

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Torrance Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 15

NOVEMBER 2017–JANUARY 2018

Legacy of Excellence, Promise of a Bright Future



Dr. George Mannon
Superintendent

Last month we celebrated a very special birthday, Torrance High School turned 100! Tartars from far and wide reunited to celebrate the milestone birthday. The celebration was marked with several special events and by rededicating the school. Meeting multiple generations of Tartars, some from the same family, was a heartfelt experience. The legacy of Torrance High and TUSD is that of academic achievements, friendships, and pride.

As we reflect back on our rich history, we also look forward to our promising future. Over the summer, a few community

members had the opportunity to visit one of our new elementary science labs. At Edison Elementary School, teachers, along with a few of our budding scientists, gathered to demonstrate the next evolution of science learning in the District. The investigative and hands on lesson about earthworms offered students an engaging academic opportunity. The new science labs are going to be dynamic spaces of discovery, collaboration, and

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 13



Elementary Science

TUSD Superstars



Back: Ruth Marshall-Coulter, Shelley Stallings, Jonathan Sperling, Samuel Gonzales, Dena Ludwig
Front: Sandra Matsumura, Marcia Bergen, Truc Le, Teresa Vuong, Vilma Carrizales
(Please see pages 16 and 17 for TUSD Superstars article.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Terry Ragins
President

Welcome back to school, everyone!

Looking forward to this new school year, my colleagues and I on the TUSD school board are all committed to building and maintaining our strong relationships with the Torrance community. We all want to see our excellent school district continue to grow and flourish as we educate our fine students. I consider myself lucky indeed to have been elected to serve the TUSD school community.

We are fortunate to live in a town with amazing and engaged community members who continue to ensure that I hear from them on issues that matter to them. After all, effective leadership is achieved through valuable communication and policy transparency with an engaged community. Having served in various volunteer organizations, including many years in the PTA, I fully understand the necessity for dialogue, conversation, and regular contacts.

One of my favorite part of school board meetings is when residents, especially our students, make comments about issues that are of significance to them, and share about the “good news” things that they see happening at their own schools. As a school board member I highly value being able to stay connected to the community where I raised my family through Torrance schools.

School board meetings provide a great opportunity for community members to address the Board. We value transparency, and by attending school board meetings Torrance community members can gain a better understanding on our decision making and policy setting process.

As this new school year begins, I also invite you to join us and support the many programs and events happening throughout our District. Come and visit our beautiful school campuses. Our schools host a multitude of events from talent shows, science fairs and art shows, plays and concerts, academic competitions as well as competitive sporting events throughout the year. Our TUSD students, families, teachers, staff, and administrators work hard in the classrooms, for sure. They also work hard to provide extra-curricular and enrichment activities for our students.

I personally try and attend as many of these events and activities as I can. Please come say “Hi” and introduce yourself and family if you see me out and about. I would love to meet and chat with you. Each of you is a part of what makes our schools and school communities extraordinary.

I would also like to thank all of our staff, faculty, and administrators for their willingness to always go the extra mile for our students’ academic success. I am excited for the start of a new school year and all the possibilities it brings with it!

Health News

by Thomas Jacob, MD

Does my child have pinkeye?

When a child's eye becomes itchy and red, parents can become alarmed and assume their child has bacterial conjunctivitis, but many conditions can cause eye redness and irritation and only some of them are contagious.

Pinkeye is kind of a wastebasket term — a lot of things get thrown into it. When we talk about pinkeye, we usually mean bacterial conjunctivitis, but many things can cause the eye to become red or inflamed, including viruses, allergies, contact lenses or air pollutants.

Conjunctivitis is any inflammation of the clear membranes covering the white of the eye and the inner side of the eyelid. The same viruses that are responsible for colds and infections of the ear, sinuses and throat can also cause conjunctivitis. Children with viral conjunctivitis do not benefit from taking antibiotics. The condition is contagious, however, and they may need to stay home from school until the fever or other symptoms resolve.

Children who suffer from allergies or have a family history of hay fever, asthma or

eczema are prone to allergic conjunctivitis, which causes itchy eyes but is treatable, and not contagious. This type of inflammation is usually accompanied by nasal symptoms including a runny nose or stuffiness and a recent exposure to allergens such as cats, dogs, dust or pollen.

Children with any type of conjunctivitis — whether caused by bacteria, viruses or allergies — typically awaken with crust in one or both eyes. Some children also complain of a sandy or gritty feeling in the eye. You can gently remove the crust by using warm compresses.

If the reddened eye also develops a green or yellow discharge (pus), bacterial conjunctivitis or pinkeye is usually the cause. Children with allergic conjunctivitis typically have a watery discharge from the eye, but no pus or discharge.



When to take your child to the doctor

Pinkeye is fairly common and unlikely to cause long-term vision or eye problems if promptly treated. See a doctor immediately if your child develops any of the following symptoms:

- eye redness accompanied by green or yellow pus
- vision suddenly becomes blurry
- eyes become sensitive to light
- significant eye pain or swelling
- inability to open eyes due to pain or photosensitivity

Dr. Jacob is a pediatrician at the UCLA Health office in Torrance, located at 23550 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 180



Preventing pinkeye

Bacterial conjunctivitis easily spreads from eye to eye and person to person. The best way to prevent the spread of infection is through frequent hand washing. Children with bacterial conjunctivitis should see a doctor immediately and should not return to school until 24 hours after beginning a course of antibiotic eye drops or ointment.

School News

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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our first issue this school year. By now students are settled into a routine and focused on their academic goals.

Beginning on the front page with the Superintendent's message the promise of a bright future at TUSD is evident. The positive message is contagious and definitely makes you appreciate this is an excellent time to be a student.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is January 31 just in time to begin the New Year!

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

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

Teaching Tolerance



Ioana Pal, PsyD.
clinical psychologist,
Stramski Children's
Developmental
Center
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Each year, about 4,400 infants in the U.S. are born with a cleft lip and about 2,700 are born with a cleft palate. Together, these conditions are often referred to as craniofacial abnormalities, which are among the most common birth defects.

For children with craniofacial abnormalities, there are many visible (facial characteristics and/or speech difficulties), as well as invisible characteristics (anxiety, breathing difficulties) that may impact a child's ability to interact with others in meaningful ways.

These interactions can become even more difficult, and can affect their self-esteem, self-acceptance and communication skills, when other children tease, taunt, stare or exclude them.

Your child may know someone with a craniofacial abnormality, and it may be challenging for them to understand their peer's condition. Family members and other adults who are part of a child's life have the opportunity to educate children about respect for others and tolerance of differences.

- Model inclusive behavior. You can help your children become more compassionate, empathic and respectful by staying educated. Communicate openly with them about sensitive topics (asking and answering questions about craniofacial defects) and role play hypothetical situations or conversations.
- Curiosity is a venue for learning. Teach your child to ask questions in appropriate, thoughtful ways.
- Good communication and socialization skills lead to compassion. Encourage your child to communicate about their feelings and thoughts in age appropriate, pro-social ways.
- Ask your child's school about their anti-bullying policies in order to understand the steps taken to prevent bullying.

Our specialty:

Gastroenterology

Parker's specialty:

Tummy Time

Our specialists are the leaders
in children's health care.

As an infant, Parker struggled to gain weight. He was referred to pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr. Robert Tran, at the Children's Specialty Center in Irvine. Dr. Tran diagnosed Parker with cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system – and was the culprit of Parker's failure to thrive. In the first week under Dr. Tran's care, Parker gained 1 lb. – a significant accomplishment. Now, he's growing strong and mastering the art of tummy time.



Parker, 7-months-old,
Miller Children's
Gastrointestinal Patient



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Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org

Advocate for Education and Child Welfare

By Nannette Nolan, President

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) oversees the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district. We are organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide information and instruction to our units, leadership training, and coordination of the efforts of our units.

TCPTA once again work with Torrance Unified School district and the community to organize Project BOSS (Bring Our Students Supplies), a program that supplies backpacks to students in need in Torrance. The collective efforts and donations allowed TCPTA to stuff more than 400 backpacks with much-needed school supplies.

Project HOPE, one of our newest community outreach programs serving homeless Torrance families, will once again collect non-perishable food and personal hygiene items. TCPTA is currently collecting items for nearly 80 needy students in TUSD.

TUSD Students are working on their entries for the National PTA Reflections program. The theme this year is "Within Reach" Original works will be accepted in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Students will be submitting their projects to be judged at their unit level in October. The first place winners are then sent to be judged by TCPTA in November. The first place winners at the council level will be sent on to District, State and National judging. It is always great to see all of the original art pieces that the students turn in.

