

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District**



Volume 15, Issue 76

April / May 2018

## Peer-Mentoring Program



### Hopkinson's Husky Buddies

(please see page 8)

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

# Student Safety – Prevention



**Dr. Sherry Kropp**  
Superintendent

As a District, we have the ultimate responsibility to keep students, staff, and the community safe while at any of our sites. This is our number one priority, and every year, we implement new measures to improve in this area. Prevention and response are vitally important and described below, but we can all help young people thrive. We need to spend time with young people, talk with them, and really notice them so that we see when something is not right

or bothering them; and, we need to take action when we notice something. We need to spend time with kids doing what matters to them because they matter to us (The Power of One Caring Adult, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u\\_Oapo1Q7\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_Oapo1Q7_w)). Our eyes need to light up when they enter the room so that they know we care about them. Research shows that one, significant adult who invests time and concern for a child can improve the life of that child.

One of the District's Priority Goals is for all students to be connected to school through participation in Academics, Athletics, Activities, and/or the Arts. Involvement in these areas helps young people develop their special talents and interests, and equally important, it connects them to positive adult role models and increases the likelihood of them connecting with a positive, peer, social group. Young people need significant adults encouraging and believing in them, and they need to be busy with positive, healthy activities. In addition, many of our young people go to adults when they need help, and these adults are a great resource for our kids.

Counseling and mental health services are critical. We have school counselors and have recently added three mental health counselors district-wide, who provide ongoing individual and group counseling. These mental health counselors deal with issues that range from making friends to dealing with serious personal and family issues and circumstances. They help young people deal with loss and the death of a loved one. They provide Grief/Loss Workshops for staff and families. They also help us navigate the system when there are signs of neglect and/or abuse. These students need us to help them, and our counseling services are critical for a successful recovery. AddictionPros.org also provides a list of resources for families dealing with mental illness.

We train secondary staff about suicide prevention and how to recognize warning signs. Programs, such as Zones

of Regulation, are implemented at elementary schools to address executive functioning and emotional regulations. Secondary programs, such as Shed the Noise, are aimed to de-stigmatize mental health and encourage getting help for mental health concerns. We also hold parent education nights that emphasize signs, symptoms, and strategies to address mental health concerns.

We have multiple programs to address bullying, cyberbullying and appropriate use of social media. Lessons on digital citizenship are implemented across our District. PEACE week supports inclusions and anti-bullying messaging. We hold numerous parent education nights to reinforce responsible use of social media. Discipline measures are in place to strongly support our zero tolerance for bullying. THINK before you post – is it True, Helpful, Informative, Necessary, and Kind?

Substance Abuse Prevention remains important work. We have to be diligent in keeping up with what is available to our students as these substances can be extremely dangerous and have dire consequences. We employ a Drug Detection Canine Program and random drug testing at our secondary sites. We have curriculum to address the appropriate use of legal drugs and the consequences of using illegal drugs and offer a comprehensive training and counseling program for offenders. We offer AddictionPros.org, a web-based referral system for substance abuse programs and support available to families. We also partner with the Drug Enforcement Agency and law enforcement for our Prescription Drug Take Back Events to take back unused and unwanted prescription medications and get them out of our homes.

Violence Prevention is and always has been a priority for our District. We have a threat assessment protocol and team to assess risk of self-harm and harm to others. If students make a threat, they may not return to our schools until they have been cleared by a mental health therapist and law enforcement has been involved. We also have swift consequences for anyone who physically hurts another person.

Communication is vitally important and the support of everyone can help us continue to improve our comprehensive safety plan and programs. We need you to spend time with young people so that you truly notice them and to take action when you recognize that a student might need extra guidance and/or services. All of us can help kids grow up to be caring, competent, and capable adults, and this is the most rewarding work we do.

## Board of Education



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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Comprehensive District Safety

*By Dr. Jeffrey Barke, M.D., President*

The tragic loss of so many lives by acts of violence at schools throughout our Country is incomprehensible and requires a comprehensive approach to school safety. Schools should be a safe haven for all of our students, families, staffs, and community members. The Board of Education continues to prioritize student, staff and campus safety by taking a comprehensive approach to mitigate all safety-related risks. Safety is our number one priority, and adding security measures each and every year is an urgent and important goal for all of us. We need to help people be and feel safe while at our schools.

