

FREE

School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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June 2017

TUSD Celebrates 2017 Classified Employees of the Year



Helen Estock Elementary school secretary Patty Ellis, upper left, is congratulated by Principal Wendy Hudson and a group of students for being selected as TUSD's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year. (Please see story on page 4.)

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Tustin Unified Students are Future Ready!



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

As the current school year comes, I wish to thank the dedicated teachers, principals, District administrators and staff members for all their hard work and support throughout the year. I also want to thank the involved and caring parents and school volunteers who help make TUSD schools great places for students to learn, thrive, be creative and pursue their future in college and career.

The 2016-17 year saw many “firsts” around the school district. Tustin Unified opened Heritage – the District’s first science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) elementary school – for Transition Kindergarten (TK) through fifth grade. The school is located at the Tustin Legacy development and is receiving much acclaim and “buzz” in just its first year.

Tustin Unified began offering a Spanish Dual Immersion Language program for TK, kindergarten and first grade students at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School. These children receive a diverse, enriching learning experience because they learn to think, read, write and communicate in two languages. By learning how to do all of these things in two languages at such a young age, students in this program will naturally pick up both languages and find use in them throughout their lifetime. In the 2017-18 school year, the program will expand to students in second grade.

For the first time, full-day kindergarten was offered at W.R. Nelson elementary school during the 2016-17 school year. The curriculum emphasizes learning activities and promotes social and emotional success for students. It will expand to Benjamin Beswick and Robert Heideman elementary schools in the 2017-18 school year.

All third (new this year), fourth and fifth grade students in TUSD experienced an engaging weekly music

program developed in accordance with the Performing Arts Framework that emphasizes collaboration, creative expression, movement and performance. Credentialed music teachers engaged students in lessons developing keyboarding skills, music technology, strings, winds, and vocal courses that culminated in student showcase performances each trimester.

During the school year, more students enrolled in the Tustin Connect Center, an online independent study program now in its second year. The program provides K-8 students with a highly personalized and flexible learning environment, and allows students to progress at their own pace at home and work with teachers and peers during collaborative learning days, workshops and lab hours. Starting in the fall, Tustin Connect will expand to accredited college preparatory high school (grades 9-12) and offer the same as Tustin Connect K-8 with a flexible online education while offering engaging opportunities to collaborate and learn with their peers and teachers in a blended learning environment. Tustin Connect High School will be located at the alternative education campus near Tustin High School.

The TUSD Robotics League, created in partnership with the Tustin Public Schools Foundation, provided opportunities for elementary (included for the first time this year), middle and high school students to develop skills and interest in STEM, computer science and programming through a competitive robotics program. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, build innovative robots and compete year-round in a variety of matches. The competitions prepare students to become future innovators with 95% of participants reporting an increased interest in STEM subject areas and pursuing STEM-related careers.

There is no doubt – Tustin Unified students are future ready! Have a great summer, everyone!



Mark Eliot

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For the latest information:

@TUSDschools and @SuptFranklin

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TUSD Selects 2017 Classified Employee of the Year

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

Patty Ellis, school secretary at Helen Estock Elementary School, has been selected as the 2017 Classified Employee of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District. Ellis was chosen based on her significant contributions to the District and community.

The 20th annual awards program recognizes classified or support services employees whose contributions to TUSD have proven to be outstanding. The award is given to a classified employee who provides valuable services to their school and contributes to a positive instructional environment.

"It's an honor to be chosen as the District's Classified Employee of the Year and represent the dedicated and hard-working staff members in TUSD," Ellis said. "I love my job and look forward to coming to school every day and seeing the students, working with our amazing teachers and staff, and helping Estock's parents and families."

Ellis has worked in the District for 16 years. She has gone "above and beyond" for the students and staff at Estock School. She takes great pride in her work, makes sure everyone is welcome when they come through the front office door, and is always available to support the staff and help the students.



TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, Board President Jonathan Abelow and Board Member Francine Scinto congratulate Helen Estock Elementary school secretary Patty Ellis (holding balloons) for being named the District's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

Last fall, Ellis spent many hours at night and weekends to ensure a smooth transition for Lambert students and families when they merged with Estock School. She made it so effortless that most of the staff and school community had no idea of her time commitment and hard work.

Ellis also goes out of her way to help needy families at the school and often rallies help from her church to provide a family with food or clothing. One young mother desperately needed a double stroller so she could walk her daughter to school. Mrs. Ellis delivered one to their door personally without fanfare or the desire for any recognition.

"Patty makes every day special at Estock School," Principal Wendy Hudson said. "She is exceptional at her job; handles every challenge with grace and a smile; is loved by the students, staff and parents, and is truly one of a kind and so deserving of this honor."

The other Tustin Unified school/work site nominees include:

Elementary Schools: Laurel Brown, paraeducator (instructional aide), Arroyo; Kristen Egner, paraeducator, Benson; Vanessa Cutwright, paraeducator, Beswick; Kayti Zayas, paraeducator, Guin Foss; Arfa De La Vega, head custodian, Heideman; Nancy Castro, paraeducator, Heritage; Joshua Rodriguez, paraeducator/noon duty supervisor, Hicks Canyon; Eric Calvario, occupational therapist, Ladera; Alicia Fortier, paraeducator, Loma Vista; Tom Hoy, technologist, Myford; Matthew Moe, paraeducator, Nelson; Gail Kamo, paraeducator, Peters Canyon; Danny Villegas, night custodian, Red Hill; Patricia Sanchez, community liaison, Thorman; Janeen Sample, library media technician, Tustin Memorial Academy; Cheri Smith-Geurts, paraeducator, Tustin Ranch; and TyRon Jackson, paraeducator, Veeh.

Orchard Hills School: Laurie Lawver, library media technician.

Middle Schools: Paul Marsden, library media technician, Columbus Tustin; Diane Wilson, library media technician, Currie; Jennifer Keuillian, paraeducator, Hewes; Adrienne Reynolds, counseling technician, Pioneer; and Esteban Salgado, campus supervisor, Utt.

High Schools: Maybrick Gosling-Ozer, community liaison, Beckman; Cathie Hader, data clerk, Foothill; Richard Chapman, paraeducator, Hillview; and Darius Durham, counseling technician, Tustin.

District Administration Center: Linda Furlong, school secretary, Tustin Adult School.

Maintenance and Operations: Jill Martin, office assistant.

