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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Torrance Unified School District



Volume 5, Issue 19

November 2018–January 2019

New Year – New Learning Adventures Await



Student Safety First Priority



Police-Community Relations: School Resource Officers take time out of their day to get to know Torrance's youngest community members! Thanks TPD for keeping our schools, students, and community safe!



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SUPERINTENDENT

Being Proactive and Expanding Our Systems of Support

As each new school year starts, it is an opportunity to continue to build upon the wonderful work done in the previous year and look forward to an even better year. None of our success is possible without the tremendous dedication and hard work of our faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and community. We begin our new year stronger and better because of all of you!

Student growth can be observed through many indicators, including happiness and well-being. For this reason, one of our top priorities for this school year continues to be student safety and mental wellness. We talk about these topics together because we recognize that they are interconnected. Students must feel safe in their learning environment, but we also realize that challenges with mental health can lead to unsafe situations.

We are implementing many new safety measures and continue to work closely with the Torrance Police Department to keep our schools secure. We also continue to expand our systems of support for our students, including proactive measures that enable us to identify and respond to at-risk behavior. Our recent partnership with the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation enhances our social-emotional systems of support and violence-prevention efforts. The Start with Hello assemblies are the first steps



Dr. George Mannon

toward building a culture of inclusion at our schools. The program enables students to make a difference with their peers in simple, fun, and impactful ways. The Sandy Hook Promise Foundation programs align well with our approach to student safety and wellness. Additional Sandy Hook Promise programs coming to Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) include Signs of Suicide, Say Something, which provides access to an Anonymous Reporting System, and incorporating Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Clubs at each school.

Part of being proactive is providing a secure way for students to be able to anonymously report safety concerns. According to a joint study by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education, in 81 percent of school attacks, at least one person had prior information of what was being planned. The district will utilize the Say Something 24/7 reporting system provided by the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation to help alleviate some of the anxiety students may feel in telling an adult about potential threats.

Working together and collaboratively, we can ensure that we meet the needs of all our students and make certain our students, our faculty and staff, and our communities are happy and safe.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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Welcome back to another school year. This is our first issue with a glossy cover booklet format and we hope you like it.

By now the students are settled into their routines and focused on academics. Superintendent Dr. Mannon's message on the preceeding page begins this issue with the District's top priorities including student safety and mental wellness.



As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving I'd like to thank our service men and women in the armed forces for their service.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Or next issue is January 30, 2019.



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Social-Emotional Support Starts with “Hello”

By Michael Wermers, Board President

As the father of three very energetic, creative, intelligent, and vivacious young ladies, I can say that there is no shortage of chatter in our household about school, friends, and life! As they navigate through these things, their mother and I want to make sure we have been able to provide them with the tools they need to be academically successful but also socially and emotionally healthy and mature. And if I want this for my girls, I know others have the same hopes for their children.

Recently, the district entered into a partnership with the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation in an effort to work toward creating a positive school culture which promotes inclusion and helps prevent social isolation. One of the cornerstone programs of the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation is the Start with Hello assemblies, which provide students with the tools to reach out to their fellow classmates to help alleviate their feelings of loneliness.

One of the values my wife, Cindy, and I have tried to pass down to our girls is kindness. The easiest way to show kindness is through friendship. We want our girls to recognize that making friends can be challenging for

some children. We want to empower them with “hello” and encourage them to reach out to their classmates and make those meaningful connections. Together, we can increase awareness in our youth and our community to bring about positive change and reduce the risk of bullying, violence and depression.

We live in an environment where the majority of our daily communications occur from behind our devices—a computer, a tablet, a phone. Young people spend more and more time with their screens and on social media. It is important for them to understand that “liking” or “friending” someone on social media cannot replace real-world interactions. Saying “hello” is sometimes all it takes to make someone feel noticed or valued. It better connects us to people and to our community.

I know I feel connected to my community through my public service. As a School Board member, I have seen how meaningful conversations can transform a community and build consensus. It is my hope that this program continues to foster and strengthen our systems of support for our students and their families.



Jefferson Middle School, Start with Hello Assembly, Everyone Working Together

Jammed Finger. Could It Be Serious?



**Anna Acosta
M.D.**
*pediatric hand
and upper
extremity surgeon,
Orthopedic Center,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach*

Your child just smashed their finger in the door. Or maybe they caught a ball the wrong way. Now their finger is swollen and painful to move. These could be signs of a jammed finger, a condition that occurs when the finger is bent back or compressed at the joint.

As our kids become more active in sports and activities, jammed fingers become more common. When a jammed finger occurs, it can stretch or even tear the tissues around the finger joint, which can cause a sprain. However, if the impact on the finger is great enough, it can cause tendon damage or a bone fracture. Although the bones in the hand are small, a broken (fractured) finger is not a minor injury.

Signs of a finger fracture include:

- Swelling
- Tenderness
- Bruising
- Difficulty moving the finger
- Deformity of the finger

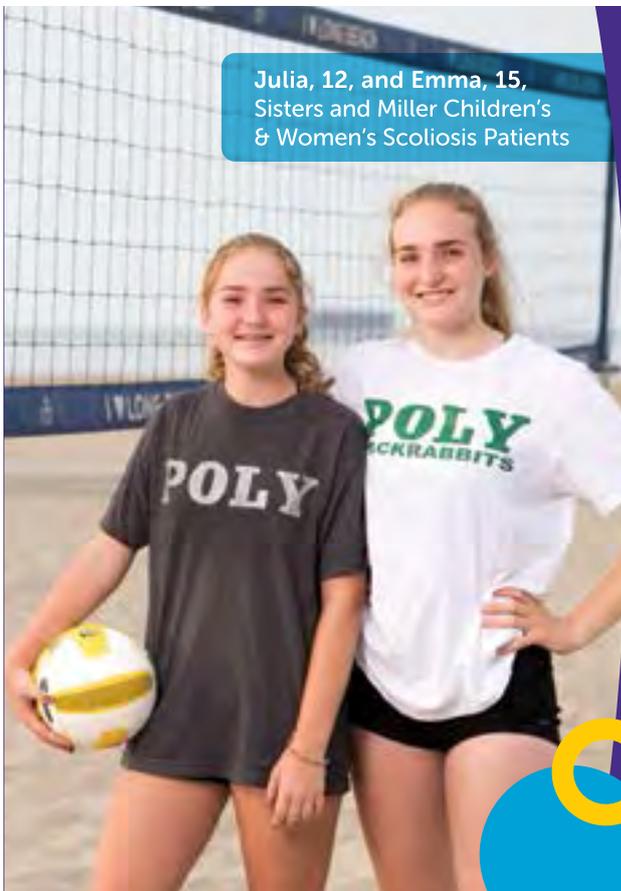
If you see any of these signs in your child, it's important to seek medical treatment to prevent permanent damage. Untreated sprains and fractures in the hand can cause long-term stiffness, loss of motion and arthritis.

