

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Little Lake City School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2015

SUPERINTENDENT

The holiday season and a new year encourage our reflection on the many blessings we enjoy and the hope of a better future. On a personal level, we are thankful for our family members and friends who share and enrich our lives.



Dr. Phillip Perez

We are also thankful for our freedom as American citizens, and for those who serve our country to preserve and protect our liberty. As members of the Little Lake City School District, we definitely have much to be thankful for, as well.

We are thankful for:

- The privilege to educate 4,600 students with limitless potential who remind us every day why we entered this profession.
- The active support of our students' parents and guardians who entrust us with the formal education of their children.
- Teachers who responded to a professional calling and who do "whatever it takes" to ensure our students succeed.
- A talented support staff that literally keeps the district running and enables teachers to perform their jobs.
- Administrators who lead at the school and district levels and who model the core values of commitment, collaboration, passion and determination.
- A strong web of community support provided by business and civic leaders that reinforces our effectiveness in serving students.
- A Board of Education that works as a team and maintains the needs of students and the district as their top priority.

When I was a classroom teacher, I would customarily welcome my students back from their winter break with a writing assignment

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 7

La temporada de fiestas navideñas y el inicio de un nuevo año alientan a nuestra reflexión sobre las muchas bendiciones que disfrutamos y la esperanza de un futuro mejor. A nivel personal, estamos agradecidos por nuestros familiares y amigos que comparten y enriquecen nuestras vidas. También estamos agradecidos por nuestra libertad como ciudadanos estadounidenses, y por aquellos que sirven a nuestro país para preservar y proteger nuestra libertad. Como miembros del Distrito Escolar de Little Lake, definitivamente tenemos mucho que agradecer también.

Estamos agradecidos por:

- El privilegio de educar a 4,600 estudiantes con un potencial ilimitado que nos recuerdan cada día por qué entramos en esta profesión.
- El apoyo activo de los padres y tutores de nuestros alumnos que nos confían la educación formal de sus hijos.
- Los maestros que respondieron a una vocación profesional y que hacen "lo que sea necesario" para asegurar que nuestros estudiantes tengan éxito.
- Un talentoso personal de apoyo que literalmente mantiene el distrito en funcionamiento y hace posible que los profesores sigan desempeñando su labor.
- Administradores que dirigen a nivel escuela y a nivel distrito y que son modelo de los valores fundamentales de compromiso, colaboración, pasión y determinación.
- Una fuerte red de apoyo de la comunidad, proporcionado por líderes empresariales y cívicos, que refuerza nuestra eficacia en el servicio a los estudiantes.

Technology Advances in LLCSD La Tecnología Avanza en LLCSD



Technology in the classroom. (Please see page 2.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Little Lake City School District mission statement ends with our commitment to "...ensure success for every student." Success is the ability to take knowledge and use it to become a productive citizen. Knowledge needs to be applied to lifetime situations.

Our students should be reading and writing at or above grade level. Reading is not just a subject, but a necessary skill in all areas of life. Students need to apply what they read and use that to build a productive life. Putting one's ideas in print is a talent that every productive citizen must achieve.

Technological skills must be taught as twenty-first century tools. Mathematical skills and concepts comprise an important component in Common Core State Standards being taught in all classrooms. Our

La declaración de la misión del Distrito Escolar de Little Lake termina con nuestro compromiso de "... asegurar el éxito de cada estudiante". El éxito es la capacidad de tomar el conocimiento y utilizarlo para convertirse en un ciudadano productivo. El conocimiento necesita ser aplicado en diferentes situaciones de la vida.

Nuestros estudiantes deben leer y escribir en o por encima del nivel de su grado escolar. La lectura no es sólo un tema, sino una habilidad necesaria en todos los ámbitos de la vida. Los estudiantes tienen que aplicar lo que leen y usarlo para construir una vida productiva. Ser capaz de plasmar las ideas personales en una impresión es un talento que cada ciudadano productivo debe lograr.

