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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

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SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



Michael L. Christensen

Exciting Opportunities

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Orange Unified School District (OUSD) for the 2015–2016 school year. Whether you are a new or returning student, I wish you and your family the very best for a successful school year.

As many of you may have heard me state, OUSD is a District of Excellence. We are a District of Excellence because of the families whose children attend our schools, the employees entrusted with educating them, and our communities. We strive to provide individualized educational experiences for your students to help them achieve their best.

The coming school year will provide more individualized educational opportunities than at any other time in the history of the district. While the shop experiences (wood, metal and home economics) of my youth no longer exist, there are now classes offered in aviation, computer-aided design (CAD), finance and business, robotics, marketing, fire science, crime-scene investigation, marketing, and film making, to name just a few. For a complete list of over 130 course offerings in 15 Career Technical Education (CTE) sectors, go to www.orangeusd.org/cte.

In addition to these secondary course offerings, the district is facilitating an expanded elementary music/arts program next year. Upper elementary students and their parents will be able to choose either a yearlong, twice-a-week instrumental music course or select to participate in the 21st-Century Integrated Arts Wheel, which encompasses unique offerings such as visual arts, general music, dance, theater, or Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math (STEAM) integration courses. For more information on this new visual and performing arts program, go to www.orangeusd.org/vapa.

Parental support and participation are essential for maximizing the learning experience of students. I encourage each of you to work in partnership with teachers and principals to provide students with positive educational experiences. Additionally, I urge you to provide input to our annual Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) development process by visiting the district Web site or contacting your school.

Unleashing the Power of Words



The Summer Learning Camp Academy at Sycamore Elementary School in collaboration with California State University, Fullerton.

By Heather Bosworth, Principal – Sycamore Elementary School

Sycamore Elementary School, the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center, and California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) have partnered to create the 2015 Sycamore Summer Learning Camp Academy. This two-week summer camp is a unique opportunity for teachers to come together with university professors and clinical reading specialists to explore their own professional learning in the areas of literacy and reading intervention, all while working to support the individual needs of Sycamore students.

Professional development of powerful practices began in the spring to prepare for this innovative summer opportunity. Dr. Erica Bowers and Dr. Kath Glasswell, both distinguished faculty members from CSUF, led Sycamore teachers in learning about best practices and effective instruction in

the areas of guided reading, word work, and authentic writing. In addition to preparing teachers for the summer camp program, the training also enabled teachers to hit the ground running in the fall by using some of these strategies in their classrooms.

Students were selected to participate in the Learning Camp Academy based on their potential to grow and develop their literacy, language, and reading skills over the course of this two-week program. The CSUF team administered diagnostic assessments to each student and helped teachers form small groups based on their different literacy needs. Each day, these 34 students worked in small groups with Sycamore teachers, CSUF faculty members, and reading specialists. The goal was powerful, differentiated instruction for all students. Students engaged in hands-on,

See UNLEASHING THE POWER • Page 15

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Covering the
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: Leslie Rawlings
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063
leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Meshel Negrete

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year. Principals are always focused on highlighting students and staff so this first issue we thought you might enjoy having the principal's share their personal information with you. It is always fun to read about their families, hobbies, college choices, etc.

In this issue on page 14 we are happy to introduce our office tortoise, Cheeseball. Be sure to enter our contest.

We will be publishing three more issues this school year with our next issue December 2. Until then...Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!



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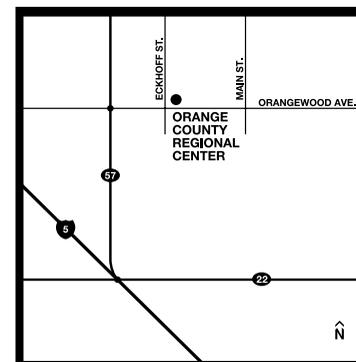
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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Fayrose Mostafa
Principal

Fayroze Mostafa has been involved in education for nearly 16 years. Mrs. Mostafa holds two Masters's degrees, one in Educational Administration, and the other in Curriculum and Instruction. She has taught all elementary and middle school grades. Mrs. Mostafa served as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction for several years and has worked at the district level with child development and special programs. She has been involved with a number of committees throughout her career and has served in various coordinator roles, led technology initiatives, facilitated character education programs, and has played a key role in various aspects of educational professional development.

Mrs. Mostafa hopes to continue to be a positive influence in children's lives, and believes that establishing relationships rooted in the belief that education creates opportunities for students to achieve their highest potential and to become the best versions of themselves. She welcomes the challenges that come with leading a learning community during a period of unprecedented educational changes. She believes that with hard work and perseverance we can influence every child in a special way. Keeping the atmosphere positive is the key to success as well as keeping the lines of communication open among staff, students, and parents. Mrs. Mostafa feels that collaboration is the ultimate way a school can be successful in reaching the goal of helping each child realize his or her full potential.

Fayroze and her husband, Haney, have three school age children: Dean, 9, Aliya, 8, and Saif 5. As avid foodies, "We love trying new cuisines". Mrs. Mostafa aims to be a very visible principal and feels that one of the most enjoyable aspects of her role will be working with students as they shape their educational paths. She is looking forward to continuing her career at Anaheim Hills Elementary School!

Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Mr. Jeremy Mortensen has been involved in education for over 15 years, this being his fourth at Cambridge Elementary. He has lived and taught all over the world including Canada and later Australia where he also earned his Masters of Education degree at Griffith University and taught at Surfers Paradise State School. He later taught in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Fontana, California, where he earned the Teacher of the Year award in 2005. Mr. Mortensen taught grades three through seventh during his time in the classroom.

Mr. Mortensen loves everything about Cambridge Elementary and OUSD. Given the abundance of positive attributes exhibited at Cambridge and within the Orange Unified School District among the students, staff, families, and all other stakeholders, it is easy to see why Cambridge has such an excellent reputation and is such a wonderful school to call home for everyone who attends.

Mr. Mortensen believes in a 21st Century corporate-style learning environment where students not only learn the foundational skills needed to succeed, but also integrate real-world skills that will enable each student to be college and career ready for tomorrow's Corporate America. Technology and collaboration are at the forefront of the educational model at Cambridge. Students at Cambridge have fun while they learn where their knowledgeable and caring teachers understand the demands of our "digital native" students.

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year!

