

School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you for your support as we continue to work hard on student achievement in the District.

This year we have been busy obtaining feedback from parents, students, teachers and staff to help us set priorities for next school year and develop an Accountability Plan that will guide us over the next three years. The Governor's new funding formula to support public schools provides flexibility that allows us to target services for students where needed.

STEAM, science, technology, engineering, arts and math are a priority as we continue to develop career pathways for middle and high school students. Full pathway programs will be in place at each of the comprehensive high schools next year, providing students with preparatory courses in all branches of engineering. We continue to increase advanced placement course

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Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Gracias por su apoyo en lo que continuamos trabajando arduamente en el éxito estudiantil en el Distrito.

Este año hemos estado ocupados obteniendo opiniones de los padres, estudiantes, maestros y personal para ayudarnos a establecer prioridades para el próximo año y desarrollar un Plan de Responsabilidad que nos guiará sobre los próximos tres años. La nueva fórmula de fondos del Gobernador para asistir a las escuelas públicas proporciona flexibilidad que nos permite enfocarnos en los servicios para los estudiantes donde sea necesario.

La Ciencia, La Tecnología, La Ingeniería, Las Arte, Las Matemáticas (STEAM, por sus siglas en inglés) son una prioridad al continuar desarrollando caminos hacia una carrera para estudiantes en las escuelas intermedias y secundarias. El próximo año, los

BOARD OF EDUCATION

In November of 2009, I was elected to the Norwalk-La Mirada School Board. In November of 2013, thanks to the voters in the Norwalk and La Mirada community, I was re-elected for another 4 year term. This year, I am honored to serve as the Board President. It is a privilege to serve as the spokesperson of the Board and assume more of a leadership role. Serving as Board President takes considerable commitment, and an investment of time and energy to fulfill the obligations to our students and district.

The first couple of months of 2014 have been extremely busy for the District and the School Board as well. The next couple of months will be even busier as we prepare to make

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 11



Margarita Rios
President

En noviembre de 2009, fui elegida a la Junta de Educación de Norwalk -La Mirada. En noviembre de 2013, gracias a los votantes de la ciudad de Norwalk y La Mirada, fui reelegida para un nuevo mandato de 4 años. Este año, me siento honrada de servir como Presidente de la Junta. Es un privilegio servir como portavoz de la Junta de Educación y asumir un rol de liderazgo más amplio. Servir como Presidente de la Junta requiere un compromiso considerable, y una inversión de tiempo y energía para cumplir con las obligaciones de nuestros estudiantes y Distrito.

El primer par de meses de 2014 han sido de mucha actividad para el Distrito y también para la Junta de

We Love Reading!



Ramona students enjoy a performance of "The Three Little Pigs."

Laurel Parker, Director Head Start Pre-School

Recently as part of Read Across America, the Cat in the Hat visited the preschool classes and encouraged children to read with their parents. Alonso Valenzuela played the Cat in the Hat, and we appreciate the fun way he shared his time and talents with our students.

Also in celebration of reading, staff members on the Visual and Performing Arts Action Team presented the play "The Three Little Pigs" to all students. The children were rolling on the floor with laughter in response to the antics of the very convincing three little pigs! Thanks go to all team members for their outstanding efforts.

It's time to apply for the 2014-2015 program year! We are serving new areas in Norwalk and Downey, so please call for an application or stop by the Ramona Head Start Preschool office if you have a child between the ages of two and four. We offer a variety of low-cost and free preschool programs.

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

At the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, we are seeking community input as we prepare to implement new funding guidelines that are designed to improve schools, as well as prepare students to graduate and be college- and career-ready.

In March, we hosted two meetings in the La Mirada and Norwalk communities to discuss the new Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which shifts spending decisions from the state to local school districts.

Under the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), districts will receive additional funds that are generated by the number of its English learners, low-income students and foster youth. Collectively, these students account for 77 percent of the NLMUSD population. The state plans for an eight-year phase-in to fully fund the LCFF, which District officials expect to reach \$187 million by the end of the span.

