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School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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MAY-OCTOBER 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is a dynamic learning community that maintains a heartfelt commitment to preparing each

and every student for success, both now and in the future. That important work would not be possible without the ongoing, selfless commitment from our community, our families, and local businesses and organizations. From students to parents to school staff to business and civic leaders across the spectrum of our community, we know and acknowledge that people are the heart and soul of the PYLUSD. The combined efforts of everyone involved in educating our young people have established a longstanding tradition of excellence in our schools and have made our district a truly unique place for students to learn.

As we reflect with gratitude on the accomplishments of this school year, and as we look ahead to the successes that are yet to come, we want to ensure that all of you have an opportunity to share in the joy that comes from seeing educational excellence and achievement. As we all know, "a picture is worth a thousand words." With the help of the video and production talents of our district staff and students, we have produced a number of videos highlighting some exciting district events. We invite you to visit the PYLUSD Web site at <http://www.pylusd.org/apps/video/> to enjoy the PYLUSD Advantage in Action!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community. You ARE the PYLUSD Advantage!

Dr. Doug Domene

From the District

"What do I know? How do I know it?" is the theme Valencia High School Tigers spoke on at the recent TEDx event hosted at their school. The program consisted of various standout student speakers, previously recorded TED videos, and showcases of student artwork, all following the theme.

The TEDx organization is a local gathering where live TED-like talks and videos previously recorded at TED conferences are shared with local community. The TED title has established itself as a common household name, which now happens in more than 100 languages worldwide.

Valencia High School was lucky enough to be selected to host this prestigious TEDxYouth event on campus, along with only three other public schools in Southern California. Board of Education members attended this event, as well as many staff members and students from Valencia and the school district.

The night commenced with Dr. Nancy Watkins, Assistant Principal of Valencia High School introducing the TEDx organization and what it embodies. Dr. Watkins, along with VHS senior Edward Rebolledo, organized the event on behalf of VHS and TEDx.

The evening involved a lineup of superb student speakers, like Mr. Andrew Nguyen, and his "talk"

TEDx at VHS



Students, June Park, Tanya Nguyen and Jinnie Rhee stand behind the "TEDx" blocks crafted by VHS students with PYLUSD Board of Education members, Carrie Buck, Judi Carmona, and Karin Freeman.

titled, Learning to See. Mr. Nguyen shared with the crowd managing a form of color blindness that he was born with and understanding that although he sees differently than most, no two people see things exactly alike. Additionally, student speaker Jinnie Rhee delivered her speech, September 27, 2013, the day she was tragically hit by a SUV walking home from tennis practice. She shared thoughts about her lifestyle before and after the accident, expressing how a more positive and beneficial existence emerged from something so disastrous.

Mr. Nguyen and Miss Rhee were just 2 of the 11 distinguished student speakers and overall 23 segments that took place throughout the night. The student's discussions showed a great understanding of the topic and not only awed the crowd, but also left them questioning what they know and how do they know it?

The Perfect Graduation Gift



Julie Nibali
President

The R.E.A.C.H. Foundation, in partnership with the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District, invites you to leave a permanent legacy in the beautiful, new Performing Arts Center (PAC) with a seat dedication for your graduate.

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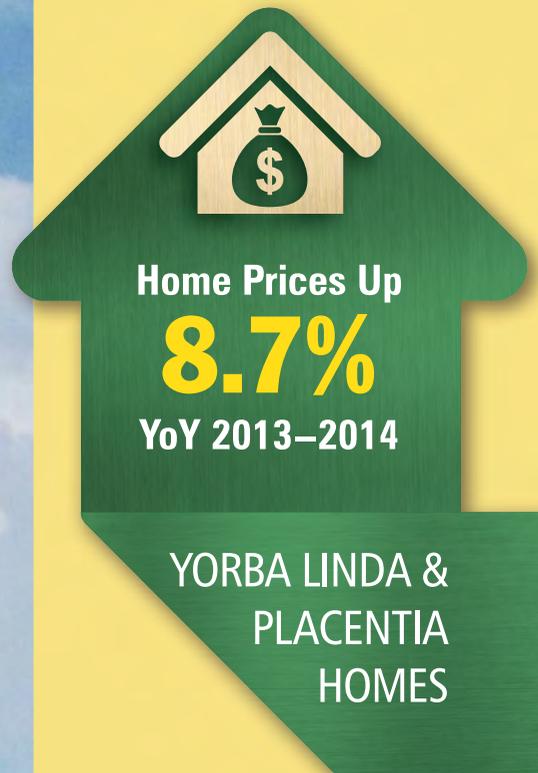


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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Congratulations
Class of 2015!



This has been an exciting year and we were pleased to publish the excellence from the classroom. The is always something to learn and this we were introduced to Chromebooks, TEDx, Common Core, and so much more. We can't wait to see what next year brings and share it with you!

Our next issue is November 5th. Have a wonderful summer and remember to include reading as one of your activities.



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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Ken Valburg
Principal

History Night a Smash Hit!

Jackie Robinson, Susan B. Anthony, Walt Disney, and Corrie Ten Boom: these memorable lives, along with many others, were presented by our honors students at a recent event in April.

