

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Torrance Unified School District

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www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

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## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. George Mannon

As the first semester winds down and we prepare for the second half of the year, we already have so much to be proud of. Our teachers continue to infuse rigor and enthusiasm into every lesson so that our

students are excited about their own learning. TUSD teachers challenge their students' young minds to think about ideas and concepts beyond their classroom, even beyond their neighborhoods and communities. At North High, English and Speech teacher, Mitizi Stover, encourages her students to share their ideas with other students, everywhere from New York to Canada, as part of a TED-Ed Club. One of her student's class assignments catapulted her on to an international stage in New York, where she presented her TED-style talk at the TED-Ed youth conference. While at Jefferson Middle School, teacher Zobeida Merlos was chosen out of a select group of educators as the Northrop Grumman and National Science Teacher Association Fellow. One of only 25 teachers, Ms. Merlos will complete a year-long STEM fellowship, equipping her with tremendous resources to advance STEM education not only in her classroom, but at Jefferson Middle School, and throughout the District. Over at South High School, Career Technical Education teacher, Julie Wood, introduced a new student after-school program for her aspiring coders, who call themselves the CyberPatriots. Her students excelled in their hacking skills and led the team to win various top honors against 3,300 other schools nation-wide. These teachers are only a few examples of the hundreds of

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## North High TED-Ed Club Amplifies Student Voice



North High School TED-Ed Club students  
Tatiana Vargas, Corey Vo, Alyssa Sarmiento, and Joseph Rubio.

By Mitzi Stover, English/Speech Teacher  
North High School

Imagine providing the opportunity for students to speak to anyone in the world. Any topic, any perspective, following a passion, and having few limits. Thanks to North High's TED-Ed Club, this is a reality. Students are given the freedom to present their fresh perspectives on their passions and think BIG—well beyond their classrooms, their school, and even their city. The result? Students run with it and share their ideas with the world.

Three years ago I stumbled upon an application to start a TED-Ed Club. Already using TED Talks as resources in my Speech classes, I decided to take the leap, not quite knowing what I was getting into. After

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Martha Deutsch, President

Four years ago, with the support of my family, I made the decision to run for the Torrance Unified School Board, and last month I began my first tenure as school board president. I would like to take this opportunity to share with TUSD parents the central core of why I began this journey and why I continue to devote my time as your public servant.

As the mother of two TUSD students that have graduated, I can relate to the experiences of other TUSD parents. I know what it's like to be in a classroom at every level – elementary, middle, and high school. I too have watched my children experience the evolution of their social skills, their academic progress, and understand how it feels to always want the very best for them. Seeing all students receive a high-quality and rigorous education, making sure that teachers get the proper training, and ensuring the safety for all students, teachers and staff on our campuses, are a few of my top priorities.

I have always been very sensitive to equity and treating all students fairly. My PTA background has helped me understand how to be a child advocate and that is why I continue to dedicate my time and energy towards this endeavor.

When Common Core was first implemented in the District, my son was a junior in high school. The rigor



Board President with students at Torrance Elementary School.

and ambitious goals set for the students was formidable. The new approach and reading choices provided my son the platform to approach his school work analytically and think about concepts in terms of the real world and not as abstract ideas. TUSD teachers are to be commended for taking these new teaching methods and adapting them within our classrooms. Our teachers truly are brave pioneers discovering new horizons and pathways for our students' academic success. In order to expect our

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Torrance Council of PTAs page 4 • AHA for Kids page 15 • Word Search Contest page 14 Enjoy!

# Health News

by Sheena Kamra, MD

## Does my child have pneumonia?

When a child has a cold or flu, the virus or bacteria can irritate the lungs, which then can create an environment open to infection or pneumonia.

**Pneumonia** is an infection of one or both lungs that is caused by viruses, bacteria or chemical irritants. Sometimes children with an upper respiratory infection (the common cold) can later develop pneumonia, which affects the lower areas of the airways and can cause severe symptoms.

**Bacterial pneumonia** is caused by various bacteria that usually occurs when the body is weakened in some way – by illness, malnutrition, old age, or impaired

immunity – and the bacteria works its way into the lungs.

**Viral pneumonia** is caused by various viruses, including influenza (flu). Early symptoms of viral pneumonia are the same as those of bacterial pneumonia, which may be followed by increasing breathlessness, headache, muscle pain, weakness, and a worsening cough. Viral pneumonia may put a person at risk for bacterial pneumonia.

### Treatment

Many patients experience mild pneumonia and may only require supportive treatment such as increased fluids, pain medication and antibiotics, which can all be administered at home. However, some cases of pneumonia can be dangerous and may require hospitalization and additional support. If you think your child may have pneumonia, he or she should be evaluated by a medical provider who may take X-rays and check oxygen levels and vital signs to determine which medications, if any, need to be prescribed.

### Staying healthy

The best way to avoid getting sick is to minimize contact with other children who are sick with fever or cough symptoms and to practice good hand washing. It is also very important to keep your child hydrated if they do become ill.



### Signs of pneumonia may include:

- Fever and sweating
- Cough/cold symptoms
- Low energy or fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Wheezing
- Cough that produces greenish, yellow or bloody mucus
- Chest or abdominal pain that worsens with deep breathing or cough
- Rapid or difficulty with breathing
- Decreased oxygen levels



*Dr. Kamra is a pediatrician at the UCLA Health pediatric office in Torrance, located at 23550 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 180  
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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 3rd anniversary publishing the excellence from the TUSD. This issue the front page story from North High School reminds us of how much education has changed...TED-Ed Club is just one example. This is an exciting time to be a student!

The Education Foundation and PTA representatives bring you up to date on the important work they do on behalf of students. You are an important piece to the education puzzle with your participation.

Our next issue is April 13, 2016.  
Thank you for reading *School News*.

## Torrance Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1397, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6418 • www.torranceeducationfoundation.org

### A Major Donation

By Susan Swinburne, Executive Director

In early December, the Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) distributed \$63,000 in grant money to various TUSD school organizations. More than 50 schools, clubs, teams, and PTA groups began their holiday celebrations early when these grant funds arrived to help support special projects and other classroom and extracurricular priorities.

