

FREE

School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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Read All About It! TUSD 2019 Classified Employees of the Year



Heritage Elementary School library media technician Honour Del Crognale is congratulated by Heritage students for being named the Tustin Unified School District's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. (Please see story on page 4.)

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Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

Schools and businesses continue to work together to benefit our students in the Tustin Unified School District. Successful community partnerships can be found throughout the school district. A wonderful example is Tustin Unified's annual Principal for a Day program, where local business owners and community leaders serve as "Principals for a Day" in schools throughout the District. This year's event was held

on March 26 during TUSD's 30th annual Educational Partnership Week, March 25-29.

"Principals for a Day" is a hands-on opportunity for local business and community leaders to learn about the issues, challenges, and accomplishments in public education as they take on the role of school administrators.

Each participant shared the role of school principal and performed various daily duties, such as visiting classrooms, meeting with students and teachers, attending staff meetings, reviewing budgets, and participating in other activities.

The 2019 Principals for a Day included:

Elementary schools: Dr. Douglas Baum, Arroyo School; Jonathan Stone, Benjamin Beswick School; John Hedges, Helen Estock School; Barry Ackerman, Guin Foss School; Robert Wright, Robert Heideman School; Austin Lombard, Heritage School; Matt Hannegan, Hicks Canyon School; Chuck Puckett, Ladera School; Eric Perez, Loma Vista School; Jose Martinez, Myford School; Bob Dewid, Nelson School; Sandy Garcia-Ekizian, Peters Canyon School; Rick Nelson, Red Hill School; Pete Beatty, Jeane Thorman School; Terry Laughlin, Tustin Memorial Academy; Matt West, Tustin Ranch School; and Joe Sprekelmeyer, Marjorie Veeh School.

Orchard Hills School: Farrah Khan.

Middle schools: Greg LeFever, Columbus Tustin School; Karen Sattler, Currie School; Dr. E, Hewes School; Letitia Clark, Pioneer; and Peter Maldonado, Utt School.

High schools: Anthony Ko, Beckman; Al Murray, Foothill; Jon Wilcox, Hillview; and Glenn Kashima, Tustin High.

Tustin Connect (K-12 Online): Lars Nordstrom.

Many thanks to the community leaders and school-business partners for their support in helping TUSD students prepare for college and career. Together, we can help Tustin Unified students thrive now and in the future!



Tustin Unified School District's Principals for a Day pose for a Class of 2019 photo in the courtyard at the District Administration Center with Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin (back row, far left) and TUSD Board of Education members Jonathan Abelove, Lynn Davis and Francine Scinto (far right).

TUSD Celebrates 2019 Classified Employees of the Year

*By Mark Eliot
Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District*

Honour Del Crognale, library media technician at Heritage Elementary School, has been selected as the 2019 Classified Employee of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District. Del Crognale was chosen based on her significant contributions to the District and community.

The 22nd annual awards program recognizes classified or support services employees whose contributions to TUSD have proven to be outstanding. The award is given to a classified employee who provides valuable services to their school and contributes to a positive instructional environment.

"It is a tremendous honor to be chosen as the District's Classified Employee of the Year," Del Crognale said. "I feel very grateful to be employed by a school district that honors its employees in such a way. Being a TUSD library media technician has been one of the greatest joys of my life. There is not a day that goes by when I am not excited to walk into the library and see my students.

It's truly a privilege to represent the District's wonderful library staff who work so hard to bring the magic of reading to Tustin Unified students. I'm lucky to be one of them."

Del Crognale has worked at Heritage for three-and-a-half years and was recognized for going "above and beyond" for the students and staff at the school. She offers support to the school both during and beyond the instructional day. Del Crognale spends countless hours and weekend days building a diverse book collection in the school library, decorating the library based on the seasons, hosting popular book fairs, collaborating with teachers to support the educational program, and seeking resources and materials to improve the library collection. She also serves on the school's facilities master plan committee and site council.

Additionally, Honour is active in the Assistance League of Tustin and ensures new students from the Village of Hope at the Orange County Rescue Mission receive school uniforms and supplies. She also initiated a new program with the Assistance League to have extra food on hand for children who may not have a healthy breakfast and come to school hungry.

"Honour takes great pride in providing a well-rounded library experience for our students, encouraging them to learn and grow," Principal Beth Rabel Blackman said. "She has a passion for service and this shines in her work at Heritage and in the community."

The other TUSD school/work site nominees include:
District Administration Center: Sharon Walters, information systems specialist, Educational Services Department.



TUSD Board of Education President Jonathan Ablove (left) and Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin congratulate Heritage Elementary School library media technician Honour Del Crognale for being named Tustin Unified School District's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year.

Maintenance and Operations: James Johnson, groundsperson.

Elementary Schools:
Bernice Brodell, paraeducator (instructional aide), Arroyo; Janis Bailey, office assistant, Benson; Laura Primanti, paraeducator behavioral interventionist, Beswick; Cristi Gauthier, office assistant, Estock; Debbie Nelson, health clerk, Guin Foss; Gail Carstens, library media technician, Heideman; Jennifer Puente, paraeducator, Hicks Canyon; Beverly Duncan, paraeducator, Ladera; Robert McMurtrey, custodian, Loma Vista; Linda McCord, office

assistant/community liaison, Myford; Mayra Vega, behavioral intervention assistant, Nelson; Nina Diesner, paraeducator, Peters Canyon; Susan Hanson, health clerk, Red Hill; James Campos, custodian, Thorman; Kristin McNamara, office assistant, Tustin Memorial Academy; Alma Higgins, paraeducator, Tustin Ranch; and Nicole Hodge, paraeducator, Veeh.

Orchard Hills School: Lori Fiduk, school secretary.

Middle Schools: Leilani Resurreccion, data clerk, Columbus Tustin; Andrea Ramirez, paraeducator, Currie; Cindy McCarthy, school secretary, Hewes; Jose Portillo, campus supervisor, Pioneer; and Cyndi Estrada, school secretary, Utt.

High Schools: Debbie Murphy, attendance specialist, Beckman; Nancy Mendoza, technologist, Foothill; Kathy Valdovinos, office assistant/health clerk, Hillview; and Monica Sanchez, licensed vocational nurse, Tustin.

Del Crognale and all school/work site nominees were honored by the TUSD Board of Education at a special recognition ceremony, "Classified Celebration at the Courtyard," on May 20 at the District Administration Center.

Technology in TUSD Schools

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



Dr. Grant Litfin
*Assistant
Superintendent,
Administrative
Services*

Applied Medical Pathway

Every high school within the Tustin Unified School District offers several cutting-edge college- and career-pathway opportunities for students. A great example is the Beckman High School Applied Medical: Patient Care and Athletic Training Pathway. Within this set of college-prep career technical education (CTE) courses, students have the chance to learn skills that can be applied to careers across the field of allied health.

The three-course pathway is taught by Beckman High School teacher Tracy Dawson and Irvine Valley College (IVC) professor and TUSD teacher/athletic trainer Logan Post. The coursework begins with the Human Body Systems class, transitions into a more hands-on class where students gain basic medical certifications and learn first aid and CPR, and then culminates in students having the opportunity to intern as support staff within the Beckman Athletic Training Team. Furthermore, the pathway offers students both high school credit and the chance to earn transferable college credit through IVC dual enrollment.



