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School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 33

JUNE 2018

SUPERINTENDENT

Pride and Honors Continue for NLMUSD

Every Student, Future Ready, Our Promise!

We at the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District are proud of our achievements in providing high-quality education programs and opportunities for the nearly 18,000 K-12 students who we serve. Every day we strive to live up to our motto — the promise to help every student become future ready.

Our achievements are possible because of the exceptional dedication, support and caring attitude of our teachers and staff along with the personal passion they bring on a daily basis to our classrooms and campuses.

I am particularly proud about our record of awards during the 2017-18 academic year. Two of our elementary campuses — Escalona and Morrison — were named California Distinguished Schools. The district's work to organize and lead the Norwalk Education Alliance was recognized with a prestigious Golden Bell Award.

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Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

Los Orgullos y honores continúan para NLMUSD

¡Cada estudiante, listo para el futuro, nuestra promesa!

Nosotros en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada estamos orgullosos de nuestros logros al proporcionar programas de educación de alta calidad y oportunidades para los casi 18,000 estudiantes de K-12 a quienes servimos. Todos los días nos esforzamos por cumplir con nuestro lema: la promesa de ayudar a que cada estudiante esté preparado para el futuro.

Nuestros logros son posibles por la dedicación excepcional, el apoyo y la actitud afectuosa de nuestros maestros y personal junto con la pasión personal que aportan a diario en nuestros salones de clase y sitios escolares.

Estoy particularmente orgullosa de nuestra reputación de premios durante el año académico 2017-18. Dos de nuestras escuelas primarias, Escalona y Morrison, fueron nombradas Escuelas Distinguidas

A District Where Campuses Connect With Tech



4th graders with their devices at Escalona Elementary School in La Mirada.

By Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent

When it comes to 21st-century learning, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has become the new destination district for students to become future ready.

Thanks to NLMUSD's 2020 Learning Initiative, now in its second year, every student from kindergarten through high school will have access to or personally possess a digital device.

District administrators believe that NLMUSD is well positioned to lead families into the future by developing students who are well trained in new technologies that can be applied to a variety of subjects, including science, engineering and mathematics. The result will be students skilled in critical thinking who are open, curious and can work in teams.

The initiative calls for the devices to be slowly and carefully introduced to different grade levels and campuses over a four-year period. For TK through

See **DISTRICT WHERE CAMPUSES CONNECT** • Page 7

BOARD OF EDUCATION

A District that Achieves and Builds

We want all our students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.

That, in simple words, is the work of our district. And every day we strive to deliver on that task by providing each student with the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that he or she needs to succeed.

NLMUSD continued to build on its growing record of school awards, educator achievements and institutional advancements during the 2017-18 academic year. Here are some top examples:

Two elementary campuses — Escalona and Morrison — were named California Distinguished Schools. The state honor is given in recognition of schools with outstanding education programs and practices.

Gardenhill Elementary School, was named a National PTA School of Excellence for its partnership efforts with parents and the community at large. And then it was named a national Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished



Chris Pflanzner
President

Un Distrito que Logra y Construye

Queremos que todos nuestros estudiantes se conviertan en aprendices de toda una vida y ciudadanos productivos.

Eso, en palabras simples, es el trabajo de nuestro distrito. Y todos los días nos esforzamos por proporcionar a cada estudiante con la sabiduría, conocimiento, habilidades y actitudes que él o ella necesita para tener éxito.

NLMUSD continuó construyendo sobre el récord de premios escolares, logros de educadores y avances institucionales durante el año académico 2017-18. Aquí hay algunos de los más sobresalientes ejemplos:

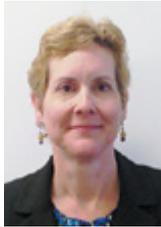
Dos sitios escolares de primaria, Escalona y Morrison, fueron nombradas Escuelas Distinguidas de California. El honor del estado se otorga en reconocimiento de escuelas con programas y practicas educativas sobresalientes.

La Escuela Primaria Gardenhill, fue nombrada Escuela de Excelencia de la PTA Nacional por sus esfuerzos de enlace con los padres y la comunidad en

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 11

Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



Laurel Parker
Director

Quality Start

More and more research supports that children who have a high-quality preschool experience perform higher academically in the K-12 system, with fewer needing special education services. In addition, a higher number of students who attended preschool go on to college.