Made possible by a donation from a local foundation, as well as proceeds from the annual Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk, these TEF grants are providing some much-needed dollars for school and group activities. We want to thank each of the partners at our TUSD campuses, and especially our TEF Ambassadors, for all of their hard work.

These TEF and TUSD teams definitely pulled out all the stops in 2015. Close to 2,000 registered walkers handily broke their 2014 record of 1,600 participants.

We definitely enjoyed a cool fall day in October, and lots of healthy walking! The TEF is proud to say "Thank you and good job!" to all of our walkers.



A sea of TUSD Walkers support Torrance Education Foundation on October 25th.



## Hundreds of Classes Added!



## Jump-start your future this summer at El Camino College!

**Choose from two summer sessions:**

- Eight-week session begins June 20
- Six-week session begins July 12

**Priority registration is available** to El Camino Community College District students who complete the four Steps to Enroll by March 31, 2016: **APPLY - PREPARE - TEST - PLAN**



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[www.elcamino.edu/priority](http://www.elcamino.edu/priority)

## The Heart of An Athlete



**Dr. Shaun Setty**  
Medical Director,  
Pediatric & Adult  
Cardiac Surgery  
Program, Pediatric  
Heart Center

The news has been filled with heartbreaking stories of young athletes dying during the middle of a sporting game. While many assume these children are suffering from other medical conditions, the majority of these children are passing away from an undiagnosed enlarged heart causing an abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia) when stressed. This causes them to collapse and is labeled sudden cardiac death.

Congenital heart defects are a malformation of blood vessels or the heart structure that occurs before birth. Depending on the defect, symptoms can appear right away or they may not manifest until a child participates in sports. In some cases, symptoms may not present until adulthood.

Constant heavy breathing and extreme fatigue are common warning signs of a congenital heart defect. If your child gets tired very quickly or easily, or their heart races, during physical activity, this could be a sign that their heart can't maintain the ability to meet their body's needs.

Be sure to educate yourself and your young athletes on potential signs and symptoms of a congenital heart defect. Encourage them to talk with you if they are experiencing any health concerns during sports and make sure they see their physician for an annual sports physical.

Knowing the signs and symptoms and getting annual check-ups can help catch a congenital heart defect before it becomes a more serious issue for your young athletes.



## A Powerful Advocate

*By Michelle Van Lerberghe, President*

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) oversees the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district. We are organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide information and instruction to our units, leadership training, and coordination of the efforts of our units.

Our council has been busy with several fun and educational student programs. TCPTA, the high school PTAs/PTSAs, and TUSD will co-sponsor the College Fair at North High on February 10, 2016 from 10am-2pm. Students and parents will be able to visit with representatives from colleges, trade schools and the military, and attend workshops.

The National PTA Reflections program judging is in full swing. The theme this year is "Let your imagination fly!" Original works were accepted in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. At our February association meeting we will be honoring the council 1st place winners and finding out who will be moving on to the state judging.

Elementary students are strapping on their helmets for bike rodeos going on at their schools. The winners from each school will participate in a district-wide bike rodeo in April.

In March, TCPTA will be attending Thirty-Third District PTA's Sacramento Safari. Students and chaperones will be attending this annual conference where they will be learning about how our state government works and meeting with legislators.

PTA continues to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. We have over 14,000 members in Torrance. If you have not joined PTA at your local school, please join and become part of the biggest advocacy group in the United States.



Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

At a routine 3-month-old check-up, Piper's doctor found a murmur in her heart. She was referred for more testing and it was discovered that she was suffering from heart failure due to a life-threatening congenital heart defect. Immediately she was sent to Miller Children's Pediatric Heart Center where just a few hours later she was undergoing surgery from cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Shaun Setty. With the help of the dedicated care team at the Pediatric Heart Center, Piper is back to giggling with her older siblings.

*From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.*

Follow the leader to Miller Children's.

MillerChildrens.org/Heart

800-MEMORIAL

Piper's specialty:  
Giggle Monster

Our specialty:  
Congenital Heart  
Defect Surgery

Piper, 6-months-old,  
Miller Children's  
Congenital Heart Defect Patient

## Adams *Elementary*

2121 238th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4480 • adams.tusd.org



**Dr. Kumi  
Toyoda-Smart**  
Principal

### A Special Family

*By Abigail Morey, Student*

Hello, my name is Abigail Morey. I go to John Adams Elementary School, and I would like to tell you what makes my school special.

Every school has something unique, something that gives it personality, like a person's signature. John Adams is one of the smaller schools in the Torrance Unified School District. It is so small that almost everybody knows each other, even if you are in different grades. To me, that makes my school like a community, but smaller—like a family. As a family, we do events together, celebrate together, and, most importantly, we learn together.

I would also like to point out that John Adams is on a winning streak athletically. Our school won the basketball tournament trophy last year. We also won many track team trophies, including the Sportsmanship Award.

I have also noticed that John Adams is very multicultural. There are many different cultures and religions. We have an event called Multicultural Week. Paper dolls are sent home for the students to decorate and dress like their cultures. At the end of the week, we have a parade.

Finally, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is something John Adams focuses on. Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) and STEM students have weekly afterschool classes to build, create, and learn more about STEM subjects.

John Adams is made up of teachers, students, and staff, and together we make the Torrance Unified School District a better place.



**Abigail Morey**

## Anza *Elementary*

21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • anzaelementary.org



**Barbara Marks**  
Principal

### Caring Citizens

Anza Elementary School has a long tradition of partnering with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Social Services for their annual toy and book loan drive. At Anza, we rally our students to donate all of their gently used toys, books, and games.

This wonderful program benefits underprivileged children throughout Los Angeles by allowing them to borrow toys once a week from a toy loan center in the same manner as they borrow

books from the public library. When toys or books are returned on time and in good condition, the children earn points, with which they can eventually earn toys to keep. The program is designed to teach honesty, patience, courtesy, promptness, cleanliness, cooperation, and responsibility.

Anza students have again displayed the Pillars of Character of caring, responsibility, and citizenship by filling the toy and book drive barrels to capacity.