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**Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Board of Education**



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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553 • www.nlmusd.org



Michael Gotto
Principal

Leading the Way

Benton Middle Magnet School's Leadership program provides students with opportunities to learn effective leadership strategies, lead their peers through various activities, promote a positive culture and more! Under the direction of language arts/creative writing teacher Mr. Maradkel, our leaders have taken the leadership program to new heights.

After learning about John Wooden's Pyramid of Success, Benton leaders conducted a successful communitywide clothing drive. Over 3,000 articles of clothing were collected and donated to the Long Beach Rescue Mission for those in need. We are very proud of our Wolverines, who exhibited true leadership and community-mindedness.

Recently, our leaders also sponsored a movie night inviting elementary students throughout the district to view a movie on the meaning of true loyalty.

We know our leaders will continue to be a positive force on our campus, and we look forward to many wonderful events they will be leading in the coming months and years.



Seventh grader Dominic Sanchez captures student leaders loading the Long Beach Rescue Mission's van with over 3,000 articles of clothing.

Chavez *Elementary School*

12110 E. Walnut St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3565 • www.nlmusd.org



Robert Rayburn
Principal

ELAC Parents Go to GATE Class

All parents have high hopes for their children. At Chavez, we are continuing to inform our parents about the new Common Core Standards.

The Common Core Standards recognize that "just knowing" is no longer enough; children are now expected to understand the content deeply. So at our February English Learner Advisory Committee meeting (ELAC), parents were able to experience a Common Core lesson taught by Mr. Rayburn.

The participants first investigated magnetic forces and then had to explain their findings using the evidence they had created. The findings were shared with classmates, and "peer reviewed" on Padlet.com. The students also learned how to publish their multimedia results on iPads with this free online tool.



Chavez parents experience a Common Core lesson.

Our parents will be able to experience more sample lessons from Mr. Rayburn during the remaining ELAC meetings this year. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month, from 8:15–9:15 in Room 41.

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678 • www.nlmusd.org



Bob Easton
Principal

College and Career Readiness

As the new Common Core State Standards are implemented, the emphasis for students is on college and career readiness. Students will be expected to interpret and explain complex texts, think critically to solve challenging problems, and work collaboratively in groups.

With this in mind, in February and March, Corvallis Middle School students participated in College Week and Career Day. Students learned about the many benefits of a college degree and were treated to "insider" information from a representative of University of California, Irvine. On Career Day, over 30 professionals spent the day sharing about their work, including how they prepared for their careers,

what they like most and least about their work, and what they do during a typical day.

Exploring college and career options helped students make the connection between what they are studying in class and how it applies to the real world.



Staff and students celebrate College Week.

Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934 • www.nlmusd.org



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Dolland has done it again! It has been a long-standing tradition at Dolland to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, to honor the person who has sparked the love for books in so many of our young children.

This year, we paired our celebration with College Week in order to help our students build the connection from elementary to the college or university of their choice. Each year, we invite many readers from various professions to come read and share about their profession in our classrooms. They share their passion



Dream Team: Vanessa Garcia, Jennifer Garcia, Rosa Curiel, Leticia Loza.

for reading, where they went to college and how reading helped them every step of the way. The teachers who coordinate this special event with the support of our PTA spend many days and hours planning for this perfect day. I would like to recognize them for their dedication to our school. This event truly makes an impact and inspires our students.

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Robin Padget
Principal

Dulles Loves to Read

Dulles Elementary School held a week-long celebration for Read Across America at the end of February. Students showed their school spirit and love for reading by participating in classroom reading activities and dressing in spirit wear all week.

Wednesday afternoon was a special day, when parents came to school with picnic lunches and books to read to their children! Our campus was filled with parents spending a beautiful afternoon with their children, sharing a picnic and reading. What a wonderful sight to behold as parents were enjoying family time at Dulles. They left saying that this was their favorite day of the year!

The week ended with a Read Before Bed event. Students and staff wore their pajamas to school to encourage nightly reading. Parents, community members, and our own Board member, Margarita Rios, volunteered their time to read to our students and encourage them to become lifelong readers!