There are several treatment options for fractured fingers depending on the severity, including splinting, casting, surgery and rehabilitation.

To determine if your child's finger is fractured, they will need an x-ray. Because a child's bones are smaller and still growing, they will look very different than adult bones. It's important to find a children's hospital and pediatric specialists, such as a pediatric hand surgeons, who are experts in treating kids with conditions affecting the hand, wrist, arm and shoulder.



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Supporting Great Torrance Teachers!

By Susan Swinburne, Executive Director

Torrance Education Foundation is proud support two outstanding classroom teachers.

Cheri Childers and Jennifer Haney are distinguished by many years' worth of students who cite them as favorite teachers. In 2018, Cheri and Jen have received the additional recognition that comes with being named Torrance Teachers of the Year.

Cheri, who teaches 2nd grade at Victor Elementary, has three decades' success to show her loving, but tough, classroom style. Her students excel because they know she believes they can.

Jen, a High School Math teacher by day and a Volleyball Coach later (and on weekends), inspires her students and her athletes every day. Her students know what to expect from Jen: "You can do it" and "focus!"



Torrance Board of Education meeting Sept. 17, 2018

TEF grants of \$500 for Cheri and \$1,000 for Jen, who next represents Torrance at the County level, provide supplemental classroom resources the teachers will use for student projects.

Lynn Collins, M.Ed., ET/P

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Eve Irvine
Police Chief

Student Safety First Priority

As your new Police Chief, I want to reiterate that our Department's first priority this school year remains the safety of our students.

It is important the next generation has the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe environment. The Torrance Police Department is committed to our lasting partnership with the District to ensure our students, faculty, and campuses are secure and protected.

Traffic safety remains a top priority. We want our students to be safe while going to and from their classes and after-school activities. Parking enforcement and maintaining a visible police presence will continually be implemented on our school campuses. We encourage parents who are dropping off their children to be mindful of all posted street signs and parking restrictions.

To assist with our safety efforts, our Department has four School Resource Officers (SROs) dedicated to patrol



our campuses. These officers are assigned full-time to our schools, and are the primary liaisons between TPD and TUSD. Our SROs are strongly committed to serving our schools, students, and parents within the city.

Additionally, our schools will continue to have the full support of our entire Department. Our Motor Officers will be monitoring traffic during the peak hours and our Patrol Officers will continue to cruise by our campuses day and night.

We will also have our Torrance Mental Evaluation Team (TMET) working closely with TUSD. TMET is a unit that assists with crisis intervention and school threat assessments. TMET and our investigative teams work hand-in-hand to identify both internal and external threats, while ensuring proper procedures are in place to address mental illness. All these programs work collectively to keep our sons and daughters safe.

On behalf of the Torrance Police Department, we all look forward to another safe, successful, and rewarding year for our students, teachers, and families.

Does your child....

- Take 3 hours to complete 30 minutes of homework?
- Zone Out? Or daydream?
- Seem easily distracted or unfocused?
- Make careless mistakes or have trouble following instructions?

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This student is in a picture somewhere in this publication. When you find him, email the **page number** to:
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Please put Torrance in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by December 15, 2018,
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a GAZUMP card/dice game.

Adams *Elementary*

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



**Shayla
Smith-Taranto**
Principal

Welcome Back to School

The students of John Adams Elementary School were welcomed on the first day of school to our newly remodeled campus. We are all excited to have our students back, as their energy and enthusiasm for learning fills our hallways. Our families were so excited to see all the wonderful upgrades.

During the summer remodel, we received two brand-new buildings. We are so excited about our children participating in Adventures in Art in our brand-new art room, and we are looking forward to the grand opening of our beautiful science lab.

The entire school was painted inside and out, and our school also was fitted with brand-new, energy-efficient

lighting throughout the site. Our new lights are so cool that we call them “smart lights.” They have occupancy sensors, which activate the lights when someone enters the room and turn themselves off when they detect no movement. And our new windows are tinted, energy-efficient, and tempered for safety, and they provide ultraviolet protection. Every classroom is now equipped with brand-new technology to enhance learning and support the evolution of technology. The campus grounds have been better equipped to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements with the addition of pathways, new ramps, and railings, which increase accessibility to all classrooms on campus. We also recently had our first fire drill of the year, during which we used our new fire alarm and intercom system.

Anza *Elementary*

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



Barbara Marks
Principal

The Bullying Test

For International Peace Day on September 21, our Anza students revealed a grand experiment to help measure the power of words. Based on previous experiments at elementary schools in Japan, and duplicated by IKEA in the UAE, two sets of plants are subjected to two sets of words. One set of plants will be complimented while the other set is bullied.

In preparation, students from Character Counts measured the number of leaves, heights, and flower buds on each set of plants for comparison. The students made their predictions on International Peace Day. In addition, they also learned about peace with book readings and conflict resolution lessons in the classrooms, played peace games during recess, and participated in various art activities.

For Bullying Prevention and Awareness Month, the students will then measure the results and determine if their predictions were correct!

Arnold *Elementary*

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



Justine Lang
Principal

Celebrating a New School Year

Arnold Elementary School started the 2018–2019 school year. Our campus was closed all summer for modernization, so there was a buzz of excitement as families attended our Registration Days in the LAUNCH parking lot the week before school began. Thank you to LAUNCH for accommodating us and to our amazing PTA and staff volunteers for making this happen!

Once school started on September 6, it was clear that much work had been accomplished over the summer. A new entrance, new windows, fresh paint, new sidewalks, a new handball wall, painted basketball backstops, new lights, and a science lab are just some of the improvements that families were greeted with. While we were still unpacking boxes on the first day, no one could deny how exciting all of the improvements were to see.

But the excitement didn't stop there. We also kicked off our Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) month on the first Friday. Through PBIS, we teach our students the school-wide behavior expectations that will help to guide their decision-making. We spend the entire month talking to students about what it means to be respectful, responsible, and safe and to use your best effort. Additionally, throughout the year, we have student challenges to encourage our students to be kind, polite, and inclusive.

We see the importance of educating the whole child, and we strive to create an environment that supports all students while providing rigorous academic instruction. Combined, these efforts help us to see our school mission come true for all students. Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it. You can definitely feel the enthusiasm on campus as we start another year!

Go, Alleycats!

Arlington *Elementary*

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlington.tusd.org



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

New Beginnings

Welcome back, Super Stars! The Arlington classrooms have received new windows, paint, lights, and even a new science lab that was dropped onto our campus this summer.