Our seventh- and eighth-grade honors history teachers, in collaboration with the seventh- and eighth-grade honors language arts teachers, designed a powerful learning experience for our students. Using the theme of “Leadership and Legacy,” the students first selected a person or group that has left a lasting mark on our lives. They were then taught research skills to help learn about their selection.

For the History Night event, students were required to engage in conversation with at least 15 people to help present their topic. The students



presented it in one of three formats: website, documentary, or tri-fold presentation board.

The evening was a smash hit, as hundreds of our parents and guests browsed through the multipurpose room and two adjacent classrooms.

Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Celebrating School Connectedness

Everyone needs to celebrate success and teamwork. When we do, it brings a community closer together, creating pride. Research has shown the power of school connectedness, which refers to a sense of belonging in the school environment. When students feel connected, they thrive both academically and socially. As we promote a school community where everyone belongs, the Bryant Ranch community gathers monthly for a schoolwide pep rally. For each pep rally, there is a new theme that always highlights the celebration of students, staff and parents.

Under the direction of former Bryant Ranch student, PTA member and Spirit squad leader Shannon Barker, 70 students work each Monday after school in preparation for the monthly pep rally. Assisting Ms. Barker from Yorba Linda High School is song coach Sabrina Bryan and a few former BR students who are part of the YL Cheer and Song Team.



Bryant Ranch Spirit Squad.

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



David Cammarato
Principal

A Season of Excitement

Brookhaven Elementary School students, teachers, and families have been busy around campus with many exciting events, and they deserve a “high paw” for their efforts. We have many recent events on campus that showcase the dedication that our staff, students, and parents have in making Brookhaven a great place to learn.

The Brookhaven PTA recently finished its annual jog-a-thon, raising over \$16,000 to help provide great opportunities for our students. In addition, kindergarten is preparing for a night of science coming up in May. They will picnic with their families and experience a night of learning about science. Our first-grade team has been busy studying animal habitats, and they are looking forward to an upcoming visit to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Our second-graders celebrated grandparent’s day with a special play and lunch with their grandparents. Our third-graders put on a great play titled “Vacation to Mars,” after studying the solar system. In addition, they are preparing to harvest the school garden in preparation for Market Day in May. We look forward to upcoming plays for both fourth and fifth grades. Last, but not least, our sixth-graders are preparing for some year-end activities that are always the highlight of their year. They will celebrate at the California State University, Fullerton Titan Bowl in June.

Thank you for a great year and for all your hard work!

El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



Carey Cecil
Principal

Hawk Strong Day

By Cary Johnson, Interim Principal

El Dorado High School teachers showed their student appreciation in April by organizing the first ever Hawk Strong/ Student Appreciation Day.

Planning for this event began a month ago, when a core group of teachers, including Sunshine Cavalluzzi, Kathleen Switzer, and Amanda Wolf, all wanted to show how much they appreciated our El Dorado students. These teachers solicited donations from community members and El Dorado alumnae for food and prizes, with the largest single contributor being a local restaurant.



The day began with our teachers and staff members providing muffins and juice for the students as they arrived in the morning. There was also a special teacher’s edition of Hawk Talk during second period that thanked the students for their effort, as well as entertainment at break with a teacher flash-mob performance.

They also offered an extended lunch with food, games, and prizes; along with filming of a school-wide lip dub after school (video forthcoming), and all culminating in the third annual Faculty Follies in the PAC.



Crystal Olson '11, M.A.Ed. '12
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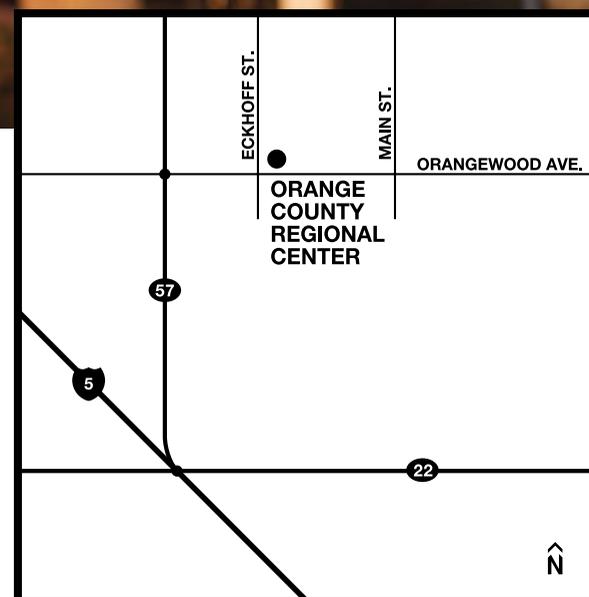
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Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Ken Fox
Principal

Great Things Happening

Esperanza is rounding out the year with great things happening all over the campus. Our Medical Sciences club the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) went to the state leadership conference in Sacramento and competed

against 1500 other high school students. We had several students earn awards at this conference including gold medalist in Medical Assisting, Yash Patel. He will be going to compete at the National Leadership Conference in June. Other students who finished Top Ten in State: Ashley Ly, Transcultural Healthcare; Sarah Theel, Medical Spelling; Natalie Kdeiss, Community Awareness; Michelle Polen, Community Awareness; Giovanna Viguera, Medical Assisting; Cierra Swader, Medical Photography; Alyssa Laporte, Prepared Speaking; Tatianna Campos, Prepared Speaking.

