OF EDUCATION • Page 18



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The Superintendent's message on the front page is very informative on the subject of technology in the classroom and 21st Century Learning. It is both an exciting and challenging time to be a student.

Spring is here and the end of this school year is in sight. With Spring Break over students are focused on their academic goals. In this issue, you will read about the Read Across America program honoring Dr. Seuss' birthday, STEM Night, Conflict Managers Program, 3-2-1 Blast Off and so much more...

Our next issue is May 31.

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL • MillerChildrens.org/Neurology

Dulling the Pain of a Headache



Naser Elbalalesy, M.D.
pediatric neurologist,
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Nearly two out of three children will have a headache by age 15. Headaches are one of the most common reasons for pain, missed school days and visits to the doctor. During a headache, your child may experience a dull pain around the front, top, back and sides of their head.

Headaches in kids can be either "primary," such as a migraine, or "secondary" to an exhaustive list of conditions that could be as simple as a nasal sinus infection or as serious as a brain tumor. A detailed history and examination is critical to differentiate different headaches.

While it's not possible to prevent all headaches, making sure your child avoids identified triggers, stays well hydrated, maintains a well-balanced diet and keeps a regular sleep schedule will help reduce their frequency and severity and also will optimize the response to other treatments, if needed.

Migraine headaches in particular can be triggered by a variety of factors, including:

- Dehydration
- Irregular eating
- Inadequate physical activity and exercise
- Poor sleep hygiene or habits
- Emotional problems, such as a big life change like social and family problems
- School-related stress (whether academic, sports-related or personal problems)
- Weather changes
- Certain foods, drinks and odors

If your child continues to experience recurrent and worsening headaches or pain in the head area that is not responding to the usual measures directed by your primary care physician, your child may be suffering from a primary headache such as a migraine, or from one of the secondary headaches.



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Adams *Elementary*

2121 238th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4480 • adams.tusd.org



**Shayla
Smith-Taranto**
Principal

STEM Night

This year we had a record-breaking turnout for our Family STEM Night.

Our Adams' team had the pleasure of hosting over 300 people who enjoyed this fun-filled night. Many of our wonderful teachers and PTA members volunteered to run stations. Our students were also introduced to computer programming by using code, and even made snow with Lowell and Dee Hardison (the former mayor of Torrance).

The students had a really big surprise when they got to meet Mr. Brian Correa, who is a civil engineer for the Port of Los Angeles. Mr. Correa brought a whole team of civil and electrical engineer interns from Cal State Long Beach and Cal State Los Angeles. The team of engineers hosted a marshmallow catapult and a miniature container model, just like the cranes you see lifting off the ships at the Port of Los Angeles.

Our students got the opportunity (and our parents, too) to talk to the engineers about a simple machine pulley system that was used to help lift heavy objects. The only problem we had all night was getting the parents to share and take turns with pulling the shipping container!



Arlington *Elementary*

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



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

Super Star Spellers!

Super Star sightings! Arlington School continues to buzz with fun and learning! Our fourth- and fifth-grade Super Stars had a chance to put their spelling skills to the test as Arlington held its second annual Spelling Bee. What an un-bee-lievable event! Our participants were recognized for their outstanding spelling skills, and we were able to send two of our students on to the District Spelling Bee.

In addition to spelling, all of our Arlington students had fun reading and celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday, donning their red outfits and homemade Dr. Seuss hats. To help spread the love of reading, guest readers from our community came to Arlington to visit our students and read some classic Dr. Seuss stories. Not only did the students enjoy the rhyme and rhythm of his books but they also enjoyed asking our guest readers many get-to-know-you questions!



Anza *Elementary*

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

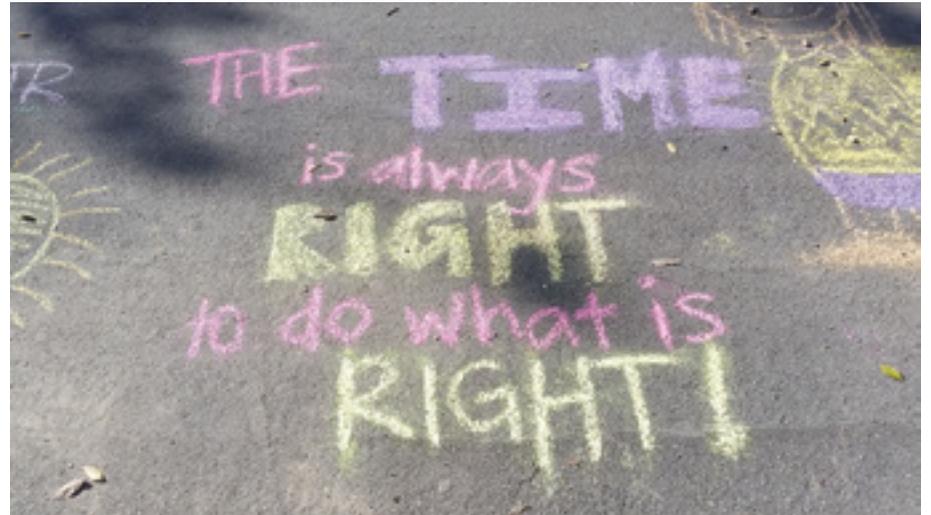


Barbara Marks
Principal

Peace Week

In January Anza Elementary celebrated its first annual Peace Week to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr Day and spread his message of peace. Students learned mindfulness through peace breathing as a method to practice peace within themselves. Students heard true stories of peace and activism including learning about Wangari Maathai and Isatou Ceesay, and the struggle for civil rights in the United States. Students demonstrated their learning through activities that encouraged cooperation, environmental sustainability, and civic action.