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California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. John Albert
Principal

Dr. Albert leads the California Elementary team with over 17 years of educational leadership experience in which he has served as a teacher and assistant principal at the high school, a middle school assistant principal and principal, a K-8 school principal, and supporting English learners at the district level. He has proudly served at Title I schools and has experience bridging the achievement gap, integrating technology to enhance 21st century learning, and supporting English learners. Dr. Albert earned a bachelor's of arts degree from the University of Redlands, and a master's degree and doctorate degree from California State University, Fullerton. His wife is a second grade teacher and they have two sons in elementary school (5th grade and 2nd grade). He is first generation American. His father immigrated to the United States from Hungary after WWII and his mother was from Ireland. Both came to build a better life for themselves and their future family. It is with this same sense of passion that he entered the education field with the goal of helping to build better lives for students.

"We continue our vision of being a premiere one-to-one iPad school and a leader in innovation. Our focus remains on preparing our students to be college and career ready by developing sound foundation skills in reading, mathematical reasoning, science application, and technology integration. Our students apply these foundational skills while mastering 21st century standards. In addition, we are ecstatic that we are expanding our innovative programs this year to also include a Science, Technology, Engineer, Arts, and Math (STEAM) lab and the first Spanish Dual Immersion program in the district", said principal Dr. Albert.

Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Janel Carpenter
Coordinator

Welcome to the start of the 2015-16 year at Canyon Hills! This year, Janel Carpenter has joined the team as the new site administrator. Mrs. Carpenter comes to Canyon Hills with many years in the field of Special Education. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Adolescent Development, an Education Specialist Credential, and a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from California State University, Fullerton. She has ten years of teaching experience and was an Autism Specialist in a neighboring district and a Special Education Director for a virtual K-12th grade charter school. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and six children; including two sets of twins. She is eager to support the families, students, and staff at Canyon Hills and is overjoyed to call Orange Unified her new home.

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Craig Abercrombie
Principal

James "Craig" Abercrombie is the proud new principal of Canyon High School. He is entering his 18th year as an educator and his 13th year in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). After graduating from college, Craig began his teaching career at Yuma High School in Yuma, Arizona. He joined OUSD as an English teacher and the head basketball coach at Orange High School in 2003. While at Orange High, he also served as the athletic director before becoming the assistant principal in 2011. As the assistant principal, he was responsible for Special Education, interventions, and curriculum and instruction.

Craig is extremely excited to join the Canyon family and looks forward to working with the staff, students, and community to continue to build on the proud Comanche traditions.

Growing up in small towns in Oklahoma and Texas with educator parents, Craig understands the important role a school plays as a part of the community. He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Arlington and holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education administration. Craig and his wife, Veronica, are the proud parents of a four-year-old son, Braxton, and are residents of Orange.

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Erika Krohn
Principal

Mrs. Erika Krohn is the proud principal of Canyon Rim Elementary School. She came to Orange Unified School District in 2010 as the principal of Sycamore Elementary School. Under her leadership, Sycamore Elementary School exited Program Improvement, became a Similar School Ranking of a 10, was nominated for the National Blue Ribbon Award, and earned the Title I Academic Achievement Award. In 2014, she came to Canyon Rim Elementary and established positive relationships with the students, staff, and families. Mrs. Krohn led the teachers in a series of professional development including: Units of Study, Academic Language, Close Reading, and Differentiation for Advanced Learners. In partnership with the influential Canyon Rim PTA, three Chrome Book carts were purchased to further implement 21st century learning. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, Mrs. Krohn was a principal, vice principal, program specialist, and teacher in the Rowland Unified School District.

Mrs. Krohn is a product of Orange Unified Schools: Taft Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle School, and Villa Park High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University, and a Master's Degree from National University.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krohn enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. Her hobbies include reading, snow skiing, and biking.

Mrs. Krohn is looking forward to another productive year at Canyon Rim Elementary. Mrs. Krohn and the staff will be working collaboratively to provide extraordinary learning experiences that the students will never forget!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Cerro Villa Middle School is excited and ready to celebrate its 50th anniversary of opening its doors to students in the 2015–16 school year. Under the direction of principal Lisa Ogan, Cerro Villa is proud to showcase its new STEM lab and renovated library, renamed the Synergy Center.

Prior to serving OUSD, Mrs. Ogan served as middle school assistant principal, summer school principal, teacher on special assignment, middle school math teacher, and elementary school teacher in the sixth grade in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) for 16 years. She also taught for nine years

in the Walnut Valley Unified School District as a middle school teacher and one year as an elementary teacher in the Ontario-Montclair Unified School District.

Mrs. Ogan received her bachelor's degree in child development with a minor in mathematics and a master's degree in educational administration, both from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a multiple-subject teaching credential with an authorization in mathematics and an administrative services credential.

Along with Mrs. Ogan, Cerro Villa is proud to announce its most recent accomplishment of being recognized as a Gold Ribbon School in May 2015. This is a tribute to the dedication, performance and high expectations shared by its teachers, students, parents and community. Congratulations!

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Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Mrs. Schaffer is excited to begin her eighteenth year in the Orange Unified School District. Prior to coming to Chapman Hills in 2012, she had been the Principal at Handy Elementary for seven years and Fletcher Elementary for five years. Her career in Orange USD began as an Assistant Principal at West Orange Elementary for two years. She has enjoyed working at all three schools, and looks forward to another great year at Chapman Hills.

Graduating with a Bachelors in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University, Mrs. Schaffer decided to become a teacher. She attended Chapman University's credential program, and enjoyed teaching elementary school in LAUSD and Pomona Unified while working on her Masters and Administrative Credential from Cal State, Fullerton. Mrs. Schaffer's aspirations to become a principal led her to Orange USD, where she has had the good fortune to work with many wonderful students, parents, and teachers over the years.

Mrs. Schaffer is thrilled to continue working with the Chapman Hills community. This year promises to be filled with hard work as they strive to maintain the rigor and excellence that named Chapman Hills a California Distinguished School, 2014. Mrs. Schaffer reflects, "I am dedicated to working with the staff and students to meet our goals that drive us toward reaching every child's potential. We are a family at Chapman Hills and work together so that everyone can succeed."

