

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Benjamin Churchill

The Best of the Best

This is the time of the year when we recognize the enormous contributions that our teachers and classified staff make to ensure the achievement of our students. In this,

my first year in Carlsbad Unified, I am continually impressed with the dedication, creativity, and talent of our employees.

Carlsbad Unified recently announced the selection of James Fieberg as Teacher of the Year, and Terri Leon as Classified Employee of the Year. These two individuals represent the best of the best, and I congratulate them on their accomplishments.

I believe that there is no indicator that speaks to the success of schools like the quality of its teachers. Great teachers are innovators, risk takers, and they love kids. James Fieberg, Science and Engineering teacher at Sage Creek High School, exemplifies these attributes. Selected by his peers, here are some of the comments fellow teachers made about Mr. Fieberg:

“Mr. Fieberg speaks with passion and enthusiasm, he shows his students that he cares about their well-being, and he attempts to make the curriculum fun and engaging.”
 “He uses innovative strategies in his classroom to engage his students and presents material in creative ways.”
 “He is confident, affable, thoughtful, and highly articulate. He establishes trust, listens to others, and takes initiative.”

Our classified employees support Carlsbad Unified’s mission of teaching and learning. Every day I observe classified employees serving

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 15

Lego Robotics Magic – Project Hot Dog



Kian, Dora, Shayne, Ava, Bryce, and Charissa

Lab Coats of the Future, from Valley Middle School, add another 1st Place trophy to their list of accomplishments.

By Beverly de Nicola,
Communications, CUSD

If you leave your dog in the car on a hot day, and it is in danger because of the heat, our invention will turn on the AC, text you, turn on the car’s brake lights, and open the windows a crack.

Yes, the Valley Girls Lego Robotics team from Valley Middle School came up with this idea, located the best sensor and motion detector, created code for their app, and tested it. This project, called Project Hot Dog, was runner-up for Southern California in the Lego Robotics competition. The team subsequently presented their project to Honda, Qualcomm, On Star R & D, and other engineering firms at a private event on the Midway. They have ideas for a similar system that protects dogs in cold weather

(Project Chilly Dog) and one that protects babies left alone in cars.

The Southern California winning project, created by Labcoats of the Future, took on the challenge of protecting a pack of wolves in Arizona by luring it to a remote area of Mexico where another pack of wolves live. The students created a scent dispenser that would attract the wolves. They researched the area and charted a route for the wolves with sufficient food sources and the least amount of people so they could travel safely. The Labcoats from Valley Middle School—Bryce, Eva, Dora, Kian, Shayne, and Charissa—didn’t just win the Best Project, but were also invited to participate in the North American competition at Legoland in May.

This after-school program is funded through the Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF). Every Lego Robotics team builds a carefully designed and programmed robot that competes against other

teams’ robots. The robots are scored according to their success in completing tasks, in a defined amount of time, on a standardized performance track. Teams are constantly tweaking their design and coding to improve their robot’s scores.

But the competition is not just about the robots. Each team also develops a project, and in each competition teams are also judged on core values, such as teamwork skills, critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. The teams like to use the word “coopertition” to describe the interactions within and among the teams.

Carlsbad Unified held its own districtwide competition at Sage Creek High School on March 25. All 33 of CUSD’s elementary and middle school teams competed—over 200 kids from 3rd to 8th grades. The Sage Creek High School First Tech Challenge robotics teams hosted the

See LEGO ROBOTICS MAGIC • Page 15



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JENNIFER Q.
Elementary School Teacher
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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 13th year publishing *School News* covering the Carlsbad Unified School District. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

We have several book reviews on pages 11-14 to help with your reading choices this summer. Also, don't forget to enter the Word Search on page 14.

Congratulations Class of 2017!

Our next issue is November 8 when we'll be back publishing the excellence from the classrooms. It is an exciting time to be a student.

Have a wonderful summer!

City of Carlsbad

1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/434-2830 • www.carlsbadca.gov



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

Civic Education 101

We can always tell when the assignment is due. Our City Council chamber fills up with high school seniors brimming with energy. About 10 minutes later the novelty has worn off, and they begin to look at the clock. As the City Council discusses the intricacies of conditional use permits, community development block grant funding and environmental impact reports, I start to wonder if being forced to attend a City Council meeting may all but guarantee a lifelong disdain for civic engagement. I hope not.

Living in a democracy means that people get to see and participate in decision making. What they don't tell you is that it's pretty boring most of the time. That's why understanding generally how the process works and how to find out about issues affecting you is so important. For example, when the City Council was considering building a new aquatic center, teens didn't find that boring at all. They came, with and without their parents, to express their support.

