

FREE

School News

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Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT

FEBRUARY-APRIL 2016

The Great Kindness Challenge Soars to New Heights



Dr. Suzette Lovely

Kindergarten Roundup

If you have a child turning five on or before September 1, 2016, you are invited to attend Kindergarten Roundup at your neighborhood school. And if your child has a birthday between September 2 and December 2, 2016, you are invited to come to a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Roundup.

Transitional Kinder & Kinder Roundups in CUSD are often the first chances our parents have to visit and learn about our schools.

Each elementary site hosts an informal Kindergarten Roundup to introduce parents to the school community. Parents will meet the teachers, learn about the registration requirements, find out what to expect during the first weeks of school, and even gain some tips on activities to work on with their children prior to the beginning of school.

Our schools all operate an Early Bird / Late Owl kindergarten schedule, which is one way we provide small group instruction to our students. Early Bird / Late Owl is a schedule that allows half of the class (about 12 students) to come to school around 8 am and stay until 11:10 am, while the second half attends from 9:30 am to around 1:15 pm. This way, each student benefits from small group instruction for reading and math skill acquisition. From 9:30 to 11:10 the whole class is present. This is the time for activities such as physical education, music, calendar activities, and trips to the computer lab and the library.

Here is our Kindergarten (and Transitional Kindergarten*) Roundup schedule for 2016:

Aviara Oaks Elementary	March 16 @ 6:30 pm
Buena Vista Elementary	March 10 @ 2:00 pm
Calavera Hills Elementary	March 17 @ 2:30 pm
Hope Elementary	March 17 @ 2:30 pm
Jefferson Elementary	February 25 5:30 - 6:00 Spanish 6:00 - 6:30 English
Kelly Elementary	March 10 @ 2:00 pm
Magnolia Elementary	February 25 @ 2:00 pm
Pacific Rim Elementary	March 17 @ 2:30 pm
Poinsettia Elementary	February 25 @ 2:00 pm

*The location of Transitional Kindergarten programs will be determined once eligible students are registered.

The transfer window for the 2016-17 is January 4, 2016 to March 31, 2016.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest CUSD students and their families!



By Beverly de Nicola,
Communications, CUSD

It's a bird? It's a plane? No, it was Superintendent Suzette Lovely, with Jefferson Elementary Principal Chad Lund and Hope Principal Richard Tubbs, skydiving onto the Oceanside Airport field to kick off the 2016 Great Kindness Challenge. Hundreds of elementary school students assembled to spell out "Kindness Matters" on the field, the Carlsbad High School Lancer Dancers performed, the band played, and the CHS Loud Crowd did what they do best — they made a lot of noise.

This exciting event was the national kick off for the 2016 Great Kindness Challenge, which ran from January 25 through 29.

The Great Kindness Challenge, an activity of Kids for Peace, began in 2012 at three Carlsbad schools, and quickly spread nationwide. Millions of students participated in this inspiring week

Kids for Peace Pledge

I pledge to use my words to speak in a kind way.
I pledge to help others as I go throughout my day.
I pledge to care for our earth with my healing heart and hands.
I pledge to respect people in each and every land.
I pledge to join together as we unite the big and small.
I pledge to do my part to create peace for one and all.



dedicated to creating a culture of kindness on campus. It is a week where students do as many kind acts as possible, choosing from a 50-item checklist. This positive and powerful week mobilizes students to create school climates that are respectful, compassionate and kind. It is a bully-prevention program, but so much more. Carlsbad Unified students found that during Kindness Week their schools were full of smiles and surprises, and decorated with Kindness Matters messages.

Kids for Peace was founded by CUSD mom Jill McManigal, her children Hana and Bodhi Craft, and Danielle Gram in Carlsbad in 2006. Through their impressive efforts there are currently 350 chapters in 118 countries on 6 continents. The mission of Kids for Peace is to create peace through youth leadership, community service, global friendships and thoughtful acts of kindness.



It's Just Rain, Right?



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

When the first major El Niño storm of the season hit in January, I got a reality check from my fourth grader. I knew rain had been scarce in Southern California the last few years, and this was the biggest storm we'd seen in a while. For my 10 year old, this was unlike any rain storm he could remember *in his lifetime*.

At first glance, severe winter storms might seem like a welcome nuisance. Sure, traffic is a mess and school pick up and drop off takes longer. But, we need the water, right? We do need the water, but in our area, unfortunately, most of the rain water runs off into the ocean, so it's not a long term solution to our drought.

