

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Vista Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2015

Framework for the Future Guides Collective Efforts



Dr. Vodicka and a student from Casita Elementary School both wore UC Santa Cruz Banana Slug attire on WAVE Pact Wednesday to promote college readiness for all students.

By Dr. Devin Vodicka, Superintendent

Our vision in the Vista Unified School District is to be the model of educational excellence and innovation. Our purpose is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real-world problems. Our core values are respect, trust, and collaboration. We have defined measurable goals and we have re-defined roles and responsibilities to align

with our vision, mission, and values. All of these are important components of what I call the “Framework for the Future” that guides our collective efforts. Importantly, we also have a plan, our *Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation*, that helps us to make progress in the direction of our desired future.

The 2015-16 school year will be our second year of implementing our Blueprint. This plan consists of eight strategies that include very specific action plans, action steps, funding allocations, and desired results. Our first strategy focuses on family and community partnerships which are foundational for student success. Some of the highlights of this strategy include:

- **Community Liaisons:** This year we are adding eight Community Liaisons to work at schools promoting family engagement. Last year we created ten of these positions and the plan is to expand again next year.
- **Family Engagement Network:** We will launch a program that will provide training opportunities for families related to high-interest areas such as homework, health, and digital learning.
- **Expanding Career Technical Education:** We want to improve our award-winning programs by expanding student internship opportunities to better prepare our learners for the future. We will also continue and expand our externship program where teachers connect with industry partners.
- **College Readiness:** We will continue to work with families and students to ensure that all students are aware of our guaranteed admissions agreement with California State University San Marcos and to build a culture of college readiness.

By working together, I am confident that we will continue to see improvements in student achievement. Importantly, we are also showing our children how adults can come together in a spirit of service to prepare for a brighter future.

For additional details regarding the Blueprint, please check the VUSD website: <http://www.vistausd.org/blueprint>

A District On the Move

By Angela Chunka, President Board of Trustees

Vista Unified School District faces the challenge of a changing society by focusing on the educational needs of each individual student. The School Board, collaborating with the Superintendent, cabinet, teachers, staff, parents, community and students created a living educational blueprint for our district’s mission and goals. After months of meetings it was determined by the stakeholders that we focus on eight elements that strongly influence student success.

Elements:

- 1) Family and community as partners in education
- 2) Facilities that provide an optimal learning environment
- 3) Positive safe school climate
- 4) High quality core learning systems
- 5) High quality staff
- 6) Effective, timely student learning feedback
- 7) Flexible student use of text and technology
- 8) Movement toward individual learning

Our superintendent’s vision has extended beyond our district to our county, state, and The League of Innovative Schools in Washington, DC. In November he was honored with an invitation to The Future Ready School Summit held at The White House. The Association of California School Administrators selected Dr. Vodicka as the California Superintendent of the year.

The board is proud of the manner in which our superintendent has moved our district with his values of trust, respect and collaboration.

Leadership, however, does not rest in only one person. It must be lived by all stakeholders. Peter Drucker says, “Leadership is lifting a person’s vision to high sights, the raising of a person’s performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.”

Vista Unified is on the move putting to use our cooperative leadership model!

Board of Education



Angela D. Chunka
President



Carol Weise Herrera
Vice-President



Rich Alderson
Clerk



Jim Gibson
Member



R. Elizabeth Jaka
Member

2015 Board of Education Meeting Dates

September 10
October 8

October 15
October 22

November 19
December 10

<http://www.vistausd.org>

Excellence and Innovation

From the District

Excellence and Innovation were evident as 270 Vista Unified School District teachers gathered together on August 13 to launch the 2015-2016 school year. Transitional Kindergarten through second grade teachers attended professional development focused on learning and sharing effective early literacy strategies.

A large part of the day was facilitated by Sheena Hervey, CEO of Generation Ready. Generation Ready is an education professional development provider that Vista Unified is currently partnering with to provide ongoing professional learning for elementary administrators, content support resource teachers, and classroom teachers. Generation Ready believes that "one-size-does-not-fit-all" when it comes to supporting educators in improved student achievement. Generation Ready works collaboratively with teachers and administrators through a combination of workshops and job-embedded support in real classrooms in real time.

The goal of the partnership is to build capacity within the district, so we can be assured that the teachers and leaders of Vista Unified will continue to deliver sustainable growth in student literacy achievement for years to come.



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 principals share their personal information with you. It is always fun to read about their families, hobbies, college choices, etc.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Don't forget to enter our Word Search Contest on page 10.

Our next issue is November 10. Until then...Happy Halloween!



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

**Covering the
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbara Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Meshel Negrete

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The school district does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



Azusa Pacific University School of Education



Karina Quezada '08, M.A.Ed. '09 and '11
School Psychologist, Victor Elementary School District



Programs offered:

Master's Degrees

Digital Teaching and Learning
Educational and Clinical Counseling
Educational Counseling
Educational Leadership
Physical Education
Special Education
Teaching

Credentials

Mild/Moderate Disabilities Specialist
Moderate/Severe Disabilities Specialist
Multiple Subject Teaching
Single Subject Teaching
Preliminary Administrative Services
Clear Administrative Services

Certificate

LPCC Respecialization in
Clinical Counseling

Earn your master's degree and credential in San Diego or Murrieta.

Azusa Pacific's School of Education stands as a trusted leader in the field, known for producing many of Southern California's finest teachers, school counselors and psychologists, and administrators. In answer to the state's growing shortage of qualified educators, APU equips graduates to make a lasting difference as creative, collaborative professionals and dedicated advocates for the students they serve.

Choose from more than 20 ways to earn your degree and credential at APU's San Diego and Murrieta regional centers, and join a mentoring community of educators who will help you make an even greater impact.

Now enrolling! Contact us today.

San Diego Regional Center

5353 Mission Center Rd., Ste. 300
San Diego, CA 92108
sandiego@apu.edu | (619) 718-9655
apu.edu/sandiego

Murrieta Regional Center

40508 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd.
Murrieta, CA 92563
murrieta@apu.edu | (951) 304-3400
apu.edu/murrieta

17826

A Driving Force

By Brad Peterson, President

Welcome back to all of our returning educators. I hope you had time to get excited about this school year!

I thought I would start off by introducing the Vista Education Foundation (VEF) to all of our new teachers and staff members. The VEF is a 501c3 nonprofit that raises money for students. This past year we also funded many art and technology projects submitted via our website (at vistaedfoundation.org). Additionally, we also provided more money than ever for scholarships.

Incidentally, you can help us raise money via your payroll deductions through United Way. I want to thank Barbara Dawson for getting this funding option set up.

