

FREE

School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 47

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2014

SUPERINTENDENT



Michael L. Christensen

Welcome to Orange Unified School District! It's an exciting time as we continue to move forward in our quest to develop state of the art facilities and at the same time continue to provide a 21st Century education to prepare students for successful college and career experiences.

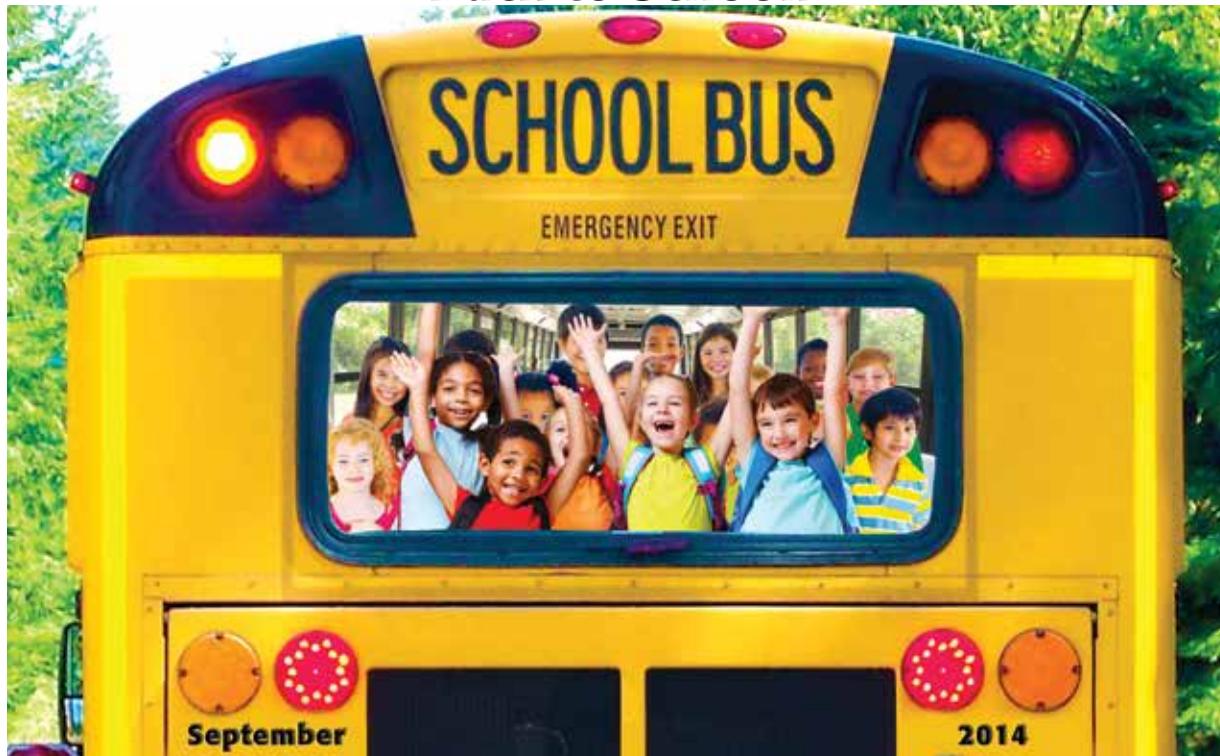
Orange Unified is dedicated to academic excellence and a balanced instructional experience that will ensure students are able to compete in the global community. We believe that "what's best for our students comes first and foremost" and we continue to push for greater levels of by providing a rigorous instructional program that engages all students in deeper levels of collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

Award winning schools and academic success are due to the dedicated and talented people throughout the District. The Orange USD faculty members are lifelong learners, demonstrating high levels of care and commitment to student academic and social needs. Support staff is dedicated to serve in a multiple of capacities to ensure the successful operations of award winning schools, and the leadership team acknowledges the value of personnel development and service to students and families. Our community and business leaders are also dedicated to the excellent education as evidenced in their overwhelming support for advancing toward the possibility of "state of the art" modernized facilities. The success of all the students is a collaborative effort of all stakeholders in the process of educating students.

Together we have developed the Strategic priorities and goals of the District through the newly enacted State Board Adopted Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) involving all aspects of stakeholder engagement. This document is a synthesis of the key elements of the LCAP and serves as the District blueprint for envisioning the future of the District

I encourage all of you to stay up to date on the developments regarding the Strategic Plan (2014-17), the progress toward facilities modernization, and other important District communications by visiting the website at (www.orangeusd.org) and following us on Facebook at OrangeUnifiedSchoolDistrictCA.

Back to School!



Students are back in school. Please drive safely.

Partnership Prepares Students

By Dr. Al Mijares, Superintendent
Orange County Department of Education

Orange County is a diverse and dynamic region with the human and economic resources necessary to lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. The California Career Pathways Trust grant can significantly contribute to this vision. The California Department of Education has awarded the Orange County Career Pathways Partnership (OCCPP) a \$15 million California Career Pathways Trust grant to create a countywide infrastructure to expand career

pathways for students from kindergarten through college. Led by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Saddleback College, OCCPP is one of twelve recipients awarded a \$15 million grant and represents the largest regional consortium in the state.

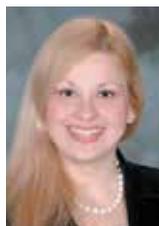
Orange County school districts, institutions of higher education, businesses, and community partners will make up this regional consortium to ensure that our students have the opportunity to explore their interests and participate in

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year! We all remember the mixed feelings of summer coming to an end and the anticipation of going back to school. For some it is seeing old friends, for others it is beginning again in a new school with unfamiliar faces and for others it is starting school and leaving familiar faces at home. Regardless, it is a new school year for everyone including the teachers. We are excited to bring you news right from the classroom.

This issue we asked the principals to share their bio's with you. We

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School News

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Covering the
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
ADVERTISING SALES: Leslie Rawlings
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063
leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Meshel Negrete

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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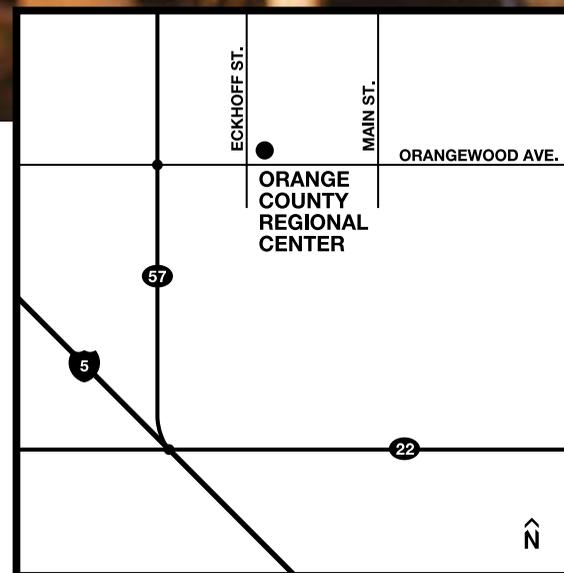
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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sandra Miller
Principal

Welcome to Anaheim Hills Elementary School, home of the Panthers! Mrs. Miller is excited and honored to be entering by 6th year as the principal of AHES. This is her 20th year in education. Mrs. Miller was an elementary school teacher for 13 years before taking a position as a vice principal and then a principal.