El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Dustin Saxton
Principal

Dr. Dustin Saxton is beginning his third year as principal of El Modena High School. Dr. Saxton started his education career in 1991 as a mathematics teacher at a private school. Five years later, he began teaching algebra, geometry and calculus at San Bernardino High School, where he also coached varsity football, basketball, and baseball. After serving as principal of a private K-12 school in Redlands, Dr. Saxton moved on to become an assistant principal at the high school level in the Alford and Upland Unified School Districts and at Orange High School in the Orange Unified School District. His responsibilities as a high school assistant principal included leadership of: discipline and attendance; the Math Department; the Summer School Program; the Adult Education program; the Special Education Department; activities; and athletics.

Born in Illinois, Dr. Saxton is a graduate of Drury University, National University, and La Sierra University. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, a master's degree in instructional leadership and a specialist degree in administration and leadership. He also received masters and doctoral degrees in divinity from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Saxton is the proud father of two sons, aged 21 and 22. His wife, Debra, has taught special education for 26 years in both private and public schools.

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



John Besta
*Principal
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Michele Walker
*Principal
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El Rancho Charter School continues with its highly successful two principal concept. Together, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Besta bring 23 years of principal experience to El Rancho and together have served a total of more than 35 years as administrators on the El Rancho campus. They are clearly in touch with the needs of middle school students in the community. After being named a California Gold Ribbon Award winner and a school with an Exemplary Arts Program by the State of California, the principals intend to continue with more successes. Mrs. Walker will continue to be devoted to the implementation of the new Common Core standards and Mr. Besta will continue his work supervising the construction of a new science facility and gymnasium which is scheduled to open in the 17-18 school year.

Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Shele Tamaki
Principal

Shele Tamaki comes from a family with a long line of teachers at the elementary, secondary, and college levels. Majoring in elementary education, Mrs. Tamaki graduated Phi Beta Kappa from CSU Long Beach. She later went on to earn her master's degree in educational administration from CSULB. Mrs. Tamaki also taught for seven years in grades two through five, while serving as a social studies mentor teacher and master teacher for the Downey Unified School District.

Mrs. Tamaki's administrative experience began in Downey as a summer school principal. The following year, in 1990, she was hired as an assistant principal in the Capistrano Unified School District. After two and a half years she became an elementary school principal in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

In 1997, Mrs. Tamaki accepted an elementary principalship closer to home in the Capistrano Unified. For the next several years she had the privilege of working with talented school teams that received various education awards, such as California Distinguished School and the California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll (CBEE), with recognition for API scores of over 900.

These educational experiences afforded Mrs. Tamaki a professional career opportunity to join the Orange USD leadership team. She now looks forward to working with the dedicated Crescent staff and community to help support our students' success.

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Karen Sanders
Principal

Karen Sanders is thrilled to be returning for her second year as the principal of Fairhaven Elementary School. Mrs. Sanders has been in education for 28 years previously in the Ocean View School District having worked as a teacher in a variety of grade levels, middle school assistant principal, and elementary principal. Mrs. Sanders received her bachelor's degree from Long Beach State University, master's degree from Alliant University and administration credential from UCI. When Mrs. Sanders is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband and grown son and daughter, reading, bowling, and attending Angel games. As principal Mrs. Sanders feels privileged to have the opportunity to work with a committed staff, supportive families, and motivated and engaging students. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and supporting everyone in the Fairhaven community. Mrs. Sanders is extremely excited to be returning to a school with a proven record of high academic achievement and is looking forward to another great year, building relationships, and continuing the Fairhaven tradition of striving for the best.

Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Rebeca Nelson
Principal

Rebeca Nelson is beginning her third year as Principal of Fletcher Elementary School. Ms. Nelson grew up in the city of Orange and has been part of the Orange Unified School District for nine years. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, she taught for six years in the Santa Ana Unified School District. Ms. Nelson has taught at various grade levels, as well as in a Dual Immersion program, the Gifted and Talented Education program, and as a Reading Resource teacher. She has served as a Teacher on Special Assignment for the District's Accountability and Special Programs department and as an Assistant Principal at McPherson Magnet School. Ms. Nelson has her B.A. in History from the University of California at Santa Barbara and her M.A. in Education, with an emphasis in Educational Leadership from Cal Poly, Pomona and has recently completed her Tier II Administrative Credential through the Orange County Department of Education. Ms. Nelson is excited to kick-off the 2015-2016 school year and welcome all of the new and returning Fletcher Falcon families.

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Irene Preciado
Principal

Irene Preciado's experience in education spans over 30 years. The beginnings of her career in education were coupled with part-time jobs in customer service while she attended high school and junior college. Once she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in speech communication and her teaching credentials in English and computer education, she began her teaching career as a high school English teacher. She taught English 9, 10, 11 and 12; AP; Honors; English language development; reading intervention; and theater arts/drama. Ms. Preciado holds two Master of Arts degrees in computer education and educational administration, and she is currently working on her dissertation at Claremont Graduate University for her doctorate in urban educational leadership.

Ms. Preciado became interested in administration over 15 years ago because she wanted to inspire more students, empower teachers, and involve parents in their children's education. Before joining Orange Unified School district, Ms. Preciado worked as a Director II in Northern California and worked at district offices managing various programs from pre-K and new-teacher support to adult education. Her work with the community includes parent trainings and community-outreach extents over 20 years. Her experience at sites includes assistant principal in secondary schools and principal at elementary schools.

Ms. Preciado joined the leadership team at Orange Unified School District in 2013 as the principal at Esplanade Elementary. She has worked closely with all stakeholders. The collective efforts have increased availability and use of technology, improved student conduct, continued student academic achievement, increased parent involvement, and facilitated building improvements and beautification projects.

Ms. Preciado is very proud of the students, staff and community because they exhibit a firm commitment to excellence in education. Her greatest joy is working at Esplanade where excellence prevails and everyone shows pride, respect and responsibility in everything they do, every single day!

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Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Michelle Owen
Principal

Dr. Michelle D. Owen is entering her fourth year as the Principal of Handy Elementary School and her fifteenth year in education. Dr. Owen holds bachelors and masters degrees in education, as well as a doctoral degree in Education, Leadership, and Policy from Pepperdine University. She is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the Association of California School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the California Association for Bilingual Education.

Providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that challenge student thinking in the areas of math, science, technology, and literacy is a priority for Dr. Owen. She works with her teachers, students, parents, and community as a collaborative facilitator to ensure data-driven school improvement, professional learning communities, targeted instructional delivery, and school and community partnerships.