The city partners with local schools to start civic education early. The third grade "City Stuff" program teaches students about the different functions of their municipal government and the role of their local elected leaders. Our newest program, the Student Leader Academy, focuses on helping high school students get more engaged as leaders in their community. Our most popular program is called Citizens Academy. This seven week course takes you behind the scenes at the city to learn about everything from how we handle taxpayer money to public safety and community planning.

On a day to day basis, you can track what's going on at the city by following us on social media or signing up for our weekly e-newsletter. Or, find a friend who is involved in the community and ask them to flag things for you. Either way, it's always a good idea to read the actual reports, studies and other source documents so you have the facts. These are all available on our website. When you find the right issue, the details aren't boring at all. That's how you know your civic education is complete.

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Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jimmy Hines
Principal

Celebrating Science

Our first annual Science Day at Aviara Oaks Elementary School was a day like no other! Our entire campus was transformed into a working lab. Students were able to apply their textbook knowledge to genuine and engaging experiments, and our entire school community came together to support learning.

Each of our classrooms was utilized as a science workshop, and our presenters were charged with teaching specific, grade-level science content standards. From kindergarten to fifth grade, all students are given the opportunity to experience science meaningful and tangible ways. Workshops included Radical Reptiles, Animal



Fifth grade students digging in with the squid dissection!

Adaptations, DNA Extraction, Forensic Science: Carlsbad PD, Squid Dissection, and many more. There was an activity for every learner of every age!

Our first annual Science Day could not have taken place without the unending support of our PTO and the wealth of time and effort dedicated by staff, parents, and our Science Day chairs, Mrs. Nakfoor and Mrs. Heon! The planning for this event takes place well before our school year begins, and the hard work of our Science Day Committee ensures that all aspects run smoothly.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support of the Carlsbad Educational Foundation, which allowed us to resource an instructional day that gave our students access to great presenters and concrete materials in every workshop. Only with the time and dedication of our parents and teachers were we able to offer such a great program this year—and hopefully every year to come.



Fourth grade owl pellet findings!

Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • www.buenavista.schoolloop.com



Tina Howard
Principal

A Big Win

The Buena Vista Robotics Team, also named the “Squishy Dolphins,” won first prize in their March competition held at Sage Creek High School. This four-student team comprised of fourth-graders Christopher Mansker, Abbie Cuthbertson, Elias Rodriguez, and Marques Rodriguez earned their recognition through dedication, practice, and hard work.

Each team member had a specific role that they performed during the competition. Elias was the team programmer, Christopher was the team builder, Abbie perfected the programs, and Marques helped perfect attachments.

During the competition, the students completed five missions in two minutes and 30 seconds, earning points along the way. Students also competed in a category called “Core Values.” They were judged as a team in how well they worked together to find solutions with guidance from their coaches, how well they honored the spirit of friendly competition, and how well they displayed gracious professionalism and cooperation in everything they did. And also how much fun they appear to have had!

During this competition, our Squishy Dolphins had just five minutes to build the tallest tower they could using 25 pieces of paper. While their tower was very tall, they did not win a trophy in this category.

Christopher later remarked, “The judges gave us some difficult questions to answer and we figured it out in the end.” He added, “Our coach, Josie, helped us to earn our trophy and, in the end, she earned the Mentor of the Year Award. It was one of the best days ever!”

Thanks to past BV Dolphin Josie Dominguez, now a Valley seventh-grader, for mentoring our Squishy Dolphins. Thanks also goes to Mrs. Mansker and all of the parents for supporting our Dolphin competitors.



Robotics Champions: Christopher, Marques, Elias, Abbie, and their Mentor Josie.

Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • www.ches.schoolloop.com



Dr. Amy Bryant
Principal

Passion Projects!

In the spirit of project-based learning, Calavera Hill Elementary School fifth-graders from Jessie Dooley’s and Libbi Swanson’s classes accomplished the ultimate project: a Passion Project! Students worked in pairs or small groups to make a difference with real-world solutions to problems that are important to them. Teachers acted as facilitators and structured the activity by providing students guidelines and direction. Parents were involved by giving their permission and support, too.



However, it was the students who created a plan, got permissions, marketed, and followed through on their solution. Students worked on issues such as collecting food and water for the homeless, creating sports equipment like soccer goals out of inexpensive supplies, and even teaching sports activities and science to younger classmates. Students learned that their ideas matter and that they have what it takes to solve problems that exist in our world today.

Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • www.aoms.schoolloop.com



Dr. Bryan Brockett
Principal

Building a Positive Environment

Students in the Associated Student Body (ASB) student government class at Aviara Oaks Middle School (AOMS) are engaged again this spring in their annual Making a Difference project. Students work individually or in teams to develop projects that make a positive impact for their fellow students and their school. Students have come up with a wide range of ideas over the past two years, including recycling, a school garden, student activities, and paper-towel dispensers in the bathrooms.