Students in the Beckman High School Applied Medical: Patient Care / Athletic Training coursework simulate stabilizing and transporting an injured athlete.

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Director of Communications & Public Information

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TUSD News and Announcements

By Mark Eliot

Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District

TUSD Robotics Teams Compete in World Championship

Tustin Unified School District Robotics teams soared to the top of the competition winning numerous tournaments and awards during the qualification season that ran September through February. Several of the District's teams qualified multiple times for the California State Championships. Overall, TUSD sent a total of 23 teams to compete in these events held throughout the state. In the end, TUSD Robotics teams earned a total of 20 awards at the state championships and 11 invitations to the world championships in Louisville, Kentucky.

The VEX Robotics World Championship brought together over 1,200 of the top student-led teams around the world at the Kentucky Exposition Center. The TUSD Robotics teams and their teacher-coaches include Beckman Robopatties, Siu Kong Sit; Foothill Knight Time,

Jeff Farr; Orchard Hills Middle School, Megan Lund; Orchard Hills Elementary, Nancy Chung and Liz Root; and Tustin Memorial Academy, Debbie Mulligan and Devra Staller. The middle and high school teams competed April 24 through 27, while the elementary teams competed April 28 through 30.

Thank you to the Tustin Public Schools Foundation for supporting the TUSD Robotics League and competitions!

Read more about the competition in the TUSD Robotics newsletter: <https://www.smore.com/hcmf3> or visit the TUSD Robotics Website: www.tusdrobotics.com.

Individuals are also invited to watch the TUSD Robotics video: <https://youtu.be/jkhSCYHf0OE>.

Information was provided by Computer Science and Engineering TOSA and TUSD Robotics Lead Cari Williams.

Jennifer Harrison Named Principal of New Legacy Magnet Academy

Dr. Jennifer Harrison, principal of Ladera Elementary School, has been appointed principal of the new Legacy Magnet Academy in the Tustin Unified School District. The state-of-the-art middle and high school is under construction in Tustin Legacy and will open in summer 2020.

Harrison has worked in public education for 20 years – the past four years as principal of Ladera School. Among her accomplishments at Ladera, Harrison led the successful opening of the Leopard Innovation Lab and launched the Digital Storytelling initiative.

Prior to TUSD, Harrison was a director of curriculum and instruction, overseeing math, science and technology in the Ontario-Montclair School District. She has also opened a magnet school for transitional kindergarten through eighth-grade students and has served as a site administrator at the middle and high school levels.

Harrison has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from California State University, Long Beach; a master's degree in education administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills; and a doctorate in education (K-12 leadership) from the University of Southern California.

"I am proud of the Ladera team's hard work over the past four years. We opened Leo's Future-Ready Lab, presented at multiple STEAM and Tech conferences, implemented



Dr. Jennifer Harrison attended TUSD's groundbreaking ceremony for the new Legacy Magnet Academy on March 13.

Digital Storytelling schoolwide and will host our second annual Film Festival this year," Harrison said. "The growth of our students, staff and school has been tremendous, and I look forward to watching Ladera's continued success in the years to come."

Harrison continued,

"The development of Legacy Magnet Academy is an exciting opportunity to create unique learning experiences for students who wish to pursue their passion for technology, innovation, design and entrepreneurship. I am truly honored and eager to begin the process of collaborating with teachers, students, parents, community members, business and higher education partners as we build what will be the premier 6-12 school in the region."

Legacy Magnet Academy will serve grades six and nine in its first year and, depending on enrollment interest, grades 7 and 8 as well. Eventually, the school will accommodate approximately 1,400 students in grades 6-12. The school will focus on Technology, Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (TIDE). The 33-acre campus is bordered by Valencia Avenue, Legacy Road, Moffett Avenue and Tustin Ranch Road.

For more information about Legacy Magnet Academy, call the TUSD Communications Office at (714) 730-7339.

TUSD Educators Win Rotary Club Good Idea Awards

The Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary Club has announced the winners of its 2019 Good Idea Awards. Approximately 19 educators in the Tustin Unified School District were honored at the Rotary Club's annual awards luncheon. Their projects were chosen among many proposals submitted by teachers and staff in the school district.

The club awarded more than \$4,000 in grants to individuals for the development of quality educational programs in the classroom or school. Either a new concept or a supplement to an ongoing project was eligible for consideration. The winners will use the money to purchase materials, supplies or equipment. Individual awards varied in amount according to requirements of the proposed projects.

The purpose of the program is to encourage classroom teachers' ideas and methodology, to enhance the instructional program offered to students in the District, and to recognize the more exemplary efforts of the "eager beavers" in the TUSD school system.

• The winners and their projects are as follows:

- Aye Armendariz, autism specific - moderate/severe teacher at C.E. Utt Middle School, for "Dance Movement Intervention for Children with Autism."
- Debra Bessen and Emi Anthony, second-grade and third-grade teachers, respectively, and Veronica Rivas, community liaison at Robert Heideman Elementary School, for "Transforming Lives Through Musical Theater."
- Leanne Calvert, sixth-grade honors core teacher at C.E. Utt Middle School, for "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"
- Elizabeth Catron, fifth-grade teacher at Heritage Elementary School, for "Innovating and Creating with Micro:bits!"

- Felisa Gibbs, second/third-grade teacher at Heritage Elementary School, for "Putting the 'A' in STEM."
- Allison Hoang, first/second-grade Teacher at Tustin Ranch Elementary School, for "Digital Storytelling."
- Amy Jones, kindergarten teacher at Orchard Hills School, for "Kindergartners are Busy Bees!"
- Janis Leach, third-grade teacher at Arroyo Elementary School, for "Look! Up in the Sky! It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's Superflex!"
- Ashly McNamara, English/language arts teacher on special assignment at the District Administration Center, for "Digital Storytelling and Professional Learning."
- Gigi Pan, kindergarten teacher at Benjamin Beswick Elementary School, for "Let's Bring Animals to LIFE in the Classroom!"
- Jonny Parker, TUSD Connect Coach at Myford Elementary School, for "Drones Take Off."
- Janeen Sample, library media technician at Tustin Memorial Academy, for "An Ode to Books."
- Jennifer Sandland, fifth-grade teacher at Helen Estock Elementary School, for "Nurturing Green Thumbs."
- Julie Shattles, third/fourth-grade teacher at Peters Canyon Elementary School, "Bridging the Gap."
- Courtney Smith, TUSD Connect Coach at Barbara Benson and Peters Canyon elementary schools, for "Calming Corner."
- Jeannette Sweet, second-grade teacher at Hicks Canyon Elementary School, for "Amazing Ancestors!"
- Aileen Townsend, Makerspace paraeducator at Arroyo Elementary School, "The Sweet Sound of Coding."



Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary Club 2019 Good Idea Awards winners: (front row) Emi Anthony, Debbie Bessen, Julie Shattles, Jonny Parker, Courtney Smith, Jeannette Sweet, and Gigi Pan; and (back row) Veronica Rivas, Aileen Townsend, Janis Leach, Jennifer Sandland, Elizabeth Catron, Allison Hoang, Ashly McNamara, Leanne Calvert, Aya Armendariz, and Janeen Sample. Joining them are TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin (far left) and Rotary Club President Roger Carlson (far right).