Our goals for the 2015–2016 school year have not changed. The VEF will continue to fund scholarships, art projects, and technology requests. Additionally, we would also like to be the driving force on growing more internship and apprenticeship programs in the district. The VEF can work directly with the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Vista, or the VUSD to help deepen these existing programs.

Last year we conducted an outreach that outlined the business needs of our community. Our goal for the year is to give more students the opportunity to create business relationships and develop life and workplace skills. I hope that you'll be able to support us in this effort: we should all be more vocal and ask ourselves if we're doing enough to create job skills along with traditional education.

Please feel free to contact the VEF for help in funding your projects, and to express your views on improving the quality of education in our community.

Call to Action

By Joe Green, President

In August, I was honored to speak to all teachers in our district, possibly the first time that a parent was able to address every one—huge for our PTA! I opened the keynote address given by our superintendent, Dr. Devin Vodicka along with Cal State San Marcos professor Freddy Avalos.

I reminded our teachers of the importance of what's more than a job—it's the privilege of helping our children know who they are and who they could become. I remembered how each of my teachers affected and changed my life. I attended VUSD for over 12 years and have parented my children here for over 12 years, and 24 of 30-plus years have been spent directly connected to VUSD. To say that VUSD and the teachers in the district are a big part of my life is an understatement. Our teachers are trusted with our most precious asset—our children—and are the *T* in PTA.

I told them that our membership numbers are down districtwide, and my plea to us all to take action. We do our part as parents and as a community to be the foundation of the district's education blueprint. The bigger our membership, the louder our voice locally, statewide and nationally.

Whether you want to be more involved in decision making at your school or help financially, our PTA units need your membership and support. We can help you in any capacity and will accept all donations, which are tax deductible. Joining doesn't commit you to hours of volunteering—you can serve as your schedule permits. Being a member of the PTA is an investment in both time and funding in our children's lives. Thank you all for your time, work and commitment to our children. Have a great year!



See-Inside Counting Tubes PP557

Shop a store near you!

San Diego
7510 Hazard Center Dr.
(619) 297-8494

San Marcos
702 Center Dr.
(760) 504-0292



Lakeshore LEARNING STORE

Built by teachers...
loved by kids

buy one, get one **50% off**

Offer valid through 11/15/15, 11:59 p.m., PST. Purchase one item at regular price and receive the second item of equal or lesser value at 50% off its regular price. Valid on in-store and online purchases only. Not valid by fax or phone. Limit one coupon per customer. Offer excludes sales tax & shipping charges. Valid on in-stock items only. No special orders. Not to be used toward the purchase of gift cards or in conjunction with any other offers, custom stocked items, prior purchases or sale items. Limit one item per coupon per transaction. No cash value. Must present coupon at time of purchase for all in-store transactions. Offer void where prohibited. ©2015 Lakeshore S9838-5

Lakeshore LEARNING STORE

9 951560 099274

coupon code: 9927

LakeshoreLearning.com

Alamosa Park *Elementary*

5130 Alamosa Park Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/940-0700 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Kyle Ruggles
Principal

Dr. Ruggles is proud to be entering his second year as principal of Alamosa Park (AP). His professional experience includes teaching middle school math and physical education for five years, assistant principal for three years and 17 years as principal at each level. Throughout these experiences, he has found the following to be important for student learning: visibility, respectful relationships, reflection, collegiality, consistent communication, strengths-based focus, decisions based on student needs, data-informed instruction, and the celebration of student successes.

Each day brings new learning experiences for him in supporting students and teachers. He and his beautiful wife have been married for 20 years. His wife is an elementary Math Support Coach for teachers in Escondido while their son is in 8th grade at Bear Valley Middle School. Dr. Ruggles is honored to be principal in VUSD at AP, Where Students Soar! AP School vision is to become the premier school in Health, Character, and Achievement. AP School mission is our school community working together to inspire each student to work hard and persevere in a respectful and healthy school culture. He hopes you find him to be visible and approachable. Go HAWKS!

Alta Vista *High School*

1575 Bonair Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-3775 • www.vistausd.org



Mike Sterner
Principal

My name is Mike Sterner, and I am excited to be working in the Vista Unified School District at Alta Vista High School. I have been a principal/assistant principal at high schools for the last twelve years. I was also a Social Science teacher for seven years prior to being a principal. In my career before that, I was a professional basketball player for six years, and played professionally in thirteen countries around the world. I am married to my wife Dina, and have two kids, Luke and Jordan.

Beaumont *Elementary*

550 Beaumont Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-4040 • www.vistausd.org



David Moore
Principal

Mr. David Moore was born in Arkansas, where he lived until he was six years old. His family made several moves to Texas, Kansas, and Illinois before ultimately settling in California.

“The many moves our family made over the years had an impact on my educational progress,” said Mr. Moore. “As a result, my behavior began to reflect my academic frustration, and I increasingly became a behavior problem at school. Finding the right school for me was critical, and they found it in a nearby Amish community in Arthur, Illinois. I was quickly enrolled in an Amish/Mennonite school and was given the needed intervention to get back on track, both behaviorally and academically. The critical piece for me was the fact that I was greeted daily by teachers who believed that every ounce of my being was loaded with potential! Not only was I advancing academically, but I was also learning how to believe in my own possibilities and talents. The teachers I encountered at this school made a monumental imprint on my life. This has inspired me to help young people tap in to their own possibilities and potential.”

Mr. Moore has served in education for 20 years. “I began my teaching career with kindergarten, and I have also taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. For the past six years, I have served as an elementary school principal.”

Mr. Moore holds a bachelor’s degree in music with an emphasis in vocal performance and choral conducting. He also holds a master’s degree in educational administration from Pepperdine University. Mr. Moore is currently completing his doctoral studies in school leadership in urban settings at the University of Southern California.

Mr. Moore is the father of four: two boys and two girls, ages 27, 26, 22, and 17. “I enjoy spending time with my family,” he said. “I also enjoy reading, long walks with my wife, and frequent visits to Starbucks. Finally, I enjoy being involved in annual Christmas and Fourth of July choral and dramatic programs with my church choir and orchestra.”

Bobier *Elementary*

220 W. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8501 • www.vistausd.org



Jenifer Golden
Principal

I am proud and honored to be the principal of Bobier Elementary School. I have been an administrator for almost 10 years now. Early in my teaching career, I realized I felt most effective in the role of instructional leadership and was hired to serve as the assistant principal of Rancho Minerva Middle School for three years. I was then promoted to the principal of Mission Meadows Elementary School, where my dedicated teachers and I were able to achieve our highest Academic Performance Index (API) of 819. I was recruited by the San Jacinto Unified School District to have the opportunity to work a little closer to home and my young children, where I served for the last two years as the proud principal of De Anza Elementary School. Though I loved my service in San Jacinto, I couldn't help missing my work home in the Vista Unified School District, so I was very excited to accept the position at Bobier Elementary School, where we've already worked as a team to improve our school and prepare for a great school year.

