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Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

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DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Fred Navarro

Newport Mesa Unified School District Board of Education approves recommendations to install fencing around the instructional areas of Adams and Victoria Elementary Schools;

action for Andersen Elementary School fencing delayed for further study

On Tuesday, November 12, 2013, the Board of Education approved recommendations to install fencing at Adams and Victoria Elementary School. The Board also agreed to undertake a more in-depth analysis of the proposal for Andersen Elementary School and to take additional community and expert testimony before finalizing its direction to district staff.

Recommended Designs for Adams and Victoria Elementary Schools: (graphics can be viewed on the district's website at: www.nmusd.us)

- Adams Elementary School – wrought iron fencing/gates in front of school and along the side of the property in accordance with immediate viewscape criteria. Playground to be completely enclosed. Field would remain unfenced in order to be available to community use after school hours.
- Victoria Elementary School – wrought iron fencing/gates in front of school and alongside of property in accordance with immediate viewscape criteria. Both playground and field to be enclosed with controlled access during the school day. Field is already fenced. Gate would be closed during school hours and open ½ hour before school and during non-school hours to be available to community access and use of field.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 18

Overcoming Language Challenges

By Julie McCormick, Principal College Park Elementary

There are now more than 25 different languages spoken by students at College Park. The students who begin school here with another language spoken at home have an extra challenge. They need to become fluent English-proficient by the time they leave elementary school, ideally by the third grade.

Each year, approximately 30 students are reclassified from English learner to Fluent English Proficient (FEP), an amazing accomplishment in itself. English learners must demonstrate high levels of proficiency in their CELDT test (the California English Language Development Test), the California Standards Test (CST), and also obtain 3's and 4's on their report cards in the areas of reading/language arts and math. We have six students who have recently reclassified as Fluent English Proficient. We congratulate these students on this great accomplishment!



Students enjoying science camp in the mountains.

Sixty-three of our sixth-graders recently attended science camp in the mountains near Angelus Oaks. This opportunity provided them with experiences in environmental classes, discovery hikes, team-building activities and many other outdoor events. They returned exhausted, but enjoyed every minute!

Students from Corona del Mar High School are partnering with College Park to provide cross-age tutors. High school students are providing these classroom tutoring services to our school's at-risk students during the afternoon, and in the after-school programs "Project Success" and Vanguard University's "Let's Read."

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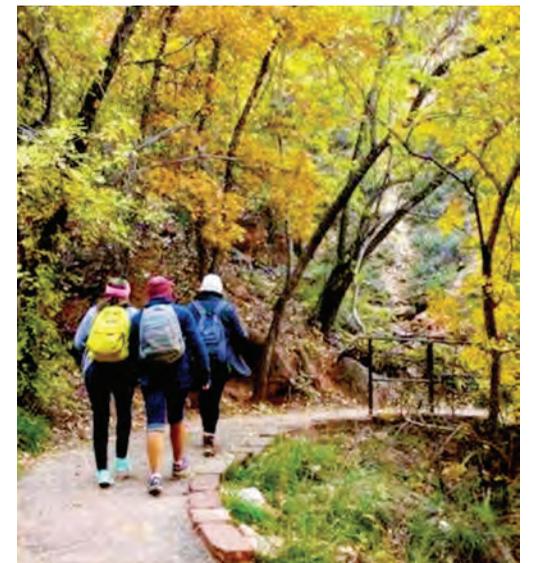


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Newport Harbor High School Field Studies



(please see page 16)



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Kay Coop
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Happy Holidays! Making healthy food choices is always important and with the holidays approaching choices are made a bit harder. Nutrition and School Health Services have informative articles in this issue to help you stay on track. Also, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center has important information regarding diabetes.

We are always mindful of the service men and women who are not home with their families while we enjoy our freedom.

Our next issue is February 5, 2014...until then Happy New Year!

School News

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Holidays with Fruits and Veggies



**Dale Ellis, R.D.,
M.B.A., S.N.S.**
Director



Elena Lee
Intern

By Elena Lee, Intern

Make half your holiday plate fruits and vegetables!

Including plenty of fruits and vegetables is a good way to add nutrients to your diet. It is also a great way to add variety and flavor without extra calories. The fiber and water content of produce help to make you feel full and delay hunger between meals. Eating fruits and vegetables may lower our risk for several diseases, including heart disease and cancer.

Here are some ideas to meet the half-plate goal:

Breakfast: Make a smoothie by combining frozen mixed berries, banana, low-fat milk and silken tofu in a blender; then, blend until smooth.

Lunch: Try sautéing bell pepper and corn. Then, add green onion and tomato until heated through. Place low-fat cheese and sautéed vegetables on tortillas, and heat until the cheese is melted and the tortilla is crisp and lightly browned.

Dinner: Cook chicken with a fruity twist! Stir-fry sliced apples, onions and one-quarter cup of apple juice with mixed spice in a pan with a little olive oil. Stir in cranberries and a sprinkle of flour; then add lightly browned chicken tenders and add one-quarter cup of water. Cover and cook until the sauce thickens and the chicken cooks thoroughly.

Buy a variety of produce so you will not get bored. All produce counts, so add frozen, canned and dried forms of fruits and vegetables to your shopping list. If you do not meet your half-plate goal at one meal, do so at the next.

Happy Holidays!

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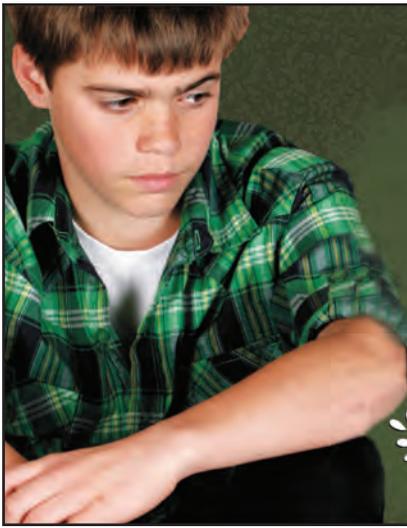
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Food Allergies at School



Merry Grasska
RN, MPH,
FNP-C
Coordinator

Food allergy is a significant medical condition which affects up to 15 million people in the United States, including 1 in 13 children. According to recent studies and the Centers for Disease Control, up to 18 percent of children with food allergy have had reactions at school. Learning all we can about the condition is the key to staying safe and living well.