Las habilidades tecnológicas

See BOARD OF EDUCATION • Page 7

Technology Advances in LLCSD

The Little Lake City School District is a recognized leader in many respects. Full-day kindergarten, implementation of a balanced literacy program, a solid arts program, and providing enrichment and intervention learning



opportunities are some examples of our leadership among school districts. An area in which we are only recently gaining momentum, however, is in providing our teachers and students with technology tools for teaching and learning.

In June 2013, the school district's Board of Education approved a plan to address the following strategy: "A well-trained staff will effectively integrate computer technology into the teaching process in order to improve student learning." The plan outlines specific steps to attain this outcome by focusing our fiscal resources from the state and a locally approved parcel tax.

During the 2013-2014 school year, all teachers in the district were issued a new laptop computer and docking station to link all of their technology devices. In addition, elementary and middle school classrooms were equipped with a document camera and an LCD projector to enable large images from the computer or a hard copy. Teachers quickly adapted their lessons to include the new teaching technology making use of still and moving visual displays to engage their students in learning. Also in 2013-2014, every school in the district received a newly equipped computer lab. Students visit the computer lab with their teachers to practice keyboarding skills, for reinforcement in reading, mathematics, and the writing process. The infrastructure necessary to provide wireless and speedier access to the internet completed the year's technology advancements.

In the current year, our strategic plan calls for an improvement in the ratio of technology devices to students in the district. After a period of investigation of the available options on the market, the district selected a technology device that would meet the needs of our students in grades 3-8. The devices were ordered and were delivered to schools in December 2014. Every school received either one or two mobile labs (depending on the school enrollment) to be used in classrooms and to supplement the stationary labs at each campus. Study of the appropriate device for use by students in grades K-2 is underway, with purchases to be made later this school year.

The district's planning for the effective use of instructional technology also included a component of staff support needed to succeed. Toward this end, the district increased our computer support staff by adding a computer technician. Every school is assigned an itinerant computer support staff member who is on-site weekly to provide the technical assistance needed to keep the systems operating smoothly. In addition, two teachers on special assignment provide both direct instruction to students in computer literacy skills, as well as professional development to teachers in the effective use of technology tools for instruction. Finally, with the prospect of technology continuing to be an integral and essential element of instruction, the district is planning to address the issue of obsolescence and the need to repair or replace aging technology in the future.

What, one may wonder, is the impact of all of this new technology on student learning? To be clear, effective teaching has been a mainstay in Little Lake for many years. However, the infusion of instructional technology has enhanced the way in which students engage in subject matter content and develop skills. By experiencing learning in a way that mirrors the world outside of school, the relevance of students' classroom lessons is emphasized and they will be better prepared for future learning and careers.

La Tecnología Avanza en LLCSD

El Distrito Escolar de Little Lake es líder reconocido en muchos aspectos. Jardín de niños de todo el día, la implementación de un equilibrado programa de artes de lenguaje, un sólido programa de artes y por proporcionar enriquecimiento y oportunidades de aprendizaje, son algunos ejemplos de nuestro liderazgo entre los distritos escolares. Sin embargo, un área en la cual apenas recientemente estamos ganando impulso, es en proveer a nuestros maestros y estudiantes con las herramientas tecnológicas para la enseñanza y el aprendizaje.

En junio de 2013, el Consejo Educativo del distrito aprobó un plan para hacer frente a la siguiente estrategia: "Un personal bien entrenado integrará de forma efectiva la tecnología informática en el proceso de enseñanza con el fin de mejorar el aprendizaje de los alumnos". El plan establece medidas concretas para alcanzar ese resultado, centrando nuestros recursos fiscales del Estado y un impuesto sobre la parcela aprobado localmente.