Parents and children alike have commented on how bright and clean the campus is now. Every room and office, including the cafétorium, has benefited from improvements that are readily noticeable.

In addition to the new and improved facilities, Arlington also has new staff members. We have a new part-time Reading Recovery/Tier 3 intervention teacher, Ms. Hines; two new PE teachers, Mr. Davis and Mr. Pierce; an ASSISTT teacher, Ms. Shanahan; and Ms. Harmon, our new ASSISTT EA.



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



Calle Mayor *Middle School*

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



Dave Mosley
Principal

Recognition and a Welcome Addition

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Calle Mayor Middle School! We hope your child is as excited about the new school year as we are. With the continued support of our PTSA and the Calle community, Calle Mayor is excited to offer many after-school programs, including robotics, woodshop, computer programming, speech and debate, Model United Nations, physical fitness, and after-school tutoring. These programs give students opportunities to participate and learn many new, challenging and fun skills which will prepare them for the 21st century. We are pleased that these after-school programs were a contributing factor to our recognition as a California Gold Ribbon School.

We are also proud to announce that we will begin construction of our new school gymnasium sometime in the next few months. We are excited to see this construction project begin, and it is a great addition to our already wonderful campus. The gymnasium project is part of Measures T and U, which were recently passed by the Torrance community. We would like to thank our supportive community for this wonderful addition to our campus.

Carr *Elementary*

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



Katie Schenkelburg
Principal

Culture and Character Building

At Carr Elementary, our positive school culture is built through a collaborative and reflective effort by staff, students and the community. September is PBIS Kickoff month, during which time we focus on teaching our Positive Behavior Expectations. Carr Cubs earn RRAH-wards by being Respectful, being Responsible, Always being safe, and Helping everyone learn. This culture has been built not only through our student recognition but also by providing activities for students to feel connected to campus beyond the academics.

Carr believes that developing strong character through social activity goes hand in hand with academic learning. Some of these activities at Carr include choir, band and Grades of Green, a service club that supports our lunch program by encouraging students to bring a trash-free lunch.

One of the most successful activities at Carr is the music program. Under the direction of Glen Kamida and Laura Savitz, our program has grown. Not only does Mr. Kamida teach our second-through-fifth-graders ukuleles and recorders but he also supports our band. Last year, Ms. Savitz helped Carr to start a choir, a program that continues again this year. Our choir will perform at the Torrance Memorial Holiday Festival in addition to our Winter Concert in December, along with our band.

Casimir *Middle School*

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



Susie Holmes
Principal

A Reading Menu

At Café D'Read, our students were recently invited to a special "Book Tasting." Once seated, they were invited to sample from the special tasting menu!

The scrumptious specialties included seven choices from which the students could mix and match to come up with their own tasting menu. The students needed to choose from an appetizer and entree, and a dessert to finish it off.

Available for "tasting" were the following items: Fantasy (served with magic and strange settings); Mystery and



inspired by history); and lastly, Romance (served with flirting and love).

The students then wrote a "Yelp review" of their experiences. English teacher Ms. Vuoso is cultivating a love of reading for her students, and we all want to know when we can soon visit Café D'Read!

Horror (served with some intrigue, and at times, curses); Science Fiction (served with science and the future); and Adventure (served with excitement and risk). There was also Realistic Fiction (served with real-life relatable ideas); Historical Fiction (served with action

Edison *Elementary*

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



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Core Values

Edison Elementary School is the first school in Torrance to have received the California Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Silver Award for implementing PBIS. The Silver Award recognizes schools that show excellence in the measurement of fidelity, as well as effective efforts in implementing the core features of PBIS.

We are in our third year of implementing PBIS at Edison. Our core values are "Keeping it R.E.A.L"



This stands for Respect, Empathy, Awareness, and Learning. We teach behavior expectation lessons for the classroom, playground, bathroom, hallways, office, and cafeteria.

Students can earn Keep it REAL slips to recognize positive behaviors. These slips are used for 10 weekly drawings, for the student store, and to show off to parents. Students who earn a designated quantity will also go on the Principal's Citizenship List. By tracking minor and major referrals, our PBIS leadership team is able to make decisions based on data.

Edison is proud to have received this honor of the Silver Award.

Hickory *Elementary*

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



Edna Schumacher
Principal

A Great Setting

Hickory Elementary School opened its doors for the new school year with a much anticipated addition to the campus. Our brand new Science Lab was completely installed, and is now almost ready for our students to visit with their science classes.

There are many great things happening at Hickory, but the most exciting is this new addition to our program. We are very lucky to have several new science opportunities besides our daily science lessons. Our Hickory teachers are also fully trained in the new Next Generation Science Standards.

During science, teachers and students talk about the importance of understanding the world around us.

Students can practice how to look at things in their daily lives through a scientific lens. Class lessons follow the 5E lesson plan, one that focuses on engaging, exploring, explaining, extending, and evaluating.

The new Science Lab was made possible through recent Torrance bond measures. It is supplied with scientific equipment provided through the generosity of the Torrance Education Foundation. The fully loaded Lab will be used by every student at Hickory to help support and enrich their learning in the field of science.

Our students and teachers are eager to use the lab on a weekly or monthly basis. It is one of our goals at Hickory to inspire students to be curious, brave, and creative. The Science Lab will provide a great setting for our students to "step into the world of science!" We are off to a great start.

Fern Elementary

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



A New Year

Welcome back to the 2018–2019 school year. I am Dr. Michael Remland, and it is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new principal. This is my 23rd year in education.

Michael Remland
Principal

Prior to coming to Fern I have been a principal, middle school assistant principal, and taught in kindergarten and the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. I have a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California, a master's degree from Cal State Fullerton, and a bachelor's degree from Westmont College.

I am proud to join the Torrance Unified family, and will continue to build upon the educational excellence that Fern Elementary is known for. We have an amazing program full of incredible learning opportunities for all of the students we serve.

One of these learning opportunities for our students occurs every Thursday, when music teacher Mr. Jack Sollecito visits our school to teach students about music history and musical skills. Starting soon, upper-grade Fern



Mr. Jack Sollecito singing with 5th grade students from Mrs. Ahola and Mrs. Listers classes

students will also get to choose to be a part of the school band. As a member of the band, the students are loaned instruments and receive consistent practice with Mr. Sollecito to build their musical knowledge and skills.

Our students continue to S.O.A.R. at Fern Elementary! Our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports continue to bring out the best in our students. Students are receiving S.O.A.R. cards for being Scholars, On-Time,

Accountable, Responsible, and Respectful. All Fern staff members are supporting our students this month in being "Scholars" both inside and outside of the classroom.

