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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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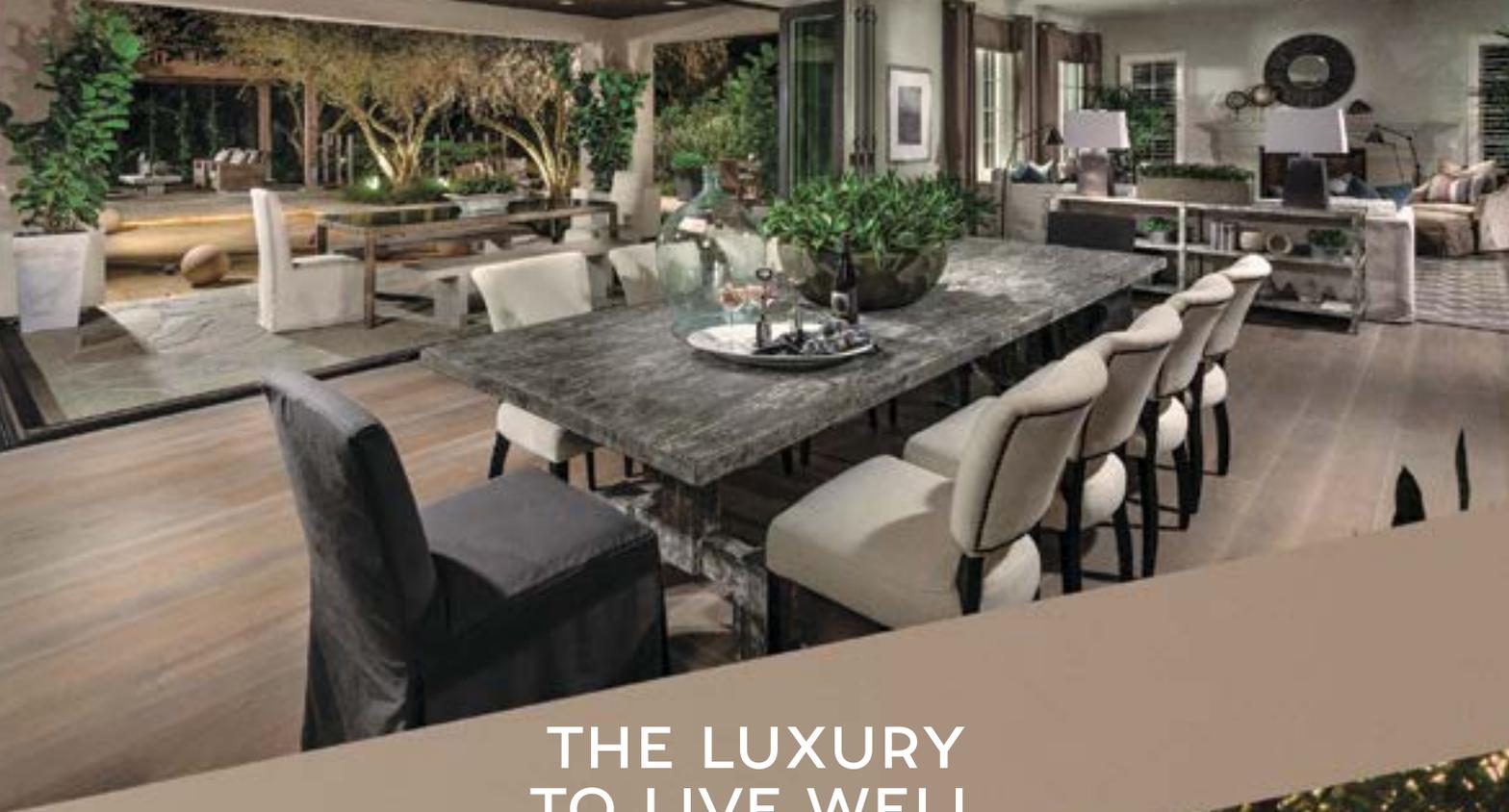


