

FREE

School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 22

DECEMBER 2014 / JANUARY 2015

NLMUSD Hosts 3rd Annual College Expo 2014

*Dr. Albert E. Clegg, Assistant Superintendent
Educational Support Services*

The Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District, in its commitment in creating a college-going culture for our students and families, hosted the 3rd Annual NLMUSD College Expo 2014 on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at John Glenn High School. Over one thousand students from all high schools and middle schools in the District attended this highly anticipated event.

Every student that attended was given a personalized folder of various items that would be useful throughout the visit including an agenda and information about specific rooms/areas where workshops would be held. AVID students were on hand throughout the evening to assist and guide students and parents through the Expo.

Parents and students were given the opportunity to interact with representatives from the 50 colleges and universities in attendance that evening and ask questions they had regarding the institutions. Representatives had information tables throughout the Expo in which parents and students were able to discuss the requirements of the specific college or university. Students and parents also had access to College Week Live and CaliforniaCollege.edu. — online resources where students can learn more about colleges and universities, live chat with representatives, get advice and find scholarships. Students and



**The District College Expo Counseling Team is creating a college-going culture for Norwalk-La Mirada students.
Dr. Albert E. Clegg, Jenny Amaya, Irene Rifilato, Candida Hernandez, Deverine Mota, David Hallum.**

parents also had the opportunity to ask questions of District counselors and receive information on Project Lead the Way and AVID.

Workshops were held in English and Spanish and covered topics such as Tips for High School Success, ABC's of College Admission, Writing Personal Statements, Financial Aid, Community College Programs and Transferring Options, and NCAA.

Countless hours of preparation occurred to help this event a success. The College Expo would not be a reality without the dedication of our the District counselors team of Irene Rifilato, David Hallum, Candida Hernandez, Jenny Amaya and Deverine Mota; as well as the College Expo planning team, our District counselors, and our Administrators.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

The 2014-15 school year at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District really got off to a great start.

We are very proud of our latest graduation numbers, which are hovering at about 94 percent, and we are extremely excited for all of the programs we are implementing to continue to prepare our students for college and career.

This preparation begins from the first day students begin their K-12 education in our classrooms and continues throughout their grade school careers. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), a new funding system that shifts spending decisions to the local level, is helping us to achieve our goals and address the needs of our students. This summer, our Board of Education approved our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which prioritizes District funding.

This funding plan increased counseling and mental health support for students, including additional high school counselors and support programs for elementary students. We also allocated additional resources to District-wide visual and performing arts programs, ensuring we provide students a well-rounded education.

In line with those goals, we expanded highly successful Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs, titled "Launch," to two elementary schools – Glazier and Gardenhill. Using curriculum from



Ginger Shattuck
Interim
Superintendent

El año escolar 2014-15 en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada realmente tuvo un gran comienzo. Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros últimos números de graduación, que se sitúan en alrededor del 94 por ciento, y estamos muy emocionados por todos los programas que estamos implementando para seguir preparando a nuestros estudiantes para la universidad y una carrera.

Esta preparación comienza desde el primer día que los estudiantes comienzan su educación K-12 en nuestros salones de clase y continúa a lo largo de sus carreras de escuela primaria. La Fórmula de Fondos de Control Local (LCFF, por sus siglas en inglés), un nuevo sistema de financiación que traslada las decisiones de gastos a nivel local, nos está ayudando a lograr nuestras metas y hacer frente a las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes. Este verano, nuestra Junta de Educación aprobó nuestro Plan de Control Local y Rendimiento de Cuentas (LCAP, por sus siglas en inglés), la cual da prioridad a la financiación de Distrito.

Este plan de financiación incrementó el apoyo de consejería y de salud mental para los estudiantes, incluyendo consejeros de la escuela secundaria adicionales y programas de apoyo para los estudiantes de primaria. También hemos asignado recursos adicionales a los programas de artes visuales y escénicas en todo el Distrito, asegurando que ofrecemos a los estudiantes una educación completa.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 11

Optometry



Wishing you and yours all the best this holiday season.

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

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School News 
Education + Communication = A Better Nation
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**Covering the
NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
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Thank you!

Fall is here and the holidays are quickly approaching. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. We are thankful for you, our readers, and for our fine public school system and dedicated teachers. We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed forces, but at this time of year we are particularly grateful for their service and sacrifices.