Peace Week was hosted by our counselor, Gloria Gutierrez, or Ms. G as most students call her, and included daily peace activities. On the final day of the week the whole school hosted a spirit day by wearing tie-dye.



Arnold *Elementary*

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



Justine Lang
Principal

Family STEM Night

On February 2, Arnold Elementary School held its first annual Family Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Night. A crowd of over 300 came to celebrate and immerse themselves in STEM studies.

The evening started out with a fun-filled science assembly for all, and then families could attend grade-level breakout sessions. Each classroom had six activities that could be done in a short amount of time by the whole family, including Boxing Bean, Make it Loud, Happy Feet, Tumbling Tower, and more!

This evening was the culmination of our first annual STEM Week, during which all classes participated in STEM activities. At Arnold we are committed to making sure our students are 21st-century learners, and we believe exposing them to STEM activities will ensure they are prepared for the future. We know that this week of activities will spark excitement and curiosity in our Alleycats!



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Brunch	Lunch
Celebrate	Flowers
Candy	Hugs
Kisses	Presents

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Calle Mayor *Middle School*

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



Dave Mosley
Principal

Extracurricular Programs

Calle Mayor students continue to grow academically in our extracurricular programs. These unique programs build important enrichment/intervention time within the school day.

Some of these enrichment activities involve designing and creating a CO2 car, learning French, and exploring the science behind CSI (crime scene investigations). This is just another way that we at Calle are meeting the needs of our students.

The after-school speech and debate program, led by Mr.

Stavropoulos, meets weekly to enhance student speaking skills by reviewing famous speeches, discussing public speaking tenets, and engaging in debates on numerous topics like “The Power of Fear” and “Pros and Cons of School Uniforms”.

The program recently showcased their talents at a school event called “Calle Talks.” These talks resembled a TED Talk format which gave our community of students, parents, and teachers a great show. The fun will continue at our Speech and Debate Summit event, where other middle schools will join us.



Carr *Elementary*

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



Richard Peterson
Principal

2017 Conflict Managers Program Starts

Teachers Sarah Peterson, Jeanne Coe, Nancy Jackson and Lauri Talbott trained forty Carr students to be conflict managers over two days of training in February.

The Conflict Manager program is a very valuable asset at Carr. For minor conflicts that arise on the playground these skilled students help to resolve them. If the conflict is more serious and difficult to resolve, the students in conflict are taken to the adults on duty for resolution. Most of the conflicts on the playground are able to be resolved without adult involvement because of the conflict managers' skills.

Children in fourth and fifth grades are chosen to be conflict managers with the approval of their teachers and by a vote of their peers. It is a position that is quite prestigious on the Carr campus. It is an honor to be chosen.

This year's conflict managers have been well-trained and according to the teachers above have shown great potential and desire to do a good job.

This year's conflict managers are: 4th Graders: Kasey Babb, Madison Bush-Lewis, Emily Johnson, Aidan Kim, Christopher Kim, Melody Lima, Francesca Pinillos, Zebriam Solis Castanon, Gabriella Teate, Isis Vargas, Briana Gonzales, Kailer Hashimoto, Khanhvan Lam, Eva Lawson, Anabelle Lee, Christina Lee, Angel Octavo, Rehan Osman, Fabian Tornez, Noah Truong! 5th Graders: Wahez Ali, Owen Babb, Nelliya Crelencio, Angelina Dankert, Sarai Fleming, Kaleah Green, Efraim Ramirez, Noof Seide, Alex Tran, Harry Vu, Elisha Cigarroa-Diaz, Iliana Fontanet, Matteo Gerny, Thomas Harris, Chris Jovy, Laia Landreaux, Darin Nghe, Dylan Nguyen, Jasmin Ruiz, Pa'I Tui, and Dazani Rivera.

Casimir *Middle School*

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



Susie Holmes
Principal

Math and Science Opportunities

March has been an exciting month for Casimir Middle School. Several campus events really stood out for our students as exciting opportunities in math and science.

On March 10, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Kjell N. Lindgren visited campus to speak to students.

He spoke at length about setting goals for your future, about the details of his 2009 mission to

the International Space Station, and about the future of space exploration. Students were mesmerized by his talk and had many questions for Kjell to answer at the conclusion of his session.