## Arnold *Elementary*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4524 • arnold.tusd.org



**Justine Lang**  
Principal

### Student Council

Our Arnold Student Council representatives have been very busy this school year! Supported by Ms. Gordon, Mrs. Sasso, and Mrs. Perez, these Alleycats help generate school spirit on campus, promote our school-wide

Positive Behavior strategies, plan fun activities, and sponsor student contests. As a result of this hard-working Student Council we have been enjoying events like Pajama Day, Crazy Hair Day, tetherball tournaments, and Turkey Grams.

The Student Council understands how important it is to give back to the community. Several fundraisers and service projects are planned throughout the year. This December, students collected change for the Salvation Army Angel Tree, which provides toys for children in need. After collecting \$995, the Council then purchased 125 of their requested toys. What a great way to give back to the community!

We are proud of our Student Council and all that they do to make Arnold Elementary School so great!



# Arlington *Elementary*

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlingtonpta.com



**Dr. Vicki Hath**  
*Principal*

## Reading is Fun

Arlington Elementary sets reading as a top priority for all of its students. To help foster a love for and enjoyment of books, our school implements a variety of reading programs throughout the school year.

In September, our Super Stars participated in a PTA-sponsored Reading Incentive Week where they were challenged to read as much as they could in a one-week time period. In the spring, Arlington will hold a special Reading Night where families can come to school and learn a variety of reading strategies to use with their children.

Our Arlington Super Stars recently participated in the annual “Lakers Read to Achieve Reading Challenge.” Every student who successfully completed the challenge received a Lakers Certificate of Completion. They were also entered into a drawing for two tickets to a Lakers game.

All three of these reading programs help to promote our school pledge of, “Have fun learning!”



# Carr *Elementary*

3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • carr.tusd.org



**Dick Peterson**  
*Principal*

## First Wing of Modernization Completed

Those students from Rooms 1, 17, 18, and 20 who returned to school were immediately directed to their new classrooms in Rooms 13–16. The modernization of their rooms was completed in time for the classes to be physically moved during the winter break.

The new lights, windows, paint, and general cleanliness were welcomed by both teachers and students. Although there have been some minor problems associated with the move, the transition has been relatively easy. It will take these four teachers some time to get completely unpacked and in a position to have their technological needs addressed.

The second wing is now being modernized. According to the contractor, it is expected to be completed in approximately five weeks. The building includes both the library and computer lab, which have been closed for the time being.

The PTSA volunteers packed up all of the books over the summer, and will re-shelve them when the project is completed. We are looking forward to having the library accessible again. In the meantime, many of the classes have been walking to the North Torrance Library so that students have an opportunity to check out books.

The next wing to be completed will be Rooms 9–12. If all goes as planned, this project will be finished prior to the summer break. This will leave the administrative office and Rooms K–1, K–2, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 to be completed over the summer months.

Also planned are installation of security cameras and new fencing to make the campus safer. By the next school year we are expecting our campus to be completely modernized and more secure.

We are grateful that our staff members, students, parents, and the community are so understanding and patient. The contractors are working hard to make Carr a better place to be!

# Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • callemayor.tusd.org



**Dave Mosley**  
*Principal*

## Striving for the Best

Calle Mayor has been redesigning our safe school plan. In partnership with our business partner, a local medical center, we're adding an AED (automated external defibrillator). Additionally, through the passage of bond Measure T and U, we've replaced fencing around the campus and are installing video cameras. We always strive to provide a safer learning environment, and this is one more way that we're doing it!

Our ASB inaugural toy drive in December was a great success! The ASB, students and staff provided over 150 toys to local needy South Bay families. The students were excited about providing other children with gifts during the holiday season. WE always look to provide our students with multiple opportunities to serve the local community, and the toy drive was an excellent way for students to help those less fortunate.

We wish to thank you for your support with our event and wish you all a happy, healthy New Year.



## Casimir *Middle School*

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • casimir.tusd.org



**Susie Holmes**  
*Principal*

### The Power of Effectiveness Skills

In middle school, students begin to hone the skills they will need to be successful in high school and beyond. Naturally, many students struggle with understanding the need for organization and have difficulty implementing an organizational structure. At Casimir Middle School, we are teaching these skills to our students.

As a focus for this instruction, we are using the Dr. Jonathan Brennan's Choosing a Good Road program, which identifies nine essential goals for student success and offers information, cartoons, and opportunities to write and reflect. We have incorporated these skills into our school motto: "Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and You Will Be Successful."

Small groups of students have mini lessons during tutorial to learn these skills. One activity involves students attempting to toss five balls into a container to score 50 points. Students can choose to start at various distances from the container. The line farthest from the container earns 50 points, and the closest line earns 10 points. Most students decide to start at the 50-point line, where it is more difficult to accurately make the throw and to keep the ball from bouncing out of the container. After trial and error, some realize that standing closer and getting all of the balls into the container allows them to earn the maximum number of points. This leads to a discussion about completing a little work every day for large projects and studying for a shorter amount of time for multiple days prior to a test in order to be successful.

Students enjoy the activities and have been making progress in organizing their work. We have expanded our instruction to include every grade level. Eventually we hope to have lessons embedded in many of our core classes.

## Edison *Elementary*

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • edison.tusd.org



**Dr. Erin Lahr**  
*Principal*

### Full STEM Ahead

Last summer, first-grade teacher Mrs. Matoba participated in 30 hours of special training to help implement science, technology, engineering, and math in her classroom (STEM). She is now sharing her knowledge with the other teachers at our school.

Mrs. Matoba was inspired to get involved with Project Lead the Way's STEM curriculum in order to expose her young students to the engineering design process and explore complex problems in a structured way.

One particular focus of interest involved the concept of light. Mrs. Matoba has recently developed an award-winning project called "Launching First-Graders to the Sun, Moon and Stars." This activity teaches students to observe the sun, moon, and stars and then record their observations. They also analyze different patterns in the data to help deepen their understanding of light.

From there they design devices, build and test models, and then investigate a real-life problem such as "How can we provide more shade for students on the playground?" The students also share their findings and collaborate with one another to help improve their design based upon the evidence.