Dulles parents spend the afternoon reading with their children.

Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501 • www.nlmusd.org



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Honoring of Dr. Seuss' birthday!

Our teachers and students were treated to multiple read-alouds from members of the Board of Education,

people in the community, as well as fellow staff members. Our PTA and staff collaborated to host this very special event in order to provide our students with the gift of eracy! Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



Principal Mr. Muñiz treats a class to a read-aloud as part of Read Across America at Edmondson Elementary

Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480 • www.nlmusd.org



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Common Core Parent Education Nights

We believe that parents are the most important teachers in the lives of our students. Research indicates that the most effective forms of parent involvement are those which engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities at home.

To support the efforts of our parents, Eastwood School has designed a series of parent education nights that focus on the new Common Core State Standards (CCST) and the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) standardized assessments. The first two sessions identified the new standards and the instructional shifts in reading and math. They were designed to provide parents with knowledge of the new grade-level standards and practical engaging activities to do at home with their children. Math fact games and resources, techniques for solving word problems, reading comprehension strategies, and practicing for the new assessments were experiences offered during the first two sessions of Common Core with Ms. Cantu.

Writing will be the topic of the next session. Students and parents will experience the steps of the writing process as they go through the structure of Writers' Workshop. The work of all participants will be published!

The last session will focus on the use of technology for intervention and differentiated instruction, as well as skills needed for the new benchmark assessments and state testing.

We are happy to report that the sessions have been well attended and will be repeated next year.

El Camino *High School*

14625 Keese Dr., Whittier, CA 90604 • 562/944-0033 • www.nlmusd.org



Darryl Brown
Principal

Congratulations Adrienne Gonzalez!

El Camino High School would like to congratulate student Adrienne Gonzalez for being recognized at the Association of California School Administrators "Every Student Succeeding" banquet.

From the moment I first met Adrienne Gonzalez I saw a student with tremendous potential. Adrienne came to El Camino from John Glenn High School. During her time at John Glenn, Adrienne had issues with poor behavior and following the wrong crowd. These decisions inevitably led to her falling behind in her classes and getting off the track towards graduation.

To her credit, Adrienne is now an early graduate of the Class of 2014. She is currently enrolled at ITT Technical Institute, and is pursuing a certification in networking technology. After completing her certificate, Adrienne plans on continuing her education at a local junior college.

It is El Camino High School's goal to graduate responsible citizens and life-long learners. Adrienne Gonzalez exemplifies this objective.



El Camino student Adrienne Gonzalez proves that every student can succeed!

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Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org



Bonita Lytle
Principal

College and Career Week

Recently, Escalona Elementary School students participated in our fourth annual College and Career Week, sponsored by our fabulous PTA. During this special week, students and teachers discussed life beyond elementary, middle and high school. Believing that it's never too early to begin to plan for the future, students gathered information and wrote about their "dream" career and what it will take to make that dream a reality. Throughout the week, students showed college pride by wearing apparel from their favorite college as well as dressing to represent their chosen career. Our week culminated with a Career Day Assembly during which students learned from local professionals including a local pediatric dentist and two shoe designers from DC shoes!



Escalona students on their way to a bright career!

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128 • www.nlmusd.org



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Meeting Needs Overseas

After Lori Clock, a Gardenhill Elementary School teacher, took a trip to Kenya to help in the construction of a school for an orphanage, she returned with a desire to get students more involved in helping the resident children and the day students of the orphanage. As a result, the Smiles Over Seas (SOS) Global Service Club was created. Over the years, the SOS Club has raised \$20,000 to drill a fresh water bore hole, build a classroom, provide a pig pen and piglets, and much more.

The SOS Club's goal this year is to fill 180 backpacks with needed school supplies and personal items, including cash to purchase new school uniforms and school shoes for each child. We are proud to announce that the California Teachers Association recognized Mrs. Lori Clock with the prestigious Human Rights Award.

We are so proud of Mrs. Clock and our SOS students.