Students can use their S.O.A.R. cards to either join a once-a-week raffle for prizes, or contribute to earning a school-wide fun day. For the month of September, if the school collects 200 SOAR cards, each student will receive a Popsicle on this fun day. Fun days will happen once a month, and our students have already contributed many great ideas for this next school-wide event. An announcement is coming soon!

Jefferson Middle School

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



Electives are Important!

There are many opportunities to try new things at Jefferson Middle School.

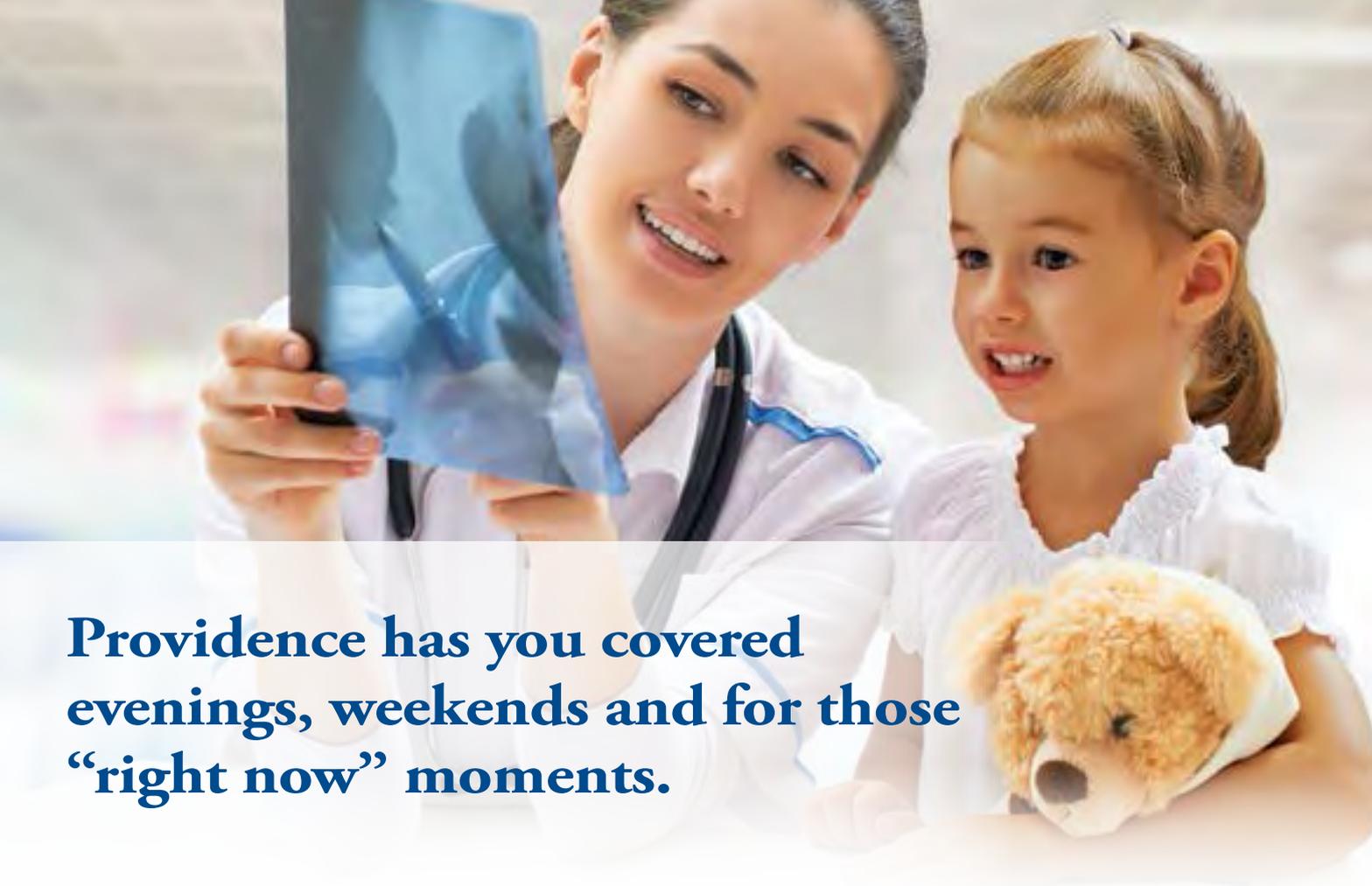
Our journalism elective is open to seventh- and eighth-grade students and is taught by Mrs. Sapien. Students spend the school year creating and publishing a school newspaper. They also work together to produce a stellar yearbook. Mrs. Sapien has students wear press badges to events and

take pictures so all events can be recorded in the yearbook.

Mr. Norman teaches the multimedia elective this school year. Students in his class write, direct, film, edit, and produce the school news. Noontime news is broadcast weekly in homeroom classes. The news stories showcase student activities across campus, provide profiles of staff and students, and offer important information the school community needs to be aware of. We are excited to offer this new elective, as it will bring our staff and students together and spread information digitally across campus.

We also offer Project Lead The Way (PLTW) electives, which give hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) experiences in all grades. Our music program offers beginning and advanced chorus and band opportunities for our students, along with a world drumming course. Students with strong grades are also able to choose Spanish as an elective. This course is aligned with the high school curriculum, so the class is rigorous and fast paced.

At the middle school level, we need to provide our students with what they need to succeed in high school. We want them to leave our campus and hit the ground running in high school by knowing what their interests are and where their strengths lie. The high school years go by quickly, and every semester is important, so having our students prepared for the pace is vital. We are excited to offer electives that align with the pathways at West High School and support students' success as they transition to high school and beyond!



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Manhattan Beach 310-376-6262

(open 7 days a week) 1010 N. Sepulveda Blvd. (at Manhattan Beach Blvd. and N. Sepulveda Blvd.)

Redondo Beach 310-318-9992

(open Monday-Saturday) 520 N. Prospect Ave., Ste. 102 (at N. Prospect between Beryl St. and Diamond St.)

Carson 310-835-9227

(open Monday - Friday) 21501 South Avalon Blvd. #100 (entrance at rear of the campus)

 **Put Providence on speed dial.** We are here when you need care.

J.H. Hull *Middle School*

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



Patty Girgis
Principal

Delivery of Great News!

On Monday, 9/17, at a Torrance Board of Education meeting, Mr. Branden Kikuno delivered Great News from Hull Middle School. He spoke about how the 2018-2019 school year kicked off all of the Hull Hawks, returning and new students, came to school ready to learn. Students were experiencing new classes, new friends, and potentially new school, but they were experiencing

the Hawksome ways-being responsible, being respectful and being safe. Branden spoke about all of these things and many other great things going on at Hull throughout the school year. After the presentation to the Board of Education, he gifted each member of the Superintendent's Cabinet and Board member with a Hawksome button. Great job Branden!