On March 14, Casimir had two exciting events. During school, we held our annual Math Festival, where all math classes were invited to the cafeteria to participate in math games and explorations. That night, we had our second annual Math and Science Night. Students led and participated in many fun, hands-on experiments, including squid dissection, straw rocket competitions, steam-powered boat races, insect investigations, squishy circuits, and many more. Students and their families rotated from station to station to engage in these exciting activities. The night was a huge success, as students, parents, and siblings were thoroughly engaged. Students did an amazing job of leading the workshops.



Edison *Elementary*

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



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Science at Edison

Edison Elementary School is the first elementary school to get a science lab installed. It is dedicated to the exploration of hands-on science. The lab is equipped with sinks at each station, a freezer, stereo-microscope camera, an aquarium, goggle sanitizing cabinet, plant-growth cart with indoor lighting, topographic maps of volcanoes/craters, wave tank, telescope, and a flat-screen TV.

Here you can find students taking research notes, investigating the butterfly life cycle, studying live ant farms, dissecting owl pellets, using circuit and electrostatic kits, exploring solar cells, building cars, using magnetic wands, and planting seeds. All materials and experiments are based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

In preparation for our STEAM Fair, Edison is hosting a Family Science Night to learn about the NGSS, participate in hands-on science activities, and learn more details about our STEAM fair parameters. The first 50 students that arrive will also get a free science display board!



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Fern *Elementary*

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Debbie Mabry
Principal

Families Learning Together

Fern Elementary hosted a very successful STEAM Night and had a record-setting number of families on campus. Our community joined together to explore the excitement of STEAM. Falcons were very excited to shift our traditional science night into a STEAM event. Hands-on activities allowed students and parents to broaden their understanding of how things work and are designed, and also explore technology, art and the world around us.

Teachers and fifth-grade students led activities that included building 3-D paper sculptures and paper circuits, researching and journaling

on the Wonder Wall, and exploring coding and littleBits. The PTA supported a Fire and Ice assembly and Mad Science booths that added to the fun.

It was a great to have staff and families so engaged in science, technology, engineering, art and math activities together. We look forward to Family STEAM Night becoming a tradition at Fern.



A 5th grade student teaches children and adults how to create and build with littleBits.

J.H. Hull *Middle School*

2080 W. 231st St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4516 • hull.tusd.org



Patty Girgis
Principal

Girls Build LA

Ms. Kristy Mar and ten Hull Middle School girls have been building girl power at Hull! They are a team that has been supported by the group, Girls Build LA. They have been working hard all year in creating awareness of their love of STEM on Hull's campus. Not only have they been teaching other students about science, they are about to present a Family STEM night (with support also from a TEF STEM grant) and have taken multiple field trips to USC campus. They also got to see a sneak peek with other students of the movie, "Hidden Figures" in January of this

year. These young ladies and their advisor have been spreading the word of STEM to all at Hull Middle School! Great job ladies.



Hickory *Elementary*

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



Edna Schumacher
Principal

3-2-1 Blast Off!

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) has been, in large part, a focus for the Torrance Unified School District in recent years. Thanks to a grant from the Torrance Education Foundation, Hickory Elementary School teachers Heather Fitzgerald and Leah Legaspi hosted a space-themed family night for students in fourth and fifth grades.

Families were invited to "blast off" into the world of outer space and the science surrounding space exploration. Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Legaspi teamed up with a local telescope and microscope manufacturer, which sent representatives to the event with several of their larger telescopes. Students and parents explored the skies and learn about astronomy. We are very appreciative of our teachers, the Torrance Education Foundation, and the telescope manufacturer for making this possible for our students and their families.

Hickory received widespread community support for the event. The Torrance-based telescope company provided technology for the night and generously donated a telescope for full-time use in Hickory's upcoming science lab. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena donated materials for the event. A local engineering education organization hosted one of the activity stations, where families explored rocket propulsion.

More than 300 attendees learned about space exploration during this "out of this world" experience.

Jefferson *Middle School*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Innovative Student Opportunities

Jefferson Middle School (JMS) continues to drive innovation by introducing leading-edge student experiences. Our hackathon is an example of this innovation. Under the direction of JMS science teacher Ms. Merlos, students experience problem-solving as employees of high-tech companies would through the process of a hackathon. Hackathons bring colleagues together to collaborate on projects, problem-solving, and innovative designs.

The idea to bring this type of challenging exercise to students stemmed from Ms. Merlos's acceptance to the Northrop Grumman Teacher's Academy. As an academy participant, Ms. Merlos participated in an internship and attended nationwide conferences with science teachers from across the country. Ms. Merlos and three participating teachers from Dana, Will Rogers, and Manhattan Beach Middle Schools considered ways to bring students together to reap the greatest benefit from the teachers' academy experience—and the hackathon was born. Now students from across the South Bay collaborate and network with different schools, having fun strategizing creative solutions and designs.



LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

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



Teresa Lanphere
Principal

First Annual LAUNCH Read-A-Thon

At LAUNCH we held our first ever Read-A-Thon to promote literacy for our young students and help our PTA to raise funds. We kicked off the event with a special assembly for students and parents with by reading the *Cat in the Hat* story by Dr. Seuss. Throughout the week, students and staff did a number of additional literacy activities in their class in anticipation of Dr. Seuss's official birthday March 2nd. During the two week Read-A-Thon parents were encouraged to commit to reading for at least 15 minutes per day. This could be as simple as reading a book aloud, asking questions about pictures in a book, looking at a magazine together, having a sibling or relative read to the child, or interacting with any else with print. It has been amazing to see the way in which parents supported their child's early reading endeavors and helped the PTA as well. We plan to do this again next year!



Lincoln *Elementary*

2418 W. 166th St, Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • lincoln.tusd.org



Katherine Castleberry
Principal

Operation Teddy Bear

Lincoln Elementary loves to promote literacy. We were recently given a great opportunity to do so when we partnered with The Volunteer Center and a local business to put new books in the hands of each of our first-grade students.

Operation Teddy Bear is a program that is made possible by both generous donations and the work of our many volunteers. It will promote a love for reading as a means of improving the overall success of the children in our school.

Representatives from The Volunteer Center recently visited each of Lincoln's first-grade classrooms. They read stories to the students and gave each child a bag filled with books, school supplies, and a snuggly teddy bear.

Each child was overjoyed to receive such a wonderful gift, one that, most importantly, will keep on giving.



Attendees will be able to enter an opportunity drawing to win a Fitbit Charge 2!

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Lynn *Middle School*

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



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

What a Win!

Pop Quiz: Which after-school club spends hours building the speed and endurance that is needed to win a series of fierce competitions using pencils and paper?

If you guessed Bert Lynn's Competitive Mathematics team then you would be correct! So join us as we celebrate our team's regional success with a seventh-place win in the "Speed Round," and a 13th-place finish at this year's state competition!

MATHCOUNTS is a national competition that is built upon a

series of four-hour events at the school, chapter, state and national levels. Each competition begins with a "Sprint Round." Imagine completing 30 complex math problems in 40 minutes without a calculator. This round is followed by a "Target Round" which moves beyond the difficult, requiring the calculators to solve eight complex word problems in six minutes.

The team round has our students working collaboratively to solve 10 mind-bending word problems within 20 minutes. Finally, the Top 10 students compete in a head-to-head competition on a series of problems accurately, and within 45 seconds.

Congratulations to our team!



Madrona *Middle School*

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



Chris Lipsey
Principal

Madrona Excels in STEM!

We definitely have plenty to celebrate! This winter, Madrona students participated in three state-wide contests for Science Olympiad, Model United Nations, and MathCounts. Science teacher, Heather Rocha, led our Science Olympiad Team with a handful of rookies to an 8th place tie in regional competition, just missing the cut for the state level competition.

Results are as follows:

6th Place: Anatomy and Physiology-Natalia Brar, Shelby Koyama

5th Place: Crime Busters- Katrina Iguban, Shelby Koyama

5th Place: Experimental Design-Katrina Iguban, Shelby Koyama, Keira Okada)

6th Place: Food Science-Katrina Iguban, Keira Okada

4th Place: Hovercraft-Madison Mahoney, Matthew Segovia

2nd Place: Mission Possible-Shelby Koyama, Chloe Fujii

4th Place: Road Scholar-Natalia Brar, Lukas Foassis

6th Place: Rocks and Minerals-Kaitlyn Pham, Lukas Foassis

5th Place: Scrambler-Amy Saruwatari, Amelia Jeun

3rd Place: Towers-Kyler Choi, Anu Tandon

Madrona's MathCounts team, led by Math teacher Keith Conner and Torrance High School student Ji Won Kim, missed out by two places for state, also finishing in 8th place.

Finally, Michelle Fong proved to be an excellent candidate, under the guidance of social studies teacher Lindsey Wooldridge, she was elected to Under Secretary General of Health and Human Services for the Model United Nations.

We congratulate our students and their exceptional achievements as Madrona Middle School pursues STEAM & Service accomplishments.

Magruder *Middle School*

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



Chris Sheck
Principal

Come See Us!

In March, Magruder hosted a Gold Ribbon Site Validation Visit in response to our December application. The Validation Team's purpose is to validate the information included on the application and ensure its accuracy. Once the information from the application is validated, the team makes the recommendation to the State of California to approve the award.

I'm ecstatic to share that Magruder Middle School had a very positive response from the Visitation Team. The members highlighted the high level of student engagement and learning, our incredible parent community and the collaborative nature of our teachers that makes Magruder the special place that it is, as noted by the team.

Our collaborative journey through Professional Learning Community discussions began with an understanding that more differentiation, innovative strategies and supports were necessary for our students to perform at high levels. We examined Tier 1 instruction along with a cohesive academic and behavioral-support structure. For nine months, Magruder focused on student learning, teacher collaboration and teamwork, and student data, all centering on our values and beliefs regarding student learning. Students learn at different rates and speeds, so it was imperative that our system of supports began by providing the same content, knowledge and skills as well as guaranteed additional support for any students struggling to learn grade-level standards-based critical/essential skills.