What an amazing opportunity for students to build their knowledge, confidence, interest level, and sense of wonder! Our students will be well-prepared because of how they are now developing their critical thinking and technological skills.

Thank you, Mrs. Matoba, for your passion, creativity, and dedication!



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## Fern *Elementary*

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



**Debbie Mabry**  
*Principal*

### Student Learning and Creativity

Fern Elementary School kicked off the school year with student-directed, hands-on, creative fun in our new iCREATE Lab! Each month, students in third, fourth, and fifth grades are offered opportunities to design, experiment, build, invent, and engage in collaborative learning during lunch recess.

During our first year, projects include structures made from plastic building blocks, cardboard creations, hovercrafts, and reverse engineering designs. Our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) projects support the diverse learning styles of our students. Falcons can't wait to innovate in our new maker-space!



**Students designing their "Cardboard Creation" using recycled materials!**

Our adult volunteers are essential to organizing sessions and materials and providing support during sessions, ensuring a fun and safe environment for students to make and share. As students experience fun and creativity in our iCREATE Lab, we hope they will continue making and creating at home with their families!

## J.H. Hull *Middle School*

2080 W. 231st St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4516 • hull.tusd.org



**Patty Girgis**  
*Principal*

### Delving Into the Art World

J.H. Hull students have been delving into the Art World through a dynamic partnership with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. LACMA and Hull teachers have developed cross curricular projects to introduce and encourage students' creative output. Exposure to different art mediums allows students to explore their own artistic interests as well as think critically about the artwork they research. In conjunction with current art exhibits at LACMA, students tie the art they have seen with history, culture, and literature lessons. A current project

was based on a mural exhibit, where students visited the museum and then recreated a similar installation based their own experiences. In addition to classroom projects, LACMA and Hull faculty have started an after school art club which is not only open to students, but parents and family members as well.

The LACMA partnership has enhanced our students' relationship with art and has helped them develop their creative side!

## Hickory *Elementary*

2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • w1.hickory.tusd.org



**Edna Schumacher**  
*Principal*

### Supporting English Language Learners

Hickory Elementary School continues to be a very busy place with a very active community of learners, both student and parents. This month I would like to highlight our English Language Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (ELMAC). This committee provides a forum for sharing information with parents and offers a regular means for parents to communicate their needs, concerns, and suggestions to the school.

ELMAC is a vital link between the school and the parents of English Language Learners (ELLs). This type of committee is required by the state of California for any school with 21 or more ELLs, regardless of the language. The major function is to advise the principal and school staff about programs and services for ELL students.

Hickory has had a very active ELMAC for many years, as we have a large population of ELLs. Currently, 282 of our 933 students are enrolled in ELL programs. This year, the ELMAC was successful in securing an English as a Second Language class for parents right on campus. Classes are provided through the Torrance Adult School and are held every Friday in the YMCA building on campus.

In addition to learning and practicing English skills, the parents cover a number of other topics, including helping children with homework and reading comprehension, accessing support tools online, and preparing for parent-teacher conferences. Parents can also suggest topics for discussion. Torrance Adult School provides DVDs and lesson packets for parents to practice and study at home.

This is just one way ELMAC works to support our ELL population. ELMAC meetings are held six times a year at 9 a.m. in the school cafeteria. The meetings often feature guest speakers or teacher presentations. Translators are available.

## Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • jefferson.tusd.org



**Kara Heinrich**  
*Principal*

### In Modernization Mode

This school year, Jefferson has begun construction to become modernized, thanks to measures Y and Z, and T and U. We started at the beginning of September and have been making positive progression throughout the building wings.

Seeing the difference between our current buildings and the newly modernized buildings has been an exciting time for the staff and students to experience such a beautiful transformation. By next fall, Jefferson will show off a new, more modern look to our campus, all in thanks to each of these bond measures and our supportive surrounding community. The measures will not only bring us up to date with current safety and compliance standards but will also make many improvements to our classrooms, parking lots, lighting roofs and Internet accessibility.

Several main updates to our campus include a newly constructed front entrance with seating areas and wrought-iron fencing, entrance safety fencing and gates, security cameras and updated campus fencing. There are three new Science Lab modular buildings, and the modernization of our student quad includes added seating, lighting and an outdoor stage area.

The buildings have been painted inside and out, and there's also interior and exterior lighting. Our parking lot has been resurfaced, as has the playground blacktop, along with restriping.

Inside, our library has new blinds, carpet and paint. Classrooms and bungalows have new windows, paint, lighting and teacher docking stations. The school office has new windows, carpet, blinds, paint and lighting. The gymnasium construction begins in spring.

The final projects at Jefferson mean a lot to our students and school. The new buildings, upgrades, and modernization will put a new face on our school, raise school-community morale, and support us in becoming a more efficient place to better serve our community. Thank you, Measures Y and Z, and T and U!

# LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • launch.tusd.org



**Dr. Elaine Semple**  
Principal

## Real-World Application

Season's greetings! We had a fabulous Winter Workshop and Pajama Day before break, and now we're back and ready to learn. In addition to our already packed schedule, we have snow coming to LAUNCH for our winter fling. In February, we learn about transportation, and the police department is bringing a police car! These special events encourage students to use language and expand their vocabulary.

LAUNCH staff, particularly teachers and speech pathologists, capitalizes on the momentum accompanying these experiences to help children apply skills they have acquired in the classroom and speech therapy to real-world events. Novelty provides ASSISTT staff opportunities to work on generalization of behavior. Most children have



difficulty being on their best behavior when they are excited; for some children with special needs, this is especially challenging. LAUNCH invites these opportunities so that we can help our children participate successfully and independently in all of the awesome experiences school offers now and in the future.

# Lincoln *Elementary*

2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • lincoln.tusd.org



**Katherine Castleberry**  
Principal

## Lions Love to Read!

Lincoln School is excited to share news about its one-of-a-kind Reading Room! This room was created to provide a comfortable and relaxing place to enjoy reading. The newly decorated room has couches, pillows, rugs, moon chairs, lamps, lots of books, and brand-new e-readers!