Branden Kikuno speaking to the Torrance Unified Board of Education on September 17th, 2018 about the "Good News" going on at Hull.

LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

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



Teresa Lanphere
Principal

LAUNCH and Tykes Program

It has been a very exciting start of the school year for our four- and five-year-olds in Torrance.

On September 5th we had close to 350 students start Tykes at the school sites of Arlington, Carr, Edison, Lincoln, Torrance Elementary, and Wood. Students at Arlington and Torrance Elementary also returned to sites that had been modernized over the summer.

Our staff members worked diligently to get everything up and ready for the students. The classrooms looked beautiful for their first day of school!

At LAUNCH, we held our "Back to School/Ready, Set, Go" event on September 18th to welcome parents to the campus, answer questions, and get the required documentation needed for the first day of class. Parents also had the opportunity to participate in our PTA meeting.

On September 19th we started class with over 250 preschoolers. This included our special needs students and typical peers called PALS. It promises to be another great year at LAUNCH!

Lincoln *Elementary*

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



Katherine Castleberry
Principal

Lincoln Lions Love to Read!

We are excited to share news about its one-of-a-kind Reading Room! This Room was created to provide a comfortable and relaxing place to enjoy reading. The newly decorated site has couches, pillows, rugs, moon chairs, lamps, lots of books, and brand-new NOOKS!

The room is open before school and at lunch for students to come in and enjoy a good book. Teachers may also come to the Reading Room during the school day for Guided Reading lessons, buddy reading, or just to have their students read a book. Students are so excited to use this room. It has opened up a whole new world of fun, imagination, and creativity for them.

Spearheaded by teachers Jolene Maravilla and Debbie King, the efforts of so many people were involved to ensure that the desired outcome was attained. Everything from picking up donated furniture to spending countless hours organizing books made this dream a reality. The payoff for everyone's hard work comes in the joy on our students' faces as they enter the room, grab a book, and settle into a nice comfy chair. It's priceless!

Lincoln School is very thankful to everyone who contributed to making this Reading Room possible. We are very proud to offer this unique and special opportunity to our students. All are welcome to visit and see the magic that happens when the love for reading is nurtured in a child!

Lynn Middle School

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



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Ready to Learn

Our campus awoke from its summer slumber as 650 students returned to school, abuzz with renewed energy and sporting new shoes and backpacks. Along with our students, our faculty and staff also returned renewed from summer adventures, refreshed, and ready to teach. This year we have identified three areas for professional growth: we will continue fine-tuning our Professional Learning Community (PLC);

we will implement a daily tutorial schedule; and we will increase differentiation for English Learners, Gifted And

Talented Education (GATE) students, and struggling students.

While state testing indicates Bert Lynn Middle School is on a very strong academic trajectory, we believe time spent discussing common learning targets during our Late-Start Tuesdays is key to our continued success. Guiding questions during our meetings focus on what we expect our students to learn, how we will know they are learning, how we will respond when they don't learn, and how we will respond if they have already reached our planned learning targets.

At Bert Lynn Middle School, "Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!"

Madrona Middle School

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



Jeffrey Nielsen
Interim Principal

Educator Spotlight

Last week, students in Ms. Wooldridge's eighth-grade social studies class explored what life was like in colonial times based on archaeologist findings from the text *Written in Bone*. Students compared and contrasted their findings with other pairs and were given opportunities to use language in meaningful and relevant ways to gain and exchange information in three communicative modes aligned to the English Language Development (ELD) standards of collaborative, interpretive and productive language use.

In another highly engaging and rigorous lesson on

colonial times, Ms. Wooldridge's students worked on a Civil Unrest-O-Meter. Students ranked historical events using the Unrest-O-Meter based on how much British actions angered colonists. Students worked collaboratively and had the choice to explain their rankings with either words or sketches. The beautiful piece of this lesson occurred when students debated their rankings using evidence from their texts. The conversations were intense!

Shout out to Ms. Wooldridge and the entire Madrona Middle School social studies department for providing opportunities for student engagement and rich academic discourse using text with a cross-curricular focus. Shout out to the students in her classes, who did an amazing job of shaping conversations around the content. Students were 100 percent engaged!

Magruder Middle School

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



Lisa Nunes
Principal

Committed Teamwork with Results

The start of the year at Magruder Middle School begins with teachers taking time to reflect on the previous year's efforts to best support students. This gives educators an opportunity to consider areas of growth in our practices and determine the best next steps to ensure that students are learning at the highest levels they can. Lessons taught, extra support offered during student free time, re-teaching during Academic Mastery Period (AMP), and our after-school intervention classes are all considered in the equation.

From this reflection and studying the data, we have great news to share! With the commitment of teachers, students, and families, we saw great success. This is especially true in our after-school English intervention

program, the Magruder Math Academy (MMA), and our after-school English language development class. These Tier 2 supports are part of a school day, which extends until 4 p.m. for students and teachers alike.

These classes are designed to assist students who have demonstrated deeper needs in English and/or math. This commitment resulted in nearly 40 percent of participating students meeting or exceeding their specific grade-level standards in the subject matters in which they are supported. This was demonstrated through scores on the spring Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium testing.

How fantastic it is to be a part of a school community that is so dedicated to the betterment of their students and families well beyond the bell. I am grateful and proud of all who have attended, instructed, and supported these above-and-beyond efforts to provide only the best for our Mustangs.

Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



Christie Forshey
Principal

Science Lab is Open

Construction is complete and all Kinder-5th grade teachers at Riviera have been trained in Next Generation Science Standards. Riviera thanks the Torrance Education Foundation for ordering \$41,000 of

science equipment and supplies for the laboratory. TUSD Science Teachers- Amy Argento, Marissa Stillitano and Riviera parent volunteers set up the lab equipment the second week of school. Soon our K-5 scientists will visit the laboratory to conduct weekly hands-on science lessons. Thank you to the Torrance community for the passage of bond measures that made this experience possible for every elementary student in the City of Torrance.



North *High School*

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



Chris Sheck
Principal

Senior Sunrise

While many of us were still in bed, our seniors got up bright and early to celebrate their final year of high school here at North.

Senior Sunrise is an annual event hosted by the ASB. It is a favorite event during the year for those who wrapped themselves in blankets, stopped by Starbucks, and made their way out to our Saxon football stadium in the cool of the morning. Students ate

donuts and muffins, drank hot chocolate, and sat on the field to watch the sunrise.

“Class of 2019” and other themed banners lined our fences, and the seniors took pictures to memorialize this wonderful occasion.

North High ASB students worked very hard to make sure that our seniors enjoyed themselves. While the event was coordinated by the seniors, many juniors, sophomores, and freshmen were also there helping to ensure that the seniors could enjoy the evening.