With this base, high-performing teacher teams vigorously began the work of building a "guaranteed and viable" curriculum, ensuring that every student had access to the same content, knowledge and skills that had been narrowed to "appropriate and challenging" learning targets. The development of curriculum involved teacher teams creating and developing critical/essential skills, creating and developing common formative assessments, and analyzing the data from these assessments to strengthen core instruction.

North *High School*

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



Dr. Ron Richardson
Principal

Keeping Active with Clubs

By Jonathan Sperling and Courtney Tibbils, Teachers

North High is proud to have more than 50 dynamic service clubs and student organizations. There is definitely “something for everyone” at our school. Many students participate in several clubs as well, making new friends and expanding their understanding of the world.

Here is a sampling of our exciting clubs:

The Ecology Club participates in educating the surrounding community. Club members take part in different service projects, including rehabilitating a plot of land in Palos Verdes and facilitating various beach cleanups. In the Break Dancing and Choreography Club, students learn the basics of break dancing and also perform during our assemblies. The Photography Club spreads knowledge about photographic techniques and principles and explores different places throughout the South Bay.

The Key Club provides opportunities for service, character building, and leadership. Key Club members state that, “The community and North High give us so much, so it is only right to do the best we can to give back to them.”

The Anime Club brings together students who love Anime to watch and discuss this art form. Our Cultivating our Future Indian Pakistani Society (IPS) Club spreads cultural awareness through participation in Indian and Pakistani traditions. The biggest IPS outreach is the Holi Festival, which promotes unity and educates our fellow students about Indian traditions. Many of our clubs also perform during the annual Multi-Cultural Week and Assembly.

Richardson *Middle School*

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



Ian Drummond
Principal

Enrichment Sessions

The idea that we are continuing to grow at Richardson Middle School is this: “Every Student is My Student.” We recently expanded our weekly tutorial offerings to include enrichment opportunities for those students who are not invited for additional support in their ELA or math class.

Our first few weeks of Enrichment Sessions have been met with a high level of excitement and positive impact at RMS in so many ways. Teachers have been exceptionally creative with the 25-minute mini-classes they have designed for the students.

These Enrichment Sessions give students the opportunity to explore current core curriculum in greater depth or take on subject areas not current available within our elective offerings. Core curriculum enrichment topics thus far have included opportunities to work through multistep equations with fractions, exploring medieval art, developing cursive-writing skills, and working with code and VEX System Robots. Non-core-curriculum classes have given students opportunities to learn ways to center themselves through yoga or meditative coloring. Students have been able to pursue their interest in sports in basketball and soccer tournaments as well as learning the strategies of fantasy basketball or card and ball games. Students looking to explore their artistic skills have had a variety of classes from which to choose, such as Creative Card and Flowers, Drawing, Digital Scrapbooking, Film Appreciation and Percussion Sectionals.

In addition to providing students who are struggling with another incentive to strive to achieve proficiency in core areas, Enrichment Sessions also give all students the opportunity to interact with more adults on campus, creating a greater feeling of community and support. These opportunities will help create a greater feeling of community, thus resulting in a greater support structure and increased student motivation. We hope to offer more and more new Enrichment Sessions as the year goes on.

Riviera *Elementary*

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



Christie Forshey
Principal

Family Engineering Night

Riviera’s 4th Grade teachers have attended two years of fabulous TUSD training in Next Generation Science Standards. District Science coaches and teachers have planned hands-on, meaningful science instruction. The team plans together and observes instruction to fine tune the discovery experience for students.

Together Riviera’s 4th grade team wrote and submitted a Torrance Education Grant for a Family Engineering Night, which was funded and held on February 6th. Fourth graders and their families explored engineering. Topics included the engineering and construction of: Towers, Boats, Bridges, Catapults, Chain Reactions and Protection.



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Seaside *Elementary*

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



Michele Bauer-Bean
Principal

Read Across America Day

Like many other elementary schools across the nation, Seaside celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss and celebrated the joy of reading on March 2 the official Read Across America day.

This year, students and adults wore pajamas to school conjuring up images of the sacred bedtime story hour shared among so many parents and children. Students brought decorated book boxes from home, read with older and younger buddy students and listened to guest readers throughout the day. This photo is Mrs. Kadowaki and Mrs. Shweiri, two veteran Torrance Unified School District teachers who, along with so many others, have ignited a love of reading and learning. Indeed,

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”



Shery *High School*

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



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

Sharing Our Honors!

Recently, Shery High was invited to a Torrance Unified School Board meeting to share good things happening at our school. Paul McKissock, a current 11th-grader who is also in our Leadership Program, presented to the board.

This was perfect timing for our school, as we just found out that we were selected as a Model Continuation School. This honor, following our six-year WASC accreditation last spring, is leaving us feeling very proud of our school.



Paul also shared some of our great programs such as our Leadership class, where students go to Torrance Elementary School three days a week and work with the teachers and students and on the other two days plan ways to get students involved in spirit activities at Shery High. He also shared about our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) kickoff this year, which includes many interventions and incentives to help our students be successful and thrive.

