

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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NOVEMBER 2017–JANUARY 2018

SUPERINTENDENT



In Pursuit of our Graduate Profile - It's Elementary

A few years ago, the Carlsbad Unified community came together to identify the traits that students will need to thrive in their future careers

and personal lives. Reflecting that effort, our Graduate Profile sets out these characteristics, which we strive to develop in all CUSD students as they progress through school. When students cross the stage with diplomas in hand — and with mastery of these traits — we believe they will be uniquely prepared to face the challenges of college, career, and adulthood.

The character traits and soft skills that comprise our Graduate Profile may be acquired by children at an early age. So we start in elementary school to make Graduate Profile practices a vital part of our culture and curriculum. Each elementary school engages in its own unique set of activities and specialties to promote Graduate Profile characteristics. Here are examples of the ideal student envisioned in the Profile and some ways our schools try to make that student a reality.

Effective Communicator & Collaborator: Graduates convey their thoughts and responses clearly. They interact productively to achieve common goals.

At Buena Vista Elementary, teachers guide students in listening, speaking, reading, and writing clearly, and in practicing effective teamwork. Students enjoy engaging in conversations about the topics they are learning, and convey their thoughts and responses clearly when doing so.

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Strong Performance, By Any Measure

By Superintendent and Staff
Parents today have a wealth of information at their fingertips when it comes to our schools. Carlsbad Unified represents favorably in a variety of metrics used to measure school and District performance.

A well regarded website is Niche, which uses a variety of data points to rank schools and districts across the country, including things like student performance, graduation rates, extracurricular offerings, and parent reviews. In August, they released their “2018 Best School Districts” list, and Carlsbad Unified was ranked among the top 50 school districts in the state of California. More info can be found at <https://www.niche.com/k12/d/carlsbad-unified-school-district-ca/>.

Carlsbad Unified performs well in both athletic and academic competitions; our students, programs and schools received a number of awards and recognitions last year. Highlights include the Sage Creek High School Boys Volleyball winning the State Championship; the Carlsbad High School Lancer Dancers winning the National Championship in the Hip Hop competition; the Valley Middle School Lab Coats of the Future Robotics Team taking First Place for their project in the International FLL Championship; and the Carlsbad High School and Valley Middle School Broadcasting Programs



being recognized at the national level. In fact, CHSTV was named the nation's number one high school broadcast for the ninth time last year. We are proud of a long list of awards and recognitions for our high school and middle school bands, choirs, theatrical productions, and other Visual and Performing Arts offerings.

We are also proud of our student performance on statewide tests in Reading and Math. Last year, we found ourselves at the top of

the county for unified district performance in English Language Arts, and in the top three of the county for unified district performance in Math.

One of our District goals is to increase the number of students meeting all requirements for college entry into the UC/CSU system. This is known as the a-g graduation rate. Last year, 75% of our graduates met these requirements - this was an increase over the previous year, and was among the highest rates in the state of California. We also monitor the number of grads going directly to college after high school. For the graduating class of 2016, 80% of our graduates went to college, compared to a national average of 69%.

Our graduates not only go to college, but nearly all stay in college, with a 92% persistence rate. Now, this is not to say that all students should go to college; we are equally proud of our graduates who go on to serve in the military, or who go directly into the world of work.

Regardless of the measurement tool used, Carlsbad Unified students and schools continue to show strong performance.

Academic Challenges

For Students Who Experience Significant Learning Challenges

When a child is working harder than peers, it's time to look at why and what can be done differently and more efficiently.

Learning problems are caused when underlying processes are slow or are not working to optimum potential.

760-634-6886

Call today for an assessment by Lynda Detweiler, SLP6849
 encinitaslearningcenter@yahoo.com
 543 Encinitas Blvd. Suite #100
www.encinitaslearningcenter.com



Kay Coop
 Founder/Publisher



November rolled around fast and this school year is well underway with the students focused on academics. This issue will bring you up to date on the programs and activities from flexible classroom design to science. Plan to sit awhile and enjoy every word!

Our next issue is February 14. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year! We are always mindful and grateful to our men and women in the armed services.

