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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District



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District Message

On April 28, 2017, Superintendent of Schools Michael L. Christensen announced his retirement, effective August 1, 2017. Mr. Christensen served in the Orange Unified School District for over 20 years and as Superintendent for the past six years. Subsequently, the Board of Trustees have held special meetings to discuss retaining a consultant to conduct a robust search for a new successor Superintendent. Until a new Superintendent is appointed and to ensure leadership continuity within the District, the Board of Education is focusing on hiring an Interim Superintendent while the search is being conducted.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to another school year. New school years are always exciting as students see old friends, meet new friends, meet their teachers, find their way around the school and settle into a routine. This is an exciting time to be a student with the academic choices and advances in technology.

We have a new glossy cover booklet format. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices as we bring you the excellence from OUSD.

Our next issue is December 6. In the meantime, have a fun Halloween and Thanksgiving!

School News

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OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Justin Stanfield
Coordinator

Welcome the 2017-2018 school year! The Alternative Education site is excited to start a new year and serve the needs of our students.

Our campus proudly hosts the following programs; Adult Education, Adult Transition, Community Day School, Home School (K-8), Home/Hospital Services, Independent Study (9-12) and Workability. Our teachers and support staff do a tremendous job of educating and having a positive impact on the lives of our students. It has truly been a joy to watch our students blossom under the direction of our fine staff!

I am very happy to say I am in the beginning of my 2nd year in my current position as Coordinator of Alternative Education. Prior to my time here at Alternative Education I had the good fortune of serving as an Assistant Principal at Villa Park High School for five years. My experience at VPHS has left a lasting impression on who I am today as an administrator. Before moving into administration I was a classroom teacher in Irvine Unified School District, I also coached baseball and football during my time as a teacher as well!

I look forward to an outstanding year and if I can ever be of service to anyone, do not hesitate to contact me.



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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Fayroze Mostafa
Principal

Mrs. Mostafa is PROUD to be entering her third year at Anaheim Hills Elementary School, home of the Panthers! She has made AHES an exciting place to be as it is a place which is always looking for ways to improve instruction for their fabulous students. Mrs. Mostafa's goal is to challenge each student to grow and surpass their potential in an environment that fosters collaboration and creativity, and harnesses every effort to achieve academic excellence.

Mrs. Mostafa encourages all students to find a path that excites them. Every student at AHES can tell you that after

high school there is college. They can also share with you what year they will graduate high school and what year they are expected to graduate from college.

This year Anaheim Hills is starting a morning fitness program where all students will start the day with exercise. Mrs. Mostafa is also starting the process of creating a STEAM Lab. AHES is always keeping things fun for everyone with a hands on approach to learning!

Mrs. Mostafa is PROUD to be entering her third year at Anaheim Hills Elementary School, home of the Panthers! She is looking forward to another exciting and productive 2017-18 school year!

California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. John Albert
Principal

Dr. Albert leads the California Elementary team with over 19 years of educational leadership experience in which he has served as a teacher and assistant principal at the high school, middle school assistant principal and principal, as a K-8 school principal, and supporting English learners at the district level. He has proudly served at Title I schools and has experience bridging the achievement gap, integrating technology

to enhance 21st century learning, and supporting English learners. Dr. Albert earned a bachelor's of arts degree from the University of Redlands, and a master's degree and doctorate degree from California State University, Fullerton. His wife is a second grade teacher and they have two sons, one in 4th grade and one in Middle School. He is first generation American. His father immigrated to the United States from Hungary after WWII and his

mother was from Ireland. Both came to build a better life for themselves and their future family. It is with this same sense of passion that he entered the education field with the goal of helping to build better lives for students.

"We continue to build upon our success that earned us a Gold Ribbon and Title I Achieving school award. As a team we continue our journey of being a premiere one-to-one iPad school and a leader in innovation. Our focus remains on preparing our students to be college and career ready by developing sound foundation skills in reading, mathematical reasoning, science application, and technology integration. Our students apply these skills while mastering 21st century standards. We are also ecstatic to expand upon our very successful Science, Technology, Engineer, Arts, and Math (STEAM) lab and expanding the Spanish Dual Immersion program into the 2nd grade" said principal Dr. Albert.

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Craig Abercrombie
Principal

Craig Abercrombie is excited to start the 2017-2018 school year at Canyon High School. He is entering his 20th year as an educator and his 15th year in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). After graduating from college, Craig began his teaching career at Yuma High School in Yuma, Arizona. He joined OUSD as an English teacher and the head boys' basketball coach at Orange High School in 2003. While at Orange High, he also served as the athletic director before

becoming an assistant principal in 2011. As the assistant principal, he was responsible for special education, interventions and curriculum and instruction.

Craig is extremely proud of the commitment to excellence and the amazing accomplishments by the

students and staff at Canyon High School. He feels extremely fortunate to have been able to share in the many successes of the past year with his fellow Comanche community and looks forward to the many accomplishments to come this year.

Growing up in small towns in Oklahoma and Texas with educator parents, Craig understands the important role a school plays as a part of the community and enjoys working with all stakeholders to make Canyon High School the best it can be. He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Arlington and holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education administration. Craig and his wife, Veronica, are residents of Orange and are the proud parents of a six-year-old son, Braxton, who attends Serrano Elementary in OUSD.

Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Diane Lew
Principal

Diane Lew is looking forward to her second year as the principal of Cambridge Elementary School. Prior to this position, Ms. Lew worked as one of Orange Unified School District's Special Education Coordinators, as well as an elementary school Resource Specialist and Special Day Class teacher. She also has experience as an elementary and middle school general education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ms. Lew holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from San Francisco State University and Master's degree in Educational Administration from National University. Ms. Lew has a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, an Education Specialist Instructional Credential for Mild to Moderate Disabilities, and an Administrative Services Credential. Ms. Lew believes in a collaborative school environment

in which talented and dedicated teachers deliver 21st century instruction in a fun and safe environment. This approach encourages students to work together to take academic risks using communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity to solve real-world problems that will support them in reaching their full potential and becoming college and career ready.

Ms. Lew is honored to be part of the Cambridge Elementary School team. She enjoys collaborating with staff, families, students, and the community to ensure that all student needs are met by maintaining a safe, structured, and inclusive environment that encourages students to develop a growth mindset, gives students the confidence needed to become creative problem-solvers, and promotes positive relationships and responsible behaviors.

Welcome to the 2017/2018 school year!

Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Karen Hansen
Coordinator

Dr. Karen Hansen is pleased to return to Canyon Hills School after an informative year working with the Orange County Department of Education. In her background is a unique blend of experience in the fields of both health care and education. As a Registered Nurse, she has worked in the hospital setting, as a school nurse, and as a school health

administrator. She then transitioned into the area of special education administration, earning a doctoral degree in education. Dr. Hansen has spent much of her career working with students with special physical and educational needs. She is committed to furthering the positive work done by the staff and families at Canyon Hills School for these special students.