Ellis and all school/work site nominees were honored by the TUSD Board of Education at a special recognition ceremony, "Classified Celebration at the Courtyard," on May 15 at the District Administration Center.

Congratulations Classified Employees of the Year!

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TUSD News Briefs

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

Supt. Franklin and Two Administrators Honored as O.C. Administrators of the Year



Tustin High Principal Christine Matos, TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin and Coordinator of Special Education Cherie Kuntz display their Orange County Administrators of the Year awards from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17.

Tustin Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin and two other TUSD administrators were honored on May 8 as 2017 Orange County Administrators of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17. They received the following awards:

Tracy Gaffey Award – Dr. Gregory Franklin, TUSD Superintendent; Secondary Principal of the Year – Christine Matos, principal of Tustin High School and Special Education Administrator of the Year – Cherie Kuntz, coordinator of special education.

Franklin received the prestigious Tracy Gaffey Award for mentoring other administrators, dedication to the profession, and appreciation of the work and importance of educational leadership.

The 44th annual ACSA “Administrators of the Year and Friends of Education Awards” Celebration of Excellence Dinner was held at the Irvine Marriott. ACSA annually recognizes outstanding administrators for their leadership skills, professionalism, creativity, innovation and commitment to a quality education. Region 17 represents 28 school districts in Orange County.

TUSD Announces Early Start for 2017-18 School Year

As a reminder to the Tustin Unified community, school will start earlier for all TK-12 students in the 2017-18 school year. The first day of school in the fall will be Tuesday, August 22, 2017, and the last day of instruction will be June 7, 2018. Parents should adjust vacation times and plan calendars to ensure students are ready for school mid-August.

TUSD is moving to an earlier start date in order to give students more time to prepare for tests such as Advanced Placement (AP), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and other college-level tests; coordinate college applications; and ease high school seniors transition into colleges. Students

will also be able to compete on equal footing with students back east who, have in the past, had a greater number of instructional days before testing.

“Moving up the start date accomplishes a number of educational goals,” TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin said. “It allows students and teachers to finish the first semester before winter break and gives students more time to prepare for high-stakes exams. Additional instruction in core curriculum will better prepare students for success.”

The 2017-18 calendar is available online at www.tustin.k12.ca.us under Quick Links/School Year Calendar.

Robotics Team from Orchard Hills Places Third in World Championship



The middle school team from Orchard Hills School, led by coach Megan Englebrecht, celebrate winning the Judge’s Favorite Award and third place in robot skills at the VEX World Championship tournament in Louisville, Kentucky.

The TUSD robotics season came to a close in Louisville, Kentucky in late April at the VEX World Championship tournament.

Coach Siu Sit took two teams from Beckman High School who ranked 29th and 33rd in their divisions. Coach Jeff Farr took one team from Foothill High School who ranked 12th in their division and made it to the semifinal matches.

Coach Megan Englebrecht took a middle school team from Orchard Hills School who ranked second in their division and made it all the way to the final matches. This team, with their robot named “Skitty,” also took home a Judge’s Favorite Award and won third place in robot skills.

Robot skills is a separate event where the team shows what they can do on the game field individually with one minute of autonomous programming and one minute of driving. They were fierce competition for the teams from China and Singapore, who dominated the tournament and took home the World Championship title.

Coach Nancy Chung and Liz Root also took two Orchard Hills Elementary teams who had an outstanding showing and ranked 25th and 48th in their division as well as bringing home the Create Award. It was a definitely a world-class season for TUSD Robotics! – Submitted by Cari Williams, Digital Learning Coach and TUSD Robotics Lead.

Twelve TUSD Schools Named California Honor Roll Schools

Twelve schools in the Tustin Unified School District have been selected as 2016 Honor Roll schools by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business & Education Excellence (CBEE). They are Arroyo, Benson, Guin Foss, Hicks Canyon, Myford and Peters Canyon elementary schools; Tustin Memorial Academy; Orchard Hills School; Tustin Connect Center Online School; C.E. Utt Middle School; and Beckman and Tustin high schools.

TUSD’s 12 Honor Roll schools were recognized for demonstrating consistent high student academic achievement. For the high schools, the Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness.

The CBEE Foundation and ERP annually identify and honor the highest performing public schools in California – approximately 1,866 this year. The Honor Roll schools are consistently raising student achievement and have made significant progress toward closing the achievement gap among all students.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Neta Madison
Netragrednik

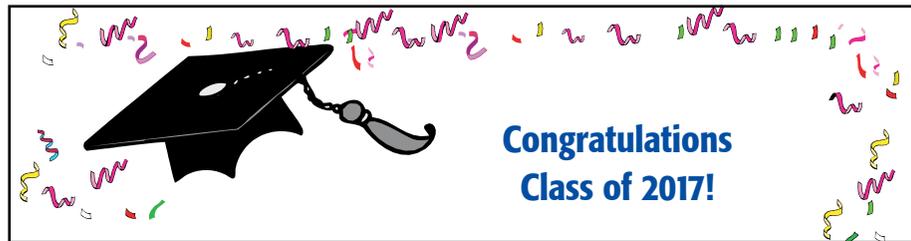
We are at the end of another successful year for Tustin Unified School District. This issue highlights the many accolades the employees and students have earned.

There are many camp/activities on pages 29-35 to help with your summer plans and student book reviews for book selections. Be sure to include the library in your summer

activities. Our Word Search Contest is on page 35 and the name of the winner of the April contest.

As always we thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is September 27 just in time to begin the new school year.

Have a wonderful summer!



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Arroyo Elementary School

1112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Amy Jones
Principal

Meeting the Special Needs of Students

We are excited to announce that Arroyo Elementary School's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year for 2017 is Laurel Brown, a very special paraeducator at our site. Laurel joined the Arroyo staff in 2012 when she

was hired as a noon duty supervisor. For the last two years, Laurel has been a special education paraeducator, working with a student with autism. Laurel is actively involved in ensuring that the student that she is assigned to meets his potential each and every day. In addition, Laurel always goes above and beyond by supporting the rest of the students in the classroom in which she is assigned. As a parent of fifth-grade twins at Arroyo, Laurel is actively involved on campus through the Arroyo Robotics Team, Girl Scouts, and much more. Way to go Laurel!



Arroyo School paraeducator Laurel Brown works with one of her students, Davis Coloma.