Some of the student projects have been seen all the way through to completion, while others have not. Regardless, these projects hit on a very important concept that we want all of our students to understand: with over 1,100 students and just 60 adults on campus, it truly is the students who make a difference when we talk about building the kind of positive, respectful, and engaged environment that we all want at AOMS.

Beyond the ASB class project, we have encouraged all of our students to think about the ways in which their words and actions influence the environment around them. Are they bringing something positive to the equation? Are they building up those around them? Are they investing in their learning in ways that positively impact them and those around them? Or are they, through their words, actions, or failure to act, encouraging the creation of a negative environment? Adults, of course, play an important role in creating the school culture, too. But if our students see themselves merely as passive recipients of a school culture rather than important actors in creating it, we all miss a huge opportunity to build the kind of positive, meaningful, and engaged learning environment that we all want in our community.

Kudos to Mrs. Hall and the ASB students for making a difference—and to all of the AOMS students, staff, and families who make a difference every day. As we head toward the end of another great school year, now is a good time to reflect on so many of those great contributions and on how we continue to, as our vision states, “engage in building a positive and respectful environment.”

Calavera Hills *Middle School (6–8)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6400 • www.calavera.schoolloop.com



School is Real

I am sure that we all remember hearing at one time or another how school was different from the “the real world.” At Calavera Hills Middle School, we are focused on the meaningful and relevant. Our teachers work to tie the efforts of students to the problems that exist in society by asking questions about real world situations, encouraging student input on curriculum surrounding areas of passion, and aligning our work to that of local businesses and professionals both on and off campus.

Our focus at Calavera Hills Middle School is to create relevant and meaningful learning opportunities, or perhaps better stated as the rhetorical question that began this year’s journey: “What if school were real?”

One way we change the traditional dynamic of school is through the way students show their progress in learning. Learning from our performance arts and through the way most of us display our knowledge to others, we use public displays of learning or exhibitions. These are student-led presentations of learning to authentic audiences. This year our sixth-grade exhibition of learning included the aspects of history, English, and math that are centered around the question: “How might we create the best possible society?”

This exhibition was organized and run by our sixth-grade students for the hundreds of adults that came to walk through the classrooms separated by societal climate. Our eighth-grade history class, which is studying the civil rights movements, created a poetry café that highlighted the stories and passion behind civil rights in American history.

Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com



Taking Chicago by Storm

On March 31, Carlsbad High School had 62 band and 9 orchestra students travel to Chicago to compete in the Festival of Music Competition at Harper College.

Under the direction of Peter Manzi, and after performing a dynamic program for the judges, the Band received a “Superior” rating and first place in the Concert Band Division AA. Our Carlsbad String Ensemble, under the direction of Jessica Allen, also received an “Excellent” rating and first place in Orchestra Division AA.

The Symphonic Winds earned the William Revelli Festival Champion Award for receiving the highest score. The Band received the coveted Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser Esprit De Corps Award as well, which recognizes the participating organization that displays an exemplary attitude of positive support and outstanding personal behavior throughout the festival weekend.

At the annual STN convention in Anaheim, our CHSTV won scholastic broadcast journalism’s highest honor: the STN Award of Excellence. This is the ninth year that CHSTV has been recognized as the nation’s Best Daily Live High School Broadcast. Additionally, the team also took first place in Feature Story, where students have six hours to shoot and edit a feature piece.

Over the spring break our journalism and yearbook students traveled to Seattle to attend the annual JEA/NSPA Spring High School Journalism Conference. In addition to attending sessions on all aspects of journalism, the students participated in the national writing competition, where 12 students won National Write-off Awards. This included Emma Lewis, who earned a Superior award in Yearbook Copy and Captions, Clubs.



CHS journalism and yearbook students celebrate a successful trip to the High School journalism convention in Seattle. During the busy weekend filled with speakers and networking, the group earned 12 writing awards during the weekend including 1 superior, 9 excellents and 2 honorable mentions.



The Band and Orchestra travelled to Chicago to compete in the Festival of Music competition in March. In addition to the competition, the group also participated in a clinic with professors at VanderCook College of Music and performed a showcase Concertat United Methodist Church of New Lenox.

Carlsbad Village & Seaside *Academies*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.cva.schoolloop.com & www.csa.schoolloop.com



Effects of Stress

During adolescence, it is important for young people to learn how to deal with stressful situations so they can deal with them better in college and into adulthood. The issue arises when the school environment creates so much stress that even the most capable students struggle with even just showing up at school. This stress can become all-consuming, and not only may grades suffer but a student’s health may suffer as well.