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Erika Krohn
Principal

Mrs. Erika Krohn is the proud principal of Canyon Rim Elementary School since 2014. Mrs. Krohn enjoys working with Canyon Rim's dynamic group of teachers and talented staff to consistently provide the most effective teaching practices for each child, from struggling students to advanced learners. Under her leadership, Canyon Rim Elementary School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School in 2016 for their exemplary implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Prior to coming to Canyon Rim Elementary, Mrs. Krohn was principal of Sycamore Elementary and Yorbita Elementary. Her recognitions include: Orange Unified Administrator of the Year in 2012/2013, PTA Outstanding Administrator in 2013, and Outstanding Administrator from Los Angeles County Bilingual Director Association in 2008. She has also

served as a vice principal, program specialist, and teacher in Rowland Unified School District.

Mrs. Krohn is a product of Orange Unified Schools: Taft Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle School, and Villa Park High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University, and a Master's Degree from National University.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krohn enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 children. When not at Canyon Rim, she can be found at her kids' sporting events, working out at Pure Barre, and skiing the slopes of Mammoth. Mrs. Krohn is looking forward to another productive year at Canyon Rim Elementary. She and the staff will be working collaboratively to provide extraordinary learning experiences that the students will never forget!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Welcome to Cerro Villa Middle School, home of the VIKINGS! Mrs. Ogan is proud and honored to enter her fourth year as principal of CVMS. Prior to her serving OUSD, Mrs. Ogan served as middle school assistant principal, summer school principal, teacher on special assignment, middle school math teacher, and elementary school teacher in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) for 16 years. She also taught for nine years in the Walnut Valley Unified School District as a middle school teacher and one year as an elementary teacher in the Ontario-Montclair Unified School District.

Mrs. Ogan received her bachelor's degree in child development with a minor in mathematics and a master's degree in educational administration, both from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a multiple-subject teaching credential with an authorization in mathematics and an administrative services credential.

Along with Mrs. Ogan, Cerro Villa is proud to be showcased as the only comprehensive middle school in Orange County to become WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accredited this year! Cerro Villa is also considered one of the top ten schools in the nation recognized for its STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) program. This is a tribute to the dedication, performance and high expectations shared by its teachers, students, parents and community. Congratulations!

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jana Saenz
Principal

Jana Saenz will be starting her third year as principal at Chapman Hills and is very excited to have another fulfilling year. She is honored to be working with the amazing Bobcat staff, students and parent community in an effort to work collaboratively in continuing the wonderful traditions and level of success Chapman Hills has experienced in the past.

Mrs. Saenz is a transplant to Southern California. She grew up in Tucson, AZ and moved to California to attend Chapman University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She then received her Master's Degree in Special education from Chapman University and later an Administrative Credential for California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Saenz has served many different roles, including special education teacher, general education teacher, instructional coach

and assistant principal during her 15+ years in the Orange Unified School District. She has a passion for curriculum and instruction and conducted many trainings in the areas of Thinking Maps, enVision Math and California State Standards.

Mrs. Saenz resides in the Anaheim Hills with her husband and three children. Two of Mrs. Saenz children attend school in Orange Unified School District thus she is truly vested in the Orange Unified School District both as a professional and a parent.

She is looking forward to emphasizing Chapman Hills' best practices in technology usage across the grades levels, STEM, writing, small group differentiated instruction and AVID 4th-6th grades. This year we are rolling out our "new" PBIS motto (R.O.A.R. Respectful, Organized, Appropriate Attitude, Responsible), and having a school wide focus of John Wooden's character trait education. Bobcats R.O.A.R.!

El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Dustin Saxton
Principal

Dr. Dustin Saxton is beginning his fifth year as principal of El Modena High School. Dr. Saxton started his education career in 1991 as a mathematics teacher at a private school. Five years later, he began teaching algebra, geometry and calculus at San Bernardino High School, where he also coached varsity football, basketball, and baseball. After serving as principal of a private K-12 school in Redlands,

Dr. Saxton moved on to become an assistant principal at the high school level in the Alvord and Upland Unified School Districts and at Orange High School in the Orange Unified School District. His responsibilities as a high school

assistant principal included leadership of: discipline and attendance; the Math Department; the Summer School Program; the Adult Education program; the Special Education Department; activities; and athletics.

Born in Illinois, Dr. Saxton is a graduate of Drury University, National University, and La Sierra University. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, a master's degree in instructional leadership and a specialist degree in administration and leadership. He also received masters and doctoral degrees in divinity from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Saxton is also the proud father of two sons, aged 23 and 25.

Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Shele Tamaki
Principal

Shelé Tamaki comes from a long line of teachers in her family at the elementary, secondary and university levels. Majoring in Elementary Education, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from CSU, Long Beach and earned her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from CSULB. Mrs. Tamaki taught for seven years in grades 2 through 5 while serving as a Social Studies Mentor Teacher and Master Teacher for the Downey Unified School District.

Mrs. Tamaki's administrative experience began in Downey as a Summer School Principal. The following year she served as an Assistant Principal for Capistrano USD. After two and a half years she became an Elementary Principal in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. In

1997 Mrs. Tamaki accepted an elementary principalship closer to home in Capistrano Unified. The next several years, she had the privilege of working with talented school teams who received various awards such as California Distinguished School and the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll with recognition for State API scores over 900.

The past educational experiences afforded her a professional career opportunity to join the Orange USD leadership team in August 2015. Mrs. Tamaki has since served as Principal of Crescent Elementary, a California Gold Ribbon School known for its Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) programs. She looks forward to another year working with the dedicated Crescent staff and community to support student success.

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Michele Walker
Principal

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! My name is Michele Walker and I am starting my 14th year at El Rancho Charter School. As a California Distinguished School as well as a Gold Ribbon and Exemplary Arts Award recipient, El Rancho is proud to offer balance between high academic standards and an extensive elective program. Students may select from a variety of courses in the fine arts, foreign languages as well as the

practical arts. They may choose percussion, orchestra, dance, an array of art and technology classes, and more traditional courses like woodshop and home economics. The use of science, technology, engineering, and math into each subject area allows for students to experience learning through a comprehensive environment. El Rancho is proud to be expanding our campus to include five science labs, dance studio, and gymnasium! Through collaboration of the students, staff, parents, and community, the culture and atmosphere is one of support and accomplishment!

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ginette Kelley
Principal

Gigi Kelley earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from CSU Long Beach. After graduation, her first professional job was as a Prevention Education Specialist working in partnership with schools in Southern California. Gigi returned to school, earning her California Teaching Credential from CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching career took her first to Rialto and then to Fullerton School District as a classroom teacher.