Anaheim Hills Elementary is an exciting place to be as they are always looking for ways to improve our instruction for our fabulous students. With the implementation of Handwriting Without Tears, Writing Traits, Khan Academy, Daily 5, CAFÉ, Guided Reading, Leveled Books, Discovery Education, and much more they are seeing tremendous growth in our students. The staff's goal is to challenge each student to grow and progress to their fullest potential to achieve academic excellence in an environment that allows students to collaborate, explore, create, and take an active role in their education.

None of what they do is possible without the support of the fabulous PTA and the entire AHES community who play a vital role in assuring that enrichment programs are available to their students. Mrs. Miller looks forward to another exciting and productive year!

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Kimberly Fricker
Principal

As Mrs. Fricker transitions into her second year as the principal of Canyon High School, she feels both honored and privileged to have served the students, families and community. The kindness and outstanding efforts displayed by the Canyon students and families were simply amazing. It was a fantastic year not only for the campus but also for Mrs. Fricker.

In addition to completing her first year at Canyon, Mrs. Fricker has completed her doctorate from the University of Southern California in urban leadership, with an emphasis on STEAM Education for the secondary level. The students who attend Canyon had an amazing year as well, achieving many awards and accolades in the areas of academics, athletics and artistic expression. The school year was highlighted by the many local, county and state recognition ceremonies that paid tribute to their outstanding achievements. The resultant focus is to continue to capitalize on this success for years to come.

This is an exciting time in education as the administration at Canyon strives to equip each student with 21st-century skills that will prepare them for experiences in both industry and higher education. Mrs. Fricker believes that every student deserves the opportunity to maximize his or her own individual learning path and achieve the highest levels of success. Her philosophical approach to education is based on a phrase by John Dewey: "Education is not preparation for life—education is life itself." Knowing that education is the key to unlocking doors of opportunity for every student solidifies her mission to accomplish the necessary work that is required to offer our students every opportunity possible to achieve their goals and dreams.

California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. John Albert
Principal

Dr. Albert joins the California team with over 16 years of educational leadership experience in which he has served as a teacher and assistant principal at the high school, a middle school assistant principal and principal, a K-8 school principal, and supported English learners at the district level. He has proudly served at Title I schools and has experience bridging the achievement gap, integrating technology to enhance 21st century learning, and supporting English learners. Dr. Albert earned a bachelor's of arts degree from the University of Redlands, and a master's degree and doctorate degree from California State University, Fullerton. His wife is a second grade teacher and they have two sons in elementary school (4th grade and 1st grade). He is first generation American. His father immigrated to the United States from Hungary after WWII and his mother was from Ireland. Both came to build a better life for themselves and their future family. It is with this same sense of passion that he entered the education field with the goal of helping to build better lives for students.

"It is with great pride that I am joining the team of incredible teachers, staff, parents, students, and the community of California Elementary School. I grew up just 15 minutes down the street from California ES and I am very familiar with the incredible reputation of the Orange Unified School District and California ES," said principal Dr. Albert.

Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Mr. Jeremy Mortensen has been involved in education for 15 years. He has taught in Australia, where he also earned his master's degree in education at Griffith University. He later taught in North Carolina, South Carolina, and California, where he earned the Teacher of the Year Award in 2005.

After almost a decade in the classroom teaching third through seventh grades, Mr. Mortensen decided to go into administration, with the vision to assist and inspire a whole school of students, rather than one class at a time. This year marks Mr. Mortensen's third at Cambridge Elementary School and fifth as a principal.

Mr. Mortensen is excited to continue his career at Cambridge and with the Orange Unified School District. Given the abundance of positive attributes exhibited among the students, staff, families, and other stakeholders, it is easy to see why Cambridge has such an excellent reputation and is such a wonderful school to call home for everyone who attends.

Mr. Mortensen believes that all children can learn, but each learns in a different way and at a different rate. He believes that, with hard work and perseverance, we can reach each child in a meaningful way. Keeping the atmosphere positive and keeping the lines of communication open among staff, students, and parents are the keys to success. Mr. Mortensen feels that teamwork is the ultimate way a school can be successful in reaching the goal of helping each child attain his or her full potential.

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Canyon Hills

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Dr. Karen Hanson
Principal

Dr. Karen Hanson is beginning her fourth year at Canyon Hills School. She brings with her a unique blend of experience in the fields of both health care and education. As a Registered Nurse, she has worked in the hospital setting, as a school nurse, and as a school health administrator. She then transitioned into the area of special education administration and recently earned a doctoral degree in education. Dr. Hanson has spent much of her career working with students with special physical and educational needs. She is committed to continuing the positive work done by the staff and families at Canyon Hills School for our special students.

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Under the direction of its new principal, Lisa Ogan, Cerro Villa Middle School is excited and ready to begin the 2014–2015 school year.

Mrs. Ogan comes to OUSD from the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD), where she served as a middle school assistant principal, summer school principal, Teacher on Special Assignment, middle school math teacher, and elementary school teacher (sixth grade).

Prior to her service in the PYLUSD, she taught for nine years in the Walnut Valley Unified School District as a middle school teacher, and one year as an elementary teacher in the Ontario-Montclair Unified School District.

Mrs. Ogan received her bachelor's degree in child development with a minor in mathematics, and a master's degree in educational administration, both from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential with an authorization in mathematics, and an Administrative Services Credential.

Along with Mrs. Ogan, Cerro Villa is proud to announce the recent accomplishment of being awarded accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Cerro Villa is the first middle school to have been presented with such a prestigious award. This is a tribute to the dedication, performance, and high expectations shared by its teachers, students, parents and community. Congratulations!

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Mrs. Schaffer is excited to begin her seventeenth year in the Orange Unified School District. Prior to coming to Chapman Hills in 2012, she had been the Principal at Handy Elementary for seven years and Fletcher Elementary for five years. Her career in Orange USD began as an Assistant Principal at West Orange Elementary for two years. She has enjoyed working at all three schools, and looks forward to another great year at Chapman Hills.

Graduating with a Bachelors in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University, Mrs. Schaffer decided to become a teacher. She attended Chapman University's credential program, and enjoyed teaching elementary school in LAUSD and Pomona Unified while working on her Masters and Administrative Credential from Cal State, Fullerton. Mrs. Schaffer's aspirations to become a principal led her to Orange USD, where she has had the good fortune to work with many wonderful students, parents, and teachers over the years.

Mrs. Schaffer is thrilled to continue working with the Chapman Hills community. This year promises to be filled with hard work as they strive to maintain the rigor and excellence that named Chapman Hills a California Distinguished School, 2014. Mrs. Schaffer reflects, "I am dedicated to working with the staff and students to meet our goals that drive us toward reaching every child's potential. We are a family at Chapman Hills and work together so that everyone can succeed."