Durante el año escolar 2013-2014, a todos los maestros en el distrito les fueron expedidas computadoras laptop y una estación de carga para conectar todos sus dispositivos tecnológicos. Además, las aulas de primaria y secundaria fueron equipadas con una cámara de documentos y un proyector LCD para proyectar imágenes de gran tamaño de la computadora o de una copia impresa. Los maestros adaptaron rápidamente sus lecciones para incluir la nueva tecnología en sus prácticas pedagógicas, haciendo uso de pantallas visuales fijas y en movimiento para involucrar a sus estudiantes en el aprendizaje. También en 2013-2014 todas las escuelas del distrito recibieron un nuevo laboratorio de computación equipado. Los estudiantes visitan el laboratorio de computación con sus maestros para practicar habilidades con el teclado, reforzar la lectura, matemáticas y el proceso de escritura. La infraestructura necesaria para proveer servicio de internet rápido e inalámbrico completó los avances tecnológicos del año.

En el presente año, nuestro plan estratégico requiere una mejora en la proporción de los dispositivos tecnológicos y los estudiantes del distrito. Después de un período de investigación de las opciones disponibles en el mercado, el distrito ha seleccionado un dispositivo de tecnología que satisfaga las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes de los grados 3-8. Los dispositivos fueron ordenados y se entregaron a las escuelas en Diciembre de 2014. Cada escuela recibió uno o dos laboratorios móviles (dependiendo de la matrícula total de la escuela) para ser usados en las aulas y para complementar los laboratorios fijos en cada campus. Está en marcha un estudio para establecer el dispositivo adecuado para los estudiantes de Jardín de niños hasta el 2do grado, con las compras que se harán a finales de este año escolar.

La planificación del distrito para el uso adecuado de la tecnología educativa también incluye un componente de apoyo del personal necesario para tener éxito. Con este fin, el distrito ha incrementado el personal de soporte informático mediante la adición de un técnico en computación. A cada escuela se le asigna a un miembro del personal de apoyo informático ambulante, quien está en el lugar cada semana para proveer la asistencia técnica necesaria para mantener los sistemas funcionando sin problemas. Además, dos maestros en asignación especial proporcionan tanto la instrucción directa a los estudiantes en conocimientos y habilidades informáticos, como desarrollo profesional a los docentes en el uso efectivo de las herramientas tecnológicas para la enseñanza. Por último, con la perspectiva de que la tecnología sigue siendo un elemento integral y esencial para la enseñanza, el distrito tiene previsto abordar el tema de la obsolescencia y la necesidad de reparar o reemplazar tecnología antigua en el futuro.

¿Cuál es, uno puede preguntarse, el impacto de toda esta nueva tecnología en el aprendizaje de los alumnos? Para ser claros, la enseñanza eficaz ha sido un pilar en Little Lake por muchos años. No obstante, la introducción de la tecnología educativa ha mejorado la forma en que los estudiantes se involucran en distintos temas y en el desarrollo de habilidades. Al experimentar el aprendizaje de una manera que refleja el mundo fuera de la escuela, la relevancia de las lecciones de los estudiantes en el aula se enfatiza y de esta forma van a estar mejor preparados para la educación y la carrera profesional futura.

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Covering the
LITTLE LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By now your year is off to a great start and students are focused on their academic goals. This District is preparing the students for the 21st Century and technology is a big part of that preparation. I am truly amazed at the knowledge of children at very young ages when it comes to figuring out digital devices.

We do offer *School News* digitally as well as hardcopies. We appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter the Word Search Contest on page 6 (all ages).

Our next issue is March 4.

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Cresson *Elementary*

11650 Cresson St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-6620 • <http://cresson.llcsd.net/>



Linda Rigg
Principal

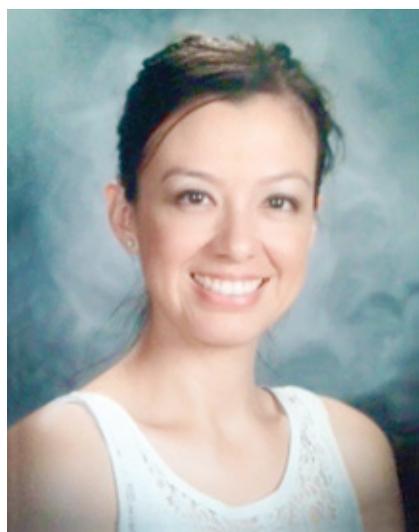
Cresson's Counselor

While we are focused on addressing the academic achievement of our students at Cresson Elementary School, we must also consider the social and emotional needs of our children as well. To help us in this

endeavor, we are fortunate to have the services of Martha Escobedo, our Little Lake City elementary counselor.