In addition to prevention strategies such as mental health services, we have a very robust, comprehensive safety plan. Most recently, we have added security fencing and campus supervisors at all of our elementary school and are in the process of adding security fencing at our three secondary schools. The District works closely with its three law enforcement agencies - Seal Beach Police Department, Orange County Sheriffs, and Los Alamitos Police Department in the areas of patrol, presence, and response. In addition, the District has consulted with the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center (OCIAAC) to conduct school safety assessments to identify ways in which to bolster school safety. Through those assessments, measures have been taken, like added security fencing, shatter-proof Mylar window film on classroom/office windows, a visitor management system at all nine sites, staff name identification badges, the locking of classroom

doors during instruction, surveillance cameras at LAHS, increased campus supervision, and the development of a violent intruder protocol. In addition, some safety measures cannot be disclosed in order to further keep students and staff safe.

The Board has prioritized the administrative position of Director of Safety. This position oversees all nine school sites in the areas of campus safety, emergency preparedness, threat assessment, bullying prevention, substance abuse prevention, violence prevention and crisis response. The Director of Safety has addressed each school site, the District Office and the Auxiliary Office regarding the District's Violent Intruder Protocol should a campus need to go on Lockdown. The Director of Safety leads a District Safety Task Force that is made up of multiple stakeholders across each school site that serve as liaisons for their school community. In addition, the District has prioritized a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program whereby a Los Alamitos Police Officer is stationed at Los Alamitos High School. We are grateful for the financial support of this position through a partnership with the City of Los Alamitos, the City of Seal Beach, and the District.

The District has also implemented a confidential reporting system, TEXT-A-TIP (562)-344-5498. We urge everyone to report any behavior, activity, and social media posts/electronic communication that threatens campus or student/staff safety. Please notify your local law enforcement agency or 9-1-1 if the threat is imminent or you have an urgent need.

Safety will remain our top priority. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please contact our Director of Safety, Chris Vlasic, at [cvlasic@losal.org](mailto:cvlasic@losal.org). Thank you for your support!

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Let's Talk



## Does Your Child Suffer from Allergies?



**Terry Chin, M.D.**,  
assistant medical  
director,  
Pulmonary  
Institute,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Allergies occur when the immune system mistakenly identifies a harmless airborne substance as harmful. The immune system then produces antibodies – which are substances that normally protect your body from things that make you sick – to attack this harmless substance.

The next time the body comes in contact with it, these antibodies recognize it and signal the immune system to release chemicals, like histamine, into the bloodstream. These immune system chemicals cause a reaction that leads to the symptoms of hay fever.

Hay fever is caused by an allergic response to outdoor or indoor allergens.

Common allergy triggers can include:

- Outdoors: tree pollen, plant pollen, insect bites or stings
- Indoors: pet or animal hair or fur, dust mites, mold
- Irritants: cigarette smoke, perfume, car exhaust

Hay fever causes cold-like symptoms, but unlike a cold, it isn't caused by a virus. Symptoms of hay fever are:

- Runny nose
- Itchy eyes
- Congestion
- Sneezing
- Sinus pressure

It's often hard to distinguish the difference between allergies and the common cold. Allergies are characterized by histamine, which is released in and around the nose and is associated with itch. When someone has itchy eyes, nose and throat, plus sneezing that lasts for a few days, it's most likely allergies.

However, it's important to have a pediatric allergist/immunologist determine what your child is allergic to. Allergies can be overwhelming, but they don't need to be. Miller Children's & Women's has an expert team who help diagnose and manage allergies in kids, so they can live healthy lives.

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806  
1.800.MEMORIAL • millerchildrens.org/pulmonary



Our specialty:

**Pulmonology**

Lei's specialty:

**Mighty Roars**

Born at 23 weeks, Lei Mason's lungs were severely underdeveloped. For six months, he was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach – giving his lungs the critical time they needed to grow. From the hospital to home, Miller Children's & Women's comprehensive team of pediatric specialists and respiratory care practitioners have monitored Lei's pulmonary progress. Now, with the team by his side, Lei not only has strong lungs, he's developed a mighty roar!