NLMUSD's Preschool Program has been verified by Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) as a high-quality program. At this time, ten of 11 sites are participating in QSLA. In the recently released assessment results, all sites received either a "4" or a "5" on the five-tier ranking. That means that these sites gain additional funding for quality activities for the staff, such as additional instructional materials, the ability to attend workshops, and additional planning time together. We are very proud!



Mrs. Molina's class at Ramona celebrates Read Across America Day.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



We are at the end of another school year. The Superintendent's message on the front page highlights the achievements for 2017-2018.

Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices. Our next issue is October 10 when a new school year will be underway. Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activity choices.



**Congratulations
Class of 2018!**

School News

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**Covering the
NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Ramona School Office

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Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/868-9858
15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/670-9279 • www.nlmusd.org



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

International Day Festival

The Students in all levels of ESL plus a few High School Diploma classes participated in the annual International Day Festival on the Norwalk Campus. Each class adopted a continent, and students in teams chose specific countries to research and present about. Some of the countries represented were Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Japan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Madagascar, Egypt and the U.S.A.

Students did their research using Chromebooks and other devices, and many used Google Docs to collaboratively contribute to the writing. Students also worked together to present an International Day Fashion Show alongside cultural games, music and dances.

Each year, this event brings students closer together as they learn that they have more in common with one another than they have differences.



"Students show projects created for International Day."

Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553 • www.nlmusd.org



Benjamin Webster
Principal

Benton Board Company

Benton Middle School is combining our love for art, design, and skateboarding as we get ready to launch the Benton Board Company in the Fall of 2018. Benton's amazing Visual Arts Department (headed up by Jennifer Hodge, Allison McMath, and Victoria Pfanzer) is collaborating on teaching students the critical components of design (traditional art, media arts, and photography) through the production of custom and hand-painted skateboards. Over the next year, students will be creating original skateboard designs, logos, grip tape, apparel, brochures, and web-based photographs as they learn the "business side" of art.



Currently, students are vying to be one of the first 15 designs to go on to real skateboards. Needless to say, there is great excitement on campus for the coming year. Keep your eye out for the Benton Board Co. in the near future



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Chavez *Elementary School*

12110 E. Walnut St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3565 • www.nlmusd.org



Gabriela Galvez-Reyna
Principal

Los Angeles Opera

When the Los Angeles Opera returned to Chavez Elementary School this year to perform the opera with our fifth-grade students, there was a wonderful addition to the program. LA Opera received a grant to include a Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) component, so our fourth-graders were included in the program as well.

Both fourth-grade classes were given the task of creating the set for the opera performance. Students read and analyzed the script for descriptions of each scene. Then they designed a set to accommodate multiple scenes within the set design. They used geometry to make sure the components of the set would fit and that actors had enough room to move through the sets. In addition, students managed a \$12,000 budget for all the supplies to build the set.

Students presented their set designs and budgets. At just about that time, the producers decided that a backdrop was essential to the set design, and students were sent back to adjust their designs and budgets! It was an amazing learning opportunity for all fourth-graders!



Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678 • www.nlmusd.org



Bob Easton
Principal

Award Winning Programs and Students

We are very proud of the awards earned by our music groups, sports teams, and individual students this year. A few highlights include: 1st Place Literature Award at Middle School for the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District PTSA Reflections Contest earned by sixth grader Jason Bravo, 1st Place in the Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District Soccer Tournament, 1st Place for all three music groups (Advanced Band, Advanced Orchestra, and Choir) at the Music in the Parks regional competition. The music groups also earned the Best

Middle School Band Overall and the Esprit de Corps Award, which is for best sportsmanship, for all groups in the competition. This was the third year in a row that our music groups won the Esprit de Corp award!



Best Overall Middle School Band Award

Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934 • www.nlmusd.org



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Building a Stronger School

At Dolland, we know that every student is special and unique. As part of our vision to ensure that we meet the needs of every child, we have partnered with a team of schools to help support enhancing services to our Gifted and Talented (GATE) students.

Collaborating in this way has provided us with many opportunities to get creative and build our GATE students' skills and talents through a multitude of diverse experiences. Some examples from this year include participation in the CSU Fullerton Pumpkin Launch, a visit to the Los Angeles Opera House, taking a coding course, art workshops, and a visit to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant.

One of the most popular experiences was giving our students an opportunity to learn about photo journalism through taking the lead in designing and organizing our school yearbook. Through this process, the students have learned some basics in graphic design, while also building and telling the story of another fantastic school year for our Huskies.

