

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 21

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## PLTW –Elite STEM Program Grows

By Joanne Jung, Career Technical Education Facilitator

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is developing robust STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Pathway programs for K-12 students. Research shows the United States ranks 17th in science achievement, 25th in math ability out of 65 countries. By 2018, STEM jobs will grow by 17 percent yet, 1.2 million STEM jobs will go unfilled. We want to make sure we have the right programs in place to prepare our students for their future with the marketable skills necessary to meet that demand. We want our students to become the next generation of problem solvers, critical thinkers, and innovators for the global economy.



Teachers from Glazier and Gardenhill Elementary Schools attend intensive training in order to bring PLTW's "Launch" to their students.

We are proud to be implementing a nationally recognized program named, Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW is known for their world-class curriculum and is paving the way in helping schools enrich their instruction with rigorous and relevant curriculum, partnering with universities and fortune 500 corporations across the nation to provide a strong foundation for STEM education in the K-12 schools.

Research shows students decide as early as second- and-third-grade whether they like or think they are good at math and science, and about 65 percent of scientists and graduate students said in a 2010 study that their interest in science began

See **PLTW** • Page 11

## INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District. We are looking forward to a year full of successful learning experiences for our students and communities.

I am returning as Interim Superintendent for the District. I have worked for the District my entire career – 15 of which as Superintendent – before retiring in 2009. I am honored to be back while the Board of Education seeks a permanent superintendent.

Each school has exciting plans for this coming year. Please visit the schools to experience the work that our students are producing and the extraordinary efforts of our employees.

The Board recently adopted the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which allows the District to prioritize funding granted by the state's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). In the past, the District was required to spend its funding according to broad state guidelines.



Ginger Shattuck  
Interim  
Superintendent

Bienvenidos a un nuevo y emocionante año en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada. Esperamos un año lleno de experiencias exitosas de aprendizaje para nuestros estudiantes y comunidades.

Regreso como Superintendente Interina para el Distrito. He trabajado para el Distrito toda mi carrera - 15 de los cuales como Superintendente - antes de retirarme en el 2009, me siento honrada de estar de regreso, mientras que la Junta de Educación busca un superintendente permanente.

Cada escuela tiene planes emocionantes para este año que viene. Por favor, visite las escuelas para tener la experiencia del trabajo que nuestros estudiantes están produciendo y los extraordinarios esfuerzos de nuestros empleados.

La Junta aprobó recientemente el Plan de Control Local y Rendición de Cuentas (LCAP, por sus siglas en inglés) del Distrito, el cual permite que el Distrito ponga prioridades en los fondos otorgada por la nueva Fórmula de

See **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

See **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

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# 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

## Free Career-Skills Classes

English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School have many opportunities to build valuable career skills as they increase their language mastery. Students in ESL classes frequently collaborate on projects that require research, writing, and the use of technology. Completed projects are presented to colleagues, giving students important speaking practice. Teachers are continually coaching and supporting students as they become more comfortable with these activities and confident in their abilities.

In addition to regular ESL classes, both adult school sites offer pronunciation and fluency classes, as well as ESL in a distance-learning format. A computer basics course for ESL learners is also available at our Norwalk campus. These classes provide easy access for students to gain important skills, and best of all, these classes are free!



ESL students collaborate on a writing project.

We hope you will take advantage of these wonderful learning opportunities at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 5th year publishing School News covering the NLMUSD. There have been many changes, but the focus on academic excellence never changes.

By now the students have settled into their routines and. Fall has arrived and the holidays are following close behind. Our next issue is December 3, have a Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving. We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed forces and we are grateful for their service.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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Covering the  
**NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

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



**Laurel Parker**  
Director

## Two New Great Centers!

We are proud to announce the opening of two new centers! Paddison Head Start, located at Paddison Elementary in Norwalk, started in September. The Gallatin Center, located on 9001 Paramount Blvd. in Downey, also started in September.

Norwalk-La Mirada USD Preschool Programs now serves 1,100 children across 10 sites, with children served at eight sites throughout the district in addition to the two mentioned above. We are excited to be able to serve 206 more children in Head Start classes. We look forward to seeing parents and showing



**Jasmine and her Poppa together at last year's "Daddy, Read Me a Story" event at Ramona.**

them our classrooms at the various Back to School Nights that will be held.