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Erika Krohn
Principal

Mrs. Erika Krohn is proud and honored to become the principal of Canyon Rim Elementary School. She came to Orange Unified School District in 2010 as the principal of Sycamore Elementary School. Under her leadership, Sycamore Elementary School exited Program Improvement, became a Similar School Ranking of a 10, was nominated for the National Blue Ribbon Award, and earned the Title I Academic Achievement Award. In addition, Mrs. Krohn was recognized as Administrator of the Year from Leadership Team Orange and an Outstanding Administrator from the Sycamore Parent Teacher Association in 2013. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, Mrs. Krohn was a principal, vice principal, program specialist, and teacher in the Rowland Unified School District.

Mrs. Krohn earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University, and a Master's Degree from National University. She has participated in a number of professional development opportunities including the Cotsen Foundation Art of Teaching program, Cal Poly Pomona Leadership Institute, Thinking Maps Trainer of Trainers, cognitive coaching, and Visible Learning.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krohn enjoys spending time with her husband and children. Her hobbies include reading, snow skiing, and biking.

Mrs. Krohn is looking forward to building collaborative relationships with the Canyon Rim community. Mrs. Krohn and the staff will be working hard to roll out the Common Core State Standards and provide extraordinary 21st century learning experiences for the students.





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Crescent *Elementary*

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Randi Leach
Principal

Mrs. Randi Leach earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA, and then attended USC where she earned her Masters Degree in Special Education and both an elementary and learning handicapped teaching credential. She began her teaching career as a 3rd – 8th grade Special Day Class teacher in the Castaic Union School District.

Randi Leach taught for 12 years in the Westminster School District where she served as a New Teacher Mentor and Math Mentor, creating their District “Math Mania” competition. Over the years, she also provided staff development for teachers in Orange County and presented annually at county and state reading and math conferences. In 1996 Randi received the OCDE Excellence Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education and was named Westminster School District’s “Teacher of the Year.”

Randi Leach began her administrative career in 2001 as the Assistant Principal of Handy Elementary in the Orange Unified School District. She then served seven years as principal of Canyon Rim Elementary and the past five years as principal of Crescent Elementary. Randi’s passion for curriculum and instruction continues as she was a member of the OUSD writing team for years, creating and presenting Staff Development for teachers and principals in order to support effective instructional strategies. She has also served on the OUSD Science Steering Committee and the District’s Curriculum Council for many years. She was honored as an OUSD 2008 “Administrator of the Year” and ACSA Region 17’s 2013 Elementary Administrator of the Year.

Mrs. Leach states, “I am fortunate to work with an incredible staff and community, and I look forward to a wonderful 2014-15 school year!”

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



John Besta
*Principal
Business &
Operations*



Michele Walker
*Principal
Academic
Programs*

El Rancho Charter School continues with its highly successful two principal concept. Together, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Besta bring 22 years of principal experience to El Rancho and together have served a total of more than thirty years as administrators on the campus. They are clearly in touch with the needs of middle school students in the community. After being named the number one middle school in Orange County by the OC Register, the principals intend to continue with more successes. Mrs. Walker

will be devoted to the implementation of the new Common Core standards and Mr. Besta will continue his work planning for the construction of a new science facility and gymnasium.

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Irene Preciado
Principal

Irene Preciado joined Orange Unified School District last year as the principal at Esplanade Elementary School. She has experience as an elementary school principal and assistant principal in secondary schools. Her last position was as Director II and has worked at district offices managing various programs from pre-K and new teacher training to adult education. She has led parent trainings and community outreach programs since 1997.

Ms. Preciado holds two Masters of Arts – Computer Education and Educational Administration - and is currently working on her dissertation at Claremont Graduate University for a PhD in Urban Educational Leadership. Her undergraduate work includes a BA in Speech Communication and teaching credentials in English and computer education.

Ms. Preciado looks forward to a great year at Esplanade. She is very proud of the excellent staff and dedicated parents and community. Her greatest joy is working at Esplanade because everyone shows pride, respect and responsibility daily!

El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Dustin Saxton
Principal

Dr. Dustin Saxton is beginning his second year as principal of El Modena High School. Saxton started his education career in 1991 as a mathematics teacher at a private school. Five years later, he began teaching algebra, geometry and calculus at San Bernardino High School, where he also coached varsity football, basketball, and baseball. After serving as principal of a private K–12 school in Redlands, Saxton moved on to become an assistant principal at the high school level in the Alford and Upland Unified School Districts and at Orange High School in the Orange Unified School District. His responsibilities as a high school assistant principal included leadership of: discipline and attendance; the Math Department; the Summer School Program; the Adult Education program; the Special Education Department; activities; and athletics.

Born in Illinois, Saxton is a graduate of Drury University, National University, and La Sierra University. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration, a master’s degree in instructional leadership and a specialist degree in administration and leadership. He also received masters and doctoral degrees in divinity from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Saxton is the proud father of two sons, aged 20 and 21. His wife, Debra, has taught special education for 26 years in both private and public schools.

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Karen Sanders
Principal

Karen Sanders is thrilled to be joining the Orange Unified School District as the new principal of Fairhaven Elementary School. Mrs. Sanders has been in education for 28 years in Ocean View School District having worked as a teacher in a variety of grade levels, middle school assistant principal, and elementary principal. Mrs. Sanders received her bachelor’s degree from Long Beach State University, master’s degree from Alliant University and administration credential from UCI. When Mrs. Sanders is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband and grown son and daughter, reading, bowling, and attending Angel games. Principal Mrs. Sanders feels privileged to have the opportunity to work with a committed staff, supportive families, and motivated and engaging students. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and supporting everyone in the Fairhaven community. Mrs. Sanders is extremely excited to be joining a school with a proven record of high academic achievement and is looking forward to a great year, building new relationships, and continuing the Fairhaven tradition of striving for the best.

Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Rebeca Nelson
Principal

Rebeca Nelson is beginning her second year as Principal of Fletcher Elementary School. Ms. Nelson grew up in the city of Orange and has been part of the Orange Unified School District for the past eight years. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, she taught six years in the Santa Ana Unified School District. Ms. Nelson has taught at various grade levels, as well as Dual Immersion, GATE, and a Reading Resource teacher. She has served as a Teacher on Special Assignment for the District’s Accountability and Special Programs department and as an Assistant Principal at McPherson Magnet School. Ms. Nelson has her B.A. in History from the University of California at Santa Barbara and her M.A. in Education, with an emphasis in leadership from Cal Poly, Pomona. Currently, she is working on her Tier II Administrative Credential through the Orange County Department of Education which she will complete in the spring of 2015. Ms. Nelson is excited to kick-off the 2014-2015 school year and welcome all of the new and returning Fletcher Falcon families.

Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Michelle Owen
Principal

Dr. Michelle D. Owen is entering her third year as the Principal of Handy Elementary School and her fourteenth year in education. Dr. Owen holds bachelors and masters degrees in education, as well as a doctoral degree in Education, Leadership, and Policy from Pepperdine University. She is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the Association of California School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the California Association for Bilingual Education.

Providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that challenge student thinking in the areas of math, science, technology, and literacy is a priority for Dr. Owen. She works with her teachers, students, parents, and community as a collaborative facilitator to ensure data-driven school improvement, professional learning communities, targeted instructional delivery, and school and community partnerships.

Dr. Owen credits the success to Handy Elementary to her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community. Through our parent organization, ELAC, GRIP, partnerships with community organizations, and district support, Handy Elementary provides an outstanding place where all students grow and feel supported.

Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Andrea Roman
Principal

Mrs. Andrea Roman has devoted her career to public education. Prior to becoming the Principal of Jordan Elementary, Ms. Roman had the privilege of teaching Kindergarten, second and third grade. From her teaching experience, Mrs. Roman was able to gain a sound perspective on how to address the various needs of diverse student populations. Mrs. Roman has worked for the Orange Unified School District as Jordan Elementary's site administrator since the 2011 school year.

She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree and her teaching credential from the University of California, Riverside and her Master's Degree and Administrative Services Credential from the University of Redlands. Mrs. Roman strives to inspire all children, even at the youngest age, to look toward a higher education and make those pathways available to them and their families.

Mrs. Roman loves her job and enjoys working with teachers, parents, and most importantly students. This will be her fourth year at Jordan Elementary and looks forward to working with the families, students, and staff that make Jordan a special place to work and learn. She looks forward to preparing students for College and Career Readiness by ensuring that they have the 21st Century Skills they need to be successful in the future. Her family is also very important in her life. She is married to her wonderful husband Albert, and has two children amazing, Ashley and Albert, Jr. When she is not spending time with her family she uses her time to give back to the community.

PUBLISHER'S HOME ROOM • From Page 2

think you will find it interesting where they attended school, their years teaching, about their families and pets. The principals always focus on teachers and students so we want to shine the spotlight on them to let them know we appreciate all they do and their commitment to educating our children.

We hope you had fun with your families this summer. As always we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. We are continuing to improve our web site and our social media efforts to communicate with you. We are always open to suggestions for topics from our guest columnists.

Our next issue is December 3, 2014. Until then have a Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ginette Kelley
Principal

Gigi Kelley earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from CSU Long Beach. After graduation, her first professional job was as a Prevention Education Specialist working in partnership with schools in Southern California. Gigi returned to school, earning her California Teaching Credential from CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching career took her first to Rialto and then to Fullerton School District as a classroom teacher.

Hearing the call of administration, Gigi returned to school to earn a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She remained in Fullerton, however she moved out of the classroom and into district administration. She served that district as a Program Specialist for Gifted and Talented (GATE) program and also the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program. She also had the opportunity to serve as Interim Junior High Assistant Principal.

Through her experiences as an educator she has had the opportunity to develop new and innovative approaches to student success by creating, planning, and implementing instructional practices for district-wide programs. In 2005 she was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, bringing innovative technology to classroom instruction.

Gigi developed and taught curriculum for teacher GATE Certification, in partnership with Hope International University. She is currently an adjunct professor for HIU, teaching a course in Educational Leadership.

As Imperial Elementary School's principal, Gigi Kelley continually looks forward to working with teachers, students, and the rest of the Imperial community. We are Eagles; Watch us SOAR!



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La Veta *Elementary*

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Lydia Roach
Principal

Mrs. Lydia Roach is the principal of La Veta Elementary School this year. She has been an educator for 31 years and has worked in various elementary schools in the Orange Unified School District including Handy, Riverdale, Canyon Rim, Lampson, and Running Springs. Mrs. Roach was both a primary and upper grade teacher, a bilingual resource teacher, and a reading resource teacher before becoming an administrator. In addition, she was the assistant principal at both Running Springs and Lampson for four years before becoming a principal.

Mrs. Roach grew up in the city of Orange and is a product of the Orange Unified School District. As a student, she attended Esplanade Elementary, Fairhaven Elementary, Santiago Jr. High and El Modena High School. Mrs. Roach continued her education at San Diego State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree and an elementary teaching credential. She then graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Master's degree in Educational Administration and received an administrative credential.

Mrs. Roach currently resides in the Anaheim Hills area with her husband, Russ, of 30 years. She has two children Kyle, age 25; and Lara, age 20. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two golden retrievers Brody and Bailey. Mrs. Roach is excited to be a "Viking" and looks forward to working with the students, families, and staff of the La Veta school community!

Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Maria Chairez
Principal

Lampson Elementary School principal, Dr. Maria Chairez, is completing her third year as the principal. She graduated from University of the Pacific and earned her Ed.D in education administration with an emphasis in special education. She is a native of southern California and worked previously for the California State Department of Education and was a principal for 11 years in the Clark County School District in Nevada. Dr. Chairez believes all students can learn and that schools make a difference in a child's life. She is committed to helping all students find their strengths so they can excel in school and later

in life. She recently served as a multimedia judge to evaluate productions made by high school students and is an avid photographer and does multi-media videos to help with teaching. Her goal at Lampson is to help students prepare for their transition to high school and later into their career or college path.

McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Joe Erven
Principal

Joe Erven is the new principal of McPherson Magnet and is ready to begin the 2014-15 school year. Prior to this new position, Mr. Erven taught science for nine years and served as an assistant principal for five years at Cerro Villa Middle School and Canyon High School. He was also the assistant principal at McPherson Magnet during the 2011-12 school year. All of these experiences have helped Mr. Erven gain insight into student learning and work with families to help them achieve their goals.

Mr. Erven will open the school year with the theme "What Matters to You, Matters." This theme will embed 21st-century learning and academic content standards that will focus on citing evidence from the text and increasing math fluency. It is his goal to ensure that every student has the opportunity to fulfill the McPherson motto: Knowledge, Inspiration, Discovery and Success.

Mr. Erven received his degree in zoology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and also has a master's degree in educational administration. When he isn't working at McPherson, Mr. Erven enjoys traveling and hiking with his family.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sally Hughson
Principal

Mrs. Sally Hughson became the principal of Linda Vista Elementary School in August of 2008. She has been an educator for over 20 years. She has worked at Cambridge, Handy, West Orange and Running Springs where she was the Assistant Principal.

Mrs. Hughson taught lower and upper grades and was a reading resource teacher, English Learner Resource teacher and an Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Hughson grew up in the Orange area and attended Orange Unified schools beginning in kindergarten and graduated from El Modena High School. She earned her BA in Communication Disorders and a Master degree in Educational Administration from California State Fullerton; she earned her teaching Credential from Chapman University.

Mrs. Hughson lives in Santa Ana with her husband Steve of 34 years. Her son Grant lives in Tustin and her daughter Katie and husband Danny Quesada live in South Pasadena. Mrs. Hughson enjoys trips to Catalina, relaxing in the desert, walking in Peter's Canyon and spending time with her family and friends.