Gardenhill teacher, Lori Clock, receives the Human Rights Award from CTA.

Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Strengthening Skills

At Foster Road School, we maintain a strong focus on the classroom environment because it impacts student learning. Environments positive or negative can affect the IQ's of growing children. Brains are designed to change every day with experience, and "neuroplasticity" is this capacity of the brain to make physical changes in response to environmental input.

So what a teacher does each day in the classroom matters, for smart teaching can change brains. All students can learn, grow and change because the human brain is designed to adapt.

Research shows that high-quality instruction during the primary grades can also substantially offset the disadvantages associated with low socio-economic backgrounds. Relevant and purposeful instruction will change student brains quickly and lead to greater student achievement.

Classroom environment is so important, and our students deserve the best. Student engagement is a strong part of the learning environment, and helps keep children actively involved. As teachers design lessons, they have the students show or physically demonstrate their specific level of engagement. The students also demonstrate their level of understanding of content while participating, which allows teachers to instantly assess their grasp of the material.

The effects of engagement are huge. Engagement builds student effort, supports the instructional climate, helps the students' attentional focus, boosts a 3:1 emotional ratio, improves student attitude, and reduces behavior issues.

Students have fun learning and want to be at school to learn. Planning a purposeful learning environment will help to strengthen the skills and knowledge our students need to succeed.

Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796 • www.nlmusd.org



Kristine Cvar
Principal

Increasing Playground Engagement

Our students and staff are seeing results with a new playground program called PLAYWORKS. This program is an inclusive play model that increases student engagement, organizes playground games and activities, supports teamwork, and teaches character development.

Our PLAYWORKS coach, Coach Jess, works with the students every day at recess. Coach Jess is also providing research-based staff development training for our teachers and supervision staff. There have been "zero" playground discipline referrals since this program started in January.

PLAYWORKS also has a junior coach program that allows our students to be trained in peer leadership on the playground and elsewhere.

Glazier continues to develop good character within its student body. You can check out the PLAYWORKS program by going to www.playworks.org. Go, Gladiators!



Coach Jess and our Junior Coaches make a difference at Glazier.

Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Greg Puccia
Principal

Wonderful Things Happening

The second semester is in full swing at John Glenn High School (JGHS). We are working with our current students to ensure a strong finish to the 2013–2014 school year and at the same time gearing up for 2014–2015. The 10th-grade students are prepping for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), 11th-grade students for the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), and our seniors for graduation.

Many school performances will occur this spring by the JGHS orchestra, drama program, dance program and Fine Arts Department, which will present works from current students and alumni. Spring sports are already racking up the victories. Seniors will participate in the prom and grad night before they graduate on June 18.

While we work with our current students, we are coordinating with district middle schools to enroll the students of the class of 2018. Current and new students will have exciting new opportunities next school year. We will be offering the Project Lead the Way Engineering Pathway this fall, along with new offerings in medical and dental assisting, in partnership with the Southeast Regional Occupational Program.

Finally, the teachers and administration of JGHS have worked closely with the district to ensure a smooth transition to the Common Core State Standards next fall. We are devising professional development opportunities to help ease this massive shift in instructional strategies. It is an exciting time in education.

Please visit us at www.JGHS.org or arrange a visit to campus anytime. We are proud of our school and hope to have the opportunity to share the wonderful things happening at JGHS.

Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



Sara Siemens
Principal

Another Hutchinson Honor

For the second year in a row, California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) named Hutchinson Middle School as an “Honor Roll” school. The CBEE identifies and recognizes higher-performing schools in the state, particularly higher-poverty schools that are closing the achievement gaps between subgroups, and also those schools with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math proficiency (STEM).

In addition to our stride towards academic proficiency, Hutchinson also recognizes the need to develop well-rounded students, and so we promote extracurricular activities, field trips, camps, clubs and sports teams.

Students can participate in our award-winning band program, Academic Pentathlon, Leadership, mock trial, guitar, robotics, technology, AVID, WEB, yearbook, and community service events. Our Running Club, comprised of students and staff members, meets every Friday after school. It runs to numerous La Mirada venues and participates in various 5K events.