TUSD Celebrates Academic Successes at State of the Schools

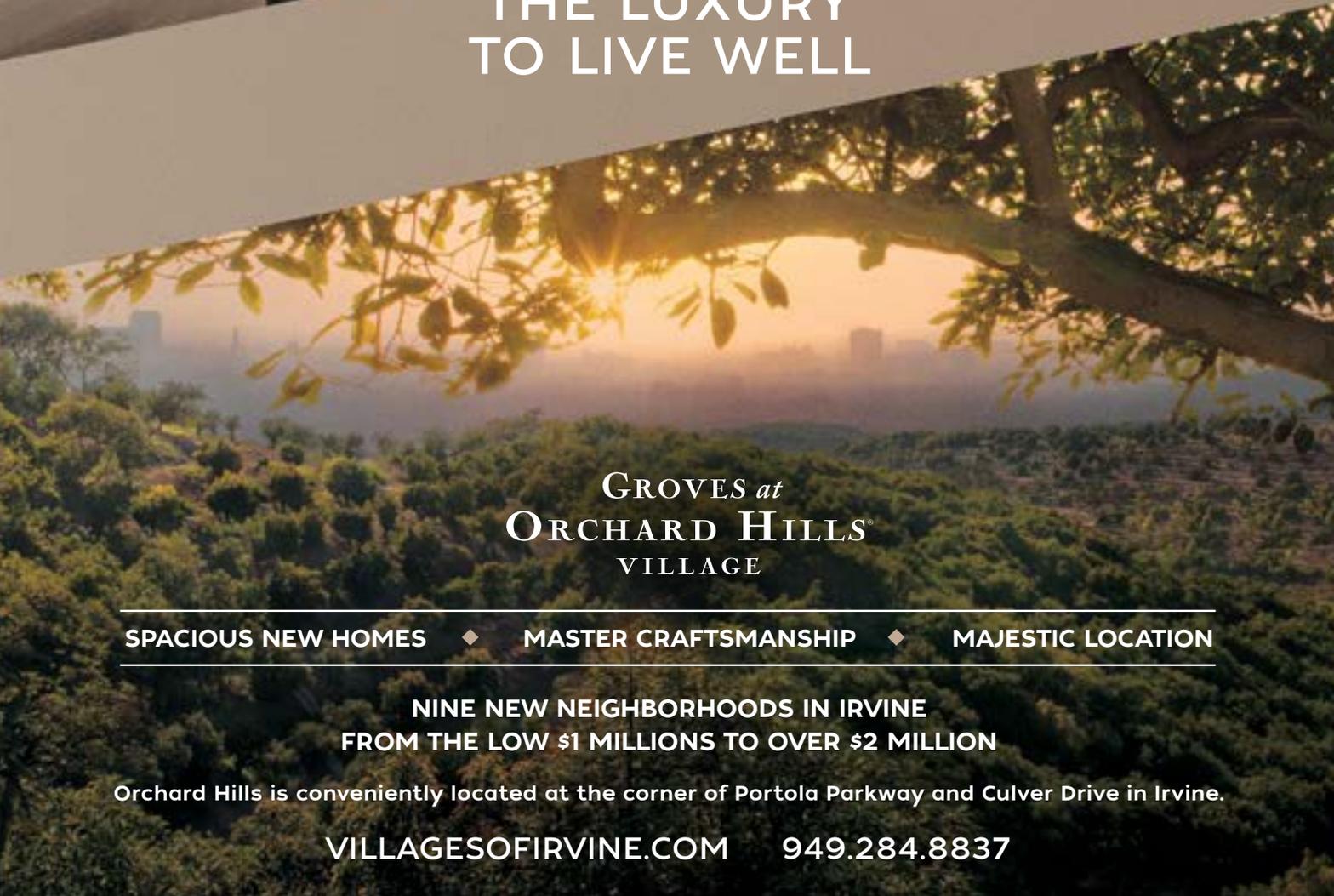


Tustin High School band, cheer and dance students performed at the Tustin Public Schools Foundation's annual State of the Schools Breakfast. Please see page 4 for full story.

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Tustin Unified Offers Students More Choices



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

The Tustin Unified School District has been on a mission to expand the role of student voice and choice. Helping students to find and pursue their passion not only engages students, but pushes the District to provide programs that meet their goals and interests. As a result, 30% of students attend a school other than their home school. Parents and students are active in selecting schools and programs that meet their needs.



TUSD K-12 Robotics Program



Spanish Language Dual Immersion Program

The Columbus Tustin Middle School Math & Science Magnet Program and Tustin Memorial Academy are long-term successful programs of choice. In recent years, the District has added the Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School, the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School, and the Tustin Connect K-12 Online School. These programs represent excellent opportunities to meet the diverse interests of students and their families.



Tustin Connect K-12 Online School

I am proud of the District for pursuing options for students and their families. The diversity of District programs is a strength – just like the diversity of our students. Together, we will continue to make Tustin Unified an excellent place to learn.

Go TUSD!



Mark Eliot

Director of Communications & Public Information

300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • (714) 730-7339



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TUSD Superintendent Highlights Successes at State of the Schools



*By Mark Eliot,
Director of Communications
and Public Information*

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District held their sixth annual State of the Schools Breakfast on Sept. 25 at Tustin High School. Over 300 community members, business owners and school district staff gathered at the Tustin High Sports Pavilion to learn more about Tustin Unified and its achievements and goals.

The event featured a presentation from TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, who provided an overview of the District's "contagious culture of success." Other topics included magnet programs, robotics and computer science, college and career pathways, advanced math and science programs, project-based learning, and educational technology, furniture and "wired classrooms." He also shared TUSD's new video, "Transforming Students' Lives," which can be found in the Resources/TUSD Video Links section on the District's web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us.

Franklin expressed the importance of, and TUSD's commitment to, adapting teaching practices to align with changing technology and its impact on the way students learn. He shared examples of the "hard fun" that students experience. At Beckman High School, students have met after school to design and build a cube satellite that is now waiting for a launch into space. Students at all grade levels have participated in the TUSD Robotics League, with seven Tustin Unified teams competing at the world championships earlier this year. Foothill and Tustin high school students have successfully competed at UCI to build a car that can go the farthest on one dollar's worth of energy.

TPSF Board Member Gerry Aust, who passed away in August, was recognized by Franklin with a "Standing O" award for Aust and his wife, Diane, for their many contributions to Tustin Unified schools. "This award is an example of the partnership between the Tustin Unified School District and Tustin Public Schools Foundation," said TPSF Board President Armen Karamardian. "We appreciate this touching tribute to a beloved member of our TPSF family."

Franklin finished his presentation by encouraging more community involvement with the schools in preparing TUSD students as future leaders. "Tustin Unified continues to succeed due to the wonderful support and commitment of the staff, parents and the community," he said.

The Tustin High ASB, led by advisor David Peay, provided entertainment with a short performance from the film *La La Land* in addition to greeting guests and providing table service. The event closed with a surprise performance by the Tustin Tillers marching band and flag, dance and cheer teams.



Tustin High ASB students greeted guests and helped out with clean-up and other duties at the breakfast.



Tustin High Flag Team joined the school band in a surprise performance for the guests.



The Tustin High ASB entertained attendees with a dance routine from the Oscar-winning film "La La Land."

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This issue begins with an informative message from Superintendent Dr. Franklin on page 3. I was fascinated to read that "...30% of students attend a school other than their home school. Parents and students are active in selecting schools and programs that meet their needs." Public education has

progressed and identified that all students do not learn at the same speed or in the same way — one size doesn't fit all. It is an exciting time to be a student at TUSD.

Our next issue is February 14, 2018. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New year!



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,
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Arroyo Elementary School

11112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Katy Sheyka
Principal

Kindness Is Our Heart

“No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.” This quote by Aesop sums up the heart of Arroyo, a strong Ripple Kids community. The nonprofit Ripple Kids seeks to inspire children, encouraging them to be a wave of positive change in society.

In just six weeks, Arroyo students have taken advantage of several opportunities to help and support our local and global communities. When Hurricane Harvey hit, our Mustangs took action by selling popcorn to raise funds to buy projectors for classrooms, and they sent homemade cards and stuffed animals to impacted families. Students collected Pennies for Puerto Rico to support classrooms devastated by Hurricane Maria in addition to donating costumes for children living in the Orange County Rescue Mission. Finally, students donated new books, handed out by Ethan and Choco’s Book Club, to over 300 children at CHOC hospital, bringing holiday cheer to children who spent their Halloween hospitalized.



Arroyo student Ethan Posner explains his Ripple Kids project at a Friday Flag ceremony.