Other upcoming events include the Policy Committee Member elections and training for Board and Policy Committee members continued through Oct. 16, parent workshops, parenting classes and activities specifically for fathers and adult males important in students' lives. Earlier in October, fathers and other significant men were encouraged to bring their children to preschool on Be a Hero day.

**Optometry**




*We cannot always build the future for our children, but we can build our children for the future. – FDR*

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

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## NLMUSD COLLEGE EXPO

"Connecting College & Career Readiness"

### Mark your calendars:

**Wednesday – October 22, 2014**

John Glenn High School  
13520 Shoemaker Ave.,  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
**6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

### Come meet representatives from several Collegiate Institutions!

At the College Expo you will have the opportunity to interact with College Outreach Representatives.

### Along with information booths, workshops will focus on:

- Tips for High School Success
- ABCs of College Admission
- Writing Personal Statements
- Financial Aid
- NCAA Workshops
- Community College Programs and Transferring Options



**Food & snacks will be sold by clubs!!  
¡Los clubes venderán comida!**

Created by Counselors for students of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.  
Creado por los Consejeros para los estudiantes del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada.

## EXPOSICIÓN DE UNIVERSIDADES NLMUSD

"Conectando la Universidad y la Carrera"

### Marque su calendario:

**miércoles – 22 de octubre 2014**

John Glenn High School  
13520 Shoemaker Ave.,  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
**6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

### ¡Venga y conozca representantes de varias instituciones universitarias!

En la exposición de Universidades tendrá la oportunidad de interactuar con Representantes de Orientación Universitaria.

### En conjunto con puestos de información, los talleres tendrán un enfoque en:

- Consejos para el éxito de la preparatoria
- ABCs de Matricula para la Universidad
- Como Escribir una Declaración Personal
- Ayuda Financiera
- Taller de NCAA
- Programas de Colegios Comunitarios y Opciones de Tranferencias

# Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

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



## A Culture of Creativity

Welcome to the 2014–2015 school year at Benton Middle Magnet School. As a Visual and Performing Arts Academy, we are committed to providing students with countless opportunities to demonstrate excellence in the arts and to tap into their creativity. To continue with this same mission, our theme for the year is “Cultivating a Culture of Creativity.”

**Michael Gotto**  
Principal

At Benton, we also focus on developing students’ academic strengths in their core classes, including language arts, mathematics, science, history, and physical education. In fact, last year our students brought home numerous awards in each grade level from the annual Academic Pentathlon competition.

We continue to foster opportunities to embed the arts into our core program. As a result, students are excited to attend school, learn a great number of useful skills in the arts that can be transferred in other contexts, and collaborate to create award-winning products. Along with the theme, our commitments this year include: relationships, relevance, and rigor. With the support of our parents, community, and staff, we know that all students will achieve.

# Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

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



## Building Community

Our theme for the 2014-2015 school year is “Building Community.” We are focused on creating an environment where all students, staff, and families feel welcomed, connected, and significant. Led by our seventh and eighth grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders, our sixth grade students participated in fun activities to introduce them to student mentor/leaders on campus who will support them throughout the school year. Our families were also welcomed on campus to our newly modernized MPR and classrooms for Back-to-School Night. We are thankful to our families for partnering with us to build a successful school community.

**Bob Easton**  
Principal



**WEB leaders welcome our sixth grade students in our NEW MPR!**



**Happy Halloween**

# Chavez *Elementary School*

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



## Music for All Students

I am so excited to announce that this school year, Chavez school received Arts funding that will provide high-level music instruction for all students. We have been working hard over the last several years toward our goal of every student being able to read music and play at least one instrument fluently. As of last year, Guitar, World Percussion, Xylophone, Ukulele, and Recorder were taught in our upper grade classes. This year thanks to the vision of Karen Calhoun working with NLMUSD Leadership, ALL students at Chavez will be receiving music instruction. Mr. Fabio Kayama and Mr. Hector Ortiz join Ms. Karen Calhoun as our school music team. Learning music properly helps children learn effectively, and have happy lives. I invite you visit Chavez to enjoy the music our children bring!