I am a proud mother of two. My daughter, Marie, has just started high school and plans to attend California State University, Fullerton to become an American Sign Language interpreter. My third-grade son just wrote the dean of Michigan State University, where he would like to one day pursue his business degree and play football. I am a lifelong learner and just finished my doctoral degree in education by completing a quantitative study on metacognition and student achievement. I earned my master's degree, teaching credential, English language learner certification with a focus on rhythmic and poetic text and language integration in the classroom, and administrative credential in educational leadership from Azusa Pacific University. I earned my bachelor's degree in child and adolescent development from California State University, Fullerton.

I'm so excited to join the Bobier team, where we are changing the world one student at a time!

Breeze Hill *Elementary*

1111 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92081 • 760/945-2373 • www.vistausd.org



Rachel Jauss
Principal

I am honored to serve as the Principal for Breeze Hill Elementary for the next school year. I started working with the Vista Unified School District this past April and I am looking forward to a great new year. I have worked at both Barstow Unified School District and Adelanto Elementary School District for the past 18 years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to serve as Teacher, BTSA Support Provider, Instructional Specialist, Dean and Principal in both elementary and middle schools. I attended California Baptist University in Riverside receiving my Bachelors in Liberal Studies and Masters in Education. I live in Oceanside after having moved from the High Desert this past year. I have a twenty-two year old daughter and son-in-law who live in Nevada with my darling 13 month old granddaughter. Along with being a Principal, I enjoy traveling, running, reading and sitting on the beach. I look forward to continue my journey with the Breeze Hill school community as a member of the best school in the universe!

Lake *Elementary*

4950 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/945-5300 • www.vistausd.org



Krista Berntsen
Principal

Krista Berntsen is thrilled to begin her second year as principal of Lake Elementary School. She came to Vista Unified three years ago after teaching elementary and middle school for eleven years. Krista served in Curriculum and Instruction as a teacher on special assignment and Coordinator in Vista Unified. Krista earned her BA in Communications and Spanish, her teaching credential, then later, her MA in Educational Leadership. Krista loves reading, Jazzercise, watching football and spending time with friends and family. Krista loves working with students, staff and parents as a listener and servant leader. Krista is honored to be able to lead Lake's learning community to our vision of excellence and innovation.

California Avenue

215 W. California Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-4870 • www.vistausd.org



Rachel Schmidt
Principal

Rachel Schmidt is beginning her fourth year as principal at California Avenue School, and her sixteenth year in the Vista Unified School District.

Prior to this role, she was a Speech-Language Pathologist in the district, a TEACCH trainer, and assistant professor at California State University, San Marcos. She was also a 2008 VUSD Golden Apple recipient.

Rachel was born and raised in Southern California. Both of her parents worked as dedicated educators in Vista Unified. Rachel was educated in Vista schools and went on to attend Point Loma Nazarene College, San Diego State University, and the University of Redlands.

Rachel currently lives in Oceanside with her husband, Bill, and daughters Emily, Hannah, and Laura. The family enjoys traveling throughout the United States, participating in school and church activities, and spending time with family and friends.

Rachel believes that it is an honor and privilege to collaborate with parents and work alongside the exceptional staff at California Avenue School as they teach, nurture and serve the children in the school community.

Casita Center *Elementary*

260 Cedar Rd., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-8442 • www.vistausd.org



Laura Smith
Principal

The 2015–2016 school year marks my eighth year as principal of Casita Center, a magnet school with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). My philosophy of teaching and learning goes hand in hand with our magnet programs.

Casita Center is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Candidate School (PYP). The PYP prepares students to become active, caring, lifelong learners who demonstrate respect for themselves and others, and who have the capacity to participate in the world around them. PYP focuses on the development of the whole child as inquirer both within and beyond the classroom.

This year we are also expanding our Maker Labs into three spaces. In addition, Casita has hired a consultant to broaden its environmental education program.

In addition to being an educator, I am also an avid traveler. I have a deep appreciation for the people of the world. In fact, my husband has dual citizenship (US/Australian), and my daughter-in-law is French. I have visited four continents and plan on seeing two more!

When I'm not working or traveling, I enjoy cooking, spin class, water sports, yoga, and reading. I am a very active person who gains a lot of energy from all of the positive people around me.

Foothill Oak *Elementary*

1370 Oak Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-3458 • www.vistausd.org



Sandra Ceja
Principal

Sandra Ceja is thrilled to kick off an amazing new school year at Foothill Oak! Mrs. Ceja brings a wide variety of experience as a teacher, reading specialist and administrator in grades K–12 as well as at the university level. Mrs. Ceja's areas of expertise include professional development and curriculum and instruction, with a focus on English learners and students with special needs. She has been appointed to serve on several advisory panels for the State Board and California Department of Education and the Commission for Teacher Credentialing.

Mrs. Ceja's husband, Flavio, also works in education with migrant education at the San Diego County Office of Education. Their son is in his second year of college, and their daughter is beginning high school this year. Both children have been actively involved in sports, including soccer, volleyball and football, and both are passionate about performing arts and music, each playing multiple instruments.

Empresa *Elementary*

4850 Avenida Empresa, Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-8454 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Cheree McKean
Principal

Dr. Cheree McKean has been in education for the past 14 years with much of that time dedicated to teaching mathematics. Her teaching focus while in the classroom was to create a learning environment which embraced student engagement through hands-on lessons. While teaching mathematics, Dr. McKean was honored as a finalist for Educator of the Year by the California League of Middle Schools and was named Middle School Math Teacher of the Year by the Greater San Diego Mathematics Council. In 2010 Dr. McKean became a National Board Certified Teacher in Mathematics.

Always passionate about learning, Dr. McKean has continued her education by earning a master's degree in Teaching, Learning, and Leadership from California State University San Marcos and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of California, San Diego. Dr. McKean's educational philosophies are grounded in transformational leadership and trust theory. Her doctoral studies have provided her with the opportunity to discover the leadership strengths in others and encourage them to pursue their dreams of helping students as they navigate towards a personalized learning path. The practice of shared leadership has taught Dr. McKean the importance of creating environments which encourage building relationships based on a unity of purpose and trust. As a servant leader her biggest joy is serving and supporting teachers so they may develop their best practices which ultimately translate to student learning.

As Dr. McKean begins her fourth year as the principal of Empresa Elementary her focus continues to be on supporting teachers as they navigate the Common Core State Standards while incorporating technology into the classroom. Dr. McKean's goal for the upcoming school year is to continue to create a culture of trust and sense of community for Empresa's teachers, students, and their families.