School News

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**Covering the
 CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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"THINK FASTER TO LEARN MORE"

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At the growing Eastvale STEM Academy, high school students build knowledge in medical science and engineering within an innovative learning community guided by Kim Lu Lawe's leadership and vision.



Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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School of Education | apu.edu/education



City of Carlsbad

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

Are You Getting Your Money's Worth?



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

Sure, you flush the toilet (I hope) and drive on smooth paved roads, but are you taking advantage of all the city services paid for by your tax dollars? Let's check:

Educational Enrichment. From Science Saturdays to homework zones, our city libraries offer something enriching for your kids to do seven days a week. Stop by and chat with our staff about what's coming up and how you can connect your kids with their passion for learning.

Arts & Culture. Have you been to the Cannon Art Gallery in the Dove Library complex? Did you know the city has a sculpture garden behind Cole Library? Have your kids experienced the joy of hands on art at a Family Open Studios event? When's the last time you went to a free concert or Foreign Film Friday?

For Moms and Dads. Been meaning to join a book club? Could you use some mindfulness training to get you through the stressful holiday season? Want to listen to the latest best seller during your morning commute? All it takes is your library card.

Help Us Help You. Protect the Environment: Teach your kids about the importance of environmental sustainability by learning to make your own compost (worm tea, anyone?). The city offers discounted bins and free classes all year long through a partnership with The Ecology Center.

Get Active. Screens taking over your life? Help your kids stay active by signing them up for city sports leagues, classes and camps. Or, throw out the mom jeans and say goodbye to the dad bod by hitting the trails as a family. Register for classes and sports leagues online at www.carlsbadconnect.org and get info on city trails at www.carlsbadca.gov/trails.

MiraCosta College

1 Barnard Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/757-2121 • www.miracosta.edu



Partnering for Success



Dr. Sunita V. Cooke
Superintendent/
President

It may take a village to raise a child, but in today's competitive job market, it takes partnerships to ensure that young person's success.

MiraCosta College is partnering with area high schools and colleges to give students more choices as they earn four-year degrees and pursue well-paying careers in San Diego County.

Starting in spring 2018, students can earn a four-year degree in Computer Information Technology at the MiraCosta College campus. The 2+2 program is part of an ongoing partnership with Point Loma Nazarene University to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing, business administration, child development, and computer information technology.

MiraCosta College has also partnered with Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad and Cathedral Catholic High School in Carmel Valley to expand our dual-enrollment opportunities. Dual-enrollment students can earn high school and college credits simultaneously, while bypassing AP exams, by taking college courses at MiraCosta's Oceanside and San Elijo campuses or at their respective high schools.

During our fall session, MiraCosta College welcomed students to the college's first four-year bachelor's program in biomanufacturing. The program will prepare students for careers in the biotech industry by emphasizing biological production, where science is partnered with quality and compliance instruction. Unlike existing biotechnology programs offered in California that focus on research and early development, MiraCosta's biomanufacturing degree program will focus on the later stages of biotech development and production.

We at MiraCosta College appreciate our partnerships and look forward to providing new opportunities for our students.

Carlsbad @Your Service



Sidewalk repair
Graffiti cleanup
Street light replacement
And more!



MAKE IT HAPPEN THIS SPRING

A talented surfer, Dayton raised the bar. Not only did he succeed in the classroom, he also helped MiraCosta earn multiple surfing championships. Today, he works as a web editor for a well-known surf magazine in San Diego.

*If Dayton can
do it...
So can you!*

CLASSES START **JANUARY 22**



Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jimmy Hines
Principal

Welcome, Two Eagles!

This year, we welcome two new additions to our wonderful staff!

Tari Carlin-Roberts is our new education specialist who has a busy day working with students in the Learning

Resource Center. She was born and raised in San Diego and spent the past 20 years in beautiful North County with her husband of nearly 30 years. She has four sons, three grandchildren and two yellow Labs. She splits time between her family and job in California and her family in Texas.

After teaching third and fourth grades, Mrs. Carlin-Roberts took a hiatus to raise and homeschool her boys. She then taught in a learning resource center at Ocean Knoll Elementary and became a National Board Certified Teacher in exceptional needs. Since 2011, she has taught graduate-level courses at National University's School of Education. She holds a number of advanced degrees and credentials.