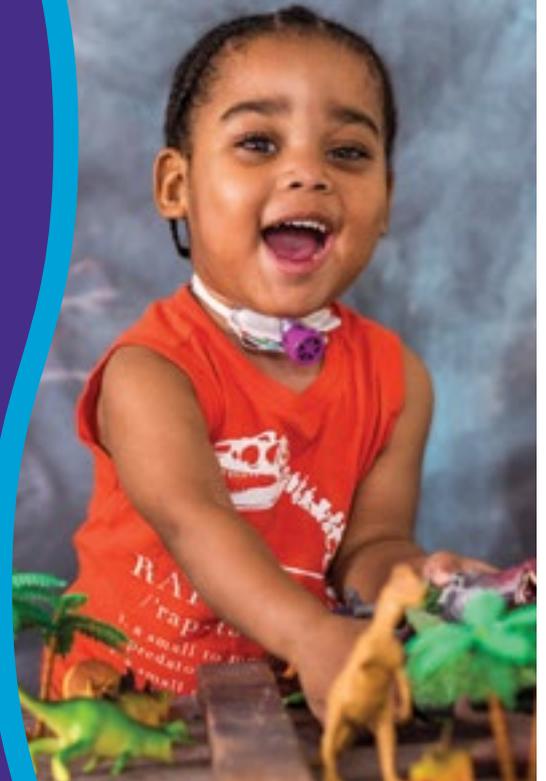


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Lei Mason, 2-years-old,  
Miller Children's & Women's  
Chronic Lung Disease Patient



## LAEF King and Queen of Hearts Crowned with \$200,000 Raised!

By Carrie Logue, Executive Director

The Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) crowned the King & Queen of Hearts on February 24. The Queen of Hearts is Wendee Close, district parent and Branch Manager at CLS Financial. The King of Hearts is Geoffrey King, Rossmoor resident, Los Alamitos High School parent and Managing Director of King Financial Group-Wells Fargo Advisors.

All six Royal Court candidates ended their 10-week fundraising campaign with a fundraising total of \$200,000! This passed the previous record of \$180,000. Every dollar that each candidate raised counted as a vote, and Close and King were the top fundraisers. The 2017-18 Royal Court members are Amy Payne, Karen Russell, Dan Brandt and Craig Chamberlain.

LAEF President Kevin Guetig said, "I am truly amazed by the ongoing success of King and Queen of Hearts campaign. This will continue to benefit all students through our STEAM Initiative. Join us for the district-wide STEAM showcase on May 20 at LAHS!"



LAEF Queen of Hearts Wendee Close and King of Hearts Geoffrey King

## Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Aldofo Lopez Dr., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • [www.sbacc.org](http://www.sbacc.org)

### Adopt Senior Cats—Please

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Pretty soon, it will be kitten season. Hundreds of kittens end up in shelters, many of which are already overcrowded. Many of the kittens find homes at the expense of older cats who have been waiting in vain. You will often find older cats in shelters for these reasons. Their human companions have died, and their relatives or friends can't take them. When the older cat is returned to the shelter, they often become depressed and sad. They don't quite understand what has happened to them.

Senior cats are usually so grateful when they are adopted. Their personality is already known, their litter-box habits are good, and they are happy to have a home again. Older cats can have lots of energy, too, if that is what you are looking for.



What greater satisfaction is there than giving a senior cat a wonderful last part of life, even if he or she came from adversity! You might not have this cat as long as you would like to have it. But you have given a great gift to the cat, such as stable final years.

Otis is a senior cat at the shelter. His owners both passed away within months of each other. He was a kitten at our shelter and is now a senior. Consider giving him a loving home. He once had one for many years.



# City of Seal Beach Police Department

911 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4100 Ext. 1145 • [www.sealbeachca.gov](http://www.sealbeachca.gov)

## Explorer Academy



**Dave Barr**  
*Sergeant*

The Orange County Law Enforcement Explorer Advisor Association (OCLEAAA) sponsored the 2018 Winter Explorer Academy at the Boys Scouts Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center, from February 15th to February 19th, 2018. The Explorer Academy simulates an abbreviated basic law enforcement academy. 182 explorers, from throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties, began the academy; 176

successfully graduated. The Seal Beach Explorer Post 1041 was represented by 3 explorers at the academy and proudly saw all 3 explorers graduate at the Sheriff's Tustin Academy, on February 19th with graduating Class #86. We would like to congratulate the following explorers from Post 1041: James Dunphy (Los Alamitos HS), Cody Tanner (Los Alamitos HS), and Jesus Mata (Long Beach Wilson HS). Explorer James Dunphy also received the prestigious award of "Most Inspirational."