Arnold O. Beckman High School

3588 Bryan Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-2900



Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

26 National Merit Semi-Finalists

About 1.5 million students in some 22,000 high schools enter the National Merit Scholarship competition annually when they take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Semifinalists are designated on a state representational basis, contingent on the total number of entrants and in proportion to each state’s percentage of the nation’s high school graduating seniors. Semifinalists

are the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represent the top 0.5% percent of the state’s senior students. Recently, the 2017-18 National Merit semifinalists were announced and Beckman had a whopping 26 National Merit Semi-finalists! Congratulations to: Pradyun Biswas, Angela Cai, Erik Chen, Brian Chu, Sara Du, Darren Gerchick, Patrick Hajali, SeEun Hyung, Lucas Kim, Erica Lee, Daniel Murray, Britney Nguyen, Jennifer Pan, Grace Park, Elaine Pham, Rajan Saini, Min Ji Seo, Marva Shi, Aditya Suresh, Orion Tang, Sarah Teng, Tuong Minh Tran, Tristan Weaver, Jason Wong, Ziyi Wu and Michelle Xu.



Beckman’s National Merit semi-finalist students know the seven rules for success.

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



Jackie Christy
Principal

Learning at Home

On a fall evening in October, parents at Benson Elementary School became students for the night. Three teachers held an Academic Parent-Teacher Team meeting to build relationships and empower parents with the intent of increasing student achievement.

Teachers started

the meeting by providing families with information on the progress of all students, using anonymous grade-level data graphs in reading and in math. Parents were then provided with individualized data reports while teachers discussed the meaning of the reports. Just as they would teach students a new skill in class, teachers

coached parents on ways they could support student learning at home. Parents were provided with resources and even an academic game to take home. The evening concluded with parents creating academic goals for their students in the areas of reading and math.

At Benson, we know that students thrive when families and teachers work together!



Teachers Lori Boyer-Pro, Kathleen Erickson and Dana Taylor share math goals to parents of third- and fourth-grade students at Benson School.

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Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Stephanie Yang
Principal

Engaging in Recess Fun

Over 25 Beswick parents were trained to volunteer during lunch recess time through the program “Padres en Accion.” Parents leading our recess games are not only loved by our students and teachers, this engagement

also helps the students develop skills in resolving conflicts, and teaches them several important additional social skills like taking turns and exhibiting sportsmanship.

At the beginning of the year, our parents participated in a series of six training classes that covered various topics like nutrition, physical activity, parent engagement, and advocacy. Once the six-week training concluded, our parents put their learning into action on the playground by providing consistent and long-term physical activity opportunities for the students on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The students interact with their adult models and peers, while playing organized games from Hula-Hoop Musical Chairs to learning basketball. The students are so excited for recess time, and they ask for our Padres en Accion every day!



Beswick students play with parent volunteers Ericka Martinez and Patricia Hernandez while they lead a fun-filled game of musical hula-hoops.

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

17952 Beneta Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7352



Maggie Burdette
Principal

Bulldogs Give Back

The Columbus Tustin Middle School Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program conducted a relief drive for the victims of our three recent hurricanes and the earthquake in Mexico. PAL students created awareness presentations about the need for toiletry items, baby supplies, pet food, and clothes, and these presentations were shown in all tutorial classes. They also advertised school-wide with posters and flyers.

The response from the Columbus Tustin school community was overwhelming! PAL was able to donate all personal items to the hurricane relief efforts and all clothing to the Mexican earthquake relief efforts. One of the many goals of the PAL program is to foster a sense of community in students by engaging them in meaningful activities that better their communities and, in turn, themselves. The Bulldogs Give Back campaign is just one of many projects PAL students will participate in this year to help make our world, and thus ourselves, better!



Columbus Tustin Peer Assistance Leadership students sorting and organizing hundreds of donated items for local hurricane and earthquake relief efforts.

A.G. Currie Middle School

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Look Out for the Drones

Currie Middle School is proud to announce the expansion of our electives program to a coding and drone-based class.

Students will have the opportunity this year to learn to write code rather than the traditional drag-and-drop version.

Our students will develop their skills over the first semester, culminating in the programming and eventual flying of drones. This is new territory for both TUSD and our students, and continues a tradition of innovative electives at Currie Middle School.

On a side note, if you have not visited Currie recently, you may not have seen our new marquee and quad area. Both areas look amazing, and we are

so appreciative of the citizens of Tustin Unified for the bond measure funds that supported the work in the quad. Our physical upgrades are outdone only by the incredible work of our students and teachers. It is a great time to be a Currie Cougar!



Currie teacher Lauren Stavros is joined by students Amelia Georgy, Yan Solares Pineda, Juliana Hernandez, Edgar Segura and Alejandro Segura as they hone their coding skills in preparation for their drones.

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Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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Wendy Hudson
Principal

The Answer to Conflict?

Estock students in grades three through five were recently encouraged to apply to become Peer Mediators. Applications were submitted, and our school counselor, Laura Sewell, selected nearly 65 students to participate in the training. Many of these students had been chosen last year and volunteered to serve again this year.

Students trained during their lunch recess and then received the coveted Peer Mediator License. Fourth- and fifth-grade mediators cover the upper-grade lunch recess and primary lunch tables, and the third-grade mediators cover the primary morning recess and lunch recess. Their jobs are to help solve conflicts and to remind students to be responsible, respectful and safe. Our mediators hand out blue Mediator Award tickets for



Estock's third-, fourth- and fifth-grade Peer Mediators are licensed to resolve conflicts.

students who show good behavior or who solve a problem. The tickets can be redeemed for school Eagle dollars.

We love watching our students learn how to be good problem solvers when conflicts arise on the playground!

Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/ 730-7464



Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

College and Career Ready

The Foothill High School counselors had a busy schedule in September!

During this month they held a packed house Freshman Parent Night; presented college application information to all senior social studies classes; provided tutorial sessions on Naviance, Shmoop, and other items for all students; hosted multiple college recruiter visits; conducted a College Application Night for seniors; and held four grade-level "Coffee with the Counselors" meetings.

As you can see, they are a fantastic team that loves our Knights, and wants everyone to reach their goals and dreams. For more information, please visit the Foothill website to view all of the wonderfully displayed grade-level checklists, videos, college and career links, calendar of events, and workshops. These can be found at <http://foothillscounseling.org>. Go, Knights!



Foothill High School's finest counseling and support team helps students reach their goals.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



Ray Hernandez
Principal

Leadership with Confidence

The fall Student Council elections took place in September. Sixteen students in the fourth and fifth grades participated in the election process, where they campaigned with posters and gave speeches at a school assembly.