Our next issue is February 18. Until then Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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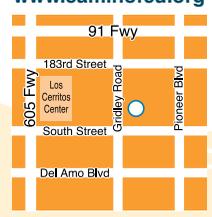
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Established in 1990, **Zinsmeyer Academy** is a California State certified, nonpublic, nonprofit, fully accredited Western Association of Schools and Colleges (**WASC**) school, that provides excellent academic and vocational education services to children needing small class sizes and individual instruction and tutoring.

The school is co-ed, grades K through 12, offers CIF basketball and baseball.

The program includes:

- Individual tutoring
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- Direct instruction strategies
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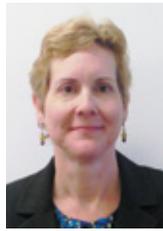
Call Us Today
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Zinsmeyer Academy
a division of
ChildNet Youth and Family Services, Inc.
4223 East Anaheim Street
Long Beach, CA 90804
(562) 961-6300 • (562) 961-6336 FAX



Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



Laurel Parker
Director

New Officers

On October 17, Head Start parents elected new officers to run the parent Policy Committee for the 2014-15 program year. Congratulations to our new PC Board: President, Roial Douglas; Vice-President Tefany Castellon; Parliamentarian, Cynthia Vazquez; Recording Secretary, Sabina Medina; Corresponding Secretary, Elisa Camacho; and Finance Secretary, Debora Gerber. Other officers include Alma Madrigal and Melody Laguna as LACOE Representatives, and Victorino Flores and Faviola Vazquez as DELAC Representatives. We thank them for volunteering to serve the program, and look forward to a productive year with their help.



Aliyah, Jazmin, Mikayla, and Maryanne
enjoyed playing outside in pajamas!

On October 29, the preschool program hosted Fall Science Night at Ramona for preschool children and their families. They participated in a variety of activity stations such as "Exploring Magnets," "Mystery Boxes," "Swat the Fly," "Healthy Snacks," and "Planting Seeds."

Pajama Day was celebrated on October 31st and the students enjoyed the day playing outside in their pajamas!

Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/868-9858
15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/670-9279 • www.nlm.as.org



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

You're Never Too Old to Learn to Read!

Going back to school as an adult can be an intimidating venture. Our students have shared their stories of worrying that they had been out of a classroom for too long, that school might be too difficult, or that they were simply too old to learn. Those students also shared with us how quickly they got over those fears when they found themselves in a supportive learning environment of other adults of all ages who had also taken on that self-improvement challenge. Not only are they comfortable in class but they are also excited about learning!



Students practice building proper sentences.

Data from the State Department of Education indicates that there are more than 69,000 adults in our area who need to learn basic literacy skills. If you know one of them, please encourage them to join us. They will be in great company at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School, and learning will change their life.

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Ramona School Office
14616 Dinard Avenue
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 623-7127



We offer a variety of programs (Head Start, State Preschool & LAUP) across multiple sites. Home Base, classes for three and four-year olds, beginning in the Summer & Fall. Classes are currently being filled.

Ofrecemos una variedad de programas y escuelas. Home Base, clases de niños de tres y cuatro años, las clases empiezan en el verano y el otoño. Las clases se llenan rapido.



We toilet train too!
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We welcome children with disabilities!
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The programs serve all eligible children regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or disabilities, and refrain from religious instruction or worship. Estos programas sirven a todos los niños elegibles, sin importar raza, sexo o incapacidad, y no proporcionamos instrucción religiosa.

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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

No Bullying at Benton

Bullying tends to be a major issue facing many schools across the nation. At Benton, we are striving to eradicate the problem by creating a culture of kindness and support, where everyone can belong.

During the last week of September we held our annual Anti-Bullying Week, sponsored by the PTSA and Leadership students. The week consisted of banners and posters, band aid giveaways with positive affirmations, videos at lunch, a guest speaker/performer, an anti-bullying pledge, wearing blue as a stand against bullying, and an open mike rally with students speaking out against bullying.

We are very excited to report that 434 Wolverines signed the anti-bullying pledge, which far exceeds last year's numbers. We have successfully encouraged our students to stand against bullying, and if they see it, to say, "We don't do that at Benton!"

A very special thank-you goes to Mr. Maradkel, our leadership teacher and ASB advisor. He and his leaders gave us an amazing week as anti-bullying ambassadors.



Benton Wolverines wear blue to stand against bullying.

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

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



Bob Easton
Principal

Parent and Family Involvement is Crucial

As our children get older, it may seem like a good idea for their parents and families to step back and let them be more responsible for themselves. This is true in part, because students need to be provided with more opportunities to develop independence and responsibility. However, parent and family involvement is still crucial.