The Police Explorer Program is for young men and women who are between the ages of 14 years old (completion of 8th grade) and 18 years old. Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences that help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Explorers are ready to investigate the meaning of interdependence in their personal relationships and communities. Police Explorer Program applicants must be between the ages of 14 (completion of 8th grade) and 18 years old, and have a 2.0 or better grade point average. Explorers learn about law enforcement procedures, ride-along with police officers, provide traffic and parking control for special events, and a host of other activities. Participation is not limited to Seal Beach residents.

For more information, contact Corporal Julia Clasby, [jjclasby@sealbeachca.gov](mailto:jjclasby@sealbeachca.gov) or 562-799-4100 ext. 1145.



**SBPD Detective Samantha Mathias, Jesus Mata, Cody Tanner, and James Dunphy.**

## Hopkinson *Elementary*

12582 Kensington Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4500 • [www.losal.org](http://www.losal.org)



**Evelyn Garcia**  
*Principal*

### Husky Buddies

Hopkinson's peer-mentoring program, Husky Buddies, provides opportunities for older students to work with younger students and scaffold learning in a way that is fun. Big buddies work with little buddies on activities that focus on STEAM, writing, CGI, depth and complexity, and art. The big buddies

lead students in lessons that are engaging and reinforce skills for them while introducing concepts to their little buddies.

It is our goal to see that each child is provided with unlimited opportunities to reach his or her full academic, social and emotional potential. The Husky Buddies program supports all of our efforts in achieving these aims. We foster students that are vested in their school community and in each other. Being a Husky Buddy brings a lot of pride to students. This represents the strong connection they have to the school community and also increases student awareness and pride for their peers.



## Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • [www.losal.org](http://www.losal.org)



**Amy Laughlin**  
*Principal*

### Start with Hello

Lee Elementary School kicked off its first year of Start with Hello, organized by Sandy Hook Promise. This program brings attention to the growing epidemic of social isolation and empowers our students to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within our school and community. Its premise is simple: see someone alone, reach out and help, and start with hello. One word makes a tremendous difference.

Our school community embraced the program and participated in activities to promote inclusion. Hey Day challenged staff and students to acknowledge and say hello to as many people as possible. The week continued with Buddy Day partnerships, No One Eats Alone Day, and No One Plays Alone Day. School-wide activities gave our students tools to recognize and approach someone who needs a friend. The week's powerful message showed our Leos how small acts of kindness help others feel included and accepted. It is as easy as starting with hello!



## Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • [www.losal.org](http://www.losal.org)



**Gary Willems**  
*Principal*

### Speech Contest

Los Alamitos Elementary School recently held their annual fourth- and fifth-grade speech contest. Every fourth- and fifth-grader wrote a persuasive essay and presented their essays to their class. The class voted on the three best essays. The winners from each class memorized their essays and presented their speech to a judging panel consisting of Eric Nunez, the

Los Alamitos Police Chief; Shelly Henderson, the editor of the Orange County Breeze; and Richard Larson, the assistant principal at LAE.

Only 21 of the 238 fourth- and fifth-graders presented at the speech contest, so they're all winners! Our judges handed out trophies to the top three speeches. The first-place speech was titled "Why You Should Be Happy." The second-place speech was titled "Why We Should Use Mindfulness in Schools," and third place was "Why You Should Use Time Efficiently."

Congratulations to all of our Tigers for doing a great job!



## McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • [www.losal.org](http://www.losal.org)



**Roni Ellis**  
*Principal*

### Teacher of the Year!

The McGaugh School community is proud of our many outstanding teachers. Every year our teachers and staff members take the opportunity to nominate an extraordinary individual who goes above and beyond in service to their peers,

students, and community as a whole.

This individual is designated the Seal Beach Lions Teacher of the Year. The Seal Beach Lions support this award at all of the nine Los Alamitos Unified's Schools. McGaugh is proud to announce that this year's Seal Beach Lions Teacher of the Year is kindergarten teacher Ms. Susie Kim.