We are excited to announce that

Hannah Sommers will be our new president. Hannah looks forward to working with six other students to support the Guin Foss student body. Their first task is taking on Red Ribbon Week. They will work together to come up with catchy slogans to encourage our students to be drug free!

The Student Council members will also determine the Spirit Days for each month, and be responsible for

giving out rewards at Friday Flag Assemblies. “As their co-advisors, Kristina Noriega and I look forward to working closely with them this year,” said fifth-grade teacher Yaneli Saldana. “We’re excited to see their leadership blossom, and we know that this will encourage them to be future leaders in their communities!”



Student Council members, from left, Yaneli Saldana (Co-advisor), Cole Hatch (Vice President), Jaxson Jacobs (Spirit Chair), River Francis (Secretary), Hannah Sommers (President), Catherine Powers (Treasurer), Kayla Gleason (Community Service Representative), Kristina Noriega (Co-Advisor), and Kayla Chairez (Spirit Chair).



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Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



Sean Lindsay
Principal

One Step at a Time

We commonly use the language of walking to explain learning; phrases about steps and paths and journeys help us to understand deep truths about how people learn best and the degree of commitment it takes to advance one's knowledge and skills.

On October 4, Heideman Elementary School participated in a celebration of literal walking. It was International Walk-to-School Day, so the Heideman staff, students, and families rendezvoused at various corners of its neighborhood and walked to school. Students of all ages held banners, posed for selfies, and learned about how students from all over the world were participating. Walking is good for our health, cuts down on traffic, and is good for the environment.

It was a joy to gather together in

a new way and enjoy the mild morning weather as we journeyed to our campus to embark on our day's learning path, side-by-side, one step at a time.



Principal Sean Lindsay and Heideman families enjoying International Walk to School Day.

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

Making Our 'Mark'

The students of Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School made their mark on International Dot Day, September 15. International Dot Day is based on the children's book *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds.

Dot Day and the book *The Dot* celebrate creativity and artistic expression. The book shares the story of a girl who is encouraged by her teacher to "make her mark." Students in all classes immersed themselves in the story and message of the book and explored themes such as perseverance, individuality, and expression. Each class created artistic displays inspired by the book to place around Heritage. Grade levels created painted rocks to brighten the Heritage landscape and created murals of individual dots and artwork using a dot theme.

The Dot Day experience encouraged Heritage students to express themselves and embrace one another's creativity. This is the second year that Heritage has celebrated International Dot Day.



First graders Zoe Carratello and Diana Nguyen from teacher Jessamy Tran's class paint rocks for International Dot Day.

Hewes Middle School

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



Eric Kilian
Principal

Ride the Learning Wave

The “surf forecast” for learning looks good this year at Hewes Middle School. For the 2017–2018 year, our staff has adopted the mantra of “Ride the Learning Wave.”

Ultimately, learning and surfing should be fun, but it is hard work to get better each day. The conditions are never exactly the same in either the ocean, our ever-changing world, or the classroom. Problem solving, courage, innovation, and taking risks will thus lead to conquering new academic “swells” and the exploration of new “waves” of discovery. And if we are truly pushing ourselves to get better, there are sure to be some “wipeouts” along the way, but the thrill of riding the learning wave is worth it!

Some of the “swells” we were excited about in October included our all-school dance with a glow-in-the-dark theme, an all-school Dia de Los Muertos celebration, and a new fall festival called “Highlander Days,” which included Scottish-themed games and foods. We also held an all-school assembly for Rachel’s Challenge.

With so many swells on the horizon, there is plenty to “drop in to.” A new “surfboard” for students this year is also our addition of sixth-grade science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students are learning app creation, forensics, and how to use the 3D printer. Surf on, Highlanders!


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Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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Deena Vela
Principal

It Just Takes a Box!

What has four walls and infinite possibilities? A box. Teachers have been asking for embedded professional development (PD) with a coach or TECHspert rather than the traditional lab-model PD.

Hicks Canyon had a box—a portable classroom—and the vision was to create an environment that inspired students and teachers to take risks and participate in embedded PD. The instructional coach started with a book, *What to Do with a Box*, and a conversation connecting all students via Today's Meet. This promoted deeper thinking and showed how even the simplest idea can inspire innovation. That box became iLab 1.0.



Hicks Canyon student uses her tech knowledge to guide a bee bot.

One year later, iLab 1.0 is now being used by teachers, students, coaches and our TECHspert leaders. Students rotate through the standards-based stations focusing on coding, robotics, creation, research and STEAM challenges.

iLab 1.0 is such a hit. Why not...create another one? Coming winter 2017: a box, with windows... iLab 2.0!



Hicks Canyon teacher Laura Martin's class can do a lot with a box!

Hillview *High School*

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



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

People of Success

One of the most important programs that Hillview puts on for its students is the "People of Success Assembly."

As a principal, it is important to prepare our students academically for their future. Additionally, I want to make sure that they are ready for "The School of Life."

During this assembly, I interview three community members and one of our teachers, while the students take notes.

Our most recent panel consisted of Marjorie Veeh Elementary School Principal Rafael Plascencia, banker Jon Wilcox, community activist T.J. Jackson, and Hillview teacher Kristine Wetzel.

High school children have knowledge, but they lack wisdom. I appreciate the panel members sharing their life



"People of Success" panel members, from left, T.J. Jackson, Rafael Plascencia, Kristine Wetzel and Jon Wilcox speak to the students.

experiences with our students, such as information about their education, the various jobs they've held over the years, and what their definition of success is. The common theme that resonated between the members was hard work, don't be afraid to ask for help, and never give up.

Ladera *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

Taking Collaboration Higher!

Students at Ladera Elementary School know all about the Four C's: communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Not only do they know about them but they are also taking them to the next level!

Through the generous donations from Ladera parents through our

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), along with support from Tustin Unified School District, Ladera was pleased to add 14 Collaboration Stations throughout the primary and upper-grade wings as well as in the library. These stations include flexible seating and a flat-screen TV with cables for the ability to hook in through students' iPads. These new Collaboration Stations are a

place where students can come together to share ideas and work collaboratively together, all while putting their tech skills to work. In this way, students are now able to share their work with their classmates as they brainstorm, create and develop new ways of showing their learning.



Ladera fourth graders get their "collab" on in the school's new "Collaboration Stations."