There are many ways in which our parents and families can be involved as partners with Corvallis. They can help with school activities like Career Day, Red Ribbon Week, College Week,

Teacher and Classified Appreciation weeks, and various field trips. They are also chaperoning field trips; communicating with teachers about school progress; checking the school's Web site and Parent Portal; attending Back to School Night, parent conferences, and Open House; and serving on committees such as the School Site Council or ELAC.

We appreciate all of the ways that our parents and families are involved at Corvallis. Together, we will achieve more.



Parents help with Red Ribbon Week.

Chavez *Elementary School*

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



Robert Rayburn
Principal

Our Partners for Success!

At Chavez, we have developed new ways to increase student success. Because technological literacy is required for the Common Core Standards, it has been integrated into the full academic life of each Chavez student.

Our teachers need time and help to use technology effectively, and that's where the parents come in. The most effective way to improve student success is to give our teachers the time they need to work with the children in small groups on essential grade-level skills. We also need to give teachers the time to regularly examine data about individual strengths, and review the needs of each student with their grade-level teams.



One of our many parents helping kids get the most out of technology while teachers get the time to lead individual, data-driven, small group instruction.

So this year, dozens of parents have stepped up to help! While the teachers lead small-group instruction, or work with their grade-level teams, the parents now work on helping the students with i-Ready. They actively assist the children with technology issues and give them added encouragement.

Our awesome parents are now partners with our teachers and students in doing what it takes to succeed!

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Good Tricks and Super-Treats!

At Dolland Elementary, we have a long-standing tradition of working hard and celebrating big! This fall during our Halloween parade, students showed off their costumes and enjoyed a "flash mob" performance by fifth-grade students. During this event, we recognized classrooms that were most creative in the Red Ribbon door-decorating campaign: "Dolland Students Say NO to Drugs!"

Then after our parade, we recognized the 2014 Summer iReady winners. This was a contest sponsored by Dolland's PTA. All students were invited to participate and work on the iReady computer program and practice their reading and math skills. Students were selected by the highest number of minutes they spent working on lessons



Dolland TK students know to say "Boo" to drugs!

and the number of lessons they mastered. Five winners were selected. The following prizes were awarded: fifth place, a scooter; fourth place, a caster-board skateboard; third place, a bicycle; second place, a gaming system; and first place, an android tablet! Congratulations, and Go Huskies!

Dulles *Elementary School*

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



Robin Padget
Principal

The Qualities We Hold Dear

I would like to commend the quick-thinking and caring staff at Dulles Elementary School!

Recently during lunchtime, one of our second-grade students, Kevin Sandoval, began choking. Classroom aide Caryn Cerda soon noticed that he was turning red.

Another para-educator, Jimmy Chavez, immediately started performing the Heimlich maneuver. He performed the Heimlich multiple times until the food became dislodged from Kevin's throat. Our custodian, Juan Lara, assisted Mrs. Cerda and Mr. Chavez during this emergency; all of them remaining calm and not drawing attention to the situation.

Dulles Elementary School is so very fortunate to have Jimmy, Caryn, Juan and Andrea on its staff. They exemplify the qualities that the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District holds dear.

The NLMUSD's Board of Education honored this group with the Golden Rule Award at their November 3 meeting. In addition, a local restaurant donated \$50 gift cards to each of them as a reward for their heroism!



Dulles Staff and second grader, Kevin Sandoval, are recognized by the NLMUSD Board of Education.

El Camino *High School*

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



Darryl Brown
Principal

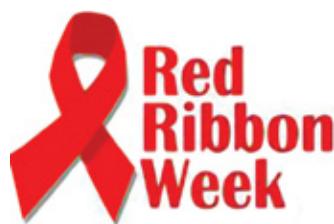
Celebrating Red Ribbon Week

Teenagers face many obstacles and influences which could potentially disrupt their education and spiral them into an at risk way of life. One of the most damaging influences in our culture is drug abuse. Each year in October El Camino High School celebrates

Red Ribbon Week in honor of slain Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena, and to stress the importance of saying no to drugs.

This year El Camino partnered with The Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE) to hold an outdoor lunch rally. LACOE provided a DJ who engaged the students with great music and antidrug information. The highlight of the rally was the number of students who signed the "I Pledge" banner, committing to a drug free life.

Supporting students as they navigate life's challenges is central to El Camino's mission. Exposure to the negative effects of drug use gives students the capacity to make the right decision.



Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Eastwood Students Play

Eastwood is thrilled to be part of an award winning non-profit organization.

The organization's vision is that one day every child in America will get to play — every day. The program offers the opportunity for children to explore their imaginations, to connect with other kids and to stretch and grow physically, emotionally and socially. This program is empowering students to:

- Lead their own play in most cases and always have a choice in how/where they play, as long it is safe, fair and inclusive of others.
- Develop leadership skills that encourage student ownership of the playground.
- Learn conflict-resolution skills and can spend more time playing, not



Eastwood students learn to use Rock-Paper-Scissors to solve conflicts on and off the field.

arguing. For example, Rock Paper Scissors is an easy game that can solve simple conflicts, such as was the ball in or out and who was first in line?

The program has proven to decrease bullying behavior, increase physical activity and support learning.

Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Music is Alive

Edmondson is proud to announce that we have a full-fledged music program!

Our students are very much enjoying their music education, courtesy of our VAPA Coordinator, Karen Calhoun. She helped us to hire our very own music teacher from a local university.

I am also excited to announce that our students will be performing an evening concert late Winter 2014 and early Spring 2015.



Escalona *Elementary School*

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



Bonita Lytle
Principal

Escalona Students Enjoy Playing!

Escalona students are enjoying a variety of new programs this year. Among those is the addition of a national non-profit organization that supports physical health, social skills, leadership skills and learning, by working with schools to provide safe and inclusive play activities. The program Site Coordinator, Tina, along with our experienced playground supervisors, are introducing playground games during recess and lunch in which all students can participate. They are also teaching students

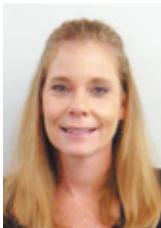


Coach Tina with students during Recess.

team work, conflict management and leadership skills. Our fourth and fifth grade students are being tapped as Junior Coaches, who will help lead games and activities during recess time and help manage conflicts if they arise. Positive and peaceful play translates to calmer students within the classroom and higher academic achievement.

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Academic and Social Needs Are Important

This year, Gardenhill Elementary School has established some amazing social clubs to help boost the social and emotional needs of our students.

This year we have a “Super Heroes of Studying” peer tutoring group. It is made up of excellent fourth- and fifth-grade leaders who “fly-in” at lunch time to help the kindergarten and first-grade students. We also have our Spade Brigade Gardening Club that works on 15 different garden plots with the help of adult mentors. They are just getting ready for fall planting now, and you have never seen more motivated students!



Super Heroes of Studying!

This year Gardenhill is also fortunate to have a program for leadership roles for our fourth- and fifth-grade students at recess and after school. Gardenhill is a great place to grow and learn!

Foster Road *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Better Teaching and Learning

Foster Road School is moving towards implementing the new Common Core State Standards. Teachers are playing a more influential role in shaping what happens in their classrooms as they develop deeper understanding of these standards for their students to achieve. The teachers work in teams to reflect on their teaching practices and plan ways to support their students' learning. It is a continual process of studying students and their work in order to strengthen teaching and learning.

It is exciting to see our students demonstrating what they are learning. Their whiteboards are covered with expressions of their higher-level thinking, and they are able to explain how they came up with their answers. As a school, we have always used turn and talk to a partner, think-pair-share and other forms of cooperative learning to keep our students engaged and sharing their ideas. Our teachers are adding rigor as our students grow and learn in their daily work activities. Students are explaining their thoughts and citing evidence from the texts. As the teachers continue to design better questioning techniques, our students will go deeper into the meaning of the texts and share their understanding. Wonderful learning is going on in every classroom.

The energetic responses of students throughout the school show that we are tackling the achievement gap. All of our students are learning and having fun here at Foster Road School!

Glazier *Elementary School*

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



Jean Rebholz
Principal

International Support for the Arts

The performing arts are in full force at Glazier Elementary School. Our Gladiators are empowered by the arts to collaborate, problem solve, and critically think about the visual displays and performances they create for their audiences. At Glazier, kindergarten through fifth-grade students explore music using a variety of instruments, from bells to world percussion. Additionally, our Gladiators explore the visual arts and history through Meet the Masters and have an opportunity to express their theatrical creativity by auditioning for our musical theater program, which is offered after school. This year, the visual and performing arts will expand with the addition of dance to our after-school offerings!

At Glazier, we believe in providing our students with a highly engaging and rigorous education that develops the whole child. Visiting educators from Japan were so impressed by our visual and performing arts program that they joined our Gladiators in a musical exploration!