**Robert Rayburn**  
Principal



**Karen Calhoun and Fabio Kayama prepare instruments in the Rob Williams music room.**

# Dolland *Elementary School*

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



## Creating a Strong Foundation

Welcome to the start of a wonderful school year! We have a great community of students at Dolland, and it is wonderful to experience all of the excitement that a new school year can bring.

One very important improvement granted to our school this year is the Transitional Kindergarten program (TK). Transitional

Kindergarten is an exciting new opportunity for our youngest students. Children who were born in the fall will now be provided with an opportunity to receive a developmentally appropriate curriculum that can prepare them for the new and more rigorous demands of the Common Core State Standards.

Establishing this foundation for our students will also help foster a strong academic relationship with the school, as well as build an early love for learning. Our students have been honored with the gift of time, an advantage that can help them gain the maturity, skills and confidence they need to excel.



**The power of play fosters creativity and healthy academic and social development.**

## Dulles *Elementary School*

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



**Robin Padgett**  
*Principal*

### What Makes a Distinguished School

Dulles Elementary School is an exceptional place where all children have the opportunity to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a safe and positive learning environment. Dulles Elementary has earned the esteemed honor of being selected as a 2014 California Distinguished School. The state bestows this award upon the most exemplary and inspiring schools in California. Dulles is proud of this distinction and of the excellent education we provide our students!

Dulles' small school setting and generous parent involvement create a tight-knit community atmosphere. Dulles' staff and parents are dedicated to providing enrichment programs and events to promote school spirit and foster a positive school climate. Through the generosity of our PTA, Dulles students enjoy a year-long Meet the Masters art program, field trips, assemblies and family nights. Our collaborative school events highlight our students' achievements and talents with award assemblies and talent shows. Our PTA parents volunteer more than 7,000 hours per year at Dulles! They are truly a vital part of our school community.

Dulles teachers are dedicated and genuinely care about our students. In addition to providing a rigorous academic setting, our teachers also concentrate their efforts to ensure that our students are good communicators, great thinkers and respectful of others. Our classrooms are print-rich environments that create a warm and welcoming place that supports student success. Our school has established clear performance standards aligned with Common Core State Standards and sets high-level expectations for all students.

## Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



**Yvette Cantu**  
*Principal*

### Developing Great Minds and Strong Character

We believe that all students can reach great educational heights, and it's our responsibility to create a learning environment that allows all students to soar. Our highly qualified teachers work collaboratively to create a program that is filled with enriching experiences. We strive to meet the needs of the students by delivering instruction that includes clear objectives, teacher modeling, guided practice, and independent application of skills and concepts. Enter our doors, and you will see students engaged during whole-group lessons, eagerly sharing ideas, and responding to open-ended questions. You can observe students working cooperatively in small groups as they strive to solve problems and chart their solutions or using technology as they research current topics. We are fully implementing Common Core State Standards curriculum in English language arts, math, and English language development. All are invited to the yearlong Family Learning Nights, which will focus on Common Core instructional shifts, new materials, and technology.



## Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



**Jacob Muñiz**  
*Principal*

### Looking Forward to a Great Year

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! We are excited and cannot wait to get to work this year because of the new learning it will bring to all of our students. Our promise to you: we will challenge our students to be problem-solvers, to think critically, and to become "Eagles of Character!"

In addition to relying on high levels of student achievement at Edmondson Elementary, you can count on our Eagles learning how to exhibit the following characteristics: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

Again, welcome back! Edmondson Eagles will be demonstrating good character while problem-solving & thinking critically.

## El Camino *High School*

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



**Darryl Brown**  
*Principal*

### Summer Success

El Camino High School completed its third successful year of Summer Intersession. Students who are enrolled in the Summer Intersession program are able to recovery credits in history, science, English, math and elective courses. The Summer Intersession is designed for two purposes. First and foremost, it is an opportunity for seniors to complete remaining graduation requirements and participate in the districtwide graduation ceremony in August. Second, it's to allow sophomores and juniors

an opportunity to recover credits and have an opportunity to return to their home high school in the fall.

This summer, El Camino High School had 21 additional students graduate after completing Summer Intersession! I would like to thank staff members Joe Garcia, Anna Endara, Michelle Santiago, Debbie Calhoun, Eric Crowell, Valarie Mejia and Andrew Galindo for all their effort in making our Summer Intersession a success! I would also like to commend our graduates on their efforts and having the courage to continue!