Along with our HOSA club doing well at the state convention, our varsity team place first at nationals in Anaheim. We are proud to bring the national championship trophy to Esperanza.



Giovanna Viguera, Sarah Theel, Cierra Swader, Yash Patel, Alyssa LaPorte, Natalie Kdeiss, Michelle Polen, Tatianna Campos and Ashley Ly (Mrs. Easton in back holding sign.)

Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Julie Lucas
Principal

Well-Rounded Students

The students at Fairmont Elementary School have been very busy!

We had approximately 180 students participate in our drama production of "Beauty and the Beast Jr." during Valentine's Day weekend at the district performing arts center. Center Stage Theater Company and Director Harrison Zierer led the production, with four shows highlighting the theatrical talents of our many students!

In February, four teams competed in Battle of the Books, sponsored by the Yorba Linda Public Library. Three out of four of the final teams in the elementary divisions were our very own Fairmont teams! Our students read all year long to prepare for battle, led by our own Marina Hub!

Finally, our student council wrapped up a canned food drive for our district food pantry. They collected over 50 boxes of donations from our students to help support Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District families in need!

Way to go, Falcons! You are fabulous!



Our Battle of the Books participants!

George Key School *(K-12)*

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.pylusd.org/schools/georgekey



Deby Six
Principal

School Happenings

So many activities as we enter the spring quarter! From Snow Day, Dr. Seuss, Teacher of the Year celebrations, beautifying our garden and grounds with educational activities, to preparing for our annual April Jog-A-Thon and Carnival – along with the May Open House Student Art Display and Barbecue – our students and staff have been extremely busy!

The quarter began with a wonderful snow day, thanks to second- through fourth-grade teacher Grace Gordon and her

husband. Building snowmen, making and throwing snowballs, and rolling in or simply touching and feeling the snow was a novel sensory experience for many of our students. It was equally enjoyed by our families and staff members alike!

Soon afterwards we were so proud of our kindergarten/ first-grade teacher Patti Linza for being selected as one of the three PYLUSD Teachers of the Year! We are also looking forward to our students' continued application of functional life skills through the upcoming Carnival, Open House, and garden activities!



Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

Spring Has Sprung

Glenknoll Elementary School students took home the trophy for best participation, with the greatest number of students taking part in the Resources for the Enrichment of Academics, Arts, and Athletics for our Children to reach their ultimate Heights (REACH) Foundation Shamrock 'n' Run 5K on March 15. It was a fun run, and we raised \$485 to support our school garden and reading incentive program.



ShamRock n' Run. Danya Ali, Casey Ortiz, Dylan Smock, Michael Smock, Zachary Ortiz.

On April 17, students participated in our annual Glenknoll Jog-a-thon, raising money for school netbooks and electronic tablets. On May 14, our first-through fourth-grade students are performing in our annual Vocal Music Concert on the lawn. Parents and friends are invited to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the concert at 6 p.m. Our PTA will be hosting a Magic Family Night on May 21; tickets will be required for this performance and for the Angels Game Family Night on May 29. Contact Glenknoll Elementary School PTA for more information on these and other exciting events.

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Kelli Keller
Principal

Summer Learning

It is still important to provide enrichment ideas during the summer months off. There are several museums, centers, and observatories within the greater area, but learning at home is also invaluable. Here are some ideas for families:

Before Summer Begins:

- Review the student's testing scores and district common assessments to find "strands" in subject areas that may need fine-tuning. Strands or Clusters are the divisible areas in a specific discipline that are tested through multiple grades. The patterns may indicate a student's continuing developmental need.

- Meet with other parents within the student's grade-range and plan mentoring activities. Capitalize on another child's strength and encourage students to "teach" one another.

During Summer Months:

- Get students outdoors. Determine the height of a tree, velocity of a swell, or distance to plant various seeds. Encourage students to keep a daily journal about learning or experiences.
- Plan family game time. Play traditional games like Monopoly to encourage the capitalist spirit, Clue to create calculated hypotheses, and Taboo to explore word choice. Remember that most games even require basic arithmetic to keep score!
- Remember the public library. Start a family or neighborhood book club and design group discussions, quick writes, projects, or written assignments to practice for the next school year.

Summer is a great time to support local businesses that support the development of the city's youth. The important part of summer learning is to have fun and practice honing in skills. Students and families deserve time together, but remember that learning can be enjoyable and rejuvenating.

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Roann Turk
Principal

Outdoor Learning

More than 160 sixth-grade students boarded buses on March 17 at Golden Elementary School and headed to Cedar Crest for the experience of a lifetime. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Ayala, veterans with 22 years of experience, shared, "It has become a rite of passage for our sixth-graders, and families expect to send their children up to the mountains for four days to learn about geology, ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation. Upon returning, they realize they also learned how to be more independent, and they can survive without their electronics! The students make new friends, nurture old friendships, and get to see their teachers as 'real people.'"

Hallmark experiences of teamwork and collaboration happened in the daily classes. Mrs. Rasic, who recently returned to teaching sixth grade, reflected, "It was wonderful to see that the social impact on the students was still significant. Watching the Special Day Class (SDC) students dancing along with 160 of their peers and knowing that they were part of the group was heartwarming and inspiring." Mrs. Lussier, who is new to sixth grade SDC, agreed completely!

