

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District



Volume 1, Issue 2

February / March 2018

ROCK Character Traits



Please see Montevideo Elementary page 14.

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

Superintendent



**Dr. Crystal
Turner**

Dear SVUSD Families and Community,

Happy New Year! It has been a busy fall with the roll-out of our vision, SV Innovates. You might remember that SV Innovates has three main components- a focus on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies for students, and all supported by innovative practices. I regularly visit classrooms and I am seeing excellent examples of SV Innovates during each visit. This month

alone, I have watched 2nd and 3rd graders coding at Trabuco Elementary, heard the plans for a solar car design unit at Los Alisos Intermediate School, and experienced the Hack-a-thon at Laguna Hills High School. These are just a few of the amazing instructional experiences that our teachers plan for students. Each day, our stellar SVUSD staff strives to deeply implement the goals of SV Innovates in our practices each day.

One of the goals of the SVUSD Board of Education is to provide unique learning opportunities to meet the needs of all students. Each child is special and has different interests and goals. When reviewing the 1,500 survey results from our recent Facilities Master Plan questionnaire and using the input that I received from the hundreds of students, parents, staff, and community members that I spoke to during my first 100 days back in SVUSD, it became clear that we wanted to offer additional specialty schools at the elementary level to meet the needs of our families. To achieve this goal, we will be opening two new magnet schools for the 2018-19 school year! Linda Vista Elementary, led by Principal Suzy McMasters, will host the Primary Years International Baccalaureate Magnet, a school designed to create students who think critically and creatively, learning to ask the right questions to solve questions logically. We are also opening a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) magnet at Santiago Elementary, led by Principal Howard Johnston. Both schools will be open for applications during our traditional school choice window and will serve the existing boundaries of each school first. Please check the District website or the website of Linda Vista Elementary or Santiago Elementary for parent meeting dates and times as well as additional information. These two elementary magnets join our Two-Way Immersion program at Gates and the SVUSD Virtual Academy in addition to our fabulous neighborhood schools. Of course, these incredible learning experiences at the elementary level feed into our thriving intermediate schools and our award-winning high schools. SVUSD is creating choice and excellence for all learners!

I am so grateful to work with an incredible staff to offer "SV Innovates" opportunities to our students!

Board of Education



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Educational Services



Laura Ott
*Assistant
Superintendent*

Next Generation Science Standards

The state adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are described as having a 3-Dimensional approach to science education. They include disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts. The 3-dimensions of the standards are intricately connected and cannot be taught in isolation. They come together to drive instructional decisions that will help produce students that are STEM literate for the 21st century.

All SVUSD K-6 teachers and 7-12 science teachers have been trained in NGSS, including interactive activities that deepen their knowledge of Claims, Evidence and Reasoning across content areas. The new science standards require a significant shift in pedagogy; SVUSD science classrooms are moving towards inquiry-based investigation and away from repetitive confirmation labs and direct instruction. Teachers are immersing themselves in training to better understand how the shifts in math and science impact instruction and advance the knowledge and skills gained during each grade. Collaborative and integrated lessons emphasize STEM learning, and reflect a clearer picture of the real world, where solving problems often requires skills and knowledge from multiple disciplines. SVUSD teachers are making a difference!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

The new year is well underway and students are focused on their academic goals. In this issue you will read a variety of topics from the Hole in the Wall Gang, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, STEAM, AVID, Technology & Science, and more.

Our next issue is April 11.

In the meantime, on page 23 are student book reviews to help your child make choices for reading during Spring Break.

Business Services

Facilities Master Plan 2018



Connie Cavanaugh
Assistant
Superintendent

Saddleback Valley Unified School District educates approximately 27,700 students, operates and maintains 37 sites and serves the Cities of Aliso Viejo, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita, and the County of Orange. A majority of our schools are over 35 years old and built between 1950 and 2000.

The District recognizes that when it comes to educating our children, facilities matter. It is for this reason that a new facilities master planning effort is underway to identify the continuous improvements needed to provide our students with updated facilities and “Next Generation Learning Spaces” to deliver the best education possible. School site administrators, students, parents and community participation are crucial to delivering a new Facilities Master Plan that reflects the current and future needs in our schools. Our outreach effort include numerous site and community meetings, and an online survey with over 1,500 responses to date. On February 8, 2018 the Board of Education held a workshop to review the facilities needs that were identified and discussed the improvement recommendations.

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Covering the
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Human Resources

Hiring the Best



Dr. Terry Stanfill
Assistant
Superintendent

It is the mission of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District to “provide all students with a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment, supported by the partnerships of school, home and community, that will instill the knowledge, skills and values necessary for all students to reach their full potential and to become contributing compassionate citizens in the world community.” In support of this

mission, the most important function of the Human Resources Division is to recruit and retain people who are innovative, exhibit a positive attitude, genuinely caring, and exceptionally enthusiastic while maintaining the highest moral and ethical standards. This year alone we have hired 130 substitute teachers, 88 instructional aides, and are still hiring for these positions.



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Cielo Vista *Elementary*

21811 Avenida de Los Fundadores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-7456 • svusd.org/cielovista



Beth Ewing
Principal

Cielo Vista's Garden Rocks

Cielo Vista's garden had a "Supreme Makeover" from Lowe's Home Improvement Store. We are so grateful to the team of 25 volunteers from Lowe's who came to clean up and improve our school garden. In addition to donating their time and hard work to complete such a big task, they also donated 2 sheds, a gazebo, outdoor furniture, tools, irrigation system, mulch, rocks, paint and the list goes on and on. We are so appreciative of their generosity and hard work. Now with the recent remodel, we

can't wait to have our students plant vegetables and herbs! Many science lessons are being planned so that we can take advantage of our new outdoor classroom. Our incredible PTA is planning for a mural to be painted on the beautiful new bright yellow wall and sky blue handball courts. We also incorporated a special rock garden and every student at Cielo Vista this year will personalize a rock to add to the garden. Beginning next year, only our 6th graders will paint a rock as a way to say goodbye to elementary school and add their rock to the collection before moving on to Intermediate school. We are starting this new tradition at CV because CIELO VISTA ROCKS!