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Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

Maybrick Gosling-Ozer Does It All

Beckman High School's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year is Maybrick Gosling-Ozer. Mrs. Gosling-Ozer is our community liaison. She works with our students and their families to provide resources and assistance to help them be more successful in high school. As one staff member states: "She is a real go-getter and supports all of the students, staff and parents in a professional, calm and caring way." Mrs. Gosling-Ozer serves as an amazing translator for parent meetings and manages a quick turnaround whenever documents need translating. She handles disadvantaged families with the greatest of care and compassion. Mrs. Gosling-Ozer is an invaluable member of our staff and we are excited to recognize her!



Maybrick Gosling-Ozer, center with flowers, is recognized as Beckman's Classified Employee of the Year by school staff members.

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Stephanie Yang
Principal

A Valued Team Member

Beswick School's Classified Employee of the Year, Vanessa Cutwright, is a positive influence all across campus. Vanessa is a paraeducator for one of our Special Education students in the inclusion program, but her impact does not stop there. Vanessa takes it upon herself to support all students. Vanessa pulls small groups for guided

reading, supports learners during workshop, and keeps students on track and moving toward their learning goals. Vanessa is always so positive with staff and students, and her radiant smile is contagious. She is the mother hen at recess duty, taking on a supervisor's job of maintaining the safety and wellbeing of all students.

All around campus, Vanessa's special touch is magical, and her compassion knows no boundaries. We consider ourselves extremely lucky to have her on our team.



Beswick Classified Employee of the Year, Vanessa Cutwright, is congratulated by her husband, Ron, and daughters Avery, Paige and Raina.

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



Jackie Christy
Principal

One of a Kind

Kristen Egner has been named Benson's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

Miss Egner is a Transitional Kindergarten para-educator, and helps in teacher Julie Martin's class by running instructional groups, supporting individual students when needed, supervising nutrition and recess breaks, and anything else that needs to be done.

When working with our youngest students, "Miss E.," as she is known, is always patient, encouraging, and caring! In addition to working in our Transitional Kindergarten classroom, Miss E. also does yard duty for our upper-grade students. The big kids love Miss E.'s energy, and even though she is only out at recess for 15 minutes a day, she has developed strong relationships with our third- through fifth-grade students.

Miss E. is a fine example of our "BE Kind" campaign, as she always treats students with kind words and a caring heart. Congratulations, Miss Egner!



Principal Jackie Christy congratulates paraeducator Kristen Egner – Benson's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

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Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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Maggie Burdette
Principal

Celebrating Paul Marsden

Columbus Tustin Middle School is excited to announce that our 2017 Classified Employee of the Year is Paul Marsden. Mr. Marsden is our library media tech, and has been a member of our staff for the past three years.

displays to get our students excited about different topics like origami and holograms.

Mr. Marsden also handles the daily iPad needs of our school. He helps students troubleshoot apps, finds misplaced iPads, and supports the teachers by checking out loaner iPads. He also maintains our school website, making sure that all current news and school-to-home communications are posted.

He even continually updates the photos of our students and staff to show off the activities happening on campus. Congratulations, Mr. Marsden!

In this short time he has worked hard to improve and modernize our library to help create a warm and inviting learning space.

He also regularly creates special visual and hands-on



Paul Marsden celebrates the announcement that he is Columbus Tustin's Classified Employee of the Year with Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) students and Principal Maggie Burdette.

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Shining Classified Star

Currie Middle School is honored to recognize the wonderful Diane Wilson as our 2017 Classified Employee of the Year. Over the past 11 years, Mrs. Wilson has served the students, staff, and community as the school's library media technician. She assists students in locating resources

to help them with their projects, research assignments, essays, and other activities. Mrs. Wilson works with teachers, administrators, paraeducators, and other educators to build and strengthen connections between student information and research needs, curricular content, and informational resources. She inspires all who enter to develop a love for reading.

Thanks to the clean, safe and organized environment, the library has become the hub of Currie Middle School. Mrs. Wilson considers the students'

comfort while spending time in the library, and, under her leadership, the library has undergone a full transformation, with new couches, café-style tables, and all-new chairs.

Mrs. Wilson is approachable and always willing to go above and beyond to help teachers and students.



Currie library media technician Diane Wilson is surrounded by some of her fans – students Morelia Vargas, Maison Galvan, Raul Vazquez Cuevas, Emmanuel Delgado, Mayra Delgado, Aaron Beasha and Davin Beasha.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Collaboration + Laboratory = Collaboratory

Estock School teachers recently assembled to hold an after-school “play date” to launch our newest creation and innovation—the Collaboratory!

Teachers gathered together to try their hands at engineering snap circuits and invention kits as well as programming a variety of floor robots. The Collaboratory is scheduled to open in the 2017–18 school year,

and we are designing it to be a space where our students are immersed in maker supplies that include art, tools and technology to further foster and encourage creative thinking and problem solving. Just as surrounding children with books will motivate them to read, we believe that surrounding them with tools to tinker with will motivate them to design, create, and innovate.

Robotics, art, engineering, inventing, building and design challenges will all serve to inspire and build creative confidence, develop critical thinking, and foster collaborative teamwork in our Estock Eagles. We can't wait for the grand opening!



Estock Elementary School teachers try out the Vex robots.

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Foothill High School

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Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

Going Above and Beyond

Cathie Haidar is one of Foothill's Finest! Cathie is a very diligent and outstanding employee, and a huge support to all. Time and time again, no matter how big, small, easy, or intense a project might be, and no matter what she has on her plate, Cathie will go out of her way to help those in need.

Cathie is also very kind, caring, and compassionate with our students, parents,

and staff. She is extremely humble, and would do anything for anyone. An example of her "above and beyond" duties? Cathie handled the new online registration process with complete confidence and professionalism, and is our new webmaster! She takes on these tasks cheerfully, and has even cleaned up the FHS website to make navigation simple and easy for our site visitors.

Cathie represents Foothill High School with integrity and grace. She is so deserving of being Foothill's Classified Employee of the Year!



Cathie Hader, middle, is congratulated by the Foothill High Administration Team, Assistant Principal Brett D'Errico, Principal Mike Williams, and Assistant Principals Adam Hernandez and Michelle England.