Students warmed their hands at campfires and roasted s'mores as part of their experience. Mrs. Coan said enthusiastically, "The best part about science camp is being outdoors and seeing the students make connections, experiment, and analyze our amazing Earth! It is absolute awesomeness, and I can hardly wait to go back!"

Next year, Golden plans to extend the amazing experience to five days.

Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Keith Carmona
Principal

The Value of Service

This spring, the members of the Kraemer ASB and peer leadership classes attended the California Association for Student Leaders Conference in San Jose (CASL). At this Conference, our Kraemer student leaders met with other middle schools from around the state to develop new ideas for creating a positive culture and a sense of inclusion on our school campuses.

The conference organizers specifically commented about how mature and insightful our Kraemer students were, and how they really understood the value and meaning of service towards others. Kraemer was also honored with the Outstanding Leadership Program Award in a special Conference ceremony.

In her first year as activities director, Melissa Samson has taken an established leadership program and made it her own. The students in Kraemer's leadership program are thoughtful and reflective. The activities they put on are purposeful and seek to build a sense of community on our diverse campus.



La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.laentrada.pylusd.org



Libby Moore
Principal

Two Outstanding Juniors

In April, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Board of Education recognized outstanding high school seniors. La Entrada High School was proud to recognize Kaylah Ivey and Denise Lepore.

An accomplished percussionist, Kaylah was chosen as Southern California's Music Ambassador to Europe. She made the All-Star Band and was chosen as the All-Star Jazz Drummer. She has received many awards as well. Kaylah will graduate one year early as a junior, having completed the accelerated program.



Denise Lepore, Principal Ms. Moore, and Kaylah Ivey.

Denise has accumulated 60 community college units in the Honors program at Santiago Community College while completing her high school diploma. Denise was recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program and is a member of the Orange County American Mensa Chapter, the Mensa Astronomy Association, and the Santiago Canyon College Forensic Team. Denise will be attending California Polytechnic University, Pomona in the fall.

We wish them well on their continued quest for excellence!

Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Using Technology in the Classroom

Our fourth- and fifth-grade Lion Pride Gate students led us through March Madness. Each week these students visited other classrooms reading two book selections at a time, with one winning book selected to move along in the bracket. This was a wonderful time for our Gate students to lead an enrichment activity that connected all the students together!

Along with the other support staff, a huge thank-you goes to our third- through fifth-grade teachers who are preparing their students for the state assessments. There is a large learning curve for all of us as we shift into the new standards. Using technology for the state testing assessments requires that our students also use a keyboard and understand how to log onto the computer.

Last year our staff observed our students' overall performance as they navigated through the functions of computer testing. We realized that our third-grade students needed much more practice in using a keyboard, and so this year we maximized their use of multimedia by purchasing Chromebooks for them to utilize during the school year.

Our goal is to purchase Chromebooks for all of the fourth- and fifth-grade students as well. This will enable these students to test in their own classrooms while also freeing up the computer lab for the other grades. It is important for our students to gain experience with a variety of technical tools as they prepare to become college and career ready for the future!



Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavista.pylusd.org



Paula Kintsch
Principal

A Festive Event

From time to time a local fast food restaurant is one place that many of our Linda Vista families visit for dinner after school. However, on April 15 our teachers, principal, and other staff members served them their dinner!

Fifteen employees from Linda Vista Elementary School came out in the early evening to take orders, serve food, make fries and shakes, and even help at the drive-through window. Throughout the evening the dining room was packed with parents enjoying time with their children sharing meals and socializing with the other families.

The children were laughing, playing, and having fun with their peers. While the evening was intended as a fundraiser for our school, it was so much more! Seeing the support for our school and the enjoyment of our families and community all coming together was truly memorable. A total of \$989 was raised for the Linda Vista Elementary School's PTA that evening.



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Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Autism Awareness Month

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, and all other disabilities, Mabel Paine “Lit it Up Blue” for the second year in a row!

On Wednesday, April 2, which was also the eighth annual World Autism Awareness Day, the students and staff members wore blue to celebrate our many fellow students and friends on campus who have autism and other special needs. The front of the school was lovingly decorated with blue ribbons and large blue puzzle pieces.

The students also adorned the sidewalks, hallways, and buildings with puzzle pieces and the word “Awareness.” The entire school was decked out in a sea of blue that day, and everyone was thrilled to celebrate their friends with special needs.

Did you know that autism affects 1 in 88 children, and that boys are four times more likely to have autism than girls? Also, autism varies from person to person, and no two people with autism are alike.



Ms. Sparks’ students wearing blue in honor of Autism Awareness Day!

Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morse.pylusd.org



Cristina McCall
Principal

Exciting Accomplishments

Many exciting activities have happened this spring at Morse Elementary School! The month of March brought our PTA-sponsored Talent Show, which was held at the Valencia Auditorium. Thirteen wonderful acts with 50 participating students entertained many families, and the staff “Put on the Ritz” with their final dance. What a fantastic evening!

Science-based activities were brought to our fifth grade and Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students. The Discover

Cube assembly gave them the opportunity to dissect pig hearts. Our GATE Academies focused on the laws of physics with a series of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) investigations into design and motion with motorized vehicles made with a construction toy system. Representatives from the Dynamic Genome Program at the University of California, Riverside brought the hands-on activity of isolating DNA from strawberries with regular household items, which illustrated a common lab technique used in molecular biology.