Tari Carlin-Roberts, Kristen Ricci

In July 2016, Mrs. Carlin-Roberts and her husband moved to Texas to be closer to their children but returned in February 2017 to care for her mother, who has Parkinson's disease and to work as an education specialist at Pacific Rim Elementary.

Kristen Ricci is our new fifth-grade teacher, but she's not new to the school! She subbed in the district for almost two years, including a long-term third-grade substitute position here. She earned her bachelor's degree at Cal State San Marcos and received her multiple subject teaching credential from Cal State Fullerton. She strives to create a safe, collaborative, kind, fun and engaging environment for her students.

When not at school, Mrs. Ricci loves to run, go to the beach, travel, play with her dog, spend time with her family and friends, shop, and have coffee! She's thrilled to be teaching at AOE and excited for a great year!

Welcome to the two new Eagles in the AOE nest!

Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Bryan Brockett
Principal

Creating Space!

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start at AOMS! While we have enjoyed great success over the years on standardized measures of academic performance and

continued to do so last year, our team has been hard at work over the last three years seeking to take learning deeper and create more meaningful learning experiences for students. The vehicle for this work has been interdisciplinary project-based learning in which teachers across disciplines have worked to identify connections in the curriculum and develop opportunities for students to explore questions of interest in depth. One example would be the eighth-grade Innovation Project, which connects the four core content areas around the driving question *What tool of the future can you create that makes life easier while also reducing the use of a natural resource commonly used by humans?*



Our goal for this year is to refine these learning opportunities for students, and a part of that refinement involves looking at the suitability of the learning spaces in which teachers and students work. Student-driven inquiry as an approach to learning is fundamentally different from the traditional teacher-led direct instruction model, and we want to ensure that our students and teachers have environments that are conducive to effective individual, group and whole-class instruction while allowing the flexibility to navigate smoothly between these approaches. To that end, we are in the process of converting our former computer lab into a flexible learning space dubbed the Collaboratory, of executing a plan with grant funding from outside donors to modernize our library space, and of working with teachers on individual projects and at a district level on piloting flexible classroom designs. Each of these spaces presents an exciting opportunity to create inviting and exciting learning spaces that will help our students continue to enthusiastically dive into deep and meaningful learning at AOMS.

Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tina Howard
Principal

Going Green

Buena Vista Elementary School (BV) is going green! Our school-wide focus is the three Pillars of Green Ribbon Schools: reduced environmental impact, improved health and wellness, and effective environmental and sustainability education. This week, we focused on health and wellness by participating in National Walk and Bike to School Day and kicking off Workout Wednesdays Program.



Workout Wednesday Kickoff!

Principal Howard and many students rode bikes to school, and other families walked. After the morning bell, many engaged in a morning calisthenics workout, led by parent Melanie S. She led the students through a series of exercises that she uses when training Navy Seals as part of her job as an exercise consultant. Students showed their strength and fitness and had great fun!



Riley and Ryan enjoying being "Royalty for the Day"

Students were offered the opportunity to play bingo with Principal Howard during their lunch break as part of our Privileges Not Prizes program. Thirty-three students paid five Dolphin Dollars to play bingo. Other students chose to purchase privileges their teachers offered, including Royalty for the Day, Sit at the Teacher's Desk, Wear Pajamas to Class, and homework passes. This helps to fulfill our commitment to reduced environmental impact while creating fun opportunities for our students.

What's next? The addition of a chicken coop, our garden fund-raising and shed installation, upcycle art, Kindness Rocks, and project-based learning in science!

Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kimberly Fuentes
Principal

Making Space for Science

Calavera Hills Elementary School students are branching out into new laboratories for science instruction. Last year, the two Calavera schools unveiled a newly modeled and dedicated Maker Space. This year, students and staff members are taking full advantage of this flexible learning environment. The fifth-graders in Mrs. Kane's class recently expressed that the space "feels like their own laboratory," and that, "It makes them feel like a scientist."