PTA continues to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. Each of our 30 school's membership campaigns are in full swing. If you have not joined PTA at your local school, please join and become part of the largest advocacy group in the United States.

Torrance Education Foundation

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

Science Labs Launch at 4 TUSD Schools

By Susan Swinburne,
Executive Director

The first four Elementary Science Labs in TUSD – at Carr, Edison, Lincoln and Yukon – are opening for business this fall! The labs, a joint project of TUSD and TEF, bring experimentation and discovery about science to students as young as Kindergarten for the first time.

In the next two years, thirteen more labs will be built and



Earthworm Examination

outfitted so that all 17 TUSD elementary schools have their own, dedicated science lab. Torrance Education Bond funds are paying for construction of the labs, while Torrance Education Foundation will underwrite all the lab tools and equipment.

Torrance Unified is a leader in building new curriculum for teaching Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to our students of all ages. To learn how to donate to the Science Labs campaign at TEF, please call Susan at (310) 320-7232.



ECC INVITES YOU TO COLLEGE NIGHT!

Please join us anytime
between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15

- Learn about ECC Programs and Resources
- Tour the Campus
- Attend Workshops:
Financial Aid, Transfer Strategies, Athletics,
and Career and Technical Education

RSVP: www.elcamino.edu/collegenight



El Camino College



16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90506

Adams *Elementary*

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



Shayla Smith-Taranto
Principal

Be a Patriot Star!

John Adams Elementary is so excited to kick off this school year with our schoolwide PBIS program! PBIS is short for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. As a school, we are implementing schoolwide systems for behavioral support for all students. In the month of September, all students were taken on “Star Tours” to learn the STAR expectations of different areas on our school campus. The Star Tours are hosted by classroom teachers, our principal and the school counselor. Students visited the cafeteria, hallways, playgrounds and dismissal areas.

A key strategy of the PBIS process is prevention. As a team, we are setting students up for success by teaching them how to follow the schoolwide behavioral expectations. Students also have the opportunity to earn a yellow STAR Ticket for showing kindness, taking responsibility, acting safely, and respecting others. All staff members—custodians, teachers, the principal and noon aides—have the opportunity to positively acknowledge STAR Behavior by giving out the highly sought-out STAR Tickets. Students are recognized at weekly assemblies and have an opportunity to use their STAR Tickets to purchase items at the student store.

Be a Patriot STAR! S—Show Kindness, T—Take Responsibility, A—Act Safely, R—Respect Everyone

Anza *Elementary*

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



Barbara Marks
Principal

Bully Free!

October is Bully Prevention and Awareness month, and the Anza community pledges to be bully free! Students across campus will engage in fun-filled activities and projects in preparation for Mix It Up day, a day in October when students sit with students they’ve never eaten with before at lunch. Students decorate the lunch area with friendship paper chains and posters to add to the festivities. Conversation prompts generated by the students and icebreaker activities on the tables help students learn about one another and hopefully gain a new friend for recess and beyond!



During assemblies, students learn about what bullying is, the effects of bullying and what to do when they witness bullying, including helping the target of the bullying and reporting to staff. Information about bullying is sent home with activities for families to do together, and parents will have an opportunity to learn about bullying at a parent night. The Anza community works together to keep our school safe!

Arlington *Elementary*

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



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

Keeping It Positive

Welcome back, Super Stars! The Arlington Elementary School staff looks forward to another fantastic school year. We want to welcome our returning families and extend a special greeting to our new Super Stars across the campus, from staff to students. This year promises to be another successful one, with many new programs and events!

We are excited to implement Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS). This school-wide system includes strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting positive student behaviors to create a safe and positive school environment. With PBIS, students learn about behavior just as they learn math or science. All students will be encouraged to be respectful, responsible, and safe. Students are excited to earn Star Bucks, which can be redeemed at our student store or their classroom stores.

I’m truly looking forward to another great year as your principal, and I’m proud to be an Arlington Super Star!

Arnold *Elementary*

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



Justine Lang
Principal

Celebrating the New School Year

Arnold Elementary School began the 2017–2018 school year with lots of community spirit, and a dedication to creating a learning environment where all students can see success.

Our third year of registration went extremely well, with 640 families turning in their required paperwork and getting their teacher assignments the week before school started.

We even added a Kindergarten Social this year so that our youngest Alleycats could start to feel comfortable on campus.

Thank you to our PTA and all of the staff volunteers who made this happen! After school on our first Friday back, the PTA also sponsored an ice cream social to bring the community together and start the school year off with some sweet fun! This was also the day that we kicked off our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) month.

Through PBIS, we teach our students the school-wide behavior expectations that will help guide their decision making. We spend the entire month talking to children about what it means to be “Respectful, Responsible, Safe, and Use Your Best Effort.” Additionally, throughout the year we also have student challenges to, “Be Kind, Polite, and Inclusive.”

We value the importance of educating the whole child, and strive to create an environment that will support all our students, while also providing rigorous academic instruction. Combined, these efforts help us to see our school mission come true for all students: “Dream it; Believe it; Achieve it.”

You can feel the excitement on campus as we start another year here at Arnold Elementary School. Go, Alleycats!

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Calle Mayor *Middle School*

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



Dave Mosley
Principal

New Year, New Additions

Welcome back to another great school year at Calle Mayor Middle School!

We hope that your child is excited about the new school year as much as we are. With continued support from our PTSA and school community, Calle Mayor is excited to be able to offer many after-school programs such as robotics, woodshop, computer programming, speech and debate, Model United Nations, physical fitness, and after-school tutoring. These programs give students an opportunity to participate and learn many new and challenging fun skills which can prepare them for the 21st century.



We are also proud to announce construction of our new school gymnasium sometime in the spring of 2018. It is a great addition to our already wonderful campus!

This project was part of Bond Measures “T” and “U” recently passed by our Torrance community. We would like to thank you all for this wonderful addition to our campus.

Casimir *Middle School*

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



Susie Holmes
Principal

Exciting Changes

Casimir Middle School students arrived back on campus at the end of August, accompanied by parents, guardians and sometime older siblings, to see the construction completed over the summer. At the end of the 2016–2017 school year, much of the field was sectioned off by a long, green fence. While students watched through the spaces in the green plastic, the construction crew worked hard to dig the foundation for our new gym. Over the summer, it appeared that the work would never result in something tangible for students to see.

In August and September, all of this came to light, as the walls of the gym began to take shape. Students are excited, waiting in anticipation for the completion. For all students, the real surprise when they arrived at school was the brand-new lockers that filled the locker bay and lined a row of buildings. Sixth-grade students in particular were overjoyed to have dodged the fate of Room 11, the infamous room where sixth-grade backpacks were stored in an effort to keep our hallways clear of items in case of a schoolwide emergency. The lockers, both inside the locker bay and along the classrooms, are clean and easy to open. And the Casimir gym continues to go up behind the now blue fencing.

Carr *Elementary*

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



Katie Schenkelberg
Principal

A Big RRAH!

Carr Elementary School faculty, staff and community members have come together over many years to create a learning environment that rewards positive behavior and encourages our Carr Cubs to be *respectful*, be *responsible*, *always* be safe, and *help* everyone learn (also known as our RRAHs!) The Carr staff takes a proactive approach at continually improving the school's climate and culture to support all students' social-emotional needs rather than a reactionary discipline approach focused on consequences through our Positive School Culture Plan.

This year, Carr students have been a part of our Positive Behavior Month, when we took the Golden Rule Pledge at our Kickoff Assembly, had Positive Behavior Classroom Talks, and had a Positive Behavior Day and a Character Education Assembly. Student earned prizes for receiving an RRAH-ward, which was given for being caught doing something positive on campus.

Within the scope of developing positive character and self-identity, we also spend some time discussing and practicing social responsibility. Carr is adopting the Grades of Green Trash-Free Lunch program on our campus this year, when students will be inspired and empowered to care for the environment. Students will learn about the importance of conserving natural resources, reducing litter and landfill waste, preventing pollution, and the three R's—reduce, reuse and recycle. We are excited about encouraging our Carr Cubs to implement a lunch-sorting system to reduce waste and keep our campus litter free.

We take seriously our school mission of “building lifelong learners and fostering a safe learning environment that nurtures academic and social success”!

Edison *Elementary*

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



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

At Edison Elementary School, we pride ourselves on using the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) system to motivate students to make good choices and to build a positive school culture. We have a motto of “Keeping It REAL!” which stands for Respect, Empathy, Awareness, and Learning. Our teachers are educating students on behavior expectations in the classroom, and the principal covers expectations for common areas, such as the cafeteria, playground, bathroom, and hallways.