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Another school year is coming to a close. We thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read about the Classified Employees of the Year, the importance of community partners and much more.

Our next issue is September 25th in time to welcome a new school year. Have a wonderful summer and don't forget to include the library among your activities. On pages 28-33 are lots of ideas for summer fun and learning. Also included are student book reviews and a Word Search on page 34.



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Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

Construction Teams Gear up for Summer Work

Tustin Unified School District staff will be managing or directly performing over 140 maintenance and construction projects across 28 schools this summer. The majority of the scheduled work will be completed over the summer break, while others such as the new Legacy Magnet Academy (LMA) middle and high school will still be in construction during the school year. Each respective

project varies in scope and complexity and ranges from a few hundred dollars to about \$60 million for LMA.

The list of other major summer projects that will be under construction this summer includes:

- Carpet replacement, roof repairs, fencing, exterior/interior painting, concrete replacement, and slurry/stripping at various school sites
- Portable classroom additions and parking expansion at Benson Elementary School
- Culinary arts remodel at Foothill High School
- Science lab modernization at Utt Middle School
- Special Education room remodel at Columbus Tustin Middle School

- Weight training room enhancements at Tustin High School
- Design approvals for solar carports/shade structures at 14 schools



Construction crew works on utilities in a trench at the new Legacy Magnet Academy site.

Educational Services

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Kathie Nielsen
Deputy
Superintendent

Digital Storytelling

The Tustin Unified School District is excited to be continuing its emphasis on digital storytelling this year. Select teachers from elementary school, middle school and high school participated in training throughout the year, learning how to integrate academic movie making into their curriculum.

Students are enthusiastically turning their written storyboards into digital movies as evidence of new learning and to communicate powerful messages. The digital-storytelling process boasts many potential benefits for students as they experience and investigate new content and innovative technology tools.

TUSD currently has over 170 teachers who have attended the digital storytelling training, which has provided them with the introductory skills and lessons. Several schools are now holding site or

classroom film festivals in order to showcase students' creations. The district held its second annual Film Festival in May, and the event featured thoughtful and creative digital stories from elementary and middle school students.



Pioneer Middle School sixth-grader Timothy Okajima is ready for his close-up at the TUSD Film Festival.

Nutrition Services

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



Teresa Squibb
Director

Menu Development

Many factors come into play when developing new menu items for Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) students. The new menu items must meet a series of requirements before the district can serve them to students. Requirements include National School Lunch nutritional guidelines, ingredient cost, availability from vendors, production process, and student acceptance.

New menu items are developed and tested at TUSD middle and high schools that have full kitchens. Each kitchen is staffed with school nutrition professionals: cafeteria supervisors, cooks, assistant cooks, and nutrition assistants. When developing a potential new recipe, the staff works together to test and revise it until it is just right.

The Tustin High School staff recently developed a new barbecue chipotle chicken salad for high school students. The salad consists of homemade chipotle barbecue sauce, barbecue chicken, roasted corn, black beans infused with spices, edamame, and other fresh vegetables. The new salad has become a hit with the Tustin High staff and students.



Tustin High School kitchen staff, Cafeteria Supervisor Jacob Kranich, nutrition assistant Elizabeth Calleros, cook Rosie Bunney and assistant cook Jose Ruiz test a new BBQ chipotle chicken salad recipe.

Kindergarten Readiness

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7592



Lauralee Cabibi
*Coordinator
School Readiness*

Fun for All

Tustin Unified School District's Kindergarten Readiness Program held its annual Family Fun Night for preschoolers and their families. Parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters all came together to share in fun games, unique art projects, interactive physical activity stations, and even a kids' Zumba area. All activities were offered by the teaching staff at each Kindergarten Readiness site.

Community partners, such as the Tustin Police Department, a local public broadcasting television station, and the Orange County Health Care Agency joined in the festivities and provided families with great resources and freebies for the children. For the first time, a food truck was available for families to purchase hot dogs, snow cones, and funnel cakes.

At the end of the evening, five lucky students won amazing prizes in the raffle drawing. From the smiles on the faces of students and their families, Family Fun Night lived up to its name!



Kindergarten Readiness instructor Ana Torres teaches Zumba at Family Fun Night.

Arroyo Elementary School

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



Katy Sheyka
Principal

One of a Kind

Arroyo Elementary School is proud to announce Bernice Brodell as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. Miss Brodell is a paraeducator supporting students as an extra-classroom support. She is calm, kind and caring to all of our Mustangs and always has a positive attitude.

Miss Brodell is a hard worker and is always willing to help and support wherever needed.



Bernice Brodell is all smiles for receiving recognition as Arroyo's Classified Employee of the Year.

She is encouraging to all our students and takes the time to get to know their needs and what works best for them. With her patient attitude, Miss Brodell goes above and beyond to ensure student success. You'll often find her supporting students, teachers and the team of paraeducators. She is always smiling and encouraging all students to be their best.

Congratulations, Miss Brodell, on this special honor! You truly display what it means to be Mustang Strong.

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Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

Invaluable Assistance

Beckman High School's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year is our attendance specialist, Debbie Murphy. Ms. Murphy has been a constant presence here at Beckman, and is one of the original staff members who first opened the school 15 years ago.

As an attendance specialist, Ms. Murphy maintains near flawless attendance records for all students in grades nine to twelve.

She maintains thorough documentation on who is checked in/out each day, and also has the task of managing hundreds of phone calls (including voicemails) from parents.



Principal Dr. Donnie Rafter and Beckman 2019 Teacher of the Year Stacy Colon congratulate Classified Employee of the Year Debbie Murphy (holding flowers).

She also interfaces with multiple students, teachers, and parents each and every day, and works hard to maintain a positive rapport with all. Ms. Murphy's role at Beckman is not an easy one, but she handles her job with apparent ease. Congratulations, Ms. Debbie Murphy!

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



Jackie Christy
Principal

A Ray of Sunshine

Congratulations to Benson Elementary School office assistant Janis Bailey, our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!

Mrs. Bailey helps the front office run smoothly as she welcomes families and visitors with a smile. Her kind demeanor and cheery disposition provides a warm welcome all who come through the office. To ensure our office runs efficiently, Mrs. Bailey keeps our calendar and Web site up to date, ensures we have the supplies teachers need ready and available, assists the principal with purchasing, supports our office manager with payroll, and does so much more.



Jackie Christy, left, presents flowers and a balloon to Benson Classified Employee of the Year Janis Bailey.

Mrs. Bailey goes above and beyond in her daily duties. When someone has a need or a question, Mrs. Bailey stops whatever she is doing to respond. While our school secretary, Cindy Mayer, was on medical leave, Mrs. Bailey jumped right in to make sure the office continued to run smoothly.

As one employee said, Mrs. Bailey is a ray of sunshine! Congratulations again to Mrs. Bailey!