El Camino graduates celebrate at the summer graduation.

## School News

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# Escalona *Elementary School*

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



**Bonita Lytle**  
*Principal*

## A School of Excellence!

Welcome to Escalona Elementary School, where we are proud to have been named a 2014 California Distinguished School, and for the third year, a California Business for Education Excellence School! Our 2014–15 school year promises to be an amazing one of student academic success paired with strong parent and community involvement.



Escalona's PTA continues to provide many opportunities for parent and community involvement. Among these is the opportunity to help with our Student Drop-Off Program in the morning. Many parents and students took advantage of our newly initiated Student Drop-Off Program during the last trimester of the 2013–14 school year and found it to help with the morning congestion around our school. Volunteers to help run this program are greatly needed and appreciated.

Escalona's fall fund-raiser, the Jog-a-Thon, will take place on Oct. 17. This event was extremely successful last year and allowed us to forego additional fund-raising for the year. We are hopeful that this year's Jog-a-Thon will be even more successful than last year's so that we can continue to provide programs to our students, such as Meet the Masters, READ and Dr. Seuss Day as well as in school assemblies and field trips.

I look forward to working with staff, parents and community to continue our traditions of academic success and community involvement. Together, we help our student scholars grow, thrive and succeed.

# Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



**Eileen Burkholder**  
*Principal*

## Project Lead the Way

At Gardenhill, we are immersed in STEM education using Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Curriculum. This world-class curriculum, high-quality teacher professional development model, helps students develop the skills necessary to succeed in our global economy. Using the PLTW curriculum, students are engineers actively participating in the design process and solving real-world

problems. Kindergarten will study structure and function and pushes and pulls; first grade will explore light and sound, as well as observing the sun, moon, and stars. Second grade will navigate material science, form and function; third grade will discover stability and motion, science of flight, and forces and interactions. Our fourth grade students will design and invent using energy, collisions, and conversions. Teachers were trained as Lead Instructors over the summer at San Diego State University, and have hit the ground running for our 2014-2015 school year!



**Mrs. Berchtold, 4th grade Project Lead the Way teacher, engineering in action!**

# Foster Road *Elementary School*

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



**Dr. Jean Maddox**  
*Principal*

## Off and Running

Foster Road is off and running. We have implemented our new Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system, which is a way to connect all students to school and build those positive relationships to improve the learning climate for staff and students. The PBS approach is comprised of intervention practices and an organizational system for enhancing our school's social culture, learning and teaching environment, and individual behavior supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all students. We encourage our students to be STARS: practice Safety, Take responsibility, Achieve your best, Respect yourself and others, and Succeed. Our new school T-shirts reflect our new behavior matrix as well. We want to teach and encourage pro-social skills and behaviors. With our new PBS, our campus will be more engaging, responsive, preventive, and productive for every student.

We are very excited to offer a program from Playworks, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play. We welcome our new coach, who will be working with our students and teachers to structure recess and physical education and to teach our students how to play games and include everyone in the process.

# Glazier *Elementary School*

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



**Jean Rebholz**  
*Principal*

## Leading the Way from STEM to STEAM

This year, Glazier Elementary is gearing up to be one of two elementary schools in Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District to launch "Project Lead the Way" (PLTW) curriculum, the nation's leading provider of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs. Our goal is to successfully roll out STEM modules with an emphasis on Arts integration to shift from STEM to STEAM to prepare students for our global economy. Students at Glazier receive a top quality, well-rounded education as they research, explore, collaborate and critically think about projects they design and develop. Along with STEM, the Arts are used to guide our students to new, rigorous ways of thinking that expands their depth of knowledge across curriculum and inspires our students to think in innovative ways. Glazier Gladiators are armed with knowledge and empowered for life.



**Glazier's STEM team: Brad Erickson, Tom Black, Paula Wiechert, and Martha Treadway**

## Glenn *High School*

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



**Greg Puccia**  
*Principal*

### Exceeding Expectations

At John Glenn High School (JGHS), we are very excited about the progress that was made during the 2013–2014 school year. More than 91 percent of the Class of 2014 graduated, and more than 80 percent of the Class of 2016 passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on the first attempt.