There are a few basic measures to safeguard students at school. The most obvious is to avoid the allergy-causing food. You might wonder how to accomplish this task at school. Parents should work with their doctors and school nurses to implement a school plan so the allergy-causing food may be avoided.

Schools are eager to ensure the health and safety of the entire school community. The school nurse and other staff work with students and families to develop a plan if one is not already in place. For example, an area during meal-time may be designated as "allergy-aware" and allergy-causing food items will not be in that area. Other important measures include student, parent, and staff education, hand washing, and guidelines for foods intended for class celebrations. Having the child's emergency medication at school to control symptoms is also recommended, and allergy alert identification bracelets can be helpful.

School health personnel are focused on health promotion and disease prevention. Please communicate health concerns, especially allergies, to the school nurse.

There are a few basic measures to safeguard students at school.

The most obvious is to avoid the allergy-causing food.



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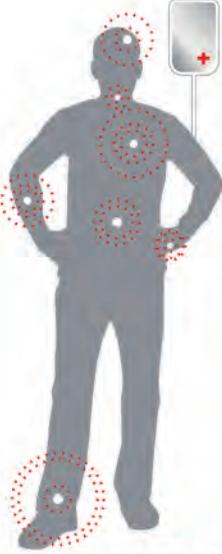
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Could you be diabetic and not know it?



Laura Garcia
RN, CVN, BSN,
PHN, CDE, CPT
Diabetes Program
Coordinator

Most people have heard of diabetes. You might even know someone who has the disease, which affects more than 26 million people in the United States. What you might not know is that about seven million of these diabetics do not even know they are sick.

Diabetes develops when the pancreas does not make enough insulin (Type 1) or the body cannot use its own insulin as well as it should (Type 2). This causes sugars to build up in the blood and can lead to serious health problems, including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, lower-extremity amputations and even death. Between 90 and 95 percent of all people who have been diagnosed with diabetes have Type 2.

One of the reasons diabetes goes undiagnosed in so many people is that Type 2 diabetes develops slowly. Many people will have this form of diabetes for as long as 10 years without noticing any symptoms of the disease, which may appear harmless and may vary from person to person. These symptoms include:

- increased thirst
- frequent urination
- flu-like symptoms
- weight gain or loss
- blurred vision
- slow-healing sores or frequent infections
- nerve damage
- red, swollen, tender gums.

Diabetes risk factors include being overweight, family history, inactive lifestyle, increasing age, genetics, high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure. If you have risk factors for diabetes and are experiencing any of the signs and symptoms of the disease, see your doctor immediately. Do not assume your doctor will automatically test you for diabetes. Doctors do not usually screen for diabetes during routine visits.

There is currently no cure for diabetes. However, the disease can be managed by monitoring blood sugar levels (The American Diabetes Association recommends an A1C goal of <7%) and maintaining a healthy lifestyle comprised of diet, exercise and a healthy weight. Medications may also be used when these treatments are not sufficient. Diabetics who follow these treatments can often lead relatively normal lives.

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Dr. Shannon Bray
Principal

Embracing the Common Core State Standards

At Andersen Elementary School, we are focused on preparing for and the implementing the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Andersen staff have been preparing for this transition for the last few years with a variety of staff development opportunities provided by the district. Teachers are delivering instruction and providing student learning in a multi-disciplinary approach through the use of teacher created units of study aligned to the CCSS. These units have students actively engaged in their learning through collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and the use of technology. Student learning is soaring to new heights.

Additionally, the teachers are actively involved in a number of Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) trainings and workshops. By the end of this school year, all Andersen teachers will be GATE certificated. Teachers are also receiving professional development through the implementation of a new, district-adopted math program, Swun Math. This program involves a very strategic lesson design, which the teachers and students have embraced. Students are no longer just providing answers to math problems but are explaining their thinking process for solving problems, which is directly tied to the CCSS.

In October, Andersen held an evening parent informational meeting on CCSS that was well attended by our community. The purpose of the meeting was to educate our parents on what the CCSS are and the plan for transitioning and implementing the CCSS. Andersen is very proud of the spirit of continuous learning of all members of our Triangle of Success: students, parents and teachers.

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • <http://backbay.nmusd.us>



Debbie Lucker-Davis
Principal

The Alternative Education Center

Back Bay High School students have completed their first trimester of work and are well into their second. Trimesters allow students to earn an extra 15 credits per year without compromising the integrity of the California State Standards. These extra credits help students catch up on failed classes from past semesters.

Back Bay students had an opportunity to attend a Career and Community Service Fair held on site. They also completed career-interest inventories and participated in a Road Trip Nation assembly. Road Trip Nation is a career-focused group of young adults who are committed to helping students follow their passions and talents into well-paying jobs. Seniors also took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) survey to explore potential military careers.

Monte Vista students are finishing up their semester and have been completing one class every three weeks. These students work from home and complete course work independently. They are required to attend school weekly for two hours. During their weekly appointments, these students review their completed work and work ahead on the next week assignments. Independent study is perfect for students who work full time, travel out of the area, are suffering with physical or mental handicaps, or have young children. Independent study offers students an opportunity to access course work and meet graduation requirements without daily attendance.

Both schools accept registrations throughout the year. If you want more information please contact you high school counselor or call Kelly Davis, Administrative Assistant, at (949) 515-3389.

Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • <http://adams.nmusd.us>



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Fall Family Dance Night

Adams Elementary School held its annual Fall Family Dance Night on October 11th. One hundred students, parents, and staff members danced the night away! Two popular dances of the night were "The Chicken Dance" and "The Electric Slide Dance." Three lucky dads were chosen to participate in a "Wrap Your Dad in Toilet Paper" contest. The disc jockey gave out many cool prizes and even turned the microphone over to dancers so that they could entertain the crowd. Guests bought neon necklaces, light-up rings, and delicious pizza, too. The enthusiastic dancers were sad when the night came to a close. Thank you to all who attended and to the Adams School P.T.A. for another wonderful Fall Family Dance Night!