We are grateful to our team of schools. By establishing this productive collaboration we have made our program stronger than ever. We look forward to continuing to build these opportunities for the benefit of all of our students. Go, Huskies!

Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480 • www.nlmusd.org



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Highlights of a Successful Year

The school year has been filled with great learning and joyful activities. Gardening, robotics, crawfish, trout, owls, bubbles, and stars were part of the interesting and varied learning experiences our students have enjoyed. The arts continue to be a strong part of the core curriculum for every student. The benefits of our weekly instrumental music instruction were displayed during the school's annual International Day.

Our students been supported by the staff, parents, and volunteers, and they have given much back. Because of the charitable efforts of the We Care Wednesday events, the Eastwood Elementary School community was recognized by the Interfaith Food Center's Board of Directors with an award of appreciation for the donations given, which made a difference in the lives of many La Mirada families. The school was also recognized by the California State Department of Education with the 2018 Civic Learning Award of Merit.

Bravo!



We Care Wednesday event dedicated to Autism Awareness Month

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Shanti Gallegos
Principal

Performing an Opera

Our Dolphins recently participated in a professional opera experience with sets, lighting, and a stage crew provided by the LA Opera. They learned self-discipline, cooperation, working as an ensemble, and much more!

Our students performed for their school alongside professional artists. Through engaging and lively weekly workshops, they learned their roles as chorus members in *The Marriage of Figuroa*, a charming opera by Eli and LeRoy Villanueva that celebrated Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

This opera reveals the truth about greed. Through Mozart's music, the townspeople help him realize that stealing doesn't pay, thus restoring joy and harmony to the town. Our teachers integrated this work into curriculum studies of California history, geography, and English language arts.

The arts are part of a well-rounded education at Dulles. LA Opera is our partner who helps to integrate the arts into our existing educational endeavors.



Dolphins perform the Marriage of Figuroa alongside LA Opera at Dulles.

Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501 • www.nlmusd.org



Sharon Stewart
Principal

Getting Future Ready

On April 12, Edmondson Elementary School students learned about many different careers during our eventful Career Day. Students were beaming with excitement viewed many different city vehicles, including a fire truck, a tractor, an ambulance, a city bus, a sheriff's vehicle and motorcycle, a highway patrol vehicle, and much more. They were able to talk to the important men and women who operate these vehicles and ask lots of questions.



A law enforcement officer shares his career information with these curious first graders.

Career Day also included many guest speakers, including district personnel, a registered nurse, a firefighter, a baker, a scientist, an engineer, a musician, and a teacher, to name just a few. These guest speakers shared their college-to-career journeys and stories with the students and were extremely inspirational.

Later, students wrote about their future aspirations and goals.

Go, Eagles!

Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org



Bonnie Lytle
Principal

Eagles to Eagles

The Escalona Elementary School Eagles have enjoyed the opportunity to connect with Biola University's Eagle athletes during the 2017–2018 school year. Through a unique partnership between Escalona and Biola's athletic department, our teachers have invited Biola athletes to our campus to share their specialized skills and put our students "through the paces."

Earlier, Biola's womens volleyball team worked with our fourth-grade students as the culmination to the physical education unit on volleyball. This spring, the Escalona Eagles were privileged to have the Biola mens soccer team come to play soccer with our exceptional needs students, and the mens and womens basketball teams took our second- through fourth-graders through some lessons in shooting hoops.

This unique partnership was developed by Escalona teacher Mrs. Shayna Morgan and Biola's assistant athletic director of communications, Neil Morgan. A special thanks goes out to them!



Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908 • www.nlmusd.org



Salvador Villagomez
Principal

Our STARS Shine!

With the school year coming to a close, we know that it is time for our Foster Road Elementary School STARS to shine on a variety of tests. Together, our team is ensuring that our students are well supported in their efforts to demonstrate academic progress and success on their exams. I am confident that all the hard work by students, parents, support staff, and teachers will be reflected in the results.

We would also like to end the year with some shining examples of the Foster Road spirit. Our librarian, Mrs. Provencio, has spearheaded a fun-filled book club. The challenges and celebrations scheduled throughout the year have really encouraged a love of reading in our students.



Our very own Leonardo Cruz was recognized as an all-star winner of the Read to Achieve Minutes Challenge. His kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Boek, and his family were able to accompany him to an NBA game, where he was recognized at the halftime ceremony.