Calavera's Maker Space serves to foster the 21st-century learning attributes required for success in life, but beyond that, it also builds joy and curiosity—the foundation for sustaining a desire to learn.



Mrs. Kakiuchi's class revives Calavera's garden.

Use of the Maker Space has initiated plans for other flexible learning spaces around campus. The fifth-grade teachers transformed a shared space that connects five classrooms into a coffee shop-like lounge area for use as an alternative work setting or collaborative project area. Some individual classes have dedicated stations for science and tinkering, such as the "Engineer Zone" in the kindergarten classrooms. The second-grade has also made an outdoor classroom in the school garden.

Calavera Hills Elementary School is committed to an integrated STEM curriculum, and our staff members are now focused on creating and utilizing the physical spaces around the campus to help enrich the learning experience.



5th graders experience chemical reactions in the CHE Maker Space.

Calavera Hills *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Michael Ecker
Principal

Service as a Learning Tool

This year at Calavera Hills Middle School we have partnered with a nonprofit to provide prosthetic hands to children in need around the world.

At CHMS, the power of this work comes from Design and Modeling, a Project Lead the Way course taught by teacher Aaron Sottile. The class is currently working on printing parts for the prosthetic hands using files from the nonprofit's website. By utilizing the 3D printers we have on campus, we are targeting the printing of two hands per week.



CHMS student, Danny Foote, with the pieces of the prosthetic that he will be creating from parts that he printed on the CHMS 3D printers.

We are then planning on assembling and shipping eight hands to the nonprofit for distribution to those students in need. Our class aide, eighth-grader Danny Foote as lead designer, is also leading the work.

Using service as a learning tool gives access to real and meaningful experiences for our students. For us, responding to the needs of the world through our curriculum carries extraordinary benefits. There is no clearer way for our students to be prepared to solve the problems that might lay ahead of them than by working to solve the problems that exist today.

The students who partake of this or similar learning experiences will be able to show any prospective employer that they have the skills to think through and solve difficult problems. Every business or organization would see this as an important trait in their prospective employees. As a school, this helps us continue our constant pursuit, and the true bottom line for anyone in education: to make the world a better place.



One fully assembled prosthetic hand ready for distribution. All parts are created and assembled by students at Calavera Hills Middle School.

Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

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



Julie Redfield
Interim Principal

Celebrating Our Accomplishments

By Alex Brown, Editor in Chief – Lancer Link

In July 2017, the Carlsbad High School (CHS) Film Academy earned silver medal Linked Learning certification. The organization is the only Carlsbad Unified School District program to have earned the distinction and is one of two in California to have earned it this year. Carlsbad's Film Academy is a unique and facilitative program that prepares students who want to pursue careers in film after high school. Students in Linked Learning accredited programs have a higher graduation rate and follow

an integrated path for three years in their English, history, and film classes. CHS teachers Mr. Brandmeyer, Mrs. Livingstone, and Mr. Jones work together to create curriculum that connects all classes together, as well as organizing various field trips and assemblies throughout the year. Students in the program are able to enroll in film making during their second year in the program and director's studio during their third year. Both classes allow students to use what they've learned in the program to create films of their own, using professional equipment provided by the school.

Six CHS students have recently been selected to voice their opinions on the Student Superintendent Advisory Council. Through a detailed application, Allison Polmar, Max Ward, Anthony Li, Rachel Kramer, Collin Schaefer, and Grayson Emery were chosen to be a part of the group, which acts as an intermediary between the student body and the School Board. The group meets once a month to discuss issues brought up by both the students and the superintendent, Dr. Ben Churchill. The council ignites a passion for change and discussion in students and includes students in important discussions.

This year, CHS will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Opened in 1957, CHS was the first high school built in Carlsbad, giving residents a local school as an option to Oceanside High School. CHS has provided students with opportunities in various fields throughout the years and continues to grow and improve each year. To celebrate the diamond anniversary, this year's homecoming dance was themed "60 Years of Excellence," and the Lancer Day class floats represented the important milestones of each year. The festivities will continue throughout the year as the school celebrates the 60th graduating class.