Jorge Espinoza
Principal

What can students and parents do when high school becomes too stressful? Two of these alternatives that are available are right here in Carlsbad Unified School District.

We Have Options

Carlsbad Seaside Academy is the first of these two options. The independent study program provides an accredited and A-G certified curriculum for students that are looking to pursue a four-year university right after high school. The students receive their coursework from a cooperating teacher and are required to meet with that teacher every week to go over assignments, take tests, and

receive new work for the next week. These students have the opportunity to take classes concurrently at either Carlsbad High School or at Sage Creek High School. The flexibility has kept many students engaged and has been a real help with dealing with the stress of school. Mind you, the stress does not disappear, but students feel that they can better cope with it while having more control over their own time. The school also offers part-time options for students that are looking to only take two classes independently and take four classes at the comprehensive high schools.

Carlsbad Village Academy is another option for students looking to reduce their stress when it comes to school. CVA is able to offer students the opportunity to recover credit deficiencies while still working toward attaining a diploma. Students can attain a high school diploma and matriculate to a community college, the military or straight into the workforce after graduation. The school day consists of four one-hour classes. The school is on the quarter system, which allows students to earn up to 80 credits during a school year.

Contact Jorge Espinoza at jespinoza@carlsbadusd.net or at (760) 331-5299 if you would like to explore either of these options for 2017–18.

Hope *Elementary (K–6)*

3010 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5900 • www.hope.schoolloop.com



Enrichment Programs

At Hope Elementary School, we are grateful for the collective efforts of our community to provide enrichment programs for our students. These extra programs are provided by parents to add to the value of the Hope Hawk educational experience.

Richard Tubbs
Principal

Every week, students draw, build, and create a variety of projects in art class and proudly show their works at our annual art show. Whether it is learning to weave or making models using modeling compound, students find the new and innovative art projects engaging and fun.



DrumFit fun

It is wonderful to celebrate another great year with our hardworking Hope Hawks and the staff and parents who support our community. We look forward to marking our 30-year anniversary at the beginning of next school year.

It’s a great day to be a Hawk!



Modeling Magic

Our movement and exercise class is another parent-sponsored program that continues with a focus on student fitness and fun. Under the direction of Angelie Harnish, this class incorporates high-energy games and activities that blend in physical education standards. Ms. Harnish introduced a new DrumFit-type activity, which has been a huge hit with our community as students strengthen their hearts and lungs while drumming to music. Designed to also improve coordination, this new class provides an energized workout that students agree is “tons of fun.” This program was made possible by our Friends of Hope School Foundation, Christina McGoldrick, and a national home improvement chain.

Additional activities this year also include special assemblies, such as presentations from Fancy Nancy illustrator Robin Glasser, local authors, and weatherman Jason Handman from Fox5 News.



Fancy Nancy

Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • www.jefferson.schoolloop.com



Chad Lund
Principal

Growing Inquiring Minds

As an IB School, we focus on inquiry and developing students who take charge of their learning. At Jefferson, you will find that students will raise their hands more often and take the time to discuss issues. In fact, the program of inquiry is the basis for our entire program. In addition to this, reflection is a major part of the student experience. Each year, students develop portfolios that will show the scope of their work. In the last few years, we have switched to digital portfolios through the use of Google

Drive. Now, students are able to see their work through the continuum of the grades without having a massive amount of physical work collected.

All this is in part preparation for the culminating fifth-grade project known as Exhibition. The following is adapted from the IBO website:

is a requirement for our fifth-grade students. Our students are required “to participate in a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry process that involves them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues or problems.” Our students will plan the exhibition, gather materials, record and reflect, and finally present the exhibition to the Jefferson community.

Our students will be rigorously monitored throughout the process. Students will keep an individual learning journal. The teachers will keep anecdotal records of student work and performance. Other permanent records of the exhibition will include the IB planners, photographs, videos and website-based documents.

Looking at the language, you can see that many items need to come together to develop a quality program. Collaboration and inquiry are key. Students learn and demonstrate these characteristics throughout the research and into the presentation of the project. It has been commented that the project is in line with high-school- and college-level presentations in an elementary setting. Students walk away with the ability to work well with one another and present in a public forum—two skills that will take them far.



Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

4885 Kelly Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • www.kelly.schoolloop.com



Tressie Armstrong
Principal

Contributing Every Day

It most certainly takes a wide variety of resources to ensure that our children have everything they need to progress academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. We all agree that outdoor time, movement, and breathing space contribute greatly to our children's growth in these areas.