Cordillera *Elementary*

25952 Cordillera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-3400 • svusd.org/cordillera



Deborah Shaver
Principal

STEAM

Cordillera is a place where learning and innovation grow on a daily basis, just like the plants in our garden!

As part of our dedication to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education, students in kindergarten through 6th grade have the opportunity to plant, nurture and harvest a variety of vegetables and fruits. Some grade levels even have a



As you can see, Cordillera is a PAWSitively amazing place to learn and grow!

specific theme such as "pizza" where they grow heirloom tomatoes, basil and oregano. Once the produce is harvested, parent volunteers work with students to create delicious, organic, fresh recipes for all to taste. Many teachers also use the garden to teach science concepts such as the plant lifecycle and variables in plant growth. Many thanks to our amazing PTA and a team of dedicated parent volunteers who bring this wonderful program to Cordillera!

De Portola *Elementary*

27031 Preciados Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-5830 • svusd.org/deportola



Michael Gomez
Principal

Innovative Environments

Several of our Patriot classrooms have innovated their classroom environment! Traditional desks and chairs have been replaced by mats, gaming chairs, yoga balls, stools, scoop seats, sitting areas, and bean bags in a number of classrooms. These classrooms

model our focus on creating a stimulating environment to maximize learning. Standing desks and white boards now engage students in different physical setups to reflect a growing trend in flexible learning environments. Some of our classrooms have taken some of these steps to increase the flexible seating, and



several others have dramatically transformed their rooms to reflect their innovation of the learning environment. Our school also features a Collaborative Learning Lab which serves as a model of possibilities for flexible feature and seating arrangements. Our teachers have all been quite innovative as they re-design and introduce new elements in their classrooms to enhance their learning environments. Our students have embraced these redesigned learning environments and have thrived!

Del Cerro *Elementary*

24382 Regina St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5430 • svusd.org/delcerro



Dr. Larry Callison
Principal

Every “Hombre” Gets a Book

The best candy shop a child can be left alone in, is the Library —Maya Angelou

You can see the “Hole in the Wall Gang” below who make sure that every “hombre” gets a book for their pleasure reading. This is NOT a fund-raiser for the school but the extra dollars generated go directly to our library for necessary year-long expenses and new books for our many avid readers. Our

library volunteers and our Librarian, Jan Crowther, are special and committed to making the Del Cerro library a place of wonder and excitement for our Del Cerro Dolphins. The twice a year Book Faire is very popular with our students and their parents. We have seen the principal perusing the stacks looking for a special gift for a family member or maybe something of interest for his own reading pleasure. Del Cerro is a special place for all the different reading genres!

Twice a year during Parent Conference time, our parents order and operate the very popular Book Faire. When you come to the Del Cerro Book Faire, you can expect to have a great time in our portable library. The incredible selection offers fiction, biographies, action adventure, science fiction, and so much more!! Our wonderful parents organize, staff, sell, guide, and process each book selected by our students. This is an act of love for the literary aficionados of Del Cerro. This year’s theme is “Wild West.” Posters are up everywhere advertising for “Wanted... Readers” to join the gang at the Book Faire.



Hole in the Wall Gang

Del Lago *Elementary*

27181 Entidad, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/855-1125 • svusd.org/dellago



Jennifer Televik
Principal

Outstanding Performance

Del Lago Elementary School held its first-ever winter instrumental music concert in December, showcasing fifth- and sixth-grade orchestra and band students. This year, our instrumental music students have been working at an accelerated pace, with instruction from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) elementary music teacher, Mr. Russ Moreau.

Hosting a concert this early in the school year was an exciting way to show the progress students have made so far, and it allowed them to experience the joy of performing in front of an audience. We look forward to seeing them continue to develop their musical talents throughout the year and demonstrate their growth at our spring concert as well as the SVUSD area music concert to be held at Trabuco Hills High School.

Many thanks to Mr. Moreau, his music teaching colleagues, the Del Lago staff, and parents for supporting our students in the arts!



El Toro *High School*

25255 Toledo Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-6333 • svusd.org/eths



Terri Gusiff
Principal

El Toro CAN do it!

For over a decade, El Toro High School staff and students have held a canned food drive to support their local community. Each year, they strive to increase the amount of food

collected. As tradition goes, ETHS students set a goal to collect 115,000 cans and on Friday, November 17, ETHS students collected a new record 116,675 cans!

The canned food drive lasts for two weeks and many elementary and intermediate schools in the district help by bringing cans and food items to ETHS. Ultimately, it is all about school and community spirit.

All proceeds helped those in need through the Adopt-a-Neighbor and South County Outreach.



Esperanza *Special Education*

25121 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5470 • svusd.org/esperanza



Rochelle Stewart
Special Ed School
Site Specialist

The Season for Giving

November and December was a season of giving for Esperanza Education Center. Two of our Futures classes bought presents and delivered them to the Ronald McDonald House. Another Futures class bought and donated books to our Holiday Program in which every student at our school gets to pick out a book to add

to their home library. Ms. Annie Lansburgh organized an awesome #GivingTuesday event that was featured in the SVUSD Community Newsletter. Every student was able to participate and we ended up with a total of 22 blankets for shelter animals. The highlight was Ms. Lansburgh's class visiting the shelter to hand deliver the blankets to deserving rescue dogs, cats and bunnies. In the same spirit, our inspirational Speech and Language Pathologist, Marybeth Brown, created a lesson that incorporated speech goals and fine motor skills centered on December's character trait of Caring



Holiday cards made by Esperanza students for our veterans.

in which our students handmade cards to be delivered to Walter Reed. Imagine the smile on our veteran's faces when they opened a special holiday card crafted by our caring students. Lastly, be on the lookout for upcoming news on our Annual Pancake Breakfast scheduled for April 22nd.