California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • <http://california.nmusd.us>



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

Halloween Hoot

Our annual Halloween Hoot was a huge success and a great event that brought our school community together for an evening full of fun and excitement. Parents, children, friends, and neighbors all came out to partake in the Hoot. Our PTA and CSEF prepared and put on a fantastic evening that included carnival games, cake walks, great food, and a spooky haunted house.

We wrapped up our Halloween week with our annual parade, which featured a 6th grade student as Abraham Lincoln, and many more.

Be sure to mark your calendars for California School's Show Choir and Cougar Band second annual holiday concert on December 18th and 19th at 7:00 PM in our MPR. Last year the students put on a great show and we are looking forward to this year's presentation. We hope to see you there.



6th grade student Dylan as Abraham Lincoln

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

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Julie McCormick
Principal

Overcoming Language Challenges

Please see our article on the front page.

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

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Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal
7-8 Grade



Dr. Phil D'Agostino
Principal
9-12 Grade

Investigating a Crime Scene

The DELTA pathway aims to increase and encourage student access to advanced STEM courses, plus real-life experience with universities and local businesses, and exciting, cutting-edge information and technology.

In the seventh-grade science class, DELTA honors students recently used science and the power of deduction to solve a crime. The crime scene consisted of a chalk outline of the victim, a stuffed Frog Prince surrounded

by blood, fingerprints and shoeprint evidence. Two teachers and a staff member volunteered to be suspects, while other teachers volunteered to be witnesses to the crime.

The students had to conduct interviews, collect and analyze evidence, and then write a report that supported who they believed committed the crime. Evidence analysis included traditional fingerprinting, DNA fingerprinting, shoe impression comparison, and pollen identification. Everyone enjoyed their roles in this hands-on forensic science activity.



Students access & gather evidence from the crime scene

Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • <http://davismagnet.nmusd.us>



Christy Flores
Principal

A Flood of Helpfulness

Earlier this fall, Davis Magnet School students spearheaded a fund-raising effort to help another elementary school located in Colorado. Mrs. Flores grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado. When she learned of the damage caused by severe flooding to her hometown and school district, Poudre School District, she knew that this was an opportunity for Davis students to do the right thing and help others.

Cache La Poudre Elementary (CLPE) School was the hardest hit school within Poudre School District. One of their many needs was to replace their physical education and recess equipment that washed away during the floods. Mrs. Flores presented a challenge to her students: Work around the house or local community to earn \$5, which would then be donated towards CLPE. The students also wrote friendly letters to the students and flood victims.

The Davis Magnet School students did not disappoint or back down from this challenge. Within a week's time, students did chores, washed cars, pulled weeds for neighbors, picked up trash along the beach, and even held bake sales to raise money. A care package was mailed off to CLPE with a check for \$1,138, along with hundreds of friendly and encouraging letters to our new friends.

The principal of CLPE happily reported that the donated money has gone to good use. Students are now able to enjoy their recess and physical education classes again thanks to new jump ropes, soccer balls, footballs, handballs, tetherballs, cones, flags, and other basic outdoor equipment provided by the efforts of Davis students.

Corona del Mar *High School (7-12)*

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • <http://cdm.nmusd.us>



Guy Olguin
Principal
7-8 Grade



Kathy Scott
Principal
9-12 Grade

High School Technology Initiative

By Daniel Patterson

Corona del Mar, in direct partnership with the CdM Foundation, is committed to providing its students with a 21st-century learning model. Our aim is to effectively engage all students by introducing proper and relevant technologies in combination with adequate infrastructure and training.

Our children are products of a technological society, and they use the new mediums in their real-world lives every day. The goal is to help students develop research skills, explore technology beyond the regular social media, and support our transition to the Common Core learning goals and assessments. By seeking to illustrate the educational power of a 21st-century learning model, we want our students' learning environment to more adequately mirror the world around them.

CdM will thoughtfully begin this implementation process by integrating class sets of iPads into specific test classrooms. The growth of this program will progress carefully, but we will also maintain a sense of curricular urgency. Our established PLC process will aid in the training, planning, execution, analysis and revision of this 21st-century learning model. We strive to implement a curriculum that will not only fulfill the conversion to the Common Core Standards, but will also be an example of innovation, enrichment and data-driven instruction.

We envision the eventual incorporation of viable, useable and relevant technologies into every classroom on campus. These resources, in combination with the proper applications, trainings and curricular model, will transform our daily instruction and assessments, and can properly engage, educate and address all types of learners.

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Kathy Slawson
Principal

Tools for Tomorrow

Tools for Tomorrow is a program for our Early College High School seniors. Interested students can participate in a financial literacy program presented by a local investment management company. Since 2011, this company has been providing employee volunteers who cover such topics as interview skills, understanding budgeting, the banking system, financial markets, and insurance.

In the program, students can “buy” stock that they monitor over a 12-week time period. Each student researches their company to understand the fluctuations in the price of the stock. Random students are then selected each week to give a presentation and explain their findings.

The volunteers lead our students through activities that illustrate their lessons, such as bargaining for commodities, or negotiating loans for small businesses. Participating seniors are invited to visit the company’s headquarters at the conclusion of the program to meet the vice presidents, see the trading floor, and be recognized for completing the program.

Program graduates often return to our school to tell us how beneficial this experience was in their later lives.

Estancia *High School (9-12)*

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • <http://estancia.nmusd.us>



Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

To Be Eagles or Not to Be Eagles—That is the Question

In October, 70 Estancia seniors went to see a live theater production of William Shakespeare’s play, *Hamlet*. The students braved the afternoon freeway rush-hour traffic on a school night on charter buses to an LA theater to see the classic play performed by an all-female cast.

The Los Angeles Women’s Shakespeare Company put on a brilliant performance that all students enjoyed. This was the first trip to a professional theater for many of the students. Students were overheard saying “Amazing!” “Wow!” and “Unbelievable!” as they exited the theater. The house manager stopped Mr. Yeomans, one of our faculty members, and asked him where these awesome young people came from. The actors and staff were impressed by the behavior of the students before, during and after the show.

Estancia has now been asked back to the theater to see *In My Corner*, written and produced by Joe Orrach, at no charge.



Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

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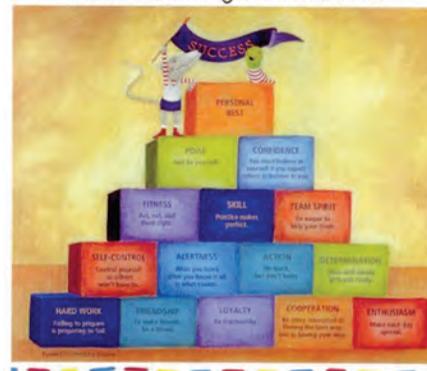
Cheryl Beck
Principal

Positive Behavior System

Eastbluff has a strong commitment to teaching our students strong character traits and displaying positive scholarly behaviors. This is achieved through the focus on our schoolwide positive reinforcement and character development through our John Wooden Pyramid of Pride Program. Eastbluff School has a positive schoolwide behavior system that clearly defines expected behaviors and procedures in all the different settings on campus. We reinforce our high expectations on an individual basis with our pride tickets and pride awards.

We also continue to fill one another’s buckets with positive words and actions. We learned that everyone has a bucket inside him or her, and this is really our self-esteem. This is modeled after *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* and *How Full Is Your Bucket?* The five main strategies we are implementing are *prevent bucket dipping*, *shine a light on what is right*, *make best friends*, *give unexpectedly* and *reverse the Golden Rule*. We are excited to be Eastbluff bucket fillers!

Coach Wooden’s Pyramid to Success



Our Friday Flag Decks are a time to celebrate and recognize students for their individual and class successes, through Pride Tickets and Classroom Flags earned. It is so exciting to see our students strive to be the best that they can be and work together cooperatively to achieve their goals! We are so proud of our Eastbluff Students! Parents and community members, we invite you to join us in our Friday flag deck celebrations, which begin each morning at 8:40 am.

Horace Ensign *Intermediate School (7-8)*

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • <http://ensign.nmusd.us>



Dr. Gloria Duncan
Principal

Visitors from Okazaki, Japan

By Charlie Sandy and Erica Rogers, Writers – Seabee Buzz

On September 30, 2013, guests from Okazaki, Japan visited Ensign Intermediate School. When they arrived, Dr. Duncan welcomed the guests in English and Mrs. Cross welcomed them, quite impressively, in Japanese.

Two boys performed some karate moves and even broke wooden boards with their bare hands. After their karate performance, some of our own Ensign students were chosen to play games with our guests. The Japanese students gave our students homemade toys that fly high into the air, and another group of students played a game with a ball attached to a hammer called kendama. They were lucky enough to be able to keep the toys. Near the end of the assembly, our guests performed a dance for us which meant “follow your dreams.”

We are very fortunate to be able to have an exchange program with Okazaki, Japan where students can learn about a new culture.



Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • <http://harborview.nmusd.us>



Todd Schmidt
Principal

Feeling for Others

Over the last several months, our Harbor View students have been given several opportunities to understand the importance of empathy.

In early October, following the devastating floods which ravaged several elementary schools in Boulder, Colorado, several of our students and their parents organized a coin drive to help raise money to replace school supplies at Crest View Elementary. Through sheer determination, these Harbor View students collected over \$2,500 in change for the Crest View community!

In addition, our students were tasked with collecting cans to help the Second Harvest Food Bank. Again, the Harbor View community responded to the call by collecting nearly 1,500 cans! In addition, the HVE community came together to use these cans to build a Viking ship to showcase what was collected.

Later this month, our students and families will have an opportunity to help contribute to the literacy needs of our sister school, Pomona Elementary. Also in December, in conjunction with our Parent-Faculty Organization, we will have a chance to adopt a needy family during the holiday season.

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • <http://lincoln.nmusd.us>



Carrie Gammel
Principal

Making Healthy Choices

This year Lincoln Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week with class competitions, character education assemblies, and a central focus around making healthy choices. Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) is a group of student leaders in fourth through sixth grades who work to make the school climate positive and welcoming for everyone. PAL students were responsible for decorating the campus and promoting the healthy choices message through banners, signage, and decorations.

“Sock It To Bad Choices” was a classroom competition that gained high interest from students and staff. Everyone at Lincoln had the chance to wear crazy socks and raise awareness to the message of making healthy choices. “Stomp Out Bad Choices” was an interactive musical chairs class competition that brought students together during recess for a fun way to bring attention to the healthy choices message.

PAL is working on future school-wide activities to perpetuate a positive climate at Lincoln.



Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • <http://kaiser.nmusd.us>



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Gassy Dinosaurs and Old Rocks

During a recent classroom visit, enthusiastic fourth-graders taught me that some dinosaurs—the bigger ones, I hope—released over 2,600 liters of methane gas per day! Apparently, the planet was 18 degrees warmer because of all that methane in the atmosphere. In Mrs. Blackwell’s class, students were of the opinion that even though it would be great to see living dinosaurs, things might be a bit stinky and definitely too hot. Students backed up their inferences by citing the articles they read. Kaiser is moving full-steam ahead with making Common Core State Standards interesting and fun!

In my office sits a beautiful aubergine crystal, a generous gift from a certain young man named Jacob. He unearthed this at Kaiser’s recent Gem-O-Rama, an annual extravaganza hosted by Kaiser’s science team. Students, teachers and families camped out in the desert and dug for dirt-encrusted gems and geodes. They returned with wind-chapped cheeks, mud in their boots, treasures in their pockets and memories to last a lifetime. One exhilarated student declared his desire to become a “rockologist” when he grows up!

Thanks to the inspiration of Kaiser teachers and the support of the Kaiser-Woodland Schools Foundation, the whole world is open to exploration and discovery. Whether it’s gassy dinosaurs or hidden gems, Kaiser students connect the past to the present to the future. It’s a great time to be a student at Kaiser Elementary School!



Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • <http://killybrooke.nmusd.us>



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Preparing Every Student for College

At Killybrooke School, we are a No Excuses University. We promote a comprehensive model of college readiness to all students the moment they begin elementary school. Students, staff, and parents are committed that: every child will be highly proficient in reading, writing, and math; every child will be challenged with enriching learning opportunities; and helping children develop strong character is important.

We work diligently to incorporate the message that students are college-bound. Every classroom has adopted a university and proudly displays its flag and a sign to remind the children that they will graduate from a four-year university. We start each day with a cheer to reinforce the message that “Killybrooke is college-bound.”