Hearing the call of administration, Gigi returned to school to earn a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She remained in Fullerton, however she moved out of the classroom and into district administration. She served that district as a Program Specialist for Gifted and Talented (GATE) program and also the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment

(BTSA) Program. She also had the opportunity to serve as Interim Junior High Assistant Principal.

Through her experiences as an educator, she has had the opportunity to develop new and innovative approaches to student success by creating, planning, and implementing instructional practices for district-wide programs. In 2005 she was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, bringing innovative technology to classroom instruction. The summer of 2017, she attended the Discovery Education Principal's Summit.

Gigi developed and taught curriculum for teacher GATE Certification, in partnership with Hope International University and has worked as an adjunct professor for HIU, teaching a course in Educational Leadership.

This is Gigi Kelley's sixth year as Imperial Elementary School's principal. She continually looks forward to working with teachers, students, and the rest of the Imperial community. We are Eagles; Watch us SOAR!

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Christina
Yokoyama**
Principal

Mrs. Christi Yokoyama is in her 2nd year as principal at Esplanade Elementary School. Mrs. Yokoyama has been an educator for 17 years. She also served Orange Unified School District as the assistant principal of McPherson Magnet School for three years. Prior to joining OUSD, Mrs. Yokoyama was a classroom teacher and teacher leader in the Tustin Unified School District, teaching at both the elementary and middle school levels.

Mrs. Yokoyama holds a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno and a Master's degree from California State University, Fullerton, both in Biological Sciences. She continued her education at CSU

Fullerton by earning her teaching and administrative services credentials. Mrs. Yokoyama is a National Board Certified Teacher, she participates in WASC accreditation committees, and was a Cotsen Family Foundation Fellow, specializing in reading and writing instruction.

Mrs. Yokoyama resides in Rancho Santa Margarita with her husband, Curtis. Together, they have three children: Kalen and Ethan, both in high school, and Riven, in 4th grade. Mrs. Yokoyama enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends. She is proud to be part of the OUSD family and is excited to continue working with the Esplanade Elementary School community.

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Karen Sanders
Principal

Karen Sanders is thrilled to be returning for her fourth year as the principal of Fairhaven Elementary School. Mrs. Sanders has been in education for 30 years previously in the Ocean View School District having worked as a teacher in a variety of grade levels, middle school assistant principal, and elementary principal. Mrs. Sanders received her bachelor's degree from Long Beach State University, master's degree from Alliant University and administration credential from UCI.

When Mrs. Sanders is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband and grown son and daughter, reading, bowling, and attending Angel games. As principal, Mrs. Sanders feels privileged to have the opportunity to work with a committed staff, supportive families, and motivated and engaging students. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and supporting everyone in the Fairhaven community. Mrs. Sanders is extremely excited to be returning to a school with a proven record of high academic achievement and is looking forward to another great year, building relationships, and continuing the Fairhaven tradition of striving for the best.

Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lorena Rubio
Principal

Mrs. Lorena Rubio is excited to have been selected Jordan's new principal. Mrs. Rubio grew up in Costa Mesa and attended schools in Newport-Mesa USD. She attended Orange Coast College and transferred to Cal State Fullerton to complete her Bachelors of Arts in Liberal Studies. She then received a Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Cross-Cultural Teaching and multiple subject credential from National University. Mrs. Rubio

furthered her studies at Concordia University and received an M.A. in Educational Administration with a preliminary administrative credential. Mrs. Rubio is currently clearing her administrative credential through the University of California Irvine.

Mrs. Rubio's journey in the field of education began right out of high school as an instructional aide and activity supervisor for her own elementary school, which she attended as a child. She also worked as a family liaison for Migrant Education. In 1999, she began working for the

Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) and taught K-5th for 15 years. Also while at SAUSD, she held a two-year position as a Certificated Learning and Achievement Specialist. This position gave her the opportunity to train, coach, and support teachers and staff in the implementation of Common Core Standards and Quality Teaching for English Learners. Within this position, she developed curriculum, contributed knowledge of best teaching practices, and worked effectively with other educators across the district in collaborative settings. Three years ago, Mrs. Rubio was appointed assistant principal at Lowell Elementary and the last two months of this past school year she was assigned interim principal at Pio Pico Elementary (SAUSD); both schools offered the dual immersion program and implemented inclusive practices in K-5th grades.

Mrs. Rubio is married to David Rubio and has three daughters: Madeline, Elena and Isabella. She enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Michelle Owen
Principal

Dr. Michelle D. Owen is entering her sixth year as the Principal of Handy Elementary School and her seventeenth year in education. Dr. Owen holds bachelors and masters degrees in education, as well as a doctoral degree in Education, Leadership, and Policy from Pepperdine University. She is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the Association of California School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the California Association for Bilingual Education.

Providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities

that challenge student thinking in the areas of math, science, technology, and literacy is a priority for Dr. Owen. She works with her teachers, students, parents, and community as a collaborative facilitator to ensure data-driven school improvement, professional learning communities, targeted instructional delivery, and school and community partnerships.

Dr. Owen credits the success to Handy Elementary to her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community. Through our parent organization, ELAC, GRIP, partnerships with community organizations, and district support, Handy Elementary provides an outstanding place where all students grow and feel supported.

Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sara Pelly
Principal

Sara Pelly is beginning her second year as principal of Fletcher School. Mrs. Pelly began her teaching career at Crescent Primary School in OUSD where she taught for nine years, and then moved to Centralia School District in Buena Park where she taught in the Gifted and Talented program with first and second graders. After becoming an administrator, Mrs. Pelly was a Student Support Community Liaison, then served as principal for eight years. She was able to learn some sign language at her most recent school in Centralia that housed a Total Communication program serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

A native Coloradoan, Mrs. Pelly attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma where she earned her

teaching credential and a B.S. in Elementary Education. After working as a college Admission Counselor for two years she traveled to California for a job interview, and fell instantly in love with the beautiful city of Orange. After teaching at a preschool for the summer, Mrs. Pelly decided to stay in California to begin her teaching career, and earn her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction and Administrative Services Credential at Chapman University.

Mrs. Pelly spends her free time volunteering at local nursing homes, shelters and hospitals with her dog Orvis, who is a licensed therapy dog. She and her husband Mike also enjoy fly-fishing, and are involved in the Men's and Women's Lacrosse Parent Booster programs at Chapman University, as well as the Community Foundation of Orange.

La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lydia Roach
Principal

Mrs. Lydia Roach became the Principal of La Veta Elementary School in 2014. She has been an educator for 34 years and has worked in various elementary schools in the Orange Unified School District including Handy, Riverdale, Canyon Rim, Lampson, Running Springs, and now La Veta. Mrs. Roach was both a primary and upper grade teacher, a bilingual resource teacher, and a reading resource teacher before becoming an administrator. In addition, she was the Assistant Principal at both Running Springs and Lampson for four years before becoming a Principal. She was the Principal at Running Springs Elementary School for seven years before becoming the Principal at La Veta Elementary.