Carlsbad Village & Seaside *Academies*

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



Jorge Espinoza
Principal

Options for Success

One size does not fit all. This is the case when it comes to students in high school. Carlsbad Unified School District (CUSD) has two fantastic high schools, but some students need something different. That is where the two alternative high school programs, Carlsbad Village Academy and Carlsbad Seaside Academy, fill the void for students who can benefit from something different than the traditional comprehensive high school.

Carlsbad Village Academy provides a smaller environment for students who are 16 years old and may have fallen behind in earning the necessary credits toward graduation. The school has smaller class size, a later start time, and earlier dismissal than the other high schools. Students receive more one-on-one attention and are held accountable for their progress. It is challenging to motivate students when school has been such a challenge, but the staff recognizes that, with the right amount of encouragement, students can overcome their challenges, make up their credits, and work toward earning their high school diplomas.

Students who would like to attend Carlsbad Village Academy when they are 16 can elect to attend. Many students take advantage of the schedule and get part-time jobs or, better yet, attend classes at Mira Costa Community College.

The other alternative within CUSD is Carlsbad Seaside Academy. Seaside is a ninth- through 12th-grade independent study program. Students choose this program for a variety of reasons. Some are participating in sports at higher levels, and others feel that they learn better on their own. The students can take a full high school schedule and meet with their teachers at least once a week to go over assignments and check for understanding. This gives students ample time to pursue other interests while still giving them strong ownership over their own learning.

High school students in the CUSD boundaries can elect to participate in this program. For an enrollment appointment, please contact the principal, Mr. Espinoza, via e-mail at jespinoza@carlsbadusd.net or via phone at (760) 331-5299.

Hope *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Richard Tubbs
Principal

Welcome, New Hawks!

The HopeHawk community continues to expand as we welcomed 169 new students to our campus. Our PTA has sponsored several fun community events designed to help others connect with one another and build relationships. Thank you, parents, for being such an important part of our community, and we appreciate all the volunteers who continue to make our school great! Special thanks go to Danielle De Monte and Chantal Bean for coordinating our Family Food Truck night!

We welcome Monica Villarreal, a new first-grade teacher, to our community. Ms. Villarreal was born and raised in Carlsbad and attended our schools all the way from kindergarten to 12th grade. She graduated from Drury University in 2014—Go Panthers!—with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. While at Drury, she was a member of the Drury softball team and served as their starting pitcher in her junior and senior years.



Ms. Villarreal has wanted to be a teacher since she was in elementary school. While at Drury, she had the opportunity to travel to India as a student teacher for three weeks. She taught math and science at the third-grade level in India, and her time there made it crystal clear that she was on the right path in pursuing her passion to guide and direct students as a teacher.

When Ms. Villarreal is not teaching or planning awesome things for students to do at school, she enjoys reading, being poolside, shopping, dining out, and spending time with her dear family and friends. She is very excited to be a Hope Hawk and plans for her year to be full of fun and lots of learning in our amazing community!



Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chad Lund
Principal

Building a Bridge

This year, Jefferson Elementary is offering a new program called “Cafecito” (little coffee). Parents meet Wednesday mornings in the auditorium to share a cup of coffee and a little conversation in both English and Spanish.

According to the program’s founder, Jefferson parent Debbie Mendels, Cafecito has multiple goals. “We want to build a strong, cohesive, community at Jefferson,” she says. “There are many faces that we parents see each day, but we do not always stop to say “hi” to one another. Maybe we don’t stop because there is a language barrier?”

Mendels adds that, “If we can create a community where all families feel that they play an integral role in our school, are valued, and can feel “safe,” our

school will benefit. In time, it is my hope that we can build a strong support system for each other and thus provide a little more stability for our students.”

Another benefit is learning and practicing a second language. During Cafecito, the parents spend half of the time only speaking English to allow the English learners to practice in a safe and non-judgmental environment. The second half-hour is spent speaking only Spanish, to allow the Spanish learners a chance to improve their skills. Says Mendel, “A benefit of this is that we will all stumble in the language(s) that we are learning, and thus it “normalizes” stumbling.” Seeing Jefferson parents as learners sets an excellent example for our students.