Lastly, a thank you goes out to all of our students for sprucing up the Foster Road garden. Mr. Pelonis's class is ready to harvest the tomatoes, onions, and cilantro they planted in their quest to make salsa.

These are but a few examples that demonstrate the bright futures that are blossoming here at Foster Road. STARS, let's "End Strong and Shine Brightly!"

Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796 • www.nlmusd.org



Adriana Nakano
Principal

Always Learning

Glazier Elementary students have had the opportunity to experience new learning from our community partners. The Mobile Dairy Classroom visited students in grades TK-3rd. Students learned about nutrition and where their food comes from! Our 4th and 5th graders learned about the most powerful star, the sun, from NASA scientists! Our friends from NASA brought a high tech telescope where students viewed the sun's features. Finally, our own special education team, lead by Gypsy Mendoza, put on an Autism Awareness Day. All students

experienced sensory integration stations and learned the importance of embracing differences. Glazier Gladiators are dedicated to helping others and spreading kindness!

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128 • www.nlmusd.org



Sarah Gilbert
Principal

A Distinguished School

This year Gardenhill was awarded the prestigious PTA School of Excellence Title, and the PLTW Distinguished School for Launch Award!

The PTA award is given to schools that demonstrate the kind of strong relationship with a community that can improve the educational experience of all students. The schools being awarded are recognized for two years, and so Gardenhill will celebrate this recognition from 2017-2019.

Our PLTW Launch award is due to the dedication of our teachers, community, and PTA. Our teachers have committed themselves to the STEM curriculum to help provide their students with future-ready skills.

The PTA works very hard to provide our children with essential programs that focus on the whole child. Our families are very supportive of the school as well, giving countless hours of volunteer time and monetary donations. We can't thank our community enough for their involvement, and in making our school a wonderful place to be!



Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Francisco Ramirez
Principal

Advancing Athletic Opportunities

The John Glenn High School community is ecstatic about the incredible transformations our Athletic Department is currently undergoing. Beginning with the January 2018 Groundbreaking Ceremony, construction was begun to fully modernize our current athletic facilities under the Measure G Synthetic Turf and Stadium Project Athletic Renovation project. The renovation project includes: All-Weather Track, 2,500 Spectator Stadium Bleachers, Public Address System, Stadium Lighting- Football, Baseball and Softball Fields, Team Rooms/Storage Rooms/ Restrooms, Concessions, Press Box

New facilities will accompany our CIF league reorganization efforts. In August 2018, JGHS will enter the new 605 League. The 605 League was organized to ensure competitive equity based on enrollment and geographic location. Teams joining JGHS in the 605 League include: Artesia, Cerritos, Pioneer, Oxford Academy, and Whitney.

JGHS continues to partner with community resources to provide new athletic opportunities for our students. The Southern California Golf Association has worked with the JGHS athletic department and PE classes to offer golf instruction to our athletes and students, including the use of the newly remodeled Don Knabe Golf Course. It has been an amazing opportunity for our students to learn a new sport.

Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



Robin Padgett
Principal

Robotics Club

A Robotics Club has been established at Hutchinson! Botball is a team-oriented hands-on robotics competition that builds student leadership in science, technology, math and writing. Our students attended a weekend of training for this year's Botball game and spent the past 7 weeks building and coding robots after school. Our Hutchinson team consisted of students in all grades 6-8. The Greater Los Angeles Botball Tournament was Saturday, April 28 at Providence High School in Burbank. Hutchinson's rookie team worked so well together that they won First Place in the Alliance Challenge! They are already planning for next year's tournament!



La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Lisa Reed
Principal

Academic Signing Day

La Mirada High School celebrated the accomplishments of its 2018 senior class by participating in LMHS' Academic Signing Day.

Seniors entered the stadium to a fanfare welcome from the school band and cheerleaders. Their freshman, sophomore, and junior classmates, as well as the senior parents, all filled the stadium bleachers to welcome and honor the accomplishments of our senior class.

Seniors who have committed to post-high school education opportunities, such as Cal State Universities, public schools, private schools, community colleges, trade schools, and the military, all signed an honorary Academic Letter of Intent. Senior parent Heather Jaeger stated how proud she was "of LMHS for including all of the students who are not only committing to colleges, but who are also committing to the Armed Forces and trade schools during their Academic Signing Day ceremony."