Foothill Ranch *Elementary*

1 Torino Dr., Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 • 949/470-4885 • svusd.org/foothillranch

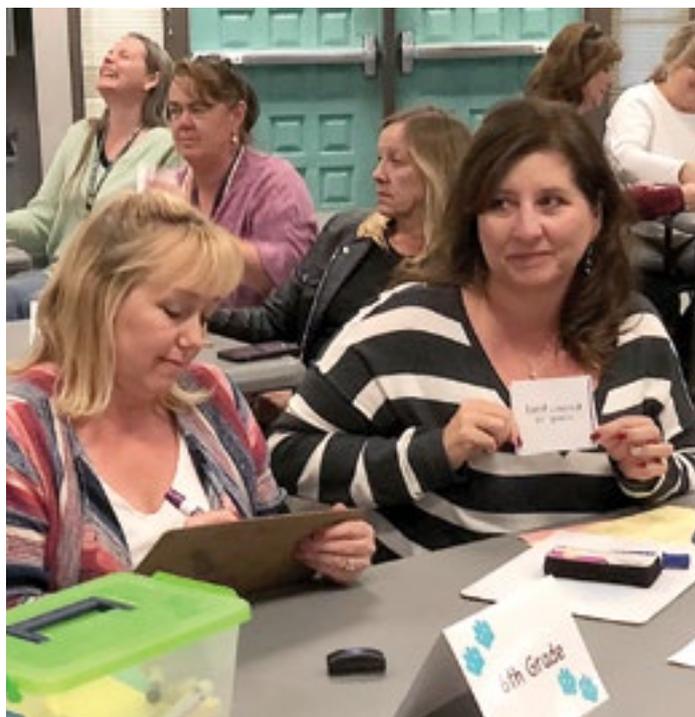


Ed MacNevin
Principal

Focusing on Professional Development

The Foothill Ranch Elementary (FRE) Leadership Team, consisting of teachers, literacy coach, and administrators, are collaborating to create opportunities for teachers to participate in monthly professional development (PD). Each month, two voluntary, interest-based PD days are offered for teachers who wish to expand their knowledge within a variety of topics

and subjects. Each interactive and hands-on workshop is facilitated by FRE teachers or our district's EdTech teachers on special assignment (TOSAs). In January, teachers were provided opportunities to attend a training focused on strategies to support behaviorally challenged students, how to purposefully integrate technology into their curriculum with the Seesaw Learning Portfolio app, Kagan Structure of the Month or, Simple but Effective Ideas for Using Technology to Inform Instruction. In addition to our after-school workshops, FRE has planned three custom PDs for our teachers. These PDs will be facilitated by our district's EdTech TOSAs and are sure to be valuable, fun-filled days!



Gates *Elementary*

23882 Landisview Ave., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-2260 • svusd.org/gates



Yvonne Estling
Principal

Computer Science Week

In December, our Gators joined hundreds of thousands of students around the globe in celebrating Computer Science Week. Gates Elementary partnered with Bit Scouts, California's largest code academy for kids, to provide all of our 4th-6th graders instruction on coding using Scratch. In addition, our K-3rd grade Gators joined in the celebration by using iPads or Chromebooks to practice

basic coding concepts such as algorithms and loops, using fun and familiar characters and avatars. Besides Scratch and Hour of Code used in the upper grades, some of the apps used by the lower grades included LightBot, Kodable, and CodeSpark Academy. Being a Two Way Immersion program, our K-2nd graders received their Computer Science instruction in Spanish! If you are interested in learning more about our incredible program, we encourage you to attend an upcoming tour on February 21st or March 7th at Gates starting at 9:00 am.



Glen Yermo *Elementary*

26400 Trabuco Rd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-6766 • svusd.org/glenyermo



Lisa Graham
Principal

A Neighborhood Treasure!

Glen Yermo Elementary offers a tremendously rich and full academic program, including: reading, writing, math, Next Generation and social sciences, and physical education; but there is so much more! Students have the JOY of learning within an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) certified school; and partake in all the “extras” such as TK-sixth art, music, and hands-on science throughout the year. But there's even more... Glen Yermo staff and parents join together to provide many extended learning opportunities for students. This year, our school family has joined together to provide art classes in an after school multi-age, multi-ability setting, as well as after school robotics and lunch time Chess Club. Students also have the benefit of additional help within Glen Yermo's after school homework club which is supported by classroom teachers. It has been said, “It takes a village.” Glen Yermo IS the village... truly, a neighborhood treasure!



La Madera *Elementary*

25350 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/770-1415 • svusd.org/lamadera



Heather Ramsey
Principal

40 Weeks of Kindness

This year we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary at La Madera Elementary School. In addition to our celebration of 40 years of Excellence in Education, we are also celebrating a hallmark quality of La Madera with our PTA sponsored, 40 Weeks of Kindness Project. There is a theme each month, with a newsletter and an activity that focus on the specific theme. Themes for this year, starting with August/September, are: Kindness Starts with Me, Protect our Animal Friends, Give Freely, Appreciate Family & Friends, Serve our Community Near and Far, Embrace our Diversity, Be True to You, Care for our World, I CAN and I WILL, and we finish our year in June with, The Best is Yet to Come. All of the themes above tie in directly with a philanthropic activity, where students proudly spread kindness at school and in our community. In the photo the students are working on their kindness projects, making Kindness Rocks to give to friends and family, and then making fleece dog toys and blankets for a local animal shelter for our animal friends. We are thrilled that our 40 Weeks of Kindness also ties



in with our State Superintendent of Public Education, Tom Torlakson's announcement of The Great Kindness Challenge Week, January 22 – 26, 2018. Kindness is an attribute that is indeed a hallmark of our La Madera Family, and we are proud and honored to share our kind acts with others.