**Ms. Susie Kim**

This recognition was announced at a staff meeting where Principal Roni Ellis developed a slide show of all the nominees and showed the winning teacher at the end. Susie was selected by our McGaugh staff, and this is what they had to say about her:

"Susie is dedicated, collaborative, efficient, determined, supportive and, overall, very kind. Susie sees the big picture, and has a commitment to children of all ages. She is a natural leader and goes beyond her immediate responsibilities. Her students are given the best instruction as a result of her attention to detail in her planning!"

We are proud to have this exceptional teacher on our staff.

# Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • [www.losal.org](http://www.losal.org)



**Dr. Brandon  
Martinez**  
*Principal*

## Activities Abound

Our academic programs have been thriving, with the Academic Decathlon taking third place overall in Division 2 for the Super Quiz, and also placing in the top five in the county. We also hosted our annual Mentor Breakfast, which featured over 70 mentors and over 400 students. Keynote speaker State Senator Janet Nguyen delivered a passionate speech about persistence and overcoming obstacles.

The arts programs have had a lot of success, with our dance, drama, and choir programs winning awards at

recent competitions. Our instrumental programs have been invited to play at several prestigious events and locations as well, including Segerstrom Concert Hall and the Monterey Jazz Festival, among others.

Several winter athletics teams had successful seasons and playoff runs, including girls varsity basketball winning league and making it to the CIF Division 1 semifinals. Girls varsity water polo won league and competed in the CIF Division 1 Elite 8 playoffs, and then played in the CIF State Division 2 Championship game.

We look forward to an active rest of the year, with many activities directed around school spirit, student groups, and community involvement.



# McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • [www.losal.org](http://www.losal.org)



**Ann Allen**  
*Principal*

## My Word!

Understanding what you read and hear is, to a large degree, determined by your vocabulary. McAuliffe students and staff have embraced a program called Vocabulary.com to assist all of our students in improving word mastery and literacy.

In February, the CEO and creator of the company, Michael Freedman, visited our school along with some of his colleagues, as he was very impressed with our students' progress. In the month of January, McAuliffe was number one in the nation and the state of California for the most words mastered by a

middle school. During the month of February, our students mastered 18,416 words and rank as number 7 among all middle schools in the United States and Canada. And since October 2017, they have mastered over 123,000 words!

Mr. Freedman and his staff interviewed teachers, toured classrooms, and interviewed students.

"McAuliffe Middle School inspired us with their enthusiasm, performance and feedback," Mr. Freedman said. "We are so proud of your students and thankful that teachers use our word-learning resource with them."

I am proud of our students' achievement, as it is another example of the many academic achievements our students regularly demonstrate. Go Eagles!



## School News



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As this school year winds down, if you will have extra hours next school year and would like to join our sales team, contact me to discuss [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
We publish 36 *School News* publications with more scheduled. You work from home when you have time and receive 25% commission on ads sold. I look forward to hearing from you.

**562-493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)**



**Erin Kominsky**  
*Principal*

### Cultural Exchange

The Oak Middle School staff, students, and community recently welcomed our friends from Sanmenxia Foreign Language Middle School in the Hunan province of Northern China. Ten students, along with their principal and a teacher, attended classes at Oak and stayed with Oak host families during their week-long stay.

During the week, our guests had the opportunity to learn math, English, history, science and engineering. They also danced and sang with the band and choir and participated in physical education. Our guests loved to eat pizza at lunch and had the chance to see things they had never seen, such as drinking fountains and electric pencil sharpeners. And Oak students had the opportunity to learn about the Chinese culture with a special lunchtime celebration of Chinese New Year.

A giant “thank you” to our host families and the Global Culture Education Foundation for their support in making this cultural exchange such an amazing experience for all students. We say “xiexie” which means “thank you” in the language of our new friends from China.





**Amy Belsha**  
*Principal*

### Rossmoor Loves to Read!

The Rossmoor Elementary School Knights were ecstatic to participate in Read Across America festivities this year! Not only did they get to dress up with Seuss-inspired themes each day, but they were immersed in the act of reading!

We were lucky to have a special visit from cheerleaders and football players from Los Alamitos High School. The Los Al Griffins chose their favorite Dr. Seuss books and read in each classroom. This was a dream come true for our Knights, as the Griffins shared the joy of reading. Developing mentor relationships between our Knights and Griffins has truly “ignited unlimited possibilities” for our students.