The downside to massive amounts of rain over a short period of time is that the water doesn't have time to be absorbed into the ground, or the ground is already saturated. Flooding is the most well known result, but not the only one. Prolonged periods of heavier than normal rain can also cause erosion and mudslides, sink holes, closed roads, dangerous driving conditions, prolonged power outages and even water and sewer service interruptions.

The good news is that the City of Carlsbad has a good track record of keeping up with infrastructure maintenance needs, and we've taken extra precautions to control erosion, clear storm drain channels and other preparation, knowing El Niño was predicted. We also train regularly for disasters of all types and have plans in place to handle them. For the city to be completely ready, though, we need residents to get prepared too.

There are loads of resources available online with lists of supplies to keep on hand and instructions for creating a family emergency plan. Getting kids involved in the planning is a great way to set an example and give them a sense of responsibility. And, once you have your plan and supplies in place, you will also be ready for other possible emergencies, such as a wildfire or earthquake. To get more information, visit www.carlsbadca.gov and search for "El Niño" or pick up a free preparedness guide at any city building.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By now you are settled into the new year focused on your resolutions, if any. The Superintendent's message reminds us there are always eager students waiting to spread their wings and begin school, while seniors are focused on college / career choices and life after high school. It is an exciting time to be a student.

The feature story was exciting — not every superintendent and principal skydives!

Thank you for reading *School News* and being informed about CUSD. Our next issue is May 11

Covering the
CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

ADVERTISING SALES: Jackie Brann
310/367-9491

jackie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Meshel Negrete

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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A Leader in Health Care Education



Dr. Sunny Cooke
*Superintendent/
 President*

MiraCosta College is helping to heal the world.

From a Surgical Technology Program that is one of just four offered at a community college in California to a new agreement that allows nursing students who graduate from MiraCosta to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing from Point Loma Nazarene University without leaving the Oceanside Campus, MiraCosta College is taking the lead in training tomorrow's health care workers today.

Good thing, too. Health care is among the fastest growing industries in the country.

An aging health care workforce, combined with demand driven in part by the expansion of Medi-Cal and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, will result in an average of 9,230 annual job openings for registered nurses in California through 2022, according to state figures. Nationally, the number of registered nurse positions is expected to grow by more than 439,000 by 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which reported a median annual pay of almost \$67,640 annually for the profession in 2014.

The future is just as bright for surgical technologists, whose job prospects are projected to increase by 15 percent by 2024. In California, the median wage for those in the profession exceeded \$57,000 in 2014.

MiraCosta College's comprehensive offering of health care programs also include training future certified nursing assistants, home health aides and licensed vocational nurses. In addition, a phlebotomy technician program at the recently opened Technology Career Institute in Carlsbad is attracting students from throughout the region.

Best of all, students don't have to spend seemingly endless years in college and graduate school to break into the health care field. The phlebotomy technician program, for example, is comprised of approximately 80 hours of instruction and an additional 40 to 120 hours of clinical externship in a health-care setting. Once completed, students are eligible to take a certification examination offered by the National Health Career Association in class.

San Diego County is among the leading regions when it comes to health care research and education. And thanks to the community's unwavering support over the years, MiraCosta College is among the leading educational systems in the region, providing workforce training in this area.



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Aviara Oaks Middle School (6-8)

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • www.aoms.schoolloop.com



Bryan Brockett
Principal

Falcon Friends Thrives!

Falcon Friends, a program of the Aviara Oaks Middle School PTSA, is thriving again this year, thanks in no small part to the enthusiastic leadership of AOMS dad and Falcon Friends coordinator Brook Gray. Falcon Friends is a group of parent volunteers

who come to campus at lunch to support student activity on the fields. This includes soccer, basketball, Frisbee and football. The students appreciate the opportunity to get some activity during their lunch period, as evidenced by the several hundred students that make the move up to the field each day.



Mr. Gray coordinates the schedule for a core group of about 15 regular Falcon Friends volunteers, and new parent volunteers are welcome to join anytime. The AOMS PTSA provides funding for equipment that the volunteers maintain and pass out to students. In addition to their regular work supporting positive student activities at lunch, the Falcon Friends also teamed with the school to put on a holiday canned food drive to support a local food pantry. With his usual enthusiasm and ability to rally support, Mr. Gray coordinated student and parent volunteers to collect items in front of the school and transport them to the food pantry.

Falcon Friends continues to make a positive impact on the AOMS community every day.

Aviara Oaks Elementary (K-5)

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Leslie Harden
Principal

Making a Difference

Over the past several years, as a part of our mission to “build productive, successful citizens of our community,” Aviara Oaks Elementary School has been establishing a strong connection to service. Working in conjunction with the PTA, and utilizing the student council as our leadership group, the “Kids Give Back” program provides a variety of activities and community service opportunities.