Cafecito is part of an increased Spanish initiative at Jefferson Elementary, CUSD’s only IB World School.



Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tressie Armstrong
Principal

New Extension Activities

Exit “Fun Friday!” and enter ... Extreme Extension Friday! Every other Friday afternoon our students are excited to participate in a third- through fifth-grade elective program of engaging and enriching activities presented by their teachers.



creating a video production using a green screen. And one classroom allowed student exploration by creating a MakerSpace for this same period of time.

Every day throughout our Kelly campus enriched extension activities occur in every classroom. This focused period of time, where students can select and explore even deeper topics and explorations, creates truly Fun Fridays for the children, their teachers, and even their principal!

All the world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind. — Martin H. Fischer



Shining eyes and scrunchy faces abound as our students eagerly sign up for these opportunities. A visitor to our campus can see an incredible array of design thinking and project-based learning activities for the students to choose from. Our teachers collaborate closely to prepare and design experiences that their students will be excited to sign up for.

This past week, some students participated in a collaborative cooking class with our special education class, and created Pudding Pumpkin Patches! In another classroom, the students worked to design and build scaled houses that can withstand a hurricane. One team enjoyed



Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Aaron Nelson
Principal

Flexible Classroom Design

The focus of Magnolia Elementary School this year is to provide learning opportunities for every student, creating them as intentionally meaningful, relevant and personal. Along with our focus on Project Based Learning (PBL) and Design Thinking (DT), which both focus student learning on engaging, real-world problems, we have begun to explore the ways in which physical learning environments provide opportunity for personalization. Gone are the days of students working strictly in rows of desks on uniform learning tasks. These days, classrooms are beginning

to mirror the flexible, personal and innovative environments present in professional industries. As part of this transition, teachers at Magnolia have embraced the use of multiple seating and collaboration options for students in the classroom, including beanbag chairs and cushions, sitting stations, standing desks and movable tables.

Designing flexible learning spaces has provided new opportunities for students to engage collaboratively in ways that are comfortable for them and conducive to the task at hand. In addition, these flexible furniture options infuse greater opportunities for students to have choice in elements of their own learning—a key piece of the puzzle when it comes to student motivation. In addition, the sense of ownership that students feel in the flexible classroom extends to the wider school community,



Flexible seating in 5th grade.

and students begin to see themselves as drivers of their own school experience.

Ultimately, the shift to more flexible environments allows Magnolia to continue to pursue educational experiences for students that will prepare them for the ever-changing world that they will one day take their place in.



Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Robert Devich
Principal

Our Newest Staff Members!

I'd like to welcome Mrs. Angela Kaneko and Mrs. Alisa Chacon, our newest staff members at Pacific Rim Elementary. We are excited to have these

veteran teachers join our Pacific Rim family.

Angela Kaneko has been assigned to the second grade. She worked for the San Diego Unified School District for 19 years, and is also a proud parent at Pacific Rim Elementary. She currently resides in Carlsbad with her husband and two sons who attend Pacific Rim Elementary.

Alisa Chacon has been assigned to the fifth grade. She currently resides in Carlsbad with her husband and three sons who are all Pacific Rim alumni. Mrs. Chacon taught grades two through six in Whittier City, and had seven years in the Cupertino Union School District. For the past eight years she has worked at Pacific Rim part time running our reading program, and has worked with all of our English Learner students who are new to the country.

When asked what they appreciate most about teaching at Pacific Rim, Mrs. Kaneko said, "I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with such



Angela Kaneko - 2nd Grade



Alisa Chacon - 5th Grade

dedicated staff, eager students, and supportive parents!" Mrs. Chacon added, "I am so lucky to be a part of this amazing Pac Rim team. The students and staff support one another and always strive to do their best."

We are extremely lucky to have these two ladies who are so kindhearted and hardworking become a part of Pacific Rim Elementary. Mrs. Kaneko and Mrs. Chacon have been a wonderful addition to our team.

Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Marjorie Giordani
Principal

We've Got Spirit!