Ms. Escobedo spends every Thursday at Cresson, working with students, staff, parents, and the community to serve the needs of the students. She provides individual counseling, collaborates with staff, works with parents, and communicates with the community to secure resources and support for our families. In addition, Ms. Escobedo helps facilitate our Lunch Club, during which students play board games, create LEGO masterpieces, and socialize with their peers. Lunch Club has become so popular that we had to create a VIP Pass lottery system to keep it at a manageable level.

Ms. Escobedo is indeed an important member of our Cresson family.



Jersey Avenue *Elementary*

9400 Jersey Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/948-3772 • <http://jersey.llcsd.net/>



Michael Trimmell
Principal

Battle of the Books!

Jersey Avenue is a great place to be! We're in full implementation of the Common Core State Standards, have a new computer lab and have more devices for students on the way, and have an updated PE program.

With so many wonderful things, it's hard to pick one to highlight. This month, however, I want to highlight our Battle of the Books (BOB) program. BOB is run by the City of Santa Fe Springs and includes four local elementary schools. Training for the competition begins in early October each school year, and the competition takes place in May.

Jersey won the trophy last school year, and we're poised to keep it here this year! Mrs. Staine and Ms. Tasiemski are the supervisors of our BOB program. Their passion for reading and dedication to the students are unmatched. Look for Jersey to be the Battle of the Books champions two years in a row!



Lake Center *Middle School*

10503 Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-4977 • <http://lakecenter.llcsd.net/>



Dr. Bill Crean
Principal

Morning Fitness

Morning time at Lake Center has turned into fitness time for many of our students. Working closely with the physical education department, and the ASB, Assistant Principal Downing has developed and organized a morning program that allows students to participate in healthy physical activities.

When the gates open at 7:30 a.m. before school starts, our students have a choice of going into the fitness lab, the courts, or the multipurpose room. While in the fitness lab they can engage in a variety of activities. The students have access to strength training, cardiovascular, and videogame-based exercise equipment.

In the multipurpose room, students can play ping pong while listening to music. While on the courts, they can participate in 3-on-3 basketball games, play beanbag toss, or take part in a new and exciting game called Spikeball. These morning activities provide our students with a wide variety of ways to engage in physical activity in a safe and fun environment.



Lakeside *Middle School*

11000 Kenney St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9422 • <http://lakeside.llcsd.net/>



Ana Gutierrez
Principal

Introducing the Arts

The performing arts are coming to Lakeside! Beginning in January, and in cooperation with Rio Hondo Community College, Lakeside will be starting the Lakeside Arts Collective: An Afterschool Creative Arts Program.

Students will be invited to an orientation in January, followed by auditions for onstage performers as well as signups for production support teams (i.e., artists, stagehands, media specialists). LCAP Pupil Engagement Funds will be used to support this program. The purpose of these funds is to provide incentives for our middle school students to engage in extracurricular activities.

The Lakeside students will be directed by Ann Gresham, who currently serves on the faculties of Rio Hondo and Cerritos Colleges. She will be coordinating what promises to be some innovative and exciting ensembles. The students will also be at Rio Hondo Community College in the Wray Theater. This experience promises to provide our students with an unforgettable introduction to the arts.

Lakeland *Elementary*

11224 Bombardier Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-8887 • <http://lakeland.llcsd.net/>



Jack Sokoloff
Principal

Technology In Action

Lakeland Elementary School is very pleased to offer a range of activities where students utilize technology. We have a state of the art computer lab equipped with more than enough Apple computers for an entire class. Students work on programs and activities like Type To Learn, Success Maker, Power Point, and research reports to name a few. In addition, each classroom is equipped with a computer station to further enhance the ability of students to access technology. Also, each room has a document camera and LCD projector to ensure lessons are more accessible to students. Literacy is supported with technology as well with the Accelerated Reader program. In this program, students take quizzes about books at their reading levels. When students master a book, they may receive a prize. Our students enjoy interacting with technology as it helps them become 21st century learners.