La Paz *Intermediate*

25151 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-1720 • svusd.org/lapaz



Jean Walker
Principal

Giving Back

Tammy Black, La Paz History Chairperson, and her colleague, Trish Jorquiera, recently presented their new curricula for the 7th grade World History year-long inquiry and Baghdad as a focal point at the UCI Social Studies Framework Workshop. These units incorporated the newly-adopted California History-Social Science Framework and focused on the theme of interconnectedness. Participants from various Orange County school districts appreciated their expertise and the materials shared (primary sources, visuals, articles, slide presentations, and student documents). As Mrs. Black says, "creating curriculum is my favorite thing to do, and to be able to share it with other amazing teachers is just icing on the cake." Mrs. Black and Mrs. Jorquiera look forward



to working with the UCI History Project again. At La Paz all teachers are committed to service to the educational community at large. La Paz teachers believe that through collaboration, we all become better teachers for our students.

Laguna Hills *High School*

25401 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/770-5447 • svusd.org/lhhs



Bill Hinds
Principal

Platinum and Gold in Competition!

Laguna Hills High School Computer Science students placed Platinum and Gold in the first round of the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. By finishing in the top two positions, the Hawks will move on to the state competition on January 20th, 2018. Cybersecurity has become one of the most critical issues throughout the world.

Building interest and skills among young people in cybersecurity as well as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) is the focus of the Air Force CyberPatriot competition. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program. At the center

of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and must find cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six-hour period. Teams compete for the top placement within their state and region, and the top teams in the nation earn all-expenses paid trips to Baltimore, MD for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money. Go HAWKS!!



Lake Forest *Elementary*

21801 Pittsford Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/830-9945 • svusd.org/lakeforest

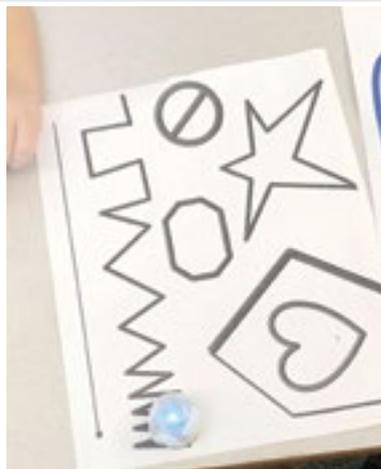


Audra Bailey
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

Lake Forest is bursting with new technology and STEAM projects. Lake Forest has implemented a new STEAM program this year. Students in grades 1-6 have the opportunity to use their critical thinking skills through Break Out Boxes, learn coding using Ozobots,

and learn all about forces and energy. Teachers in kindergarten and first grade are incorporating OSMOs into their small group lessons. With these OSMOs, students can work on reading foundational skills, math skills, and learn coding. Other grades have



1st graders coding.

done lessons on coding using Ozobots. These tiny robots can be coded through the computer or by following different coded blocks on paper. Students in a first-grade class coded them to follow a path and do a little dance at the end. Fifth grade students used Makey Makey devices to learn about closed circuits. They were able to create circuits that would make bananas play the bongos, and cups of water play the piano! These interactive, hands-on lessons have the students engaged and excited!

La Tierra *Early Childhood Center*

24150 Lindley St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/707-5276 • svusd.org/latierraecc



Marion Springett
*Psychologist on
Special Assignment*

1, 2, "3" Grow with Me

Since 1999, the La Tierra Early Childhood Center (La Tierra ECC) has been proudly serving preschool aged children with special needs who have met special education eligibility criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). At La Tierra ECC, in collaboration with members of

the school community, we strive to provide purposeful, developmentally appropriate, quality education within a nurturing environment. We believe that school should be a safe, yet fun place where trained, caring professionals provide instruction that is meaningful, practical, and leads all students to reach their fullest potential while embracing and celebrating diversity!

Did you know that many SVUSD students begin their academic careers at La Tierra ECC, upon their third birthdate, following thorough assessments completed by



La Tierra ECC's "A-Team", (an assessment team comprised of professionals across disciplines)? It's an incredible experience to see children who come to us, as young as three years of age, thrive, grow, and become ready to transition to kindergarten!

Linda Vista *Elementary*

25222 Pericia Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-0970 • svusd.org/lindavista



Suzy McMasters
Principal

The Arts are Alive!

The Arts are alive at Linda Vista! Our scholars are engaged in a variety of arts inspired learning experiences. Through the support of our teachers and community volunteers, our scholars are dancing, drawing, painting, performing and experiencing the visual and performing arts.

After studying the works of Antonio Vivaldi, our scholars and families were

invited to Laguna Hills High School to see a marching visual and musical performance of Vivaldi's Seasons by the LHHS Marching Band and Color Guard. Families enjoyed watching the Seasons unfold by the Hawks marching ensemble in the football stadium.

Our kindergarten through sixth grade musicians dazzled audiences with the sounds of winter in vocal and instrumental music performances under the direction of Mr. Moreau and Ms. Thompson. For many of our youngest scholars, this was the first opportunity of the year to perform for an audience. They were amazing!

On Monday mornings at Linda Vista Elementary School, our scholars have extended learning time where they participate in arts inspired lessons. Scholars of all ages participate in the arts using watercolors, oil pastels, fabrics for sewing, a variety of dance styles, and other media lessons. The arts are alive!



Lomarena *Elementary*

25100 Earhart Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-1370 • svusd.org/lomarena



Brendon Morrow
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

Lomarena's teachers continuously refine their craft to stay on the forefront of their practice. Recently, our leadership team spent several days together attending a conference showcasing the skills needed for college and career readiness, while they spent more time together learning about Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Our STEM team of teachers presented many of their school's recent success strategies with a "STEM on a Shoestring Budget" presentation at the Orange County Department of Education. They also spent a recent weekend at the California STEM Symposium in San Francisco. Many of our teachers attend multiple trainings and workshops offered by our district and other resources throughout the state. Lomarena's staff looks forward to another great year partnering with their PTA and community to accomplish great things in science, technology, engineering, math and all other curricular areas.