The class of 2015 is busy getting ready to apply to colleges around the state and country. We are anxious to see where this group of outstanding young men and women lands, as they get ready for this exciting phase in their lives.

Our ninth- through 11th-graders have settled in and are working to meet the respective expectations of their grade-level coursework. We look forward to assisting them with each transition and supporting them as they tackle CAHSEE exams, Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) and ACT Tests and prepping for their time as JGHS seniors. The entire school took the Preliminary SAT or SAT on October 15. This is a district-wide initiative to grow the college-going culture at our high schools.

Fall activities include football, volleyball, tennis, cross-country, and the homecoming dance. Please check the school Web site for the dates and times of these exciting events. Back-to-School Night on September 23 was a wonderful success.

JGHS is always open to visitors, and we welcome guests interested in our school and programs. Visit the school Web site, JGHS.org, for program and contact information.

## Johnston *Elementary School*

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



**Veronica Lizardi**  
*Principal*

Visual and Performing Arts is a big deal at D.D. Johnston Elementary School. This year, our VAPA program has grown to add our Kinder through second graders! Our Kinder and first graders will begin Singing and Elementary Percussions while our second graders will learn to play Handbells. These additions will fit perfectly with our upper grade program where we include Recorders, World Percussions, and Dance. Our primary grades will continue to learn about famous artists through our Meet the Masters Program. We are building great musicians one instrument at a time!



**Fifth Grade students meet their Music Teacher, Mr. Kayama, and are eager to begin!**

## Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



**Sara Siemens**  
*Principal*

### Starting the School Year Strong!

Hutchinson Middle School, a California Distinguished School, is excited to partner with students, parents and the community for the 2014–15 school year! Our school year finds us diving in with Common Core Standards and a strong focus on project-based learning, student inquiry and critical thinking. Our one-to-one iPad Academy is entering its third year and involves over 350 students

who utilize iPads daily as a tool for research, project development, digital textbooks, word processing, student responders and formative assessments.

Our Math, Science and Technology Magnet introduces students to environmental science, structural engineering, and foundational principles of engineering and robotics. Our Honors and Pre-Advanced Placement classes are available to all grade levels and offer rigorous curriculum to students seeking honors challenges.

We are excited for our new school year and are committed to provide students with a quality academic environment. Explore our website!



**New 6th graders participated in our August "Explore Engineering Day."**

## La Mirada *High School*

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



**Bill Seals**  
*Principal*

### Unlimited Possibilities for Success

The administration, teachers and staff of La Mirada High School are thrilled to welcome 516 incoming ninth-grade students to our campus. It is truly an exciting time to be a Matador!

For years, La Mirada High School has been a neighborhood center for academics, athletics, activities and community-service projects. At La Mirada High, we firmly believe in teaching skills that will carry our students through college and into a successful career, and encourage them to be active, ethical, contributing members of our community.

La Mirada High School has something for all students. Our school promotes a college-going culture through our AVID, Matador Scholar Academy and Advanced Placement programs. Students are also encouraged to explore career options through our ACE (business) Academy, Engineering Academy, APPLE (education) Academy and SKILLSUSA program. If your student enjoys performing, then the VAPA academy is for them.

Athletically, our programs have been very successful, winning numerous league championships and successfully competing in CIF playoffs. However, athletics is not the only extracurricular option for our students. The ASB program is alive and thriving.

As you can see, LMHS has unlimited possibilities. Our staff is excellent, and we couldn't ask for better young people. Please contact my office directly if you would like a personal tour of the campus. I would be happy to show off our teachers and students in action!

Good luck to all our students in the NLMUSD family!

# La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



**Terry Pace**  
Principal

## Digging Deeper

The La Pluma Elementary School team is excited for the 2014–2015 school year! We welcomed over 465 students in the first days of school and observed their excitement as they caught the Panther PRIDE: Perseverance, Responsibility, Independent thinking, Determination and Excellence. As we dig to “the core” of the new Common Core State Standards, our mission remains focused on inspiring students to lead and care about others, to think critically, and to learn cooperatively.