The room is open before school and at lunch for students to come in and enjoy some good books. Teachers may also come to the Reading Room during the school day for guided reading lessons, buddy reading, or just to have their students read.

Students are so excited to use this room, which has opened up a whole new world of fun, imagination, and creativity for them.

Creating the room was no easy task for Lincoln's school community. Spearheaded by teachers Jolene Maravilla and Debbie King, the efforts of so many were involved to ensure that the desired outcome was attained. Everything from picking up donated furniture to spending countless hours organizing books made this dream a reality. The payoff for everyone's hard work comes in seeing the joy on the students' faces as they enter the room, grab a book, and settle into a nice comfy chair...priceless!

Lincoln School is very thankful to all who contributed to make this Reading Room possible. We are very proud to be able to offer this unique and special opportunity to our students. All are welcome to visit and see the magic that happens when the love of reading is nurtured in children!

# Lynn *Middle School*

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • bertlynn.tusd.org



**LeRoy Jackson Jr.**  
Principal

## The Hour of Coding

Bert Lynn Middle School is introducing the world of computer science to its students. Current job surveys show a need for over 600,000 computing jobs nationwide, but only 38,175 computer science students were graduated into the workforce last year.

*The International Business Times* also estimates that 1.4 million computer jobs will be needed over the next 10 years. With this in mind, we are now offering five different sections of computer coding to our seventh- and eighth-grade students.



This week our coding class also facilitated an "Hour of Coding" for all of the sixth-graders. The students are introduced to basic programming concepts like functions, loops, conditionals, and Boolean logic. They also learn programming languages like Scratch and simple JavaScript. These can be used to quickly create original games, interactive puzzles, and multimedia applications.

We are proud to be at the forefront of this effort to prepare our children for the future.

# Madrona *Middle School*

21364 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4562 • madrona.tusd.org



**Chris Lipsey**  
Principal

## Madrona Cares For our Community!

Madrona Middle School students spent two weeks on Winter Break and celebrating the holiday season. Prior to that, however, we took time as a campus to reflect and dedicate ourselves to families in need and other service in our community.

Our students continue to exemplify community school spirit during the holiday season. We are especially proud of their efforts, each year to care for the families who are especially needy.

Together with our faculty, our ASB and CJSF students raised money and materials, in conjunction with the Torrance Fire Department, to supply 15 families in our community with full Thanksgiving meals and another 15 families with gifts for the holidays. Our students exemplified our mantra of "STEAM & Service" with these efforts.

Also in the holiday spirit, our students assisted the Family Crisis Center, Senior Center and Little Company of Mary Hospital with disaster preparation services and holiday themed events that benefit not only the city of Torrance, but also some of the most needy members of our population. These are a few of the indicators of the mindfulness our students exhibit and share when thinking about our neighborhood.

## Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • magruder.tusd.org



**Chris Sheck**  
Principal

### Learning Goes On!

On any given day, visitors to Magruder between 3 and 4 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays will see classrooms and computer labs chock full of students setting aside extra time to work toward grade-level ELA and math proficiency. The extended-learning-day experience builds upon the content taught during the day, further differentiating instruction to increase knowledge and content understanding.

After entering the academic year at below grade level, in just two months, 18 percent of 124 sixth-graders, 17 percent of 146 seventh-graders, and 17 percent of eighth graders raised their ELA Lexile scores to above grade level, in period 7 literacy. A Lexile measure is defined as “the numeric representation of an individual’s reading ability.”

In math, sixth grade had an average entry score of 1.26 and an average exit score of 2.90; seventh grade had a 1.26 average entry score and an average exit score of 2.86; and eighth grade had 1.26 average entry score and a 2.65 average exit score. This information represents the average entry and exit scores on a four-point scale for Magruder Math Academy (MMA), along with the average growth for that week. Entry scores are determined by weekly grade-level common formative assessments, which are used to determine who will attend MMA. Exit scores are determined by another common formative assessment designed to assess the same math concepts as the prior assessment. A score of 3.00 indicates grade-level proficiency for any math concept.

Research suggests that regular participation in extended-day programs that provide academic and social activities contribute positively to students’ academic and social development. We are grateful to have dedicated students, incredible teachers and the support of our parent community and families as we strive to provide learning opportunities that maximize student academic potential.

## Richardson *Middle School*

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • richardsonmiddleschool.org



**Ian Drummond**  
Principal

### Winter Activities

In November and December, Richardson’s after-school STEM club, The Widgets, participated in a series of FIRST Lego League robot competitions, with two of their four teams earning a slot at the Los Angeles Regional Competition, held in La Cañada.

The final results: Both teams walked away with awards, sharing fourth place among 349 teams in robot programming and first place in the Inspiration Award. Joe Petito, RMS STEM teacher and team coach, is already gearing up for next year. He wants to set up children for success in the engineering disciplines or

continue their robotics education with South High School’s robot team, the TorBots.

Richardson Middle School kicked off the holiday season with the Winter Concert at a local theater. Families, staff, students and friends were treated to performances by our choir, our jazz band and all three levels of our band. Under the direction of music teacher Karrie Willett, all of our Richardson students gave a wonderful performance, including our beginning band students, many of whom had never played an instrument before this school year began.

Prior to winter break, many members of our Richardson community shared a gift-giving experience at Richardson Middle School by participating in our Campus Beautification Day, coordinated successfully once again by parent volunteer Mary Roberts. Approximately 50 students and 20 parents helped spruce up the campus for the new year. We removed bundles of weeds and dead foliage from the perimeter of our campus. Our volunteers also planted some new drought-resistant plants and covered some areas with fresh bark. Thanks go out to all who participated, especially Ms. Beck’s and Mr. Fuji’s student leadership classes, who led the way in recruiting students to participate in the event.

## North *High School*

3620 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4412 • northhighschool.org



**Dr. Ron Richardson**  
Principal

Please see our story on the front page.

## Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



**Christie Forshey**  
Principal

### Students in Service

Riviera’s Student Council is composed of 33 elected fourth- and fifth-grade officers. Three teachers – Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Pachal, and Ms. Romeo – each facilitate weekly leadership meetings. The Student Council takes an active role in planning Spirit Days, fundraising campaigns, and the “Just for Fun” events.