The 2014-2015 school year will be Mrs. Hughson seventh year at Linda Vista. She looks forward to another distinguished year with the supportive teachers, staff and the community.

Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Amy Hitt
Principal

Ms. Amy Hitt has been a principal in the Orange Unified School District since 2008. Before that time, she worked in Anaheim City School District where she served as a vice principal, curriculum specialist, teacher on special assignment, and classroom teacher. Ms. Hitt has worked at several schools teaching third through sixth grades, and specializing in curriculum, program evaluation/assessment, and technology. She has an Administrative Credential from California State University, Fullerton; a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Azusa Pacific University; and an undergraduate degree in Professional Writing from Baylor University.

Ms. Hitt's roots in this community run deep—she attended Orange Unified schools as a child and still lives in Orange. She has a freshman and a senior at Villa Park High School who are involved in water polo/swimming and band, respectively. Coincidentally, Ms. Hitt's children both attended Nohl Canyon for their entire elementary careers, so she has first-hand experience with the teachers' and community's standard of excellence. She is looking forward to another great year with Nohl Canyon's newly-recognized Distinguished School community of staff, parents, and students.

Orange *High School*

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ernest Gonzalez
Principal

Ernie Gonzalez is the proud principal of Orange High School. He grew up in a small city east of Los Angeles. After high school, he completed his undergraduate degree at the University of San Diego. Go Toreros! After completing his teacher credentialing program, Mr. Gonzalez earned a Master of Arts degree and an administrative credential from Azusa Pacific University. Mr. Gonzalez has served over 20 years in education. In that time, he has been a teacher, AVID coordinator, activities director, federal and state project director, and assistant principal. Although his experience has spanned kindergarten through twelfth grade, his passion lies at the high school level.

Ernie is married to Denise Quan, a middle school counselor. They have two children Christian and Kaleiah, ages 11 and 13. The Gonzalez family enjoys traveling together and spending time with friends and family. Gonzalez says, "Orange High School is truly a special place. I enjoy working with our dedicated parents, students and staff - they are the best!"

Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Katherine Rizzo
Principal

Welcome to Olive Elementary School, Home of the Ocelots! Mrs. Rizzo considers it a privilege to be a part of a hardworking, knowledgeable and supportive school community and welcomes you to the 2014-2015 school year!

This is Mrs. Rizzo's twenty fourth year in the field of education having had experiences ranging from school secretary, teacher, coach, project specialist, assistant principal and principal. This is her thirteenth year as an elementary principal, each year she looks forward with enthusiasm to the new school year, providing the highest quality education for children. Her vision is to create limitless opportunities by fostering a collective culture whereby professionals learn in a community to empower our students. Mrs. Rizzo earned her undergraduate degree from La Sierra University, attended Chapman University where she earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and went on to earn her Administrative Credential from Cal-State San Bernardino. Mrs. Rizzo began her teaching career as a first-second grade teacher and has taught grades 1,2,3,5,and 6.

As an educator, Mrs. Rizzo makes every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. She believes that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. She feels without a doubt, the most successful students have family members that communicate regularly with the school. Olive's mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths.

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jill Katevas
Principal

Jill Katevas is the new principal of Portola Middle School, which has a long history of serving students here in Orange. Jill Katevas was born and raised in Long Beach and earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from California State University, Long Beach. She received a teaching credential from Chapman University and has proudly served as a public school educator in the Orange Unified School District for the past 15 years. Education is a second career for Jill Katevas, who originally started her career in business with an emphasis on management. She learned early in her career that her formal

education was a professional tool; however, it was her ability to work with others, her quick decision-making, and her perseverance through all challenges that defined her success. Thus, Jill Katevas is committed to fostering these skills in Portola students.

Over the past 15 years, she worked at Canyon High School as a teacher and at Orange High School as an assistant principal. Through this experience, she learned the value of developing strong partnerships with parents and the community. Thus, she is committed to working closely with the Matador families and the broader Orange community to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education that will support their academic achievement, their transition to high school, and their ultimate pursuit of college and career goals.

Please Drive Safely
Students
are
Back in School



Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Brenna Godsey
Principal

Brenna Godsey is excited to take on the role of Principal at Palmyra Elementary School. Mrs. Godsey has had the pleasure of working with Orange Unified students for the last thirteen years. Prior to coming to Palmyra, she served as an Assistant Principal at Canyon High School for five years and a Science teacher for eight years. Mrs. Godsey received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from the University of California San Diego, with a Minor in Law and Society. She then attended California State University, Fullerton where she earned her teaching and administrative credential along with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Godsey lives in the Orange community with her husband and two sons, Jackson, 6, and Declan, 2. She enjoys spending time with her family at the beach and in the snow. Mrs. Godsey is committed to building strong relationships with the students, staff, parents and community of Palmyra Elementary School. She is extremely proud to be the Principal of Palmyra and is looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Kathryn Martin
Principal

It is an honor and privilege for Principal, Mrs. Kathy Martin, to welcome back our Orange Unified School District family for the 2014-2015 school-year!

Mrs. Martin is a product of Orange Unified, having attended OUSD schools in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Mrs. Martin earned her BA in Psychology from UCLA, and will forever be a "Mighty Bruin." She admits she morphed into an Anteater for a short time while earning her teaching credential at UCI. She received her MA in Education from Concordia University in Irvine. Mrs. Martin is passionate about Educational Technology; she is a Google Certified Teacher, a founding member of the Discovery Education Network, and an ambassador for Discovery Education.

Having been an educator for more than twenty years, Mrs. Martin can attest to the fact there is no nobler profession or purpose than helping to shape the next generation. Not a day goes by that she is not grateful for and humbled by the outstanding professionals in the Orange Unified School District. John Wooden put it best when he said, "The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team." Mrs. Martin is proud to be working with the star students, fantastic families and excellent educators at Panorama. Go Panthers!

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Mr. Dennis McCuiston is the Principal at Richland Continuation High School where he is entering his 17th year as an educator and 18th with the Orange Unified School District. Mr. McCuiston started his career as a campus supervisor at Orange High School and later became a special educator at Portola Middle School where he gained tremendous experience as a teacher. He went on to work at Orange High School where he taught for 10 years, was the head baseball coach, athletic director and eventually serving as an assistant principal. In 2011, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP where he worked with Community Day School, ROP, Educational Options and Home School. In 2013 he was appointed as the Principal of Richland High School. Mr. McCuiston studied Sociology and Criminal Justice at Chapman University and Educational Administration at National University. Dennis is married to his wife Julia, has a daughter Avery and a son Luke. Dennis is a resident of Orange.



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146 N. Grand St. Orange, CA 92866
P: (714) 633-9622 www.ymcaoforange.org



Note-ables

Grammaropolis



Kate Karp

I don't often review multimedia, but this assemblage is exceptional. If you cringe at grammatical and usage errors and want your children to use language correctly—a key to future success—send them to Grammaropolis.