Grapevine *Elementary*

630 Grapevine Rd., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8329 • www.vistausd.org



Rafael Olavide
Principal

My name is Rafael Olavide and I am the proud principal of Grapevine Elementary. I was born and raised in Madrid, Spain. In 1990 I worked as an English Language Development (ELD) coordinator at a summer school, where I met my future American wife, Debbie. Two years later we got married and in 1993 I moved to the United States. I attended USD to validate my studies from Spain while working in the Encinitas School District in different leadership roles and capacities. In 1999 I started teaching at Grapevine Elementary where I was given leadership roles in bilingual education and ELD. In 2003 I moved to Temple Heights as Founding Faculty, where I taught and also served in different leadership roles. During this time I obtained both my master's degree in biliteracy from CSUSM and my administrative credential. VUSD provided me with many leadership opportunities as I served on a variety of district committees and task forces, and in 2012 I was hired as Principal at Grapevine Elementary.

This year marks my 22nd year since I moved to the United States where I proudly became a United States citizen in 2006. I live in Carlsbad with my wife, who teaches in Oceanside, and our two amazing children, Victoria, who is starting college this year- and Michael. Soccer and cooking are my other passions and my wife says I make the best paella! I am honored to be the principal of such a distinguished school with a very dedicated staff that puts students first and a community of parents who value education as an investment for success in their children's future. This year with the support of my Assistant Principal, Miss. Sheryl Schmidt we will continue with our commitment to Grapevine students while focusing on their strengths and interests.

Hannalei *Elementary*

120 Hannalei Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6248 • www.vistausd.org



Tracy Zachry
Principal

Hello, Vista community! My Name is Tracy Zachry, and I am the very proud principal of Hannalei Elementary School. I am a mother of three children, all of whom attend or have attended Vista schools.

I began my career in the Temecula Valley Unified School District, where I taught a variety of grade levels after receiving my bachelor's degree from San Diego State University. In 1998 I moved to the Vista Unified School District and taught for two years. I then became a literacy coach and program coordinator for the next four years at Grapevine Elementary School. Upon completion of my master's degree and administrative credential at California State University, San Marcos, I became the assistant principal at Grapevine for three years. The following year, I was offered the position of principal at Crestview Elementary School. After the closure of Crestview Elementary School in June of 2011, I became principal of Hannalei Elementary School, where I am now beginning my fifth year.

I have been in education for 25 years, and I have enjoyed every moment. I am proud to be part of the educational community, and I especially enjoy watching children learn, discover, and have fun. I also love supporting families and helping them work through the educational process. It is my hope that your child will discover the love of learning, along with a bit of fun! Not only do we offer all subjects at Hannalei, we also offer art, physical education, opportunities for students to use a variety of technology, and a few afterschool programs.

We have a very experienced and caring staff, the majority of whom have been at Hannalei since it opened in September of 2003. Hannalei is a welcoming school where Character Counts!

Mahalo!

Madison *Middle School*

4930 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-0176 • www.vistausd.org



Susan Ford
Principal

Susan Ford, our Madison Middle School principal, is beginning her fifth year as a Mustang. Susan began her teaching career in the San Dieguito School District. There she taught college prep, honors, and A.P. English. She also created the school's first music program.

Susan then became an administrator in the San Marcos School District, where she opened Mission Hills High School. Susan came to Madison in 2011, to a school known for its strong family and community support. In the last four years, Madison has transitioned to Common Core, has built a strong STEM

program, and has focused on building strong relationships with students, staff, and parents. The staff have adopted the values of Respect, Responsibility, and Relationship for all stakeholders.

While a university student, Susan was awarded a Rotary fellowship and spent a year studying at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England. She also received her M.A. in educational administration from CSUSM, and completed her Ed.D degree in October. Her doctoral work focused on school leadership during the complex change process.

A native of California's Central Valley, Susan and her family moved to North County San Diego in 1996. The proud mother of four sons and three grandsons, Susan loves living in San Diego and leading Madison Middle School. Since completing her doctoral work, she is looking forward to continuing her Spanish language studies and exploring new challenges.

As this new school year begins, Susan is looking forward to continued collaboration with the families, teachers, and staff at Madison. Their aim is to prepare all students to be college and career ready. At Madison, the focus is on high expectations in a supportive environment in order to prepare all students to be 21st century learners.

Maryland *Elementary*

700 North Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6675 • www.vistausd.org



Carol LaBreche
Principal

I am proud to be returning to my third year as principal of Maryland Elementary School.

I began my career in Carlsbad as a sixth-grade teacher. After earning my Master's in Educational Leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University, I became the assistant principal at Calavera Hills Middle School. Since moving to Vista, I have enjoyed growing as a leader here at Maryland.

The staff and I are continuing to work together to create a rich learning environment for each student. Our "Mission at Maryland" is to empower students to reach their full potential in every aspect of their lives. To this end we have been attending training sessions during the summer to better support our children's needs.

We are all working together to develop a culture that creates caring students. I look forward to another successful year!

Mission Meadows *Elementary*

5657 Spur Ave., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/630-7884 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Bill Porter
Principal

I am very excited to begin my third year as principal of Mission Meadows Elementary School, a school known for its inclusive "heart." I look forward to being on campus each day to build positive and trusting relationships with students, teachers, and parents in support of and in service to learning. I also appreciate the importance of working in a Professional Learning Community (PLC), where teachers and staff work tirelessly to design, teach, assess, and review California Common Core standards-based lessons in a continuous improvement learning cycle using multiple modalities of teaching. I have been in education for over 21 years, both as an administrator and as a classroom teacher. While in the classroom, I had the pleasure of teaching Special Education, 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades. On a more personal note, I have been married to my beautiful wife Monica for 28 years, and we have three adult sons who are all proud products of the public school system. Our son Colin, is a Marine Corps officer candidate and a graduate of UCSD. Our son Keegan, is studying to be a priest and is a graduate of Northern Arizona University (NAU). Our youngest son Conor, is a third year student at the University of Kansas (KU). Please come visit us at Mission Meadows, where we continue to learn and grow together as a learning community. We are the Mission Meadows Mustangs!

Mission Vista *High School*

1306 Melrose Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/758-6800 • www.vistausd.org



Nicole Miller
Principal

Nicole Miller is looking forward to her first full school year as the principal of Mission Vista High School. She joined the faculty in January after serving for eight years as an assistant principal at Fallbrook High School, where she worked in the areas of counseling, attendance, curriculum and instruction, data and assessments, and professional development. Ms. Miller also had the opportunity to oversee the WASC Accreditation Process, the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program, the Single Plan for Student Achievement, and a tutorial support program for students.