ASB students decorated the stadium with pennants, posters, and balloons, while ASB advisor Michelle Lazalde read each student's name as they signed their Academic Letter of Intent. LMHS senior Lucinda Rubio shared that Academic Signing Day "celebrated the senior class moving on to the next stage of their lives, and also acknowledged all they have accomplished so far to get to this point. It also gave the senior class the opportunity to celebrate where all of her classmates were going after high school."

Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508 • www.nlmusd.org



Angela Togia
Principal

Greatness at Johnston!

For over two years, Johnston has been in a community partnership with a local hospital. Therefore, when selecting a Principal of the Day, we had the honor of inviting Amie Boersma, a representative from this facility. Amie experienced an interesting day at Johnston from a school principal's perspective.

We are extremely grateful for the hospital's support of the attendance incentives that they provide on a monthly basis (dog tags, technology prizes), and also during the trimester awards for those students who have perfect attendance.

We are now in our fifth year of participating in the American Heart Association's "Jump for Heart" event. Johnston raised over \$2,000 this year! This is the most we have ever raised. Our students were able to participate in fun outdoor rotation activities led by our Playworks coach, recess coaches, and junior coaches. They finished out the event by exercising to Zumba led by an instructor.

Johnston continues to demonstrate greatness in all we do!



Johnston Students doing Zumba at their "Jump for Heart" event.

DISTRICT WHERE CAMPUS CONNECT • From Page 1

3rd grade, students share and use both iPads and Chromebooks in class. In the 4th and 5th grades, students have their own iPad to use at school, while middle school students work on iPads both at school and home.

High school students receive a laptop to also use both at school and home.

A key element of the project is teaching the students how to use the devices for school work, and explaining and enforcing the rules on how to utilize them safely and effectively, particularly when it comes to navigating the Internet.

Another major digital initiative for the district is a partnership with Sprint in the 1Million Project. This new project provides free internet hotspot devices with high-speed wireless service. The project will begin in Fall 2018 and will target high school students across the district who need the internet at home. The goal is to provide a richer learning experience for students and a better chance for success in school and life.

"This is awesome news for our district," said Tim Scholefield, the NLMUSD chief technology officer, about the five-year project. "We will be able to provide free internet access to those students and parents who request it and close the opportunity gap. It's truly an amazing gift for us and for our school families."

The project also includes devices and training for all teachers, fulfilling the district's promise to create equity and access to education tools. The digital-oriented classroom instruction will be "shaped" by teachers to fit the specific needs of every student, according to Ernesto Centeno, the NLMUSD coordinator of instructional technology. Through this personalized approach, students will be able to use the devices and learn at their own pace.

"I'm excited. There are a lot of people who will greatly benefit from this," said Centeno about 2020, which is part of the district's Future Ready Technology Blueprint. "I think this will prepare families along with students. This is going to help all of our community."

La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104 • www.nlmusd.org



Terry Pace
Principal

Leaving a Trail of Great Adventures!

The staff and students of La Pluma experienced some great adventures during the 2017–2018 school year. Our school community partnered together to provide a well-balanced program that included a focus on academics in the areas of literacy, math, technology integration, and college and career readiness.

In addition to the academic focus, we also made it a priority to address the social and emotional well-being of our students. We worked hard to build a school culture of empathy, kindness, inclusion, and giving back to others.

We also engaged our students in opportunities such as The Great Kindness Challenge, weekly lessons using a social-emotional curriculum, a warm hearts campaign for the homeless, a canned food drive, a school-wide color run, some big-buddy little-buddy mentoring interactions, the Girls on the Run Club, and a girls and boys Lunch Bunch Club. We also developed habits of safety, respect, and responsibility across our campus.

Shine on, Panthers!



Spreading kindness by showing appreciation for our friendships!

Los Coyotes

MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Jacob Muñiz
Principal

A New Tool!

Los Coyotes Middle School is both excited and proud to have registered every one of its students to use a new tool that will prepare them for their future.

This new tool was provided by the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI). It is California's official college- and career-planning platform, which is free to all California students and families. With it, we are advancing our local college- and career-readiness goals school wide!

Our students not only have accounts where they can explore freely with their families, but our counselors have also teamed up to teach CCGI lessons to the students on important topics such as California's systems of



CALIFORNIA COLLEGES.edu
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higher education (two-year, four-year, private, and vocational and technical schools). They can also use it to plan for life after high school, as well as develop career goals.

All in all, we believe that CCGI is the catalyst that will propel our students to a brighter future!

Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273 • www.nlmusd.org



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

The Benefits of Music

Music is in the air at Lampton Elementary School! Students performed for parents at our local PTA unit meetings in March and April, with many grade levels highlighting their musical and dancing skills. Our kindergarteners showed off their dance moves. First- and second-graders performed on tonal bells. Students from third and fourth grades played their recorder flutes, and our fifth-graders played ukuleles and sang.



Did you know that learning music supports development

of both the left and right sides of the brain? Research also shows that music instruction supports the development of reading and math skills. Musical notes come in whole, half, and quarter notes, which is math. Fluent reading follows a cadence, and so does a musical rhythm. Learning music also requires focusing attention, and lyrics teach about our history and culture. So, when your child goes to music class each week, you can be assured that we are providing them with a well-rounded education!

Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Majid Salehi
Principal

Restorative Circles at Work

Implementing Restorative Circles (RJ) is a powerful approach in dealing with discipline because it focuses on repairing harm through inclusive processes that engage everyone involved. When Implemented, RC shifts the focus from punishment to learning and from the individual to the community.

Restorative practices are a process that proactively build healthy relationships and a sense of community to prevent and address conflict and wrongdoing. Initiating Restorative Circles has proven to be an alternative to suspensions, and a long-term solution to address youth behavior, rule violations, and improve school climate and culture.

The benefits and outcomes of Restorative Circles include improvement in relationships between students and between students and educators. Restorative practice allows those individuals who may have committed harm to take full responsibility for their behavior by addressing the individual/s affected by the behavior. Taking responsibility requires an understanding of how the behavior affected others, acknowledging that the behavior was harmful to others, taking action to repair the harm, and making changes necessary to avoid such behavior in the future.

What takes place at a Circle? Circles bring all parties together to meet, talk about what happened, and settle on a plan to repair the harm. Each person introduces themselves and their relationship within the Circle. Responsible parties share what happened before, during, and after the incident, and also how they feel about what happened. The Affected Parties and Impacted Parties also share what happened before, during, and after the incident, as well as how they feel about what happened and any other questions they might have.

Facilitators support and assist all parties in helping each person tell their story. And once everyone has spoken, the group brainstorms a list of options for repairing the harm done. Choosing from the list, the group then decides which options can best repair the harm and address the most important issues.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071 • www.nlmusd.org



Rachel Garcia
Principal

AVID Learners

As an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) school, Moffitt Elementary School is focused on implementing Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading to Learn (WICOR) strategies and promoting a college-going environment school-wide.

In grades three through five, teachers utilize organizational tools and strategies with students, including daily planners/agendas, binders with dividers, and two- and three-column note-taking strategies, which promote student independence and cultivate organized thinking and learning. We are working toward expanding AVID strategies in the areas of organization, levels of thinking and questioning, and note-taking.

Moffitt promotes a college-going environment through college bulletin boards in every classroom, college shirt Wednesdays, and college field trips. Our fifth-grade students toured University of California, Los Angeles in the fall, and our third- and fourth-grade students will be visiting Cerritos College and California State University, Fullerton in May.

Mustangs are college-bound!



Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878 • www.nlmusd.org



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Morrison Has Done it Again!

For the third time in 10 years, Morrison Elementary School has been awarded the prestigious honor of California Distinguished School (2008, 2012, 2018). Only five percent of all schools in California earn this award.

This distinction would not be possible without the support of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Board of Education, our superintendent, Dr. Hasmik Danielian, the district administration and support staff, Morrison teachers and classified staff, parents, and students. It is a privilege to serve our Morrison community of learners!

This award validates our hard work, dedication, and efforts. But, this is not the only recognition we have earned this year. We achieved the Civic Learning Award of Merit for the school's commitment to providing our students with a high quality civic education.

We have had a great year at Morrison, and we look forward to the 2018–2019 school year. Go Morrison Tigers!



Julia B. Morrison Elementary School
is proud of each award received.

New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848 • www.nlmusd.org



David Hoffman
Principal

Increased Performance

In January of 2017 New River introduced a new school wide intervention model that has since proven to be highly successful in assisting our struggling students. Proof of this progress came in the form of increased performance on the statewide SBAC exams. New River made progress in all three major state performance indicators (English Language Arts, Mathematics, and English Learner progress) and was the only school in the District to do so. Additionally, all of New River's subgroups with the exception of Students with Disabilities maintained or made

progress in all three performance indicator categories. This school year was spent building on that progress and fine tuning our intervention system. This year every student received support in our iReady intervention labs, and over one hundred students benefitted from small group Tier 3 intervention services. Our collective efforts are continuing to move us forward. GO Knights!