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 TUS in the subject line)

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Swim Word Search by Gunnar Coop

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| Backstroke | Freestyle | Pool |
| Boards | Goggles | Pulleys |
| Breathe | Headcap | Race |
| Butterfly | Kickboards | Relay |
| Chlorine | Kicking | Strokes |
| Diving | Lane Lines | Surfacing |
| Dolphin | Medley | Times |
| Earplugs | Meets | Underwater |



Congratulations to Vidhi Dedhia
Winner of the April Word Search Contest!

Guin Foss Elementary School

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



Kelly Fresch
Principal

Classified Employee of the Year 2017

Congratulations to Katie Zayas on receiving Guin Foss Elementary School's Classified Employee of the Year Award for 2017. Although her role as a one-on-one paraeducator keeps her busy supporting a fully mainstreamed student in the general education setting, the entire staff

recognizes the incredible support Kayti offers our school community. Kayti instructs small groups of students daily in the area of math, and she quickly jumps in across all academic areas as students present needs. As a recess supervisor, she can be counted on to provide a safe environment, as evidenced by the hundreds of students who seek her out by name. Kayti also holds the title of parliamentarian on the PTO Executive Board, where she coordinates family movie nights, book fairs, the annual holiday store, and camp fund-raising.

Kayti has been at Guin Foss for eight years now as a parent and employee, and the staff and students just love her!



Katie Zayas and Mrs. Soto's third grade class

Robert Heideman Elementary School

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



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Upon This Rock We Build

As we near the year's end, it's important to celebrate the contributions of the various groups and individuals that made this year at Heideman Elementary School so exceptional.

Our PTO did an outstanding job of raising funds, supporting students and teachers, and being a bedrock for the volunteers who make our special events so successful and well attended. They model for our students what it means to give of oneself and to serve an organization

and its individuals. A special thanks to Luz Sekella, our outgoing PTO president. You will be missed.

Jodi Levesque, a kindergarten teacher at Heideman, built an exemplary student council, which also helped to make this an exceptional year. Among their accomplishments are doubling fund-raising, inspecting and auditing the walking routes to school with the Orange County Health Department, reporting their audit findings to the city of Tustin, raising more than \$5,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and purchasing a backdrop for Heideman's Roadrunner News video show.



Heideman's shining stars include Fifth-Grade Student Council members Kimberly Villafana, Julie Lopez, Cali Fields, Chris Rodas, Alfonso Melchor and Kathleen Silva.

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

A Talent for Connecting with Students

Heritage Elementary School is proud to announce Nancy Castro, known as “Miss Nancy” by our students, as our Classified Employee of the Year. As a classroom paraeducator, Miss Nancy supports the education of students in teacher Liz Holcomb’s kindergarten/first-grade class.

Miss Nancy is a positive and professional member of the Heritage community. She is unique in her passion for being a contributor to the betterment of our students’ lives, her ability to communicate, and her pursuit of continuous improvement as a professional. Miss Nancy is flexible, positive, cheerful, and forward thinking. Miss Nancy has a remarkable talent for teaching children to read, and, through targeted instruction, has helped many students reach personal goals and grade-level standards.



Nancy Castro supports kindergarten and first grade students as a classroom paraeducator at Heritage School.

In addition to her regular job duties, Miss Nancy supports afterschool family activities and participates in the Tustin Unified School District Classified Leadership Academy. Heritage is fortunate to have Miss Nancy on the team!

Ladera *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

A Superstar in His Own Right

Ladera Elementary School is beyond excited to present its Classified Employee of the Year, Eric Calvario. Eric serves as lead occupational therapist, serving several different schools and many students throughout the district.

Ladera is very fortunate to be one of his sites, as well as his home base. Eric is kind, caring and compassionate, and our students just adore working with him. He is also extremely hard working and dedicated. He works tirelessly to ensure that things are well organized for his teammates.

One of our favorite Eric stories is that one morning before school, while out

walking his dogs, he returned home to find that his roommate had left and locked him out. He didn’t panic, he just jogged the two miles to Ladera with his dogs to ensure that he wasn’t late for his four scheduled assessments. His dedication to his work is unparalleled!



Ladera Classified Employee of the Year Eric Calvario, holding balloons and flowers, is surrounded by colleagues and friends.

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Eric Kilian
Principal

Champion for Students

Every student. Every day. Above and beyond, full of dedication, heart and soul. As paraeducator extraordinaire at Hewes Middle School, Jennifer Keuillian embodies daily excellence for students, and she is the school’s 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

As she works with students in grades six through eight in all content areas on campus, Mrs. Keuillian gets rave reviews from the teachers and students about not only her heart for all students but also the academic success and challenges they overcome with her support. She never gives up on a student, and they know she believes in them.

Not only this, but Mrs. Keuillian also serves as our Associated Student Body (ASB) accountant at Hewes. She is additionally very involved with Hewes Lacrosse. She is a true gift to the students and staff, and it is evident that she pours her heart into all that she does!



Hewes paraeducator Jennifer Keuillian, center, receives flowers from Principal Eric Kilian and special education teacher Grace Bibona in honor of being selected as the school’s 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

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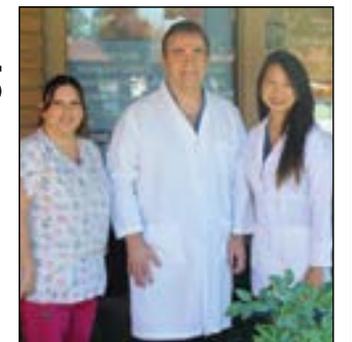
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Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Deena Vela
Principal

Bringing Smiles to School

Hicks Canyon's Classified Employee of the Year Joshua Rodriguez, or "Mr. Josh," is a well-known face in the school community. He has been at Hicks Canyon for six years as a kindergarten para-educator and noon duty supervisor.

Mr. Josh is known to take a frown and turn it upside down. If a student is having a hard day, Mr. Josh can turn it into the best day ever! He invests in every student to help them stay positive about school. He is also a wonderful role model who sets high expectations for our Hicks Canyon Huskies.



Hicks Canyon staff member Joshua Rodriguez has a big smile on his face when it was announced he was named the school's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

Mr. Josh goes above and beyond in his duties. You can find him spending extra time talking to students, helping keep hundreds of children organized at the lunch tables, playing basketball on the courts, and bringing smiles to everyone around him. We thank him for bringing joy and laughter to Hicks Canyon School.