Richardson *Middle School*

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



Ian Drummond
Principal

Off to a Positive Start

Richardson Middle School (RMS) began the year by joining the Torrance Unified School District partnership with Sandy Hook Promise. We also launched Starts with Hello with a kickoff assembly for each grade level.

Our Leadership Class picked things up from there and created a week of positive activities. Monday was Hellos Around the World. Students greeted as many other students as they could in as many languages as possible. Telegram Tuesday encouraged students to write notes of encouragement to classmates and post them on a banner near the cafeteria. Wednesday was Performances in the Park. Students and teachers gathered together to watch performances by students and staff. Thursday's activity was a giant Meet in the Middle game at lunch, where students found out what they had in common. High-Five Friday finished off the week. Students high-fived each other throughout the day. This day was also our No One Eats Alone Day, so students met some new friends and became more engaged in the Richardson community.



Seaside *Elementary*

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



Michele Bauer-Bean
Principal

Volunteerism and Generosity

This year, the school year opened with great spirit at Seaside Elementary School. Parents and teachers gathered on the first day to cheer students on and celebrate the start of the 2018–2019 school year. Each

class was introduced with a gleeful cry as the students stood up and presented themselves. This assembly set a delightful tone for the day and the year to come.

In addition, Seaside greeted kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten students with a new play apparatus. This equipment and the labor to install it were an exceptionally generous gift from kindergarten parents Christina and Dave Powers. We couldn't be more thrilled with the gift and the joy and stimulation it will provide for our young children for years to come. The structure has three slides and a variety of climbing bars and tools. We gratefully

thank the Powers family for the donation and the display of community engagement.

It is through acts of volunteerism and generosity that our community is strengthened. This year, let us all be involved with our children's school in whatever capacity we are able.



Shery High School

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



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

Meeting Your Potential

Students who come to Shery High often feel that graduating and walking in a real graduation ceremony are not true possibilities for them. For various reasons, school has not been a very successful experience for these individuals. At Shery High, we are working really hard to change that thinking.

The Torrance Unified School District's graduation numbers went up by 103 students for the Class of 2018.

We are happy to say that we had 63 students graduate and walk with Shery High School, and another 40 who returned to their home schools to graduate and walk in their own ceremonies.

The Shery High staff has been working really hard with our students to help them reach the potential they didn't know they had through interventions, tutorials, and concurrent Independent Study. These are among a few of the programs that are offered to our students that will help them to graduate and obtain their high school diploma.

We are really proud of all our graduates, and wish them luck in the future!



School News

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South High School

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



Dr. Scott McDowell
Principal

Record Exam-Score Growth

South High has always prided itself on the quality and quantity of its Advanced Placement Program, but 2018 saw dramatic growth in the number of exams taken, number of students taking exams, and percentages of 3s, 4s and 5s. Students earning a 3, a 4 or a 5 on an exam receive college credit from most universities.

Having already been named a California Gold Ribbon School in 2016 for its Honors/AP Open Access policy, South administered 1,345 AP Exams in 2018, an increase of 192 exams from 2017's 1153 exams administered. Additionally, the number of students taking at least one AP exam increased by 84 students, from 559 in 2017 to 643 in 2018.

When asked what she attributes the growth to, AP coordinator Mandi Shapiro said, "Most exams increased across the board, but the largest growth occurred in our newer, most-accessible courses like human geography, psychology, computer-science principles and environmental science."

Indeed, AP Human Geography increased from 17 to 73 exams, AP Psychology from 26 to 79, AP Computer-Science

Principles from 41 to 72 and AP Environmental Science from 77 to 123 exams.

"These classes are some of the newer classes at South and are subjects that appeal to a broad range of students, abilities, interests and talents," Ms. Shapiro said.

Fewer Non-Passing Scores

In addition to the number of students taking exams and the number of exams administered, there were large increases in the percentages of 5s, 4s and 3s scored by students. Scores of 5, the highest possible, increased by 31.6 percent, from 256 in 2017 to 337 in 2018. Scores of 4 and 3 increased by 24.3 percent and 14.8 percent respectively. Perhaps even more remarkable, the number of 1s—non-passing scores—decreased from 99 in 2017 to 68 in 2018, a dramatic 31.4 percent reduction from one year to the next.

Shapiro summed it up with "South students are highly motivated to perform well and go to good colleges, and when motivated and when students encounter well-prepared, rigorous, caring and supportive teachers, they thrive. AP teachers work hard to prepare their students for the exams, and it's so gratifying to see both the students' and teachers' hard work paying off."

Torrance Elementary

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



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

School Makeover

Over the summer, Torrance Elementary received a new look like some of the other schools in the district! While fresh paint and new bathrooms were wonderful, the real focus was technology, innovation, safety and access for all.

Each classroom is now equipped with SMART TVs to promote learning across many platforms! A Science Lab is now on campus and curriculum is being developed to align with STEM principles to advance our students critical thinking and creativity. New electronic gates have been installed to foster security on campus and handicapped access has been added to make sure all students feel welcome.

At 105 years old, you look great Torrance Elementary!



Torrance High School

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



Karim Girgis
Principal

Tartar Pride

As we begin our second century, we thought it would be nice to flash back. Torrance High School (THS) is excited to welcome 12 new teachers this school year, including two more Tartar Alumni. Our two new alumni teachers, Miss Christian and Mr. Chae, bring the total of alumni teaching staff at THS to 19. When factoring in our classified, certificated, and coaching staff members, there are more than 50 Tartars

working to give back to the next generation. This speaks volumes for our community and is a clear example of Tartar Pride.

Tartar Pride was exemplified in force last spring as we received our six-year accreditation from Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). A special thank you to our WASC co-chairs, Ms. Gonzales and Mr. Patterson. Our staff and community members did an outstanding job of pulling together to show the visiting team what THS is all about!

We look forward to another great year with our community, faculty, and staff!



Victor Elementary

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



Bill Baker
Principal

Vikings Keep the Peace

Victor Elementary School implements a peer mediation program where students can help other students resolve conflicts. The types of problems include disagreements on the playground, rumor, gossip, and name calling.

Naturally, serious issues are handled by school administration. Peer mediators do not “make decisions,” but instead work towards a

“win-win resolution” for both sides in order to avoid further trouble. This process has proven to be very effective at our school, and office referrals for these types of matters have declined substantially.

The key to this program is how it helps change the way our students understand and resolve conflict in their lives. Changes include improved self-esteem, better listening and critical thinking skills, an enhanced school climate for learning, and reduced disciplinary actions.

These skills are transferable outside of the classroom, and will help our students for years to come.