Japanese visitors take part in musical exploration at Glazier!

Glenn *High School*

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



Greg Puccia
Principal

Keeping Busy

John Glenn students and families are enjoying the fall semester with a number of activities focused on promoting our school's college-going culture.

The Class of 2015 is deep into the college application season. With the help of our AVID seniors, over 120 students recently participated in a CSU/UC application workshop. The students will also be participating in the CSU/UC visitations, as well as an alumni/college roundtable in the coming weeks as the deadline approaches. We are predicting the highest percentage of seniors qualifying for CSU/UC admission in many years.

The entire student body recently participated in the school-wide SAT/PSAT testing day on October 15. With the full support of the NLMUSD administration, this was the first year of school-wide testing.

JGHS also hosted the 2014 NLMUSD College Fair and Expo on October 22. Over 55 colleges were in attendance. Information on financial aid and the college application process was covered in our parent workshops. Over 1,000 parents and students attended this incredible event.

JGHS is always open to visitors. We also welcome guests who are interested in our school and programs. Please visit the school's Web site at JGHS.org for program and contact information.

Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Sara Siemens
Principal

Zombie Run – A Night To Dismember

On October 30th, Hutchinson invited only the brave-at-heart and swift-of-foot to participate in our First Annual Zombie Run. Over 250 students and family members dared to race through halls, fields, and classrooms to avoid our terrifying Zombies, who were in search of brains, for which Hutchinson has a surplus. The Zombie Run provided our school community a fantastic opportunity to share in Halloween thrills, fun, and fellowship. Hutchinson staff joined our students in decorating their classrooms and hallways in support of this ghoulish event.

The Zombie Run provided our Leadership class with extensive lessons in time management, budgeting, organization, collaboration, teamwork, and event planning. We look forward to our next major community event, our spring "Color Run". Stay tuned for more details.



NLMUSD Board Member, Jesse Urquidi "dared" to join in the Zombie Run.

Johnston *Elementary School*

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



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

Creating Memories

D.D. Johnston Elementary School values academic and social success. As a school family, we believe in working hard to increase student achievement by implementing various school-wide systems that make sure each child has a definite plan of action.

Our ExCEL program stands for "Excellence: A Commitment to Every Learner." It launched this month. Students are leveled school-wide and provided with intensive academic intervention. In addition to academic programs, we also provide social



1st Annual Monster Mash was an amazing success with over 250 guests!

experiences where our students can feel like they are a part of something special.

In addition to our Winter Wonderland and Spring Fling dances, we added a new event in October called "Monster Mash." There was a costume contest, ice cream sundae bar, silent auction, and great music from a live professional DJ. We had 250 guests on that evening! Special memories are created here at Johnston.

La Mirada *High School*

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



Bill Seals
Principal

Advanced Placement Success

In past years, La Mirada High School has experienced unprecedented growth in our Advanced Placement (AP) program. AP course offerings have expanded from the traditional math, science, history and language arts to include computer science, psychology, world languages and the arts. Enrollment in AP classes has jumped from 213 students in 2011 to the current enrollment of 324. This increase can be attributed to the energy and enthusiasm of our teachers and the drive and determination of our students. It is our goal to have all students experience at least one AP or Honors class before graduating. We truly believe our students will rise to the occasion and be successful in this rigorous environment.

Our returning AP students who earned a score of 5 on their AP exams were invited, along with their teachers, to this High 5 luncheon as a thank you for their efforts.



La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Terry Pace
Principal

Double High Fives

Thanks to our district support, we were able to add a Team Up model at La Pluma.

The organization believes in the power of play for every child, and that belief is transferring to the La Pluma playground in peaceful student interactions! During our recess blocks, we have been able to see our staff and students engaged in many leadership activities. We have 15 awesome fourth- and fifth-grade Junior Coaches leading and guiding all students! Playground games, rules and expectations are taught schoolwide, and students engage in peaceful problem-solving strategies such as Rock-it-Out.

We believe in teaching students to care and lead as well as to support the social/emotional well-being of all our students. Double high fives to the incredible support of Coach B, recess coaches, junior coaches, staff and students! Play on!



Recess Coaches and students honoring the Playworks Playground Agreements.

Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Mike Garcia
Principal

New Opportunities for Learning

It's been a great year so far at Los Alisos Middle School, where "College is not a Dream, It's a Plan!" This year Los Alisos and Mrs. Gunderson have been selected to pilot a new Project Lead The Way (PLTW) class. This February, we will offer Introduction to Computer Science, a project-based class that will teach the students skills they can use in the future.