Los Alisos *Intermediate*

25171 Moor Ave., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-9700 • svusd.org/losalisos



Rich Freda
Principal

AVID for All

Los Alisos Intermediate School is proud of our AVID program. AVID is nationwide! Its core guiding principle is: "Hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge." We offer AVID elective classes which are designed for prospective, first-generation college students who want to go to college and have the determination, but may lack the ability to navigate the challenging path to get there. This year we introduced a class for our 7th graders in addition to our existing 8th grade class. When asked what AVID means to them, one 8th grader said, "AVID means that you believe in yourself; you work hard and you don't give up." Over half of our staff has been formally AVID-trained (all staff have received site-based training). So, even if a student is not in the AVID elective they will benefit from this program. Pictured here are our AVID students on a field trip at CSU San Marcos.



Melinda Heights *Elementary*

21001 Rancho Trabuco, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/888-7311 • svusd.org/melindaheights



Kathy Martin
Principal

Philanthropy

At Melinda Heights Elementary, we have the privilege and responsibility of preparing students for the future. In helping our students become good citizens, we have the honor of supporting our community by giving back at every opportunity. Our PTA and

Helping Hands, the Melinda Heights staff, Principal's Advisory

Team and other exciting groups on campus strive to model leadership and philanthropy.

Melinda Heights "Operation Bundle Joy" drive collected baby items for mommies-to-be at Camp Pendleton. Staff members and Kindness Club participated in the Jessie Rees Foundation "Santa Stroll" encouraging children battling cancer to "Never Ever Give Up!" Last month, families donated two van-loads of toys to our Marines and Sailors at Camp Pendleton.

From PTA-sponsored blood drives to Pennies for Patients, to collecting for and assembling NEGU Joy Jars, the Melinda Heights Family is honored to continue to empower our students with responsibility, engage their compassion, and offer them the chance to affect the lives of others.



Mission Viejo *High School*

25025 Chrisanta Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/837-7722 • svusd.org/mvhs



Tricia Osborne
Principal

Prestigious Competition Winners

Mission Viejo High School is recognized as one of the top high schools in the country and our academic, athletic, arts, and co-curricular programs stand out above the rest. One such program is our premier band. MVHS hosted the 2017 Western Band Association Southern California Marching Band and Color Guard competition. This is one of the most prestigious competitions in

California and once again, the Mission Viejo Marching Band and Color Guard showcased their incredible talent. They took home 1st place in their division (AAAA), High General Effect, and High Visual Caption Awards. In addition to this competition, they also received 1st place at the Ayala Field Show Tournament, Long Beach Supershow, and Trabuco Tournament of the Hills! The MVHS Band and Color Guard have also been selected to perform at Disneyland. We commend the pride and commitment of our students and we are so proud of them. Go Diablos!



Montevideo *Elementary*

24071 Carrillo Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8050 • svusd.org/montevideo



Mona Montgomery
Principal

Mountaineers ROCK!

At Montevideo, our Mountaineers are embracing new technology. We have integrated the use of Ozobots to help students use coding to learn how to make claims, gain evidence, and use reasoning to problem solve. We expose our students to new technology such as augmented reality to engage in virtual field trips under the sea, flying around plants, or walking amongst dinosaurs.

While academics are a priority at our school, we also focus on our ROCK character traits because helping our students become well rounded citizens is important to us. We have recently joined the kindness rocks movement. Students paint inspirational sayings and pictures on rocks and hid them throughout the school and community. When a rock is discovered they are encouraged to post a picture of it on our Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook @Montevideorocks to spread the word of kindness throughout Mission Viejo.



Olivewood *Elementary*

23391 Dune Mear Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-6682 • svusd.org/olivewood



Eva Neuer
Principal

Olivewood Tree of Kindness

Student Council Members at Olivewood Elementary have launched a new anti-bullying, pro-kindness project. Inspired by the Orange County Department of Education Billion Acts of

Kindness, Student Council will take the lead in completing Acts of Kindness and then reporting it to the office so that their kind acts become part of the Olivewood Tree of Kindness. The Student Council brainstormed kind acts such as: teach a younger student to tie his shoes or hug your mom five times today, or say "Hi" to three people you usually don't talk to. Following the lead of Student Council, all students will be

encouraged to first choose a kind act from the envelopes on a bulletin board, complete the kind act, and lastly, report the kind act to the office.



Portola Hills *Elementary*

19422 Saddleback Ranch Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/459-9370 • svusd.org/portolahills



25th Anniversary

It is hard to believe, but Portola Hills Elementary (PHE) is 25 years old. In order to celebrate PHE's BIG anniversary we held a 25th Anniversary celebration at school on Friday, February 2 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Everyone was welcomed to attend this event, including alumni, present and former teachers and staff members, past PHE principals, as well as present students and their families. Twenty-five years of memories were displayed in the MPR including old photos, yearbooks, and 6th grade panoramic pictures. There were food trucks, game booths, and student bands who entertained everyone throughout the night. The evening was a huge success and fun was had by all!

Dr. Joseph Ledoux
Principal



Rancho Canada *Elementary*

21801 Winding Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/786-5252 • svusd.org/ranchocanada



News Show

One of the hallmarks of schools are the traditions that lie within each of them. Rancho Canada is no different. One longstanding tradition is "The Rancho News Show." For decades, each month students create and deliver a live televised newscast. Teacher Alan Williams has facilitated the broadcast for years.

Dr. Larry Hausner
Principal

He said, "The Rancho News offers the opportunity for students to develop confidence in speaking before an audience." He recalled a student who graduated in 2017 that wrote him a note stating, "I was shy when I had to talk in front of a crowd, but that changed when I was on my first TV show, the Rancho News Show. Now I am not shy to talk in front of a crowd."

Williams also suggested the experience, "...gives student artists an opportunity to teach an art lesson to the entire school. We're now encouraging students with other talents to present on future shows."



Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

21931 Alma Aldea, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/459-8253 • www.rsmintermediate.com



Brian Ferguson
Principal

An Involved Community!

Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate is excited to continue working hand in hand with our community as we begin 2018! Our efforts throughout the community during the fall of 2017 have been able to extend our students' experiences beyond the classroom. Members of the Orange County Sherriff's

Department, including our School Resource Officer, Deputy Briceno, celebrated Halloween with one class by engaging in pumpkin decorating. Our Thanksgiving food drive, ran by our PAL class, was a great success as we donated over one ton of food to a nearby pantry. Our holiday Joy Drive supplied toys for the NEGU Foundation and undoubtedly brought timely and needed cheer to many. Also, two of our 8th Grade students, Elle Viefhaus and Hannah Holmes (pictured), were recently recognized by the City of RSM during their Student Recognition Program. The RSM Roadrunners are proud to participate, and be part of this involved community!



Elle Viefhaus and Hannah Holmes

Robinson *Elementary*

21400 Lindsay Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/589-2446 • svusd.org/robinson



Jonathan Kaplan
Principal

Technology and Science

Google Augmented Reality (AR) came to Robinson in December! Our students had a blast interacting with this fascinating technology that brings science lessons to another level of understanding. First grade students had an opportunity to fly through the solar system, stopping at the sun to dive inside! There they discovered that the sun has several layers and that each is hotter than the other based on its color. All grade levels participated in the lessons and the teachers were equally impressed.

Fifth grade students examined Da Vinci's inventions, which included a self-propelled cart. The students quickly discovered that by moving the smartphone below the image they could view the undercarriage and mechanics there. All in all an outstanding day of learning! Go Rattlers!



San Joaquin *Elementary*

22182 Barbera, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-3450 • svusd.org/sanjoaquin



Dr. Karen Schibler
Principal

The Art of Gardening

Two years ago San Joaquin Elementary took on the endeavor of establishing a school STEAM garden. This has been a true “labor of love,” built and funded 100% with teachers, students, parent volunteers, ELAC/PTA

members and community seniors. Many weekends were spent laying bricks and installing irrigation. Only one year later we have added a mural, and are installing a butterfly garden. A wonderful Eagle Scout built the fence surrounding the garden and we have two regular senior volunteers with our “Willows” partnership who work with students on planting, repairing and maintenance. Weekly you will see different age groups, and many on their own during their recess breaks, planting, watering, adding painted numbers to the plots, fixing broken irrigation lines and learning about composting



and different soil samples. This garden has led to other school beautification projects and the front rose garden is now regularly pruned and weeded. It is a great day when a student brings you a rose!

Santiago *Elementary*

24982 Rivendell Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-2820 • svusd.org/santiago



Howard Johnston
Principal

The Arts are Alive

Santiago Elementary celebrated their 25th anniversary performance of The Nutcracker in December, and what a celebration it was! After 25 years, Santiago chose to spread their wings and take The Nutcracker back to its roots. The children rocked the house with over 100 students in grades one through six gracing the stage and made the word “ballet” cool again! Seeing all the students

work collaboratively for months after school to develop such a professional production showed everyone in the theatre that night what a remarkable and talented group of students roam the halls of Santiago. While it took an army to make all of this happen, Santiago’s production would not have taken place without the full support of Heidi Wysong, Darlene Reyes Gaytan, Heather Gardner, and Sharon Sandor. Through the art of dance, students had the opportunity to collaborate, develop a new talent, and express themselves in a non-verbal way for all to enjoy!



Serrano *Intermediate*

24642 Jeronimo Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-3221 • svusd.org/serrano



Robert Sherlock
Principal

School-Wide AVID

Serrano's schoolwide AVID program has been instrumental in creating a college ready and career focused culture on our campus. Serrano continually infuses AVID strategies and methodologies into our classrooms through the use of professional development and teacher- peer observations. Socratic

seminar, focused note taking, and growth mindset are only a few of the strategies being used at Serrano. AVID has taken the lead on Serrano's Organization Nation program, where students are encouraged to use their agenda planner on a daily basis to write down classroom assignments and homework. A significant increase of students effectively using their agenda planners has been observed. In addition, Serrano offered the PSAT 8/9 to our 8th grade students, resulting in nearly 100 students participating. Taking the PSAT 8/9 at the intermediate level prepares students for the high stakes college admission testing at the high schools. Serrano's school-wide AVID program supports a structured



approach in delivering a rigorous curriculum to students. It increases deep content knowledge, gives content specific strategies for reading, writing, thinking, and speaking, and finally, the AVID program helps develop habits, skills, and behaviors to prepare all students for college and career.

Silverado/Mira Monte *Continuation High School*

25632 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8800 • svusd.org/silverado • svusd.org/miramonte



David Gordon
Principal

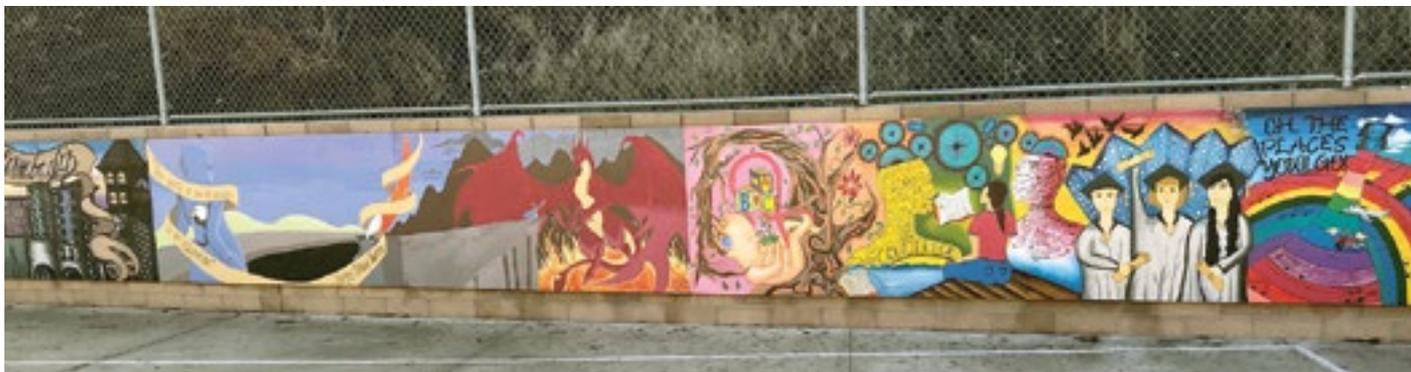
Campus Beautification Mural

Silverado High School started a campus beautification project three years ago with a picture mural. Each year, a Silverado student artist is selected to add a picture to the mural. This year student artist, Natali Navarro was selected and added the third section on the right.