In honor of Veteran’s Day in November, our students collected supplies and treats for our servicemen and women. Letters



were written to thank these veterans for their service and commitment to our country. Working with the Carlsbad Police Department, our students also collected over 400 teddy bears to be presented to the children at Rady’s Children’s Hospital. Our Thanksgiving food drive also collected over 1,400 pounds of food for the less-fortunate families in our Carlsbad community.

Soon December arrived, and with it came our

Adopt-a-Family holiday drive held in partnership with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. Each of our 25 classrooms donated gifts to an adopted family so that their children could have a memorable holiday.

In February we are sponsoring a “Jump Rope for Heart” event in our physical education classes. This is to help build awareness of heart disease and how to prevent it. Throughout the year, coloring books and markers are also being collected for pediatric patients. Book drives are being held for local pediatric offices, and beach clean-ups are being sponsored to help make our students aware of their impact on the environment.

By having our students participate in these events and activities, we are actively reinforcing our monthly character trait discussions, as well as building a strong awareness about our roles and responsibilities in the community.

Working together, our students are learning to make good decisions and contribute to their neighborhoods. They are learning about local issues and how to make strong connections to the larger global community. They also get to see how their actions today can make a difference tomorrow.



Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • www.buenavista.schoolloop.com



Tina Howard
Principal

Blue Dolphins Go Green!

Last school year, our Green Team began small, ensuring that the preparations for their full program this year were in place once students began school in September. Students worked with lead teacher Rosalie Fischer to ensure that every classroom had an appropriate recycle bin and recycling signage, and that students and teachers were educated about how to use the bins effectively.



This year, the Green Team expanded to include three trainers and 17 students in third through fifth grades. Students went through an application process to be selected. Every day of the school week, selected team members put on Green Team vests, take a clipboard and a school map, and go into classrooms and the office to empty single-stream recycle bins into large central recycle bins located in the school's hallways. The members reward classrooms with recognition tickets meant to encourage classroom recycling and schoolwide participation.

The members also keep track of classroom participation by tallying earned tickets on the Green Team Leader Board. If a classroom earns 10 tickets, it is awarded the BV Go Green trophy. The trophy stays with the leading classroom until tickets are earned in another class. The Green Team is also collecting milk cartons that will be used to create a sustainable garden project later this year.

BV's Green Team is thinking green, taking action, and reducing our campus's footprint on this planet. Way to go!

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Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • www.ches.schoolloop.com



Dr. Amy Bryant
Principal

Student Engagement

We know that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), along with strong English and writing skills, are essential for building a foundation to prepare today's students for tomorrow's workforce. Necessary? Yes! But, is it relevant, exciting, and what students want to learn? Yes!

Calavera Hills Elementary School (CHE) is focusing on STEM through Project Lead The Way (PLTW) as the curricular foundation of the school's instructional program. There are no passive learners at CHE; exploration, problem solving, and design refinement increase student involvement at all grade levels and in all subject areas across the campus.



Students in Mrs. Ward's fourth- and fifth-grade combination class have embraced STEM, PLTW, and teamwork as they explore their current module, Vex Robotics, which focuses on using specialized pieces to build robots. Teamwork is a must to as they determine the best design, follow their planned course of action, and test and improve the robots.



Electronic tablets are an integral part of the process; the curriculum from PLTW is accessed through tablet technology. In all classes and in all modules, tablets are used by students as a key resource for understanding STEM curricular concepts and standards. Accessing relevant videos, articles, and resources, students complete projects by solving problems in ways that prepare them for tomorrow's technology-driven workplace.

It's easy to see why students from every background and at learning level can find success in PLTW at CHE! Learning is relevant, cutting-edge, student-driven, and engaging!

Carlsbad Village & Seaside *Academies*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.csa.schoolloop.com
www.cva.schoolloop.com



Jorge Espinoza
Principal

Lab Science and Career Exploration

Seaside Academy provides an opportunity for students to take charge of their own education and pursue outside interests. Students have time to work, take college classes, or get out to the various surf breaks here in beautiful Carlsbad. One of the questions that many parents ask when enrolling their students into the independent study program is how a student satisfies the lab science requirement. The students at Seaside Academy can participate in the various lab times that the school offers.

Friday at 8 a.m. is one of the most popular lab days, where a group of curious and high-energy students conduct physics labs. The teachers and students all eagerly await this lab day. Not only do the students have a good time, but they learn from each other as they conduct experiments. Katy Heritage and Shannon Schmitt are the teachers that guide their students through lab, and they look forward to the group coming together to laugh and learn.