Dr. Owen credits the success of Handy Elementary to her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community. Through their parent organization, ELAC, GRIP, partnerships with community organizations, and district support, Handy Elementary provides an outstanding place where all students grow and feel supported.

Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Andrea Roman
Principal

Mrs. Andrea Roman has devoted her career to public education and committing to providing all students with a strong education. Prior to becoming the Principal of Jordan Elementary, Ms. Roman had the privilege of teaching Kindergarten, second and third grade in two large districts. From her teaching experience, Mrs. Roman was able to gain a sound perspective on how to address the various needs of diverse student populations. In addition to her teacher experience, Mrs. Roman has also worked as an Elementary and Secondary site administrator. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree and her teaching credential from the

University of California, Riverside and her Master's Degree and Administrative Services Credential from the University of Redlands. Mrs. Roman strives to inspire all children, even at the youngest age, to look toward a higher education and make those pathways available to them and their families.

Mrs. Roman loves her job and enjoys working with teachers, parents, and most importantly students. This will be her fifth year at Jordan Elementary and looks forward to working with the families, students, and staff that make Jordan a special place to work and learn. Her family is also very important in her life. She is married to her wonderful husband Albert, and has two amazing children, Ashley and Albert, Jr. When she sees the students she interacts with on a daily basis she also sees her own children in them. She treats them as if they were her own children, with love and understanding. When she is not spending time with her family she uses her time to give back to the community. She is a proud member of a Kiwanis Service Club and has also served on various community boards. In addition, Mrs. Roman has also been involved with several scholarship committees that directly assists students pay for their college education.

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ginette Kelley
Principal

Gigi Kelley earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from CSU Long Beach. After graduation, her first professional job was as a Prevention Education Specialist working in partnership with schools in Southern California. Gigi returned to school, earning her California Teaching Credential from CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching career took her first to Rialto and then to Fullerton School District as a classroom teacher.

Hearing the call of administration, Gigi returned to school to earn a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She remained in Fullerton, however she moved out of the classroom and into district administration. She served that district as a Program Specialist for Gifted and Talented (GATE) program and also the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program. She also had the opportunity to serve as Interim Junior High Assistant Principal.

Through her experiences as an educator she has had the opportunity to develop new and innovative approaches to student success by creating, planning, and implementing instructional practices for district-wide programs. In 2005 she was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, bringing innovative technology to classroom instruction.

Gigi developed and taught curriculum for teacher GATE Certification, in partnership with Hope International University and has worked as an adjunct professor for HIU, teaching a course in Educational Leadership.

This is Gigi Kelley's fourth year as Imperial Elementary School's principal. She continually looks forward to working with teachers, students, and the rest of the Imperial community. We are Eagles; Watch us SOAR!

La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lydia Roach
Principal

Mrs. Lydia Roach became the Principal of La Veta Elementary School in 2014. She has been an educator for 32 years and has worked in various elementary schools in the Orange Unified School District including Handy, Riverdale, Canyon Rim, Lampson, Running Springs, and now La Veta. Mrs. Roach was both a primary and upper grade teacher, a bilingual resource teacher, and a reading resource teacher before becoming an administrator. In addition, she was the assistant principal at both Running Springs and Lampson for four years before becoming a Principal. She was the Principal at Running Springs Elementary School for seven years before becoming the Principal at La Veta Elementary.

Mrs. Roach grew up in the city of Orange and is a product of the Orange Unified School District. As a student, she attended Esplanade Elementary, Fairhaven Elementary, Santiago Jr. High and El Modena High School. Mrs. Roach continued her education at San Diego State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree and an elementary teaching credential. She then graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Master's degree in Educational Administration and an administrative credential.

Mrs. Roach currently resides in the Anaheim Hills area with her husband Russ of 31 years. She has two children Kyle, age 26, and Lara, age 21. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two golden retrievers Brody and Bailey. Mrs. Roach is proud to be a "Viking" and looks forward to continuing working with the wonderful students, staff, and families of the La Veta School community as they "S.A.I.L. Into 21st Century Learning".

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Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Maria Chairez
Principal

Lampson's principal, Dr. Maria Chairez, is proud to lead Lampson Elementary school to becoming a 21st Century high performing school. Dr. Chairez attended high school in Southern California and spent her summers in Sacramento. She began her teaching career in Glendale Unified, then Ventura Unified and eventually Santa Barbara County Office of Schools. She then became a consultant for the California Department of Education and later an administrator for the High Risk Youth Unit. Nevada soon became her new home as her family relocated due to her husband being hired as a Deputy District Attorney in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas brought many exciting experiences for Dr. Chairez including her role in starting a new alternative high school when she served as a Director for Secondary Education. She also opened up a new middle school serving as an Assistant Principal. Her last proud moment was earning a Five Star School ranking as the principal at a school in North Las Vegas. She also served as a Commissioner on Nevada's Private Post-Secondary Commission.

Returning to California in 2012, Dr. Chairez began her dream of working at Lampson Elementary School, seeking to create a learning environment where students feel challenged, teachers are supported, and parents feel welcome to participate in school events. Her goals for the year are to create a new STEM classroom where students can become fully engaged and learn cutting-edge skills that prepare them to move into middle and high school grades. Dr. Chairez plans to increase reading proficiency in K-1 so students can perform complex reading tasks and learn to love reading. She plans on providing professional development in literacy, technology, and on expecting students to respond in scholarly ways.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Robert Johnson
Principal

Mr. Robert Johnson has been appointed as the new principal of Linda Vista Elementary School. Mr. Johnson previously served as an elementary school administrator and teacher in the Fullerton School District. He is also a longtime resident of the City of Orange.

Mr. Johnson attended California State University, Long Beach, where he received a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and music. He later earned a master's degree in educational administration at California State University, Fullerton. In addition, Mr. Johnson is an active member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), a professional organization that represents school administrators throughout California.

He also currently serves on the ACSA Board of Directors for Region 17 as director of professional development, which includes all the school districts within Orange County. His previous ACSA positions include Region 17 president and treasurer.

Mr. Johnson's top priority is to work with students, parents, staff members, and the community to help provide our children with the best education possible. He is also a strong advocate for arts education, and believes that creativity is nurtured through the arts. He has been involved in school and community choral organizations for most of his life as well, and has been privileged to perform with various choirs at Disneyland, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Orange County, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, and several other cities across the United States.