Hillview *High School*

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



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Guiding Students to Success

I am proud to announce Hillview High School's 2017 Employees of the Year, Bertha Cardoza and Richard Chapman.

Hillview High School Teacher of the Year Bertha Cardoza has worked at the school for the past 11 years. She teaches art, computer graphics, and leadership, and serves as our yearbook advisor. Ms. Cardoza's background is similar to many of her students. She came to the United States when she was five years old. Despite coming from a family that was not well off financially, she persevered and graduated from college.

Richard Chapman has been selected as the school's Classified Employee of the Year for his great work as a paraeducator. He does an amazing job helping students who need some extra academic support.

I'm very proud of the great work Ms. Cardoza and Mr. Chapman are doing here at Hillview!



Hillview's Classified Employee of the Year Richard Chapman and Teacher of the Year Bertha Cardoza are eager to help and support students at the school.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



Katy Sheyka
Principal

An Inspiration to All

It is always great when you hear that a former student is thriving. It is even better when that former student comes back to serve their elementary school as an employee.

Loma Vista proudly recognizes Alicia Fortier, a former Cougar, as our Classified Employee of the Year. For the past two years Miss Fortier has supported dozens of students in her role as a reading intervention para-educator. She is an extremely passionate and highly effective employee who regularly goes above and beyond to support the students she works with in any way possible.

Driven, talented, and collaborative, Miss Fortier took it upon herself to write a grant in order to purchase additional reading intervention materials for our students. She was awarded \$5,000, which was used to do just that.

Alicia is currently working towards her teaching credential to become a high school biology teacher. She is an inspiration to us all!



Loma Vista paraeducator Alicia Fortier holds a vase of flowers and poses with her parents, Cathy and Ron, and sister, Michelle, during the school's Classified Employee of the Year announcement.

Myford Elementary School

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



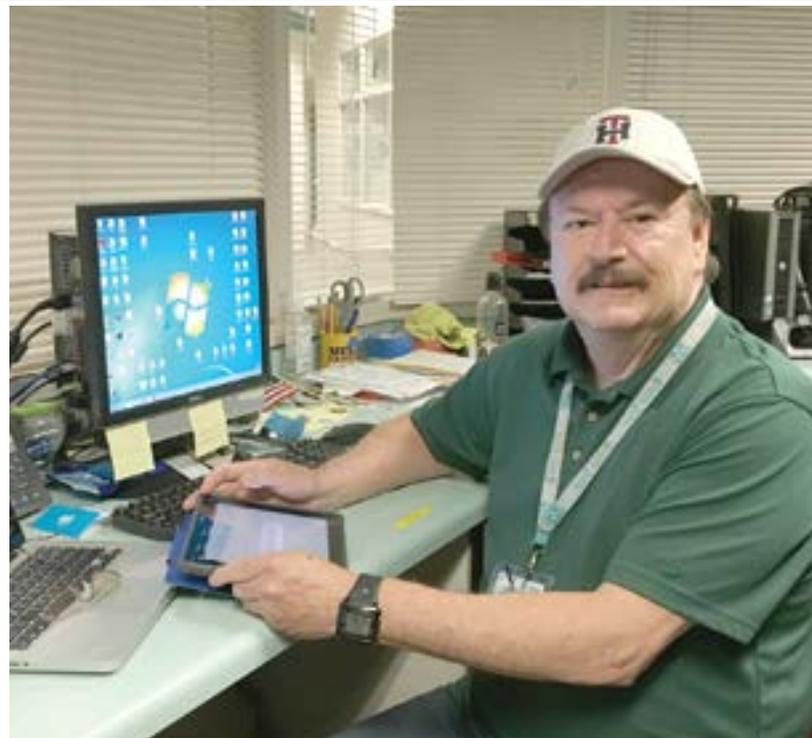
Rena Fairchild
Principal

Plugged-In to Learning

Technologist Tom Hoy has been instrumental in the change and growth of technology at Myford Elementary and other schools in the TUSD. Although he is only at the site part time, he still makes himself available full time to all teachers and staff.

Tom assists the staff with any glitches that occur. He is always willing to solve tech problems, and never makes anyone feel like they don't know how to do something. There have even been times when he has found that the "problem" was a cord not fully plugged in. But he still makes our teachers and staff feel as if it was something that anybody could have overlooked.

Tom has helped organize and manage not only iPads, computers, and SmartBoards, but also any other piece of equipment that helps students learn. He is kind and gracious to all of us. We are so proud to have him represent Myford as its 2017 Classified Employee of the Year!



Tom Hoy stays busy juggling multiple tech projects at Myford School.

W.R. Nelson Elementary School

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



Melinda Smith
Principal

Dedication and Enthusiasm

Nelson Elementary School is pleased to recognize Matthew Moe as our 2017 Classified Employee of the Year. Mr. Moe is a special education para-educator who helps all of our students at Nelson, not just those he is assigned to assist.

But Matt's support extends beyond the classroom. He accompanied our Nelson fifth-graders to the mountains during Outdoor Science Camp, spending four days there so that they would have the necessary structure and support to be successful while away from home.

Matt primarily works with Nelson physical education teacher Michael Brunet. This is the first year that Nelson has had a teacher dedicated to physical education. With them, our students have learned and refined

such tasks as movement concepts, tossing, catching, locomotor skills, and collaborative skills. The success of our program is dependent upon the dedication and enthusiasm of para-educators like Matt Moe.



Nelson special education paraeducator Matthew Moe, foreground, leads students in a warm-up P.E. activity.

Orchard Hills School

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



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Employees of the Year

Orchard Hills School's Teacher of the Year, Liz Root, teaches fifth grade. As an innovative educator, Mrs. Root embraces purposeful uses of technology and incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities while providing real world connections

within her student-centered classroom. It is not unusual to find her teaching science wearing her white lab coat, facilitating a Skype discussion with a future astronaut, or coaching the robotics team. Every day is an adventure in learning with Mrs. Root.

The school's Classified Employee of the Year, Laurie Lawver, welcomes the students into the library every day. As our library media technician, her passion for our students goes beyond her job title. In addition to providing a media center that is welcoming and

interactive, she manages all of our student digital tablets, coordinates and runs our talent show, brings authors to school to meet with students, co-runs our Tech Club, runs Battle of the Books, and is part of our Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) team.



Orchard Hills 2017 Employees of the Year Liz Root and Laurie Lawver celebrate with flowers.