We would also venture to say that some of our favorite memories in school were built during recess! It was during this time that we created games of our own, built imaginary castles in sandboxes, climbed jungle gyms, played on the swings, sometimes read in the shade, and spent moments visiting with our friends and maneuvering through the social strata learning how to be a good human being.

At Kelly School, we believe that it is important for us to “Not say no when “yes” will do,” and allow children to explore, create, and work through their development with guidance and with not too much interference from the adults around. This is a delicate and careful balancing act.

Enter our Kelly Elementary School's unsung “she-oes,” our noon duties Lysette Myrick-Cox, Darian Krall, and Debra Fury; plus our awesome custodian, Terrie Gruntowicz; and of course, Ruby the Cool School Dog!

Each of these wonderful people contribute on a daily basis to the reputation of the culture of kindness that Kelly School enjoys.

They build relationships with our students in a way that is respectful and caring. They also keep a positive sense of joy and humor, and guide the children gently through their development.

Whether it is encouraging students to invite another student who might be sitting on the “Buddy Bench” to play; determining whether a scratch is worthy of a trip to the nurse, or just a hug and pat on the head; reminding students to be kind always; or just being present to ensure the safety of everyone through vigilance and awareness, these are truly some of our unsung she-oes who deserve to be celebrated!



Debra Fury and students.



Darian Krall and students.



Terrie Gruntowicz



Lysette Myrick-Cox

Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5600 • www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Aaron Nelson
Principal

Mentorship Between Grades

One of the many things that set Magnolia Elementary apart as a wonderful place for students and staff is the strong sense of community. Magnolia's rich 60-year presence in the community has made it a central place for families to connect and for longstanding friendships to grow. As we embark on the next chapter of Magnolia's history in the community, we are intent upon preserving the “small town” feeling that has become synonymous with Magnolia. As part of that process of connecting and sharing, classes at Magnolia participate weekly in

our schoolwide Buddies Program.

As part of this program, each upper-grade class is partnered with a primary-grade class, and individual students are paired together for the year. Each week, students meet with their buddies to practice academic skills and work on fun enrichment projects. More than anything, though, students get a regular opportunity for mentorship. Through these relationships, upper-grade students get the opportunity to develop responsibility and leadership as they teach the next generation of students about what it means to be a Magnolia Lion. Likewise, our primary students get the opportunity to connect with role models that help guide them and teach them how to thrive at school. Most important of all, students love the opportunity to share with one another.

“The Big Buddies help us with a lot of stuff,” first-grader Stella said. “They are also very nice and kind.”

With the success of Buddies and other similar programs at Magnolia, we look forward to another 60 years of community connections.



Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600 • www.sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Cesar Morales
Principal

Congratulations, Mr. Fieberg!

Recently, Sage Creek science teacher James Fieberg was selected as Carlsbad Unified School District's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Fieberg is respected and admired by staff and students alike. From building rapport with his students to demonstrating strong leadership skills with staff, Mr. Fieberg makes a strong impression on all those he encounters.

Known for zipping across campus on his pink scooter, Mr. Fieberg was honored to have been selected for both the site and district awards.

“I was in shock!” he said. “It was icing on the cake of what I thought was already a great honor of being recognized by my peers. I was excited to then be able to represent Carlsbad Unified and some of the neat things we are doing in science and promote the message of our students doing science like we do here at Sage Creek.”



Mural Project

Construction activities on a high school campus often bring obstacles that include dirt, noise and traffic. At SCHS, one of these obstacles arrived in the form of a plywood noise barrier. As with what has become the norm at SCHS, this challenge was accepted with open arms by the Visual Arts Department. The three types of visual arts classes offered on campus collaborated to create a cohesive work of art that combines the themes of “Our Ever-Changing World” and “Our Changing Seas.” The mural was split up into three walls: landscape, space and cartoon. Megan Herrick, the Visual and Performing Arts Department chair, described the project as “exciting!”



Pacific Rim Elementary (K-5)

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com



Tech-wheel teacher, Pat Slattery, gets support from Robert Allen, Tech TOSA.

“Robert Allen presented a cutting edge, powerful approach to delivering curriculum,” said Melanie Lupica, a kindergarten teacher. “After his lesson, I was able to create my own HyperDoc. In that doc, I provided links to sites for student research and created a Padlet to brainstorm together and a Google Doc to share ideas. We even voted on the ideas we collected using Socrative. A big thank you to Robert for teaching me about all of these tools. The students were actively engaged in the lesson, were able to interact with every portion easily, and were begging for more!”

Staff Technology Training

Carlsbad Unified School District Technology Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) Robert Allen recently led the Pacific Rim Elementary School staff in a technology training. He shared several online tools that teachers can use to engage students, keeping them involved as creators and collaborators in the inquiry-based learning process. With our five netbook carts and digital tablet cart in classrooms on campus, teachers are implementing projects and activities to activate students’ higher-order thinking. As a staff, we want to focus on technology as a tool for creativity as students navigate their learning.