In the upcoming third trimester a new dual enrollment Culinary Arts class will be added. Students who participate in this class will earn credits for high school and college.

Over the holidays, the Alternative Education staff members adopted 25 families in need and provided them everything from jackets and shoes to holiday meals. All the gifts were wrapped so each person could experience the excitement of opening them.

The Assistance League once again has raised funds to help students who need school and/or personal items. This month the Assistants' League raised enough money to be able to take up to 30 Silverado students on a shopping spree. Each student gets to shop for their own personal or school supply needs.



SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-8*

21001 Rancho Trabuco Rd., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/580-3457 • svusd.org/virtualacademy



Glenn Giokaris
Principal

Virtual Academy's Blended Learning Day

Every Tuesday and Thursday, students of the SVUSD Virtual Academy (SVA) have the option to attend "class" in a physical classroom. We refer to this as our "Blended Learning Day" (BLD). BLD builds on the benefits of virtual learning, including flexibility and personalization, to provide students the opportunity to work with their teacher and peers in a face-to-face environment. Tuesday is structured as teachers have indicated specific assignments and activities that students will work on during BLD, while Thursday's BLD serves as an opportunity for the student to work on assignments of their choice. Academically, BLD has increased the effectiveness of the instruction as well the personalization that the SVA is able to provide to its students. BLD also provides the opportunity to explicitly teach and build the students social-emotional skills.



Trabuco *Elementary*

31052 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678 • 949/858-0343 • svusd.org/trabuco



Lisa Paisley
Principal

Fall Feast

Trabuco Elementary is known for our fabulous school farm, field-study science program, and the rich history of the one-room schoolhouse with students riding to school on horseback. What may be less well-known is the spirit of family that dominates the entire school culture. Trabuco Coyote families are truly a special group. They roll up their sleeves and pitch in to host amazing events, such as the annual Fall Feast. The Fall Feast, held each November, includes a donut bobbing event, a seed spitting contest, and a lovely dinner under the stars and trees. Never has there been so much turkey, cranberry sauce, and stuffing in a single location! This year was the best turnout ever, and we were delighted to have so many extended family members and friends join us for the fun. Pictured below are the winners of one our pie baking categories: tastiest sweet treat. Go Coyotes!



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BALANCED EARTH

Trabuco Hills *High School*

27501 Mustang Run, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/768-1934 • svusd.org/thhs



Craig Collins
Principal

Sports Off to a Great Start

Trabuco Hills High is off to a great start for the winter sports season. Our girl's and boy's Basketball teams are both currently 15-3. The boys, led by Coach Sean Sullens, are ranked 4th in Division 2A and 6th in the OC Register Top 10. The girls, under Coach Art Carrido, are ranked 14th in Division 3AA. They recently won The Lady Spartan's Tournament in Villa Park. Girls soccer,

led by head coach Sarah Trost, are 8-4-2 and ranked 6th in Division 2. Our Wrestling team is working toward defending their 2017 CIF Championship, placing 2nd at the Asics Southern California Challenge, where Trey Munoz and Cody Burdette were tournament champions and Cody was also named Upper Middle Weight MVP. In addition, Trey Munoz recently finished 2nd at the Doc Buchanan Invitational. Visit trabucohills.org/athletics for schedules to support these athletes and wish them good luck on their season! GO BLUE!



Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

21301 Ave de las Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/858-3339 • svusd.org/trabucomesa



Caryn McGrew
Principal

Celebrating 30 Years!

Trabuco Mesa is proud to be celebrating our 30th year of educating students! We have never wavered from our mission: To provide a higher plateau for learning. We will be marking this occasion with a big celebration on Wednesday, May 23rd. As a Gifted and Talented

Education (GATE) Magnet school, we provide students opportunities to explore, expand, and excel to maximize their potential. Students look forward to participating in Mystery Science classroom lessons and STEAM lessons both in their classrooms and in our science lab with our science specialist. Students enjoy opportunities like this that challenge them to think like a

Scientist and work collaboratively in teams to complete a task. Our students have expanded their learning by taking virtual trips around the world using VR glasses. From Egypt to Antarctica, they have transported themselves to truly experience different cultures and environments.



Valencia *Elementary*

25661 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/830-3650 • svusd.org/valencia



Wendie Hauschild
Principal

Culture is to Give Back

At Valencia Elementary, it is part of our culture to welcome others, have fun, support integrated STEAM learning, and serve our community. This fall, Valencia PTA sponsored an Ice-Cream Social for new families to meet others and learn all about our school. PTA's annual

Boo Bash featured food trucks, arcade games, trunk-or-treat, and our famous haunted house. Red Ribbon Week emphasized healthy choices and assemblies by Officer Sambrano. Fifth Grade held a balloon launch with hot air balloons and baskets designed using TinkerCad and our 3D printer. All students participated in the Hour of Code, and many students are continuing to learn in Mr. Wilke's afterschool Coding Club. Valencia Voices performed for all students and starred in an evening show. Student Council collected over

950 pairs of socks during "Socktober" and PTA collected 275 pairs of pajamas during our school-wide "Wear a Pair, Bring a Pair" Pajama Day! Call our office for school tour dates, Kindergarten Round-up, Coffee with the Principal, and Parent Information events. We welcome you!



Toy Store Items–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 SBV in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 30, 2018

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

Thank you Barkate Orthodontics for sponsoring our contests.