Mrs. Roach grew up in the city of Orange and is a

product of the Orange Unified School District. As a student, she attended Esplanade Elementary, Fairhaven Elementary, Santiago Jr. High and El Modena High School. Mrs. Roach continued her education at San Diego State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree and an elementary teaching credential. She then graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Master's degree in Educational Administration with an administrative credential.

Mrs. Roach currently resides in the Anaheim Hills area with her husband Russ of 33 years. She has two children Kyle, age 28, and Lara, age 23. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two golden retrievers Brody and Bailey. Mrs. Roach is proud to be a "Viking" and looks forward to continue working with the wonderful students, staff, and families of the La Veta School community as they "S.A.I.L. Into 21st Century Learning".

Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Heriberto Angel Jr.
Principal

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year at Lampson Elementary! Mr. Angel is in his second year as principal of Lampson Elementary. He comes to us with 14 years of experience in K-12 education. Mr. Angel earned a BA in Sociology and Global Studies from UC Santa Barbara and a MA in Elementary Education from Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Angel has served in various educational capacities such as

K, 3rd-6th grade teacher, middle school dean of students, middle and high school assistant principal.

As the principal of Lampson Elementary, Mr. Angel looks forward to building on the successes from the last school year and continuing to work closely with students, teachers, and the community. Mr. Angel and his team are committed to providing their students with a safe learning environment that will teach them to think critically, be creative, collaborate, and communicate effectively. They are dedicated to inspiring their students to reach their

full potential as life-long learners and citizens as well as challenging and supporting them by building a rigorous comprehensive program and providing a strong academic foundation.

His humble upbringings and motivation from his mother and grandmother is what drives Mr. Angel to create endless opportunities for his students. Mr. Angel is passionate about his students and works relentlessly for them. He is also extremely excited about the upcoming school year and the great things that will be happening at Lampson Elementary. AVID Elementary is one of those exciting things and will be implemented in 5th grade and one 4th grade classroom with the goal of it spreading school-wide in the years to come.

In his spare time, Mr. Angel enjoys spending time traveling with his family. He and his wife, Gladys, have an 11-year old daughter, Mia, an 8-year old son, Mateo, and are expecting their third child in December 2017. He is a devoted Laker, Dodger, and 49er fan!

Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Robert Johnson
Principal

The opportunity to collaborate and build relationships with students, parents, staff, and community members to help children reach their full potential is one of the most rewarding parts of Mr. Robert Johnson's role as principal of Linda Vista Elementary School. He is a strong advocate for arts education and sees a strong connection between creativity and student achievement. Mr. Johnson enjoys attending theater

and fine arts events and has participated in school and community choral groups since childhood. He is a former Disneyland cast member, having worked there for several years during high school and college. Mr. Johnson is now a Disneyland annual pass holder and enjoys regular visits with family and friends. He also enjoys traveling and aspires to visit each of our country's national parks.

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) is the professional organization that represents school administrators throughout California, and Mr. Johnson is an active ACSA member. He currently serves as the Director of Professional Development on the ACSA Board of Directors for Region 17, which serves all school districts in Orange County.

Mr. Johnson grew up in Fullerton and currently lives in Orange. He received a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with a Music concentration from Cal State Long Beach and earned a Master's degree in Educational Administration at Cal State Fullerton. Prior to joining the Orange Unified School District in 2015, Mr. Johnson was a teacher and an elementary school administrator in the Fullerton School District.

Mr. Johnson feels privileged to serve on the OUSD team and looks forward to another successful school year at Linda Vista Elementary School.

Thank You for Reading *School News*.

McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Joe Erven
Principal

McPherson Magnet is excited to open our doors for the 2017-2018 school year. We all want to make this school year full of inquiry focused around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as we continue to expand our Project Lead the Way STEM course offerings for our kinder through 8th grade students (we have added an 8th grade elective with Green Architecture and Medical Detectives).

This STEM theme will embed 21st -century learning and academic content (focusing on Next Generation Science Standards) standards that will focus on writing across the curriculum, citing evidence from non-fiction text and increasing math fluency. As always, McPherson Magnet will continue to push our technology focus as we expand our 1:1 laptop program to all of our 2nd grade classes (this is in addition to our 1:1 in 1st and 4th grades and our BYOD 1:1 program for our 5th-8th grade students). We are also excited to bring AVID (Advancement Via Individual

Determination) to McPherson in our 6th grade. It is our goal to ensure that every student has the opportunity to fulfill the McPherson motto: Knowledge, Inspiration, Discovery and Success.

As the principal of McPherson, Mr. Erven looks forward to working together with teachers, parents and students to create a positive and engaging learning environment for everyone. This will be his fourth year as principal of McPherson Magnet. Prior to his current position, Mr. Erven taught science for nine years and served as an assistant principal for five years all within the Orange Unified School District. All of these experiences have helped him gain insight into student learning and work with families to help them achieve their goals.

Mr. Erven received his degree in zoology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and also has a master's degree in educational administration. When he isn't working at McPherson, Mr. Erven enjoys traveling and hiking, and with his family.

Nohl Canyon

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Heather Bosworth
Principal

Ms. Bosworth is honored and excited to be joining the outstanding staff, students, and families to Nohl Canyon Elementary for the 2017-2018 school year! She looks forward to continuing to build collaborative partnerships with the Nohl Canyon community to provide innovative learning experiences for all students!

Ms. Bosworth most recently served Orange Unified School District as the principal of Sycamore Elementary. Previously, she was Coordinator, 21st Century Teaching and Learning, in the Office of K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and GATE. Prior to joining OUSD, Ms. Bosworth was a classroom teacher, teacher leader, and professional developer in the Laguna Beach Unified School District and a classroom teacher in Capistrano Unified School District as well. Ms. Bosworth

has significant experience and training in the areas of professional development for teachers, instructional technology, and elementary curriculum and assessment. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Studies and Master's degree in Education and Reading from California State University, Fullerton, as well as a certificate in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) from UC Irvine. Ms. Bosworth is a National Board Certified Teacher who holds professional educational credentials in Multiple Subject Teaching, Reading Instruction Specialist, and Administrative Services.

"Nohl Canyon is passionate about children and enthusiastic about the possibilities for continued student success with 21st Century teaching and learning. We look forward to partnering with students, families, and community members to inspire excellence within every scholar."

Please Drive Safely — Students are Back in School!

Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Heather Darrow
Principal

Heather Darrow, principal of Olive Elementary School, is proud to be a part of the educational team of Orange Unified. Prior to her administrative career, Mrs. Darrow was a teacher on special assignment and an elementary classroom teacher, teaching primary and upper elementary students. She has served on many site and district level committees, which has instilled in her a passion for helping every student succeed.