Prior to becoming an educator, and while he earned his college degrees, Mr. Johnson was also a cast member at the Disneyland Resort for several years. He is still actively involved in various alumni activities at the Resort.

Mr. Johnson is honored to be joining the OUSD team. He is looking forward to a successful school year at Linda Vista Elementary School!

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McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Joe Erven
Principal

At McPherson Magnet School, we want to make this school year full of inquiry with “Making Every Day Count” as our theme. This theme will embed 21st -century learning and academic content standards, which will focus on writing across the curriculum, citing evidence from texts, and increasing math fluency. As always, McPherson will continue to have strong connections with our magnet focus on science, mathematics and technology. This is especially true as we expand our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program to include our fifth-grade classes. It is our goal to ensure that every student has the opportunity to fulfill the McPherson motto: Knowledge, Inspiration, Discovery and Success.

As the principal of McPherson, Mr. Erven looks forward to working together with teachers, parents and students to create a positive and engaging learning environment for everyone. This will be his second year as principal of McPherson. Prior to his current position, Mr. Erven taught science for nine years and served as an assistant principal for five years, all within the Orange Unified School District. All of these experiences have helped him gain insight into student learning and working with families to help them achieve their goals.

Mr. Erven received his bachelor's degree in zoology with a minor in chemistry from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and he also has a master's degree in educational administration. When he isn't working at McPherson, Mr. Erven enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with his family.

Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Katherine Rizzo
Principal

Welcome to Olive Elementary School, Home of the Ocelots! Mrs. Rizzo considers it a privilege to be a part of a hardworking, knowledgeable and supportive school community and welcomes you to the 2015-16 school year!

This is Mrs. Rizzo's twenty fifth year in the field of education having had experiences ranging from school secretary, teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. This is her fifteenth year as an elementary principal. She looks forward with enthusiasm to the new school year, providing the highest quality education for children. Her vision is to create limitless opportunities by

fostering a collaborative culture whereby professionals learn in a community to empower students.

Mrs. Rizzo earned her undergraduate degree from La Sierra University, attended Chapman University where she earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and went on to earn her Administrative Credential from Cal-State San Bernardino. Mrs. Rizzo began her teaching career as a first-second grade teacher and has taught grades 1,2,3,5,and 6. Mrs. Rizzo also served as Elementary Project Specialist, adjunct professor at Cal-Baptist University, School of Education and La Sierra University, School of Education.

As an educator, Mrs. Rizzo makes every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. She believes that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. She feels without a doubt, the most successful students have family members that communicate regularly with the school. Olive's mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths.

Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Amy Hitt
Principal

Ms. Amy Hitt has been a principal in the Orange Unified School District since 2008. Before that time, she worked in Anaheim City School District where she served as a vice principal, curriculum specialist, teacher on special assignment, and classroom teacher. Ms. Hitt has worked at several schools teaching third through sixth grades, and specializing in curriculum, program evaluation/assessment, and technology. She has an Administrative Credential from California State University, Fullerton; a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Azusa Pacific University; and an undergraduate degree in Professional Writing from Baylor University.

Ms. Hitt's roots in this community run deep—she attended Orange Unified schools as a child and still lives in Orange. She has a sophomore daughter at Villa Park High School who is involved in water polo/swimming. Her son, a recent graduate from VPHS, will be attending NAU in Flagstaff in the fall. Coincidentally, Ms. Hitt's children both attended Nohl Canyon for their entire elementary careers, so she has first-hand experience with the teachers' and community's standard of excellence. She is looking forward to another great year with Nohl Canyon's Distinguished School community of staff, parents, and students.

Orange *High School*

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Mr. Dennis McCuiston is the new Principal at Orange High School where he is entering his 18th year as an educator and 21st year with the Orange Unified School District. Mr. McCuiston started his career as a campus supervisor at Orange High School and later became a special educator at Portola Middle School where he gained tremendous experience as a teacher. He went on to work at Orange High School where he taught for 10 years, was the head baseball coach, athletic director and eventually serving as an assistant principal. In 2011, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP where he worked with Community Day School, ROP, Educational Options and Home School. In 2013 he was appointed as the Principal of Richland High School serving students from all OUSD High Schools. Mr. McCuiston studied Sociology and Criminal Justice at Chapman University and Education Administration at National University. Dennis is married to his wife Julia, has a daughter Avery who attends Chapman Hills Elementary and a son Luke. Dennis is a resident of Orange.

Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Brenna Godsey
Principal

Brenna Godsey is excited to begin her second year as the Principal of Palmyra Elementary School. Principal Godsey has had the pleasure of working with Orange Unified students for the last fourteen years. Prior to coming to Palmyra, she served as an Assistant Principal at Canyon High School for five years and a Science teacher for eight years. Mrs. Godsey received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from the University of California San Diego with a Minor in Law and Society. She attended California State University, Fullerton where she earned her teaching and administrative credential along with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Godsey lives in the Orange Unified community with her husband and two sons, Jackson, 7, and Declan, 3. The Godey's are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their third child this November. Mrs. Godsey enjoys spending time with her family on the beach and in the snow.

Mrs. Godsey is committed to building positive relationships with the students, staff, parents, and community of Palmyra Elementary School. A positive school culture and climate is the key to the academic and social success of all of our students. Mrs. Godsey is honored to continue her tenure as the Principal of Palmyra and is looking forward to a wonderful school year!



OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Germaine Martell
Coordinator

Welcome back to school! Alternative Education is ready to open the doors and embrace another school year. Our motive is “There is always an alternative.” A new year presents opportunities for various beginnings: new faces, new classes, and new material. We are energized and ready for the 2015-2016 school year. As the Coordinator of Alternative Education, I look forward to working together with teachers, parents and students to create a positive and engaging learning environment for everyone within the five programs that are based at Alternative Education. As the 2015-2016 school year begins, we will focus on building a solid instructional program as we continue to transition to the new California State Academic Content Standards. Let us make 2015-2016 our best year yet!

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Kathryn Martin
Principal

It is an honor and privilege for Mrs. Kathy Martin to begin her fourth year as Principal at Panorama Elementary School. Mrs. Martin is a product of Orange Unified, having attended OUSD schools for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Mrs. Martin earned her BA in psychology from UCLA, and will forever be a “Mighty Bruin.” She admits she morphed into an Anteater for a short time while earning her teaching credential at UCI. She received her MA in Education from Concordia University in Irvine.