On March 2, we invited our parents to Read on the Green Friday to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Our campus was filled with happiness and the joy of reading! We also participated in a read-a-thon, and our students logged over 115,000 minutes of reading.

Reading is the foundation to success at Rossmoor!





**Dr Robert Briggerman**  
*Principal*

### Lunar New Year

On a bright, sunny Thursday in February, students at Weaver Elementary School met at the flag pole to celebrate the eve of Lunar New Year. Celebrated in many Asian cultures, Lunar New Year began this year on February 16 and ran through March 2.

The Weaver Ambassadors and our Transitional Kindergarten students led the parade, dressed as dragons and lions. Our students received good luck dollars from Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD) Board President Dr. Jeffrey Barke and Board Member Meg Cutuli. The event culminated with a performance of traditional Lunar New Year songs by the students in the Los Alamitos Education Foundation after-school Mandarin class.

The program was led by Weaver’s long-standing partner, the Global Culture Education Foundation (GCEF). The mission of GCEF is to “provide opportunities for students to take a modern and invigorating world view by exploring a different language and culture.” Through this foundation, Weaver continues a relationship with its sister school in Beijing, China and receives student and staff visitors annually. Additionally, Weaver and LAUSD representative

have also visited the school in Beijing. This partnership has been a great experience for students, helping them to learn about other cultures and preparing them for a 21st-century global society.



## Milestones and Firsts–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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put LAUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by May 5, 2018

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

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| KINDERGARTEN | CAR           |
| HIGH SCHOOL  | DISNEYLAND    |
| GRADUATION   | TRAVEL ALONE  |
| COLLEGE      | AIRPLANE RIDE |
| DATE         | BALLOON RIDE  |
| LOVE         | CRUISE        |
| ENGAGEMENT   | FIRST TOOTH   |
| MARRIAGE     | KISS          |
| HOUSE        |               |



**Congratulations Brixton Rapp and Hannah Clair Winners of our February Contests!**



# Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch Library

12700 Montecito Rd., Seal Beach CA 90740 • 562/430-1048 • [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)



**Sean Whittle**  
Branch Manager

## Coding Resources

Coding has become quite popular in recent years with other STEAM and “maker” associated learning topics. Code in the most general sense is a set of instructions executed by a computer’s central processing unit. Behind the scenes of all the computerized things we do, from flying to space to checking email, there is code running. It is fascinating learning about this process and even being able to do some basic coding activities. Knowledge of coding also functions as a new type of literacy, especially as it enters more and more into our daily lives. Below are some free resources for young people who want to learn more and try some coding. It’s just a sampling. There are many more! Keep an eye on the library calendar as well for coding focused programs we’ll offer.

And for the true enthusiast, a great and illuminating all-purpose overview of coding is *Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software* by Charles Petzold.

## Books

- *Get Coding!* by Young Rewired State
- *A Beginner’s Guide to Coding* by Marc A. Scott
- *Coding Games in Scratch* by Jon Woodcock
- *Understanding Coding* series by Patricia Harris
- *Start Making!* By Danielle Martin
- *Girls Who Code* series by Stacia Deutsch (fiction)
- *Secret Coders* series by Gene Luen Yang (fiction)

## Online/App

- Scratch (MIT, [scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu))
- Snap! (UC Berkeley, [snap.berkeley.edu](http://snap.berkeley.edu))
- Hopscotch ([gethopscotch.com](http://gethopscotch.com))
- Daisy the Dinosaur ([daisythedinosaur.com](http://daisythedinosaur.com))
- Khan Academy ([khanacademy.org/hourofcode](http://khanacademy.org/hourofcode))
- Made With Code (Google, [madewithcode.com](http://madewithcode.com))
- Young Rewired State ([getcodingkids.com](http://getcodingkids.com))

## Board Game

- Code Master Programming Logic Game by ThinkFun

## Fruits & Veggies –Word Search Contest

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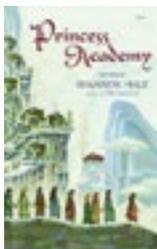
## B is for Book



**Bailey**

### Surprising Twists

*Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale left me craving for more. It's the perfect combination of adventure, princesses, friendship, and even a little romance!