Positive behaviors are recognized by our teachers, para-educators, office staff, custodian, noon-aides, and principal by passing out Keep It REAL slips. Students take home the top portion to show off to their parents, and we keep the bottom portion for a weekly raffle. Winning students can

choose from prize options which include a front-of-the-lunch-line pass, lunch with the principal, a homework pass, or a prize from our treasure box. Students who collect 15 slips within a trimester are recognized on the Principal's Honor Roll.



Fern *Elementary*

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



Debbie Mabry
Principal

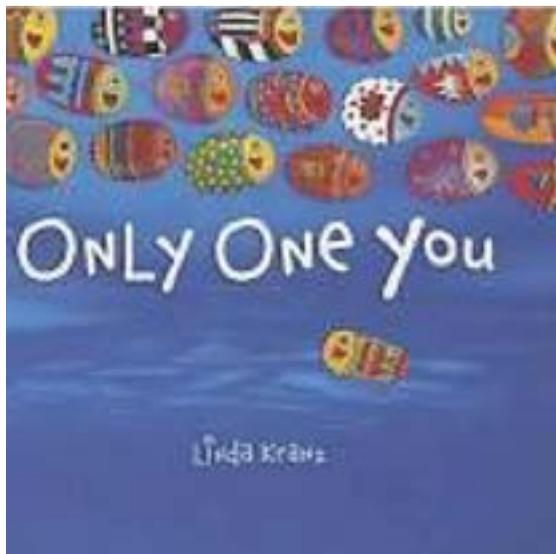
New Year, New Mindset

Welcome back, Falcons! We want to welcome returning Fern Elementary School families and extend a special greeting to our new students, families, and teachers.

The Fern staff strives to provide a positive learning community, as we appreciate that a positive attitude has a powerful effect on learning. With a growth mindset, students believe that, through effort and practices, they can develop and improve their talents and abilities.

This year, Fern's common book is *Only One You*. A common book unites students and staff members in a shared learning experience. Positive phrases such as "think positive thoughts" and "look for opportunities to excel" are scattered throughout this beautiful book.

Please join us on a wonderful journey of positive thinking and take the time to develop your growth mindset. Positivity can make a difference in your child and in your entire family. I look forward to a Fern-tastic 2017–2018 school year!



Hickory *Elementary*

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



Edna Schumacher
Principal

Lots of Learning

On September 7, Hickory Elementary School opened its doors to a record 955 students. The opening of school was filled with excitement. It is always a special day for returning students to see their friends from last year, meet new friends, explore their new classrooms, and, of course, meet their new teachers.

Our kindergarten and first-grade teachers will be receiving professional development in the area of Next Generation Science Standards. Our fourth- and fifth-grade teachers will be focusing on math lesson study, which will help with the understanding and teaching of the new Common Core Math Standards. This includes working with professors from Loyola Marymount University as well as working with district math coaches. Second- and third-grade teachers will continue to focus on Guided Reading and developing lessons focused on literacy across the curriculum.

Hickory is a busy place where students are involved in active learning. We are excited to have our fourth-grade team using Google Classroom as their learning management system for classwork, homework, and discussion outside our classroom walls. Students and teachers are involved in a one-to-one netbook rollout, where students have access to their assigned netbooks throughout the day. Parents and students have access to their classes via Google Classroom 24 hours a day. They can access assignments, teacher notes, and lessons, and they can turn in and collaborate on assignments using their netbooks. Good luck to our fourth-grade team with this ambitious venture!

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2017–2018 school year!



Festival Trees for Pre-Sale Nov. 28 - 30

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J.H. Hull *Middle School*

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



Patty Girgis
Principal

District CombatBot Battle

Students from all over the TUSD district came to Hull Middle School in the evening in June to compete in the inaugural TUSD CombatBot Battle.

This was open to all TUSD students and schools, with many students coming to represent Hull Middle School, Madrona Middle School and Casimir Middle School. In conjunction with the annual CO2 Car Race held earlier in the evening, the CombatBot Battle will hopefully become an annual event that all TUSD students can enter to represent their schools proudly.



Hull Students, Joey Millek, Gabe Ponciano, and Seth Russell come in 2nd place in the 1st Annual TUSD CombatBot Battle in June, hosted by Hull Middle School.

The Hull team of Joey Millek, Gabe Ponciano and Seth Russell represented its school proudly and came in second place overall. We are proud of all of our students and their accomplishments, and this is a great example of some of the “Hawksome” things that are going on at JH Hull Middle School!

LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

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



Teresa Lanphere
Principal

Our Students Soar!

September has been a very busy month for the youngest students in Torrance Unified School District. On September 6, all of the Tykes Preschool classrooms at Arlington, Carr, Edison, Lincoln, Torrance, and Wood Elementary Schools opened their doors to almost 350 smiling four- and five-year-olds.

On September 20, at our LAUNCH Preschool site next to Arnold Elementary School, we held a very successful Ready, Set, Go event to welcome parents onto campus and give them the opportunity to complete needed documentation and participate in our PTA association meeting. On September 21, close to 300

LAUNCH students, with their age appropriate Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) friends, officially started school.

It has been exciting to get students back into school ready to learn and to build the foundational skills that will help prepare them for kindergarten in their future. We can't wait to see how far the students can soar with their learning!

Jefferson *Middle School*

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



Yvonne Marin
Principal

A Great Team Player

Ms. Ludwig received the honor of being recognized as the Middle School Certificated Employee of the Year for 2016–2017. Jefferson Middle School (JMS) is a wonderful place to go to school, an amazing place to work, and an awesome place to have a student attend. Ms. Ludwig is a key player in making JMS a special place.

Ms. Ludwig is currently a seventh-grade science teacher and the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) coordinator. She is also a Torrance Teacher Association site representative, supporting her colleagues and mentoring many. She works alongside the English Language Development (ELD) coordinator and the Response to Intervention coordinator to help to develop and implement site plans, oversee data, and organize our Professional Learning Community records. Ms. Ludwig is also the JMS technology lead teacher, as she meticulously oversees the netbook checkout system campus-wide.

We are proud to have Ms. Ludwig on Team JMS!



Lynn *Middle School*

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



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Schoolwide Tutorial

Tutorial Thursdays are here! After a year of collective inquiry into best practices and planning, our learning community is implementing a significant reshaping of student support while adding opportunities for students to “stretch” their learning experiences.

With an emphasis on “learning for all,” our Tutorial Thursday program shifts some instructional minutes within our school day that allows us to provide 30 minutes of support to students needing additional assistance with course work. While supporting struggling learners is important, we recognize a growing number of high-achieving and gifted students (GATE) who need opportunities to explore, apply, and stretch their learning. With stretching learning opportunities in mind, our students have a wide selection of programs to choose from, including college and career forums, 30-Minute Coding, robotics, jazz band, Junior Scholarship, journalism and food sciences. As our stretch activities continue to grow, student interest in our college and career forums is generating the most buzz. Athletes, doctors, engineers, game designers, machinations and a few rocket-scientists are some of our career speakers on this year's forum list.

As one can see, our school year is off to a great start! We are reenergized by opportunities afforded by Tutorial Thursdays, which reinforces our school's motto, “Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!”

Madrona *Middle School*

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



Welcome to Wildcat Workshop!

Last year in an effort to enrich, enhance, and support all students, our faculty and staff created Wildcat Workshop! as part

of our school day. This 30 minute window will provide additional help to our students across all curricular areas. Students will also have the freedom to choose enrichment opportunities to foster their individual interests. We expect to build community within our school and with our neighbors.

Wildcat Workshop! will also provide clubs the opportunity to meet and compete during the school day, engage with outside groups to meet our “Steam & Service” motto, and serve as vehicles to expand our students’ perspective.

We look forward to our students’ growth of knowledge and mindset.



Lincoln *Elementary*

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



The Success of Each Student

Oh, how time flies when you’re having fun! That’s how I feel as I enter my eleventh year as principal of Lincoln Elementary. I am so excited to be welcoming our new families to Lincoln this year, and am overjoyed to see all of our returning students back for another great year of living, learning, and laughing together!

I consider it a distinct honor to serve as Lincoln’s principal, and feel as though my professional journey has shaped me into a leader who is insightful, transparent, and understanding of the importance of strong relationships among school and community stakeholders. My professional experiences have included serving

as an elementary school principal for the past 14 years working in Torrance Unified and West Contra Costa Unified.

Prior to my current role, I was a middle school assistant principal, curriculum coach, and classroom teacher in Northern and Southern California. I am proud to be a life-long learner with continued high expectations for myself, my staff, and my students.