South *High School*

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



Dr. Scott McDowell
Principal

Girls Soccer and Sports Medicine Teams win State Regional Championships

South High School's Girls Soccer team made school history by winning both a CIF Championship and a State Regional Championship in March. South defeated Claremont HS 1-0 in double overtime to clinch its 2nd CIF Championship in four

years.

Advancing through the State Regional Tournament, South defeated Claremont 2-1 in overtime in a rematch of the CIF Finals, to clinch South's first State Regional Championship, and ending a historic season where South only lost one game.

Also in March, South's Sports Medicine team won the California Regional Sports Medicine competition for the second straight year. South trainers took the 1st and 2nd place overall individual spots, as well as 2nd place in the rigorous Trainer of the Year competition. South will advance to the National Championship in April to try to improve on last year's 2nd place finish.

Congratulations to Girls Soccer and Sports Medicine!



Torrance *Elementary*

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



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

The Golden Touch

What better way to culminate the study of Greek mythology than to dramatize the stories as the Greeks did in the Ancient Greek Chorus? In March, our fourth-grade language arts teachers, Mrs.

Sonandres, Ms. Bloom and Mrs. Fruth, and their classes were doing just that!

Greek mythology is one of the vehicles used to guide fourth-grade students to an understanding of the meaning of words and their allusions to characters in mythological stories. This Common Core State Standard was only one of the many standards met while pursuing this area of study.

Teachers discovered that, while producing plays was a herculean task and the study of the gods may seem like a labyrinth of characterizations, the dramatization of the myths was like giving the students the golden touch to understanding our language in a deeper and more meaningful historical context.



Torrance *High School*

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



Karim Girgis
Principal

Staying Busy and Productive

Our diversity is on display every day, and we take great pride on the days when we get to show it off!

In January we held our “Hands Across Campus” event to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In late February our Human Relations Club was inspired to hold our first Multi-Cultural Luncheon. In March we held our second Holi celebration. The South Asian Culture Club had students and teachers alike taking part in a festival of colors that inspired love and cooperation.

We would also like to congratulate senior Justin Yokota on being named a National Merit Finalist. Justin has been a busy young man this year. He captained our Academic Decathlon Team, and he and four of his classmates also recently competed in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge. The Challenge requires students to complete a math-modeling program organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematicians.



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Dr. Wayne Diulio
Director

Direct-Instruction Courses

Torrance Adult School's Adult Secondary Education department has been on a roll this year, offering new direct-instruction courses to better prepare students in the area of math. The courses have been immensely successful, and this spring, we will be offering a new English language arts direct-instruction course. This twice-weekly course will prepare students for the reading and writing portions of the high school equivalency exams, which are available to adult learners in need of a high school diploma. TAS offers both a high-school-equivalency preparation program and a full high-school-diploma program.



English Language Arts teacher Sharon Freeman illustrates a point about quality writing.

During the 10-week English language arts test-prep course, students will strengthen basic reading skills, analyze test questions, practice argumentative writing skills, utilize our new online reading and vocabulary program, take practice quizzes and tests, and participate in a student favorite, the Writer's Workshop. Skills acquired will prepare students for college and workplace success.

Towers *Elementary*

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



Sandy Skora
Principal

Our Special Day

This past month the Towers PTA organized our annual Jog-a-thon, the school's biggest community fundraiser designed to help pay for student programs and activities sponsored by the PTA. Towers is very fortunate to have a PTA that partners with our school to provide many exciting and motivational enrichment activities.

Every year the PTA prepares for the Jog-a-thon by motivating our students and parents with pledge sheets and incentives that will raise some much needed funds to support student learning.



There's excitement in the air on the day of the event too, as the students run their laps on the field and music is played by our DJ. The parents are on the sidelines cheering on the students and marking their shirts each time they complete a lap.

We want to thank our PTA for all that they do for our school, and for the exciting programs that the students are able to enjoy because of their efforts.

Victor *Elementary*

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



Bill Baker
Principal

Family STEM Nights

Victor Family STEM Nights were created three years ago to inspire a love of science in our students. Students and parents engage in hands-on science activities aligned to the science content standards. Some activities include dissecting owl pellets, launching balloon rockets, building spaghetti towers, exploring magnetic force and testing the surface tension of coins.

The cafeteria walls are filled with science-related posters such as the Next Generation Science Standards, the scientific method, the engineering process, science tools and science careers. Families have the opportunity to observe the night sky through telescopes set up on our playground by the South Bay Astronomy Club. West High students volunteer as lab assistants to help monitor the stations and interact with students.



At the end of the evening, families receive a "take-home science kit" so they can continue to explore science at home. Victor Family STEM Nights are a fun, exciting community event.

Walteria *Elementary*

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



Efren Ponce
Principal

Parents Make a Difference

Walteria Elementary has some incredible parent volunteers who make our school unique!

One of the most visible parent volunteer groups can be seen at our valet line. Every morning before the children arrive to school our "valet volunteers" set up cones and dividing rods to make sure that the students have a safe drop off. Their tireless efforts also expedite the drop-off process for those parents that have to get to work! This group truly provide a priceless service to our families.