Our students embrace the goal that they are all going to college and are beginning to consider which colleges they’d like to attend and their ultimate career goals. Jared in fourth grade wants to attend University of California, Los Angeles, and become a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. Jasmine in second grade plans to attend Stanford University to become a doctor. Caleb is a second-grade student and wants to go to college so that he can become a Lego designer. Lindsay in kindergarten plans to attend University of Hawaii to become a teacher.

At Killybrooke, we are proud to help motivate children to excel in their education today and connect their success to their goals for higher education and careers.

Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • <http://mariners.nmusd.us>



Pam Coughlin
Principal

Mariners Recycles

Mariners Elementary School is currently in its second year of our three-year partnership with Green Up Our Schools. Schools accepted into the Green Up Our Schools program receive \$2,000 over three years and personalized assistance in achieving their recycling goals.

This year, Mariners Elementary has two new recycling goals: Place and utilize a scrap paper bin in every classroom and increase the number of classrooms using reusable party kits.

In other recycling news, our current vendor accepts only plastic beverage bottles and aluminum beverage cans. You can bag them together and place them in the rolling bin behind the cafeteria during school hours. In addition, we continue to recycle newspapers in the bins in the school's front parking lot.

Thank you for "being green" by recycling and supporting our school!



Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • <http://nce.nmusd.us>



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

Recognizing Honorable, Organized and Wise Behavior

The Coyote Store had its grand opening this year at Newport Coast. This means our teachers have been recognizing honorable, organized and wise behavior in their classrooms and on campus through the "Catch-a-Coyote" incentive program!

With Coyote pride, our students can now join their fellow classmates and obtain a special reward for exemplary behavior. Smiling students, staff members and parent volunteers are all having a great time with this program.

This incentive is part of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a researched-based program that was developed over 20 years ago through the University of Oregon. Currently, the PBIS behavioral structure is used in over 18,000 elementary, middle, high, and alternative schools throughout the nation.



PBIS schools value their role in teaching behavior. Personnel, physical resources, processes, and structures are put into place to address the specific needs of children at each grade level and/or school.

Newport Coast Elementary School is growing honorable, organized and wise leaders!

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6965 • <http://newportel.nmusd.us>



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

Art, Music, and Celebration!

Our teachers are enjoying integrating music and art within our curriculum as we learn and celebrate together. During our school-wide flag deck celebrations, our grade levels are excited to perform for the entire school. It is such a treat to have family and friends join us as our students showcase their talents. We are truly looking forward to our winter celebration.



Our students are engaged in learning at high levels. Our staff has worked very collaboratively in planning and implementing our learning rotations. The teachers believe all children can accelerate with the right support. Every day, students in kindergarten through sixth grade have the benefit of rotating to learning groups to get customized instruction in language arts and math. During this time, support staff works with small groups of children to provide them with the focused instruction they need. It's rewarding to see how much children enjoy learning.

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • <http://newportheights.nmusd.us>



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal

Building Community

During the first two months of school, Newport Heights hosted two wonderful community-building events. In September, our PTA and Foundation hosted a Community Welcome Family Movie Night. Our Foundation fired up the grills, flipped some burgers and hot dogs, and provided a great dinner. The PTA provided the popcorn and movie in our MPR. It was a packed house and a great evening.

The community reunited in October for our annual Fall Festival. The PTA hosted a fantastic evening filled with games, costumes, food and fun. Students and families dressed up in costumes and had the opportunity to run through a giant inflatable maze, have their faces painted, participate in a cakewalk, and pose in the photo booth. Newport Heights alumni from Ensign and Newport Harbor returned to help run games and activities.



We're grateful to our PTA and Foundation for hosting wonderful events that brought our community closer together.

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Costa Mesa Library Foundation

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STEM

By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

Getting young learners interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and improving STEM education are national priorities. A poll of library visitors (not in Costa Mesa) indicated there is a community interest in music and musical performances, which research has shown has a cognitive link with math.

In a library using the STEM program, one astronomy event led youth on a walk through the community, using local landmarks to learn about relative distances in space. A stargazing program introduced learners to the transit of Venus. The library featured several lecturers on various science topics and music appreciation. A new science fiction book club included discussion of science topics, and a concert on the library lawn helped bring in community members who rarely visit the library.

In addition to drawing new visitors, these programs spur new curiosity. Reference inquiries increase, questions about technology and computers rise and research requests in general increase substantially.

It's time for Costa Mesa to provide a new central library that can accommodate the needs of a STEM Program.

For more information, visit our website.

Newport Beach Public Library

1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/171-3800 • www.newportkids.org

Spotlight on National Geographic



Evelyn Rogers
Children's Librarian

Explore your world with Nat Geo! National Geographic Kids is the Newport Beach Public Library's newest database for children. Its kid-friendly interface lists three main sections, with sample images to direct children in their research with pictures, books and magazines. There are also links to browse magazines and explore topics, as well as a search box. Let's take a closer look at the three main sections.

The pictures option offers 500 images from which to choose. Use them for school reports, or browse for fun to see subjects from all over the world. This includes, but is not limited to, people (mostly children), wildlife, natural features (such as mountains), historic places, and technology.

The books option contains a collection of National Geographic books for children, in their entirety. Read great nonfiction books, including such series as *Little Kids*, *Readers*, *Kids Everything*, and *Face to Face with Animals*. This is an especially great resource, as these books are always accessible through the database, even if the physical books are checked out from the library.

The popular *National Geographic Kids* magazine is also viewable in full color and full text. Issues range from 2009 to the present, with a three-month delay. Enjoy *National Geographic Kid's* award-winning photography and fascinating articles on nature and the world around us.

Visit www.newportkids.org for access to the National Geographic Kids database, as well as all the other great databases the library has to offer. These are available in the library, or from your home with a NBPL card.

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It's so hard to watch your child struggle. It's harder still not knowing why.

"We took away his video games. Then his cell phone. But nothing we did motivated our son Dillon to study more or do better in school.

Despite all our efforts, he simply couldn't do it.

It hurt to listen to him read, or to watch him struggle for hours over homework. By the time Dillon reached high school, he seemed ticked off most of the time.

He was acting out in class. He was disrespectful at school and at home. I'd tell him to study for a test and he'd refuse, saying, "I don't have to study. I understood the homework."