Prior to administration, Ms. Miller taught English at Fallbrook and served as the GATE coordinator, department chair and AVID coordinator as well as teacher on special assignment for professional development. Before working in California, she taught at a magnet school for the performing arts in Illinois after graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ms. Miller is proud to be working with the faculty and staff at Mission Vista High School and looks forward to an exciting and productive 2015-16 school year.

Monte Vista *Elementary*

1720 Monte Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-0410 • www.vistausd.org



Charlene Smith
Principal

Charlene Smith is honored and privileged to serve the students, families and staff of Monte Vista Elementary School. Prior to arriving at Monte Vista, she worked as a classroom teacher with students in kindergarten through fifth-grade and as a literacy coach. She considers herself fortunate to begin her 21st year as a member of the dedicated educators in the Vista Unified School District.

In addition to spending 11 years as a classroom teacher and literacy coach, Charlene provided site- and district-level staff development in language arts, instructional strategies, and Common Core State Standards. Charlene considers herself a lifelong learner and is always seeking opportunities to grow as a professional. She received her bachelor's degree, multiple-subject teaching credential, master's degree, and administrative services credential from California State University, San Marcos.

Charlene grew up in Ohio and has lived both on the East Coast and West Coast. Her youngest daughter, Cassidy, attends Vista Magnet Middle School. Her sons, Breydon and Mason, attend Vista High School and her oldest son and daughter are out of school. She enjoys participating in her children's various activities, playing pickleball, traveling, visiting family and friends, and reading.

Charlene feels blessed to serve the Monte Vista family. She is excited to continue her partnership with teachers, staff, and parents this year as Monte Vista enters its first year as a No Excuses University school. Charlene invites you to visit Monte Vista, where you will find educators, staff, and families working together to ensure student success as collaborative and responsible members of society. She welcomes parent input and is always available to work with families to improve the education of their children.

Olive *Elementary*

836 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-7129 • www.vistausd.org



Stephanie Vasquez
Principal

Mrs. Stephanie Vasquez currently serves the community of Olive Elementary as Principal. She joined the Vista Unified team in 2014. Mrs. Vasquez has served in education for the past seventeen years. She became an elementary teacher in 1998. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from California State University of California, and a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Grand Canyon University of Arizona. She obtained her Administrative Service Credential through University of California, Irvine.

Prior to joining the Vista Unified School District, Mrs. Vasquez worked in the Murrieta Valley Unified School District. She served as a school site administrator for eight years at four separate elementary schools. Some of Mrs. Vasquez' contributions while serving within the Murrieta Valley School District have been through her work in supporting students' academic and social-emotional learning through the implementation of layered intervention of supports as a learning center model approach in order to better support the individual needs of students. Mrs. Vasquez contributed to the writing of the district's work plan and the district-wide implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. She served as the district's United Way coordinator for three years. She was recognized as the Assistant Principal of the Year in 2010 for her work in data analysis and student achievement.

Mrs. Vasquez is married to her High School Sweetheart. They have two children, ages twenty and twenty-three. They enjoy biking, tennis, and boating.

Mrs. Vasquez makes it her highest priority to get to know each student and their families, to listen attentively, and create a safe environment for students to learn. She feels honored to be serving as the Principal of Olive Elementary. She works with her caring and dedicated staff to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.

Murray *High School*

215 N. Melrose, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-2502 • www.vistausd.org



Chuck Hoover
Principal

A native of Albany, Oregon (Go DUCKS!) and a graduate of Biola University, a Christian liberal arts university in La Mirada, California, Mr. Hoover began his career as a teacher and a coach at Dana Hills High School in the Capistrano Unified School District. During his time at Dana Hills, he served as a department chair, taught a variety of Social Science courses and coached some of the founding members of women's high school soccer in Southern California. He has been married for 34 years to Colleen, who he met in Washington D.C., where they both served as interns on Capitol Hill. During this time, he served in Oregon Senator Mark O. Hatfield's office as well as on the House Education/Labor committee. The Hoovers are blessed with three adult sons, all of whom graduated from Vista schools and live near home.

With his family's move to Oceanside in 1989, Mr. Hoover was fortunate to be hired as a teacher and a coach at Rancho Buena Vista High School where he taught Social Science and technology classes while coaching Varsity Soccer and Cross Country. After 20 years as a classroom teacher, he entered the world of administration, having had the great fortune to serve in administrative roles at Vista Community Day, Guajome Park Academy, Madison Middle School and Hannalei Elementary. Currently, he is entering his fifth year as principal of Major General Raymond Murray High School, where the staff's purpose is to inspire and instill in every student the hope, courage and abilities to persevere in learning and life. One of Mr. Hoover's favorite writers, C.S. Lewis, summarizes his heart for education when he famously penned, "The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."

Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

1601 Longhorn Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/727-7284 • www.vistausd.org



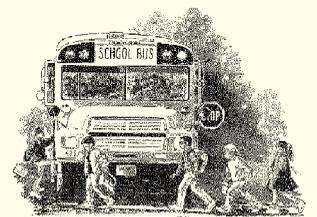
Chuck Schindler
Principal

Principal Chuck Schindler begins his fourth year at the helm of Rancho Buena Vista High School (RBV). He was a high school principal in San Bernardino before moving to RBV. Chuck graduated from Humboldt State University with a BS degree and then from CSU San Bernardino with a Master's degree in Educational Administration. He has two grown children, Joshua and Liesl, and enjoys spending time at the beach and traveling. Chuck feels fortunate to be able to lead a great school at RBV with a supportive and caring school community.

RBV continues with strong academic programs such as IB and AP along with our AVID program. RBV has added a Robotics program and will begin a Computer Science course this year. We have many more programs to support all students being successful and meeting the Principal's three goals for all students: Be in class on time every day; earn all class credits with a 'C' or better; and graduate on time ready for college and career. We continue to have our Parent Center on campus to provide all parents access to computers, printers and information about RBV, College and Parent Organizations.

Students have the opportunity to participate in many clubs and athletic teams on campus. We are building great spirit and supporting great traditions for all Longhorns and looking forward to an exciting and productive year, academically and athletically, at RBV!

Please Drive Safely
Students are Back in School



Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

2245 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-4500 • www.vistausd.org



Ben Gaines
Principal

Benjamin Gaines has been the principal at Rancho Minerva Middle School for the past 2 years. During his tenure, he has brought an underperforming school with a tarnished image to a school in the national spotlight for its innovation through a 1:1 iPad program partnered with Digital Promise and the Verizon Foundation. Under his leadership, Mr. Gaines has also taken Rancho Minerva from the school with the highest suspension rate in the district to one of the lowest, reducing suspensions by over 85%. Mr. Gaines and his school were recently featured as part of the Digital Learning Day in Washington D.C. as well as included in the Spring 2015 edition of the CSBA publication.