Health News

by Sheena Kamra, MD

What do I need to know about the flu?

Children under age 5 are more likely to be hospitalized from influenza complications than those in other age groups. Annual flu shots are the best way to protect your child and family from this potentially serious illness.

Seasonal Influenza

Seasonal influenza is a contagious, but preventable, respiratory illness that can be very dangerous for young children. Every year, approximately 20,000 children under age 5 are hospitalized because of flu complications. Some develop serious health problems from it, including pneumonia or bacterial infections. Although deaths are rare, some children die from flu complications each season.

While influenza and the common cold are caused by respiratory viruses, flu symptoms are considerably more severe. Both illnesses can cause congestion, runny noses and coughs, but flu symptoms often include high fevers (over 102), body aches, sore throat and sometimes even vomiting and diarrhea.

Prevention

Handwashing, using hand sanitizers and covering coughs can help stop the virus from spreading, but the best way to prevent the flu is by getting an annual flu shot. Flu vaccines are needed yearly because the flu virus arrives in different strains each season and the vaccine is formulated to match the predicted strain.

Every member of the household, not just children, should get a flu shot to ensure maximum protection. It takes about two weeks for the immune system to develop antibodies against the predicted strain, so October is the ideal time to get vaccinated.

Children who get the flu should not return to school until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or other symptoms. If children are at higher risk of developing complications because they have asthma, for example, or are



Benefits of flu vaccination:

- Produces antibodies to protect against virus
- Reduces the risk of getting the flu
- Reduces the risk of associated complications and hospitalization
- Reduces illness severity if you do get sick
- Protects others around you who may be vulnerable to serious illness

experiencing severe flu symptoms, they should be seen by their doctor. They may receive anti-viral medications such as Tamiflu.

Dr. Sheena Kamra is a board-certified pediatrician with UCLA Health's Torrance medical practice, 23550 Hawthorne Blvd., suite 180. Visit uclahealth.org/Torrance or call (310) 373-4303.



When to Vaccinate

Flu season typically occurs between late October and March. Children – and adults – should receive the flu vaccine soon after it becomes available because it takes about two weeks to develop flu-fighting antibodies. UCLA Health-Torrance offers flu shots for children and adults. Side effects are rare and may include soreness at the injection site, hoarseness, red eyes, cough or mild fever for a day or two.

Torrance *Adult School*

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



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Principal

Get a New and Rewarding Career

Many career pathways are being offered in our Career and Technology Education program. Each pathway has been identified as a growth industry in the South Bay. Courses are designed to pass an industry recognized certificate. Employers

desire highly qualified candidates as the workforce demands advanced training for new employees. Students receiving these certificates have better access to a new or improved career in these fields. The career courses include Bookkeeping, Accounting, and QuickBooks along with Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing & Coding and Medical Assistant.

If you are looking for a new and rewarding career, or want to update your technical skills, Torrance Adult School is here for you. We hope to see you in one of our classes soon!



Proud QuickBooks Students: In 2017-18, 45 students took the QuickBooks exam. All 45 passed! WOW! Students showing off their certificates with Dr. Diulio, Director; Leticia Wang, CTE Resource Teacher; and Maria Marasigan, QuickBooks Instructor.

Towers *Elementary*

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



Sandy Skora
Principal

Boys and Girls in Scouting

At Towers' last Flag Assembly, Cub Scout Pack 851 introduced, with enthusiasm, the opportunity of joining the Cub Scouts.

Many of our Towers' families are part of the Scouts. Cub Scouts offer several activities to our students, including hiking, nature, rocket launchings, acting in skits, building things, visiting museums, community service, camping out, learning new games, and making friends. Cub Scouts also help

build character and confidence while laughing and making memories that last a lifetime.

This is an historic year, as it is the first one that Pack 851 is a Family Pack. What does this mean you ask? It means that both boys and girls are now a part of the Pack. All of the activities, opportunities, and advancements will be identical for both genders.

The boys and girls will be divided into single-gender dens, which are the small six- to eight-Scout groups that meet together twice a month. The entire Pack meets once a month. For more information, please contact Amy Fields at afields2028@gmail.com.



Walteria *Elementary*

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



Efren Ponce
Principal

New Way to Play

As our wonderful students returned to school for the 2018–2019 school year, they were greeted by a new program at Walteria Elementary School. PLAY PE is a partnership between the YMCA and Torrance Unified School District that engages our students in physical activity, teaching them about the importance of staying active and being healthy.

Looking out across the field when the classes are in session, you can see the enthusiasm and joy experienced by the students. Their energetic participation and enthusiastic yelling speak for themselves. Students and instructors are engaged in games that encourage teamwork and allow the students to work together to accomplish the goals at hand. Students are reporting nothing but positive experiences, saying that the class is a lot of fun.

As we forge ahead this school year, it will be exciting to see how PLAY PE helps to shape not only our young Wildcats but our school culture as well.



West *High School*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Collaborative Outcomes

The 2018–2019 school year is under way. This past year alone our students have earned multiple honors like league championships in tennis, soccer, swim, and cross country, as well as the girls' softball team and girls' basketball teams each taking division CIF titles. The boys' cross country team not only took CIF Division Championship, they also earned the CIF State Championship title.

The accolades continue with our Entertainment unit, drumline, and choir taking home multiple gold awards. Play Prod took fourth out of 62 schools in musical theatre, and our Academic Decathlon team took third place in L.A. County and ninth in State. WHS students additionally sent competitors to State for both speech and debate, and for foods, fashion, and interior design.

This amazing list goes on. But these accomplishments couldn't happen without our strong school-community collaboration. This collaborative spirit on campus creates an all-important connection for our students and

community, and is key to a well-rounded school. West has grown into a strong interdependent and thriving community, prideful in supporting all students.

As an educational team, we continue working within our Professional Learning Community, and engage in developing programs to support each student. Examples of this development can be seen in the expansion of Career Tech, Education (CTE) programs, opportunity support classes, and engaging and rigorous electives, as well as the innovation implementation of our Warrior Workshop. Twice during the school day it's "all hands on deck" for 30 minutes of laser-focused core time within the Workshops. These are designed to support all student needs from support and intervention to enrichment and extended learning.

To have this dedicated and focused time twice a week for each student has proven essential to our learning environment. In addition, working together as a school community has created a positive impact on one another as both educators and students. It has contributed naturally to our school's continued improvement and development.

Wood *Elementary*

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



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

Our New Science Lab

Wood Elementary School is excited to begin the 2018–2019 school year with our new elementary science lab. Thanks to Bond Measure T, every elementary school in Torrance

Unified School District (TUSD) is gaining an elementary science lab, moving TUSD to the forefront of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) education. Thanks to the coordination of the Torrance Education Foundation and the district science resource teachers, the science lab is not just another classroom; it is an exploratorium on our campus. TUSD's two science resource teachers, Amy Argento and Marissa Stillittano, along with parent volunteers, have



worked hard to unpack and organize all of the supplies so our students can engage, explore, and enjoy all that is science in our new lab.