But how was I supposed to believe him when he failed every test?

The turning point came when we got him tested at LearningRx.

And suddenly everything made sense!

One of Dillon's brain skills called auditory processing was really weak, ranking in the 9th percentile. And since auditory processing is foundational for reading, no wonder homework took forever!

His long-term and working memory skills were also weak. In other words, he'd been telling

us the truth! He really had understood the concepts as he learned them; he just couldn't hang on to them.

No wonder my son was frustrated and mad at the world. And we had not only doubted what he'd been telling us, we'd accused him of being lazy!

Within weeks of starting brain training, Dillon was spending less time on homework. Midway through the program, we saw C's and D's turning into A's and B's.

"...what I really loved was that Dillon became happier and more confident. Suddenly he didn't have to fight so hard."

But what I really loved was that Dillon became happier and more confident. Suddenly he didn't have to fight so hard. His literature teacher told me Dillon

was like a completely different kid. In chemistry, he did so well he was asked to tutor other kids.

He told me, "Mom, this stuff is easy." I'd never heard that before!

By the time Dillon finished the program at LearningRx, he had gained 39 percentile points in auditory processing and 33 percentile

points in long-term memory. His executive processing speed—good for planning, paying attention and follow through—showed the biggest gain, jumping 56 points from the 23rd to the 79th percentile!!

His final year of high school, Dillon took tough classes he never would have attempted before brain training, like honors chemistry and an advanced calculus class.

To this day he'll try something new and say, "Mom, before LearningRx I couldn't have done that." And you know what? I believe him.

—Shannon, Dillon's mother



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Note-ables

A Gift for Sophie



Kate Karp

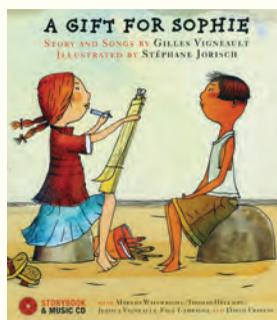
Quebecois poet and songwriter Gilles Vigneault has created a multilayered literary experience in *A Gift for Sophie*. The storybook with primitive watercolor illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch and a music CD set comprise a tale of friendship across the ages. Seven-year-old Sophie loves to draw and share her art with her best friend and soul mate, Emilio, and her ancient great-uncle, Tom. The gifts Sophie receives from these dear people tie in to the wisdom that “Old Man Tom,” as he is known, passes on to his little niece when he passes on himself. Sophie comes to understand and use this wisdom in a delightful way when she and Emilio encounter a mystery.

The story, translated from the original French, is told in a lilting, evocative manner. The narrative on the CD carries the engagement further—the songs are grouped at the end and so don't interrupt the storyline; instead, they peel back the layers of each character or incident to reveal its essence. The musicians and artists, including Canadian folk-rock singer Martha Wainwright, expose the story's undercurrent with voice, woodwind, accordion, and all sorts of string and percussion. Melody lines transport the listeners to a café in southern France, the center of a folk dance, the psyche of a cat.



A Gift for Sophie evoked in me all of this and also a nostalgic memory from across my own years: me on the floor next to my little suitcase 78 rpm player listening to records about Tubby the Tuba, Peter and the Wolf, and the Churkendoose, reading the storybooks that accompanied them. See what this lovely set does for you.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



A Gift for Sophie 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 **Sophie** in the subject line)

Entries must be received by

January 15, 2014

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a copy of the book *A Gift for Sophie* with CD.

LITERARY	SOPHIE	PRISM
STORYBOOK	BEARD	RAINBOW
TALE	CAT	TREASURES
FRIENDSHIP	SIR	HEART
WISDOM	EMILIO	ILLUSTRATIONS
MYSTERY	FISHING	WATERCOLOR
CHARACTER	BEACH	
GIFT	GLASS	

Congratulations to **Jonathan and Joakim Tysor**
Winners of the October Word Search Contest!



English Language Learners

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8983

English Learners



Karen Kendall
Director

We have a very active and impressive Parent Initiative. Begun by parents, our Parent Initiative boasts a brochure as well as jelly bracelets stating: "N-MUSD parent, I am doing my part!" Thus, our parents and guardians are busy learning about our educational culture and our language.

Our District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) meets once per month to help our parents navigate through these often-complex explanations. At DELAC, we are led by eight DELAC co-officers who demonstrate extraordinary leadership and vision. Throughout 2013–2014, DELAC will be treated to numerous speakers who will address parent-generated topics. On November 21, we hosted our ELAC Officers' Training prior to the DELAC meeting.

Our English learners are intent upon learning. Therefore, many activities and interventions are in place at each school to ensure that each English learner is receiving the targeted instruction he or she requires. For example, we have assessed every English learner's Instructional Reading Level in English so that we are sure to target the appropriate interventions when a student is struggling in reading. Over 600 students who are struggling with grade-level reading goals attended our Summer Reading Academy this past summer!

Further, our goal is to reclassify every English learner to Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (R-FEP). Therefore, each school is ensuring that each eligible English learner is reclassified. This is an exciting time of celebration, as 503 of our former English learners were reclassified to R-FEP by March!

We continue with our laser-like focus on student achievement for all English learners.

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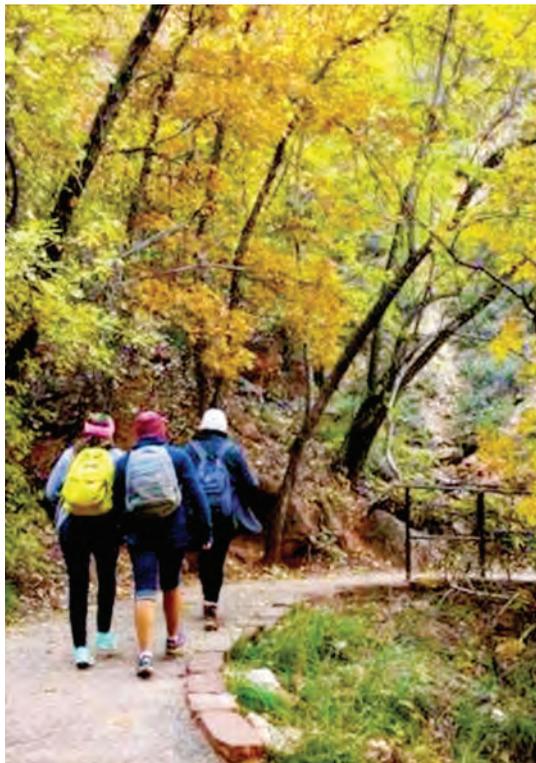
Sean Boulton
Principal

Field Studies

The Newport Harbor Science Department has been running field studies for decades. Currently, we are taking students five times each year into the field. These trips include Zion, Olympic and Yosemite national parks as well as Santa Cruz/Monterey and Costa Rica. These trips range from four to 10 days.