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



Maggie Burdette
Principal

The Right Spirit

Columbus Tustin Middle School is excited to announce that Leilani Resurrection is the school's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. She has served Columbus Tustin as the data clerk for six years.

"Ms. Leilani" is one of the first people who will greet you when you walk in the door of the front office. She is always friendly, professional and willing to help our parents, students and staff in any capacity.



Data clerk Leilani Resurrection celebrates after the surprise announcement that she is Columbus Tustin's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year.

Ms. Leilani always goes above and beyond to make sure our busy front office runs smoothly. She is brilliant at pulling complicated data reports but just as quick to answer the phone or jump up to assist in the health office. She has a way of making everyone else's day easier without us ever needing to ask. She is not shy about participating in school spirit activities to promote positive school culture.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Stephanie Yang
Principal

Ensuring Student Success

Laura Primanti is one of Beswick's all-star Positive Behavior Interventionists!

Laura goes above and beyond to support her special student. She not only helps her student thrive and develop strong personal skills, she also collaborates with their teacher to ensure that their academic, social, and emotional needs are also being met.

Laura is caring and thoughtful and provides the best for not only her student but for all students here at Beswick.



Beswick's Positive Behavior Interventionist Laura Primanti is honored as the school's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year.

At all times Laura is kind and patient with her words and actions. She arrives at school early each day and works hard to prepare. She takes her curriculum home at night to dig in deep, and steps in whenever and wherever she is needed across campus. She truly has a passion for children!

Laura is someone who quietly and positively ensures that our school has what it needs to ensure that every student will succeed.

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A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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Erick Fineberg
Principal

Giving Back

When Andrea Ramirez interviewed for a Special Education position, she mentioned that she wanted to give back to the Tustin Unified School District where she was once a student. Ms. Ramirez has given back—and so much more.

In addition to her regular duties as a one-to-one support provider, Andrea can be found in the library volunteering to tutor students who are struggling academically. Ms. Ramirez also serves as a strong role model for both the female and male students on campus. As a previous student athlete at Tustin High School, Ms. Ramirez shares her experiences with students and discusses how they can balance both roles.

Additionally, Andrea is currently working to complete her associate's degree at night, demonstrating the importance being a lifelong learner and the value of a college degree. Currie is proud to celebrate Andrea Ramirez as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year.



Currie Classified Employee of the Year Andrea Ramirez is flanked by students Adan and Jaime Ochoa along with her mother, Angela Andres.

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Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Dr. Amanda Heineman
Principal

Grateful for Mrs. Gauthier

Estock Elementary is proud to recognize Cristi Gauthier as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!

As the office assistant at Estock, Mrs. Gauthier welcomes our families and guests with a smile each day. She is always cheerful and kind as she assists parents with email and parent portal guidance, registration documents, interpreting, and general questions. She also goes above and beyond to ensure that attendance is accurate, and consistently follows-up with our families.

In addition to her daily duties, Cristi also coordinates the Authors' Tea held three times a year, the Very Important Person (V.I.P) table for students at lunch, and even assists with enrollment for elementary summer school.



Estock Classified Employee of the Year Cristi Gauthier, left, receives flowers from Principal Amanda Heineman.

Cristi has established excellent rapport with our staff and students, and is always patient and kind. She is extremely professional, and always an advocate for the Estock Elementary School community. We are so grateful for Mrs. Gauthier!

Foothill *High School*

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



Michelle England
Principal

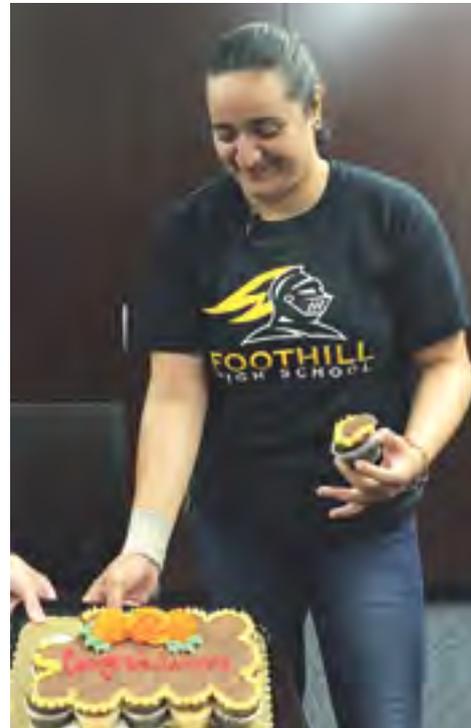
Getting the Job Done

Nancy Mendoza is our 2019 Classified Staff of the Year for Foothill High School. We are so lucky to have her as our information-technology specialist to help us with any type of IT problem. Even if it's after hours, she will find a way to get the job done.

Ms. Mendoza is completely dependable. She has resolved so many IT situations across our campus countless times, quietly and without fail.

IT problems can sometimes be quite frustrating, but when Ms. Mendoza is there to help, the problem is always solved with a patience that puts staff at ease. Students and staff alike are always asking for Ms. Mendoza's help, and she never turns away someone in need.

If it can be done, Ms. Mendoza will accomplish it...if it can't be done, she still might figure out a way to make it work!



Foothill Information Technology Specialist Nancy Mendoza "takes the cake" when it comes to solving IT problems and supporting the students and staff.

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Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



Ray Hernandez
Principal

Positive and Strong

Congratulations to Debbie Nelson, Guin Foss Elementary School's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year! Mrs. Nelson is being recognized for being committed to all students, for being a superb health clerk, and for being a stand-out team player.

Students couldn't be in better hands, as Mrs. Nelson treats all students with loving kindness and respect. When Mrs. Nelson isn't helping students, she is lending a hand to the rest of the office staff and assuring that parents and staff members are also be taken care of. There is no doubt that Mrs. Nelson is a present help in the time of need.

As a former parent and PTO president, she has remained committed to the long-term success of Guin Foss and our wonderful school community. Her institutional knowledge makes her one of the culture bearers that keeps the positive Guin Foss culture alive and strong!



Guin Foss health clerk Debbie Nelson was named the school's Classified Employee of the Year for 2019.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Above and Beyond

Gail Carstens is Heideman's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!

In her capacity as library media technician, Gail serves as our resident expert in helping young readers pursue their reading goals. Whether it's finding the next book that a student is eager to read, or gathering resources for a teacher's next unit of study, Gail goes above and beyond in serving our Heideman learning community.

Gail's passion is to be certain that each student is able to continue marching on their own self-selected path as an avid reader. She will find that next, best book no matter what! If she doesn't find it in the top-level book collection that she has curated, it will somehow magically appear the next day, obviously just purchased by her but never announced as such!

Gail also works closely with our teachers to supply their classroom book needs, and is known to bring in artifacts to infuse new learning with life. Thank you, Gail!



Library media technician Gail Carstens, Principal Sean Lindsay, and a gathering of Heideman Roadrunners celebrate the announcement of Heideman's Classified Employee of the Year.

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



**Beth
Rabel Blackman**
Principal

Making a Difference

Heritage Elementary School is proud to announce Honour Del Crognale as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Del, as our students affectionately call her, provides a well-rounded library experience for students weekly, curates an excellent and diverse library collection, collaborates with teachers to ensure that the collection supports the educational program at Heritage, and promotes literacy in our library times.