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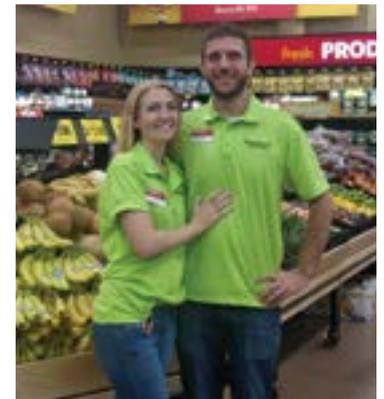
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We invite you to come in and try us out! Right now we are super stocked on back-to-school items that make packing your kids lunches fast and healthy.

We look forward to meeting our Tustin School community soon!

- Ryan and Amanda Stack



Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Lauren Steinmann
Principal

Ripples of Kindness

At Loma Vista, education does not begin and end with academics. Our whole staff works to inspire and educate both the mind and the heart.

Character education emphasized through John Wooden's "Pyramid of Success" is fundamental in all classrooms. However, empathy, compassion, and volunteerism are also emphasized through the on-campus RippleKids program.

RippleKids is an Orange County nonprofit aimed at getting children and schools involved in the community to help with a cause that is important to them. Projects range from individual students to class or school-wide efforts, and occur on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

October began the school-wide RippleKids project of "Socktober," where our Loma Vista students brought new socks for the homeless. The students were also able to help in the lunchtime school-wide project of coloring thank-you cards to first responders.

These acts of helping others and exemplifying compassion allow our scholars to put ripples of kindness out into the world, which can be far-reaching and impactful!



Loma Vista students Adelina Zamudio, Ella Hake, Leinnie Alejandrino and Nathan Horrocks celebrate Crazy Sock Day and Socktober with Connect Coach Kathi Denny.

Myford *Elementary School*

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



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Getting Mindful!

Myford students and staff are practicing mindfulness in the classroom, and it's helping everyone get ready for the day. Third-grade students spend a few minutes after a busy recess and lunch to breathe and calm themselves before instruction.

Teacher Ann Kull said she noticed a big difference in the students after just a few days. In fourth grade, teacher Meghan Carder leads her students in morning yoga, which is streamed live to all other fourth-grade classes through Google Classroom. Students practice stretching, breathing and visualization.

"I suffer from anxiety, and this has made such a huge impact in my life!" said paraeducator Gina Chase. Student Sydney Lalloway said, "I love yoga. When you're stressed out, you can take a few deep breaths, and you will feel better!"

Our Myford teachers also start every staff meeting with a few minutes of breathing to get our minds ready for learning!



Students in Meghan Carder's fourth-grade class start the day with mindfulness as the teacher streams the lesson to other classrooms.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



Melinda Smith
Principal

Walk to School Day

Parents in Action, with the support of Kid Healthy, promoted National Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 4. As families approached, they could hear lively music. Signs and balloon columns flanked the Nelson Elementary School entrance, welcoming families as volunteers and teachers cheered those arriving. Students received wristbands and stickers to

acknowledge their efforts and reinforce the importance of

leading a healthy, active lifestyle. Students collaborated to create a banner. Each student signed his or her name to a foot template and added it to the banner at the school entrance.

Debbie Carranza, Nelson Elementary Parents in Action representative, organized four walking caravans to increase student and family participation. Starting points included the corners of Nissan/Browning and Mitchell/Browning to the north and Walnut/Browning and Laurelwood/Walnut to the south. Students were encouraged to wear crazy socks to show their support for leading a healthy lifestyle, whether or not they were able to walk to school.



Students are greeted by staff with hugs, cheers and high fives as they arrive at Nelson on National Walk to School day.

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Orchard Hills School

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



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Social-Emotional Education

Orchard Hills School added a new addition to its counseling program this fall, bringing on part-time counselor Christine MacInnis.

As a school counselor with over 20 years of experience at both middle and high schools, Mrs. MacInnis believes that students learn best when their social-emotional needs are being met. "I am very excited to be part of such a diverse school

with such a talented and focused team of professionals", she shared. "I am looking forward to bringing new programs that engage and support our students on all levels."

Mrs. MacInnis is thrilled to be working with the school's incredible full-time counselor, Sarah Montes, on expanding the social-emotional education that the students already receive.

One of those new programs will be Safe Schools Ambassadors, which aims to empower the students to help create a school campus that will embrace members

from every background, and is proven to reduce bullying. Broadening an already successful student-driven Culture Club on campus, the students get to be the true drivers of a positive school culture.

Another wonderful addition is "Coffee with the Counselors." Bringing the parents topics on social-emotional development, and tips on supporting their children, this is a great way to interact with the school's families as well. Look for their upcoming tweets on this exciting new program at Orchard Hills School.



Orchard Hills counselors Christine MacInnis, far left, and Sarah Montes have a lively conversation with students Ayden DeRosier, Tyler Valdez and Devyn Gray.

Peters Canyon Elementary School

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



Brooke Carreras
Principal

Coins for Kindness

During the month of September our scholars observed multiple news stories about the hurricanes in Texas and Florida.

There was a buzz on the playground and in the classrooms as teachers overheard conversations about the ways in which our students could help

those affected by the devastation.

With the support of teachers Marsha Alpert and Tiffany McMillan, the students decided that they wanted to have a coin drive to help raise money for the Red Cross. They wanted to call their campaign "Coins for Kindness" to coincide with our school-wide character trait for September, which is the act of kindness.

The students made posters, gave presentations in classrooms, and collected coins each day. Mrs. Alpert and Mrs. McMillan eventually gathered

the donations together and, with the help of a local credit union, converted the coins into a cashier's check for presentation to the Red Cross. In total, the students collected and donated \$2,110.27 for the hurricane victims.



Peters Canyon students Kiana Carrillo, Jeffrey Kim, Sean Tran, Charlotte Lewis, and Madeline Ezati, collect "Coins for Kindness."

Pioneer Middle School

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

California's PBIS Silver Award

For the first time, Pioneer's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program earns California's Silver Award. PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students to achieve social, emotional and academic success. The

California PBIS Recognition Awards System identifies schools that demonstrate best practices within their system, and also are open and transparent in the sharing of their knowledge and resources with other schools. In applying for this recognition, Pioneer agrees to external verification of its application data and confirms its openness to involvement with the California PBIS facilitation/coaching supports. Pioneer has met all characteristics of a comprehensive system of behavioral supports and has

implemented PBIS Essential Elements related to the Silver Award with fidelity and consistency across all school settings. Congratulations to our students and teachers for improving student behavior and creating a culture of togetherness.