To ensure that this service will continue, we kicked off our year's parent volunteer recruitment effort with a "Don't Let Our Valet Go Extinct!" event. Parents and students were greeted at the school entrance by a friendly visitor from the past who reminded them that without our community's active support, Walteria would simply stop being the amazing place it is today.

West *High School*

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



Hard Work Equals Results

For the first time in the history of West High School, the boys basketball team earned a CIF championship. The team went 22-8 overall, 8-2 in

league, winning a Pioneer League championship. West drew a bye in the first round of playoffs with a #1 seed, then went on to defeat Katella, San Marino, Rowland and Blair. Following their CIF championship win, the Warriors move on to State playoff games. We are proud of our players and coaches and appreciative of the support from parents, students and staff. Second year coach Neal Perlmutter and his staff of assistant coaches turned the boys program around. According to Neal, winning a CIF championship was the team's goal all year long, and their hard work made it happen.



Pam Metz
Principal

Wood *Elementary*

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



Hour of Code

On January 26th, we held our first ever Hour of Code at Wood. Parents, teachers and students of all ages (TK-5) came out to learn coding; many for the very first time. Students sat with their parents and followed a step-by-step tutorial on Code.org, which introduced the basics of computer coding. Students chose between Star Wars, Moana or Minecraft tutorials, which introduced topics like algorithms, binary code and debugging. It was a fun, successful learning event for all. We look forward to providing more STEM opportunities to our Wood community to promote rich learning experiences for all.

Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal



Yukon *Elementary*

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



Memory Making Moments

Along with all of the hard work, Yukon provides activities that can enhance learning while also making school a fun experience.

During our Heart and Sole Run you can jump in sacks, jump over barriers, and hula hoop all along the way. Or, you might go to the theater! Just load up on the bus and off you'll go to see *Peter Pan*.

Stay right on campus, wear your Dr. Suess hat, and you can "Buddy Read." Go to the Book Club and you will be sure to find a yummy snack along with a wonderful Oprah-like discussion.

Whether you are 10 or 17, children always remember kindergarten Snow Day. They treasure recess fun-filled with soccer nets and toss ball. They enjoy Mileage Club, as well as fun classroom activities, with Mystery Science being one of their favorites.

Grade school at Yukon has to be one of the best of times. At least that's our goal!



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Jenna's Review

Vote for Women!



Jenna C.

Around America To Win The Vote

By Mara Rockliff

Illustrator: Hadley Hooper

On April 6, 1916, a yellow car with two smiling women and a very cute kitten left New York. The women were Nell and Alice. They were planning to drive through all the states. They wanted to prove that women could do anything through this journey. They said, "Votes for women!" to people they met. Once when they were crossing a road, they had a horse who didn't let them pass. Nell gave a yellow flower which stands for Votes for Women. And the horse moved away. They travelled and travelled and had lots of adventures! On September 30, 1916, they finally arrived back in New York. They travelled 10,000 miles! They had a celebration with a yellow cake and on the top it said Votes for Women. I like this book because it is a true story about two brave women. The drawings are interesting too.



Jenna is a first grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. She likes happy ending stories. She likes art, dance and soccer.

Katies Review

The Forgotten Sisters



Katie C.

Princess Academy-The Forgotten Sisters

by Shannon Hale is about a girl named Miri Larendaughter of Mount Eskel who goes to teach three abandoned princesses. Miri, although heartbroken that she must stay with the three girls (Astrid, Felissa, and Sus) and cannot go home, she knows that it is her duty to tutor the girls to act like princesses.

This is crucial because it will help save two kingdoms at war stop fighting. The princesses learn as taught. However, as time unravels, Miri learns that they are part of a deep buried secret that they themselves do not know. Then, she is faced with a question that is bigger than her mountain home. Will she risk her own life to save the others? This tale is wrapped in mystery, excitement, suspense, and the heartwarming presence of a reunited family. I strongly recommend this book and give it a five out of five stars.



Katie is a 7th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.



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Contest!

These students are in a picture in this publication.

When you find them, email the **page number** to:

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Please put Torrance in the subject line.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page

While DELMAC serves the needs of our English learner population, the annual GATE conference focuses on supporting the learning needs of our gifted students. This year's conference will be on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at South High. The day's activities and workshops will provide parents with resources and hands-on experiences, so that they will have a better idea as to how to better support the academic and social-emotional development of their gifted learners.

Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org

Exciting Opportunities

By Michelle Van Lerberghe, President

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) is organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide information and instruction, leadership development, and coordination of efforts for our units. In Torrance, we oversee the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district.

Torrance Council of PTAs recently honored 27 students as council-level winners in the Reflections contest, a National PTA arts recognition and achievement program. Four students went on to receive first place at the next level of judging by the 33rd District PTA, and their entries have been forwarded to California State PTA for judging.

On February 25, the 36th Annual College Fair, hosted by TCPTA, the high school PTSAs, and Torrance Unified School District, was held at North High School. More than 700 students and parents attended and were able to visit with 95 representatives from colleges, trade schools, and the military. We also offered 18 informative workshops to help students and parents understand what is involved in preparing for college.