What has remained paramount throughout my career is the importance of making sure that the success of each student in my care is achieved by nurturing their development academically, socially, and emotionally. I believe that this is achieved through truly getting to know each child and their strengths, their challenges, their beliefs, their culture, their family, their uniqueness.

This is how we in education can position ourselves to meaningfully educate and shape the lives of young people, guiding them through their journey of realizing their full potential and becoming successful, contributing members of our ever-changing society.

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Magruder *Middle School*

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



Lisa Nunes
Principal

For a Smooth Transition

At Magruder, the start of the school year means Operation Back to School (OBS)! In its nearly 20th year, this program is a unique opportunity offered to the incoming sixth-graders to help them acclimate to their new life as a middle schooler.

On August 28, approximately 30 seventh- and eighth-grade Student Council Mustangs trained on how to lead team-building activities and techniques in order to work with their younger counterparts soon to arrive on August 29. The leadership exhibited by these ASB members was exquisite, and helped to calm the jitters of those embarking on this new adventure in education.

Upon their arrival, the 108 incoming sixth-graders met five of their future teachers (and friendly “older kids”) to attend three days of lessons that would help them become more confident. These lessons included training in anti-bullying, understanding learning styles, effective use of their school-issued planner, study skills, and how to master their locker combination.

The three-day event concluded with a pizza party to celebrate these students’ success in the classroom and on campus, and to help meet new friends. This program will help build a supportive culture for our students so that they can continue to see success in their growth in academics and as a Mustang.

OBS will continue with increased participation, and with active support from the school and PTSA. We want to assure a smooth transition to middle school for those who choose to participate in this opportunity.

Richardson *Middle School*

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



Ian Drummond
Principal

A Positive Learning Environment

At Richardson, our Leadership Class continues to set a positive tone on campus right from the start. The group’s second annual “Welcome Week” activity was just that — a week of activities designed to welcome new and returning students to campus and help send the 2017–2018 school year in the right direction.

On Monday, each student was provided with a “Hello, my name is ____” sticker as a proactive way of introducing themselves to each other. During the day they were encouraged to say “hello” to as many new classmates as they could, and also to try to meet some new friends. On Tuesday, three grade-level Positive Behavior assemblies were presented by members of the Leadership Class. They performed skits which illustrated the negative outcomes of making poor decisions, and also reinforced the positive results of making better choices.

The “Board of the Brave” installation was also introduced on Tuesday. This encouraged our students to write a motivational or positive statement and place it on a special board as inspiration to their fellow classmates.

By the end of the week there were hundreds of inspiring quotes. On Wednesday, a scavenger hunt sent both new and returning students on a quest to learn their way around our newly modernized facility. Thursday’s “Performances in the Playground” event provided an open opportunity for students and staff to share their talents with the school. Everyone gathered on the playground at lunch to watch performances held on a small makeshift stage.

Welcome Week concluded with “High Five Friday.” Students and staff alike had a fun day high-fiving each other to help further motivate our positive campus atmosphere. The Leadership Class, and Richardson Middle School, are on a mission together to create the most positive learning environment we can!

North *High School*

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



Chris Sheck
Principal

Elevating Our Youth, Cultivating Our Future

The culture of North High School has long been associated with a strong sense of community and unyielding determination. It is through this lens of understanding that we strive each day to develop young men and women into “difference makers.”

Every time a student speaks a word of encouragement to another student who they are hoping to inspire, they are a difference maker. Every time a student engages others to bring out their best efforts, they are a difference maker. Every time a student practices academic integrity in class, even though no one else is watching, and when they do what is right simply because it is the right thing to do, they are a difference maker. These simple acts do make a difference in the lives of our students, our campus and our community.

Difference makers are also the students who display honesty, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, and genuine care for others in a world that is riddled with self-aggrandizing behavior. Developing this ideology to help live a life which can make a difference is what we have proudly and aptly called, “Saxon Strong.”

Saxon Strong has become a system of ideas that guide our thoughts, words, and actions. It is a system which our teachers and students must first believe, and then live. As Leonardo da Vinci once said, “I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough, we must do.”

Saxon Strong is our commitment to not only become listeners, but also doers. We want to have a real impact, bring value to others, and make a difference. The difference makers of today will become the history makers of tomorrow, and so we are Saxon Strong!

Seaside *Elementary*

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



Michele Bauer-Bean
Principal

Volunteer Today

Cool winds swept the Seaside Elementary School campus last week, which only reminded us that fall is definitely here!

It’s been a busy season. The night before the first day of school our PTA greeted students and parents when they first stopped by Seaside to discover their initial class placements for the upcoming school year. Each year before school begins the official list is posted at 5 o’clock outside the cafeteria. For the last few years the PTA has also been present to say “hello” to our new and returning families, as well as provide the children with treats and their parents with valuable information about volunteer opportunities and membership.

This year the PTA launched the “Direct Donation” campaign to help support various enrichment activities. The PTA is definitely an important part of our school. Parents volunteer tremendous amounts of time in and out of the classrooms to support both learning and fun times. Family Nights, movie nights, carnivals, field trips, and assemblies are all part of the enrichment activities provided through parent participation.

At Seaside, our staff members and parents work together to support our children!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Christie Forshey
Principal

Roadrunner Run Club

Roadrunner Run Club is an opportunity for Kinder-Fifth grade students to run because it is FUN every Tuesday before school

from 8:00-8:30. Run Club Coaches: Bridget Hope, Cameron Ross, Katie Zelhart and Michael Pandolfo teach track etiquette, running techniques, benefits of nutrition and physical fitness and prepare students to run in local 5ks. Last year, Riviera Roadrunners ran 5000 laps or 1,300 miles! That equates to an imaginary run to Boulder, Colorado. Over 100 students have signed up this year and the Roadrunner Run Club goal is 2,500 miles to Boston, Massachusetts! Go Roadrunners! Beep! Beep!



UCLA

Be Part of the Largest Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!

¡Sea parte del Estudio más grande sobre el Desarrollo Cerebral y Salud Infantil en UCLA!

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives - including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.

El Estudio del Desarrollo Cognitivo y Cerebral del Adolescente (ABCD) matriculará a más de 10,000+ niños sanos, a quienes se seguirán por 10 años desde los años 9 a 10 hasta la adultez temprana, con el fin de entender cómo las experiencias de la niñez afectan el desarrollo cerebral y otros aspectos de la vida - incluyendo logros académico, desarrollo social, salud conductual y la salud en general.

Receive up to \$300 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!

¡Se pueden recibir hasta \$300 por participar en el estudio.

¡Los niños también se pueden obtener un foto de su cerebro!

What will participants do?

During the first year visit, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan.



¿Qué van a los participantes hacer?

Durante la primera visita, usted y su hijo tienen que completar unos entrevistas y questionarios, jugar juegos en el iPad, dar saliva, y someterá en un estudio seguro y no invasivo de proyección de imágenes cerebrales (MRI).

For more info, visit: AbcdStudy.org

If interested, contact us:

Si tienen interés:

Phone: (310) 794-0089

Email: abcdstudy@ucla.edu

South *High School*

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



Dr. Scott McDowell
Principal

National Merit Semifinalists

On September 13, the College Board released the lists of the students nationwide who have been named as National Merit Semifinalists and National Commended Students. Pictured (from left to right) are South High School's five students identified as National Merit Semifinalists: Ezekial Ma, Da Kim, Aarin Martinez, Elisa Bass, and Timothy Lau. Readers may remember Timothy Lau as the Calle Mayor Middle School student who placed 13th in the nation in the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

To be recognized as National Merit Semifinalists, students must place in approximately the top two percent of all students nationwide on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT), which is taken during the students' junior year. The next steps for South's five winners include writing their essays to be considered in the competition for National Merit Finalists and National Merit Finalist Scholarship Winners.

Additionally, 18 South High seniors were named as National Merit Commended students, placing in the top four percent of students nationwide. Congratulations to South's 5 semifinalists and 18 commended students!



Shery *High School*

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



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

Cleanest Campus!

Shery High is very proud of our custodian, Vilma Carrizales, who received the TUSD Classified Employee of the Year.

Ms. Carrizales has been working in the district for 22 years and is invaluable as our sole custodian. She leads by example through her ethic of working hard, and her effort and attitude are contagious. She takes pride in her work, and goes above and beyond helping with events and needs on campus that she isn't required or asked to do.

"We always brag that Shery is the cleanest campus in the district," one teacher said. "Vilma takes great pride in maintaining our campus at the highest level.



"Vilma is an integral cog in the machine that is Shery High," a student said. "Without her, the jobs of many other staff and the students would be much harder and much less pleasant."

Ms. Carrizales also received the Torrance ATSA Golden Apple award! Way to go, Ms. Carrizales!