Having been in education for more than twenty years, Mrs. Martin can attest to the fact there is no nobler profession or purpose than helping to shape the next generation. Not a day goes by that she is not grateful for and humbled by the outstanding professionals in the Orange Unified School District. John Wooden put it best when he said, “The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.” Mrs. Martin is proud to be working with the star students, fantastic families and excellent educators at Panorama. Go Panthers!

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jill Katevas
Principal

Jill Katevas is the proud principal of Portola Middle School and someone with a long history as a public educator. Mrs. Katevas was born and raised in Long Beach, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in literature from California State University, Long Beach, and later earned her teaching credential from Chapman University.

Since 1999, Mrs. Katevas has been a committed educator here in Orange Unified. She began her career at Canyon High School as an English teacher and then moved into administration as assistant principal overseeing curriculum and instruction at Orange High School in 2011. She came to Portola Middle School as principal last year and has proudly served its students.

Education is a second career for Mrs. Katevas. She worked in business management for several years after graduating from college. During this time, she learned that success is defined by one’s ability to make informed decisions, work collaboratively with others, and persevere through challenges. Thus, she is committed to bringing these values into every classroom at Portola to best prepare all students for their futures. As part of this commitment, Portola is proud to offer new classes that focus on real-life applications, such as a Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics (STEAM) lab, fashion design, journalism and leadership. She is also delighted to offer field trips and workshops that provide hands-on learning opportunities to students and focus on providing academic and social education for all students.

Most importantly, Mrs. Katevas recognizes the vital role that a strong partnership between school and families plays in a child’s success. Thus, she is committed to working with all Matador families and the broader Orange community to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education that best supports their high school, college and career goals.

Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sally Hughson
Principal

Mrs. Sally Hughson is the new principal at Prospect Elementary School. Mrs. Hughson was the principal at Linda Vista Elementary School for the last 7 years. She has been an educator for 25 years. She has worked at Cambridge, Handy, West Orange and Running Springs where she was the Assistant Principal. Mrs. Hughson taught lower and upper grades and was a reading resource teacher, ELD resource teacher and an Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Hughson grew up in the Orange area and attended Orange Unified schools beginning in kindergarten and graduated from El Modena High School. She earned her BA in Communication Disorders and a Master degree in Educational Administration from California State Fullerton; she earned her teaching Credential from Chapman University.

Mrs. Hughson lives in Santa Ana with Steve, her husband of 35 years. Her son Grant works in Computer Animated Design (CAD), daughter Katie and husband Danny Quesada live in Monrovia, where she is Pastor. Mrs. Hughson enjoys trips to Catalina, relaxing in the desert, walking in Peter’s Canyon and spending time with her family and friends.

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Elsie Briseno Simonovski
Principal

Richland Continuation High School is very proud to be opening its doors to our students and staff members for their 2015–2016 school year! Under the support and direction of our new principal, Dr. Elsie Briseno Simonovski, our educational setting offers an alternative program for students who have needs that cannot be met elsewhere.

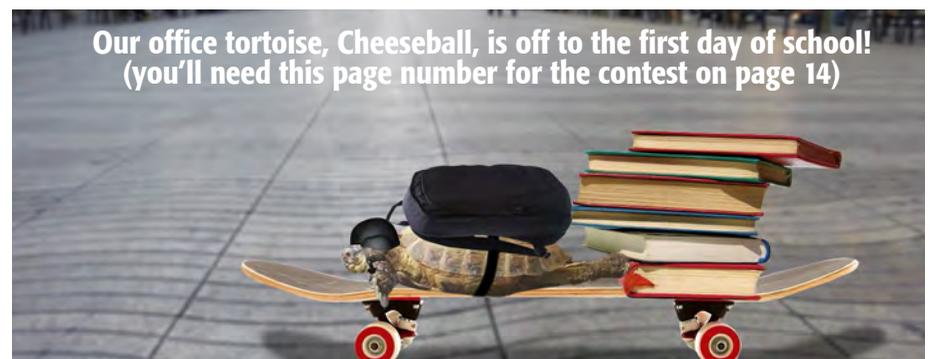
Dr. Briseno Simonovski has been a part of the Orange Unified School District community since 2010. Her work has spanned a variety of administrative capacities for the Educational Services Division, including special education, the Office of Accountability and Special Programs, and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

Earning her Ph.D. in urban leadership from Claremont Graduate University, Dr. Briseno Simonovski has served as a public school educator for over 17 years. Her educational experiences include elementary school teacher, literacy coach, project director, middle school assistant principal, special education coordinator, and K–12 administrator.

Dr. Briseno Simonovski’s primary areas of interest include high school special education, adolescent literacy, and language development for English language learners. She holds a Multiple Subjects Credential, a Specialized Reading Certificate from UCLA, and an Administrative Services Credential. She received a bachelor’s degree in history with a minor in teacher education from UC San Diego, and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Argosy University.

This year, Richland High School is also very proud of its recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. This recognition reflects all of the hard work, commitment, and dedication that our staff members have for providing students with a personalized learning opportunity that can ensure academic success in a strong, 21st-century learning environment.

The Richland Continuation High School Condors look forward to another year of celebrating their uniqueness, rich diversity, and strong sense of community. We are committed to student-centered learning. Welcome, Condors!



Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Joseph Vidal
Principal

Principal Joseph Vidal comes to Running Springs Elementary with a diverse background in teaching and educational leadership. Mr. Vidal is deeply passionate about nurturing and supporting a dynamic learning community that works collaboratively to strengthen the academic and social achievement of students and the relationship between home, school, and community. He believes that in order to achieve its vision, the system must focus on three inter-related learning agendas: student learning, professional learning, and system learning. His years as an educator include teaching as a special education teacher and serving as an elementary and middle school assistant principal.

Mr. Vidal earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and special education from California State University - Long Beach. While working in the Irvine Unified School District as a resource specialist for students with learning disabilities, he earned his second master's degree in educational leadership from UCLA's Principal Leadership Institute. He holds several school credentials, including educational specialist and school administration.

Outside of school time Mr. Vidal enjoys reading, golfing and attending UCLA alumni family and sporting events. He and his wife, Courtney, reside in Orange County with their three wonderful children- Mia, Sophia, and Noah.