Elementary schools are busy hosting bike rodeos at their schools. Students participate in a variety of bike skill events and a written safety test. The winners from each school participate in the TCPTA district-wide bike rodeo.

In February, seven high school students and two chaperones attended the 33rd District PTA's Sacramento Safari. This is an educational conference where they learned about advocacy and how our state government works. They even put their learning into practice by participating in meetings with legislators.

PTA is proud to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.



DELMAC Conference, March 2017

In my years with the District, first as a parent, then as a PTA volunteer, and now as a Board member, I know those first classes were so beneficial for me, and for my children for whom I became a better parent. As a young mother and in the following years, TUSD classes helped me grow and develop as an effective parent and educator. Every day, I feel proud of the work of TUSD administration and staff providing quality education, and continuing and expanding parent support and access to resources.

Torrance Education Foundation

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

Summer School is Around the Corner!

By Susan Swinburne, Executive Director

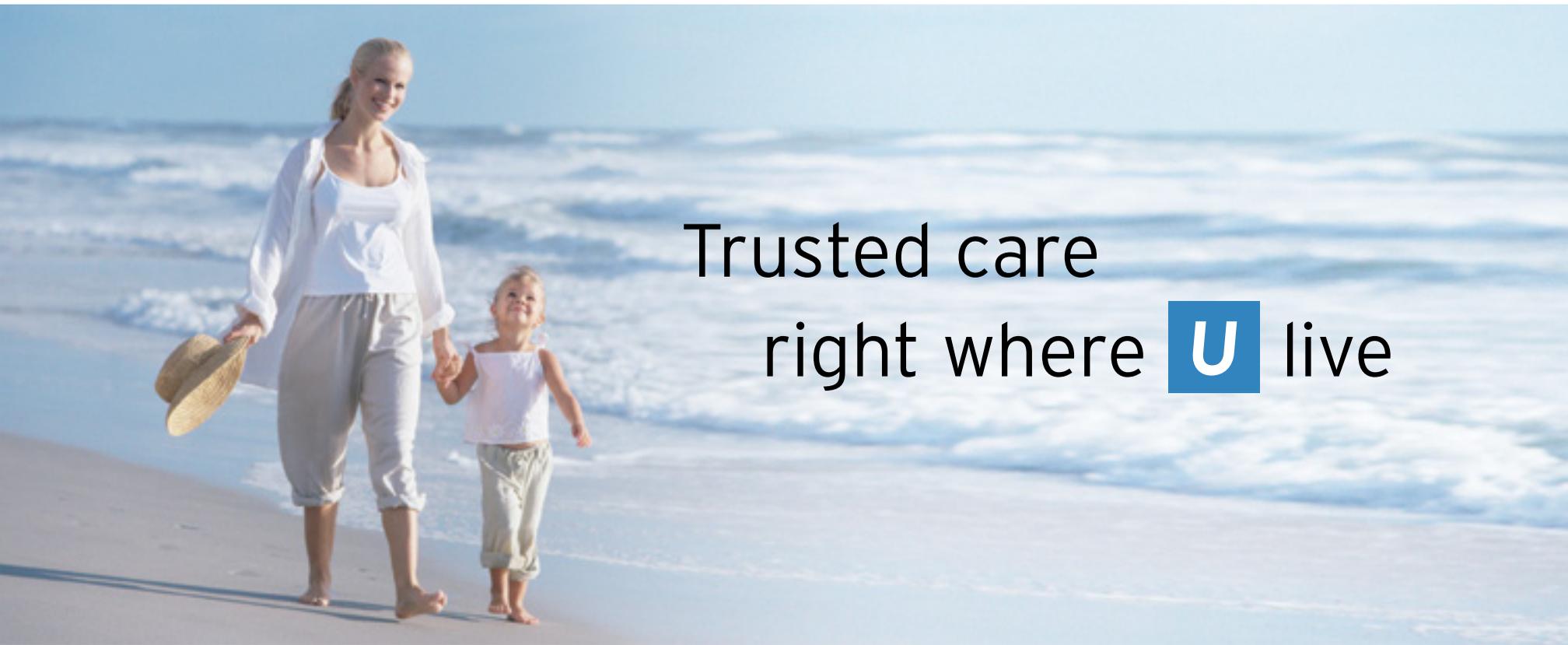
South Bay Enrichment Academy (SBEA), Torrance Education Foundation's community program offering Summer School for Pre-K students through incoming Seniors, will launch its 9th summer season this year.

It is not too early for parents and students to think now about what summer activities at SBEA they will need to round out their regular school studies. Registration opened on March 10th, and classes often fill up quickly. TEF makes this program available to all South Bay area students. Since inaugurating the summer program nine years ago, our goals have been to offer students the highest quality educational experience at the most affordable cost.

Elementary and Middle School classes offer enrichment, and High School classes transfer to student graduation records.

To register and enroll, or for more information about TEF's community-based summer programs for students through South Bay Enrichment Academy, go to www.TorranceEducationFoundation.org or www.TEFSBEA.org.





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