Mr. Gaines is a native of Detroit, Michigan. He is currently finishing his dissertation in Educational Leadership and Social Justice at the University of California San Diego.

Roosevelt *Middle School*

850 Sagewood Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/726-8003 • www.vistausd.org



Elise Ochendusko
Principal

Elise Ochendusko is excited to begin her eleventh year in education and her second year as Principal at Roosevelt Middle School.

Ms. Ochendusko earned her bachelor's degree in history with a minor in Spanish from the University of San Diego and studied abroad in Madrid, Spain. After a brief stint in the business world, she earned her teaching credential from San Diego State University and also has a master's in Educational Administration from Cal State University San Marcos.

A native San Diegan, Ms. Ochendusko loves all things San Diego. She also enjoys the beach and traveling, is an avid runner who is looking forward to practicing with the Wildcat cross-country team in the fall.

She brings her passion for students, her love of education, and her desire to make each child's experience rich and memorable to Roosevelt Middle School. She is excited to continue to collaborate with the RMS staff and community to ensure that all students realize their potential and are well-rounded young adults who are prepared for high school and the world beyond. She is honored to be part of the Vista Unified Team, especially during this exciting time as it works to become the model of educational excellence and innovation and is looking forward to a great 2015-16 school year!

Vista *Adult Transition Center*

325 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/758-3400 • www.vistausd.org



Chris Altona
Principal

Mr. Chris Altona is in his 14th year as principal and Special Education supervisor at Vista Adult Transition Center (formerly Sierra Vista High School). He has been with Vista Unified School District since 1989, serving as a resource specialist at Olive, Crestview, and Breeze Hill Elementary Schools and the Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts. He then served as the assistant principal at Alamosa Park and Beaumont Elementary Schools. In all, he has been a public educator for 31 years.

Mr. Altona began his career as a first-grade teacher at Lassen Elementary School in the San Fernando Valley. A native of San Diego, he returned to the county and worked briefly as a substitute and a non-public school before joining Vista Unified School District.

Chris earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and his Special Education credential at San Diego State University, his multiple-subject teaching credential at California State University, Northridge, and his master's degree in education administration at National University.

Mr. Altona lives in Leucadia with his wife of six years, who is a certified public accountant. He has traveled extensively with family and individually, is an avid bodysurfer, and holds a second-degree black belt in judo. He has high school freshman son and two step-daughters residing in San Francisco, whom he and his wife visit frequently.

Temple Heights *Elementary*

1550 Temple Heights Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/631-6242 • www.vistausd.org



Kim Morton
Principal

Kim Morton is proud to be principal at Temple Heights Elementary School. She has built a shared vision with staff, students and parents to provide a personalized learning path for every student. The school is excited to offer 1:1 iPads in all grades as a tool for building 21st century skills.

She started her career in the Vista Unified School District 22 years ago as a fifth-grade teacher at Casita Center for Technology, Science & Math. She transferred to Temple Heights as a third-grade teacher when it opened in 2003. She is honored to start her fifth year as principal at Temple Heights.

Growing up in Fullerton, Kim graduated from Sunny Hills High School with an International Baccalaureate diploma. She moved to San Diego, where she attended the University of California, San Diego. During college, she studied psychology, ran on the track team, and spent her spare time tutoring students. She received her teaching credential and went on to earn a master's degree in teaching and learning with an emphasis on technology.

Kim loves to travel. She met her husband, Ben, on an airplane while returning from a trip to Cabo San Lucas. She has sailed in Croatia, whitewater rafted in Costa Rica, and run a marathon in Ireland. Her family owns a cottage on Lake Huron, where she spends time every summer fishing, hiking, and enjoying family fun.

Kim is excited to move Temple Heights forward with its focus on personalized learning and Vista's vision of being the model of educational excellence and innovation.

Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

600 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/941-0880 • www.vistausd.org



Catina Hancock
Principal

The mission of the Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts is to inspire every student to be a confident global citizen and critical thinker through a rigorous, arts-integrated and innovative academic community. To do this, our site has adopted the following values:

To Serve: by engaging in service within the school and in the extended community.

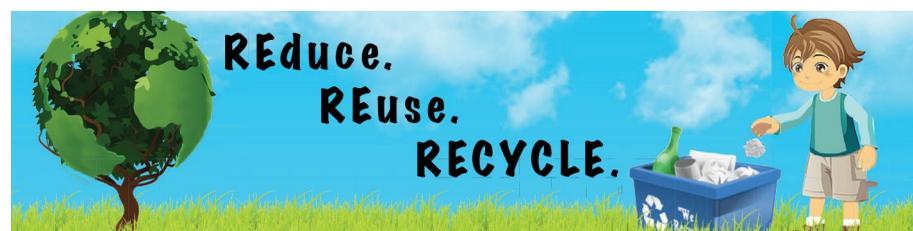
To Respect: by honoring the creative process and treating each other with dignity.

To Collaborate and Communicate: by fostering strong home, school, and community relationships.

As a K-5 magnet school, our goal is to provide an arts integrated instructional day to include drama, dance, music and art. Four full-time specialists integrate the arts into grade-level content each week. We are also thrilled to be an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Candidate school that will spend the next several years promoting inquiry, global citizenship and collaboration.

This year starts my fourth year at Vista Academy. Prior to joining the Bulldog team, I was a 13-year veteran of the Carlsbad Unified School District, having spent six years teaching and seven in administration. I married my high school sweetheart, Chris, and we recently celebrated our 18th wedding anniversary. We are blessed with two wonderful children, Davis, 14, and Holland, 12. Rounding out our family is 75 pounds of American Bulldog/Ridgeback named Louie.

This year we are taking many steps to fulfill our vision to be the model of educational excellence through innovative arts integration and intercultural understanding. I look forward to sharing our many successes throughout the year. For more information on our school, please visit our website, <http://www.vapa.vistausd.org/> and follow us on Twitter, @VistaAVPA.



Vista *High School*

1 Panther Way, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5611 • www.vistausd.org



Anthony Barela
Principal

Mr. Anthony Barela is in his second year as the principal at Vista High School. He is very proud of Vista High School being designated a Gold Ribbon School by the state of California last spring. This is his third year in the Vista Unified School district, having served as the principal at Roosevelt Middle School during the 2013–14 school year. Prior to moving to the Vista Unified School District, Mr. Barela worked in the San Marcos Unified School District for five years, serving as a principal at Paloma Elementary School for two years and as an assistant principal at Mission Hills High School for three years. Both schools were California Distinguished Schools.

Mr. Barela began his education career as a computer technician and enjoyed working with young people so much that he pursued becoming a teacher. He became a full-time teacher one year later, teaching a variety of science classes and coaching two sports.