This is a club on campus, so all students are welcome to join and attend the trips. We study the flora, fauna and human history of the areas we visit. The best and longest-lasting benefits are new friendships and learning to deal with new and adverse conditions.

We just returned from a very successful trip to Zion. Our next trip will be to Yosemite National Park in February. If you are interested in the Yosemite trip, contact Mr. Constandse. For general trip information, contact either Mr. Smith, Mr. Johnston or Mr. Brazelton.



Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • <http://paularino.nmusd.us>



Amy Nagy
Principal

Our Instructional Assistants are Amazing!

Paularino's instructional assistants spent all day Wednesday, November 6th (a non-student day) working together to participate in professional development, share ideas, develop action plans to best meet the needs of our students, and target specific improvement strategies for our site. In addition to the trainings they participate in during non-student days, they meet monthly with administration and district specialists to identify opportunities for improvement, support each other and continue their learning. Rather than complain about a difficult day or challenging situation, Paularino's instructional assistants look at each circumstance as an opportunity to learn and grow. I could not be more impressed with their dedication and passion. They are a critical and important part of our team!



Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • <http://pomona.nmusd.us>



Megan Elsten Brown
Principal

Math Facts Frenzy

We all agree that math-facts fluency is important. Teachers are dedicated to learning new strategies teach them, and students and parents are committed to do their part as well.

In November, Pomona welcomed Si Swun from SWUN Math to demonstrate math-facts strategies to practice at home. A group of dedicated third-graders served as the demonstration class while their parents watched. Mr. Swun followed with a question-and-answer session about Common Core mathematics. His biggest piece of advice was to talk to students about math.

"We can't just be satisfied with the answer but really probe into how they got there," he said. He suggested connecting math to everyday life in meaningful ways.

As we transition into Common Core and our goal of mathematics competency for all students, we know that fact fluency is just the starting point. Once our students have a firm grasp of basic facts and number sense, the sky's the limit!



Everett A. Rea *Elementary (K-6)*

661 Hamilton Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • <http://rea.nmusd.us>



Dr. Kalim Rayburn
Principal

A Successful Season

Rea has been celebrating the power of parent engagement through a series of family activities. Teachers Kileen Cowan, Jodie Palmer, Trip Montgomery and Glenn Atkins worked collaboratively with our PTA to spearhead a couple of the events.

In October, the multipurpose room was filled with dozens of pumpkins for the first-annual Pumpkin Carving Family Night. This is where our Rea families and teachers celebrated a Halloween tradition that ended with a successful event and many happy Rea students.

Other events for the remainder of the fall season include a night of family skating and holiday art. We are excited about these fun events that will also strengthen our school community.

In other news, coaches Kim Henry, Aaron Harmon and team parent Ana Figueroa took the Rea robotics team to the First Lego League competition (FLL) called "Bots at the Beach," held in Dana Point. Both teams "Legosteins" and "Robodestructo" were challenged in this year's theme, called "Nature's Fury." Go, Sharks!



Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • <http://sonora.nmusd.us>



Christine Anderson
Principal

In Loving Memory of Samantha Nguyen

In September, the Nguyen family and the Sonora School community suffered a great loss. Samantha Nguyen, a beautiful sixth-grade student at Sonora, died from a river watercraft accident in Laughlin, Nevada.

Samantha was a stellar student and a great friend to everyone. She had a tremendous heart and zest for life. Samantha loved to read and write and excelled in everything she did.

Intellectually and creatively gifted, Samantha especially loved to write poetry. She would write very clever emails, letters and notes to the Sonora staff, which always brought big smiles and laughter because of the witty things she would say.

Samantha also loved the arts. She was extremely musical and loved to sing and dance. She was in our advanced band and show choir, and performed in our production of *Annie* last June. Last year Samantha was our student council vice president as well.

This year, since she was running for president, her classmates decided that she would be our honorary student council president for the school year.

Samantha enjoyed everything she did: band, show choir, Girl Scouts, student council, academics and social activities. She attended the National Young Scholars Leadership Academy at Occidental College the summer after third grade, and participated in the medical strand of the Academy, where she excelled. Upon invitation from the Academy she attended President Obama's 2013 Inauguration.

Samantha shared her zest for life, and brought joy and happiness to everyone she encountered. She was a huge part of our Sonora family, and will forever be in our hearts. She was truly a gift! We are grateful for having known her, and for the many blessings she gave to us all.

May our love for Samantha, shared by the entire Sonora community, bring comfort to her family, especially during this time of intense sorrow. We love you Sammy girl!



Charles W. TeWinkle *Intermediate School (7-8)*

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • <http://tewinkle.nmusd.us>



Kira Hurst
Principal

SCRATCH Deeper Than the Surface

TeWinkle has implemented two 30-minute weekly enrichment periods we call Study Group. Here, students are exposed to activities they wouldn't normally try during the regular school day.

One of the more interesting activities is SCRATCH, a project of the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab. It's provided free to any interested teacher and is run in the school's computer lab by Mrs. Kling. Students learn 21st-Century programming fundamentals by dragging color blocks of code

to create interactive games and animations. Mrs. Kling changes each week's theme and challenges students through direct instruction, programming challenges and experimentation.

SCRATCH's learning environment fosters creativity, logical thinking and problem solving. Students increase their digital-technology fluency, and their ability to work through the design process increases with their knowledge. Ultimately, they end up with a set of skills that are extremely relevant to future academic needs.

Of course, more enrichment activities are offered during the Study Group rotation, but SCRATCH is by far one of the most popular.

Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • <http://victoria.nmusd.us>



Dr. Linda Tenno
Principal

Drug-Free Is Better

Victoria celebrated Red Ribbon Week with a whole lineup of fun activities. The PTA joined in to make it a great week. On Monday, each child was given a wristband and made a pledge to "Just Say No." Each classroom made a banner promoting being drug free. A parade was held with the banners at flag deck for all to see.

The fun activities of the week included dressing up each day in a different theme. Tuesday was "Peace Out to Drugs," and



students wore '70s attire. Wednesday was "We Rule in Red," and we wore as much red as we could. Thursday, we dressed like pirates and chanted "Argh! I'll walk the plank before I do drugs!" Friday, we decided that "A Drug-Free Life Rocks," and everyone dressed like a rock star. It was a great week, and students definitely and unanimously decided that drug-free is better.

Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • <http://whittier.nmusd.us>



Scott Wilcox
Principal

FUN-draiser

Most people would not consider the Whittier Elementary School teacher's lounge a scary place, but in October it was transformed into a spooky haunted house full of ghoulish zombies and freaky monsters (also known as sixth-graders).

As students, family, and friends traversed the creepy campus, things turned from frightening to fun. PTA parents scared up yummy snacks, and staff members and parents manned booths that included pumpkin decorating, face painting, a cake walk, and a photo booth.

It was no trick when our principal, Mr. Wilcox, entertained and informed us as the evening's master of ceremonies. And lucky students might have been treated to some candy! One of the highlights was a costume contest featuring a parade of the cutest and the creepiest.



Our parent coordinator, Laura Wagenseller, spearheaded the event with the help of our tireless PTA members and dedicated staff. The festivities ended too soon but all left the festival in high spirits! Ooooo!



Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • <http://wilson.nmusd.us>



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Students are Leaders and Learners

This year we have student council executive officers and class representatives who are eager to serve Wilson school with 100% heart and mind. Not only will they be having their recycling drive, phone book drive and Pennies for Patients, they are also coming up with a multitude of ideas to keep our school clean. In addition, the Wilson Wildcat Student Council is participating in each Wildcat Rally with announcements, skits and presentations to students. Last month, they presented a recognition to our Veterans, and December and January presentations include information on respect, responsibility and safety at school.

Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • <http://woodland.nmusd.us>



Lauren Medve
Principal

Healthy Choices Week at Woodland

What would happen if we put soda in the gas tank of our cars? We would have a car that needs to go to the shop for repairs! Just like our cars, our bodies need the right fuel in the form of healthy foods.

During the month of October, Woodland Elementary celebrated its annual Healthy Choices Week. Each classroom created a Healthy Choices banner for display. Healthy Choices Coordinator Elsa Onstott, with the help of Tish Hoch, organized physical education activities for every classroom and a healthy snack for each student.

Perhaps the most cherished event was a skit put on by a parent group that featured characters based on the red, yellow and green light foods in the book *Eat Healthy, Feel Great*, by Dr. Sears. Although the students loved Mr. Red Light Foods, they learned that the eating habits of Miss Green Light Foods will make them healthy, alert and strong.

District Transportation

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8903

A Wonderful 10th Anniversary



Pete Meslin
Director

This year was the Transportation Department's 10th year hosting a haunted house for students with severe disabilities. There were 122 students from College Park, Killybrooke, Newport Heights, and Victoria Elementary Schools, along with teachers, aides, and other support staff. Many of these students would not otherwise get to trick-or-treat, and we get to give that right of childhood to them (and their parents).

When we first started this event, it was a small affair with 20 or so students, some transportation staff and Special Education staff. We wanted to improve our partnership with the Special Education staff, and we figured celebrating with students would be a good way to do that. Over the years, other departments started joining in and people from throughout our district started to participate as well. It is now not uncommon to see the superintendent standing next to a driver who is standing next to a classroom aide, all of whom are admiring a student in a wheelchair who is dressed in a beautiful princess costume.

Our staff loves it and looks forward to making the haunted house just a little bit better each year. Transportation drivers, dispatchers, and office staff start decorating during their breaks or after work as far as two weeks in advance. Other departments come to help when they can. Dispatcher Kim Egnotovich does a great job coordinating their efforts. We work with great people who care so much and are so giving. The Transportation Haunted House reminds us of why we're here and allows us to show, in a small way, that we care the most for those who need the most care.

SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page 1*



Dr. Fred Navarro

The District's recommendations for fencing of the instructional areas were crafted in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1) The safety of students is the highest priority. Fencing to protect against uncontrolled access is necessary at all elementary schools.
- 2) The objective must be to increase staff's response and reaction time during an incident in order to implement safety plans in an emergency.
- 3) All access for non-staff shall be through the school office.
- 4) Access to playground and playfield space for after-hours use by the community should be maintained wherever possible.
- 5) The aesthetic appeal of the schools in the community needs to be considered. Wrought iron rather than chain-link should be employed at the streetscape entrance of the school and adjacent to the immediate viewscape of existing housing wherever feasible. Chain-link will be used in some interior areas to help control cost.
- 6) All requirements of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for Fire and Life Safety and Handicapped Access Compliance must be considered in accordance with law.
- 7) Gates with panic bars for emergency egress (evacuation) will be required in numerous locations in accordance with DSA and the State and local fire marshal for the expeditions exiting of the building in the event of an emergency. No campus fencing scheme may legally be "locked down tight."

Next Steps and Timeline:

Victoria and Adams: The District will begin to work with architects on the recommended designs. All designs are subject to review and approval by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), which can take six to nine months. Architect (DSA) and the final approved designs may vary slightly upon implementation. The District hopes to begin installation during Summer/Fall 2014.

Andersen: District staff will initiate contact with the Newport Beach Police Department as well as work with Andersen school administration, staff, parents and community members as part of the requested analysis process.

JOIN US!

Mesa Water DISTRICT

Water Issues Study Group

Water Education for Adults

Three Engaging Workshops for 2014

Session #1 (Jan. 29):
California Water History, Water Operations

Session #2 (Feb. 12):
Groundwater and Recycled Water, Imported Water, and Water Quality

Session #3 (Feb. 26):
Amber Water and Groundwater Cleanup, Water Use Efficiency, Tour, and Graduation

Each session is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00.

To register, please visit MesaWater.org/WISG

Mesa Water District
1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
MesaWater.org

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