The Council also runs the student store, which is open at recess on Thursdays. It assists with site recycling efforts, the weekly flag assembly, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Star Spangled Banner, the Character Counts Pledge, and various awards ceremonies.



The group also plans Spirit Days like Ugly Sweater Day, Read Across America/Pajama Day, and Crazy Hair Day. The Athletic Commissioner and 13 umpires also facilitate our Noon Leagues, where interested students can sign up to play kickball at lunch time.

As you can see, the entire school community benefits from our Student Council. Thank you for your amazing service to our school!

## Seaside *Elementary*

4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • seaside.tusd.org



**Michele Bauer**  
Principal

### Honoring Veterans

This year, Seaside fifth grade students provided the student body, staff, parents and community veterans with a lovely assembly in honor of Veteran's Day. The program was lead by teacher Lydia Bree whose father is a veteran, and supported by her fellow grade teachers. Students memorized informative historical speeches and songs to teach history and citizenship to the audience and honor our nation's heroes. It was a beautiful, dynamic, heartfelt event unlike any Veteran's Day assembly seen before. Indeed, some of our heroes and guests became teary eyed as they listened and sang in the presence of our nation's future. What a wonderful way to learn about citizenship!



**Teacher Lydia Bree leading the Veteran's Day program.**

## Shery *High School*

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • shery.tusd.org



**Jamie Jimenez**  
Principal

### Exciting Happenings

We have had a wonderful transformation at Shery High School this year. Two portable classrooms were recently moved to Shery High to house new programs on our campus. It was quite a sight to see, and we were all in awe of the mad skills of the truck driver!

Shery High School is now able to offer a full continuum of services for all students who are at least 16 and are credit deficient. We have added more support services and intervention teachers so that we can now support all types of students, including those in the English Language Learners program, those who require Special Education services, those who are struggling to get to school, or those who need additional remediation support.

We are so happy to be able to reach more students, meet their needs both academically and emotionally, and help them move forward toward graduation and post-secondary education and careers.



## South *High School*

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • shs.tusd.org



**Dr. Scott McDowell**  
Principal

### Historic Tennis Title

In November, the South High Girls' Tennis Team did what no other sports team in South's 58-year history has done: win back-to-back CIF championships.

On a warm Friday at a local tennis club, the team faced a rematch against last year's opponent, Riverside Poly. In the 2014 final, the championship came down to the last match. Ahead 9-8 but behind in games, South needed to win the day's final match to secure the 10-8 victory. This year, after dominating the first rotation 5-1, South clinched the title early in the third rotation, wrapping up the championship 11-7.

Special congratulations go out to all the great players, dedicated coaches and supportive parents for making these past two years memorable and historic. Special recognition goes out to the Riverside Poly Bears for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit in both finals. Congratulations, Lady Spartans!



## Torrance *Elementary*

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torranceel.tusd.org



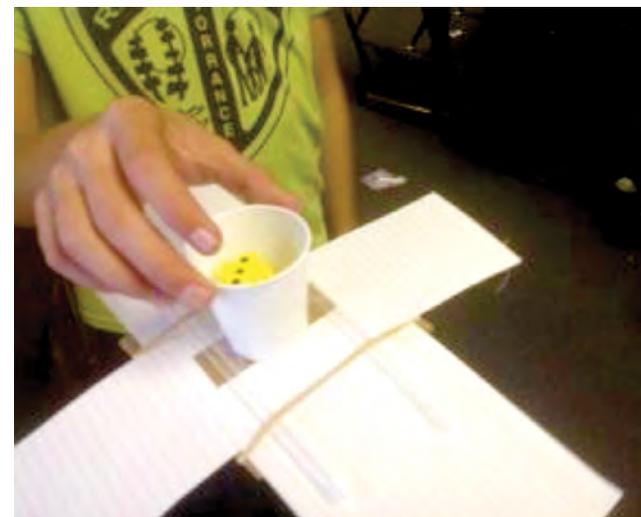
**Dr. Kelly Joseph**  
Principal

### Safe Landing, Swift Takeoff!

Lunar-landing model, jet-airplane design...in a classroom? You bet!

Welcome to Torrance Elementary's fifth-grade after-school STEM Club! Every month, a small group of Torrance Elementary fifth-graders meet in Room 40 after school for a STEM adventure. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. This current wave of curriculum gives our students an opportunity to explore these fields in a new way. Students collaborate, problem-solve, and have fun in the process.

Our first session, "Gravity, Force, Motion and Friction," gave students the task of balancing gravity's force of pulling objects down and friction to slow down a moving object to create a perfect landing of their self-designed lunar module.



In our second session, "Fundamentals of Flight," students took a look at the four forces of flight: lift, weight, thrust and drag. Working to eliminate the force of air resistance, the students redesigned their wooden airplanes to extend their flight.

Watch these fifth graders grow! STEM rocks!

# Torrance *Adult School*

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tastusd.org

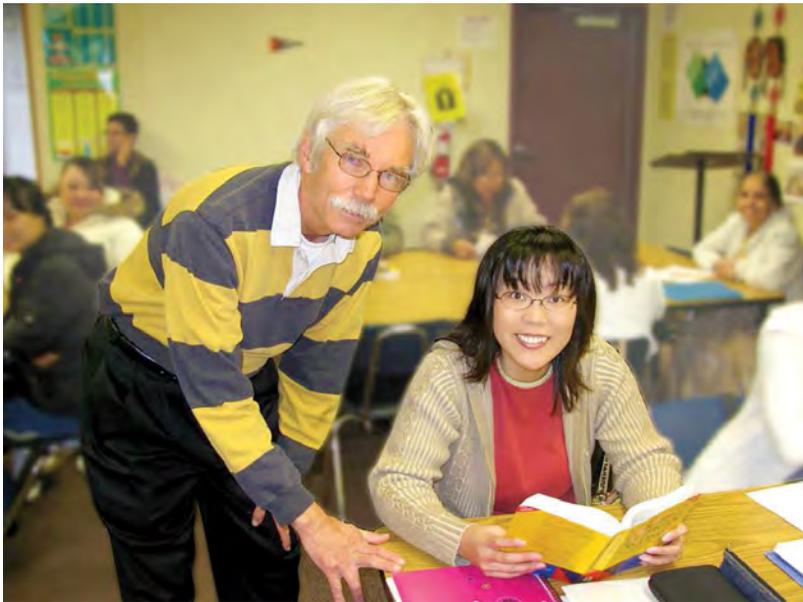


**Dr. Wayne Diulio**  
*Director*

## Supporting Families

We are pleased to offer parenting classes at your school. The purpose is to support an “Active Parenting” plan that will ensure continued success for each of our TUSD students. These classes will teach effective parenting strategies about nonviolent discipline, communication, defusing power struggles, and other important topics that can help your children grow in a positive and nurturing learning environment.