Thanks to our PTA, our students will once again have enriching experiences that support creativity with music, choir, and art. Teaching our students to care and lead will be embedded in our work with character education and our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program, which not only teaches students to be young people of character, but also teaches the importance of being safe, respectful, and responsible. We look forward to the days ahead as we dig deeper with our intervention and acceleration Web-based programs, which will assist us in diagnosing and prescribing student academic needs in the areas of reading and math. We are excited to have two computer labs to help support these needs and enable our students to develop 21st-century skills.

We hope you’ll “catch” the Panther PRIDE and join us on our journey of new learning! We invite you to visit us at [www.laplumaelementary.org](http://www.laplumaelementary.org).

# Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



**Mike Garcia**  
Principal

## Making Connections

I am very excited to start my second year as principal of Los Alisos Middle School, where great things are taking place. We have expanded our magnet program to include an additional 38 sixth-grade students. This will allow us to add 114 students to the program over the next two years, giving even more students access to the Project Lead the Way curriculum. We have also expanded our dual-immersion program into seventh grade.

On September 2, we had over 330 sixth-graders and 76 eighth-graders attend our Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) orientation.

Our eighth-grade WEB leaders, our WEB coordinator, Ms. Dufresne, and a group of dedicated teachers made this an extremely successful event. As a result of the WEB orientation, our sixth-graders had a smooth first day at Los Alisos, and they were able to make connections with eighth-grade students that will help them throughout their sixth-grade year.



**8th grade web leaders teaching our new 6th graders!**

# Lampton *Elementary School*

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



**Cindy Rayburn**  
Principal

## Log On and Learn On

New friends and old pals have been united in classroom lessons and outdoor play at Lampton Elementary School. Every classroom has reinforced our school-wide behavior expectations to “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe.” Teachers are instructing students using the new and rigorous Common Core State Standards. During recess breaks, our students have been participating in many different games and activities, thanks to our full-time Playworks coach.

Students have already begun their i-Ready computer-based assessments in our two modern computer labs. These assessments provide teachers with specific information about the strengths and needs of each individual student. Once the assessments are complete, students will have i-Ready computer lessons prescribed for their specific learning needs. These lessons can also be accessed from home, so students can do extra practice or extend their learning right from their home computers.

It’s going to be a great year, so log on and learn on!



**Lampton students tackle i-Ready lessons in the computer lab!**

# 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

## All Hands Ready to Help!

Los Coyotes Middle School is celebrating the start of the 2014–15 school year, and we have much to celebrate! In August, all students came in to LCMS to take their ID pictures, pick up textbooks and pick up their schedules. Earlier that morning, we hosted our annual WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) orientation for incoming sixth-grade students. This program pairs eighth-grade mentor students with our incoming sixth-grade students to help with the start of school and throughout the year.

On the first day of school, WEB, ASB, Cheer, Color Guard and AVID students were all on hand to help sixth-grade and new students become familiar with the campus and find their way to class. This year’s theme is “YOGOWYPI—You Only Get Out What You Put In.” We will be visiting every classroom, meeting with students, going over our Character Counts! PBIS plan, and signing our YOGOWYPI pledge. We can’t wait to see what the Centurions of LCMS will do next!

We look forward to a year full of exciting accomplishments, amazing experiences, student achievement, long-lasting connections, meaningful learning and more celebrations!

## Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



**Maureen Bixby**  
*Principal*

### Success Begins on the First Day!

Opening day was a big success at Moffitt Elementary! We welcomed over 450 students and 70 staff members this year. The students showed up dressed for success in their school uniforms and ready to learn.

We are excited about the opportunities that this year will bring, and we are committed to excellence in education for all. Our staff implements proven strategies known to promote critical thinking and problem solving, develop academic language, and increase comprehension in all areas of the curriculum. We strive to instill a love of learning and a thirst for new knowledge in all of our students. In addition to a rigorous Common Core Standards-based curriculum, we also provide many opportunities to support our students both inside and outside the classroom. Student academics are supported and enriched through our RtI intervention, GATE program, Playworks, ASES Academy, two state-of-the-art media centers and, for the first time, a comprehensive music program for kindergarten through fifth grade!

We are looking forward to a successful year of learning at Moffitt Elementary.