Mr. Barela earned his Bachelor of Science degree in cellular and molecular biology from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. He earned his Master's Degree from California State University, San Marcos, in educational administration.

Mr. Barela lives in Vista with Erin, his wife of 14 years. Mrs. Barela is a Vista native and was part of the first class at Rancho Buena Vista High School. She is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. They have four children—Dominic, Michaelis, Gianna and Jude—all of whom attend schools in Vista. They enjoy spending time together in the community and serving their church.

Mr. Barela is honored to be part of the amazing Vista High School staff and proud to be a Panther. He looks forward to working with a talented group of educators, students and parents.

Vista Visions *Academy*

305 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-4785 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Erin English
Principal

It is my pleasure to start my second year as the principal of Vista Visions Academy and as the Director of Blended and Online Learning for the Vista Unified School District. I began my career in education 26 years ago as an elementary school teacher in Escondido. Over the years, I have been a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, a technology coordinator and a technology director. Working with children, as an educator, is what I have wanted to do since I was a fourth grader.

My love of learning led me to earn my doctorate in the area of organizational leadership. I chose my dissertation topic "Principals' Level of Servant Leadership and Teachers' Job Satisfaction" because of my great respect for the amazing leaders and teachers I have worked with throughout my career. I believe we can all make a difference in the lives of those around us. I choose to make a positive difference.

Vista Visions is a unique K - 12 school. It is a school that every parent would want for their children. Dedicated, committed, caring, relevant, and forward thinking educators make Vista Visions the best school in the universe. Our caring staff go out of their way to make sure every child has their academic and emotional needs met in loving, nurturing way. At Vista Visions we strive to bring out the natural curiosity, intellect, and wonder in each child. We meet children where they are, and our goal is to help them reach their goals and instill in them a love of learning. Our students have a modified school week that allows them to learn at home and at school. Our students are typically self-motivated, inquisitive and thrive in small class environments. Our school is fully accredited and our high school classes meet the UC A - G requirements. We are also WASC accredited. If you are interested in learning more about our unique school, please contact our office staff.

Vista *Innovation & Design Academy*

740 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-7115 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Eric Chagala
Principal

Dr. Eric Chagala is very excited about his 16th year in the Vista Unified School District (VUSD) and to have worked alongside amazing educators to open Vista's newest magnet school, Vista Innovation & Design Academy (VIDA), last year!

VIDA challenges students to stretch their creativity while designing innovative solutions to an array of problems. The backbone of the school's design process is referred to as Design Thinking, which was recently highlighted by the Harvard Business Review as a formidable approach for industry professionals.

Eric began his career with VUSD as a history teacher and coach at Rancho Buena Vista High School and then as an assistant principal at Vista High School. These years of experience inspired him to join the middle school ranks, because he realized how critical it is to succeed in middle school. Eric is passionate about students being connected to the school community and persevering through challenging times. His doctoral research focused on the academic resiliency of students.

When not at school or working on school business, Eric enjoys spending time with his family. Eric's wife teaches literature and writing at the university level, and his two elementary-aged daughters are less than a year apart in age. Eric also enjoys golfing poorly and developing his own personal creativity. Follow Eric's professional feed on Twitter: @drchagala

Vista Magnet *Middle School*

151 Escondido Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5766 • www.vistausd.org



Anne Green
Principal

Principal Anne formerly served the Vista Unified School District as Director of Secondary Curriculum at the Vista Unified School District, and as Assistant Principal at Vista Magnet.

Prior to her time at VMMS, Mrs. Green spent many years at Vista High School teaching English, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate English, and English as a Second Language. She also served as honors coordinator, ELD coordinator, peer counseling advisor, freshman class advisor, and conflict resolution team member.

Mrs. Green is also a "short-horn," having taught at Rancho Buena Vista prior to several years of working for the California Department of Education and California Literature Project, directing the Middle Schools Demonstration Project.

Mrs. Green speaks Spanish and French, and originally hails from Vancouver, Canada, where she earned her bachelor's degree (honors) in English and Spanish. She has a Masters of Arts in British and American literature from the University of California, San Diego.

Mrs. Green also writes children's literature for a publisher in New Zealand, when she finds some spare time! She lives with her husband Jeff, who is an A.P. European history and I.B. Theory of Knowledge teacher at Vista High. She enjoys spending as much time as possible with him, along with their grandchildren in London, England, her daughter at UCLA, and her family in Vancouver.

Now that school has started, if you have a few extra minutes each day and would like to work from home selling advertising for *School News*, please call me...Kay Coop (562) 493-3193

It is advertising by local businesses that make it possible for us to publish the excellence from the VUSD.
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

'Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!'



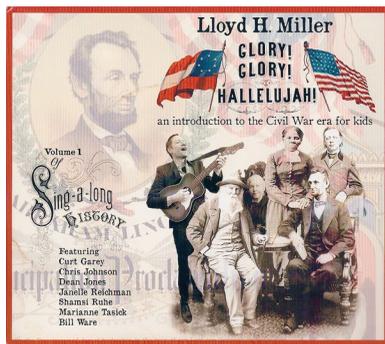
Kate Karp

This collection arrives just in time for the beginning of the school year, when teachers are scoping out their annual plans and parents are looking for some good, entertaining stuff to enhance their children's knowledge base. *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!* is a real find—a brass-and-woodwind-heavy hail to the Civil War era.

The collection is a compilation of traditional songs, some familiar and others obscure, as well as tunes written by artist Lloyd H. Miller in the sense of the era and what came out of it for better or worse. In the CD, Miller tells the traditional story and sings the well-known tune of radical abolitionist John Brown and adds his own lyrics and music to flesh out the hero's activism and bravery. "Follow the Drinking Gourd," the hymn to Harriet Tubman's night-sky navigation to the land of freedom, is given a celebratory treatment. Another lesser-known Brown—Henry Box Brown—reached the North in another singular way: he shipped himself in a box to Philadelphia, and Miller thought he'd make a great subject for a song. He was right. Equally obscure and of note is the story of Weeksville, one of the first free black enclaves. Weeksville was established in Brooklyn in the 1830s by a former slave, and Miller graced it with a song, too.

A sequenced narration of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address squares the corners of this enlightening collection. And best of all, an online curriculum guide is in development to further link this rich era to our present.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



Financial Aid Factoids



Susan D. Marshall

Test your financial aid knowledge.

Financial Aid does not mean free money = never to be paid back. Instead it's a mixture of gift aid and/or loans. Grants = free; Tuition Reductions (from a school that really wants you to pick them) = Free; Loans = NOT FREE.