In addition, because our schools have been requesting English classes for parents, the district will also be expanding its ESL program. Our aim is to create a positive learning environment that uses researched-based practices to acquire the English language, while also helping families become active participants in their children’s success.



We also want to assist our students to complete their high school equivalency in both the GED and HiSET examinations. We have found that practice exams increase their overall passing rate, and so beginning in March we will be offering a new math program to help our students pass the math portion of their exams.

# Torrance *High School*

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • ths.tusd.org



**Karim Girgis**  
*Principal*

## The Arts are Alive

Torrance High held its sixth annual Day of the Dead Student Art Exhibit in November. This Dia de Los Muertos celebration comes from a mixture of the ancient Aztec and Mayan traditions, along with the Roman Catholic traditions that were present during the time of the conquest of the Americas.

Student projects included dioramas in Spanish 1 (also known as ofrendas); skeletons in Spanish 2; head stones in Spanish 3; barriletes in Spanish 3 Honors (or gigantic kites, a Guatemalan custom); and in AP Spanish, writing odes to extinct items. For



the second year in a row the Art Exhibit also included works from our Korean and Japanese language classes, and works from the Fine Arts Department.

Our Latino Culture Club curates the exhibit each year under the leadership of Ms. Jackie Mendoza and Mrs. Veronica Trani. We are very proud of our cultural diversity, and look forward to the growth of this wonderful celebration.

# Towers *Elementary*

5600 Towers St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • towers.tusd.org



**Sandy Skora**  
*Principal*

## Whatchamacallit

Last December, Towers hosted our second annual Cardboard Box Imaginarium. Prior to this event, dozens of cardboard boxes were gathered and stored in one of our school containers. On the day of the event, our students along with their parents, arrived on a Sunday afternoon turning our cafeteria into a construction zone with castles, tanks, robots, airplanes, benches and fortresses rising up from piles of discarded cardboard. With only five hours to build the most fantastic super terrific whatchamacallits, our kids dove into the excitement of building from their imaginations working alongside their peers as well as parents. Indeed, fun and science met with incredible success of lasting memories and awesome project results.



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## Victor *Elementary*

4820 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • victor.tusd.org



**Bill Baker**  
Principal

### Keeping the Peace

Victor Elementary School utilizes a peer mediation program, where students help other students resolve conflicts. Types of problems these student mediators work with include disagreements on the playground, gossip, and name calling. Naturally, serious issues are handled by school administration. Peer mediators do not make decisions; rather, they work toward a win-win resolution for both sides in order to avoid further issues.

This process has proven to be very effective. Office referrals for minor matters have declined substantially. The key to this program is that it helps to change the way our students understand and resolve conflict in their lives. Changes include improved self-esteem, better developed listening and critical-thinking skills, a school climate that is conducive for learning, and reduced disciplinary actions. These skills will help our students for years to come.

## West *High School*

20401 Victor, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4299



**Pam Metz**  
Principal

### Helping Others

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year. The fall semester went by quickly, and several of our programs and individuals gained worthy recognition.

The boys' cross country team won a CIF championship, their first since 1967. The team then went on to take third place in State. The girls' tennis team also made a nice run in CIF. The robotics team is in the middle of their competition season, and they want to thank all of the volunteers and sponsors who made it possible. The West High Entertainment

Unit also had an outstanding fall season, and was invited to compete in recent championships. Drama fans were also treated to a production of *Romeo, You Idiot* as our fall play.

West High was chosen as one of 300 schools in the country to host a Leaders Academy. The first project of the year involved putting together food packets to help feed hungry children. Throughout the year our students will also be completing various service activities that help others both globally and locally.

One of West High's outstanding students, Sanath Devalapurkar, has earned his way into history. Last spring he won the math division of the LA County Science Fair. This earned Sanath a trip to a competition in Washington, D.C., where he was the national winner. This fall he then competed in the European Union Young Scientist Competition and took first place. He is the first student from the United States to win the competition, and the youngest student ever.

Sanath, who is a sophomore at West High, will be completing his graduation requirements early, and has been accepted to MIT for next fall.

## Wood *Elementary*

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • wood.tusd.org



**Dr. Teresa Lanphere**  
Principal

### Busy Students

Students at Wood have been busy since our return from Winter Break. Students in Grades 1st through 5th grade are participating in the Great American Spellcheck competition sponsored by our PTA. Students are busy practicing their skills and participated in a Spell a Thon in advance of the Wood Spelling Bee for 4th and 5th graders on January 15th. Winners will then head on to District Spelling Bee at Hull on February 4th. It is really fun to see student's enthusiasm for these activities as learning about spelling words helps support good writing skills.

## Walteria *Elementary*

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4487 • www.walteriaelementary.org



**Bobbie Wynhoff**  
Principal

### It's Leap Year!

Walteria is jumping into 2016 with students' safety and education as priorities. Teachers are continuing to implement California Common Core State Standards and attend various trainings. Education for all is an ongoing and lifelong process that we want our students to embrace. It is always a bonus when our students know we continue to learn as well.

Reading has and continues to be a focus at Walteria. To encourage reading outside the classroom, Walteria participates in the Kings Reading Challenge as school gets underway and then the Lakers Reading Challenge that begins after winter break. Students read as many books as they can during the two reading challenges and then turn their logs in, signed by parents. These reading logs are submitted to both teams, and students can earn tickets to games. Both programs are very popular with our students!