Grammaropolis is the hometown of the parts of speech. There's even a mayor—his name's Coert Voorhees, and he built this town. Mayor Voorhees is a former seventh-grade language teacher who found that his students had more fun personifying parts of speech than memorizing them. They learned them thoroughly, too, which is the idea.

"Sure, you can memorize the fact that an adverb modifies a verb," the Mayor said. "But if I show you a video of an adverb pulling a verb over for speeding and giving him a ticket, not only are you going to connect more deeply with that information but you're also going to have more fun doing it."

The CD, produced by indie-rock artist Dr. Noize and performed by the Mayor and other vocalists, is your Grammaropolis guidebook. Meet Roger the Pronoun who has this indefinite feeling about himself. Power couple Vinny the Action Verb and Lucy the Linking Verb rescue nouns from inaction and link up insecure ones with states of being. Interjections, the lives of the party, get invited everywhere. And there's Slang, spouting street stuff and stealing the show. Children—and you—can interact with them all through the website's games, e-books, quizzes, entertaining slide presentations, and hilarious, clever videos starring the sentence builders themselves.

Grammaropolis's website, www.grammaropolis.com, has a number of subscription options. Go play for a spell—or an entire paragraph.

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

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College 4 Less

Hedging College Costs



Susan D. Marshall

When you hear the word hedging, you may immediately think of the amazing topiaries at "It's a Small World" or the Dumbo in Fantasyland you have marveled at. Hedging is also a practice that every investor should know about to protect their portfolio.

People hedge to protect themselves against an unforeseen event. They buy car insurance to hedge against the negative event of an accident. Unfortunately, it doesn't keep the undesirable event from happening, but it can reduce the impact it has on our lives.

So in what ways can insurance hedge the cost of college for parents and students? There are a variety of insurance products on the market today. Some will help you fund the cost of college while protecting your students' ability to get financial aid. Other types are designed solely for protection.

We all know college costs are outrageous. You must start early if you plan to fund college with life insurance and there are other strategies that can add to your success in the amount of cash you are able to accumulate.

Two other important components regarding life insurance that can protect your family to consider are: How inexpensive it is to have life insurance on yourself so in the event you are not around, your child can still continue and complete their education. The other is that if you are going to take loans against your home, a 401(k), or co-sign on a loan for your student it may be prudent to have life insurance on the student. It's very inexpensive to purchase and this could help reduce the financial impact it could have on the family in an already unthinkable situation.

Life insurance, disability insurance and other types of insurance may be a relatively small price to pay to protect your dreams and your family's financial future. Make sure you meet with a qualified life insurance agent and find out how affordable it can be. Look for products that offer living benefits. My recommendation is to go to an agent who has the ability to offer products from several companies. You will be more likely get the product that is right for you and your loved ones.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com



www.cityoforange.org

Community Services Department

Special Events

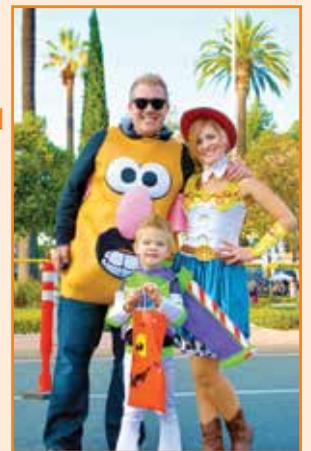
Hotline (714) 744-7278

Treats in the Streets Autumn Festival

Thursday, October 30, 2014

Old Towne Orange Plaza • 4-7 p.m.

Celebrate the fall season with an evening full of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy. Activities include games, trick or treating, a costume parade and entertainment for participants of all ages. Our local non-profit groups will provide delicious food items and tasty treats for a nominal charge. Parents, please leave masks and pets at home.



Veterans Day Tribute

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Veteran Memorial at Depot Park

100 N. Atchison St. Orange, 92866 • 2 p.m.

Help us honor past veterans and current military personnel with patriotic music and inspirational speeches. If you are a veteran or active military member and you have a photo to share for the display at the event, please contact Emily Bustamante at (714) 744-5599 or ebustamante@cityoforange.org no later than November 6, 2014.

Tree Lighting Ceremony & Candlelight Choir Procession

Sunday, December 7, 2014

Old Towne Orange Plaza • 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer and family fun as we sing traditional carols of the season with the Orange Community Master Chorale led by Musical Director, Michael Short. Our local non-profit groups will provide delicious food items and tasty treats for a nominal charge.



Thank You to our 2014 Community Partners!

Our special events would not be possible without the generous contributions of our Community Partners! To receive information on how you can become a Community Partner and market your business in Orange, please contact Megan Shimada at (714) 744-7293 or mshimada@cityoforange.org for a brochure.



Community Foundation of Orange

Santiago Canyon College Foundation

Establishing a Routine



Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel

One of several issues child advocates are concerned about these days is that children are not getting enough sleep at night. A regular bedtime is essential to the health and growth of your child.

If eight o'clock is the child's bedtime, it is made clear that there is no room service or further negotiating after eight. "I am done with my mothering/fathering for today. Your job is to get some sleep. Once I leave the room, any requests, complaints or fooling around noise will cost you fifteen minutes off of when you go to be tomorrow night. Two complaints means you go to

bed tomorrow night at seven thirty. It is time to sleep. I will be glad to see you tomorrow." Hugs and kisses are given and the line drawn in the sand—no more communication.

Children need a regular study time each day. This is sometimes difficult with the multiple interruptions provided by the after school extra curricular schedule. To the extent the time is regular will the child be able to adapt to doing the work at hand.

With a child who has trouble focusing, it is best to have the child show you what the homework is and then show you what he/she has accomplished at the end of the homework period. Tell the child up-front that work must be legible (Your teacher will love you for this one!) and the work must be done. Work that

is not legible will be copied over.

Keep an eye on your child's progress. Too many children flounder in school and then don't have the initiative or skills to catch up again. Ask the teachers for a grade report long before the school schedule provides one. Let the teachers know you will support them and that you want to know if your child slips behind. A letter to the teacher might say, "Thank you for choosing to teach school. We want our son/daughter to be successful this semester and request that you let us know if he/she begins to fall behind, not do homework or otherwise fail to do his/her job in school. Thank you for your time and caring."

Inspire your child, help your child and do not do for your child what he/she needs to learn to do for self. As a former classroom teacher, I can tell you that it is easy to spot work that is done by a parent, not the child. This is especially true with projects. When one California mission is crudely glued together with popsicle sticks and another one has architectural design involved, a teacher knows that the parent probably took over the project.

Working together on a project is great fun, and it is important not to take the "child" out of the project. A good grade is not as important as a sense of doing something yourself. And, if the child puts off a project let him/her fail. Failing is an important lesson that inspires a child to make better choices. Rescuing a child does not teach responsibility.