William Orr *Elementary*

12130 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7988 • <http://williamorr.llcsd.net/>



Rebecca Casillas
Principal

Calling All Parents!

Parent involvement in a child's education is directly linked to student success. While parent participation has always been a priority for Orr, this year, we have made a special effort to increase our parent involvement.

Traditional events and parent groups such as conferences, Open House, PTA and School Site Council will be continued; however, I'd also like to extend an invitation to all of our parents and community members to join us for some new and exciting opportunities to get involved and help their children.

In January, we will be offering technology training focusing on the multiple resources available online to families to support their children with our new math program. Multiple dates and times will be available.

In March, we plan to host a parent night focusing on English language arts and technology. Three rotating sessions will provide practice with our new state testing (SBAC), with our new Common Core Standards in language arts, and on technology available for home use to increase student achievement.

Lastly, in April, we would like to invite parents to spend part of their day at school with their children. Parents will begin by participating in a math lesson in their children's classrooms. Following this, parents will be invited to eat lunch with their children in our grass area as a special time for families to enjoy spending time together.

Our goal in all of our events is to educate our parents in how to best provide support to their children at home. Our focus is on making our events interactive and resourceful. Students are welcome at most events, but child care will be provided if not. Also, interpreting will be provided as needed. We are eager to help our community and look forward to seeing you all at the events!

Lakeview *Elementary*

11500 Joslin St., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8655 • <http://lakeview.llcsd.net/>



Lauren Hernandez
Principal

The Art of Community Building

Lakeview PTA has been busy these past few months. Our Fall Festival and Silent Auction was a great success, with over 400 students and family members in attendance. The funds raised that evening allow us to provide the Meet the Masters program here at Lakeview. In these multimedia assemblies, our expert, Mrs. McMahon, uses slides, artifacts, models and photos to teach students about the fascinating lives and famous works of the master artists. Following the assembly, students work with our Arts for All teacher to re-create a work in the same medium, style or subject of the artist they studied.



A PTA winter highlight is our Family Art Night. Families are invited to spend an evening together and use their creative skills to paint, decorate, mold and draw. We look forward to seeing all of our artistic families again at our second Family Art Night offered in the spring.

Paddison *Elementary*

12100 Crewe St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7741 • <http://paddison.llcsd.net/>



Dr. Lorena Martinez-Vargas
Principal

Panthers Are Positively On the Move

At Paddison Elementary School, we care about our students' overall health and wellness. We know that healthy and physically active students are better poised to attain academic achievement. As a result, we embarked on a school-wide initiative to promote physical activity and sportsmanship. In doing so, we are fostering positive peer relations and stellar achievement inside and outside of our classrooms.

Making this happen takes teamwork. A Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation (LLEA) grant award has made it possible for us to purchase pedometers. Students have the opportunity to participate in a walking club. Participants log and graph their steps, integrating healthy habits, math skills, and data analysis.

Our friends at a local retail store and our third- through fifth-grade teachers partnered to purchase outdoor equipment for our upper-grade students to use during recess and physical education. Our itinerant physical education teacher, Mr. Jerry Manriquez, facilitated a demonstration session, through which students were given guidance on how to use the equipment safely and properly. Our pedometers and playground equipment, coupled with our amazing teacher support and the support from our community partners, is helping us to ensure that the Paddison Panthers stay "Positively on the Move."

Stay tuned! There is more to come. Our PTO will host our Panther Olympics in the spring. If you would like to support our efforts or would like information about our school-wide initiative or our Panther Olympics, please call.



Monica Johnson
Principal

Studebaker is Awarded LLEAF Grants

The Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation (LLEAF) awards grants annually to help fund educational programs across our district. Over the years, LLEAF has funded several programs at Studebaker.