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Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Brooke Carreras
Principal

New Innovation Station

Twenty-first century learning requires students to be critical thinkers, develop creativity, and be skilled communicators and collaborators. To support our scholars in developing these skills, we have renovated our computer lab and launched our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Innovation Station. Students have access to green-screen technology for video production and digital storytelling, 3-D printing, and codable technology such as Ozobots, Bee-bots, Spheros, and Dash and Dot. Students can also access a variety of Osmo games that support math, spatial relations, reading and coding. They can also hone their artistic skills using Osmo Masterpiece.

A maker space is an extension

of our Innovation Station, where students have access to materials they need to solve real-world challenges by creating and inventing solutions. Our fifth-grade tech team worked with staff and students to make this launch a huge success.



The Peters Canyon Fifth-Grade Tech Team includes, front row, Kelly Heneghan, Camryn Hayek, Natalia Lugassy, Joelle Kim, Sean Arata and Sean Hoang; middle row, Mika Sakaeda, Hannah Le, Spencer Martin, Maia Choe, Aidan Vu and Jordan Kikuta; and back row, Ethan Everitt, Jaden Santos, Amisha Tilak, Kristin Palmquist, Mira Kincaid, Madeleine Chen, Asha Athaluru and Jane Wierks.

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Margo Choe is named Pioneer's 2017 Outstanding Community Partner

Margo Choe is a dynamic force within the Pioneer professional learning community, and more specifically as Pioneer's PTO president and as the Tustin Public School Foundation's executive board member. Her passion and her laser-like focus on Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways has made a significant impact on the funding of programs and the professional development of Pioneer teachers. Her understanding of the need for fiscal responsibility, coupled with her visionary outlook on 21st century learning, has created a positive urgency for parents to actively become involved in their students' education. She has rallied the community, publicly and privately, to support all students and programs

at Pioneer. Pioneer is extremely grateful for Mrs. Choe's leadership on the PTO and we are fortunate that she will continue to serve on the PTO executive board during the 2017-18 school year. Thank you Mrs. Choe for everything you do for Pioneer!



Margo Choe, third from the left, is honored by TPSF Board Member Kristin Simpkins, Principal Tracey Vander Hayden and Assistant Principal Troy Fresch.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Will Neddersen
Principal

Supporting Student Success

Congratulations to Danny Villegas for being named Red Hill's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year! "Mr. Danny" is our night custodian. He has been a part of the Red Hill team for four years. Mr. Danny was selected by fellow staff members because of his can-do attitude in all that he does.

Mr. Danny arrives each day dedicated to completing his cleaning run and supporting the needs of the students and staff members. When the office calls for support to go and open a classroom or to help a parent bring something onto campus, Mr. Danny always comes with a positive attitude and the answer of "Yes, of course!"

Many might not see the work Mr. Danny does, but we all appreciate coming to school the next day. Red Hill is fortunate to have Mr. Danny as a part of our team for his dedication to students and the school.



Red Hill custodian Danny Villegas cleans the school library at night for another busy day.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

The Heart of Thorman

The Thorman Elementary School community has a tight bond. We can attribute this culture to our community liaison, Patricia Sanchez. She has been the heart of our school for the last 28 years. Her latest endeavor, our Bike Rodeo, was responsible for the 100 bikes that our third-graders won in December. The night was an extravaganza which brought our entire community together!

Patricia leads or has her hand in all of the wonderful events that draw families to our school. Some of her daily endeavors include finding clothing, housing, and food for local families in need, and also reaching out to our parents to show how much we need them. If she can't find a resource, she will take care of the problem herself. She often even makes phone calls from home in the evenings to reach those parents who work during the day.

Thorman loves and appreciates all that Mrs. Sanchez does for our students, staff, and community!



Patricia Sanchez, right, takes a moment from running Thorman's Bike Rodeo for a picture with extraordinary community volunteer Laurie Abelow.

Tustin Adult School / Sycamore High School

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



Virginia Burrows
Coordinator

Admirable, Persistent Learner

Some adults face tremendous adversity to accomplish their goals, and Amanda Douk is a shining example of success.

Amanda's background includes fleeing her native Cambodia on foot with her husband and newborn son in the early 1980s. After a brief stay in Thailand, Amanda's family made it to the U.S where they started life anew.

"My family sold shoes at a swap meet, where I practiced my English," Amanda said. Later, she worked seven days a week as a software inspector so that her three children could go to college.

Once retired, Amanda came to Tustin Adult School, where she is improving her reading and writing.

"I love that I have the time to learn again, and I'm so grateful to my teacher, Wendy," she said.

Amanda returns to Cambodia each year to build wells. "It is important to give back when our lives are good," she said. "It makes me happy to make a difference."



Tustin Adult School student Amanda Douk, left, gets a helping hand from her Basic Skills teacher Wendy Marco.

Tustin Connect Online School

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



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Administrator

Lights, Camera, Action!

Tustin Connect has several student actors who regularly audition and act in various commercials, movies and television shows. This passion for acting and performing has been contagious and has spread across the school, resulting in a student-led proposal by our fourth- and fifth-graders to produce a live play.

Students picked parts and discussed the different roles and duties that are associated with a play, including actors, costume designers, set designers and advertisers. Students self-selected into different groups depending on their interests and skills and began working.

After five weeks of focused and diligent preparation, the students were ready to

perform. Students expressed some nerves on the day of the performance, but they were excited to finally share the fruits of their labor. Parents, family members, staff and Tustin Connect middle school students attended the performance. The audience was entertained and applauded enthusiastically as the curtains closed. Stay tuned for the sequel!



Tustin Connect students Connor Lin, Payton Lin, Arlene Njuru, Elliot Kim and Parker Lee pose for a picture after a masterful performance.

Tustin High School

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



Christine Matos
Principal

A True Motivator

We are thrilled to announce that counseling technician, Darius Durham, is our Classified Employee of the Year! In addition to being a Link Crew advisor, Mr. Durham supports the Guidance Department by scheduling student appointments, managing college visitations, mentoring students, and assisting in other college- and career-readiness programs.

While working in the department, Mr. Durham has been able to identify students with academic and discipline issues. This allows Mr. Durham to actively mentor those students by modeling his motivating, engaging and positive personality. He encourages them to be the best that they can be and is consistently there to support them every step of the way. He is always available to listen and provide advice, and is sure to celebrate the successes of all our students.