Hutchinson Middle School's Running Club.

Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508 • www.nlmusd.org



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

A Few of Our Favorite Things

One of our favorite activities at D.D. Johnston Elementary School is celebrating College Week. This week is even more significant now as we implement the new Common Core State Standards, where the mission is “Preparing America’s Students for College and Career.”

In addition, we honor the great authors and writers of our time and celebrate Read Across America during this week with Roadrunners Read at Recess. Students, staff, and parents bring their blankets, pillows, and favorite books and camp out on the lawn to read together while classical music plays in the background.



Johnston families enjoy reading together as part of Read Across America.

Our next special event is Open House and Heritage Day. Families participate in making dolls dressed in the traditional clothing of their cultures or create a kite or family shield with symbols and colors of their heritage. We display these during our Open House, and families fly their homemade kites.

La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Bill Seals
Principal

Meaningful Learning

La Mirada High School is striving to make learning meaningful for all students. How many times have students asked, “Why are we learning this?” LMHS is using project based learning and problem solving to answer that question. In Mr. Shryock’s class students work in groups with cubes to replicate a quadratic model.

When you speak to students you find that they are more engaged and excited. They are seeing their learning put to work. “This is what we would have to do if we were engineers.” Students are seeing real life application. Which is part of Common Core and making students College and Career Ready.



Mr. Shryock, Math teacher at La Mirada High School, works with students on Quadratic Models.

La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104 • www.nlmusd.org



Terry Pace
Principal

Oh, The Places They'll Go!

We are off to great places! Our La Pluma Elementary School Panthers had the opportunity to imagine the future during our recent College Week and Read Across America Day.

To kick off the week, our staff and students demonstrated their Panther Pride by wearing college spirit wear. Many of our students wrote inspiring narratives about their future dreams, and we hosted guest readers as we celebrated our love of reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday.

We topped off a great week with a wonderful announcement that La Pluma had received recognition by the California Business for Education Excellence as an Honor Roll School! This award was given to schools for demonstrating growth in academic achievement.

Oh, the places we'll go—thanks to our teachers, staff, students, and parent community! Thank you for your commitment to our students. Shine on!

Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865 • www.nlmusd.org



Mike Garcia
Principal

What a Wonderful Evening!

On January 22, Norwalk La-Mirada Unified School District held its annual Magnet Fair. We had a tremendous turnout, and Los Alisos Middle School received numerous open enrollment applications. Parents and students received information about many of our wonderful programs. We highlighted our magnet program and our work with Project Lead the Way. Parents and students were able to see our work with VEX and Lego Mind Storm robotics, as well as our work with Project Lead the Way's Medical Detectives course. Our student volunteers from our

Medical Detectives classes demonstrated the dissection of a sheep's brain. We were also able to highlight our new dual-immersion class. The students in this program take half of their core classes in Spanish and half in English. They are doing a wonderful job and will be ready to ace the Advanced Placement Spanish exam in high school.



Los Alisos STEM Magnet

Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273 • www.nlmusd.org



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Volunteer Role Models

More than 30 students from Fullerton College recently spent the day volunteering in our classrooms along with their professor, Gerald Padilla. Professor Padilla has organized a group of his college students to volunteer here each month for the last five years. Each of the students comes from a community similar to ours, and some are former Lampton students. These visits are their way to give back to the community and to inspire our students to reach their own college goals.

Recently, the college students each spent time working directly with our students. They worked with kindergartners in learning centers, ran reading groups with first-graders, and assisted third-graders with art projects and reading comprehension. They also shared their personal stories of college life and studies with our young scholars.



Fullerton College students help students with reading comprehension.

At the end of their visit, the students at Lampton Elementary felt one step closer to their own college adventure!

Los Coyotes *MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Christina Stanley
Principal

Strike Up the Band!