Torrance *Elementary*

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



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

Differentiated Instruction

At Torrance Elementary, one of the main objectives in our school's mission statement is to provide differentiated instruction for our students. But what does that really mean?

Educators Julia L. Roberts and Tracy F. Inman came up with a clear definition that we'd like to use. Differentiated Instruction is the match of the curriculum and learning experiences to the individual learner. As they point out, "Differentiation is not a strategy, but rather a way of teaching that accommodates differences among children so that all are learning on an ongoing basis."

So how do we do that? At Torrance Elementary we focus on the question of where exactly are the gaps. How do we bridge them? How do we make our curriculum accessible to students so that learning takes place?

With this in mind, you can walk into just about any classroom here and find students reading at a grade level tailored to their needs. It doesn't matter if it's at grade level, below grade level, or above it. The grade level isn't important. What is important is the accessibility to create the opportunity for learning and growth. Outside of the classroom, our reading recovery teacher Jules Hasting, intervention teacher Darlene Azzam, and RTI teacher Jackie Ivcevic can bridge this gap as well.

At the same time, our school also looks to support the high achievers and students assessed as part of the TUSD's GATE program. Currently, Torrance Elementary has a fourth-fifth combo GATE cluster class to help differentiate the needs of those students. But differentiating for GATE students isn't just giving them more to do, or harder problems. GATE students go beyond knowing the answer to a question because they are asking the questions, too!

Torrance Elementary is enthusiastically working to build the support and accessibility for these students as well. Differentiated Instruction — that's what we're talking about!

Torrance High School

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



Honoring High School Life

Torrance High School has been a very busy place these first few weeks of school. We celebrated our Centennial on September 11, which began on a Friday evening with our first home football game. This included a halftime ceremony that honored our former football players, band members, cheer, and drill team members.

Karim Girgis
Principal

But the big event was our “Tartar Family Reunion” on Saturday, September 9. Our Centennial Committee worked

tirelessly to put together a campus-wide celebration that honored all aspects of high school life, and allowed hundreds and hundreds of Tartars to stroll through the campus and fondly remember the memories they had made during their time at Torrance High.

The celebration concluded with the re-dedication of our campus on September 11. We not only marked our 100th birthday, but also the end of our modernization process. With representatives from the school board and city and county all present to wish us well, the entire student body stood in front of our iconic main building to sing the alma mater and begin our second century.

Architectural Digest named Torrance High as California’s representative in their article on “The Most Beautiful Public High School in Every State in America.” It is a good to be a Tartar!



Torrance High Rededication Event.



COVERING THE **TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page*



Dr. George Mannon

critical thinking. We have completed science labs at four of the elementary schools so far - Carr, Edison, Lincoln, and Yukon – and expect the rest to be completed within the next two years.

Families move to Torrance because they want to provide their children a high-quality education. TUSD students continuously meet and exceed State and National standards, distinguishing themselves as the best of the best. The goal of the District is to maximize student success and potential by offering learning experiences which meet every child’s educational needs.

As we move forward, we know we are able to accomplish these goals because of our team of highly qualified administrators, faculty, professional development teacher leaders, and support staff at our schools.

They work tirelessly to ensure every student has access to meaningful academic interactions and opportunities. Here’s to another successful school year!

Towers *Elementary*

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



Sandy Skora
Principal

Celebrating Our Nation

Every Friday morning at Towers, we hold flag assemblies for the entire school for class presentations, student awards, and general announcements. In September, our 5th grade students celebrate the

birthday of Our United States of America Government on Constitution Day that is celebrated annually on September 17th. At our flag assembly, our 5th grade students held a special presentation in front of the school reciting while signing the Preamble of the Constitution to the student body. In addition, they taught 1st through 4th graders how to sign the words in the Preamble. Together we celebrate the birth of our nation and thank our 5th graders for a beautiful presentation.



Torrance *Adult School*

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tastusd.org



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Director

Supporting Our Students

Torrance Adult School has expanded the student support services for our English as a Second Language, Career and Technology Education, and high school diploma students. Our staff uses surveys to assess student needs and then identifies how to best provide information that students want and need. For some students, this might be career preparation and exploration, including resume and interview preparation. Others may need guidance in preparing for college or additional vocational training.



Theano Kavoulakis, Support Services Technician, presents college and career information for students at Torrance Adult School.

Students can attend sessions designed and presented by our technicians that help them transition to the college or career of their choice. We also arranged to have an El Camino College counselor on-site regularly to help students transition effectively from adult school to community college. Our staff also coordinates student tours, workshops, and applications.

Torrance Adult School is here to help you meet your academic or career goals.

Victor *Elementary*

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



Bill Baker
Principal

Employees of the Year

Victor Elementary School is very proud and honored to have two staff members recognized as Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) Employee of the Year for 2016–2017! Third-grade teacher Sam Gonzales and counselor Teresa Vuong were recognized at the September 18 School Board meeting.

Mr. Gonzales has been a part of TUSD since 1996. Throughout his years at Victor, he has gone above and beyond in his teaching role to ensure the best education for all students. He serves on numerous committees and is a master at implementing 21st-century teaching practices.



Mrs. Vuong is an outstanding counselor! She is constantly looking for the best ways to reach all students through new and exciting programs. She has spearheaded several programs to address bullying, social skills, and behavior expectations, and she ensures that all students feel included.

Congrats to both of these outstanding staff members!

Walteria *Elementary*

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



Efren Ponce
Principal

Fall Carnival

The Walteria Elementary School community has a wonderful, yearly event that brings our families together. The annual Fall Carnival, which celebrates the return to school and adds the fanfare of Halloween, is an event that our young Wildcats look forward to.

A small-town carnival ambiance is created when the school (mostly the teachers' parking lot) is transformed for this event. The Fall Carnival give adults the opportunity to socialize while students have fun in a healthy and safe environment,

Mrs. Lanius, the longtime chairperson for this event, will be organizing it for the last time. A dedicated and creative Walteria parent, she is sure to put on quite the event, ensuring that her legacy is cemented for years to come.

Whether you are new to the school or you have been a part of the Wildcat family for a while, you won't want to miss this event!



Wood *Elementary*

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



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

Welcome Back

Howard Wood Elementary welcomes back students and families with an Ice Cream Social. The day before students were to begin school for the 2017-2018 school year, students and their families gathered on campus to study their classroom assignments, meet their teachers, join the PTA, order their spirit wear, and have a yummy treat. It was great to see students introducing themselves and their parents to their future teachers and taking pictures with their friends at our photo wall. With the tremendous help of the PTA and Staff, Wood Elementary started the school year making a positive home-school connection—that we all know is so important in the success of all learners.



West *High School*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Collaborative Outcomes

The 2017–2018 school year is underway, and West High School (WHS) is primed for a year of excellence. Our strong school community and our commitment to a collaborative culture, where all students engage in a caring and rigorous learning environment, ensure success for all, marking West High as a high-performing destination school in California.

The WHS community is built on the foundation of relationships developed amongst staff, students, and parents. The continuity of the staff is a direct result of a “culture of camaraderie” that is a unique characteristic of WHS. This collaborative spirit creates the all-important connection for our students and community and is key to a well-rounded school of excellence. Every day, students, faculty, and staff earnestly encourage teamwork through numerous mentor, volunteer, and leadership opportunities.

West has grown into a strong, interdependent, thriving community that takes great pride in supporting all students. We believe that we can and will make a difference in our students' lives. As a Professional Learning Community, the staff thinks “outside the box” to develop programs to support all students. An illustration of this commitment to innovation is our Warrior Workshop. Twice a week it is “all hands on deck” for 30 minutes of laser-focused core time in our workshops. All students participate in Warrior Workshops, which are designed to support and intervene in as well as enrich and extend student learning. Having this dedicated and focused time twice a week has proven essential to West High's commitment to excellence and achievement for all, and it provides opportunities to build the all-important connections and esprit de corps Warrior spirit with our students.

Go, Warriors!

Yukon *Elementary*

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



Elaine Wassil
Principal

In With the New

Yukon's renovations are finally finished! Our campus is freshly painted with a new roof and added security measures. Our classrooms have new ceilings, windows, and lights.

Not only do we have a fresh look, but a new mindset as well. This year Yukon will be rolling out a new program called PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System). This program is about creating a culture of “thank you for doing the right thing.”

Yukon teachers have already established our school expectations. They are: be a learner, be kind, be responsible, be respectful, be safe. When our teachers catch the students demonstrating these behaviors, they may earn a ticket that can be cashed in for a “reinforcer” — a little something special that the student might wish for, like being the first in line.