Mr. Durham genuinely takes pride in making certain every staff member, student, parent and community member feels welcome and at home at Tustin High School.



Tustin counseling technician Darius Durham is proud to be named the school's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

Tustin Memorial Academy

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



Sharon Maeda
Principal

For the Love of Reading

Janeen Sample has been named Tustin Memorial Academy's 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

As the school's library media technician, Janeen engages students in storytelling activities to help foster the love of reading every single day. She creates a safe, fun, and inviting place to come and explore the fascinating world of books. She also decorates the library according to the different themes and holidays, and even dresses up herself throughout the year.

Mrs. Sample also conducts estimation games, runs the "Birthday Book Club," and opens up the library twice a week to allow students to come and read during lunchtime. One of the highlights for our fifth-graders is her "Goodbye Wall," where she writes each student's name on a dog bone and displays it by the doghouse on the wall.

Our students know that this is a special recognition for a person they greatly admire. Students love going to the library, and Mrs. Sample is the reason why!



Library media technician Janeen Sample is congratulated by her husband for being selected as TMA's Classified Employee of the Year.

Tustin Ranch Elementary School

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



Tracy Barquer
Principal

One Cool Coyote!

Cheri Geurtz is one special person! This dedicated employee has been honored as Tustin Ranch's Classified Employee of the Year.

Mrs. Geurtz assists students in the classroom with additional one-on-one tutoring support to help children meet their individualized special-education goals. She can be found around campus in classrooms and on the playground. Her beautiful smile and gentle spirit endear her to students and teachers alike. She is the first to jump in to help and often the last one to leave campus.

"I love my job!" Mrs. Geurtz said. "Working with all the children here is so rewarding, and our school is the best!"

We are just as proud of all her accomplishments here at Tustin Ranch as that loving mom is proud of her terrific family! From home to school to her service at her church, this is one busy lady. Thanks for all you do Mrs. Geurtz!



Tustin Ranch Cool Coyotes Jay Cho, Estella Rangel and Manny Wright finish their work with paraeducator Cheri Geurtz.

C.E. Utt Middle School

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



Dr. CK Green
Principal

Esteban Salgado Connects

Utt Middle School has many great classified support-staff members on campus. Among them, Esteban Salgado stands out as our 2017 Classified Employee of the Year.

As a part of his regular job duties as our lead campus supervisor, he supervises students before, during and after school on campus. He has the vision and ability to continually improve our campus-supervision process, making Utt a safe place for children.

Mr. Salgado goes above and beyond by making connections with children. He gives them good advice during the day; he participates with them during PE by running the mile, shooting baskets or hitting golf balls; he chaperones school dances; and he organizes lunchtime intermural sports activities and tournaments for students to participate in. He even won the staff chili cook-off!

Mr. Salgado goes above and beyond around campus without hesitation!



"Chef" Esteban Salgado displays his Chili Championship trophy from a staff chili cook-off at Utt School.

Marjorie Veeh Elementary School

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Making a Positive Impact

Recognized as Marjorie Veeh Elementary School's Classified Employee of the Year for 2017, TyRon Jackson, better known as TJ to all who know him has worked for TUSD for 10 years—the past two years as a behavior interventionist at Veeh.

Working with children is a calling for Mr. Jackson. Apart from having a positive impact on the lives of the students, he has a passion for serving others and improving the lives of children and their families. TJ is the founder of Operation Warm Wishes, an organization dedicated to helping and serving the homeless, troubled youth, struggling families, veterans and senior citizens in need throughout Orange County and beyond.

The only thing greater than Mr. Jackson's love for service of our students and others is his humility. He is known to raise people's spirits with his kind words and encouragement but will never boast about his good deeds. We salute you, Mr. Jackson!



Veeh Principal Rafael Plascencia honors the school's Classified Employee of the Year, TyRon Jackson.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

150 El Camino Real, Suite 140, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/832-6299 • www.tpsf.net



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Thank You!

Thanks to the support of our community, the Tustin Public Schools Foundation awarded grants to every Tustin Unified school this year. Funds were used for innovation labs and makerspaces, outdoor science camp, field trips, professional development, PE, college and career planning, STEAM projects and more.

For the second year, the Foundation also awarded competitive Innovative Grants to the following Tustin Unified teachers:

- Lynda Chung - 3-D Printing in a Math Class
- Melanie Formanek - Creative Robotics- Femineers
- Kathi Denny - Creativity Lab/Creating Tomorrow's Innovators
- Kris Posavec - Fantastic Femineers
- Elizabeth Holcomb - Innovation through Osmo Explorer Kits
- Susan Davidson - Lego Engineering
- Cari Williams - Middle School Science Mobile GrowLab
- Jeannette Sweet - Mozart and Me!
- Jennifer Quinn - Professional ProBot Programmers

- Thuy Huynh - Take a Stand with Banksy
- Denise Christensen - The Green Thumb Challenge
- Elizabeth Catron - Tinkering Toolkit
- Melody Drumm - Utilizing SmartMusic to Close the Achievement Gap for Title I Students

TPSF appreciates the teachers and principals that participated in the grant program. We are grateful for the volunteer grant committee and the donors that make this possible. Thank you!



Third grade students send notes of thanks for their Virtual Field Trip grant that allowed them to experience the world through Skype and other technology.

Business Services

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



Construction Teams Gear up for Summer Work

District staff will be managing or directly performing over 130 maintenance and construction projects across 29 schools this summer.

The majority of the scheduled projects will be completed over the summer break, while others such as the solar carport/shade structures will still be in the works during the school year. Each respective project varies in scope and complexity and ranges from a few hundred dollars to about \$8 million for campus improvements at Robert Heideman Elementary School.

The list of major summer projects include:

- Carpet replacement, roof replacement, exterior and interior painting, concrete work, and slurry and striping at various schools
- New lighting and heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit replacements at various school sites



Rendering of the new front entry at Robert Heideman Elementary School.

- Solar carports and shade structures at 15 schools
- Relocation of the Special Education office
- Twelve-classroom building addition and front entry enhancements at Heideman School
- Parking lot expansions at Helen Estock Elementary School, and Hillview and Tustin high schools

Educational Services

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



Tustin Connect Expands to High School

For the past two years, Tustin Connect has provided a flexible online schooling option for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. There has been tremendous interest from the community to expand Tustin Connect beyond K-8 to include an accredited college preparatory high school. We are excited to announce that Tustin Connect High School will open in the 2017-2018 school year as a fully accredited online high school with UC approved "a-g" courses.