In February, the LCMS Band program continued its award-winning run as our wind ensemble scored a Unanimous Superior rating—a Superior rating from each performance judge—and a Superior rating from the sight-reading judge at the SCSBOA Festival hosted by California High School at Whittier High School. By scoring a Superior, Los Coyotes Middle School qualifies for a Class D spot in the Southern California Regional Festival for a district-record setting 11th year in a row! This event will be hosted at Kennedy High School in early May.

In March, at another festival, the wind ensemble competed for the first time ever in Class C. Class C is the highest competition category for all middle schools and the entry level for all high school groups. Festival Ensemble also competed in March, in Class E, with over half the band consisting of first-year players.



Optometry

Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.

- Napoleon Hill

John Larcabal, O.D.
Sandra Stevens, O.D.
Diane Almanza, O.D.

(562) 868-8233 • drjohnlarcabal.com

Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878 • www.nlmusd.org



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

A Real Community Event

On February 25, over 1,000 people, including Morrison students, staff, parents, district board members, Lions Club dignitaries, and our esteemed Superintendent Dr. Ruth Perez, filed onto the school's blacktop to celebrate Flag Day.

This spirited event was kicked off by a musical prelude from teacher Yoon Kim's fifth-grade chamber orchestra. Students from Southeast Academy presented the colors after our students received their flags provided by the Norwalk Lions Club.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Corvallis Middle School band, under the direction of Dave Yamamoto, played *The Star Spangled Banner*. An enthusiastic crowd waved their flags, placed their hands over their hearts, and sang along.

Conducted by music teacher Abe Christian, the first-graders also got on stage and sang two patriotic numbers, *America the Beautiful* and *You're a Grand Ole Flag*. The fourth-graders followed by playing *Square Dance* on the recorder.

The Norwalk Lions Club and our Morrison PTA made this celebration a rousing success!



Morrison students show their pride on Flag Day!

Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Ryan Smith
Principal

Great Things Are Happening

The second semester at Norwalk High School is off to an outstanding start!

Soon our tenth-grade students will be taking the California High School Exit Exam for the first time. Passing both parts of the Exam (in English and mathematics) is a graduation requirement. Over the years, our pass rate has increased steadily. This year we are hoping that the trend continues, and we have set a pass rate of 90 percent as our goal.

Our teachers are working hard to prepare students for this important test, and we have also implemented several "boot camp" courses to help ensure that students are ready for it.

Looking forward, the students in our Advanced Placement courses will be taking those exams in early May. As you may know, AP courses are rigorous, college-level classes taught at the high school. Over the years we have been increasing access to this incredible program, and have worked very hard to support the students. This year it is our pleasure to announce that students enrolled in AP classes will be taking the corresponding exams free of charge.

I would also like to invite everyone in the school community to join us for our monthly Community of Lancers "Achieving Student Success" meetings. They are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in our library. This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about the good things that are happening at Norwalk High School.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071 • www.nlmusd.org



Maureen Bixby
Principal

Preparing for the Future

The teachers at Moffitt Elementary have been working above and beyond as we continue to undergo our transition to the new California Common Core State Standards and prepare our students for the new computer-based assessment system (SBAC). Moffitt Elementary has been selected for a second year to be one of the SBAC scientific pilot schools. Although data will not be shared with the schools or parents this year, it will be used to gain a representative sample of schools and provide critical information about the items developed as well as how the system is functioning. This is an exciting time in education, as we are excited to be a part of the process.

In preparing for the new assessment system, Moffitt received a second state-of-the-art computer lab on our campus in March, and students in grades 3 through 5 have already begun preparing to take their assessments. Moffitt students are excited to show what they know!

New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848 • www.nlmusd.org



Michelle Centeno
Principal

Our Philanthropic Students at New River!

In February, the New River kindergarten through fifth-grade students participated in the fundraiser "Pennies for Patients," which helps children diagnosed with cancer. Since 1994, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 10 million elementary, middle and high school students throughout the country.

The funds, collected during a three-week period, benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. New River students joined other students across the country by collecting pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters during the campaign. We raised over \$1,000 to help other children in need! In the Pennies for Patients campaign, the class that collects the most change at each school receives a pizza party.