The Torrance Education Foundation donated \$41,000 worth of supplies to engage students in STEAM activities. Items that have been met with great excitement from students and staff alike include a full-sized telescope, planting stations, topographic maps, microscopes, chemistry supplies, planetariums, a stream table, and so much more.

Wood Elementary welcomes the opportunity to move our learning forward in the area of STEAM, and we are excited to have such a well-stocked space to make it happen.

Yukon *Elementary*

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



Elaine Wassil
Principal

Where Everyone Knows Your Name!

Sometimes starting school can be a little scary, especially if it is a new school to you. So we often find a new student a new friend to help them through their first day!

It has been really fun listening to our “old” students tell their new friends about our school. These are some of the things the children say about being at Yukon:

“There are nice teachers here!” (This is said most often). “Everybody has their own computer but better not play games on it. We learn a lot!” (Good to know!). “We do the Husky B.A.R.K., you’ll get it. Just remember to be kind. We have fun field trips. Our custodian is funny! There are a lot of nice kids here.”

The parents have also weighed in with our new families. The most popular comment has been that, “This

school is warm and friendly. You’re going to love it here!” A close second is, “This school has helped my child blossom! He loves coming to school!”

It’s great to be back!



Tara's Review



A Transcending Story

The Place Between Breaths, by An Na, is a dark, yet eloquent story about a young girl facing an astronomical disease, that has slowly turned her entire world upside down. This story



Tara Z.

represents, and it digs deeper into the life of a girl, Grace, who is faced with the draining voices and visions that are figments of her imagination. Although the odds are against her, that is not where the story ends. Grace still has dreams, hopes, and a sense of determination that allowed her to continue her trek of self-discovery.

The Place Between Breaths is a book for anyone with a passion for a story. It is light, but heavy and portrays an idea with so much power. It will leave you more knowledgeable and understanding of the impact of mental illness, and it can reinforce the idea that facing an illness does not define you in any extent.

Tara Zadeh is a tenth grader. She loves painting, reading, and writing about art and books. She hopes to study medicine and travel through all the world's continents.

Alana's Book Review



Captivating Narrative

The Three Questions

Based on a story by Leo Tolstoy

"When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do?"

We all ask ourselves these haunting questions at some point. In this

astounding children's book, *The Three Questions*, Jon J Muth reveals to us the answers to these questions. With what I think can only be a little bit of magic, the author seems to perfectly state not just the answers to these inquiries, but also the meaning of life. At least, in my opinion!

I'd give this book 7 out of 8 triforme shards for its sheer emotional power that somehow still remains logical. It provokes deep thought, even in children. It's the perfect blend of a calm, serene tone, and a captivating narrative. It didn't strike me as the normal children's story — I think absolutely anyone could benefit from it. I'd certainly recommend that you give it a read.

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 triforme shards with 8 being the highest



B is for Book



Bailey

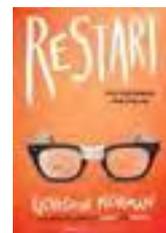
Fantastic to the End!

I just LOVED *Restart*, by Gordon Karman. It made me laugh and kept me interested with the action.

Boom! Chase wakes up in the hospital. What happened? Where's his mother? He can't remember anything, except a blonde girl with a blue dress. With each day that goes by, Chase meets "new" people and finds out "new" things about him that help bring back the memories of his old life: a cherry bombed piano, a stolen medal of honor, a football star, a cruel bully... Will Chase be able to remember his past? Will he be able to fix it? Or will he remain the rotten kid he was before?

Gordon Karman definitely wrote a great book! I like how the book shows the point of view and opinions from the different characters. I rate this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.



Yoona's Review



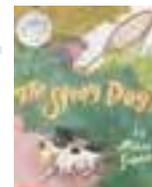
Yoona C.

Who's Dog?

Title: *The Stray Dog*

Author: Marc Simont

Have you ever seen stray dogs? One family went to a picnic. They found a dog. The children named him Willy and kept playing with the dog until it was time to go home. The children wanted to keep Willy but their parents said no because Willy might have an owner. From Monday to Friday, all the family thought about was Willy. On Saturday, they went to picnic again. Willy showed up! A dog warden chased him because he thought the dog was a stray without a collar and leash. The boy took off his belt and the girl took off her hair ribbon and claimed that the belt and the hair ribbon were Willy's collar and leash. Does the man believe that Willy is their dog? Can Willy go home with the children?



Yoona is a 1st grader. She likes doing cartwheels and soccer. She also likes asking questions to her parents. Having a playdate with her friends is her favorite too.

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Ask About Winter Camps

Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

A Magical Adventure

In *Unicorn Princesses-Sunbeam's Shine* by Emily Bliss there is a real unicorn girl named Cressida. All she cared about was seeing a real unicorn. But her family always said unicorns are fake. One day, she



found a key that was glowing pink. She went back home with the key and the next day she went to deliver the key back. There, she saw a unicorn saying "where did I leave the key?" Cressida asked, "are you looking for this?" The unicorn looked surprised. "Can you see me?" "Of course I can." Sunbeam, the unicorn said only a human who believes in unicorns can see her. "That means you can go to the rainbow realm to find my sapphire to get my powers back." So off they went to find the sapphire. Will they find it? Can Sunbeam get her powers back? I like this book because it takes me on a magical adventure.

Jenna is a third grader. She likes art and soccer. She likes imaginary stories and someday she wants to be a book illustrator.

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Katie's Review



Katie C.

Be Grateful

By Ilyasah Shabazz
Betty Before X is about Betty Shabazz. Many may know her just as Malcolm X's wife, but before that happened, she was a young girl growing with several hardships. Betty



used to live with her Aunt Fannie Mae and her grandma. When her aunt dies, she moves to Detroit to live with her mother Ollie Mae. What Betty doesn't understand is why Ollie Mae doesn't love her. Eventually she's had enough of her mother. She runs to a kind couple's house and they take her in. Betty joins the Housewives' league which supports black-owned businesses. She gains confidence as she does so, and eventually she realizes that the right decision isn't always clear. Betty learns to count her blessings because there are so many blessings that she doesn't notice. I rate this book a nine out of ten because it taught me to be grateful for what I have.

Katie is a ninth grader. Her passion is writing and she likes finding new ways to structure poetry. She is working on creating a story line with a series of poems. In her spare time, she enjoys soccer, song writing and reading books.

Baseball & Softball
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