Mrs. Del is an extremely active member of the Heritage team. She provides support to all staff members and is the first to lend a hand. She seeks resources and materials to improve the library collection, honor the experiences and backgrounds of our students, and promote critical thinking and compassion. Not only is Mrs. Del beloved by our students, parents and staff but also she seeks opportunities to build relationships with all our students, encouraging them to grow and learn. Mrs. Del has a passion for service and this shines through in her work at Heritage and in the community.



**Honour Del Crognale was announced as
Heritage's Classified Employee of the Year at a school event.**

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Eric Kilian
Principal

Highlander Extraordinaire

Hewes Middle School is proud to recognize Cindy McCarthy as our 2019 Classified Employee of the year! As a front office secretary, she exudes professionalism and positivity in our front office as she helps students, parents, and staff each day. Making each day her masterpiece, she ensures anyone that enters our office gets the support needed. She is a synergistic team

member, proactive problem solver and models first class service, while going above and beyond in all aspects of her role with enthusiasm. In addition, Cindy oversees many programs and communication formats on our campus in an exemplary fashion. She can always be counted on to come through in the clutch for Hewes students and staff. Outside of Hewes, she volunteers at the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Dino Dash and has previously volunteered as a part of the Foothill High School Ed Fund and Hewes PTA. We are so thankful to have her at Hewes!



Hewes secretary Cindy McCarthy, center, is congratulated by staff for being named the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Deena Vela
Principal

She Challenges Students!

Hicks Canyon Elementary has many classified employees who go above and beyond to make the school an amazing place to work and learn. This year, we are proud to announce that the 2019 Classified Employee of the Year is Jennifer Puente. Ms. Puente is an incredible special education paraeducator who works in various classrooms to support our special education students every day. She has served the students of Hicks Canyon for the past five years with a positive attitude toward our school community.

Currently, Ms. Puente works closely with a student whom she challenges every day to do her personal best, both socially and academically. She encourages this student to step out of her comfort zone to try new things. Ms. Puente's priority is to help all students to recognize differences in on another and celebrate those differences by providing a safe, inclusive learning environment.

Thank you, Ms. Puente, for your kind, gentle heart in working with the children at Hicks Canyon School.



Classified Employee of the Year Jennifer Puente, center, is joined by her family at a school celebration.

Hillview *High School*

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



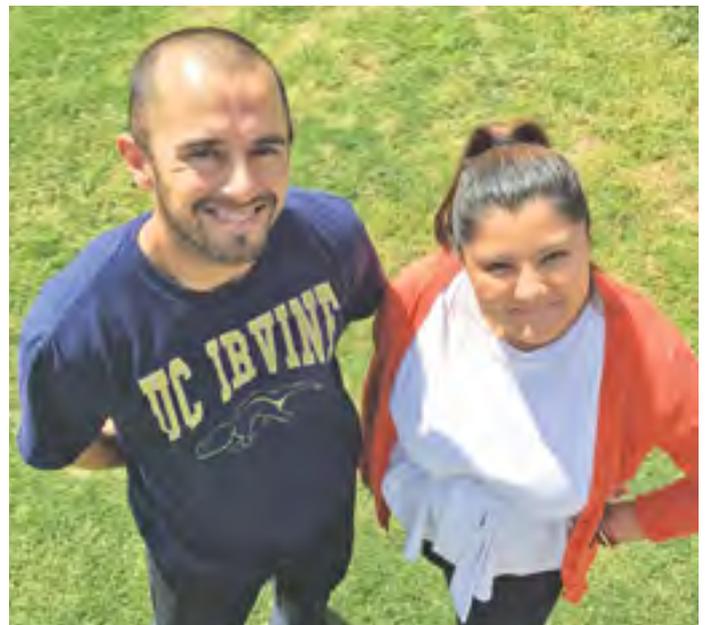
Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Bringing that Extra Spark

Hillview High School is proud to announce our 2019 Employees of the Year! Ivan Ramirez has been selected as our Teacher of the Year, and Kathy Valdovinos is the Classified Employee of the Year. Both do an amazing job of building relationships with our students, and they constantly display a friendly but professional attitude with everyone they come in contact with.

Mr. Ramirez is a resource specialist program RSP teacher who provides extra support for students who need it. He is a graduate of Tustin High School. He then played college and professional baseball before becoming a teacher. Ivan has been at Hillview for his entire eight-year career.

"Miss Kathy," as she is known to our Hillview students and staff, has worked for the TUSD for the past three years. She was hired as a community liaison, and currently serves as our office assistant and health clerk. Hillview is fortunate to have such caring educators working with our students.



Good things are looking up for Hillview's Teacher of the Year, Ivan Ramirez, and Classified Employee of the Year, Kathy Valdovinos.

Ladera *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

A Longtime Gem

Ladera Elementary School is thrilled to recognize one of our favorite longtime residents, Beverly Duncan, as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. Bev has worked for the Tustin Unified School District for 21 years, with eight of those years at Ladera.

As our specialized academic instruction paraeducator, Bev works one-on-one and in small groups with students as she provides support in all academic areas. Bev is always with students. At any moment, she will assist with any need a student may have, and she is always looking for new and creative ways to help all of our students engage with learning.

Bev is also our resident artist. Putting her passion for art to good use, she helps many of our teachers with art projects.

We are so lucky to have Bev as a member of our Ladera family!



Paraeducator Beverly Duncan was selected as Ladera's Classified Employee of the Year.



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Myford *Elementary School*

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



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Connecting with Students

Linda McCord goes above and beyond in all she does—she is so much more than an office assistant and a community liaison. Not only is she a ray of sunshine for everyone who walks through the door but she also makes sure that everyone feels like they are the most special person in the world.

Ms. McCord cares about students and staff and takes care of those around her. Whether it is securing resources for families during challenging times or a laugh to cheer someone up, she always has time for you. She will arrange clothes, supplies, groceries and even a tank of gas to help people in need.

Ms. McCord never draws attention to these things she does—she just does it because she is an amazing person. Myford staff, students and families are so fortunate to work with her, and we are so proud to have her as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!



Myford Classified Employee of the Year Linda McCord greets student Ethan Bonilla, who comes to say hi to her every day.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Lauren Steinmann
Principal

Bringing the Magic

Loma Vista Elementary School is thrilled to honor head custodian Robert McMurtrey, also known as “Mr. M,” as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. Mr. M has worked in the Tustin Unified School District for 16 years and is a key member of the Loma Vista family.

Mr. M goes above and beyond every day, arriving far before our teachers and students to ensure that the campus is immaculate! You can hear him whistling or singing down the halls as he works, and he is always ready to share a joke or a smile!

Mr. M loves three things: Rams football, the holidays, and all things Disney. However, Mr. M may be most famous for his fully-decorated holiday room, complete with lights, a tree, a fireplace, and music for families to enjoy!

We are so lucky to have Mr. M’s energy, drive and creativity at Loma Vista! Thank you, Mr. M, for laughing and dreaming with us!



Head custodian Robert McMurtrey makes Loma Vista the happiest place on earth!