The seniors at Carlsbad Village Academy are getting closer to ending their high school careers. This creates a great deal of uncertainty. The big question looms: what will come after graduation? This question can be answered by helping the students learn about themselves. In December, nearly all of the seniors took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). Each student who took the test has been given a full report, which helps them to identify occupations that are in line with their interests. The scores also provide information for the students about where their strengths and weaknesses are in areas such as verbal, math, science, and technical knowledge. Finally the Military Entrance Score determines if a student meets the qualifications needed for entry into the various branches of the service. Needless to say, these results have given the seniors some important information about directions they can take after high school. The goal of this activity was to get the students to think about their lives. Based on the conversations the students are having, we can say it is a mission accomplished.

School News



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Calavera Hills *Middle School (6–8)*

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Michael Ecker
Principal

Overcoming the Greatest Hurdles

The art of learning is complex, and the act of creating an effective learning environment is a feat to be taken seriously. With the support of the Carlsbad Education Foundation, Calavera Hills is busy creating a “Maker Space” that will serve as a hub for hands-on, project-based learning.

The space itself will be made up of flexible furniture that allows students to either work on tables or have open floor space when needed. Since the space will be used for many different learning objectives, and because we have a limited budget, each piece of furniture will have multiple uses.

For example, the core of the lab will be 10 whiteboard tables. These will be used for students to write on while they sit and collaborate with partners. The tables will be on casters for moving into different group situations, and fold down to become presentation boards or partitions. They will also nest with each other for easy storage.

The space will also house 3-D printers, a CNC machine, arduino kits, and more. But it is the space, and not the tech, that we believe will be the catalyst for creativity. A Maker Space is also a place that encourages students to tinker and prototype solutions. It is a place for our students to create, think, and dream.

At Calavera Hills, we believe that the sweet spot of education is the intersection of fun and hard, and so it will also be a place to design solutions for difficult problems but in engaging ways. We will fail. Yet, it is through our failures that we can learn to overcome the most difficult hurdles.

Our Maker Space will also be utilized by elementary students as young as five years, and by middle school students as old as 14. The applications will be diverse. Students can use the space for designing robots or taking courses in CAD design and 3-D modeling. They will use it to better understand proportions and geometry, as well as create parts for rockets that they will fire into the sky.

Sometimes the space will be an art room, as students create glass mosaics for cross-curricular activities and school beautification. Sometimes it will be a place to create replicas of historic civilizations. Whatever the application, we aim to build a space that can handle the challenge.

In the end, this space will belong to the students. We like to say that if our students can dream it, then they can build it. Dream big, Coyotes.

Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com



Dr. Joshua Porter
Principal

Proud Accomplishments

By Emma Veidt, Co-Editor-in-Chief – The Lancer Link

The Carlsbad High School (CHS) Lancers are known for their school spirit, and this year is no exception. In November, CHSTV produced a 30-second promotional video for the nationwide Celebrate My Drive competition. The video promoted safe teen driving, with two hands on the wheel and two eyes on the road. Carlsbad High became one of the 22 contenders for a \$100,000 grant. Due to the high number of votes submitted by Carlsbad students and community members, Carlsbad High won the grant

and was selected as the grand-prize winner of a private Echsmith concert for the student body, which will take place in February. CHSTV will be using part of the grant to produce public service announcements that support the sponsoring insurance company’s mission of safe driving for teens. The rest of the grant will help CHSTV update their technology in the studio as they continue producing their award-winning daily broadcast.

In January, CHS hosted a Financial Aid Night for students preparing for their future. The nonprofit organization Higher Education Financial Aid Resources (HERFAR) ran the seminar. The specialists presented a PowerPoint that gave students insight into college expenses. Over 200 families from all grade levels sat in to discover how to have a fiscally responsible future.



Autumn and winter can be stressful times for seniors who face college application deadlines. However, the work our dedicated students have put in is evident as they begin to hear back from those colleges. Students have already been accepted into elite institutions, including Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, Santa Clara University, University of Missouri, Columbia University, and California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. Students will continue to hear from colleges throughout the year.

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 Carlsbad in the subject line)

Entries must be received by March 15, 2016.

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

- | | | |
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| BRAKES | GLOVES | PEDALS |
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| CHAIN GUARD | GRIPS | SEAT |
| CRANK | HANDLEBARS | SPOKES |
| FENDERS | HELMET | TIRES |
| FORK | KICKSTAND | WHEELS |

**Congratulations to November Winners
Aryan Mudliar and Andy Martinez!**

Bicycle Parts–Word Search Contest

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

Hope Elementary (K-6)

3010 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5900 • www.hope.schoolloop.com



Richard Tubbs
Principal

Mrs. Nelson Is Awesome!