Similar to Tustin Connect K-8, Tustin Connect High School will provide students with a highly flexible online education, while receiving the same level of expert instruction and support that students experience at all Tustin Unified schools. Tustin Connect students have regular access to meet individually with highly qualified

teachers and to collaborate with their peers in a blended learning environment.

In addition to receiving a flexible college preparatory education, Tustin Connect students will be eligible to participate in a variety of academic and extracurricular activities. The students will also have unique opportunities for internships and coursework through the Coastline Regional Occupation Program, and through local community colleges such as Irvine Valley College and Santiago Canyon College.

The offices and classrooms for Tustin Connect High School will be located on the alternative education campus at 1151 San Juan Street in Tustin. Enrollment is now open for interested students in grades 9-12. Interested students and families are encouraged to visit www.tustinconnect.org, or call 714-730-7395 to learn more about this exciting new option for high school students.

Nutrition Services

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



Taste Tests and Free Summer Meals

Our middle and high school students have a choice between seven to 10 daily lunch combos. Like many adults, they gravitate towards their favorite "tried and true" entrees.

Teresa Squibb
Director

We have recently been spotlighting our made-from-scratch entrees to encourage the students to try new foods. One of the entrees we have featured is our Hassisa Chicken. This is roasted, all-natural Jidori chicken thighs marinated with roasted red peppers, cumin, coriander, fennel, caraway, chilies de arbol, fresh garlic, tomato, olive oil, and salt. These taste tests allow our students to menu new foods items and provide us with immediate feedback.

In other news, the Nutrition Services Department is providing free summer meals through the Seamless Summer Program at the Tustin Boys and Girls



Nutrition Services Manager Jim Kamuran and Foothill High School Cafeteria Manager Linda Smith serve Foothill students samples of Hassisa Chicken.

Technology in TUSD Schools

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



Powerful Practice

By Garrett Kerr, Coordinator of Educational Technology

In Tustin Unified, there are more than 100 teachers each year who receive instructional coaching. Many teachers apply to have a Connect coach or a digital-learning coach help them provide more instructional rigor, better engage students, or integrate technology. These coaches do so

with hope and a vision that the teachers will have a transformative experience.

Erin Thomas from Beckman High School had that experience this year. When asked about the most significant thing she has learned this year by working with a digital-learning coach, she said, "Working with Crystal has helped me to create a new 'habit of mind,' which is to incorporate technology so it enhances student learning and increases student engagement. The process has been very reflective for both me and my students, and this has helped me to make better decisions when I plan lessons and design curriculum."

Positive change through powerful practice!



Beckman High School student Yael Alonso rehearses his script before recording his podcast on The Glass Menagerie.



Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

The Wonder of Muppets!

Book title: *I am Jim Henson*
 Author: Brad Meltzer
 Have you ever watched Sesame Street? Do you like the character 'Kermit'? Have you wondered who made these funny Muppets? There was a boy who loved



watching movies, laughing and pretending with costumes. When he was thirteen, he saw a new technology—television at his friend's house. He was so amazed. He asked his dad, "Can we get a TV?" so many times. Finally, his family got a TV. The way they talked to each other in TV--it was like those puppets were alive. He wanted to work in television so badly. Finally, he got a job. He worked very hard each night and eventually created many Muppets. His Muppets' faces could move and express feelings. They looked alive. On November 10, 1969, the first episode of Sesame Street aired. It was a hit! It taught kids numbers and letters through Muppets. In this book, Jim Hansen says to kids, "Never stop laughing, sharing, imagining, dreaming and creating". I especially like this book because it has many illustrations.

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.

Book Review by Abbas



Abbas D.

A Creepy and Fun Read

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.

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Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

Captivating Read

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.



Sophie's Choice



Sophie O.

Magic On Every Page

Dragon Hatcher by

Bruce Coville is a book about a boy named Jeremy Thatcher, who one day while running away from a girl that was trying to kiss him, finds his way to a magic shop in his town that he had never seen before. When he goes inside the magic shop, a color changing ball grabs his attention and he decides to buy it. However, when he gets home, he realizes that the ball was not a ball at all, but a dragon's egg! Jeremy finds the instructions on how to hatch the egg and with the help of the librarian; he is able to learn how to care for the dragon. After the dragon grows to almost the same size as he is, he realizes it's time to let the dragon go back to where he came from. He had to let her go because the dragon would not survive in his world.

Even though Jeremy's dad was a veterinarian, Jeremy knew nothing about taking care of a pet, especially a dragon! By taking care of the dragon, Jeremy learns that he can do things he never thought he could.

I give this book 4 out of 5 stars. It's really interesting and I loved reading about the magic on each page.



Sophie is a 4th grader who is a lover of all books, loves to bake, act, draw, sew and play soccer.

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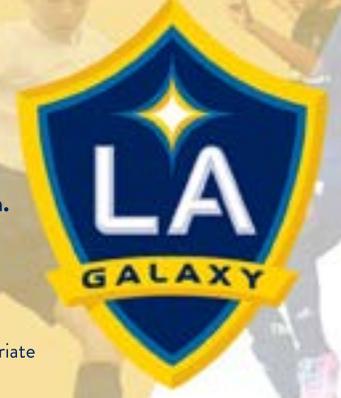
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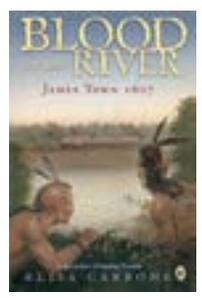
Alana's Book Review



Blood On the River

By: Elisa Carbone

Samuel Collins, a tough and hardened preteen boy, was only a young child when his mother passed away. Now snarky, immature (yet undoubtedly intelligent), and living on the streets of England, he isn't personable in the slightest. But when he's given the chance to have a fresh start in the recently discovered "new world," will he take it? Will he put his aggression, pride, and past behind him, or will he endanger all those that care for him?



I'd give this book 5 stars because, while reading this, I couldn't help but compare Samuel to my younger self. Seeing the main character overcome the same social and ego issues that I overcame really made me appreciate this book. Elisa introduces young children to characters with more complex troubles and personalities than those in other children's literature, and that is truly amazing.

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



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