Poinsettia Elementary School has started the school year off by recognizing the great things our students are doing every day. One student from each classroom is sent to the office for a Positive Office Referral. The teacher writes a personal note about how the student has been kind, safe, responsible, respectful, or hardworking. One teacher honored a student for going out of her way to welcome a new student to the school. Another student was recognized for always being kind and showing a great work ethic.

Then the principal writes a note back recognizing their great character. The students then get to visit the principal's treasure box and write their names on our Positive Panther board. Go, Panthers!

In the spirit of recognizing our students, we have also added spirit sticks to our monthly awards recognition! Each student receives a Poinsettia Panther keychain. As they are recognized for academics, behavior, reading, the

character trait of the month, or perseverance, they receive spirit sticks to add to their keychains. Spirit sticks can also be earned for collecting box tops, participating in the Battle of the Books, or joining yearbook or student council. The sticks are intended to promote participation and provide positive reinforcement.



Poinsettia Spirit Stick rewards



Poinsettia TK and Kindergarten students with their Positive Office Referrals

Sage Creek *High School*

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Cesar Morales
Principal

Real-World Curriculum

When one thinks of an English class, the first thing that comes to mind is the methodical reading of a book, the endless study of vocabulary, the long sessions of grammar. Sage Creek's English Department has flipped this dated system of learning and has instead created a relevant curriculum that focuses on our students' futures outside of high school.

In the long term, our students' lives take precedent in the teachings of the Department. Teachers have emphasized college and career readiness all throughout the four years of high school, but for the senior-year students it takes absolute priority. The English curriculum for seniors now includes creating and curating a professional website that they can use to express their goals, their ideas, and themselves. Apart from the websites, our teachers also now place heavy emphasis on communication practices such as making polished phone calls and writing professional emails.

Finally, the curriculum includes the Genius Project. Students now think of creative ways to better their community, showcase their passions, and challenge themselves and their ways of thinking. Not only do they learn how to blog, they also master public speaking, even giving a Ted Talk-style synopsis at the end of the senior year.

Overall, working in unison with the Genius Project, these valuable lessons taught by the English Department will give our students the edge when applying to their dream schools, when finding their dream jobs, and when setting out to conquer any other challenges they might face.



English teacher Corrie Myers helps a student revise his college application.



Nicole Johnston
Principal

Community Building

Valley Middle School kicked off the year with great activities to build community and culture. Valley welcomed almost 100 new students, who have since learned why Valley is so special. Two group events that demonstrate our team-building activities are the student-led orientation day for

incoming students and our sixth-grade camp.

The Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) leadership program began training during the summer to prepare to welcome our sixth-grade class. WEB, a program where eighth-grade students become leaders on campus, helps ease the transition from fifth grade to middle school by fostering relationships. The leaders ensure that each sixth-grader knows that he or she has someone on campus to turn to for help making sense of the middle school experience.

The day before school started, WEB students led sixth-graders in an orientation. Their goal: Connect sixth-graders to one another and show them that “Valley is the Place to Be!” Sixth-graders made new friends, connected with WEB leaders, and learned about the campus. Students also enjoyed a barbecue lunch, courtesy of the Valley staff. In the afternoon, an ice-cream social was hosted by Valley staff and WEB students to welcome seventh- and eighth-graders back to school. These unique opportunities allow students to engage with one another, make new friends, and understand the layout of the campus.



Sixth Grade Camp Day Hike

Excitement spilled out of the buses as students arrived at sixth-grade camp. Over 250 sixth-graders attended outdoor school this year, consisting of five days of hikes, archery, rock climbing, canoeing, team building, bunk mates, 2 minute showers, and family-style meals with amazing camp counselors. Students even had the opportunity to hike at night, studying constellations and seeing the natural environment up close and personal. Great memories were made with new and old friends.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Benjamin Churchill

Critical Thinker: Graduates are inquisitive. They notice; they wonder; they figure things out.

Pacific Rim second graders learn to think like scientists by studying the scientific method in the laboratory -- making a hypothesis, gathering information, conducting an experiment, observing results, and sharing their conclusions. Kindergarten students participate in Innovation Day, where they get to use their imagination to create something that did not exist before.

Lifelong Learner: Graduates have the passion and vigor for learning that will fuel them through new opportunities and challenges.