It’s been a great year, and we are proud of all that our Morse Wildcats have accomplished!



Third grade performance at Talent Show.

Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • www.melrose.pylusd.org



Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

Parents Are Partners

We are fortunate to be part of such a collaborative school community. Our students are not only supported by their parents through their participation in PTA, School Site Council, and English Learner Advisory Council but also through their participation in adult education. Leading by example, our school community has rallied to participate in parent workshops, which incorporate research-based strategies and support student achievement and healthy development.



Second graders jogging alongside their teachers.

Our PTA Board has been working to increase parent participation in all school-wide activities. With support from our parent volunteers and PTA, we held our annual jog-a-thon fund-raiser. Students from kindergarten through fifth grade jogged, ran, and walked alongside their teachers. Students, staff, and parents cheered and encouraged joggers as they circled the track.

Education begins at home, and we are fortunate to be a part of a school culture that embraces education as the key to success. Our parents are our educational partners.

Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • http://www.riovistaschool.org



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Looking Toward the Future

Rio Vista Elementary School continues to be an exciting ecosystem of learning. As we move forward with our college readiness initiative, our teachers are actively seeking new partnerships. Two of our business partners recently donated \$1,400, which will go toward the purchase of university flags. Each classroom has adopted a university to represent for this academic year. Our goal is to join the No Excuses University Network of schools.

For past three years, we have partnered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to bring the Champions of Change. Brent and Brandon Le both donated a \$100 of their own money to this year's effort. Mrs. Bates and her fourth-grade class had personal motivation to donate for their classmate who passed away in early December from complications due to a brain tumor. This class raised a total of \$389.26 and was treated to a luncheon. As a school, we raised a total of \$7,013.22.

Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • www.parkviewpylusd.org



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Preppy Kindergarten

We are so excited that Parkview can now start our home school students with Preppy Kindergarten, beginning in the 2015–2016 school year. Preppy K, or Transitional Kindergarten, will offer an early year kindergarten experience with a home school structure.

We will be using the extremely successful Preppy K district program and tailoring it to serve our families that home school, just like we do in grades K–12. Students will be able to participate in academic and social/emotional opportunities through the two-day-a-week classes, and the parents will also be supported in the at-home curriculum.

Students may start in the Preppy K class when school begins in September if their fifth birthday is between September 2 and December 2. If their birthday is between December 3 and February 28, they may start on their fifth birthday. Upon parent request, children with birthdays earlier than September 2 may attend Preppy K at Parkview. Just like our other home schooling/independent study offerings, Preppy K is free. It is part of our public school system.

Parkview is honored to be serving our home school communities with so many options. We are expanding our two-day-a-week classes, and are continuing what so many families value most about Parkview. This includes performing arts for all ages, flexibility, individualized programs, leadership class, science labs, field trips, and an amazing school community.

If you have a child the right age for Preppy K–12, and are interested in home schooling, come see us at Parkview. Enrollment is now open for the fall.

If you have a child the right age for Preppy K–12, and are interested in home schooling, come see us at Parkview. Enrollment is now open for the fall.

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Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

Fifty Years in the Making!

This year marks our 50th year of existence at Rose Drive Elementary School. Established in 1964, Rose Drive has been making a difference in the lives of students for half a century. To celebrate, we would like to invite the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District community, Rose Drive alumni, and former staff members to help us commemorate this major milestone. Our 1960s-themed Family Night is scheduled for the evening of June 4, promising a night of picnic-style dining, dance, reflection, and an array of 1960s fun. We hope you can join us.

March and April were busy months, featuring our annual Open House, Spring Book Fair, and Lunch with a Loved One events. Of notable mention academically, we celebrated the highly-anticipated publication of our fifth-graders' anthology, *Harvard Stories*, featuring a compilation of short stories as well as the completion of the fourth grade's Harriet Tubman document-based question, a research project that required students to incorporate their research into their original poetry writings on this topic. Third-graders enjoyed a highly interactive experience during their Bradford House field trip, while second-graders were treated to an assembly led by Officer Anderson and his K-9 friend, Habo. Students learned about the training of a police dog and the dangerous tasks they are required to complete. Just another typical day in the life of a Rose Drive student—learning and growing exponentially!

A final thank you to our team of dedicated staff, committed parents, and passionate students for yet another wildly successful year.

This year marks our 50th year of existence at Rose Drive Elementary School. Established in 1964, Rose Drive has been making a difference in the lives of students for half a century.

Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.pylusd.org



Diana McKibben
Principal

Honors and Celebrations

Congratulations to Ruby's Sofia Vander Kooy. She has been selected as a recipient of the PYLUSD's "Celebrating EL Successes" award that recognizes her outstanding service in supporting success for our English learners!

Congratulations also go to those music students who were accepted into the District's Elementary Honor Band: Zulema Valdez (violin and orchestra), Anthony Morton (clarinet), David Ramirez (alto sax), Benjamin Meza (trumpet), and Miguel Gonzalez (baritone).

Our third-graders recently went to a local amusement park to learn about Native Americans! Congratulations also go to fourth-grader Nirel Escamilla, who won a tablet for herself and a pizza party for Mrs. Burrow's class for correctly answering a science question at a recent outside event.