**Students engaged in Playworks recess activities on the first day of school.**

## New River *Elementary School*

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



**Michelle Centeno**  
*Principal*

### Starting the Year on a Positive Note

The new school year has started on a positive note for students and staff at New River Elementary School! Teachers are busy implementing the new Common Core State Standards throughout the curriculum. The new standards focus on developing high-level critical-thinking skills for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students are engaged in learning and demonstrate understanding of the curriculum in a variety of ways, including projects, working in cooperative groups, and being able to clearly explain their thinking.

We also welcomed our new Playworks staff member, Coach Jay, who is working with students, supervision staff, and teachers to ensure that students are actively engaged during recess. Students are learning to problem-solve and become leaders through the Junior Coach program. Recess is becoming a playful and peaceful time! Reducing conflict at recess increases time spent on instruction, which results in higher student achievement!



**"Coach Jay" is making recess a playful and peaceful time at New River!**

## Morrison *Elementary School*

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



**Rudy Gonzalez**  
*Principal*

### Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

This year, we are excited to continue our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program at Morrison Elementary School. PBIS is a research-based, holistic approach to understanding and resolving the problem behavior of children that incorporates values and considers all factors impacting a child and his or her behavior. It can be used to a range of issues, from aggression, tantrums, and property destruction to social withdrawal.



**Morrison Tigers demonstrate safe, responsible and respectful behavior.**

We kicked off PBIS by explaining to students about our school-wide expectation of Being Safe, Being Responsible, and Being Respectful. Classes rotated around the school to the cafeteria, media lab, office, restrooms, and playground, where we discussed expectations for appropriate behavior. When students follow these expectations, they will come to school prepared to learn and will take responsibility for appropriate appearance, attitude, achievement and behavior. We are constantly trying to find ways to encourage students to improve, today and in the future.

## Norwalk *High School*

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



**Dr. Ryan Smith**  
*Principal*

### High Expectations

The summer was a busy one for our teachers, counselors, and support staff. Many hours were spent on things like aligning curriculum to the Common Core State Standards, reviewing performance data, developing action plans to ensure that all students are achieving at high levels, and creating innovative ways to improve teaching and increase learning. I am grateful to be working with such a dedicated staff that is truly committed to ensuring that the students of our school community are well served.

I would like to take this opportunity to review our vision for student achievement. All students will graduate and be eligible to attend any four-year college or university without the need for remediation. Our students will possess the knowledge, skills, and certifications necessary to be successful in any post-secondary environment. Our graduates will have a strong sense of what they would like to pursue as a career and will have received personalized guidance as to which post-secondary institutions, training programs, or industries will best fit their personal goals.

As you can see, we have high expectations for our students and staff. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to make this vision a reality, and our efforts are already paying off.

I'm looking forward to working with you over the course of the year and beyond! Go, Lancers!

## Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



**LaTasha Buck**  
*Principal*

### Learning to be Citizens

Welcome back to Nuffer Elementary School! In addition to quality academic instruction, we also guarantee that our students will receive a well-rounded education. Our character development program, called Character Counts, is now tied into our Positive Behavior and Instruction Support plan, and our Progressive School-wide Discipline program.

Our goal is to encourage the kind of values that we expect all students to use when they make decisions at home and in school. At Back to School Night, our students demonstrated their citizenship when they donated close to \$300 towards an ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in which Principal Buck and eight other teachers took the challenge!

Nuffer Elementary offers many great opportunities to support learning. Not only do we want our students to become well educated, we also want them to be great citizens who will make vital contributions to society because of their ability to think critically, be self-sufficient, and care about the world around them.



**Principal Buck participates in an ice bucket challenge for charity.**

## 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 will reunite with each other in clusters of conversation. Cadet leadership is observed for the first time as they start to mentor and mold their platoons. Staff, from year to year, get to watch

these cadets turn into confident learners and mentors of unique personalities, watching their independence grow as they branch out into a new school year.

It is the staff that truly makes the difference in our cadets' education. Our teachers are hardworking and committed to the never-ending needs of each unique cadet. Counselors and secretaries worked all summer long preparing the necessary paperwork to meet the needs 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.

## Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



**Alicia Rubio**  
*Principal*

### SERVE Day

Forty six university students from Biola University were at Sanchez on Saturday, August 30, 2014. As part of their SERVE day, they were doing volunteer service to help get our school ready for a great year.