As a teacher, Mrs. Darrow was the GATE Lead Teacher and an English Language Instructional Support Lead. Always looking for learning opportunities, Mrs. Darrow earned two Master's degrees, one in Educational Administration and one in Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to her

graduate studies, she earned a Bachelor's degree and Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University, Fullerton.

Mrs. Darrow grew up in Orange County and currently resides in Yorba Linda. She spent several years as an Orange resident and OUSD parent. Mrs. Darrow's positive experience as an OUSD parent and love for the community is what inspired her to join Orange Unified School District as an educator.

When she is not at work, Mrs. Darrow enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters. They often watch movies together, go on walks, and always eat dinner as a family. It is only with the support from her family that Mrs. Darrow has been able to fully appreciate the journey through her educational career.

Orange *High School*

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Mr. Dennis McCuiston is beginning his third year as Principal of Orange High School and he is entering his 20th year as an educator and 23rd year with the Orange Unified School District. Mr. McCuiston started his career as a campus supervisor at Orange High School and later became a special educator at Portola Middle School where he gained tremendous experience as a teacher. He went on to work at Orange High School where he taught for 9 years, was

the head baseball coach, athletic director and eventually serving as an assistant principal. In 2011, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP where

he worked with Community Day School, ROP, Educational Options and Home School. In 2013 he was appointed as the Principal of Richland High School serving students from all OUSD High Schools. Mr. McCuiston earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Chapman University and a Masters in Education Administration from National University.

Dennis has dedicated his career to serving the Orange community. He believes in the OUSD core values and trusts that OUSD is not only preparing students to compete in a global economy, it is preparing productive members of society. Dennis, his wife Julia, son Luke, and daughter Avery are proud residents of Orange.

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Mr. Jeremy Mortensen has been in education for 17 years, this being his sixth as principal in the Orange Unified School District. He has lived and taught all over the world including Canada and later Australia, where he also earned his Masters of Education degree from Griffith University. He later taught in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Fontana, California, where he earned the Teacher of the Year award in

2005. Mr. Mortensen taught grades three through seventh during his time in the classroom and has been a school administrator for 10 years.

Mr. Mortensen believes in a 21st Century corporate-style learning environment where students not only learn the foundational skills needed to succeed, but also integrate real-world skills that will enable each student to be college

and career ready for tomorrow's Corporate America. An inclusive, hands-on, technological, collaborative approach is at the forefront of his educational model. Students are given the opportunity to have fun while they learn through the guidance of their knowledgeable and caring teachers, who understand the demands of our "digital native" students while focusing on each child's individual needs.

2017-2018 will mark Mr. Mortensen's second year at Panorama Elementary School. According to him, Panorama is a wonderful school with incredible students, families, teachers, and staff members. Mr. Mortensen is thankful for the relationships he has built with our Panther families last year and is excited to build new relationships throughout this school year. He looks forward to another year of excellence!

It is going to be a great year at Panorama. Go, Panthers!

Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Brenna Godsey
Principal

Brenna Godsey is excited to begin her fourth year as the Principal of Palmyra Elementary School. Principal Godsey has had the pleasure of working with Orange Unified students for the last sixteen years. Prior to coming to Palmyra, she served as an Assistant Principal at Canyon High School for five years and a Science teacher for eight years. Mrs. Godsey received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cell

Biology from the University of California San Diego, with a Minor in Law and Society. She attended California State University, Fullerton where she earned her teaching and

administrative credential along with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Godsey lives in the Orange Unified community with her husband and three children, Jackson, 10, Declan, 6, and Quinn, 2. She enjoys skiing and going to the beach with her family.

Mrs. Godsey is committed to fostering positive relationships with the students, staff, parents, and community of Palmyra Elementary School. A positive school culture and climate is the key to the academic and social success of all of our students. Mrs. Godsey is honored to continue her tenure as the Principal of Palmyra and is looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jill Katevas
Principal

Portola Middle School has a long history of serving students here in Orange, CA, so I am really proud to continue my role as principal! The staff is incredibly dedicated to serving our students and so it's truly a privilege to work here. I was born and raised in Long Beach, California and earned my bachelor's degree in English Literature from Long Beach State. I received my teaching credential from Chapman University and

have proudly been a public educator for the past 18 years. This is actually a second career of mine, as I started out in the business working in management. I learned early on that my education served me well professionally; however, it was my ability to work with others, think on my feet, and persevere through all challenges that determined my ultimate success. Thus, I am committed to fostering these skills in Portola students which is why I am so proud that

we have tripled our elective program offerings and have included a STEM Academy to enrich the learning of our students. Portola also boasts of extensive use of technology with 1:1 (student to device) ratio in over 70% of our classrooms.

Throughout my tenure as an educator, I have learned that true education goes beyond a strong academic program on campus. I know the value of developing strong partnerships with parents and the community. I want to ensure our young people gain these skills necessary for personal success. I truly believe it takes a village to raise a child. Thus, I am committed to working closely with our Matador families and broader Orange Community to ensure that all of our students receive a well-rounded education that will support their academic achievement, transition to high school, and their ultimate pursuit of college and career goals.

Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sally Hughson
Principal

Mrs. Sally Hughson is beginning her 3rd year as principal at Prospect Elementary School. Mrs. Hughson was the principal at Linda Vista Elementary School for 7 years; 2008-2015. She has been an educator for 27 years. She has worked at Cambridge, Handy, West Orange and Running Springs where she was the Assistant Principal. Mrs. Hughson taught lower and upper grades and was a reading resource teacher, ELD resource teacher and an Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Hughson grew up in the Orange area and attended Orange Unified schools beginning in kindergarten and

graduated from El Modena High School. She earned her BA in Communication Disorders and a Master degree in Educational Administration from California State Fullerton; she earned her teaching Credential from Chapman University.

Mrs. Hughson lives in Santa Ana with her husband Steve of 37 years. Her son Grant works in watch designing, her daughter Katie and husband Danny Quesada live in Monrovia with their daughter Gracie June. She enjoys trips to Catalina, relaxing in the desert, walking in Peter's Canyon and spending time with her family and friends. Mrs. Hughson is excited to start the new school year and share Prospect's student achievements.

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Elsie Briseño
Simonovski**
Principal

Richland High School, A California Model Continuation High School is excited to begin the 2017-2018 school year. Under the direction of Principal,

Dr. Elsie Briseño Simonovski, the alternative educational setting offers a personalized program for students who have needs that cannot be met elsewhere. This year, RHS is excited to increase its course offerings for all students. A few of our new course offerings include Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish,

Online Health, Weight Lifting and Fitness and a new college course offered on site through Santiago Canyon College.