Mrs. Amador's 4th grade class utilizing one of New River's three intervention labs

Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Mike Garcia
Principal

April Highlights

Great things have been happening at Norwalk High School (NHS)! On April 20, we held our Renaissance Assembly. We recognized the top 20 students in each class. It was especially impressive to see what colleges our seniors have committed to. We have students attending many prestigious schools, including: University of California, Los Angeles; California State University, Long Beach; California State University, Fullerton; and California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. The ceremony was capped off with the introduction of Alyssa Bernal as our valedictorian. She will be attending Columbia University in the fall.

The Norwalk High School SkillsUSA chapter recently competed at the 2018 SkillsUSA California Leadership and Skills Conference at the Ontario Convention Center in April. Our NHS Engineering Pathway joined students from our automotive and culinary arts programs this year. Our teams did extremely well! Gold-medal recipients will advance to compete at the 2018 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in June.



Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788 • www.nlmusd.org



Makara Sar
Principal

STEAM Academy!

John H. Nuffer has officially opened the first elementary STEAM Lab in our district. Students will have the opportunity to use an interactive television, a 3D printer, a laser cutter and Zspace augmented-reality computers. They will also have a place to work on their Project Lead the Way modules in every grade level as well as use their imagination and communication skills in the Makerspace area.

Our students are so excited about the opportunity to work in a nearly 1,500-square-foot classroom with new hydraulic furniture! The students will also have access to a multimedia arts studio with green screen and computers for editing videos. Our fourth-grade students have already used this studio to make a music video to celebrate their favorite lunch lady!

To top everything off, starting the 2018–19 school year, we will become the Nuffer Elementary STEAM Academy, where our focus will move towards project-based learning.



Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365 • www.nlmusd.org



Alicia Rubio
Principal

A Culture of Literacy

We are embracing literacy at all levels here at Sanchez. Our students are independently reading and conferring about what they have read each day in the classroom. They are also engaged in nightly reading at home.

To encourage the love for books, our parents have asked to do book studies to model for their children the love of reading. And so we have chosen various books to order in both Spanish and English that they can read together. They are already excited about having chosen their first title to read and discuss!

Our parents have already begun to read the book, and are loving it. They are now anxiously trying to get through it so that we can begin reading the others that we have purchased! Parents have shared how proud they are to see their children reading, and how much they love it. What a great way to demonstrate what it means to be a lifelong learner!



Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Susan Newcomb
Principal

Eagle Scout Project and Forthcoming Dedication

Former student Archer Dilts completed the installation of a handmade bench with support from his Norwalk Troop. The bench is going to be dedicated to the husband of Waite's former secretary Pam Treathway, and we will look forward to having you save the date for that special event: Date is currently to be determined.

Save the Date": July mural project

Coming in July will be the expansive mural to encompass all of the 50 building which faces Rosecrans Avenue: Most of July will be used to support outlining, community painting, and coating of this special artwork. We hope you'll be able to take part in this piece of history for Waite and our Norwalk community! Please call our front office and sign up for painting times.

Waite Middle School's vision is "A community committed to building character, leadership, and academic excellence in ALL students." These campus projects build the climate and culture to help kids thrive: Please call to schedule a tour and feel how great Waite is!



Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237 • www.nlmusd.org



MSgt. Marty Schafer
USMC, Director

Excellence Is Our Standard

We are pleased to say that Southeast Academy High School has continued to grow. We foster a learning environment that makes it "acceptable to be smart." This is accomplished through an academic system that is enthusiastic about learning, that is well organized in support of its academic mission, and that recognizes and rewards student achievement.

In our school-wide college-career environment, our cadets perform to the level of expectations we demand, and we believe those levels should be high. To support our unique environment, our entire learning community encourages each cadet to realize his full potential by striving for academic excellence and encouraging critical thinking.

To enhance our cadets' learning experience, we have the cadet leadership system. We strive to create a sense of honor, respect, self-esteem, confidence, character, responsibility, and accountability. We work hard to produce well-educated leaders of character who will become productive members of our communities.

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Kelly Garcia, who teaches engineering-science at Benton Middle School and Norwalk High School, was named a national PLTW Gateway Teacher of the Year. Elizabeth Gonzalez, an educator at Norwalk HS, was named the California PLTW Teacher of the Year in biomedical sciences.