The students were amazing. They were really excited to help the school get ready for the students. The students did things like deliver all our new math materials to the classrooms. They put up various bulletin boards in our computer labs and common areas. They also made mini murals on canvas that will be hung outside for the students to enjoy each day. They made signs for various events throughout the year. They decorated our large air conditioners in the office; they painted our podium, and various other smaller tasks. Our students, staff and parents have enjoyed everything they did for us.



**Biola students provide volunteer services at Sanchez Elementary as part of SERVE day.**

## Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
*Principal*

### Waite Middle School Opens With Upgrades

Waite Middle School staff and students returned to find several projects had been completed during the summer. A flat-screen television was donated and installed in the front office, allowing the Video Productions Club to stream video of campus events. Renovations helped make the attendance office more accessible for our families. The grounds crew planted sod in the front entrance area of campus, minimizing student asthma issues caused previously by the dust and dirt. Biola University posted encouraging signs and planted donated flowers in the main garden. The completion of the science room provides a state-of-the-art wet lab for hands-on science experiments, as Waite works to become a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) school through partnerships with California State University, Fullerton and industry leaders in the region.

"It goes beyond the beautification," said the new principal, Dr. Susan Newcomb. "This reaches to the core of school pride. When students, staff, and families come to campus, they know that Waite is great, and students want to give their very best efforts. We've heard from many people that there is a different vibe here, a vibe that is positive, nurturing, and engaging, which promotes connections and communication. We call it The Waite Way, and we are fortunate that student leaders and staff are reinforcing that vibe through WEB, our advisory period, and our peer mediation program."

Come and see for yourself! Call (562) 921-7981 or e-mail waitemiddle.org for an appointment.

Over the summer, the District Board of Education voted to place on the November ballot Measure G, a general obligation bond that would go toward improving school sites and instruction.

With new projects and programs on the horizon, I'm sure the 2014-15 academic year will be a memorable one and I wish all of our students a successful year.



**Ginger Shattuck**  
Interim  
Superintendent

Fondos de Control Local del estado (LCFF, por sus siglas en inglés). En el pasado, se le requería al distrito gastar sus fondos de acuerdo con las amplias directrices del estado.

Durante el verano, la Junta de Educación del Distrito votó para colocar en la boleta de noviembre la Medida G, un bono de obligación general que iría hacia el mejoramiento de las escuelas y la enseñanza.

Con nuevos proyectos y programas en el horizonte, estoy segura que el año académico 2014-15 será una experiencia memorable y les deseo a todos nuestros estudiantes un año exitoso.

before middle school. (A. V. Maltese and R. H. Tai. 2010. Eyeballs in the Fridge: Sources of Early Interest in Science. International Journal of Science Education 32:669-685)

After much success at the middle and high schools, offering Gateway to Technology, Engineering, Biomedical Science, and Computer Science pathways, we are implementing PLTW at the District's elementary schools beginning with Gardenhill and Glazier. The elementary level program is titled "Launch." It is designed in modules that align with the Common Core State Standards for math and English-Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards and other national and state standards. Students will learn the design process, structure, function, design, motion and stability, energy and conservation, robotics, and more. Several of our teachers at Gardenhill and Glazier attended the intensive training at San Diego State University this summer. All kindergarten to fourth grade students at Gardenhill Elementary will participate in Launch, as well as Glazier students in grades 1, 3 and 5. The plan, however, is to expand to include more students at those schools and at other schools in the District.

The ultimate goal of the program would be to have seamless K-12 PLTW pathways aligned to local college and university programs and careers in various STEM fields.

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

# Halloween 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
(Please put NLMUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2014  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT    | GHOUL          | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CANDY        | GRAVE          | VAMPIRE        |
| CARVE        | HAUNTED HOUSE  | WEB            |
| CEMETERY     | HALLOWEEN      | WEREWOLF       |
| COSTUME      | JACK O LANTERN | WITCH          |
| DECORATIONS  | MUMMY          | ZOMBIE         |
| FRANKENSTEIN | SKELETON       |                |
| FRIGHTFUL    | SPIDER         |                |
| GHOST        | SWAMP CREATURE |                |

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T	B	X	U	U	D	U	T	S	O	H	G	W	R	N
S	B	P	U	H	Q	T	N	Z	D	R	G	S	Q	D

**Congratulations to Nevaeh Gaxiola  
Winner of the June 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