Red Ribbon Week, October 27 thru October 31, was a huge success! Students participated in activities to raise awareness about the negative effects of drug use. Several performances were held during lunch. We'd like to thank the Mighty Lancer Band from Norwalk High School for their support.

On October 23, we held our second annual Halloween Haunt. Our Associated Student Body and clubs did a wonderful job setting up a great haunted house. The students who were brave enough to enter got a good scare!



Haunted halls—school can be a scary place!

Lampton *Elementary School*

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



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Nothing Scary About Us!

Lampton held its annual Halloween parade on Halloween itself. Students and staff dressed up to celebrate the holiday. It was clear from the array of costumes that families had made great efforts to bring their creativity to life. On the morning of the event, hundreds of parents, family members and friends gathered on our playground to watch students show off their spookiest, prettiest and funniest costumes. This year, we saw a resurgence of the Ninja Turtles, many costumes related to the movie Frozen, lots of superheroes, princesses and even a few rock stars!

In our classrooms, teachers turned the annual celebration into fun academic endeavors. In fifth grade, our students played team games like Halloween



Lampton Students get into the Halloween spirit!

Jeopardy to practice spelling, grammar rules, vocabulary, word problems and concepts with fractions. Students in fourth grade and K-1 classes did buddy reading together, and scary stories and fantasy books were the choice of the day. All in all, it was another fabulous and fun day at Lampton!

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

Red Ribbon Week

Los Coyotes Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week in October. Our students, teachers and parents decorated the campus with red ribbons, inspirational posters, red streamers, and red and white balloons to help send the message of "Love Yourself! Be Drug Free!" and "Stay Drug Free!"

The students later munched on candy and signed a poster pledge at nutrition and lunch to be drug free. On Tuesday they wore red and had spirit games at lunch. On Wednesday, our cheer, ASB, color guard, band, and Interact Club also presented an assembly that focused on why it's awesome to be drug free.

On Thursday, the LCMS cheer and color guard performed at lunch. Our new guitar class also played some Halloween music.

The students "scared away" drugs on Friday by having a dress-code-friendly costume contest! We are continuing to have a year full of exciting accomplishments, amazing experiences, long-lasting connections, meaningful learning, and more celebrations!



The guitar class treats students to Halloween-themed music!

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Safety Preparations

On October 16, the district participated in the Great ShakeOut. Emergency drills are the best way to simulate and prepare for a potentially devastating event. Emergencies are not limited to earthquakes; even more likely are lock-downs on or near campus, fires or other unforeseen situations.

These drills are effective because they: offer an opportunity to discover new issues through scenarios; test the knowledge of everyone at the site; challenge schools to be better prepared in real emergencies; and identify leaders and refine roles.

Marisa Silva, the chairman of Morrison Elementary School's Safety Committee, commented, "Our staff and students were quick to follow procedures necessary for an earthquake emergency. We discovered a few areas where we could improve and will make changes for the safety of our students."

Morrison is committed to ensuring the safety of all students. Drills are a key element of our school safety plan and a worthwhile step in keeping our schools safe and secure.



Morrison staff prepares for the Great ShakeOut!

New River *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Centeno
Principal

Developing Strong Reading Skills

The staff at New River Elementary recognizes how critical it is for students to develop strong reading skills in the primary grades so that they will be able to successfully access content in all curricular areas. The students in first and second grades are working for 45 minutes on a daily basis to develop their reading phonics, fluency and comprehension skills. Our program is called Knights Achieving Reading Excellence, or K.A.R.E.



New River staff building strong readers!

The program also incorporates the use of iReady, which is a computer-based program that assesses students' reading levels and builds their skills with lessons tailored to each child. We are always looking for volunteers who are willing to assist us with this important program. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our office and ask for our principal.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Maureen Bixby
Principal

Celebrating Positive Choices

Moffitt Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week by remembering the positive choices we can make in our lives. Each day of the week emphasized a positive choice and stressed a drug-free life. The students "Dressed for Success" with a free-dress day. They decided to "Strike Out Drugs" by wearing baseball caps. They "Socked It to Drugs" by wearing crazy socks, and they had fun on Halloween wearing orange and black! We culminated our week by choosing to be drug free. All students wore red and participated in a school-wide picture!

Moffitt is proud that our students are making good choices. Our school prides itself on providing activities that develop well-rounded students, such as our kindergarten through fifth-grade music program, our after-school choir, and Playworks, our playground safety and exercise program. Each day we have choices to make. Let's make them positive!