It's all about teachers and staff members interacting with the students according to a 5:1 ratio — acknowledging them five times more often when they are behaving appropriately than when they are behaving inappropriately. This creates a happy and productive environment where our students and staff can thrive!

TUSD Superstars

By Tammy Khan, Torrance Unified School District, Public Information Officer

Torrance Unified School District is home to many extraordinary individuals. Our teachers pour their heart into educating Torrance children and our classified staff provides our schools with unwavering commitment and support. All our employees work tirelessly to serve our TUSD families. Congratulations to our 2017-2018 Employees of the Year, each of you represent the highest caliber of educational and professional standards.



Marcia Bergen is our Certificated EOY, Adult School.

Marcy began her career as an instructional assistant and became a teacher for Torrance Adult School in 1999. She is an excellent teacher who supports and inspires students to achieve their academic goals. Marcy is compassionate and calm in dealing with students who are often frustrated and overwhelmed with the academic challenges that confront them in the High School Diploma program. Many of her students are also employed and parents, so their initiative in seeking to further their academic skills is immeasurably aided by her demeanor and instructional methodology. Marcy has been a proponent of exploring and implementing ways to infuse technology into the High School Diploma program, too. She developed a math resource website correlating YouTube math tutorials with corresponding math lessons. Additionally, she initiated a process to refine the math curriculum, align assignments with the common core standards, and enhance the instructional delivery of the math content. She is also an active participant in the end of the year graduation ceremony, an important milestone for our students, many of whom are the very first in their family to reach this academic goal.

Marcy is a very dedicated team member of the Torrance Adult School faculty, takes on additional tasks and assignments gracefully and professionally, and contributes to the efficiency of the adult academic education program as well as the overall efforts to fulfill the vision and mission of our school.



Vilma Carrizales is our Classified EOY, High School.

Vilma has been working in the District for 22 years. She is an invaluable staff member at Shery High School as the sole custodian and leads by example through her work ethic. Vilma works hard daily and her efforts and attitude are contagious. She takes pride in her work and always goes above and beyond, by helping with events on campus that she is not required to do.

As one teacher stated, "We always brag that Shery is the cleanest campus in the District. Vilma takes great pride in maintaining the Shery campus at the highest level. It is definitely the cleanest campus I have ever worked at." A student commented, "Vilma is an integral cog in the machine that is Shery High. Without her the jobs of many other staff and the students would be much harder and much less pleasant."



Samuel Gonzales is our Certificated EOY, Elementary School.

Sam began his career in the District in 1996. Throughout his years at Victor he has gone above and beyond in his role as teacher to ensure the best education for all students. Sam is a member of Victor's MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) committee and is on the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support coaching committee. He is a member of Victor's Leadership Team, Solution Tree team and has served on the District's steering committee for technology. Sam coordinates

Victor's Peer Mediator program, serves on the Reading Counts committee, and helps train and coach for the District's annual track meet. He was also on the District's committee which helped write the Response to Intervention Plan during the 2015- 2016 school year. In addition, to all of these committees, Sam is Victor's technology point person for when anything needs to be set-up, fixed, or implemented. Surprisingly, Sam does find the time to teach! He is constantly striving to take tried and true lessons to the next level through technology. By the end of third grade, most of Sam's students are well versed in creating word documents, inserting pictures, navigating the internet for research, and using programs, such as Blendspace and Google Docs, being able to create engaging presentations on a variety of different topics. Every year, the 4th grade team is impressed with the incoming technological knowledge of their students and it is in large part due to Sam's efforts. In his spare time Sam loves to spend time in the great outdoors with his wife and two daughters, Delany and Emma.



Truc Le is our Classified EOY, District Support.

Truc began his service with the District as a substitute custodian in 1982. One year later Torrance High School hired him on permanently, and only after a few months he moved over to the District Offices where countless employees have relied on his valuable services ever since.

Truc is a respected and dedicated employee who continuously goes above and beyond, not only his assigned duties, but anything asked of him. He is accommodating and flexible which makes for a pleasant work environment.

His delightful and cheerful personality brightens up our offices each and every day. The District is lucky to have an employee who is so vital to its daily operations.



Dena Ludwig is our Certificated EOY, Middle School.

Dena began her employment in TUSD in the 2000 school year. Currently she is a seventh grade science teacher at Jefferson Middle School known for her commitment to excellence both in and out of the classroom. Dena is not only a phenomenal teacher and mentor, she is a JMS Technology Tier I Lead, PLC Presenter and Coach, Yearbook Lead Chair, Jump Start Summer School Teacher, Torrance Teacher Association representative, and site Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Coordinator.

As the PBIS Coordinator, Dena assists in developing and implementing the site PBIS plan and framework, overseeing Discipline Data and coordinating detention, and participating on the Response to Intervention site team. On top of each of these roles, Dena maintains and organizes records for the site team. She accomplishes each of these pieces with the highest quality, yet she is so humble one would never know the hours of time and dedication she puts in for Jefferson students, staff, school, and for our District simply because she cares and wants the best for all of our students.



Ruth Marshall-Coulter is our Classified EOY, Elementary School.

Ruth Marshall-Coulter started her career with the District in 1994 as an instructional assistant. Soon she found herself pitching in as a noon-aide and was so dedicated that she found herself supervising the PE Program at Hickory Elementary. Even though she thoroughly enjoyed working at Hickory, the following year she found herself at working as the office assistant at Waleria Elementary School. She remained

at Waleria for two years interacting with parents, staff, and administration, which prepared her for her next position, as school secretary for Casimir Middle School. Ruth enjoyed her time working with middle school students. She formed lasting friendships and strong professional relationships. In 2002 Ruth returned home, to Hickory Elementary, where she remained for 15 years. During her time at Hickory, Ruth has made a positive impact on the school community. She warmly welcomes new families and continues to support all members of the Hickory community. She has helped make Hickory the outstanding school that it is today. Ruth and her late husband Joe Coulter, raised their 3 children, Cheryl, Joe, and Brian, here in Torrance. They all attended Torrance Schools and graduated from South High School. Ruth has been a PTA member, she has served on School Site Councils, and she has supported Torrance area youth sports. Ruth is an active member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. In her free time, Ruth enjoys crocheting, quilting, reading, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Congratulations to the

TUSD Superstars



Sandra Matsumura is our Classified EOY, Adult School.

Sandy has been an Adult Education Specialist for Torrance Adult School for four years. She has established an exemplary working relationship with all of our staff members and her job performance is consistently outstanding. She takes a great deal of pride in her work and the efficiency of the Hamilton Adult Center office, where she works. Sandy never stops working until the job is done-and done well. Sandy encourages students to ask any and all questions and makes everyone feel welcome at Hamilton.

Sandy is always available to staff and consistently provides help to any and all colleagues needing information and/or expertise in the myriad of tasks, computer programs, and projects that are necessary for running an effective adult school. She has also made many contributions to schoolwide improvement efforts as an active member and officer for the California Council for Adult Education (CCAIE) Chapter, a part of our ongoing WASC accreditation process, and a member of our school Leadership Team and Office Assistant Council. She works well with staff and students and provides expertise and requested information promptly. She also enthusiastically agrees to participate in new projects and/or tasks in order to make our school a better place for all stakeholders.

Jonathan Sperling is our Certificated EOY, High School, and is the TUSD representative in the Los Angeles County Office of Education Teacher of the Year Program.

Jonathan Sperling has been working in the District for 16 years and began his service as an English teacher at Magruder in 2001 and moved to North High School in 2004.

Jonathan continually inspires students and colleagues to improve, take on challenges, care about others and reach their highest expectations. Jonathan promotes the pursuit of excellence within and outside the classroom — “caring” is one of Jonathan’s defining qualities. His commitment and creativity led to the “I-Care” campaign, a unique program that has been recognized by the state and community legislature, described in a book on leadership and motivation, and presented to the White House at the Helping America’s Youth Forum. Consistent with his commitment to excellence and his desire to spread positive news about his school, during the 2016-17 school year he (along with a colleague) created the North High Newsletter, appreciated by our students, parents, and community.

One of Jonathan’s many strengths is teaching students to write and “think out of the box.” His students write and re-write, seeking their own voices and learning to argue persuasively, passionately, poetically and convincingly. For dozens of students each year, the annual “Visions of Unity” event is their first experience being “published” and recognized as writers of distinction. During the 2011-2012 school year, Jonathan’s freshmen students decided to write a novel describing their experiences as they grew up. This was above and beyond the required curriculum and the result was a book!

Jonathan believes that schools and programs improve when teachers, support staff, and the school community work together with common purpose, focusing on student learning and the building blocks to literacy. He connects with students, parents and colleagues, leading through example.