Dr. Briseño Simonovski has been a part of the Orange Unified School District since 2010. Her work has spanned a variety of administrative capacities for the Educational Services Division. Earning her Ph.D. in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University, Dr. Briseño Simonovski has served as a public school educator almost 20 years. Her educational experiences

include teacher, literacy coach, project director, middle school assistant principal, special education coordinator, and district administrator. Recently, Dr. Simonovski was awarded by ACSA as the Orange County Region 17 and California Administrator of the Year for Educational Options. She will be recognized this fall for her accomplishments.

Dr. Briseño Simonovski's areas of interest include special education, literacy and language development. She is most passionate about ensuring the equity and access of learning for all underrepresented students. She holds a Multiple Subjects Credential, a Specialized Reading Certificate from UCLA, and an Administrative Services Credential. She received a bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Teacher Education from UC San Diego, and holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. In her third year as the RHS principal, she is passionate about serving the students, parents and staff at RHS. We look forward to another year of celebrating our rich diversity, and strong sense of community!

Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Mark McLaughlin
Principal

It is with great pride that Mr. Mark McLaughlin will join the highly successful team at Running Springs Elementary, home of the Redhawks. Mr. McLaughlin has served as a teacher and administrator at both the elementary and middle school level for the last 17 years in the Downey Unified School District. He completed his undergraduate degree at San Jose State University and prior to working in

education was employed in the Aerospace industry. Mr. McLaughlin has since earned a Master's Degree in Cross-Cultural Education.

As an educator, Mr. McLaughlin has been a part of the development of a distinguished STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) program, worked with the implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW), and an award winning Robotics program. His experience includes creating a safe and caring school culture with high expectations. He is approachable and

ready to serve the Redhawk community.

As a coach of youth sports for 14 years he understands the importance of developing the whole child, teamwork, and goal setting. He believes that learning should be highly engaging, promote critical thinking, and should contain the rigor necessary to prepare our students for a competitive global economy. He embraces the growth mindset and believes that together, an inspired school community can overcome any challenge.

Running Springs has established a strong reputation in academics and community involvement. Recognized as a Common Sense Media School, Running Springs will continue to prepare our students to use technology safely and responsibly. The facilities and technology are in place to lead ALL of our students to SOAR into a 21st Century education, be college and career ready, and global citizens. He is looking forward to bringing his experience to serve the students of the Running Springs community in continued success.



Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

Mrs. Pedroza is excited and honored to be starting her second year as Co-Principal of Santiago Charter Middle School and be a part of a community dedicated to the success of all Santanas; a community who sees potential in every Santana and a community empathetic to the personalized needs of each Santana. Mrs. Pedroza's first year at Santiago was filled with so many memorable moments and over 1000 incredible students that she is excitedly

anticipating another great school year.

Mrs. Pedroza started her career in education ten years ago as a Biology Teacher at El Modena High School and had a variety of leadership roles at the school site. In her five years of teaching at El Modena, she was named El Modena Teacher of the Year and PTSA Teacher of the Year. From the classroom, Mrs. Pedroza served as OUSD's District Office Assessment Coordinator and then Principal of Serrano Elementary. During her time as an Orange Unified administrator, she was recognized for her work to support the district's transition to new assessments by being named OUSD Administrator of the Year and ACSA (Association of California School Administrator) Region 17 Technology Administrator of the Year. Mrs. Pedroza is passionate about Educational Technology, STEM Education, early literacy and building those 21st Century Skills required for students to be active and inspired stakeholders in their education.

Mrs. Pedroza lives in Orange with her husband Robert and their 6 year-old daughter, Addisyn and 3 year-old son, Trent. Mrs. Pedroza is proud to be a "Santana" and looks forward to another great school year.



Dr. James D'Agostino
Co-Principal

Dr. Jim D'Agostino is in his seventh year as the Executive Director at Santiago Charter Middle School. He takes pride in being visible to parents and students and demonstrates that by greeting everyone each morning as they enter the Santiago campus. His philosophy of making everyone feel welcomed and valued into the school, while continuing to strive toward academic excellence, is part of the leadership style that he brings to the school and the entire school community. His

positive attitude and energy has helped to create a very welcoming and caring culture at Santiago which has resulted in increased enrollment and community involvement.

Dr. D'Agostino is a former history teacher and special education teacher. He has been an administrator for the past twelve years and believes that building and fostering healthy relationships is a critical component to success in life. Personalization is the one thing that he prides himself on bringing to his students and school community. Prior to becoming an educational leader, Dr. D (as the students call him) owned a restaurant in Buffalo, NY and was involved in a family business as a licensed insurance agent. He loves working at Santiago, as it ties into both the business, and educational aspects, of his professional background.

Dr. D'Agostino credits his beautiful wife Valerie for all of her support in his personal life, and credits his staff and faculty for all of Santiago's success. Dr. D'Agostino is also very involved in the Orange community serving on the Community Foundation of Orange Executive Board, The Santiago Canyon College Foundation Board, The National University Advisory Board, and The Pure Game Board of Directors.

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Katherine Rizzo
Principal

Welcome to Serrano Elementary School, Home of the Eagles! Mrs. Rizzo considers it a privilege to be a part of a hardworking, knowledgeable and supportive school community and welcomes you to the 2017-18 school year!

This is Mrs. Rizzo's twenty-eighth year in the field of education having had experiences ranging from school secretary, teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal.

This is her seventeenth year as an elementary principal. She looks forward with enthusiasm to the new school year, providing the highest quality education for children. Her vision is to create limitless opportunities by fostering a collaborative culture whereby professionals learn in a community to empower students and truly believes that all students will be successful!

Mrs. Rizzo earned her undergraduate degree from La Sierra University, attended Chapman University where she

earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and went on to earn her Administrative Credential from Cal-State San Bernardino. She also served as adjunct professor at Cal-Baptist University, School of Education and La Sierra University, School of Education. Mrs. Rizzo served as Principal at Olive Elementary for four years, and will start her second year as Principal at Serrano.

As an educator, Mrs. Rizzo makes every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. She believes that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. She feels without a doubt, the most successful students have family members that communicate regularly with the school. Her personal mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths. It is with great enthusiasm she leads Serrano Elementary staff and community and is looking forward to a very successful year!

Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Renee Ybarra
Principal

welcome back Sycamore Sea Lions!
Renee Ybarra is very excited to be joining the Sycamore team this year as their new principal. Mrs. Ybarra has been an educator for 21 years, most recently as a middle school Assistant Principal in Capistrano Unified. Prior to that role, she spent many years as an elementary Teacher On Special Assignment and elementary teacher in Tustin Unified and Anaheim City School Districts, teaching K, 2nd, 4th & 5th grades. She received her Bachelor's degree in Child Development from CSU Fullerton, along with her teaching credential in 1995. She returned to CSUF and received a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2002, and then received her Master's degree in Administration from Concordia University in 2012.