We have been provided with three more Chromebook carts, making a total of six for Walteria students to use. Our computer lab is still up and running, too. We are marching forward with helping the students use technology for their educational benefit. It ranges from very young students learning how to operate desktop computers and Chromebooks all the way to having them do assignments and take classroom tests on a device.

What about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)? The district's Elementary Science Fair takes place March 31, and Walteria will have student projects represented at this event. All grade levels are invited to participate, using the following: collections in kindergarten and first grade, research for kindergarten through fifth grade, experiment using the scientific method for kindergarten through fifth grade, or invention using the engineering design process for third through fifth grade.

## Yukon *Elementary*

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • yukon.tusd.org



**Elaine Wassil**  
Principal

### Mission Accomplished!

Former Yukon student Capt. Michael Wechsler is currently stationed in Iraq, leading an infantry unit of 103 soldiers. His mom, who had previously worked at Yukon as a paraprofessional, was student-teaching at Yukon in December and was on Skype with Michael during lunch. His former Yukon teacher, Ms. Cook, was delighted to get a chance to join in the conversation. She found out that Michael would love some footballs for his men.

Well, that's all it took! Ms. Cook led her 100 or so soldiers on a mission of their own. Before it was all over, 21 footballs, five soccer balls, two banners, homemade baked goods, and 104 Christmas stockings filled with candy, snacks, cards, letters and recreational items like Hacky Sacks, jump ropes, playing cards, yo-yos and balloon powered cars—the stuff to brighten any boy's Christmas—were on their way!



**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1**

innovative, creative, and passionate educators TUSD is fortunate to have in our classrooms, inspiring the next generation of engineers, musicians, adventures, entrepreneurs, and inventors.

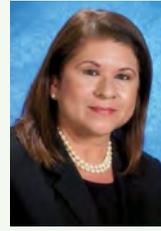
Student achievement is further advanced in our District through the dynamic leadership of our administrators and tireless efforts of our classified employees. TUSD is truly a family of people who are invested in the academic, social, and emotional success and well being of all our students. I am so proud of the hard work, day in and day out that our faculty and staff put into educating Torrance students.

Classroom learning needs be supported at home by parents. TUSD is fortunate to have an involved and engaged parent community. In order to better prepare parents to be their child's champion and advocate, we host several events to provide parents with the resources they need to ensure their child's ongoing academic success.

Two important upcoming events, the District English Learner Multicultural Advisory Committee (DELMAC) and the Gifted And Talented Education Conferences, strive to offer parents with resources to help their student during non-school hours. The DELMAC conference is designed for the parents of our English Language Learners, teaching them strategies to help their child in every aspect of their education. The GATE conference better prepares parents by equipping them with resources to help them support their gifted child's educational journey. For more information on both conferences, please visit the District website at [www.tusd.org](http://www.tusd.org).

Here's to an even better second semester!

**Board of Education**



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**BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1**

students to grow and thrive we need to set high expectations and provide them with the tools to achieve their potential — be it to continue their education in college or a career in a technical field.

The investments we make now, with student academic progress, dedicated teacher and staff retention, state of the art technology, campus safety and facility improvements, are true indicators that my colleagues and I have made academic excellence a priority. As I continue to serve and represent my stakeholders, I also continue to be the eyes and ears for all parents. I encourage dialogue and conversation. My goal is to help lead TUSD in a direction where every student can achieve and realize their academic potential. I was once in your shoes -- getting up every morning and making sure that my daughter and son were off to school to get the best education.

Thank you for your continued support and may 2016 bring you and your family all the best.

**Bicycle Parts–Word Search Contest**

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

**Entries must be received by February 25, 2016.**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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

**Congratulations to **Stephanie Yee**  
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!**

**NORTH HIGH • From Page 1**

completing a live video interview with the TED-Ed Clubs Coordinator at TED, our club was approved.

Two of the goals of TED-Ed Clubs are “to connect students in conversation around the world and to provide an online platform where student ideas can be featured.” Students in North High’s TED-Ed Club spend weeks developing “big” ideas worth spreading, culminating in their own TED-like talks. Those are then presented to other club members, recorded, and then uploaded to the TED-Ed website. The process is not without some hitches. Giving students the freedom to choose virtually any subject and to focus on a broad audience can be challenging. But, once students realize they have a voice, something to say, and an audience, the results can be amazing.

Last year North High students spoke on a wide variety of topics ranging from advice as to what to say to encourage kids, the power of humor, why it's okay to cry, how young people will be the innovators to save the environment, to why we should be kind to one another. Along the way, students helped each other refine and revise ideas, encouraged each other, and gained confidence in their own ideas and their influence on the future.

This collaboration happened not just within their class, but also (thanks to TED-Ed Club Connect Weeks facilitated by TED) through video chats with other schools around the world. During one of these chats, North High students exchanged ideas with students in Michigan, New York, Maryland, and Canada. They again encouraged each other, exchanged stories...and laughed. The joined a larger, world-wide community.

North High student Chelsea Ha was even invited to speak at TED Youth in New York last November as a result of her TED Talk for North High's TED-Ed Club. She shared the stage with esteemed TED speakers and had her voice heard. What started as an assignment in Speech class became a stepping stone for this event, and wherever else it leads her.

Young people often feel dismissed and that their perspectives and voices are unimportant. TED-Ed Clubs offer a unique opportunity for them to think big and amplify their voices. It is an amazing sight to see. You can follow the North High TED-ED Club on Twitter @NHSTEDClub.

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We are rebuilding as once again one of the top programs in Southern California and since 2009 we have produced many of the top athletes in Southern California.

Our goal is to provide an environment where young athletes can focus on education and athletics and prepare them for whatever challenges they may face in the future. Sports teach discipline, hard work, responsibility and teamwork, which combined, are what we believe to be the foundation for better athletes and better men and women.

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USYVL Spring 2016

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Sat. 9:00 - 10:00 AM

at Sur La Brea Park  
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Satu. 6:00 - 7:00 PM

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**usyvl.org**

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