A heart-felt statement by one of his Grade 10 student stated: “Mr. Sperling has been inspiring us to stand out and make a change since I first stepped through a magical portal that brought me to his class.”



Shelley Stallings is our Classified EOY, Middle School.

Prior to this school year, Richardson Middle School has never existed without Shelley Stallings. She was the first person anyone experienced when they entered campus and was an icon of Richardson Middle School. Shelley proudly states that she has “survived 10 principals and 13 vice principals” in the time she was at Richardson. Shelley was a part of Richardson Middle School since the origin of the school in 1993 and remained a constant leader on campus since that time. Staff members from classified to teachers to administrators relied on Shelley’s knowledge of the inner workings of Richardson.

Shelley fully embraced the school-wide goal of making Richardson Middle School the best school that it can be. She always handled her supporting roles with the highest degree of dedication and professionalism. Most importantly, Shelley Stallings always displayed the utmost care and consideration for students at Richardson Middle School. Her welcoming demeanor helped all Richardson Middle School students feel comfortable approaching Shelley with their requests, issues, or needs.

Shelley has been looking forward to her retirement where she will now get to spend even more time with her much-loved grandchildren, travel to new and exciting places, and organize her ever-growing collection of shoes. Assistant Principal Krystal Alcala and Principal Drummond feel fortunate to be the last ones in Shelley’s long history of administrators. Shelley retired at the end of the last school year and she will be greatly missed by all.

Teresa Vuong is our Certificated EOY, District Support.



Teresa has been an integral part of the District where she began her counseling career at North High School in 2008. Teresa is a truly outstanding counselor! She is constantly looking for the best ways to reach all students through new and exciting programs. Teresa has spearheaded several programs at Victor Elementary School to address bullying, social skills, behavior expectations, and introduced a few clubs to help students who need a different vehicle than a typical recess model, to feel included. In addition to this, Teresa also leads Peer Mediators and helps co-chair the MTSS program, is a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support coach, supervises several counseling interns to expand the number of students receiving counseling services each year, and has recently introduced a K-3 and 4th/5th literature based, anti-bullying program at Victor. Teresa’s counseling services impact students in her individual, as well as her group sessions. However, Teresa does not stop there, she is also responsible for starting the Victor Robotics Club and brought the Friendship Circle to Victor Elementary. The Friendship Club helped establish a place where students can meet friends and participate in activities like arts and crafts, pizza parties, and cooking sessions in a very inclusive environment. Teresa is an instrumental part of Victor’s Response to Intervention program as the key person setting progress monitoring goals and helping countless students get their Tier 3 intervention support they so desperately need. In the very little spare time she has she loves to cook and bake for her two children Nolan and Erin.

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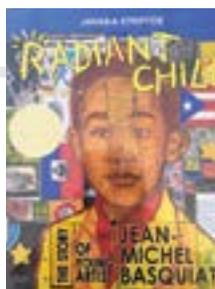
Jenna's Review



Who is SAMOO?

Author: Javaka Steptoe

There was a little boy who wanted to be a famous artist. He drew from morning to night until he made a masterpiece. His drawings were not clean but still beautiful.



Jenna C.

His mother lay down on the floor with him drawing pictures. One day, he had a car accident. He was afraid but his mom read books with pictures of bones, skulls and other body parts. Then he was no longer afraid. He learned that art had a healing power. He became a teenager and went to New York City. There he drew a lot of collages, spray-painted the walls and signed the name "SAMOO". Everybody wanted to know "Who is SAMOO?" People loved his radiant and wild art.

I like this book because the illustrations are bright and interesting. It also tells you how Jean-Michel Basquiat became famous. I recommend this book to children who want to be famous artists.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

Katie's Review



A Heartfelt Book

The book *Love What Matters* is a heartfelt book filled with different perspectives. Each story is a twist of something new. They are all everyday problems that we think about—

homelessness, loneliness, sicknesses and more. But instead of just thinking about it, the people in this book take action. Tears, laughs, smiles—that is what this book is about. The internal connections that pull us towards the story are amazing. The humor of a mom driving chopped celery to her son at school, a child no longer feeling like an outcast because of his birthmark—this is all love. This book gave me a lot to think about, and I definitely recommend it. *Love What Matters* is like a ball of emotions that you can unravel, each story representing something special. I give this book a five out of five stars.



Katie is a 7th grader that loves to read and Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

Lacrosse—Word Search Contest

Word Search by Kai Coop

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 Torrance in the subject line)

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

ATTACK	HEAD	SCORE
CLEATS	HELMETS	SHAFT
COACH	MIDDIES	SIDE LINES
CREASE	MOUTH GUARD	STICK
DEFENSE	NET	TEAMS
FIELD	PLAYERS	UNIFORMS
GOAL KEEPER	RULES	





BCVC 2017 Thanksgiving Clinics

Friday, November 24th & Saturday, November 25th
9:00am-12:00pm

Beginning Players Grades 3rd-6th
@ Oak Street Gym

Intermediate & Advanced Players Grades 6th-12th

Upcoming Tryouts!

High School Girls Club Teams
Grades 9th-12th

Sunday, November 5th 5:00-7:00pm
Sunday, November 13th 5:00-7:00pm
Location: LA Galaxy Soccer Center

Boys Club Teams

Boys Ages 14 & Under Tryouts:

Sundays 3:00-5:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center

High School Boys:

Please call Coach Christian Cammayo at (310)382-0899

Girls Ages 14 & Under Club Teams
Grades 3rd-8th

Spaces still available on our 14 & Under Teams.
Please contact us to schedule a make-up tryout!



Locations:

LA Galaxy Soccer Center

540 Maple Ave, Torrance, 90503

Oak Street Gym

1780 Oak Street, Torrance, 90501



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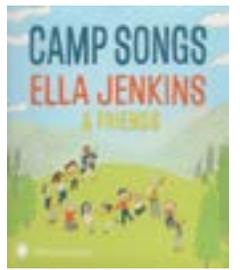
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Note-ables

Camp Songs



Kate Karp



Camp songs are very dear to Ella Jenkins, the national children's-singalong treasure who at 93 is still performing. She cherished songs that her brother brought home from Boy Scouts and had always wanted to record a camp-song CD.

For this project, Jenkins assembled a literal band of brothers and sisters who have veritable campground DNA: Kate and Tony Seeger, nephew and niece of the legendary Pete Seeger, and Judy Seeger, the late folk singer's wife. A team of musicians, children, parents and teachers rounds out the rounds, spirituals, campfire singalongs, protest songs and just plain silliness.

Camp Songs opens with Jenkins's harmonica and the round of all rounds, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Following are 24 more familiar and yet-unheard numbers: "This Little Light of Mine," "Down in the Valley"; "Sipping Cider Through a Straw," and the hilarious but complicated round "One Bottle of Pop." On "The Hill Was Steep and Tall," Jenkins relates how she reluctantly signed up for a hike with some campers and then got hopelessly lost.

You may know that Woody Guthrie had written "This Land Is Your Land" as a protest song and might have wondered about it. One of the two sociopolitical verses not sung at school is included here—good fodder for a social studies lesson.

Our school districts provide numerous school-year camping opportunities and field trips, and there are scout gatherings and youth groups who are going to love these songs. Sing out!

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Things in the Sky – 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 Torrance in the subject line)

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

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| STARS | MARS | SLEET |
| SUN | MERCURY | WIND |
| MOON | SATURN | CLOUDS |
| AIRPLANE | URANUS | SMOG |
| KITE | PLUTO | FOG |
| BALLOON | RAIN | PLUTO |
| JUPITER | SNOW | RAINBOW |



Congratulations to **Saanvi Vora**
 Winner of the June Word Search Contest!

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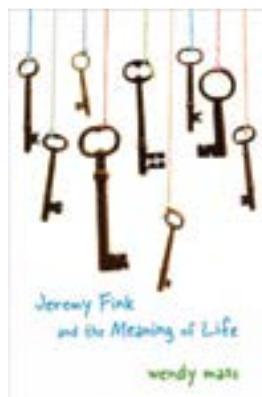
Isabella's Book Review

Adventure and Fun



Isabella A.

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 a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Funny and Honest

Author: Stewart Foster

Joe has been in the hospital due to his SCID.

Trapped in a bubble, as he would say. Everything has to be exactly as instructed: air purity, foods in foil, and not being able to go outside. He passes much of his time with comic-book superheroes, his imagination, and his best friend Henry.

But that changes when he meets at new nurse, Amir. He 'borrows' twelve TVs for his room, and might be able to do the impossible —allow Joe to be outside.

When Joe is able to step into the outside world and pop his bubble, change hits him hard in ways he never expected. Will these changes help life take a turn for the better?