Mrs. Ybarra is joining an amazing team at Sycamore, focused on student learning and inquiry. Sycamore has many students involved in clubs, such as STEM and

robotics. The Family Science Night is a huge event that engages the community in our students' learning. Mrs. Ybarra is excited to see how these and other programs can be expanded this year to engage even more students and families in Sycamore's community.

Mrs. Ybarra has been a proud Orange resident since 2005, and parent of two daughters, who attend Villa Park HS. Her husband is also a product of OUSD, attending Handy Elementary, Yorba Middle, and Orange HS (class of '89). Though she loved growing up in Fountain Valley, the city of Orange has become Mrs. Ybarra's adopted hometown. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and baking.

One of her favorite quotes embodies the spirit of Sycamore Elementary. "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." – Walt Disney

Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Connie Smith
Principal

Taft Elementary Principal, Connie Smith, celebrates 36 years in education. Her experience includes classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator. Connie came to Taft in 2014 and in 2016 she and the Taft Team received the distinct honor of becoming a California Gold Ribbon and Title I High Academic Achieving School!

Connie earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and her master's degree in school administration from California State University, Fullerton. She taught in the Orange Unified School District, served as an Assistant Principal in the Capistrano Unified School District and Principal in Tustin Unified School District.

Connie's many professional associations and accomplishments have included former Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, member of the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and Orange Unified School District's 2010-2011 Administrator of the Year.

Connie was born and raised in Orange County. She has been married to Phillip Smith for 24 years and is proud of her two sons, Garrett, in the United States Marine Corps and Grant who attends the University of San Francisco. Connie is also a volunteer at the Orange County USO at John Wayne Airport.

Smith says, "I am looking forward to another amazing year of student growth and Taft's continued commitment to AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)."

Yorba *Academy of the Arts Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Tracy Knibb
Principal

Going into her fifth year as the principal of Yorba Middle School, Tracy Knibb is excited and honored to continue being part of such a strong community of parents, staff, students, and neighbors. Mrs. Knibb was the Assistant Principal at Yorba before taking the lead for the Toros. Prior to coming to the Orange Unified School District, she was an English teacher and Title I Coordinator for eight years in the Downey Unified School District.

The Yorba staff returns from summer energized for another great school year! With a focus on student

achievement, the staff is steadfast in their commitment to provide students with interactive, engaging, and rigorous courses. With impressive and growing programs in technology, visual arts, drama, and music, Mrs. Knibb knows she is fortunate to be part of such a strong team!

Mrs. Knibb is married with two daughters: Jocelyn, 11, and Zoey, 12. She enjoys reading and strives to bring the passion of books to all students. She believes, as Frank Serafini does, "There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book." There is no excuse not to read at Yorba!

Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Raeanne Lopez Little
Principal

Raeanne Lopez Little is honored to begin her third year as principal of Villa Park Elementary, a Gold Ribbon School with a strong tradition of working in partnership with our families to foster high achievement in an engaging environment. Under Mrs. Little's leadership the Villa Park faculty has continued to expand their instructional repertoire with such initiatives as AVID Elementary and schoolwide STEM challenges to engage and equip all students for 21st Century success.

Mrs. Little has been an educator for 28 years, holds a B.A. from UCLA, an M.A. from CSU Dominguez Hills, and an administrative credential from UCI. She and her husband are long time Orange Unified residents, and

are grateful that their two adult children's education in Orange Unified prepared them for success in college and career. Since 1997 she has served Orange Unified gaining expertise in a variety of roles including teaching elementary grades in settings such as GATE and inclusion, and serving as a teacher trainer, and program coordinator. This breadth of experience is critical to her work as an administrator as she strives to support VPE teachers and parents in tapping all resources to ensure students success.

According to Mrs. Little, "It is a privilege to lead Villa Park Elementary. This is a community of teachers, staff, and parents that genuinely strives to provide the best possible experience for every child who walks through our doors. Our students are accomplishing amazing things and it is a joy to watch them collaborate, communicate and create. Go Bobcats!"

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

It is with great humility, honor and responsibility that I begin my second year as Principal at Villa Park High School. Villa Park is not only home of the Spartans...we are a School of Excellence and a newly crowned 2017-2021 California Gold Ribbon School! I am beginning my 11th year as a member of the Leadership Team in the Orange Unified School District.

I have previously served Orange Unified from 2007-2010 at El Modena High School as Assistant Principal, Curriculum/Instruction, ROP, Cheer and Athletics; Principal at Cerro Villa Middle School from 2010-2014 and most recently Administrative Director, Student and Community Services. Before joining Orange Unified, I served in the Downey Unified School District as adult

school teacher, social studies teacher, football coach and Vice Principal at the comprehensive high school level for 13 years.

My wife Jennifer (a Canyon High School graduate) and I have two children: Katelyn, 21, graduated from Canyon High School and attends Chapman University and Kenny, 19, just graduated from (you guessed it!) Villa Park High School. Thankfully, I am now happy to report the Comanche-Spartan score at my house is now even, balanced and tied at two!

I pledge to continue to serve all students, parents, staff and our community. We have an amazing and professional staff and we all look forward to working with you, our greatest resource, our families, in the upcoming years in continuing OUR School of Excellence that is Villa Park High School!

West Orange *Elementary*

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Sandra Preciado-Martin
Principal

Mrs. Preciado began working in Long Beach, at Jordan High School as a On Campus Alternative Suspension Monitor, while attending California State University, Fullerton. She then moved to Milliken High School in Long Beach as a Parent Liaison. After she completed her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish Literature, Mrs. Preciado began her tenure in Orange Unified as a Spanish teacher at Canyon High School. She taught every level of Spanish from the introductory level Spanish I to AP Spanish. During that time, she also returned to California State University, Fullerton to complete her Master's Degree

in School Administration. After Mrs. Preciado's 12-year teaching tenure, she had the privilege of making El Modena High School her home for three years as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mrs. Preciado then found a new home in 2015 as Principal of West Orange Elementary School. Mrs. Preciado is very excited to continue her service to the students and parents of the West Orange community.- She is particularly looking forward to continuing her work at West Orange Elementary School with AVID implementation, targeted interventions, technology integration and quality first instruction. Outside of school, Mrs. Preciado enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, running, and reading.



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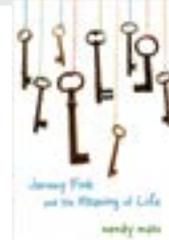
Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

Adventure and Fun

The book *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass is about a 13 year old living in Manhattan with his mom and his friend Lizzy. Together, they convinced the mailman to give them a package. Inside,



they find a letter and a box. The letter indicated that the box once had keys that were now lost. They decide to set out to find the keys. In the process, they sneak into a business and vandalize it. A policeman makes them do community service, as punishment they have to deliver packages. They ride around the city delivering antiques to the people who had once pawned those items. Almost all was planned by his dead dad

The friends must now do this the entire summer. Will they find the keys before Jeremy's birthday? Or ever?