Robert Devich
Principal

Poinsettia Elementary (K-5)

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Lillian Dinsmore and Brooke Williamson

Her creative strategies and positive attitude are contagious and bring out the best in her colleagues and students. She is a standout in the field of education. In addition to supporting students and teachers in her own school, she has been grade-level facilitator for years and has also managed to make time for furthering her education by getting her master’s in administration. A lifelong learner, she is committed to professional development and striving to be her best! Her impact sends ripples to every corner of our school.

Miss Williamson is inspiring and energizing, and we are all better educators for knowing and working with her. Thank you for awakening the joy and creativity in your students—you are a role model for us all, Miss Williamson!

Role Model for All!

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.— Albert Einstein



Marjorie Giordani
Principal

Congratulations, Brooke Williamson, as our 2016-17 Teacher of the Year! Miss Williamson inspires and has a positive impact on all those she comes in contact with each day. Firm but fair, she freely offers love, acceptance and stability in her classroom every day, sparking a love of learning that her students will remember for years to come.

Valley Middle School (6-8)

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • www.vms.schoolloop.com

A Whirlwind of Activity

Spring has brought a whirlwind of activity to Valley Middle School (VMS)!

Education outreach at the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center at Balboa Park delivered a science program directly to Valley’s eighth-grade students. The new science standards include genetics as a topic in the eighth-grade curriculum. To inspire students, a teacher from the science center showed students how genes play an important role in the makeup of all living things. Students used superheroes to discover the fundamental aspects of heredity, even using role play to act out the results of an inherited set of genes!



Nicole Johnston
Principal

In addition, Valley students experienced an exciting evening of science discovery and captivating demonstrations in physics and chemistry. Topics included energy, waves, electricity, and astronomy! This exciting night was delivered by Dr. Larry Sverdrup and Mike Borrello. There is real fun and value in bringing creative, hardcore science encounters to students in hopes that they, too, may one day be inspired to choose careers in the fields of Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM).

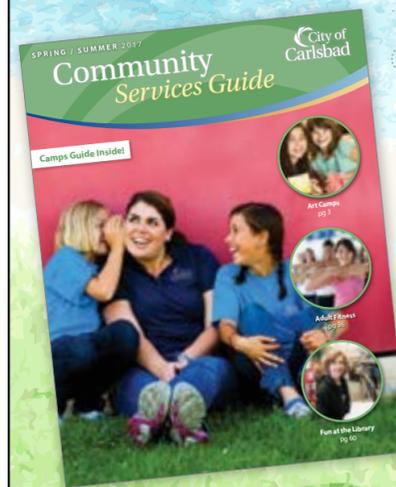
These opportunities were made possible by the Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF). This organization provides grants, which have allowed us to fund STEM programs that will impact our school and hopefully ignite our students’ minds, creativity, and passion for science!

In the arts, the VMS Showstoppers took first place in the advanced division at the King of Champions show choir competition at Katella High School in Anaheim on March 25. They performed their Wizard-of-Oz-themed competition set for a sold-out crowd. They also took home the highest scores in both musicianship and showmanship!

As April is National Poetry Month, our seventh-grade students have been hard at work in their language arts classes reading and analyzing poetry, studying poetic devices, and composing their own original poems. In our annual Poetry Café, students shared their poetry, incorporating various poetic techniques, with a large audience comprised of peers, teachers, administrators, and parents in a cafe-like setting. Students and parents enjoyed a special day filled with beautiful words, people they love, and delicious food, too!

These are just a few of the highlights of all the incredible work our students and staff do on a daily basis at Valley Middle School!

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City of Carlsbad



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Register at CarlsbadEd.org/summer-programs

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New camps include:

- Adventures in the Wild
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- Awesome Oceans
- Code Basics
- iCode
- iGame Creators
- NASA Space Academy
- Up-Cycling 101
- Video Game Design
- Web Design



Captivating Read



Katrina D.

Born Wicked by Jessica Spotswood is the first in a series about a trio of sisters named Cate, Maura and Tess. Living in a world where their roles in the world are rigidly controlled by a group known as the Brotherhood, the Cahill sisters must strive to stay under the radar of these

powerful men or risk being shipped off to asylums as witches. However, the fact they actually are witches puts them at a greater risk than anyone else. Eldest sister Cate takes up the role of leader for her motherless sisters, attempting to protect the three of them from being discovered. But when Cate comes of age to either marry or join the Sisterhood, what choices and sacrifices will she make? This book is absolutely captivating with a Salem Witch Trial feel to it and an enchanting plot. With a touch of romance and a dash of magic, this book is a must read for all YA lovers. This book was given 5 crescent moons.



Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her books from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

A Creepy and Fun Read

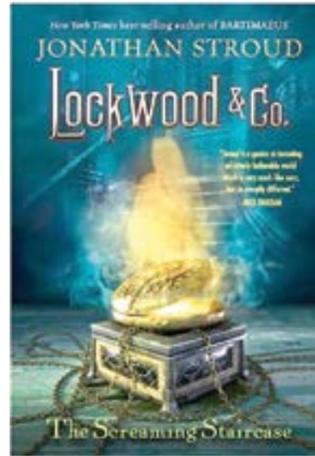


Abbas D.

Lockwood & Co. by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There

is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?

This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 5 smiley faces.



Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

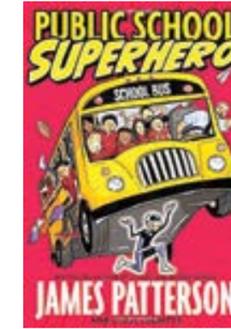
Power of Determination



Christina J.

Public School Superhero
By James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts

The story is about a middle school student named Kenny Wright, who imagines being a powerful superhero named Stainlezz Steel. Kenny lives in a bad area that has gangs and drugs on the streets and he meets older students, trying to influence him into doing things that will get him into serious trouble. Kenny goes to an underfunded, overpopulated school run by bullies. Kenny is known at school as "Grandma's boy" and, while he is constantly a target for the 7th and 8th grade bullies, he must try to get through the school year without being peer-pressured into doing wrong things that his alter ego Stainlezz Steel would never, ever do. At one point Kenny meets a bully named Ray-Ray, whom he has to teach chess to. After a while Kenny sees that Ray-Ray is a normal person, living in a bad home environment, and starts to understand why he is so aggressive to everyone. Overall, the book is about a boy's determination to get through life with the best possible outcome, with a little bit of action comics mixed in. I liked the book and it's fun, quirky attitude, and it's deep emotional conflict that gives the story a deeper meaning. I give the book a 4 out of five 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).

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Check out all of the great activities, attractions and FREE events.

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Our weekly day camps run from July 12 – August 11 from 7 am – 6 pm.

MOVIES IN THE PARK
All movies are free and begin at approximately 8 pm

ROGUE ONE | JUNE 17
Buena Vista Park Ball Fields

MOANA AND SUMMER FUN FEST! | JULY 15
Summer Fun Fest: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Bregle Terrace Park

SING | AUGUST 12
Bregle Terrace Park

MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE
Experience Broadway's Best Under the Stars with Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*, and Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*. Discounts for kids!

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!
July 4 at Bregle Terrace Park and the Moonlight Amphitheatre
Featuring The Mar Dels at 7:30 p.m. followed by fireworks

THE WAVE WATERPARK
Experience North County's coolest hotspot. Special events and promotions offered all summer long.

SING

cityofvista.com

Big Nate In A Class All By Himself



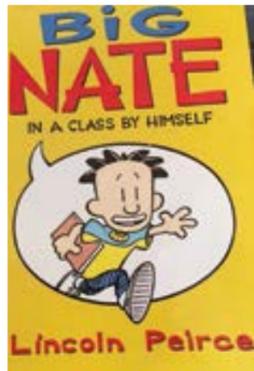
Michael H.

Nate knows he is destined for greatness. When a fortune cookie confirms that, he is very excited. The fortune reads "Today you will surpass all others." He soon learns that trouble seems to be following him everywhere. Instead of something good happening, bad things happen. He receives detention slips from all of his teachers. Confused by it all Nate tries to figure out, how it all went wrong.

Later he realizes that although he did have a really bad day, his fortune cookie was correct. He surpassed all others by establishing a new record. He was the first person to get 7 detention slips in one day! Nobody could believe it, but Nate was happy because his fortune came true.

I give this book 5 stars because it kept me interested the whole time. His adventure made me laugh and Nate didn't give up until he made his fortune come true. I may never want to come close to that record, but reading about it was fun.

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.



A Book that Didn't Bomb

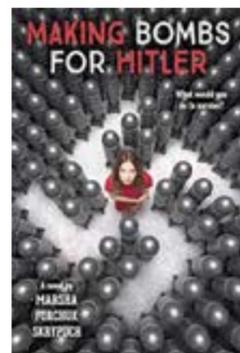


Isabella A.

Making Bombs for Hitler by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch is about World War 2. Lyda is a Ukranian girl living with her grandma and her sister. This book was very emotional because the Nazis broke her family. Lyda and Larissa are taken to a work camp by train. The sisters try to stay together but, since they are not the same age, they are taken to different places.