When the people of Mount Eskel receive message from the lowlanders saying their prince is looking for a princess and all young girls will be sent to an academy, everyone is in shock, especially Miri. Without a choice, Miri, her friends, and a strange lowlander girl named Britta, set off to the academy, only to find themselves with a horrible tutor and homesick. Now, the pressure is on to be the best of the academy and marry the prince. Will Miri find out that even though she's small for her age, her voice is big? Will she stand up for what's right?

I couldn't put this book down! Shannon Hale always describes the moment just right and the twists were surprising! I give this book 5 out of 5 stars. Don't forget to read the rest of the series!

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.

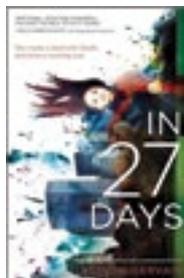
## Lucy's Book Review



**Lucy Davis**

### In 27 Days

Author: Alison Gervias  
Twenty-seven days is a very specific amount of time, but if you're trying to prevent a suicide it's nothing short of a race against the force itself.



Hadley Jamison never really knew Archer Morales, but she made a deal with Death that if he gave her twenty-seven days, she could stop Archer from taking his own life. So, she tries her best to befriend the closed off, quiet kid from freshman English. He doesn't seem to want her help, but their jobs at a coffeehouse and tutoring sessions bring them closer together, and soon they're becoming quite the pair.

Problem is, chaos wants to pull them apart. With events endangering the people that she loves, will Hadley succeed in keeping Archer alive? Or will she run out of time?

I enjoyed this book immensely for many reasons. It's funny, suspenseful, thoughtful, and all around a great read. Five out of five bookworms.

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

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## Our Kids Deserve Safe & Secure Campuses



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

More than anything, we owe it to our students to provide them with safe and secure campuses where learning thrives. Moreover, we owe it to parents to return their children each day just as healthy and happy as when they arrived.

Yet we have seen so many instances nationally where acts of violence break the sanctity of school communities, including horrific tragedies like the recent mass shooting that took the lives of 17 people at a high school in Florida.

To say school shootings occur too often in the United States is an understatement. Once is too often.

I wish it weren't necessary to write this column. However, I want to offer my most heartfelt condolences to anyone impacted by senseless violence, and I want to reaffirm the ongoing commitment of the Orange County Department of Education and leaders throughout our region to proactively protect our schools — and specifically our students and staff.

Let's start with some background. Each year, campuses in California are required by law to update their Comprehensive Safe School Plans, which, among other things, outline each site's planned responses to various crises. These are routinely reinforced through site-level drills including evacuations and shelter-in-place exercises.

The strategies that schools employ to promote safety will vary by campus and are ultimately up to each district's school board and superintendent, in partnership with teachers, staff, students and communities. But OCDE has long supported this work with trainings and workshops throughout the year, covering a raft of topics including school safety plans, earthquake preparedness, behavioral threat assessments, resilience strategies and active-shooter behavioral indicators.

Our department also works closely with the Orange

County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies to discuss everything from cyberbullying to securing school facilities. Additionally, OCDE and the Sheriff's Department team up every summer to host the [Safe Schools Conference](#) with the California Department of Education. This three-day event brings together more than 500 educators and law enforcement representatives from throughout the state to discuss issues and trends related to campus violence, bullying, social media, human trafficking, gangs and substance abuse.

In the case of critical incidents impacting schools, OCDE's Crisis Response Network deploys psychologists, nurses, social workers and other personnel to support students and staff during and after emergencies. This team also provides training to schools, youth service providers, parents and students.

I would add that OCDE continues to promote positive school climates and anti-bullying through such initiatives as [the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework](#), Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports — often referred to as PBIS — and [our One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign](#), which was launched in 2016 to promote character and amplify civility in our communities.

Our perception of the world changed forever on April 20, 1999, when a pair of high school students killed 12 of their classmates and a teacher on the campus of Columbine High School. From that day forward, educators have worked closely with law enforcement to continually assess schools and implement protocols to make them safer.

Suffice to say, this a race that has no finish line — not now, not ever.

If game-changing technologies emerge that can enhance our work, we will pursue them. If there are better practices elsewhere in the world, we will adopt them. Simply put, we will vigorously research any measure that protects our students and staff from internal or external threats.

The stakes are too high to rest for a second on this issue, and we owe our kids nothing less.