He continues to be impressed with the vision, leadership, and personal touch of the people who are the Orange Unified School District. It is for these reasons that he is proud to be part of the Orange team.

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ashley Pedroza
Principal

Mrs. Ashley Pedroza is excited and honored to be the principal of Serrano Elementary! Based upon her past experience as a district administrator in the Serrano community, she feels fortunate to be joining a "community of excellence" that is dedicated to the success of all Eagles. Mrs. Pedroza is passionate about educational technology, STEM education, early literacy, and building the kind of 21st-century skills our students need to become active and inspired stakeholders in education.

She began her career in education eight years ago, and most recently held the title of coordinator of student assessment and educational measurement. Because of her great work to help support the district's transition to newer technology and assessment methods, this past year she was awarded both the 2015 OUSD Administrator of the Year and the Association of California School Administrator's Region 17 Technology Administration of the Year.

Prior to her assignment at the district office, Mrs. Pedroza spent five years at El Modena High School as a biology teacher. She held a variety of leadership roles at the school site, and during her tenure was also named site Teacher of the Year and PTA Teacher of the Year. In addition to her experiences in the OUSD, Mrs. Pedroza holds a bachelor's degree in biological science from Chapman University, a master's degree in education, and both Single Subject and Administrative Services Credentials.

Living in Orange with her husband and two children, Mrs. Pedroza is eager to embrace our Serrano family. She is proud to be an Eagle!

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. James D'Agostino
Principal

Dr. Jim D'Agostino is in his fifth year as the Principal at Santiago Charter Middle School. He takes pride in being visible to parents and students and demonstrates that by greeting everyone each morning as they enter the Santiago campus. His philosophy of making everyone feel welcomed and valued into the school, while continuing to strive toward academic excellence, is part of the leadership style that he brings to the school and the entire school community. His positive attitude and energy has helped to create a very welcoming and caring culture at Santiago which has resulted in increased enrollment and community involvement.

Dr. D'Agostino is a former history teacher and special education teacher. He has been an administrator for the past ten years and believes that building and fostering healthy relationships is a critical component to success in life. Personalization is the one thing that he prides himself on bringing to his students and school community.

Prior to becoming an educational leader, Dr. D (as the students call him) owned a restaurant in Buffalo, NY and was involved in a family business as a licensed insurance agent. He loves working at Santiago, as it ties into both the business, and educational aspects, of his professional background.

Dr. D'Agostino credits his beautiful wife Valerie for all of her support in his personal life, and credits his staff and faculty for all of Santiago's success, such as receiving the honor of being named a California Distinguished School in 2011 and the 92-point Academic Performance Index (API) growth the school has earned from 2009 to 2013! He looks forward to continue serving the Santiago community and work in partnership with all of the schools within the El Modena High School attendance area and the Orange Unified School District to ensure that every student receives the best possible education.

Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Heather Bosworth
Principal

Ms. Bosworth is honored and excited to welcome back the outstanding staff, students, and families to Sycamore Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year! She looks forward to continuing to build collaborative partnerships with the Sycamore community to provide innovative learning experiences for all students!

Ms. Bosworth previously served the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) successfully as a coordinator of 21st-century teaching and learning at the district's Office of K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and Gifted And Talented Education (GATE). Prior to joining OUSD, Ms. Bosworth was a classroom teacher, teacher leader, and professional developer in the Laguna Beach Unified School District and a classroom teacher in the Capistrano Unified School District. Ms. Bosworth has significant experience and training in the areas of professional development for teachers, instructional technology, and elementary curriculum and assessment. She holds a bachelor's degree in child and adolescent studies and a master's degree in education and reading from California State University, Fullerton, as well as a certificate in GATE from University of California, Irvine. Ms. Bosworth is a National Board Certified Teacher who holds professional educational credentials in multiple-subject teaching, reading instruction, and administrative services.

"Sycamore is passionate about children and enthusiastic about the possibilities for student success with 21st-century teaching and learning," Ms. Bosworth said. "We look forward to partnering with students, parents, and community members to inspire excellence in every scholar."



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Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Connie Smith
Principal

Taft Principal, Connie Smith, has been in education for 34 years. Her experience includes classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator.

Connie's many professional associations and accomplishments have included former Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, member of the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and Orange Unified School District's 2010-2011 Administrator of the Year. Connie also shares her administrative expertise by serving as an assessor for the Orange County Department of Education's Developing the 21st Century Principal program. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and her master's degree in school administration from California State University, Fullerton.

Connie was born and raised in Orange County. She has been married to Phillip Smith for 22 years and they have two sons, Garrett and Grant.

Smith says, "Taft is an outstanding professional learning community and I look forward to another fabulous year working with amazing students, parents and staff."

West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sandra Preciado-Martin
Principal

Sandra Preciado began working at Jordan High School in Long Beach as an undergraduate while attending California State University, Fullerton. She worked at Jordan High School as the on-campus alternative suspension monitor for a year and a half. She then moved to Millikan High School in Long Beach as a parent liaison.

After she completed her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish literature, Mrs. Preciado began her tenure in Orange Unified as a Spanish teacher at Canyon High School. She taught every level of Spanish from introductory level Spanish I to AP Spanish. During that time, she returned to California State University, Fullerton, to complete her master's degree in school administration. After Mrs. Preciado's 12-year teacher tenure, she had the privilege of making El Modena High School her home for three years as the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction.

Mrs. Preciado is very excited to serve the students and parents in the West Orange Elementary Community as the new principal. Having two elementary boys of her own, she is thrilled to expand her elementary participation from parent to principal. Outside school Mrs. Preciado enjoys traveling, running, reading and eating food that she does not have to cook herself.

Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Tracy Knibb
Principal

Going into her third year as the principal of Yorba Middle School, Tracy Knibb is proud to be working with such amazing students, parents, and staff. Mrs. Knibb was the Assistant Principal at Yorba for two years before taking the lead for the Toros. Prior to coming to the Orange Unified School District, she was an English teacher and Title I Coordinator for eight years in the Downey Unified School District.

The Yorba staff is coming back from summer rejuvenated and energized for another great school year! With a focus on student achievement, the staff is steadfast in their commitment to provide students with interactive, engaging, and rigorous courses. With impressive and growing programs in technology, visual arts, drama, and music, Mrs. Knibb knows she is fortunate to be part of such a strong team!