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



Melinda Smith
Principal

Tigers Celebrate Mayra Vega

Nelson Elementary School's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year is Behavioral Interventionist Mayra Vega. Mayra has supported students in Tustin Unified School District schools for the past six years and Nelson students for the last three years.

Mayra is remarkable! She establishes rapport with her students because she is extremely compassionate, patient, and proactive. She seeks to understand students and include them in developing next steps. Mayra helps students access the learning environment by assisting them in de-escalating efficiently and regulating their emotions. Her calm and caring approach is her trademark.

Mayra regularly innovates and develops supports for her students. She routinely works alongside classroom teachers to implement modified instruction and content. She leads a leveled literacy intervention group five days each week. Additionally, she assists with translations so that teachers and parents can effectively communicate.

Mayra epitomizes professionalism through her commitment to the Nelson staff and students. Congratulations, Mayra!



Nelson Classified Employee of the Year Mayra Vega is patient and proactive with her students.

Orchard Hills *School*

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



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Inaugural Jog-A-Thon a Big Success

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade arrived at Orchard Hills School on April 5 in their running shoes and Jog-A-Thon shirts with water bottles in hand. This was the first-ever Jog-A-Thon for our elementary students.

The runners were pumped up by our DJ and MC and could hardly wait to get started. Family, friends, staff members and our friendly Hawk cheered our little hawks on as they ran around the track collecting as many laps as possible. Teachers joined in on the fun racing around the track with their classes.

We are thankful for our volunteers that helped make Orchard Hills' inaugural Jog-A-Thon such a successful, organized and fun event for all.



Students and teachers run around the track during Orchard Hills School's first annual Jog-A-Thon.

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Ensuring a Positive Environment

It is with great honor and pleasure that Pioneer Middle School recognizes Jose Portillo as the school's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. Jose Portillo is Pioneer's number one campus supervisor.

Providing a safe, orderly, and positively wonderful campus is his priority! He joyfully greets all who enter and exit the grounds of

Pioneer as well as ensures that students, parents, and teachers arrive and leave safely. His presence is very important on the Pioneer campus. Pioneer middle school students respect and admire Mr. Portillo. His genuine conviction that there is "good" in all people, make him the perfect person to work with middle school students. His careful words of encouragement and his suggestions for making things right, are turning Pioneer students in the right direction for their future. It is with great pleasure that we honor Jose Portillo for these contributions to the Pioneer community of learners.



Campus supervisor Jose Portillo was honored as Pioneer's Classified Employee of the Year.

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Brooke Carreras
Principal

Making Magic Happen

Peters Canyon Elementary School recently honored Nina Diesner as its 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!

Nina has worked for 20 years as a special education para-educator in the Tustin Unified School District. She can often be seen leading

activities at lunch, running a Friends Club mentoring event, providing behavioral support to a student in need, or helping prep a craft for a group project. Nina is described by her colleagues as having not only endless patience, but also possessing a "magic touch" when it comes to soothing an upset student or implementing a new behavior-shaping strategy.

After Nina completes a full day at Peters Canyon she then heads to her second job of teaching kindergarten at Aldersgate in Tustin. As a child, Nina

went to Robert Heideman Elementary School, Columbus Tustin Middle School, and Tustin High School. She and her husband live in Tustin, and her daughter attends a TUSD elementary school. Congratulations, Nina!



Peters Canyon Classified Employee of the Year Nina Diesner enjoys working with her students, from left, Weiyu Xie, Ashley Alejandre, Aarav Prajapati, Xavier De La Luz, Jacobo Valente and Ryder Lee.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Tracy Barquer
Principal

A Spoon Full of Sweetness

Our “practically perfect” Susan Hanson is Red Hill Elementary School’s Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Hanson is the school health clerk, and her sweet demeanor always helps the medicine go down!

She is so gentle and kind when assisting students in the health office that many of them never want to leave her office once they are feeling better! Her cheerful disposition never fades while she answers phones, handles questions at the office counter, tends to bumps and bruises, and enters health information into the school computer system.

Mrs. Hanson is also the first to add to our school spirit by decorating her office for each holiday season, bringing stickers for the children and treats for the staff. She attends school functions and supports everyone with grace and good cheer.

Her wonderfully caring attitude helps all of our Red Hill community members feel safe and well cared for. We are truly grateful for all that she does. Congratulations, Mrs. Hanson!



Red Hill health clerk Susan Hanson was recognized at the school’s 2019 Classified Employee of the Year.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Being a Good Role Model for Students

By Fifth-graders Hector Aguilar, Juan Garcia, and Andy Trinh

Thorman Elementary School custodian James Campos got quite a surprise when he was named the school’s 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. So many of the students have known him since preschool and were eager to talk about him. “He’s really helpful, nice and hard-working,” said some students. “He deserves the award,” said others. Mr. Campos’ first career goal was to join the military (within the electronic and computer fields). Luckily for us, his career path changed and he told us, “I couldn’t be more thrilled to work with kids and watch them grow up.” Outside of Thorman, Mr. Campos likes to watch his favorite sports teams, including the Raiders, Lakers, and Angels, and has aspirations to travel around America. “It is an honor to be named Classified Employee of the Year,” he told us, but really it is our honor to have him at Thorman!



Custodian James Campos is proud to be selected as Thorman’s Classified Employee of the Year.

Tustin Adult School

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



Will Neddersen
Coordinator

Adults take Field Trips Too!

When offering an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, Tustin Adult School will use life skills as a focus to develop the students' English language skills. Life skills are the regular speaking, reading, and writing skills that are needed to function on a day-to-day basis.

There are eight overarching life skills addressed in our classes. We focus on topics like goal-setting and culture diversity, to consumer economics and employment. Our teachers work hard to bring lessons that will help their students navigate life, and seek to provide opportunities to practice the language that is needed for unique situations, such as talking to a pharmacist to find the right medication.



Tustin Adult School ESL students took a tour of a local Orange County library during their field trip.

Tustin Connect *Online School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/430-2052



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Principal

A Can-Do Attitude

Tustin Connect is fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled classified staff to run our office and support our school community. One of our classified staff members who has made significant contributions to Tustin Connect is Kerri Alpay.

As our only office staff member, Mrs. Alpay oversees all main office duties, including enrollment, data entry, staff support, Web site management, attendance, appointments, and so much more. Mrs. Alpay is an outstanding employee who always goes above and beyond the call of duty. She is cheerful and has a can-do attitude. She balances the many demands of her job with grace and skill. Mrs. Alpay always jumps in to solve virtually any issue or problem that arises, and she eagerly seeks to serve and support our school staff and community.

Thank you, Mrs. Alpay, for your dedicated service to Tustin Connect and Tustin Unified School District! You make a significant impact every day!



Tustin Connect honored classified staff member Kerri Alpay for her vital contributions to the students, staff and school.

Tustin High School

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



Dr. Jon Tuin
Principal

Cheers for Mrs. Sanchez!

Tustin High is honored to have Monica Sanchez represent the school as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. She has been at Tustin High for the past five years serving in our special-day classes as a licensed vocational nurse.