In the AVID program at Poinsettia and Aviara Oaks Elementary, students are learning organizational skills, note-taking, questioning, time management, and public speaking. These skills promote responsibility and success in life and in the world of work.

College & Career Ready Scholar: Graduates navigate pathways that connect education and employment to a fulfilling, financially secure life.

At Calavera Hills Elementary, Project Lead the Way supports the development of skills students need to thrive. Engaging activities, grounded in the principles of design thinking, provide a platform for teamwork, discussion, reflection, and a connection to the world around them.

At Jefferson Elementary, the International Baccalaureate program involves students in studying real world, relevant themes, and exercising higher-order thinking in a challenging environment.

Ethical & Responsible Citizen: Graduates display integrity and civic mindedness. They honor their commitments and aspire to the highest standards.

Kelly Elementary believes that preparing children for life success lies in creating a foundation of treating others kindly. As a proud founding school for the Great Kindness Challenge, Kelly students are reminded, encouraged, and supported in doing good things for others every moment of every day.

Self-Directed Individual: Graduates accept responsibility for their

learning. They recognize their strengths and work to their full potential.

Through Project-Based Learning and design thinking, students at Magnolia Elementary continue to hone skills of collaboration, communication, and creative innovation. The use of real-world questions and problems help to drive meaningful and relevant instruction as students prepare themselves to be the innovators of the future upon graduation.

The Hope Elementary School faculty decided to have each grade level focus on one trait from the Graduate Profile. The teachers emphasize and reinforce these profiles in their daily work and activities: Kindergarten (Lifelong Learner); 1st grade (Self-Directed Individual); 2nd grade (Ethical and Responsible Citizen), 3rd grade (Effective Communicator and Collaborator); 4th grade (Critical Thinker), and 5th grade (College and Career Ready Scholar).

By working purposefully to instill the Graduate Profile traits in our students, our elementary schools are educating students based on an innovative academic foundation that supports building blocks of good character and successful behaviors that will serve them well in their future lives and careers.

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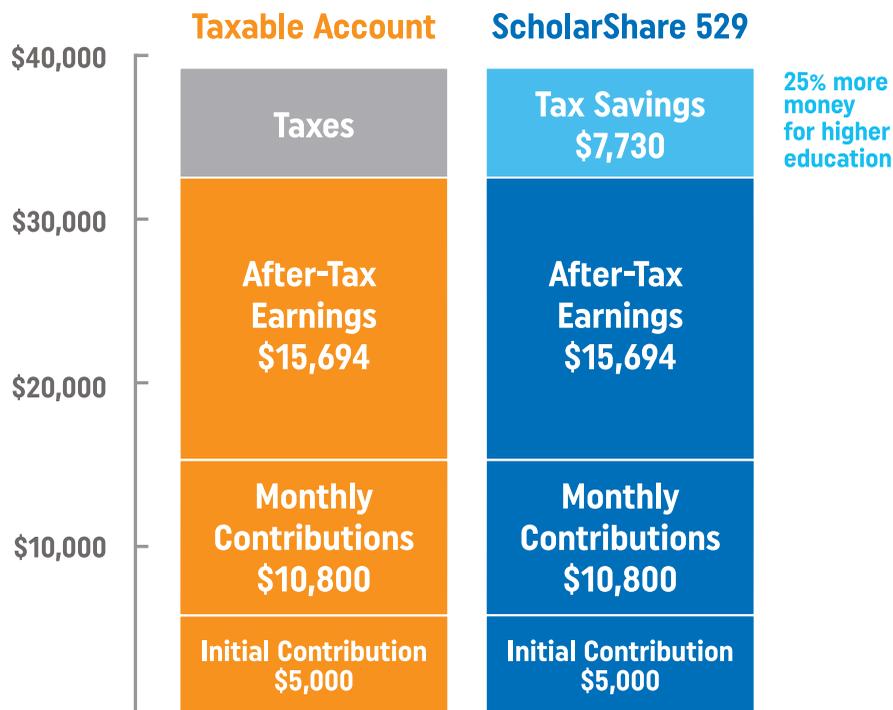
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