Most important, make it clear that your child has two jobs in your home:

(1) to be a good human being and (2) to do his/her best in school.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

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 OUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by October 30, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at

Andrew's Ice Cream
1549 E. Katella in Orange
(right next to Five Guys Hamburgers)

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BLUEBERRY	GREEN TEA	RASPBERRY
CHEESECAKE	HEATH BAR	ROCKY ROAD
CHERRY	MANGO	SALTY CARAMEL
CHOCOLATE	MAPLE WALNUT	SPECULOOS
CHUNKY MONKEY	MOOSE TRACKS	STRAWBERRY

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Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Elena Rodriguez
Principal

Prospect Elementary's principal Elena Rodriguez is an alumnus of Orange Unified School District. She attended Crescent Elementary, El Rancho Middle and Canyon High School. After graduation, Mrs. Rodriguez pursued a degree in Child Development at Cal State University at Fullerton. She realized then, that she loved working with children, but was unsure of what career path to take. Mrs. Rodriguez went on to earn her teaching credential at Chapman University and begun her career in Orange Unified School District as a bilingual 1st grade teacher at Sycamore Elementary in 1994. A few years later she became the Assistant Principal at Sycamore. After three years as Assistant Principal and completing her Masters Degree at Azusa Pacific University she became principal at Imperial Elementary in Anaheim Hills. Mrs. Rodriguez served as principal at Imperial Elementary for five years. Following her time at Imperial she was placed at Fairhaven Elementary a Title I/Program Improvement school where she could utilize her bilingual skills in Spanish with the community. Entering her seventh year at Prospect, she looks forward to continue the path to increased student achievement by working collaboratively with the awesome staff, students and community Prospect serves.

Mrs. Rodriguez' children are also products of Orange Unified School District. Her sons attended Sycamore, Running Springs, El Rancho and both graduated from Canyon High. She was remarried in September of 2010, and now she is blessed with having her 10 year old step son. Having her own children attend the same district that she herself grew up in, brings her enormous pride to be a long time member of the Orange Unified School District family.

Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Antoinette Coe
Principal

Mrs. Antoinette Coe has been appointed as the Principal of Running Springs Elementary and is excited to join the school's collaborative culture and drive for excellence. An advocate of 21st century learning, she feels her approach to and passion for learning will resonate with the Redhawk community. It remains her primary focus to assist all students in their quest for a successful future.

As Mrs. Coe begins her 18th year in education, she is proud to have served 13 of those years with OUSD. She has served as an elementary teacher, literacy coach, Vice Principal at both La Veta and Lampson Elementary Schools and Principal at Taft Elementary for five years. Prior to joining OUSD, Mrs. Coe served as an elementary teacher in Temecula.

Born and raised in Southern California, Mrs. Coe received her bachelor's degree and multiple subject teaching credential from University of California, San Marcos. She earned her administrative credential from University of California, Irvine and master's degree in administration from California State University, Fullerton.

Mrs. Coe resides in Huntington Beach with her husband, Eric, a Vice President at a local staffing firm. She has three children- a senior in high school, a sophomore at California State University, Chico and a senior at University of California, Berkeley. Mrs. Coe enjoys paddleboarding, bike riding, and spending time on the beach.

Mrs. Coe looks forward to collaborating with the parents, teachers, staff and students of Running Springs Elementary as they soar to success this upcoming year.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. James D'Agostino
Principal

Dr. Jim D'Agostino is in his fourth year as the Principal at Santiago Charter Middle School. He takes pride in being visible to parents and students and demonstrates that by greeting everyone each morning as they enter the Santiago campus. His philosophy of making everyone feel welcomed and valued into the school, while continuing to strive toward academic excellence, is part of the leadership style that he brings to the school and the entire school community. His positive attitude and energy has helped to create a very welcoming and caring culture at Santiago.

Dr. D'Agostino is a former history teacher and special education teacher. He has been an administrator for the past nine years and believes that building and fostering healthy relationships is a critical component success in life. Personalization is the one thing that he prides himself on bringing to his school community.

Prior to becoming an educational leader, Dr. D (as the students call him) owned a restaurant in Buffalo, NY and was involved in a family business as a licensed insurance agent. He loves working at Santiago, as it ties into both the business, and educational aspects, of his professional background. Dr. D'Agostino has also been leading students on educational tours for the past ten years visiting countries like China, Costa Rica, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Spain, France, Switzerland and Germany.

Dr. D'Agostino credits his beautiful wife Valerie for all of her support in his personal life, and credits his staff and faculty for all of Santiago's success, such as receiving the honor of being named a California Distinguished School in 2011 and the 92-point Academic Performance Index (API) growth the school has earned from 2009 to 2013! He looks forward to continue serving the Santiago community and work in partnership with all of the schools within the El Modena High School attendance area and the Orange Unified School District to ensure that every student receives the best possible education.

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Bobbie Lansman
Principal

Dr. Bobbie Lansman began her tenure as an administrator in OUSD in 1994, and has been afforded many unique and memorable opportunities. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from USC, a Masters Degree in Reading and Language Arts, a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Summa cum Laude) in Social Studies, and three teaching credentials. She has been principal at four different OUSD schools earning Distinguished School and Title I Academic Achievement Awards multiple times by working with wonderful and talented school teams. Dr. Lansman also had the honor and privilege of planning and opening Running Springs Elementary School. She has found each administrative experience to be truly dynamic and fulfilling. Dr. Lansman will begin her seventh year at Serrano Elementary School, and her twentieth year as principal. She was recognized as the 2006 OUSD Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Lansman is a native Californian, and currently lives in the city of Fullerton with her husband. She feels blessed with a wonderful family, including two fabulous grandchildren. Her younger daughter is completing her medical residency in Las Vegas, Nevada in internal medicine. As an OUSD principal, she feels truly fortunate to have had such diverse, challenging, and amazing administrative opportunities. Dr. Lansman is looking forward to saddling up to success with Serrano's 2014-2015 western round-up theme.

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Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Heather Bosworth
Principal

Ms. Bosworth is honored to be joining an outstanding team of educators and families as the new Principal at Sycamore Elementary School.

Ms. Bosworth previously served Orange Unified School District successfully as Coordinator, 21st Century Teaching and Learning, in the Office of K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and GATE. Prior to joining OUSD, Ms. Bosworth was a classroom teacher, teacher leader, and professional developer in the Laguna Beach Unified School District and a classroom teacher in Capistrano Unified School District as well. Ms. Bosworth has significant experience and training in the areas of professional development for teachers, instructional technology, and elementary curriculum and assessment. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Studies and Master's degree in Education and Reading from California State University, Fullerton, as well as a certificate in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) from UC Irvine. Ms. Bosworth is a National Board Certified Teacher who holds professional educational credentials in Multiple Subject Teaching, Reading Instruction Specialist, and Administrative Services.

"Sycamore is passionate about children and enthusiastic about the possibilities for student success with 21st Century teaching and learning. We look forward to partnering with students, parents, and community members to inspire excellence within every Sea Lion."

Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Debra Larson
Principal

Principal Debra Larson is a longtime Orange County Native, educated in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and living for 37 years in the Anaheim Hills area. She has taught for 27 years in Orange Unified School District (OUSD). Throughout her career, she taught kindergarten through sixth grade, spent three years as an assistant principal and six years as principal at Anaheim Hills Elementary School. She was chosen as the California Teacher of the Year among the state's first year teachers in 1986. She currently serves as the principal of Villa Park Elementary, where she has been for five years.

Mrs. Larson earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California. She did not choose a career in teaching until her youngest daughter was nearing school age. After serving as a parent volunteer in her daughter's classroom, she decided to pursue her teaching credential at California State University, Fullerton and began teaching when her youngest daughter was in first grade. She later received her administrative credential from Azusa Pacific University.

"It is a privilege to be the principal of Villa Park Elementary," Larson said. "I know I have chosen the perfect profession, and I gain energy from the students, staff and parents I work with every day. GO BOBCATS!"

Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Connie Smith
Principal

Taft Elementary's new Principal, Connie Smith, celebrates 33 years in education. Her experience includes classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator. She joins the Taft team after serving as Principal at La Veta Elementary.

Connie's many professional associations and accomplishments have included former Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, member of the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and Orange Unified School District's 2010-2011 Administrator of the Year. Connie also shares her administrative expertise by serving as an assessor for the Orange County Department of Education's Developing the 21st Century Principal program. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and her master's degree in school administration from California State University, Fullerton.

Connie was born and raised in Orange County. She has been married to Phillip Smith for 21 years and they have two sons, Garrett and Grant.

Smith says, "I am really excited about my new assignment and look forward to leading the professional learning community at Taft Elementary."

West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Jennifer Bourgeois
Principal

Jennifer Bourgeois, Ph.D. is excited to start a new school year. Dr. Bourgeois feels honored to continue to serve as the Principal of West Orange Elementary School and be part of the Warrior Family.

Dr. Bourgeois earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pure Mathematics from the University of California at Riverside, a Master of Arts degree in Education with a Cross-cultural Language & Academic Development emphasis from California Baptist University. She earned her Ph.D. in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University. She is beginning her seventeenth year in education. During that time, she has been a teacher at the elementary and secondary levels, a mentor teacher, an instructional coach, a supervisor of both classified and certificated personnel and a site administrator.

Dr. Bourgeois looks forward to working with the West Orange community as we develop 21st Century Learners.

Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Tracy Knibb
Principal

Going into her second year as the principal of Yorba Middle School, Tracy Knibb is proud to be working with such amazing students, parents, and staff. Mrs. Knibb was the Assistant Principal at Yorba for two years before taking the lead for the Toros. Prior to coming to the Orange Unified School District, she was an English teacher and Title I Coordinator for eight years in the Downey Unified School District.

The Yorba staff is coming back from summer rejuvenated and energized for another great school year! With a focus on student achievement, the staff is steadfast in their commitment to provide students with interactive, engaging, and rigorous courses. With impressive and growing programs in technology, visual arts, drama, and music, Mrs. Knibb knows she is fortunate to be part of such a strong team!

Mrs. Knibb is married with two daughters: Jocelyn, 8, and Zoey, 9. She enjoys reading and strives to bring the passion of books to all students. She believes, as Frank Serafini does, "There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book." There is no excuse not to read at Yorba!

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Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ed Howard
Principal

Preparing students for what is next in their lives is what Ed Howard has been doing for the past 25 years in the Orange Unified School District. As a Social Studies teacher and a coach at Orange High School, Ed learned the importance of quality first instruction and creating learning environments where students feel welcomed and are inspired to reach beyond their own expectation. Coaching baseball and football for over 11 years taught Ed that students want to be challenged and to be held to high accountability. As an Athletic Director and Director of Athletics for the District, Ed learned how to build programs by including all shareholders and getting the right people in position to create and sustain greatness.

Starting his ninth year as the Principal at Villa Park High School, Ed draws on the lessons he has learned and relies on the relationships he has built to help guide VPHS into being the highest quality high school it can be. Doing things the SPARTAN way has become synonymous with excellence. Ed and his administration work hard every day to make VPHS a school that is a source of pride for the community it serves. In the classroom, on the playing fields, or in the community it is Ed's goal to have the Spartans lead the way.

Ed was born in the Bronx, NY and moved to Orange in the 6th grade. He attended Serrano, CV and VPHS. Ed went on to Cypress JC and then to California Lutheran University where he received his degree in Political Science and his Single Subject teaching credential. Ed was fortunate to be the recipient of the Sparky Anderson Baseball Scholarship while at Cal Lutheran. After several years in the classroom Ed went back to school and earned his Master of Science in Educational Administration.

Still living in Orange, Ed is blessed to have a wonderful and supportive family. His wife Amiee is his greatest motivation to succeed. His daughter Savannah and son Eddie are his greatest source of pride. Ed takes great pride in the relationships that he has been fortunate to build in the community that he is proud to call home.

OC DEPT. OF ED. • From Page 1



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

career pathways of their choosing. OCCPP will make career pathway programs accessible to Orange County students from all academic, socio-economic, and achievement levels ranging from Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students, to alternative education students, foster youth, and students with physical and learning disabilities. OCCPP will provide courses and learning experiences that produce competent graduates capable of securing high-skill, high-wage jobs.

Students will participate in career exploration and on-the-job training that prepares them to earn certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and advanced degrees in three target sectors: Health Care/Biotechnology; Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing and Design; and Information Communication Technology/Digital Media. The same skills necessary to navigate a college degree are required to be successful in career technical education. Students will need to master subjects at the same rigorous level of abstraction and understanding as those entering a traditional university system. These programs will also align career courses with rigorous science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), California Academic Standards, and Career Technical Education Model Standards that provide real-world application of career concepts, linking the content to industry needs.

OCCPP will build career pathway partnerships among employers, schools, and colleges and improve the transition into post-secondary studies and career preparation. This initiative will develop a countywide infrastructure to prepare Orange County students for the 21st century workplace, support them in reaching their personal career goals, and equip them to lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.

For more information, visit www.ocde.us/EdTech.

OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Germaine Martell
Coordinator

Alternative Education is ready to open the doors and embrace another school year. Germaine Martell is the Coordinator of Alternative Education and is beginning her second year at the helm. Mrs. Martell is eager to collaborate with teachers, parents and students to create a positive and engaging learning environment for all programs housed at the Alternative Education site. Mrs. Martell has been with the Orange Unified School District since 2011 and served as a special education coordinator for secondary students. She is celebrating her 25th year in education where she served in many different capacities enriching her experience as an educator. For the 2014-2015 school year, Mrs. Martell will focus on building a solid instructional program with a transition to 21st century teaching and learning with new academic standards. It is her goal to provide each student with an education that they can connect to and move forward towards the 21st century. Mrs. Martell has a husband, a son and daughter, two grandchildren and enjoys traveling all over the world.

Contest!!

This kitten is hidden 2 places in this publication. When you find it, email the page numbers to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put OUSD in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by October 30, 2014
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



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