Mrs. Sanchez truly has a passion for her work, which at times can be taking care of some very critical needs of our students. She can handle all types of medical emergencies at any given time, and when needed, she also provides assistance to the rest of the school population. She is not only extremely knowledgeable in her position but she also possesses an incredible work ethic.

In addition, Mrs. Sanchez's caring, compassionate personality

and ability to get along with all whom she encounters makes her the ideal person for this position. Tustin High feels very blessed and fortunate to have her as a Tiller staff member!



Tustin High Principal Dr. Jon Tuin and Leadership students celebrate with the school's Classified Employee of the Year, Monica Sanchez.

Tustin Memorial Academy

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



Sharon Maeda
Principal

Shining Brightly

Tustin Memorial Academy is proud to announce office assistant Kristin McNamara as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year! At the front desk, Ms. McNamara is the "Face of TMA." Upon entering the office, she represents the school with her warm, welcoming and pleasant demeanor in every situation. She interacts with students, parents, families and staff with the highest

level of professionalism, patience and effectiveness. She performs a multitude of responsibilities and provides the utmost care and concern for all students. She is constantly multitasking, always with a smile and a positive spirit!

Ms. McNamara is also extremely talented. She is an amazing cook and singer, and she constantly seeks out those around her who may need assistance. Additionally, Ms. McNamara's children attended TMA when they were younger, and while at the school, she served as an active PTO chairperson and tireless volunteer.

Ms. McNamara shines brightly and represents TMA phenomenally!



Tustin Memorial Academy Classified Employee of the Year Kristin McNamara was honored by students, parents, and staff at the school's Friday Flag Assembly.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



Kathi Denny
Principal

Our Very Own Superhero

You might confuse Tustin Ranch Elementary School's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year with Wonder Woman. That's because Alma Higgins soars through the campus identifying our school's needs, and leaps over any obstacle that gets in her way of solving a problem!

Ms. Alma goes above and beyond her classroom assignment by helping on the playground at lunch, serving on numerous school committees, volunteering at our after-school running and robotics clubs, and attending numerous professional development classes in order to learn more about students with special needs and Social Emotional Learning.

Ms. Alma is a dedicated para-educator who supports students in the first grade. She can be found in the classroom, on the playground, or taking classes to continue to learn and grow. And this para-educator/superhero does it all with a smile on her face! Congratulations, Miss Alma!



Tustin Ranch Classified Employee of the Year Alma Higgins, far right, celebrates with teachers, from left, Linda Chaplin, Karen Binge, Jen Quinn and Julie Nelson.

C.E. Utt Middle School

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



Heather Bojorquez
Principal

Years of Falcon Spirit

The Falcons are proud to share our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year, Cyndi Estrada. Mrs. Estrada is currently the secretary to the assistant principal, and is the first Falcon that our Utt community greets when they enter our office door.

Mrs. Estrada has held her current position for over 25 years, and has supported seven assistant principals. She also plays an integral role in supporting the Utt ASB with their scheduling and finances.

One of her colleagues says that, "Cyndi is always ready to drop what she is doing to lend a helping hand to help teachers, students and parents." The colleague goes on to say, "She builds bridges in the community, and is a Falcon through and through!"

When asked about how it feels to have served our Falcon community for so many years of dedication, Cyndi says, "I love our Utt community and wouldn't want to work anywhere else."



The Utt Falcon office staff celebrated their Classified Employee of the Year, Cyndi Estrada, and her many years of dedicated service. Pictured from left to right, Principal Heather Bojorquez, secretary Cyndi Estrada, Assistant Principal Dawn Lam, community liaison Adriana Herring, data clerk Jennifer Lindquist, counselor Claudia Sermeno and school secretary Clarisa Torres.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Helping Students Succeed

Marjorie Veeh Elementary School's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year is paraeducator Nicole Hodge! Mrs. Hodge has worked in Tustin Unified School District for four years—all at Veeh during this time.

As a paraeducator, Mrs. Hodge has done a wonderful job supporting students and has been a great help to teachers. She is hardworking, helpful, smart and compassionate. She goes above and beyond in her duties and not only helps students in her class but all of the students and teachers as well. You will often find her during first recess and lunchtime organizing and participating in fun, engaging activities with the students. She is compassionate, extremely capable and kind. She is passionate about providing students an opportunity to succeed in school—she even stays after school and tutors students. The students and staff just adore her!



Veeh Classified Employee of the Year Nicole Hodge receives flowers, balloons and an award from Principal Rafael Plascencia.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Favorite Teachers Honored

Tustin Unified School District students honored their favorite teachers with an essay, poem or letter in the recent “My Favorite Teacher” contest. Community members, led by Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board Member Kathy Ellis, reviewed the submissions and determined the award winners.

The winners are as follows: Lucas Canlas (kindergarten) honored teacher Kelsey Negrete; Ava Canlas (first grade) and Jacob Do (second grade) honored teacher Christy Platt; Kathryn Loutzenheiser (third grade) honored teacher Joseph Baran; Shining Chen (fifth grade) honored teacher Allison Lindauer; Mariah Mendoza (seventh grade) honored teacher Tammy Domokos; and Emerson Schonfelder (eighth grade) honored teacher Amy Ronce.

At the “My Favorite Teacher” ceremony held at a local book store, students were invited to read their submission. Kindergartener Lucas Canlas summed up the students’ sentiment: “Thank you for being such a great teacher. I have so much fun in your class. I learn so much in your class and I am excited to go to school every day.” More photos can be found at www.tpsf.smugmug.com/Programs/FavTeach/2019/.



TUSD students recognized their favorite teachers in the Tustin Public School Foundation's “My Favorite Teacher” contest.



Ethan's Review



Ethan H.

A Curious Spark

The Wild Robot

by Peter Brown is a fun and thrilling book that is filled with adventure, action and tragedy. It is about a robot that falls off a ship and gets washed



up on a sandy beach on an island.

A curious otter and its otter friends give the robot life. The robot roams the forest on the island with a curious spark in his eyes. The animals on the island didn't know what a robot is, so they were afraid of him. The robot learned that his name was Roz and made new friends with that name. Roz learned about friendship by making new friends on his adventures. He learned about death through a tragic accident involving a family of geese. And he learned about parenting when he adopted a son and started his own family. I recommend this book to people who love adventures!

Ethan H. is a third grader. He likes math, science, reading, playing chess, and physical activities like soccer, basketball and handball.

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B is for Book



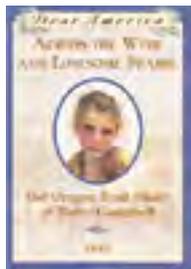
Bailey

An Oregon Tale

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie

by Kristiana Gregory
will always be my
favorite historical book!

Hattie Campbell
is going to Oregon!
Before she knows, she
is traveling the Oregon



Trail with 8 grueling months ahead:
Rivers to cross, Indians, snakes,
poisonous vegetables, it has it all! People everywhere are
dropping like flies and everyone must fight to survive. Will
Hattie fall among the fear, the blistering heat, and the
losses? Or will she emerge at the end with memories, a new
land and heart in Oregon?

Told as a diary, *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie*
is an entertaining way of learning about the Oregon Trail. I
really love how the author describes events, I feel like I'm in
the story.

I give this book 5 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.