Pioneer Middle School PBIS Team is proud of its award-winning program.

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

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Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Will Neddersen
Principal

Learning the Craft of Writing

Red Hill Elementary School teachers build students' writing skills daily during Writers Workshop. Teachers use mentor texts to teach different strategies authors and illustrators utilize to engage their readers. The ultimate goal of each writing unit is to have students choose one piece of writing to take through the entire process to publication.

Red Hill was fortunate to have Susi Schaefer, a former Red Hill parent, visit to share her experience of becoming an illustrator. Mrs. Schaefer met with our kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students to explain the process she went through to team up with the author to create the illustrations for the book "Zoo Zen." She shared the importance of using the text to create images that engage the readers. Mrs. Schaefer then read to the students. She encouraged them to keep working as both images and writing require many drafts before they are ready for the published piece.



Illustrator Susi Schaefer reads to students from her book, *Zoo Zen*.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Peer Mediators Help Students

For the past three weeks, 81 Thorman Elementary School third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students have participated in Peer Mediator training. These students spent their lunchtime each day learning how to handle conflicts on the playground. They practiced

the steps of cooling off, listening to

one another, and coming to agreeable solutions to problems.

This program has helped students to build confidence through problem solving. They demonstrate leadership in their ability to communicate and encourage cooperation among peers. These hardworking students are ready to hit the playground

where they will be easily found in their blue and pink tie-dyed mediator shirts. Students will be able to take their playground problems to the mediators who will follow a step-by-step approach to solving conflict. Through this model led by our counselor Katy Fernandez, students learn to independently solve problems, build self-esteem and practice their language skills – it's a win-win for everyone!



Some of Thorman's hard-working third-grade peer mediators are ready to get to work!

Tustin Adult School

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



Virginia Burrows
Coordinator

Bright Future Ahead

Brenda Guisela Perez Lopez is more than a small business owner, Tustin Unified School District parent, or devoted wife. She is also an active student with dreams of communicating with others fluently in English,

earning a diploma, and becoming a United States citizen.

To help achieve her goals, she relies upon the program offerings at Tustin Adult School, including computers,



citizenship, Spanish GED, and English as a Second Language. With the many hats she wears, it would be easy for her to say, "I'm too busy for school." But Brenda always makes the time to attend class, where she has also made new friends and created a network to help reach her goals.

Brenda says, "Sure, it's not too late to learn!" And her classmates and teachers agree, sharing that they are inspired by her go-getter attitude. We expect to see many great things in the future from this hard-working student!

Tustin Connect *Online School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/430-2052



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Principal

Best of Both Worlds

Tustin Connect students are spared making the difficult choice between traditional schooling and online learning. Traditional schooling provides daily interaction with knowledgeable teachers,

hands-on learning opportunities, and meaningful interaction with peers.

On the other hand, online education offers increased flexibility and allows students to learn at their own pace. In the past, students had to choose between one mode of learning or the other, but Tustin Connect students have the option of a flexible blend of traditional and online learning.



Tustin Connect ninth-grade student Abigail Catrina receives personalized instruction from her math teacher, Kim Fairburn.

Many Tustin Connect students opt for dual enrollment at their neighborhood schools of residence. Students have the option to enroll in one or two courses at their middle or high schools of residence while taking their other

courses through Tustin Connect. This flexibility and choice allows students to optimize their learning by benefitting from the best of both worlds.



Tustin High School

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



Dr. Jon Tuin
Principal

Tustin High Goes to MIT!

Wouldn't it be great to have a Tustin High School student go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)? How about 11 students? A team of students from the Tustin T-Tech Academy did just that.

After a two-year application process, our team, one of only 15 in the country to be selected, was awarded a \$9,000 grant from the Lemelson-MIT program. The funds were used for the development and fabrication of a student-created invention over the course of the school year, culminating with a trip to MIT this past June.

Tustin's challenge was to develop a machine to quickly and efficiently remove unsightly chewing gum from concrete floors, walkways, and sidewalks. After nine months of development and preparation, the

T-Tech team successfully demonstrated a working prototype of their gum-removing machine and presented it to an audience of other high school teams and MIT faculty and staff.

Go, Tillers!



Students and teachers that attended MIT summer program: from left, Jared Andreae, Erin Clement, Melanie Acosta, teacher Ed Hernandez, Mariah Collarines, Bryan Ho, Angelica Pelcastre, Brandon Rossano, Eric Baker, teacher Kristina Posavec and Hugo Alvarez

Tustin Memorial Academy

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



Sharon Maeda
Principal

Students Celebrate Being Healthy

Tustin Memorial Academy is promoting fun ways to stay healthy and active. "Walk to School Day" was a huge success, with many TMA students and families hitting the pavement together.

Students received a certificate and sticker to show their participation in this international event. Additionally, during the week of September 25-29, students and parents enjoyed "Take a Parent to PE Week". Parents came in their workout clothes to play and exercise with their child to promote the benefits of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. It was fabulous to see students and their parents engaging in these activities together. Our entire school community is gearing up for Dino Dash and other great physical activities throughout the year to emphasize the importance of having a healthy mind, body, and soul!



Tustin Memorial Academy teacher Liz Shenton and her students participate in Walk to School Day.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



Tracy Barquer
Principal

STEAM Lab Now Open

Tustin Ranch students and teachers love science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. And when you put them all together you get STEAM!

The school's multipurpose room has been "repurposed" to a larger learning space for our students to design projects, work in cross-grade teams, and enjoy the new district-adopted science curriculum called "STEMScopes." Parents and community members have donated materials needed for this "makerspace" that

enables the children to experience hands-on, project-based learning.

There are a number of tools available to support experiments, such as glue guns, fans, and leaf blowers, as well as a variety of recycled materials to help spark creativity. The materials are stored behind the stage for a quick transformation from Lab to MPR for school assemblies, shows, or music.

Our teachers report that the new use of this space provides the chance to create, collaborate, communicate, and think critically. All you need to bring to the Lab is your imagination and determination to learn something new!



Tustin Ranch Principal Tracy Barquer and her students enjoy Rocky's STEAM Lab at the school.

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



Dr. CK Green
Principal

Welcome, AP Lam!