Eighteen sixth-grade students also collaborated with the Champions for Change Health Care Agency on a "walkability audit" to create a safe and respectful environment for children who travel to and from school. The students will soon be giving presentations to our city agencies.



Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.pylusd.org/schools/sierravista/index.asp



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Sierra Vista Eagles Spell Success!

Twelve Sierra Vista Eagles participated in the District Spelling Bee sponsored by the REACH Foundation. With a vote of confidence from their teachers

and classmates, they stepped up to meet the challenge of competition at a higher level. "My knees were shaking!", "I had a little bit of a stomach ache..." , and "I spelled words I'd never even heard of before!" were a few of their comments after the match. Trent Chaffin said, "My dad told me I would never forget the word I missed." In the end, they all agreed that it was a great experience and they were looking forward to next year's competition. The participants came home smiling with T-shirts, and ribbons. Cormac Tobin won a 3rd place trophy for 4th grade and Allen Epstein won a 3rd place trophy for 3rd grade. Congratulations to all!



Sierra Vista Spelling Bee Contestants

(f) Juliana Ortiz, Allen Epstein, Trent Chaffin, Taylor Jaime (m) Cormac Tobin, Sarah Vasquez, Ben Kennedy, Delaney Chaffin, (b) Ayana Nieto, Karyna Meinert, Taylor Oltman, Thomas Parish.

Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topaz.pylusd.org



Monica Barrera
Principal

Parent Involvement

Topaz Elementary School had a successful Open House, with over 90 percent attendance! A large part of Topaz's success is due to parent participation. We have also worked hard all year to expose our students to the new state standards.

Topaz fosters an environment where its stakeholders work as a professional learning community to demonstrate a strong culture of collaboration focusing on student achievement. The school's learning culture also includes a strong sense of personal and social responsibility. Teachers utilize the most effective research-based methods to meet the needs of a diverse group of young learners coming from a variety of cultures.

As we prepare for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, we have not forgotten about our need to provide memorable opportunities for students and parents. As part of our parent involvement effort, family members were recently invited to eat with their students at our "Lunch on the Lawn" event.



Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Good Morning, Community!

Our Travis Ranch TV (TRTV) studio is now an award-winning video-production and live-television-broadcasting class, led by Paola Hellwig! This eighth-grade elective class teams up to develop monthly 25-minute broadcasts consisting of student-created video segments for K-5

and 6-8 students to enjoy.

Besides the monthly shows, our TRTV students produce live school news programs each morning! They use state-of-the-art equipment and software in their newly remodeled school studio to produce segments featuring upcoming events, our students' accomplishments, and guest appearances. The show is uploaded daily and posted to our school website so that parents and community members can find out all the great things we do here at Travis. TRTV students have participated in contests and have been honored with awards from the Yorba Linda and Brea film festivals. They were recently honored as top 10 finalists in a national film contest sponsored by a global electronics corporation.



Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

Reaching New Heights

Painting Across the Boundaries partnered Tuffree Middle School students with Golden Elementary School first-graders to create a painting for our district performing arts center. Funded by the Resources for the Enrichment of Academics, Arts, and Athletics for our Children to reach their ultimate Heights (REACH) Foundation, this project joined the collaborative skills of teachers Mrs. Halliday and Mrs. McDonald. Students used 21st-century skills, including communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking to design, complete, and weave together two unique creations!



Students from Tuffree Middle and Golden Elementary collaborate and bond as they complete the "Painting Across Boundaries" project for the PYLUSD Performing Arts Center.

Tuffree was recognized by the California Association of Student Leaders with the Outstanding Leadership Program Award. Our newly formed Science Olympiad team had an impressive showing at their first county-wide competition, placing seventh overall. Two Tuffree students qualified for state-level competition in the You Be the Chemist Challenge. Finally, our library clerk, Mrs. Crow, was honored as a district Classified Employee of the Year.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



Connie Roe
Principal

Oh, What A Night!

Van Buren celebrated its 50th Anniversary and Open House on March 19. Former Roadrunners joined our current staff, administration, and the community to honor our school's great history.

Sixth-grade student emcees led the celebration with a tribute to the five decades that have passed since our school's opening in 1965. They shared fun facts, including the changing cost of a Mustang, a hamburger, a house, gasoline, a gallon of milk, and candy.

Popular music was also well represented, as each grade level entertained us with a song from a past decade. We sang along to ABC (the fifth- and sixth-graders); YMCA (the fourth grade); Celebration (third grade); Fresh Prince of Bel Air (second grade); High School Musical (first grade); and Happy (Pre-K and K).



Fourth grade singing.

Students dressed in the fashion of their decade, too! The PTA designed booths displaying pop culture, and our visitors enjoyed traveling through the decades with popular candy and games across the campus. Over 1,500 visitors joined us in the celebration!

Thank you to our wonderful PTA, staff, and students for honoring the school in such fantastic style.



Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.johnotynes.org



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Technology Opportunities

Tynes Elementary School is moving rapidly into the future with technology! With five full netbook carts and 20 extra to share, our students have incredible access to the latest technology. Each of our Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) classrooms houses its own cart, and the two other carts are shared among the upper-grade students.