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Yoona's Review



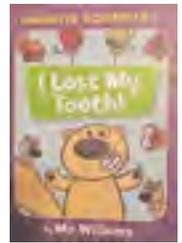
Yoona C.

A Funny Story

Have you recently lost your baby tooth? In *I lost my tooth!* by Mo Willems, all the squirrels except Zoom Squirrel thought that when Zoom Squirrel said he

lost his baby tooth, it was a real baby. So then they went to go look to find the baby tooth.

Then Zoom Squirrel found his tooth. When Zoom Squirrel showed his tooth, the other squirrels got gifts for the baby tooth. Do they finally know what a baby tooth is? I like this book because it has jokes and makes me laugh. It also has cute drawings and some facts about teeth at the end.



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.



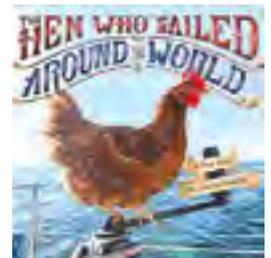
Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

A True Story

The Hen Who Sailed Around the World by Guirec Soudée is an amazing true story where a boy describes his voyage around the world with his brave and adorable red hen



named Monique. They took three and half years to complete the journey. This book talks about the special bond between animals and the humans. The book is full of interesting photographs and maps that helped me to visualize their exciting trip. My favorite photograph is the one taken by a drone when they were in the middle of icebergs!

After reading this book, I also want to have a pet and go on a long sailing trip! This book is a must read for all ages.

Manhar M. is in Kindergarten. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

Tara's Review



Tara Z.

Eye-opening, Transcending, and Lovely

Five Feet Apart by Rachel Lippencott is one of those wonderful coming of age novels, that will leave you smiling, laughing, or shedding a tear or two at one point or another. The story



follows the life of Stella Grant, a cystic fibrosis patient who is on the brink of becoming 18. Stella is the epitome of order, and her life, like that of many other CF patients, depends on a mixture of factors, but one of the most important is following a medical regime, filled with meticulous patterns of med dosages and activities. For Stella, following her regime, means keeping her shattered family together. However, when Will, another 17-year-old CF patient, arrives at Saint Grace's Hospital, things change for both young CFers, and for once in their lives, they have come to the realization that they will not let cystic fibrosis take away everything they have got.

Tara Z. 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.

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Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Household Pet to Wild Animal

The Call of the Wild

Jack London is a classic that shows the reader how a life can change overnight. This novel is written from the perspective of Buck, a California dog, who lives a comfortable life in Santa



Clara when he is stolen and sold as a sled dog. Buck learns to adapt to his new life and overcome obstacles. He goes through many different masters as a sled dog, and makes friends and enemies along the way. Through it all, the wild calls.

Jack London is an extraordinary writer who is best known for his books, *Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *The Sea-Wolf*. London is also widely known for his naturalist writing style. I rate this book four stars, because although it was a good read, it could be a little morbid at times. However, I would still recommend this novel to anyone 4th grade and up.

Keira is a 7th grader who loves to read. She also enjoys crafts, traveling, soccer and playing with her cats. Her reviews are rated from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Isabella's Book Review

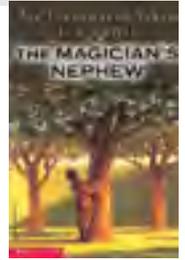


Isabella A.

Tests Your Imagination

The Magician's Nephew

by C.S Lewis is about Polly, Digory, and Andrew. Andrew makes gold rings that take you to other worlds, and green ones that bring you back. Polly touches the gold one and Digory follows. On



their way back, they encounter a witch who destroys her world and hitch-hikes back with them. In London, Andrew becomes her slave and the witch causes chaos. They get the witch into what they thought was her world, only to find the world is becoming Narnia. Narnia has talking animals and the witch flees north. The lion in charge gives the cabbie man and his wife a special job, while Digory and Polly search for a cure for Digory's mother.

What will become of Narnia and the outsiders?

I rate this book 5 stars because of the excitement and how it makes the reader (no matter how old) use their imagination.

Isabella is a 7th grader and just published her first short story in a school anthology of young authors after winning first prize with her work. She rates books on a 5 star scale.



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Justin's Review



Justin K.

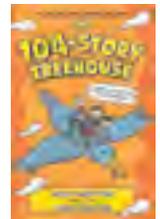
Amazing!

Have you ever thought about living in a super tall building? What if it's taller than 100 stories? What if it's a treehouse, not a brick house? What if it has lots of mysterious rooms like Mt. Everest, a 2-dollar shop with nothing OVER 2-dollar things, a 2-million-dollar shop with nothing UNDER 2-million-dollar things (hmm?), a burp bank you can pay with burps, a mighty fortress reinforced with extra strong fortress reinforcer and so on and so on (too many rooms I can write here!).

One of my favorite authors, Andy Griffiths, just published *The 104-story Treehouse* with even more great ideas since the first book about the 13-story treehouse. I can't imagine what would be the final book, the 1300-story treehouse or the 13000000000-story treehouse or what?

I have to rate this book 5 out of 5 stars again because it is still funny.

Justin is a first grader. He likes reading, writing and making his own comic books. He also likes playing piano & chess, swimming, baseball and hockey.



Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

Making Video Games

As a young person that's going into the field of game development, it's surprisingly hard to find any sources to look to for guidance. Fortunately, however, I had the luck to come across this book at my local library: *The Ultimate Guide to Video Game Writing and Design* by Flint Dille and John Zuur Platten.



This text tells you all you could ever hope to learn about video game creation—character development, world-building, establishing a franchise, and so much more. With special assignments and tangible activities for the reader to complete throughout the book, this flawlessly executes education on a very specific topic like I've never seen

I'd give this book 7 out of 8 Triforce shards for creativity and readability. With the help of this book, I went from having no experience with video game development to having countless pages of work done on my very first video game.

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 triforce shards with 8 being the highest

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Common Sense Media

Age for Kids to Have a Cell Phone



The right age to give kids their first cell phone is really up to parents. Age isn't as important as a kid's maturity level, ability to follow home (and their schools') rules, and their sense of responsibility. But when you hand your children cell phones, you're giving them

powerful communication and media-production tools. They can create text, images, and videos that can be widely distributed and uploaded to websites instantly. Parents really need to consider whether their kids are ready to use their phones responsibly and respectfully.

If you think your kids' technological savvy is greater than their ability to use it wisely, pay attention to the gap. You may need to say, "No, not yet."

Here are some questions to consider:

- Do your kids show a sense of responsibility, such as letting you know when they leave the house? Do they show up when they say they will?
- Do your kids tend to lose things, such as backpacks or homework folders? If so, expect they might lose an (expensive!) phone, too.
- Do your kids need to be in touch for safety reasons?
- Would having easy access to friends benefit them for social reasons?
- Do you think they'll use cell phones responsibly -- for example, not texting during class or disturbing others with their phone conversations?
- Can they adhere to limits you set for minutes talked and apps downloaded?
- Will they use text, photo, and video functions responsibly and not to embarrass or harass others?

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

Day at the Beach –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put TUSD in the subject line.

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Ryder and Gina Rae and Ana Elkins



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