I liked this book because it was funny and honest. At first, it reminded me of another story (*Everything, Everything*) but soon was good and true in its own way. I give it three and a half bookworms.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

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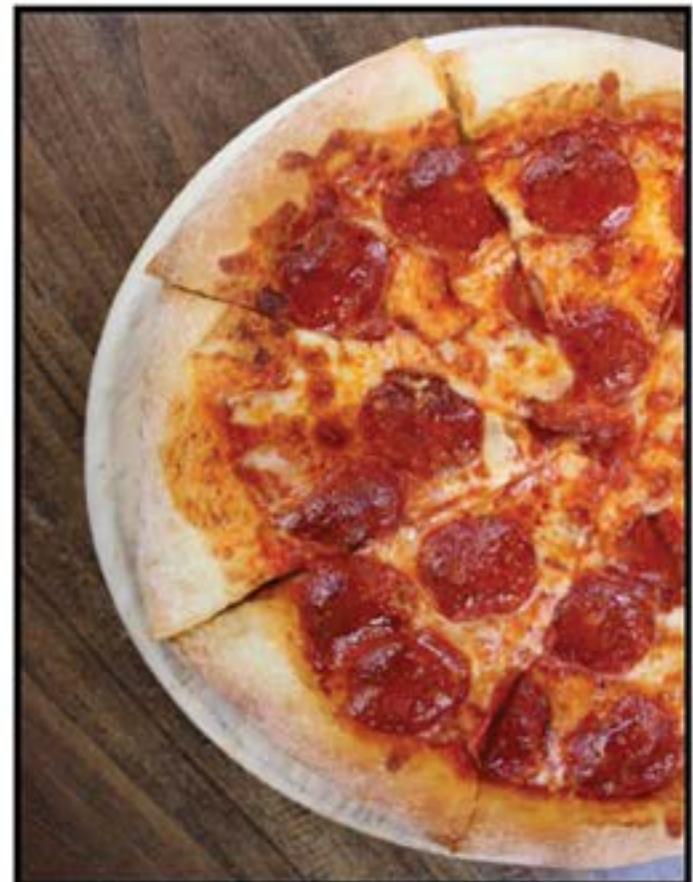


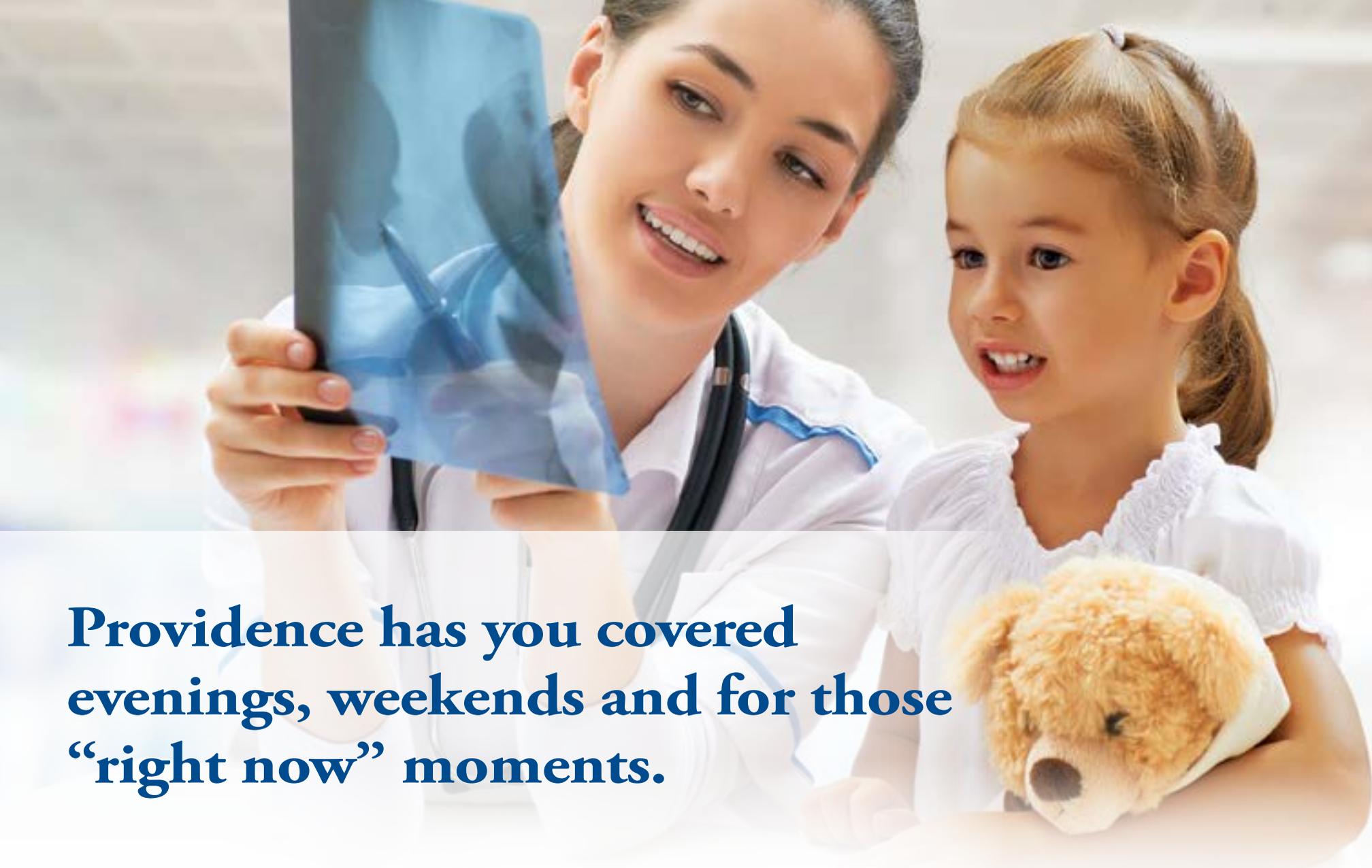
Gaetano's Restaurant

Word Search

GAETANOS
RESTAURANT
ITALY
PASTA
TORRANCE
SAUCE
CHEESE
PIZZA
RAVIOLI
GARLIC
TOMATO

F	F	B	B	E	W	O	T	A	M	O	T	R	O	A
F	F	B	P	W	G	N	J	K	W	H	F	W	S	
B	S	D	G	I	D	G	A	P	B	X	T	K	A	N
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X	O	J	A	W	C	N	U	S	P	B	C	H	J	J
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P	A	G	I	O	R	Y	E	G	K	N	V	U	P	N
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C	E	O	O	I	B	T	G	S	S	B	B	J	G	T
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V	O	W	P	Z	Y	C	I	L	R	A	G	Z	A	O
T	G	G	L	I	L	O	I	V	A	R	V	J	M	G





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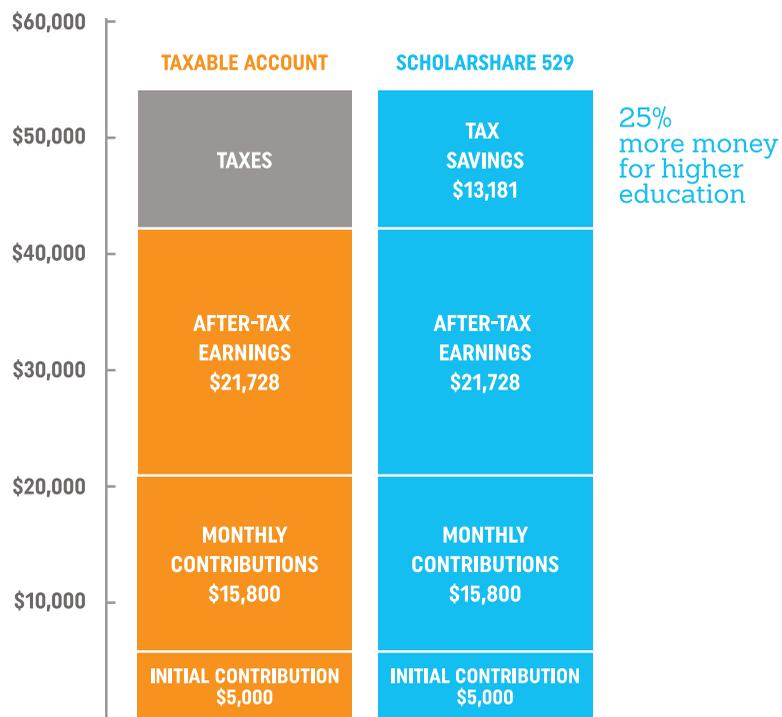
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