Netbooks are laptops designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and data residing “in the cloud.” Students in third through sixth grades use these netbooks daily to access programs that support reading and math in the classroom, such as Ticket to Read, Spatial-Temporal Math, and Accelerated Reader, and to research topics of study. Teachers and students utilize an Internet server to share homework and classroom assignments, work collaboratively on assignments at the same time, and submit written work to their teachers to get feedback electronically before publishing final products.



Mrs. Frederick's 4th grade GATE class helps Mrs. Maucher's 3rd grade class use the Chromebooks for the first time.

The use of this technology has tremendously increased student enthusiasm for learning, engagement in the classroom, and quality of finished work!



Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.pylusd.org/schools/valadez/index.asp



James Hardin
Principal

Professional Learning Communities

What is Collaboration?

A systematic process in which we work together, interdependently to analyze and impact professional practice in order to improve our individual and collective results.

Educational research supports the fact that developing a staff's capacities for talking together may be the most significant investment staffs can make for student learning (Garmston/Wellman). Valadez Middle School Academy uses Monday time together to do just that: develop professional learning communities! A systematic process is implemented where every member of our staff engages in the ongoing exploration of four crucial questions that drive the work of those within our school. The questions we continually address throughout the year are:

- What do we want each student to learn (essential knowledge and skills)?
- How will we know when each student has learned it (ongoing assessments)?
- How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning (student interventions)?
- How will we deepen the learning for students who have already mastered essential knowledge and skills (differentiated learning)?

The Valadez Middle School Academy Staff continues to analyze and discuss common core standards, district curriculum guides, and student achievement data.

Our community continues to support our commitment to improving learning in our school.

How does Valadez Middle School Academy continue to maintain a high level of excellence with our staff in progressing forward with professional learning communities?

1. Providing professional development
2. Encouraging staff buy-in
3. Recognizing the difference between “teaming” and true collaboration
4. Continuing positive school culture
5. Building trust

Valencia *High School (9-12)*

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Rick Lopez
Principal

Academic Teams Excel

In February, Valencia High School's Academic Decathlon team captured first place in Super Quiz and third place overall in the county, which qualified them for state competition in Sacramento. Team members include Joyce Chew, Jordan Ehrman, Linda Feregrino, Jacob Leiken, Andrew Nguyen, Maddy Rychlik, William Soong, Sana Talwar, and Joseph Yen.

Also in February, Valencia's Science Olympiad team captured third place out of 28 schools in Orange County, which qualified them to advance to state competition. First-place medal winners include: Andy Li and Erika Kim, astronomy; Ryan Hon and Megan Wang, anatomy, and Terry Yau and Alison Pin, forensics.



In March, Valencia's Chemistry Olympiad team competed against 38 schools in Orange County and captured third place. Valencia is proud to have two of the top 11 students, Ben Nguyen and Joseph Yen, who will represent Orange County at the national competition.

Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.pylusd.org/schools/wagner/index.asp



Patrick Brown
Principal

Spirit of Service

By Judy Lighthipe, Teacher – 3rd and 4th Grades

The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others. —Albert Schweitzer

Students at Wagner School have learned a lot this year about the importance of helping others. Guided by the principle that “Leadership is Service,” the school’s student council planned several successful projects. During the holidays, Wagner families donated more than 1,100 pounds of canned goods to benefit the Orange County Second Harvest Food Bank, an organization dedicated to serving more than 200,000 individuals each month at food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school programs, senior centers, and other nonprofit organizations.

Next, families emptied their jars of loose change and raised over \$2,300 for Pennies for Patients, benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This organization is dedicated to curing blood cancers and improving the quality of life for patients and their families.

The Wagner Student Council is led by officers Audrey Karp, Nathan Cadena, Kyle Alvarez, and Michelle Trinh. Twenty-five students participate under the guidance of their advisor, Mrs. Jenna Gonzales.

Later in the year, Wagner families generously donated over 880 books to Children’s Hospital of Orange County for children to read and keep during their stay at the hospital. This project, sponsored by our PTA, was especially meaningful to students at Wagner, who share the joy of reading.

In addition to helping the community, some students at Wagner volunteer their time at school as peer mentors. Twice a week, a group of students from fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students, under the guidance of advisor Mrs. Teri Krueger, spend time on the playground with students from our Special Education classes.

The spirit of service is alive and well at Wagner School!

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



Cameron Malotte
Principal

Student Leaders

The California Association of Student Leaders (CASL) and the California Association of Directors of Activities (CADA) presented Yorba Linda Middle School (YLMS) with the Outstanding Leadership Program Award.

The notification letter from CASL/CADA stated, “As California’s official representative body for student leaders, our interest is in identifying and highlighting schools whose leadership programs are extraordinarily successful in their mission to foster an inclusive and supportive school culture. After reviewing the self study prepared by your leadership class, it is our pleasure to name Yorba Linda Middle School among the finalists for the California Association of Student Leaders’ Outstanding Leadership Program Award, an honor presented to only five percent of eligible schools.”

Eleven students from the YLMS Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership class and the YLMS activities director, Patricia Holt, traveled to San Jose to accept the award at the state CASL conference.