Mrs. Knibb is married with two daughters: Jocelyn, 9, and Zoey, 10. She enjoys reading and strives to bring the passion of books to all students. She believes, as Frank Serafini does, "There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book." There is no excuse not to read at Yorba!

Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Raeanne Little
Principal

Raeanne Lopez Little is honored to carry forward the legacy of high achievement, caring learning environment, and outstanding community involvement as the new principal of Villa Park Elementary. Mrs. Little is passionate about fostering a collaborative culture that encourages students, and the adults who engage them, to go beyond what they thought possible.

Mrs. Little has been an educator for 25 years, and joined Orange Unified 1997. Most recently, she worked as assistant principal at Lampson Elementary, and has served at Canyon Rim, Crescent, Jordan, Taft, and La Veta Elementary schools. Her lengthy career in elementary education allowed her to gain expertise in a variety of roles, including being a teacher in grades 1-6, bilingual teacher, GATE teacher, reading specialist, teacher trainer, and coordinator of supplemental programs for parents and students. "I have been very fortunate to have broad professional experiences," says Mrs. Little. "Each position I've held has given me a unique perspective on how to meet the needs of diverse students, and how best to support their parents and teachers." Mrs. Little received her bachelor's degree from UCLA, master's degree from CSU Dominguez Hills and administrative credential through UCI Irvine.

Mrs. Little and her husband are long time Orange Unified residents, and are grateful that their two children's education in Orange Unified prepared them for success in college and career. Mrs. Little is thrilled to join a community of professionals and parents committed to providing all students the 21st Century learning experiences needed for success from kindergarten through college, and beyond.

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ed Howard
Principal

"One More Thing" is the Spartan Goal for this year. For the past 26 years in the district, Principal Ed Howard has been looking for that one more thing to help better a student's experience and to help students succeed. Ed taught Social Studies, coached football, baseball and was the Athletic Director at Orange High School. Mr. Howard also served as the Director of Athletics for the District.

Starting his tenth year as the Principal at Villa Park High School, Mr. Howard knows the importance of doing things the SPARTAN way. This has become synonymous with excellence. Mr. Howard and his administration work hard every day to make VPHS a school that is a source of pride for the community it serves. He knows that if everyone looks to do one more thing to better our students experience in the classroom, on the playing fields, or in the community our Spartans will continue to lead the way.

Mr. Howard was born in the Bronx, NY and moved to Orange in the 6th grade. He attended Serrano, CV and VPHS. Ed went on to Cypress JC and then to California Lutheran University where he received his degree in Political Science and his Single Subject teaching credential. Ed also has earned his Master of Science in Educational Administration.

Still living in Orange, Mr. Howard is blessed to have a wonderful and supportive family. His wife Amiee is his greatest motivation to succeed. His daughter Savannah (Spartan 2015), will be starting her freshman year at the University of New Mexico and son Eddie (Spartan 2018), are his greatest source of pride. Mr. Howard takes great pleasure in the relationships that he has been fortunate to build in the community that he is proud to call home.

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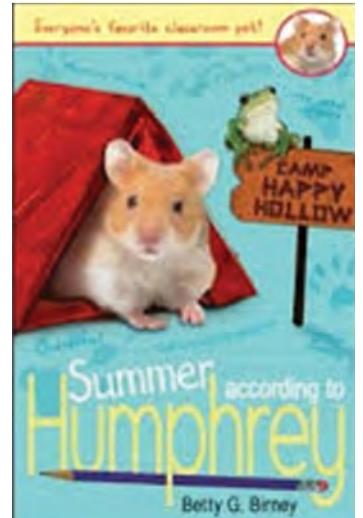
Isabella's Book Review

Summer According to Humphrey



Isabella A.

Betty G. Birney's *Summer According to Humphrey* is a book about a classroom hamster named Humphrey. In this book, Humphrey overhears Mrs. Brisbane, say that school would soon end. Humphrey couldn't believe it! What's a classroom hamster to do if he is out of job? Soon, Humphrey finds out he is going to summer camp with his favorite substitute, Ms. Mac. She was a long-term substitute, but left after Mrs. Brisbane came back. She broke Humphrey's heart when she left, but now is back to take Humphrey to summer camp. Could this summer be too wild-wild-wild, even for Humphrey?



I give this book five stars because this is a book you just cannot put down. It is one of many books in a series, so if you like *Summer According to Humphrey* as much as I do, you will have many fun hours of reading.

Isabella is a 9 year old who loves to read and write fiction stories. She grades books according to stars, because she love stars. Isabella attends Serrano Elementary at OUSD an is ready to begin the fourth grade.

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Carol MacDonald**

literacy-focused activities that were relevant to their individual areas of need. Additionally, visual arts were integrated throughout the camp to provide an authentic purpose for student writing.

The students have been motivated and engaged. Seven-year-old Andres exclaimed, "I was reading good! My brother taught me a little bit, but these teachers taught me a lot! I really liked making words, the books, the games, and reading outside!"

Students aren't the only ones learning. The summer camp partnership has provided rich opportunities for researchers and teachers to learn more about effective teaching and learning. Each day researchers, reading specialists and professors taught alongside each other, observing, reflecting on, and talking about instruction. As they worked, they gave each other real-time feedback. Through reflective conversations, they made plans for their own personal and professional learning.

"This was heaven in a classroom," stated first-grade teacher Elizabeth Gellatly. "The ability to collaboratively plan and think together with so many good brains and good attitudes made it successful. We really learned from each other."

Additionally, this program allowed CSUF professors to engage in their own personal learning growth by working side by side with Sycamore teachers. Dr. Bowers shared, "This collaborative partnership has allowed me to further understand the instructional needs of reading specialists and classroom teachers. Our goal is to continue the learning beyond the summer academy experience."

Her colleague, Dr. Kath Glasswell, stated, "This work has provided me with the opportunity to be part of an authentic professional learning community at a school. I think we have worked really well together, and we have achieved a great deal for ourselves and the students. Every one of us is learning and growing because of a collective passion for teaching and a real desire to learn how we can be more effective in meeting students' literacy needs."

Perhaps this two-week camp experience was best summed up by first-grade student, Camilla: "When I leave camp, I'm really going to miss you guys!"

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