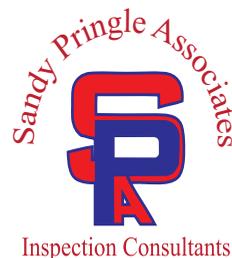
In May, our students will once again collect money to support the Jump Rope for Heart event, sponsored by the American Heart Association. This group's philosophy is that good habits are the key to good health, and that healthy students will perform better academically and show improved attendance.

Through Jump Rope for Heart, our students learn jump rope skills, how their heart works, and how to raise money to help children with special hearts. The students have fun, learn how to stay healthy, and make a difference in the lives of others!

If you are interested in volunteering, or being a sponsor during this event, please contact our school office at 562-868-9848.

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Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788 • www.nlmusd.org



LaTasha Buck
Principal

The Science of Environment

Our students are gearing up to take on science challenges and show how they can respect our environment! Our PTA brought the Magic of Science assembly to our school so that students could be inspired to complete their science projects. Each grade level had a different science theme that was on display during our Open House in April!

Our students will also volunteer in an egg-drop contest to see which team can create a package that will keep a raw egg safe from cracking after having been dropped from the school roof. To celebrate Earth Day, we'll kick off the month with an environmental assembly to encourage our students to reduce, reuse and recycle. All money collected from recycling will go back to support school programs.

Finally, our PTA is planting a tree as a reminder of how we all can give back to our Earth!



Students show parents their projects on the iPad during Open House.

Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365 • www.nlmusd.org



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Special Guests Assist Staff with Safety

We've got the spirit! This year, Sanchez was selected to work with Raquel Vernola from the city of Norwalk. She is developing and piloting the School Preparedness Intercommunity Readiness Interagency Training (SPIRIT). Our students have already benefited greatly from individualized classroom lessons and the receipt of backpacks with safety kits for all 419 of our students.

This month, firefighter Pete Martinez volunteered his time to teach the staff about fire safety. Staff was allowed to practice the use of a fire extinguisher so that they are prepared to use them should the need arise. Mr. Martinez made sure to emphasize when we might



use an extinguisher and when it would be critical to leave the building immediately. His emphasis was to make sure that our number-one priority is the safety of people, especially those we teach. Structures are always secondary to human safety. We're looking forward to more training, especially involving our Sanchez community.

Southeast *Academy*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237 • www.nlmusd.org



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Cadets Keep in Step

This year we have competed in two military drill competitions. The sharply dressed Southeast Academy High School Cadets were excited to compete against other schools. This was a great chance for the cadets to showcase what they have been working on. During the competitions, cadets are evaluated in various categories, such as uniform inspection; regulation armed and unarmed drill movements; color guard drill movements; and military bearing. The cadets at Southeast Academy performed exceptionally well, earning 18 trophies. Both drill competitions were a great success for

Southeast Academy. It wouldn't have been possible without the behind-the-scenes efforts of the cadets, the instructors, and the parent support group.

Cadets are keeping in step in the classrooms as well. We are proud to announce that 57 percent of our student body earned a 3.0 or higher grade-point average at the end of second semester. In addition 21 percent of our student body achieved perfect attendance. These outstanding results come from teachers and staff members who support high standards in and out of the classrooms.

If you are a high school student and are interested in attending Southeast Academy High School, please call for an interview. We are now accepting students for the 2014-2015 school year.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981 • www.nlmusd.org



Willie Norman
Principal

Personal Growth and Expanded Horizons

If you go to college, you'll gain information and skills that you'll use for the rest of your life. That's reason enough to pursue an education beyond high school, but here are more practical considerations.

A college education shapes your communication skills, expands your knowledge base, makes you methodical and organized, and exposes you to a whole new world of learning. The world is changing rapidly. Life is full of options and choices, and the choices we make shape our future. More and more jobs require education beyond high school. College graduates have more jobs to choose from. Thank you, Long Beach State, Cerritos College, Whittier College and The Upward Bound Program for helping Waite Middle School seventh-grade students develop a six-year college plan.