And Jennifer Hodge, who teaches art at Benton MS, was named a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and was a finalist in the California Teachers of the Year contest.

In addition, there was progress in improving campus facilities. Construction is underway to provide Corvallis Middle School and Benton MS with new sports fields, while work has begun to build Glenn High School a new stadium-sports complex.

This is just a partial list. Altogether they are a diversity of proud achievements that will help keep our district moving steadily forward in its good work to make all students truly future ready.

luego fue nombrada Escuela Distinguida Nacional Lead the Way (PLTW, por sus siglas en inglés) por su trabajo para desarrollar un currículo escolar y capacitación especial para maestros que proporciona experiencias de aprendizaje transformativas para los estudiantes.

Kelly Garcia, quien enseña ciencias de ingeniería en la Escuela Intermedia Benton y la Secundaria Norwalk, fue nombrada una Maestra del Año de PLTW Gateway Nacional. Elizabeth Gonzalez, una educadora de la Secundaria Norwalk, fue nombrada la Maestra del año de PLTW de California en ciencias biomédicas.

Y Jennifer Hodge, quien enseña arte en la Escuela Intermedia Benton, fue nombrada Maestra del Año del Condado de Los Ángeles y finalista en el concurso de Maestros del Año de California.

Además, hubo progresos en la mejora de las instalaciones de los sitios escolares. La construcción está en curso para proporcionar a las Escuelas Intermedias Corvallis y Benton con nuevos campos deportivos, mientras que en la Secundaria Glenn se ha comenzado la obra para construir un nuevo complejo de estadios deportivos.

Esta es solo una lista parcial. En conjunto son una diversidad de orgullosos logros que ayudaran a mantener a nuestro distrito en una dirección hacia delante con su buen trabajo para hacer que nuestros estudiantes verdaderamente estén listos para el futuro.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

Two of our Project Lead the Way educators won top honors. Kelly Garcia, who teaches engineering at Benton Middle School and Norwalk High School, was named a PLTW National Teacher of the Year, and Elizabeth Gonzalez, who teaches at Norwalk HS, was named a PLTW California Teacher of the Year in biomedical sciences. In addition, Gardenhill Elementary School was named a PLTW Distinguished School and a National PTA School of Excellence.

Another educator at Benton, Jennifer Hodge, who teaches art, was named a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and was a finalist for California Teacher of the Year honors.

Among other achievements, we successfully launched our annual Principal for a Day program at all 30 of our campuses. The program invites community members and parents to volunteer for a half-day of service as a guest principal.

There have been many more accomplishments this year. But, for now, I'm happy to confirm that we are indeed keeping our promise of preparing our students to create their best possible futures.



Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

de California. El trabajo del distrito para organizar y liderar la Alianza Educativa de Norwalk fue reconocido con el prestigioso Premio Golden Bell.

Dos de nuestros educadores de Project Lead the Way (PLTW, por sus siglas en inglés) ganaron los máximos honores. Kelly Garcia, quien enseña ingeniería en la Escuela Intermedia Benton y la Escuela Secundaria Norwalk, fue nombrada Maestra del Año PLTW Nacional, y Elizabeth Gonzalez, quien enseña en la Escuela Secundaria Norwalk, fue nombrada Maestra del Año PLTW de California en ciencias biomédicas. Además, la Escuela Primaria Gardenhill fue nombrada Escuela Distinguida PLTW y Escuela de Excelencia Nacional de la PTA.

Otra educadora de Benton, Jennifer Hodge, que enseña arte, fue nombrada Maestra del Año del Condado de Los Ángeles y fue finalista para Maestra del Año de Honores de California.

Entre otros logros, lanzamos con éxito nuestro programa anual de Director por un Día en todos nuestros 30 sitios escolares. El programa invita a los miembros de la comunidad y a los padres a ser voluntarios por un medio día de servicio como director invitado.

Han habido muchos más logros este año. Pero, por el momento, me complace confirmar que, de hecho, mantenemos nuestra promesa de preparar a nuestros estudiantes para crear su mejor futuro posible.

Contest!!

This student is in this publication. When you find him, email the page number to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put NLMUSD in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by July 15, 2018. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

Optometry

Congratulations on another great school year and wishing you all the best this summer!

John Larcabal, O.D.
Sandra Stevens, O.D.
Diane Almanza, O.D.



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