Among them are science classes from Science on the Go, music performances from the Music Center of Los Angeles County, and a GATE fieldtrip to “Gold Rush Adventure” at Riley’s Farm. This school year, all four of Studebaker’s LLEAF grant proposals were awarded! Non-fiction library books, a life science class, a GATE fieldtrip and a school wide music performance will all be funded through LLEAF grants for this school year. We are grateful for these enrichment opportunities that enhance student learning. Thank you, LLEAF!



2nd graders at an aquarium assembly at school.

Word Search Contest Words Associated with School

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 LL in subject line)

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

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| Encourage | Nutrition | Thinkers |
| Excellence | Parents | Workers |

Congratulations to Alec Barboza
December winner!



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

about their resolutions for the new year. We'd talk about the meaning of a resolution and the opportunity we have each January (each day, actually) to make a promise to ourselves to be the best person we can be. I'd advise them to keep the number of resolutions few in order to improve their chances of sticking to them. I also would suggest that writing and publicly sharing a resolution strengthens one's commitment to keeping it.



Dr. Phillip Perez

Although it's been a while since I taught fifth graders, I still try to practice improving the person (and now superintendent) I am. In that spirit, I'd like to risk sharing my three resolutions for the new year. As 2015 gets underway, I resolve to:

- Always assume the best of others.
- Appreciate the light side of things.
- Be a better sport when my sports team (Go UCLA Bruins!) wins or, albeit seldom, loses.

I wish everyone reading this the best of years ahead as we work together to promote the education and well-being of all the students of the Little Lake City School District.

- Un Consejo de Educación que trabaja en equipo y mantiene las necesidades de los alumnos y el distrito como su principal prioridad.

Cuando yo era maestro de salón de clase, acostumbraba recibir a mis alumnos de regreso de las vacaciones de invierno, pidiéndoles un trabajo escrito sobre sus propósitos para el nuevo año. Hablábamos sobre el significado de hacer un propósito y la oportunidad que tenemos cada mes de Enero (cada día, en realidad) de hacer una promesa a nosotros mismos para ser la mejor persona que podemos ser. Les aconsejaba mantener un número bajo de propósitos de año nuevo, con el fin de incrementar sus posibilidades de cumplirlos. Me gustaría también sugerir que el hecho de escribir y compartir públicamente una resolución o propósito fortalece el compromiso de uno mismo a mantenerlo. A pesar de que ha pasado un tiempo desde que enseñaba a alumnos de quinto grado, ahora como superintendente, sigo tratando de practicar la mejora de la persona que soy. En ese espíritu, me gustaría correr el riesgo de compartir mis tres propósitos para el nuevo año. A medida que el 2015 se pone en marcha, me propongo:

- Asumir siempre lo mejor de los demás.
- Apreciar el lado luminoso de las cosas.
- Ser un mejor aficionado cuando mi equipo deportivo gana (¡Vamos UCLA Bruins!) o cuando, rara vez, pierde.

Les deseo a todos los lectores de este artículo, lo mejor en los próximos años a medida que trabajamos juntos para promover la educación y el bienestar de todos los estudiantes del Distrito Escolar de Little Lake.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

students need practice in critical thinking, problem solving, and application of their mathematics skills.

Physical education builds teamwork, social skills, and physical fitness. Being part of a team contributes to a strong work ethic and to personal goal-setting.

Taken together, effective communication skills, mathematical reasoning, and well-developed motor skills will provide our students with many of the tools needed to meet life's challenges.

deben ser enseñadas como herramientas del siglo XXI. Los conceptos y aptitudes matemáticas comprenden un componente importante en los Estándares Estatales Comunes que es enseñado en todas las aulas. Nuestros estudiantes necesitan practicar el pensamiento crítico, la resolución de problemas y la aplicación de sus habilidades matemáticas.

La educación física fomenta el trabajo en equipo, las habilidades sociales y la condición física. Ser parte de un equipo contribuye a una sólida ética del trabajo y al establecimiento de metas personales.

En conjunto, las aptitudes de comunicación efectiva, el razonamiento matemático y las habilidades motoras bien desarrolladas, proporcionarán a nuestros estudiantes muchas de las herramientas necesarias para enfrentar los desafíos de la vida.

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