Moffitt students choose to be drug free!

Norwalk *High School*

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



Dr. Ryan Smith
Principal

Prepared for the Future

Norwalk High School prides itself on doing whatever it takes to ensure that each of our students graduates prepared for both college and career. In order to make this vision a reality, we proudly participated in the district's first Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) School Day. In October, every student took a College Board exam to measure preparedness for college and career. Seniors took the SAT, juniors and sophomores took the Preliminary SAT, and freshmen took the ReadStep—all at no cost to them. We believe that this is a clear illustration of our commitment to equity and access to such exams for our students. We are excited to receive the data from these tests and use it to help our students develop college and career goals.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Jennifer Panagos on her appointment as assistant principal. Dr. Panagos has served our school community extremely well since last year as our dean of students and is very excited to take on this new role. Taking Dr. Panagos' place as our dean of students is Bindi Crawford. Mrs. Crawford joins us from the Alhambra Unified School District, where she worked as a high school counselor.

Please enjoy this holiday season by spending time with friends and family! I know that 2015 will be a great year for us all!

Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



LaTasha Buck
Principal

Nuffer Students Rock It Out

Nuffer Elementary is so excited to offer a special program to support a safe and fun playground environment! The program mission is “creating a place for every kid on the playground—where every kid belongs, has fun, and is part of the game.”

To date, all of our supervision aides have been receiving ongoing training by a coach to provide structured activities and to implement positive reinforcement of behaviors. Every classroom has received training once a month to learn new games to play during recess and PE. We have 15 fourth- and fifth-grade students trained as Junior Recess Coaches to lead activities during recesses.

As a result, all of our students are playing better together, and they're learning how to effectively resolve peer conflicts in positive ways. We look forward to seeing how our students will grow with this program!



Junior Recess Coaches cheer each other on after training.

Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Advanced Strings

Introducing our Sanchez Advanced Strings players led by our awesome music intern Kyle Pettigrew! Several fifth grade students who have shown enthusiasm and great talent when playing an instrument were invited to join the group. We are grateful to have received a music intern this year through a music grant. Our students, from pre-school Special Education to 5th grade are receiving weekly music instruction. Our pre-school SDC students are learning how to play bells, our first and second grade students are learning to use various instruments and the boomwhackers and our fourth and fifth grade students are learning how to play the recorders and the ethnic drums.

Our students, parents and teachers are all excited about the enthusiasm and excitement this brings to the school. We hope you can join us for any future concerts.



Sanchez students find the right beat!

Southeast *Academy*

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



MSgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Purpose and Pride

First-day excitement, hallways and classrooms flooded with new and returning cadets. The new cadets are assembled in formation for the first time, dressed in physical training attire, some too nervous to talk to anyone. Regardless, you feel the sense of pride, power, and purpose that comes when a new cadet commits to Southeast Academy High School. Returning cadets reunite with each other in clusters of conversation. Cadet leadership is observed for the first time as these experienced students begin to mentor and mold their platoons. From year to year, staff members get to watch these cadets turn into confident learners as they mentor their unique personalities and foster independence as the cadets branch out into a new school year.

The teachers are the ones who truly make the difference in our cadets' education. Our teachers are hardworking and committed to the never-ending needs of each cadet. Counselors and secretaries put forth their best efforts to support the needs of our cadets and parents. If there is any magic in education, it is the collaborative and innovative spirit shared by a community of professionals here at Southeast Academy High School.

We invite you to come, walk our campus and talk to the cadets. You will witness a structured environment and feel the purpose and pride of a learning community committed to excellence.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Dr. Susan Newcomb
Principal

Partners in Success

Waite Middle School continues to expand connections and opportunities for students in many ways, and our recent band combination during the JGHS homecoming game versus NHS in October is a great example. Waite's Advanced Band students participated in pep songs alongside their high school bandmates, resulting in an atmosphere of mentorship and motivation. Lauren Behar, our new band teacher, is thrilled with student growth during the first trimester as well as engagement and pride. Playing next to high school music peers reminds our students of the next steps in their accomplishments as musicians and well-rounded students.

We look forward to our Winter Concert at Waite on Dec. 11. We invite you to come to see all levels of our band, including strings and guitar. The event starts with a PTSA meeting at 5:30p.m. If you're interested in a tour, please call our office or visit our website.

It's great to be at Waite!



Students enjoyed a special combination of Waite band students and JGHS students during the Homecoming Game October 30th."

Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the nation's leading STEM provider, students learn through project-based activities and problem-solving.

Norwalk-La Mirada's LCAP also allocated funding to increase college- and career-readiness programs. For the first time in Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District history, all students in grades eight through 12 had the opportunity in October to take college preparatory assessments at no cost, which will provide them with important information about their college readiness.

In collaboration with the College Board, the District administered three separate exams: every senior took the SAT, sophomores and juniors took the PSAT and eighth- and ninth-graders took the ReadStep Assessment, which is the first stage in the College Board's College Readiness Pathway that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The assessments were free of charge for all students and the testing took place during the regular school day.

Also in October, more than 1,000 students and their families visited the third annual College Expo. With more than 50 higher education options at their disposal, our students – even those in middle school – took home a better understanding and newfound inspiration for life after high school.

I want to thank all those involved in making these programs a success, including our Board of Education, administrators, teachers and counselors, classified staff, our devoted PTA, community partners and, most importantly, the students and families of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.



Ginger Shattuck
Interim
Superintendent

En línea con esas metas, hemos ampliado los programas de gran éxito de ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas (STEM por sus siglas en inglés), titulado "Launch", a dos escuelas primarias - Glazier y Gardenhill. Usando el currículo de "Project Lead the Way" (PLTW, por sus siglas en inglés), el proveedor líder en la nación de STEM, los estudiantes aprenden a través de actividades basadas en proyectos y resolución de problemas.

El LCAP de Norwalk-La Mirada también asignó fondos para aumentar programas de preparación para la universidad y una carrera. En octubre, por primera vez en la historia del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada, todos los estudiantes en los grados del ocho al 12 tuvieron la oportunidad de tomar las evaluaciones de preparación para la universidad, sin costo, lo cual les proporcionará información importante acerca de su preparación para la universidad.

En colaboración con la Junta de Colegios, el Distrito administró tres exámenes separados: cada estudiante de último año de la secundaria tomó el SAT, los estudiantes de segundo y tercer año de secundaria tomaron el PSAT y los estudiantes del octavo y noveno grado tomaron la Evaluación "ReadiStep", la cual es la primera etapa en el Camino a la preparación para la universidad de la Junta de Colegios que está alineado con los Estándares Estatales Comunes. Las evaluaciones fueron gratuitas para todos los estudiantes y los exámenes se llevaron a cabo durante el día escolar regular.

También en octubre, más de 1,000 estudiantes y sus familias visitaron la tercera edición de la Feria de Universidades. Con más de 50 opciones

de educación superior a su disposición, nuestros estudiantes - incluso aquellos en la escuela intermedia se llevaron a casa un mejor entendimiento y una inspiración recién descubierta para la vida después de la secundaria.

Quiero agradecer a todos los que participan en hacer de estos programas un éxito, incluyendo a los administradores de nuestra Junta de Educación, administradores, maestros y consejeros, personal clasificado, nuestra devota PTA, socios de la comunidad y, lo más importante, los estudiantes y las familias del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada.

Board of Education



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Cheerleading–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 NLMUSD in the subject line)

**Thank you Meia Vallery, Nuffer Elementary,
for this Word Search.**

Entries must be received by January 15, 2015

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|---------|
| ACTIVITIES | MOVES | SKILLS |
| CHANT | PARADE | SPIRIT |
| CHEERS | POMPOMS | SQUAD |
| COACH | PRACTICE | TRICKS |
| GAME | PROUD | UNIFORM |
| JUMPS | ROUTINE | WARMUP |
| LEADER | SHOUT | |

**Congratulations to Adrianna S. Gonzalez
Winner of the October Word Search Contest!**



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1 ticket = 1 hour

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for the academic support you and your staff have provided to my son during the past year. I can attest to the significant impact the Tutoring Club experience has made in his life. As a result, he has earned A's and B's and is less frustrated when given difficult homework assignments. Beyond this, he has developed the academic self-confidence needed to be successful. I attribute a great deal of my son's academic success to the team at the Tutoring Club. Thank you for making a difference!!"

Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College

"My son always fought me to do homework, and this would be an all night thing. I tried everything, and then found the Tutoring Club. Putting him in the Tutoring Club's the best thing I could have done for him. His 2011 California Standards Test was proficient in everything!!!!"

Mother of student at
Landell Elementary, Cypress

(714) 995-READ (7323)

Cypress/Garden Grove • Campus View Center (Valley View at Lincoln) 9111 Valley View St. Suite 115, Cypress, CA 90630