Lyda pretends to be 13. The Nazi doesn't believe her, but lets her go. One Nazi tells her she is too short, but Lyda proves herself useful stitching. She is put to work in the laundry, later, she is put to work making bombs for the Nazis. The Nazis are her enemy so she and her companions decide to sabotage the bombs. Will Lyda get away with this? If she does, will she ever find her beloved sister?

Isabella is a 10 year old who enjoys reading and writing fiction novels based on true events. Her latest collection of short stories is based on the mischievous adventures with her 9 year old sister. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.



competition with the help of the Carlsbad High School teams. These high school students served as organizers, mentors, and judges.

"This after school program helps you with school, and teaches you teamwork and communication skills." said a middle school student. "It gives you an idea of how you can work in the real world. We are learning a whole new world of technology, programming software. Our project opened my eyes to real problems in the world, and gave me a chance to create a new enterprise."

Some of the Valley Girls shared their future plans. Josie wants to go into bio-med research, Makana is interested in zoology, Katelyn is leaning towards civil engineering, and Raina wants to continue studying robotics or computer engineering.

Mary Krescanko is CEF's Robotics Coordinator for First LegoLeague, and serves as head coach for 24 teams. "These students are engaged in an experience that is fun and challenging, said Ms. Krescanko. "They are already learning the skills that they can use in the STEM jobs of the future."

Core Values:

- We are a team.
- We do the work to find solutions with guidance from our coaches and mentors.
- We know our coaches and mentors don't have all the answers; we learn together.
- We honor the spirit of friendly competition.
- What we discover is more important than what we win.
- We share our experiences with others.

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SUPERINTENDENT • From Page



Dr. Benjamin Churchill

our students' instructional needs with skill and enthusiasm. A technician is servicing a cart full of well-used Chrome books. An elementary school's custodian is painstakingly "upcycling" lunch trays. An aide for a special needs student is patiently guiding him through his math lessons. These dedicated people, and hundreds of others across our campuses, are a vital part of the reason that our students succeed.

Terri Leon, Production Assistant for CHSTV at Carlsbad High School, is Carlsbad Unified's Classified Employee of the Year. Her peers say that she is "a superstar who has impacted countless students" and "a gem." She was nominated by Doug Green, former California Teacher of the Year, who teaches Broadcast Journalism at Carlsbad High School and Valley Middle School. Ms. Leon has been a vital part of CHSTV, which is the number one ranked high school program in the United States.

As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Day and Classified Employee Appreciation Week, I join with our Carlsbad Unified community to send my thanks to these two superstars, and to all of our CUSD staff members for all you do for our students.

Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Carlsbad in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers | Focused | Principal |
| Character | Homework | Recess |
| Classrooms | Instructors | Reunion |
| Curiosity | Integrity | Student |
| Discipline | Learning | Success |
| Educators | Mentors | Technology |
| Encourage | Nutrition | Thinkers |
| Excellence | Parents | Workers |



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Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/
President

Reigning in Rising Education Costs

The rising cost of a college degree has become a national crisis. According to the College Board, tuition and fees during the 2016-17 academic year reached an average of \$33,480 at private four-year colleges and \$9,650 for state residents at public colleges – and that does not include the average \$10,440 cost of room and board or the average annual cost of \$1,250 in books and supplies.

Which is why MiraCosta College is pulling out all the stops in making a postsecondary education more affordable. From an expanding dual enrollment program to creating the innovative MiraCosta Promise, relief from escalating educational expenses is well under way for residents of coastal North County.

MiraCosta College has long offered for-credit college courses at its Oceanside and San Elijo campuses to high school students, and we went further when we began offering free, dual-enrollment classes at Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad. Students who complete dual enrollment courses earn college credit while at the same time meeting high school graduation requirements. Through such arrangements, high school students save not only in securing an associate degree or certificate, but also thousands of dollars in university costs by reducing the number of classes needed to complete a bachelor's degree.

Beginning this fall, MiraCosta College will further expand pathways to a higher education through the new MiraCosta Promise, which will provide a full year of college without fees, along with funding for textbooks. Dependent upon financial need, any student graduating this spring from any accredited high school located within the MiraCosta College District who applies to attend MiraCosta College for the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters is eligible.

At just \$46 per unit, MiraCosta College already has among the lowest enrollment fees in the nation. In addition, MiraCosta College faculty and staff have made great strides in making a quality higher education even more accessible through a variety of textbook assistance programs to help struggling students cope.

At MiraCosta College, we understand that a quality education should be accessible to all. We are committed to expanding the affordability of securing a degree or certificate, and we thank everyone in the community who has helped us in this effort.

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