Dawn Lam is the new assistant principal at Utt Middle School. Ms. Lam has worked in public education for 15 years and most recently served as a secondary English language arts (ELA) teacher on special assignment for the Tustin Unified School District.

Ms. Lam joined TUSD in 2014 as an English teacher at Beckman High



Dawn Lam

School. Prior to joining the district, she was an English teacher and an ELA teacher on special assignment at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, where she was named Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lam has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Irvine, and a master's degree in curriculum, instruction and assessment from Walden University in Minnesota.

Ms. Lam is excited about working collaboratively in support of the school vision in which, as she stated, "the combined efforts of Utt Middle School staff, students, parents and community produce global citizens with 21st century skills."

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Exciting Times!

Veeh Elementary student artists recently participated in the Dino Dash 2017 Poster Contest! The Contest coincided with the race for the Student Council Committee. All students were given the challenge

to create their own unique drawing of the annual Tustin Public Schools Foundation race at The Tustin Market.

In addition, our amazing Student Council candidates were also able to show their creative and talented skills by making individual posters, and formulating speeches that encouraged our voters to cast their ballots for the leader they want to represent them here at Marjorie Veeh.

Our Spanish Dual Immersion Program has grown from three classes last year to six this year. Veeh's Dual Program is currently serving students from TK to second grade. The



Second grade Dual Immersion student Macey Albarian showcases strong Spanish language skills during her story presentation in teacher Lilian Armijo's classroom.

Dual Immersion Program is helping students build their confidence through oral classroom project presentations. Our second-year Dual Immersion student Macey Albarian showcases her strong Spanish language skills during her story presentation.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Dino Dash Makes a Big Impact

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation celebrated its 27th annual Dinosaur Dash 2K, 5K, 10K and Bike Run event at the Tustin Market Place on Nov. 5. Tustin Unified teachers, staff, students, parents and the community made it not only a day to remember, but also the Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year for Tustin Unified schools.

The Dino Dash impacts students and teachers in TUSD all year long. Proceeds benefit many innovative and engaging classroom projects at schools across the District. Some grants focus on engineering, coding and technology in the classroom. Others cover the costs of arts and physical education. For example, last year, a Foundation grant helped fund not only the art program, but also the P.E. teacher at one

elementary school. Grants also pay for robotics, classroom technology, collaborative art projects and much more. The Classroom and Innovative Grant Programs are open to all TUSD teachers with creative and cutting-edge ideas.



A student races to the finish line at the Foundation's annual Dinosaur Dash, which raises funds to benefit all Tustin Unified schools.

Business Services

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



Sustainable, Sustaining Projects

Tustin Unified School District facilities staff continues to work on capital-improvement projects. With

each respective construction or renovation effort, there is a focus on sustainability and conservation.

Dozens of landscaping projects have been completed recently, which brought forth a new look for many sites and also significant water savings thanks to installation of low-water-consuming products. Construction of new solar carport/shade structures at 15 sites broke ground this fall, and the district anticipates close to \$20 million in savings over the next 25 years.

The energy-behavior-modification program that started over four years ago has resulted in a cost avoidance of over \$3 million to date. Finally, staff completed work



Contractors work on the solar shade structure installation at Hicks Canyon Elementary School.

on new exterior lighting and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit replacements at various schools, using Proposition 39 funding this summer. The highlight of the project was new unit deliveries via helicopter at Columbus Tustin, Hewes and Utt middle schools.

Educational Services

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



Mental Health Program

Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) recognizes that mental health is a very personal, private matter, so it is essential to our families that we to provide access to mental health services at private locations. Therefore, TUSD has partnered with AddictionPros for the 2017–2018 school year with the support of the Orange County Department of Education. This program will be a one-year pilot.

AddictionPros is an online system that allows staff and parents to search for provider information related to treatment options for various forms of addiction/mental health issues. AddictionPros will provide access to TUSD

staff and families by creating unique logins and URLs. Navigation of the Web site is simple and easy to use. Answering just a few questions narrows down the search. Questions include: the type of service needed, postal code, and payment method. The system then generates a listing of facilities in the community to serve these specific needs. Families will be able set an appointment to meet with a professional or have an “at the moment” video chat.

In September, principals, assistant principals, counselors, nurses, FIRST team, and community liaisons attended a training to learn about the program. Access to this program will be available through the district and school Web sites under the Resources tab. The link for the Tustin community is addictionpros.org/tustinfamilies.

This is a unique opportunity to provide valuable assistance to the TUSD community.

Nutrition Services

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



Teresa Squibb
Director

Dietetic Interns

Nutrition Services has teamed up with local universities and dietetic programs to sponsor students who are completing their Registered Dietitian (RD) program. While completing their internship, students work at a variety of places to learn clinical, community, and school food service skills.

Currently, Colleen Lem is working her school food rotation with us. While she is here, she will work in many of our kitchens and cafeterias to learn how our Nutrition Services department prepares and serves our students.

In addition, Colleen will work on a variety of projects for Nutrition Services, such as creating holiday student menus, preparing and conducting taste tests, and holding focus groups with the students. Taste tests are crucial in our menu development because they allow students to provide direct feedback on new menu items.

This dietetic internship program not only provides an opportunity to support future professionals, but the dietetic interns also bring fresh ideas to our department.



Technology in TUSD Schools

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



Dr. Grant Litfin
Assistant
Superintendent,
Administrative
Services

TUSD Launches Project Code

By Cari Williams, TUSD Robotics Teacher on Special Assignment

Project Code, a new initiative, has been launched in Tustin Unified School District this year to engage middle school students in a hands-on approach to coding.

The first pilot is a sixth-grade elective wheel course, where students are learning to code a microcontroller that connects to a breadboard. With the Arduino and breadboard, students create circuits to make LED lights blink and buzzers play nursery rhymes. Students also work through a series of lessons to learn commands in the C++ programming language. They become familiar with Ohm's law and resistors within an electric circuit and inputs and outputs within their microcontroller system. These skills lead to the final task of



Orchard Hills teacher Megan Lund's sixth-grade students work in groups to program Arduino.

programming a drone to fly autonomously!