The YLMS leadership program is a distinguished and recognized program because we train our student leaders, we provide our students with a voice, and we unite our campus by providing common experiences. There are school traditions to create pride and spirit. Our student leaders promote achievement, encourage service, honor diversity, offer social opportunities and create connections. Mrs. Holt and our ASB collaborate with all of our student activities programs: Where Everybody Belongs (WEB), which is taught by Ms. Taylor; journalism (yearbook and newspaper), which is taught by Mrs. Hinson; Bobcat Television (BCTV), which provides morning announcements, public service announcements, and special presentations and is taught by Ms. Holt; and Get Everyone Together (GET), which helps sponsor various activities and recognition programs and taught by Ms. Holt.

We are very proud of our award-winning activities program and the leadership skills and opportunities available at YLMS.

Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

7575 E. Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Making Our School Better

Woodsboro students can have fun, learn leadership skills, and get exercise all in one outstanding event. That’s because the Woodsboro PTA recently brought us the APEX Extreme Fun Run organization, an all-inclusive family activity that generated funds to purchase Chromebooks for our school.

Leading up to the Fun Run, the APEX coaches taught skills like bravery, teamwork, and gratitude in every classroom every day for two weeks. There was also a kick-off assembly that was active, lively, and generated a lot of enthusiasm for this family event.



The students ran between 26–36 laps on a 1/16th mile track. They also earned prizes that included laptops, sports equipment, and toys. We appreciate our PTA members for their endless effort in working hard to make our school better, and providing quality activities like the APEX Fun Run. They help make Woodsboro a great place to “Bee.”

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Dave Flynn
Principal

An Outstanding Year

This spring begins Yorba Linda High School’s recognition of its students’ hard work during the school year, and their dedication to co-curricular activities and community service.

In March, the National Honor Society inducted 63 new students for their scholarship, leadership, and service contributions. In April, the Yorba Linda High PTSA recognized 65 freshmen, 53 sophomores, 654 juniors, and 68 seniors with its “Academic Mustang Award” for maintaining a 4.0 or higher GPA in all of their classes!

Our 2015 school-wide Renaissance Assembly also recognized 92 outstanding students in academics, fine and performing arts, community service, scholar athletes, and academic excellence.

On May 18 the Yorba Linda High School staff will be honoring the Class of 2015 at its annual Senior Awards Night. Over 200 students will receive awards and certificates for college scholarships, departmental honors, and academic achievements. Valedictorian Miya Sheker, along with Salutatorians Thalia Hull, Thomas Kim, Samantha Kuo, and Kayla Reger, will each receive special recognition for top honors in the Class of 2015.

This has been another outstanding year for student achievement and co-curricular participation!



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Session 4	July 27 thru July 30 (Adv. Camp Only)

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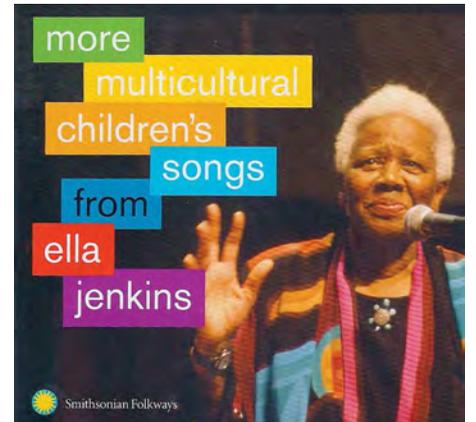
Note-ables

More Multicultural Children's Songs



Kate Karp

In celebration of the giving season, here's an offering from an award-winning children's music icon. Smithsonian Folkways has just released Ella Jenkins' 34th album, a sampler of music and spoken word that represents many diverse countries and cultures around the world.



Jenkins, called the First Lady of the Children's Folk Song, has recorded collections for children since back in the days of vinyl. My teacher played her records when I was a child in 1957, and yours may have, too, in the six-plus decades of her still-active career.

This collection sends children on a global tour that will educate them about vocabulary, special celebrations and cultures from here in the United States straight through the planet to the Great Wall of China—well, actually, that would be in the Indian Ocean, but you get the idea. There are stops at an Australian zoo for a visit with the continent's unusual animals, in Cuba for a dance lesson and in Israel for a dreidel spin. Children will learn how to count to ten in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and Greek (and in English, of course) and will hear how *Cairo* in Egypt is pronounced differently from *Cairo* in Illinois. And their passports are good for a dozen other lands.

Jenkins turned 90 years old in August, and she's still singing. *More Multicultural Songs* comprises her continuing gift of learning and connection to cultures through song to children everywhere.

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

Summer Fun 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 PYLUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2015
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome | Lessons | Sunscreen |
| Barbeque | Lifeguard | Surfing |
| Beach | Picnics | Swimming |
| Fireworks | Pool | Vacation |
| Fun | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot | Sand | Water |
| Ice Cream | Summer | Wave |
| Lemonade | Sunny | |

Congratulations to Joe Herrerar
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!





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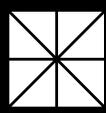
Hosted by Chapman University's Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music, this weeklong day camp provides high school singers with a dynamic, challenging, and unforgettable musical experience.

This is an excellent opportunity for high school students not only to take advantage of our premier vocal program but also learn about our university as a place where they can turn passion into a vocation.

The day camp begins Monday, June 22 and concludes with a final performance on Friday, June 26, 2015 in the beautiful Salmon Recital Hall on the Chapman University campus.

The deadline to register is June 1, 2015.

Scholarships available. Visit chapman.edu/choralcamp for more information.

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