Upward Bound helps Waite students develop a plan for college!



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SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

offerings at each high school. The AVID program will also expand to continue to prepare our graduates for college and career opportunities. We, at the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, will continue to offer specialized programs in order to provide our students an enriching curriculum that serves multiple needs and develops interests.

Please continue to check our website for information and upcoming events. A lot is happening in our Pre-K through Adult School district and we love that our parents are a part of it.

Thank you for your continued support.



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Programas completos de caminos hacia una carrera se tomaran a cabo en cada una de las escuelas secundarias completas; proporcionando a los estudiantes cursos de preparación en todas las ramas de la ingeniería. Continuamos incrementando la oferta de cursos de colocación avanzada en cada escuela secundaria. El programa AVID también se ampliará para continuar preparando a nuestros graduados para oportunidades en la universidad y carrera. Nosotros, en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada, continuaremos ofreciendo programas especializados con el fin de proporcionar a nuestros estudiantes un plan de estudios enriquecedor que sirve para múltiples necesidades y desarrolla los intereses.

Por favor continúe revisando nuestro sitio de web para esta información y eventos próximos. Ésta pasando mucho en nuestro Distrito de Pre kínder asta Escuela de Adultos y nos encanta que nuestros padres sean parte de esto.

Gracias por su apoyo continuo.

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431

www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

critical decisions on programs and services that will impact the educational advancement and opportunities for all students, all while exploring a vision of improved facilities and infrastructure that provide for a safe and positive experience in a 21st Century Learning environment. For me it is helpful to remember that every decision should be viewed through the lens of what is best for all students, and guarantees every student access to a great education regardless of what school they attend or where they live. It is also helpful when the visionary work of the School Board and District emphasizes good planning, communication, and engagement. I believe that extraordinary success for each student and staff member is possible at NLMUSD. I feel excited and hopeful as we journey on the road to becoming an exemplary school district and achieve success for all.

Educación. El siguiente par de meses serán aún más ocupados, mientras que nos preparamos para tomar decisiones críticas sobre los programas y servicios que tendrán un impacto en el progreso de la educación y las oportunidades para todos los estudiantes, todo mientras se explora una visión de mejora de las instalaciones y la infraestructura que proporcionan una experiencia segura y positiva en un ambiente de aprendizaje para el siglo 21. Para mí, es útil recordar que cada decisión debe ser vista a través del lente de lo que es mejor para todos los estudiantes, y que garantiza a todos los estudiantes el acceso a una buena educación, independientemente de la escuela a la que asistan o el lugar donde vivan. También es útil cuando el trabajo visionario de la Junta de Educación y Distrito enfatiza una buena planificación, comunicación y enfoque. Yo creo que en el NLMUSD el éxito extraordinario para cada estudiante y miembro del personal es posible. Me siento emocionada y llena de esperanza al emprender el viaje al camino de convertirnos en un distrito escolar ejemplar y lograr el éxito para todos.

LCAP • From Page 1

This opportunity is unprecedented. For so long, major fiscal decision-making has been left up to people who don't know our students or our educators as well as our community do. These town hall meetings are wonderful opportunities for parents to have a say in how District money is spent to better their children's education.

The following is a list of dates where we will be receiving more teacher, parent and community input:

- April 4, 2014 – District/School Sites Leadership Team/ Input gathering
- April 10-11, 2014 - LCAP/Strategic Plan Task Force I - Meetings with Facilitator (To establish LCAP priorities, strategies and goals based on stakeholder data collected.)
- April 12, 2014 – Board of Education Retreat - Review of stakeholder input and work developed by Task Force I.
- June 3, 2014 – District/School Sites Leadership Team, Central Office, PDA Review of DRAFT plan.
- June 9, 2014 – Board of Education Meeting Public Hearing on DRAFT of LCAP
- June 12, 2014 - LCAP/Strategic Plan Task Force II Final review of LCAP Draft
- June 30, 2014 – Board of Education -Adoption of LCAP

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