The pilot teachers, Jacque Cunningham George and Megan Lund, both agree that the high levels of engagement observed with hands-on lessons is a great way to bridge the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Born in the Deep Woods

Red Yarn, alter-ego of performer and songwriter Andy Furgeson, has recorded the third element in his Deep Woods Trilogy. Deep Woods is Red's own conception of a charmingly primal place where woodland animals dwell—an earthly, loamy, good place to live. Each song was either written by Red or adapted from traditional folk tunes, all featuring animals and performed

by Red and his wife, Jessie Eller Isaacs and a bucolic multi-instrumental band.

Deep Woods doesn't have the vibe of a traditional children's collection. In contrast to lighter songs associated with young music, it sings something deep and rooted. Red's musical background grew from those roots—authentic country, bluegrass, blues and heartland rock 'n' roll are woven with the lyrics and stitch together a warm, tuneful quilt. The title ballad lets the tortoise and the hare of the fable poetically tell their own story as turtle and rabbit. The traditional "Mockingbird" transforms into a Bo Diddley ditty with a toss of Elvis pepper and a pinch of Ray Charles salt. "Old Mother Goose" is given a new pair of dancin' shoes, and "Frog Went A-Courtin'" hops to a different beat. "Little Baby Born Today" is an old-style Bob Dylan tribute to new life and mothers, particularly Eller-Isaacs, who was pregnant with the couple's second child when it was recorded. The CD's lyric booklet bears some of the most beautiful, evocative illustrations seen in a music collection or anywhere else.



If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.

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

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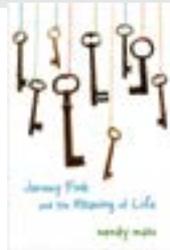
Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

Adventure and Fun

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



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

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

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

Isabella is 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.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

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 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.

Weather Terms –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 TUSD 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!

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| RAIN | HOT |
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| LIGHTNING | FROST |
| SNOW | SANDSTORM |
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| WIND | FLOOD |
| STORM | HURRICANE |
| HEAT WAVE | |



Keira's Book Nook

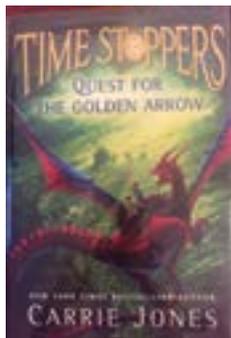


Keira

A Brilliant Fantasy of Adventure

Time Stoppers - Quest for the Golden Arrow by Carrie Jones

Welcome to a land of friends, stubborn grandparents and elves. In this emotional book the author draws readers into an amazing fairy tale. (I laughed and cried a lot!) Aided by luck, a quiet desiring Annie joins forces with the enemies of The Raiff. The company of a mighty arrow helps them cross dangerous lands. Full of intense force and simple luck, this is an intriguing book. Carrie Jones uses outstanding vocabulary such as moseyed. However, I thought it ended too abruptly. I recommend this book series for fourth to eighth graders to read. I can't wait to read the next book! (This book is such a page turner!) I rate this book 4 apples.



Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.

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Rabina's Review



Rabina K.

An Impactful Book

The Door By the Staircase

By: Katherine Marsh

This book is a magical, sumptuous, and an impactful book. It takes you through a journey full of curiosity and wilderness of thoughts.



Mary, unlike other orphans, is a very curious child. She pursues her curiosity to the limits of putting herself in danger. She teams up with her friend, Jacob, who is equally curious and brave as Mary, to unearth the hidden motives of Madame Z. Madame Z who adopted Mary from the orphanage was always a mystery to Mary. Mary did not know, who Madame Z actually is and why she adopted Mary.

I think this book really speaks to the reader. It teaches the reader the benefit of following your curiosity but with an arrangement to protect themselves if something wrong happens. I give this book ten out of ten stars.

Rabina is a 5th grader, who enjoys reading historical fiction and biographies. Writing is her passion. Besides, reading books and writing, she also enjoys playing soccer and piano.

Lucy's Book Review

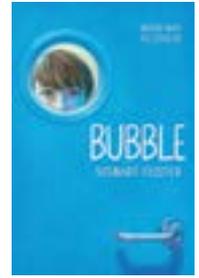


Lucy Davis

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 a 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.

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



Congratulations to Edén Wohlfeil and Lukas Jacklin
Winner of our September Contests!

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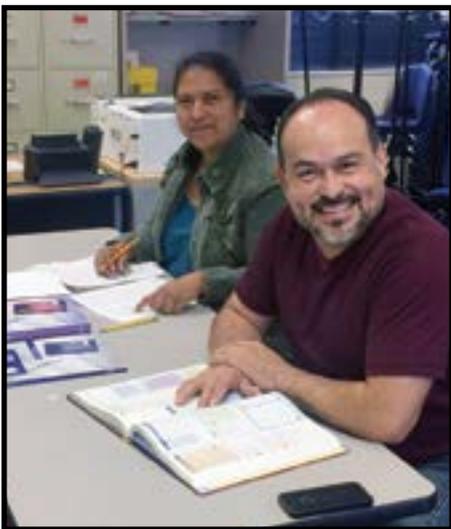
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- Basic Skills classes for reading, writing and math
- College and Career Transition Center



Tustin Adult School
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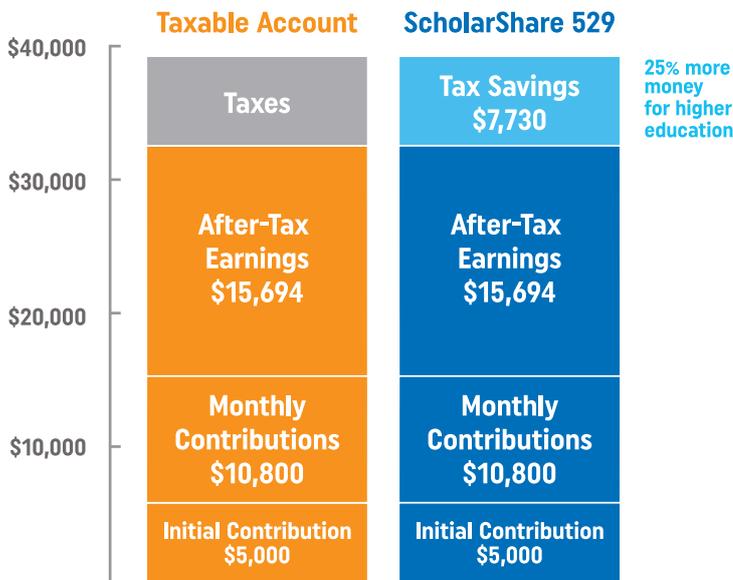


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