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- | | |
|----------|------------|
| BIKE | MARBLES |
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| BOOK | COMPUTER |
| LEGOS | DOLLHOUSE |
| SOLDIERS | BUGGY |
| BALLS | KITCHEN |
| BUBBLES | TEA SET |
| CROQUET | BAT |
| BLOCKS | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES | |

Congratulations to Bailey Hall-Diaz
Winner of our October Word Search Contest!



B is for Book



Bailey

The Grass isn't Always Greener

If I Were You by Leslie Margolis is a book that has magic in its own way. I can totally relate to the characters and their feelings.

Katie and Melody have been best friends ever since they were little.

But the truth is, Katie is very jealous of Melody. Her house is huge and she's so pretty! But also, it turns out that Melody is equally jealous of Katie. She has fun little brothers and family dinners every night. On the last summer of vacation, at the same time, they wish the same wish: that they were each other. Their wish comes true! Will they realize the grass is not always greener on the other side?

I enjoyed this book because I feel like the reader can relate to the emotions of the characters: being jealous of others, knowing or not knowing the pros and cons of their ups and downs.

I give this 4 1/2 stars out of 5. Bailey is a 6th grader that likes to read fantasy and daydream about adventure when she isn't dancing ballet or playing with her friends and siblings.



Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

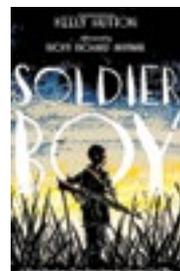
Soldier Boy

Author: Keely Hutton

"Can we go and watch the road?"

One simple request will change Ricky Anywar's entire world. What was an innocent wish soon turns into a journey as he and his brother and friends are forced to join the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel force fighting in the Ugandan civil war. They fight to stay alive on the battlefield, witnessing death, destruction, and enduring hundreds of kilometers of land on foot. Many are lost and all abductees carry the burden of being a child soldier.

In this true story, Keely Hutton works closely with Ricky himself to shed light on what it is like to be a child soldier, telling his story that are like hundreds of others. Although the subject matter is dark and at times highly disturbing, the final message of hope and forgiveness is truly one to admire. Five out of five bookworms well earned!



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.

Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Best Night Ever or a Catastrophe?

Best. Night. Ever. By Rachele Alpine, Ronni Arno, Alison Cherry, Stephanie Faris, Jen Malone, Gail Nall and Dee Romito

This book is about school dance preparations at Lynnfield Middle School, which include a televised performance by Heart Grenade, the all-girl band recognized for winning a Battle of the Bands contest. The lead singer Carmen is stuck at a cousin's wedding while Genevieve, the backup singer, is about to faint from stage fright. Tess, Ryan and Ellie can't wait to attend, and another girl is determined to ruin it all. Finally Ashlyn, who is being forced to babysit two little girls, drags her charges to the dance. This could all lead up to the best night ever or a catastrophe!

I loved this book, because the seven authors tell their points of view based on each of their "middle grade" experience. No single story teller tells the entire story. I rate this book 4 out of 5 apples, because it does get a little confusing being written from seven points of view.

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.



Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

A Ghost Story

Took, by Mary Downing Hahn, is a ghost story about a family that moves to Woodville, West Virginia. Against Daniel and Erica's will, they moved because of financial difficulties. Some kids treat them like they're

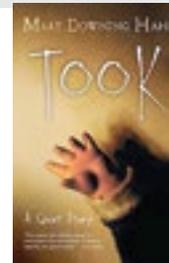
aliens colonizing Woodville. Kids scare them with stories about "Old Auntie" and how she takes one girl every 50 years. Last time, she took Selene Estes; Now, it will be Erica.

Erica begins talking to a doll, claiming she talks back. She hears her name whispered and sees people. One day she follows one of those people into the forest. That is when she gets "took." Her parents become unhappier with time and blame Daniel for Erica's disappearance.

People say "Old Auntie" took her and will keep her for 50 years. Are people right? Will Erica be found?

I rate this book 4 stars because although I loved it, I disliked the character's attitudes.

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.



Alana's Book Review

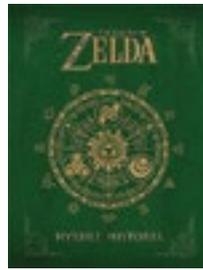


Informative

Hyrule Historia

By Mike Richardson

Hyrule Historia is an informational text on the video game series, the *Legend of Zelda*. With



Alana F.

everything from beautiful scenery drawing to characters never actually

seen, this book has everything a die-hard Zelda fan could wish for. Explaining the timeline linking all the games together and providing insight as to certain events in the series, this book really does have it all.

I'd give this book only 6 out of 8 trifold shards for not completely meeting a lot of fans' standards. Some things are inconsistent from the games to the book, making the facts seem a bit hazier. The timeline is also flawed in some ways, creating some resentment towards Hyrule Historia and I can understand the frustration. Additionally, since the release of the new Zelda game *Breath of the Wild*, a lot of information about the Zelda universe is missing from the book.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd." When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 trifold shards with 8 being the highest

Richard's Book Review

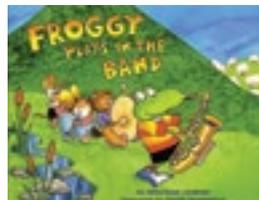


Follow through Pays Off

The book, *Froggy Plays in the Band* by Jonathan London, is one of the series of books about Froggy by this author. Froggy and his friends wanted to be in a band, but they weren't good at it, so their music teacher told them they had three weeks to practice until the march, and if they did

good they might win a prize. At first Froggy and his friends didn't play well, but after they practiced hard for 3 weeks they ended up sounding very good in the marching band and got a Golden Trophy in the shape of a saxophone as a reward.

I liked how the story is that in the beginning Froggy and his friends were discouraged, but practiced hard anyway, and all their hard work had paid off, because practice makes perfect, and everyone should stay determined and work hard to follow through to reach their goal. I also liked many fun illustrations in the book by Frank Remkiewicz.



Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

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