---

## Common Sense Media

### What should I do if my kid is bullied online?

Finding out that your kid has been cyberbullied is emotional for parents. You or your kid might want to retaliate, but it's best to help your kid defuse the situation, protect himself, and make rational efforts to put a stop to the bullying. Here are the immediate steps we recommend for parents:

- Reassure your child that you love and support him or her.
- Help your child step away from the computer or device and take a break.



- If you can identify the bully, consider talking with the parents.
- Consider contacting your kid's school. If bullying is happening online, it might be happening offline, too.
- Empower your kid with specific steps he or she can take.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

## Spring and Bugs

By D.H. Coop

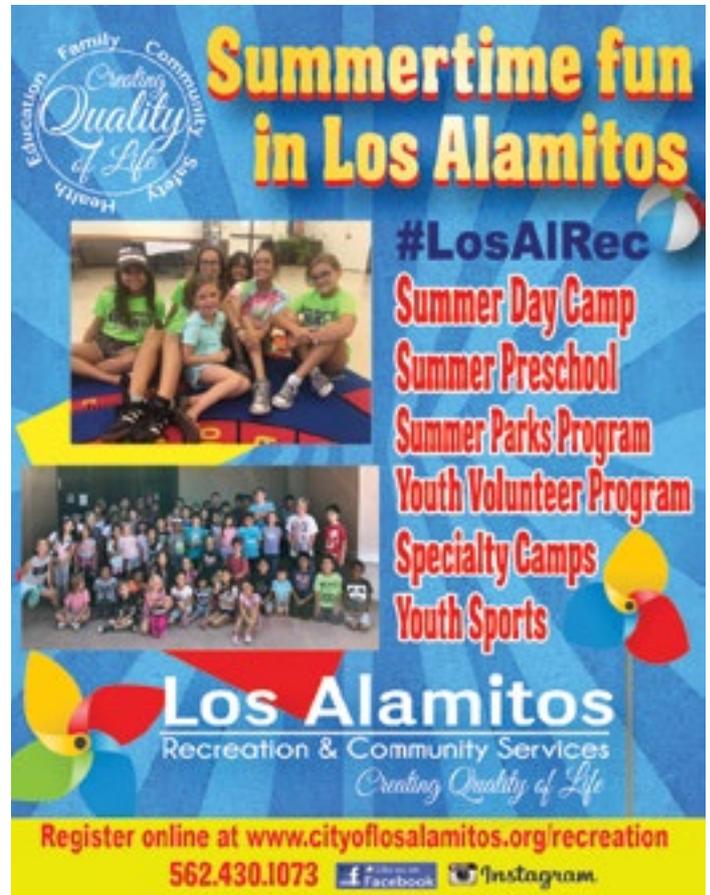
When I was a child, the spring was a time of wonder. It was a time of bugs that would fascinate people into writing songs and poems. There are June bugs—some called it the May bug, ladybugs, and then there are the fireflies found in the East and Midwest.

The June bug has 100 species and is in the beetle family. There have been at least six songs written about the June bug. The best known is “Junebug” by the B-52’s.

When I was young, these little bugs would fly into me and then just fly off as if to challenge me to try to catch them. Then there was the one everyone tried to catch—the firefly. The firefly had the ability to create a chemical reaction to glow. This set about a degree of mayhem on the poor insect as children rushed to collect the glow. Bracelets and other jewels were made, or jars were filled to make a lantern.

Finally, there is the one bug that everyone protected—the ladybug. Although the ladybug is not truly a beetle, there are 12 species of the insect. These dear little bugs are treated with kindness and care. They are replicated in garden art, designs for clothes and jewelry

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. [www.HistoryDepot.com](http://www.HistoryDepot.com)



The poster features a blue background with a colorful parrot logo on the left. At the top, it says "Summertime fun in Los Alamitos" in large, bold, yellow and orange letters. Below this, there are two photos: one of a group of children sitting on a mat and another of a larger group of children posing for a group photo. To the right of the photos, a list of activities is written in red and white text: "#LosAlRec Summer Day Camp Summer Preschool Summer Parks Program Youth Volunteer Program Specialty Camps Youth Sports". At the bottom, it says "Los Alamitos Recreation & Community Services Creating Quality of Life" and provides registration information: "Register online at [www.cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation](http://www.cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation) 562.430.1073" along with Facebook and Instagram icons.



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