Loan Definitions: PLUS = parent loans for student expenses, Direct = student loans, Subsidized = Government pays interest while the student is in school, Unsubsidized = Interest Accrues while Student is in School. HINT: Paying interest while in school on Unsubsidized Student Loans will greatly reduce the overall amount of debt after graduation. This is highly recommended if you want to pay off the loans as quickly as possible and save money in the long run.

529 plans count as an income resource for your student, which could result in less "need-based aid," resulting in more money out of your pocket.

Financial Aid packages sometimes include Work-Study Aid which means the student gets a part-time job typically on campus. Receiving Work-Study Aid does not guarantee the student a job on campus, they still need to apply for the job and pass the interview.

Financial aid packages/awards require you to fill out the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The application requires information from the student and the parent's taxes – however you can fill out an application with estimated amounts and amend it at a later date. January is the best time to fill out your FAFSA. Typically the earlier you file a FAFSA the more financial aid you receive.

Pat yourself on the back if you knew all of this! This is the beginning of things you need to know and understand before you can begin to successfully navigate the college financial aid process.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put VUSD in the subject line)

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers | Focused | Principal |
| Character | Homework | Recess |
| Classrooms | Instructors | Reunion |
| Curiosity | Integrity | Student |
| Discipline | Learning | Success |
| Educators | Mentors | Technology |
| Encourage | Nutrition | Thinkers |
| Excellence | Parents | Workers |

Congratulations to July Winner!
Erika Kwing

S	R	E	V	E	I	H	C	A	F	T	L	L	F	D
R	R	H	M	E	C	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E	E
E	S	O	O	T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y	S
K	U	E	T	Y	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	U
N	C	N	Q	C	F	S	I	S	W	Y	A	N	M	C
I	C	I	S	U	U	G	S	E	A	Y	Q	C	E	O
H	E	L	X	R	B	R	N	E	T	X	S	O	N	F
T	S	P	K	I	O	S	T	I	C	T	G	U	T	C
N	S	I	L	O	H	T	R	S	N	E	T	R	O	N
E	R	C	M	S	S	G	A	E	N	R	R	A	R	B
D	E	S	R	I	E	L	R	C	I	I	A	G	S	M
U	K	I	T	T	K	A	F	T	U	F	Z	E	E	B
T	R	D	N	Y	P	G	I	P	G	D	Y	E	L	R
S	O	I	Y	X	X	O	K	R	O	W	E	M	O	H
T	W	P	R	I	N	C	I	P	A	L	B	V	U	X

City of Vista Office of the Mayor

200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-1340 • www.cityofvista.com

Welcome Back to School!



Judy Ritter
Mayor

There are many new opportunities to VUSD students heading back to school. Some students are beginning school for the first time, some are moving into the next level, while others are celebrating their final year. We are extremely fortunate to live in a community that values education. As the 2015/16 school year begins, I applaud VUSD on their commitment to creating the best possible arena for learning.

Investing in our future starts with giving our students the tools they need to be successful. As they are inspired to learn and to understand their potential in becoming skillful and informed young adults, they will be equipped and ready to participate in community life. I look forward to another exciting year of watching our VUSD students learn, achieve and grow. Congratulations on the beginning of your new school year!

Vista Adult School

510 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92081 • 760/758-7122 • www.vistaadultschool.org



Liz O'Shea-West
Principal

Liz O'Shea-West is in her second year as principal of Vista Adult School. Previously, she was the assistant principal at Vista Adult School for three years and stepped in as interim principal for a year. She is currently involved in the AB86 initiative, working together with the North County districts and Palomar College to create dual-service educational opportunities for adult students.

Mrs. O'Shea-West began working at Vista Adult School 11 years ago, with a focus on vocational education. Her job duties quickly expanded to include ROP, Workability II counselor, high school diploma and medical program coordinator, and night supervisor.

Mrs. O'Shea-West had earned degrees in two central areas: a bachelor's degree in business administration in financial accounting through National University, a Bachelor of Arts in psychology at UCSD and a Master of Science in vocational rehabilitation at SDSU. Since starting at Vista Adult School, she has also completed her designated-subjects teaching credential, designated-subjects supervision and coordination credential, and administrative services credential.

Mrs. O'Shea-West and her husband, who is also an educator, have lived in Vista for the last 17 years. They enjoy traveling, family and friends. Mrs. O'Shea-West is a strong advocate for adult education and appreciates the outstanding services that the team at Vista Adult School provides for adult learners.

Career Technical Education

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • www.vistausd.org



Susie Johnson
Coordinator CTE/ROP

Susie Johnson is a Career Technical Education (CTE) coordinator with the Vista Unified School District (VUSD). Susie assists in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating activities in relation to CTE. She acts as a liaison between school district and community agencies and the San Diego County Office of Education regarding CTE programs. Susie has been employed as an educator and administrator since 1993 and has served on many Boards, including the California Association for Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (CAROCP) and the California Association for Career Technical Education (CACTE).

Susie holds a master's degree in education, specializing in curriculum and instruction, and has a clear Tier II administrative credential.

Susie has spent the bulk of her career supporting CTE teachers across the state. She has assisted many district CTE teachers in getting courses approved for the University of California A-G requirements. She is currently the CAROCP state curriculum co-chair and the state secretary for CACTE. Susie was the lead in writing the San Diego County Designated Subjects CTE and Adult Education credential programs, and she facilitated new teacher training and mentor workshops across the state. Susie is also the former state president of CACTE.

Along with Susie's current CTE duties with VUSD, she is also the district's CTE Perkins coordinator. Susie is responsible for ensuring that Vista's CTE programs are in compliance with all regulations affecting program improvement and effectiveness. Perkins funding has been established to improve CTE programs, integrate academic and CTE Model Curriculum standards, serve special populations, and meet gender equity needs. Allocations are part of the basic grant award from the U.S. Department of Education under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

Real Estate Services

www.coastlifelifehomes.info



Miriam Valencia
CA BRE #01969005

New Construction and Existing Homes

Contact me about our current incentives for new home buyers.



[miriamrealtysandiego](https://www.instagram.com/miriamrealtysandiego)

Miriamrealty@att.net



[Miriam Realty](https://www.pinterest.com/miriamrealtysandiego)





The more she grows, the more you **SHARE.**

Her bright future is coming fast. Share more by investing with ScholarShare, California's 529 College Savings Plan. You'll take advantage of low fees, plus tax-free growth potential and withdrawals to be used at most colleges, universities and trade schools—and you can start with just \$25.

Open a ScholarShare 529 College Savings Account for your child today.



Financial Services

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit ScholarShare.com for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Program Manager. The

ScholarShare 529 Twitter and Facebook pages are managed by the State of California. The tax information contained herein is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings.

C16908



SCHOLARSHARE

CALIFORNIA'S 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

scholarshare.com  