I give this book 4 stars because it is full of fun and adventure.

Isabella is 11 years old and is entering the sixth grade. She is very excited to go back to school and see all of her good friends again. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Fruits & Veggies –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put OUSD in the subject line.

LETTUCE	TOMATOES
APPLES	KIWI
CABBAGE	GRAPES
KOHLRABI	BERRIES
ONIONS	CHERRIES
PEPPERS	CARROTS
ORANGES	MANGO
LEMONS	BANANAS
LIME	PLUMS
CELERY	BROCCOLI
POTATOES	

Entries must be received by October 30 , 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



**Congratulations to Kendall Armstrong
Winner of our June Word Search Contest!**

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Nutrition Update

This column provides insight from Carol Berg Sloan RDN, FAND (a registered dietitian for 37 years) and her daughter, Kelly Sloan (a student/intern in the Master's Nutrition and Dietetics program at California State University, Long Beach). Both give their perspective and tips to help you make healthier food and beverages choices.

A Toast to Toast



Carol Berg Sloan, RDN

Carol says:

The longest line I ever waited in was for a piece of toast in San Francisco. Then I paid \$4 for one piece of bread with jam. Let me explain. The place was a trendy café called The Mill, the toast was a 7-grain artisanal bread and the jam was a “fresh fruit only” blackberry fruit spread. It was worth the time and money! Toast is still “trending” and in fact there is now “Toast Tuesday”. This day, similar to “Meatless Monday”, which is a movement to promote plant based eating, is a similar concept. Toast Tuesday promotes changing it up with toast toppings. I tell my clients to choose whole grain bread and top with nut butters and sliced fruit to increase fiber and fruit intake. Whole grain breads are those that use the entire seed of a plant including the bran, germ and endosperm. The Whole Grains Council provides a wonderful background on whole grains and how to include more in your diet. They promote “Whole Grain Stamp” which helps consumers identify products that contain whole grains. Read more at wholegrainscouncil.org. My favorite for Toast Tuesday? Dave’s Killer Bread Good Seed, which has 4 grams fiber and 14 grams of whole grains. To top it off, the crunchiest peanut butter around and sliced bananas.

Contact Kelly @kellysloan • www.kellysknackforcooking.com
kelly.e.sloan@gmail.com
Contact Carol @CBSRD • www.livingdreamnutrition.com/cbsrd@verizon.net



Kelly Sloan BS

Kelly says:

With a full schedule due to work and school, I find myself short on time when it comes to eating a filling and nutritious snack and often times, meal. I turn to favorite fiber bars and fresh fruit on most days but if I have a few extra minutes I will throw a piece of bread in the toaster and pile it up with healthy toppings and enjoy being part of one of the popular foodie trends circulating the internet. I’ve learned to pack on ingredients that are full of fiber, protein and flavor and then I’m out the door with my toast in hand. Here’s my top 4 toast topping combinations that are affordable and tasty. Recipes found here: <http://www.kellysknackforcooking.com/most-recent/toast-tuesday-1>

**Banana + Sunflower Chia Seeds
On White Chocolate Peanut Butter**

Ingredients:

- 1 piece multigrain bread
- 1.5 tablespoons Peanut Butter & Co. White Chocolate Peanut Butter
- 1 medium banana, sliced
- 1 tablespoon sunflower kernels
- 1 tablespoon flax seed + chia seed mixture

Directions:

Toast bread. Spread peanut butter on bread. Evenly place banana on top and sprinkle with chia/flax seed and sun flower seeds. Enjoy!



Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Leveraging Instructional Resources

Imagine being able to connect with a tutor of multiple subjects for free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sal Khan did more than imagine it, launching his online library of personalized, no-cost instructional tools about a decade ago. Since then, Khan Academy has expanded exponentially, and in April the Orange County Department of Education, leading a coalition of six counties, unveiled a powerful partnership with the nonprofit that is designed to increase student access to these resources.

This collaboration is being piloted as a national model — and now it looks like the potential benefits will be even greater than we envisioned.

Adding to its menu of tutorials and SAT practice materials, Khan Academy recently teamed up with the College Board's Advanced Placement Program to become the official practice partner for AP. That means Khan Academy users will be able to find free instructional videos, articles and practice exercises that build the knowledge and skills required for rigorous AP-level classes.

Why are Advanced Placement classes important? For starters, they give high school students a preview of the demands of higher education, and they instill the skills they'll need to thrive in college and beyond. As such, college admissions offices tend to take note of who takes these courses. So do educational researchers, who, as a matter of equity, track access nationally.

With the availability of high-priced workshops and private tutors, equity can be a challenging standard to meet in education. Yet Khan Academy's no-cost model helps balance the playing field, and I believe our nascent partnership will be a boon for Orange County students, particularly those from low-income families.

Starting this year, the Khan team plans to provide planning and implementation support for local schools and districts that wish to leverage its instructional resources. OCDE will assist as needed to streamline the process, contributing research and professional development.

Meanwhile, if Khan Academy's two-year-old SAT prep materials are any indication, its new Advanced Placement materials — created by a team that includes current and former AP teachers — should prove their worth quickly.

According to a recent study, students who spent at least 20 hours with Khan's SAT tutorials saw their SAT scores increase by an average of 115 points over their earlier PSAT/NMSQT exam scores. That more than doubles the average increase of students who did not use the Khan tutorials.

The long-term importance of all this cannot be overstressed. By forging new partnerships and using technology to make these kinds of resources universally accessible, we democratize education, we restore the promise of upward mobility, and we multiply the next generation of contributors to our economy. In doing so, we also expand the marketplace of ideas that may one day solve our greatest national and global challenges.

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us

Positive Parenting



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

Are You Kid-Connected?

I'm always talking about the fact that connecting with your children is vital to their sense of self and to your success as a parent. Connecting means *being with* children. It does not mean being in the car with them while you are talking on your cell phone. It does not mean talking on the phone while your children are in your home. Being in the same room with a child and engaging the

child in a conversation is connecting. Listening to a child's feelings is connecting.

"What was your best moment today? Your worst or lowest moment?" If your child spews out a negative comment about someone or something, ("My teacher was mean to me!") respond with, "Tell me more about that." Repeating those words keep the conversation open and the child will continue. Judgments or lecturing end the

conversation and no more information will be revealed.

In the end, your question is, "What would you do differently so that doesn't happen again?" The child, feeling defensive, might say, "It wasn't my fault!"

You reply, "We are not talking about fault here. We are talking about solution. You can't change the other person, so it is wise to look at what you could change to avoid future conflict."

In a private parent coaching session, a parent asked me, "How can I teach my children to take responsibility for their choices?" Step one is to acknowledge that you have a part in any conflict and the only person you ever have a right to change is you.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle.



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