We are very pleased to introduce one of our Hope Hawk teachers, Mrs. Nelson.

From Mrs. Nelson

Teaching and learning have always been important parts of my life. I appreciate the natural curiosity of youth, and I love watching children discover their world. My first-grade teacher, Mrs. Welch, sparked my love for reading with the book *Where the Wild Things Are*. I still own my worn copy of the book from so many years ago, and I have enjoyed reading it time and time again with my own children!

I grew up in Sonoma County, California and began my teaching career there. I relocated to Carlsbad 12 years ago, and I'm still discovering the beauty of San Diego County. I have an incredibly supportive husband, who works in the science field for a San Diego company. I also have three amazing children, Brad, Ben, and Emily, who attend Carlsbad schools. I also have a cuddly and crazy dog named Murphy. I love spending time with my family! We enjoy traveling together, hiking at Torrey Pines, and visiting the beach. I've loved watching my children



Our fun loving, Mrs. Nelson.



Mrs. Nelson with some of her super star students.

grow, and I have learned many tips and tricks for parenting and teaching from them along the way!

Over the years, I've taught many subjects and grade levels, including kindergarten, first, third, fourth grades, and drama. I am so happy to be teaching at Hope Elementary School! What I love most about my job is how my students make me laugh each and every day! At the end of each day, it is my hope that I've sparked a new interest in my students, inspiring them to learn and grow.

Jefferson Elementary (K-5)

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • www.jefferson.schoolloop.com



Chad Lund
Principal

Aiming Towards Success

Parent University is currently in its second year at Jefferson. Dr. Beatriz Villarreal, who heads the Mano a Mano Foundation, regularly provides support to parents in their native language about many of the more important issues that our families struggle with

today. The Mano a Mano Foundation was funded to provide support and education to the Latino population in San Diego. It is aimed at educating Latino youth by helping to lead them towards success, and to avoid the common pitfalls of drugs and gangs.

Parent University is the brainchild of the Carlsbad Unified School District. It was established to bridge needed gaps, such as technology use. At Jefferson, we are able to take this one step further to address our families in their home language.

Dr. Villarreal does just that, and she doesn't pull any punches in the process! She is able to convey some very serious and important messages, but without losing their meaning. She also lets our parents know what they need to do to help their children become successful in life.

She is no stranger to some of these issues herself. She emigrated from Mexico City to San Diego to attend USD. She later earned a master's degree followed by a doctoral degree, both in education. She then worked in juvenile detention as a counselor, and eventually started the Mano a Mano Foundation.

Dr. Villarreal is providing our community with much-needed information that will help children be successful in our ever-changing world. This continuing program will run until March 2 here at Jefferson.



Kelly Elementary (K-5)

4885 Kelly Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • www.kelly.schoolloop.com



Tressie Armstrong
Principal

May the Force Be With You!

Every fourth Thursday of the month at lunchtime, Kelly Elementary School students are treated to a Star Wars Club, where the message is "Reach for the stars through inclusion!"

Spearheaded by one of our incredible instructional aides, Sharlene McQuerry, and her side-kick, Tommy Benton, the vice president of the club, the Star Wars Club was born. Too often students who receive extra support in our learning centers worry that it's "not the place to be." Not so at Kelly! Everyone wants to go to room 25, because it is, in student terms, "fun!" and, in adult terms, "engaging!"



The Star Wars Club is one way our learning center provides the opportunity for all children to be involved and engaged and to bring everyone together. All ability levels share in the activities, including a visit from a true Storm Trooper, Chewy and Han Solo photo opportunities, Star Wars origami art, and movie analysis. Academically, the students are challenged to compare and contrast the original Star Wars movies with the new, provide opinions on who makes the best villain, make predictions of what will occur in the next movie, journal about Star Wars, and much, much more.

Star Wars Club is a rousing success. The first month, there were three visitors in a classroom. By the second month, the club needed to move to the media center because there was not enough room to hold all of the attendees. There truly is something super special about seeing all students working together in an environment of engagement, academics, social and emotional support, and current events.

Thank you to the team of Nancyann Hensch, Mirande Cornell, and Sharlene McQuerry for providing such great opportunities for all students! May the Force be with you!

Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5600 • www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jimmy Hines
Principal

Affordable Technology

We here at Magnolia Elementary feel fortunate to be chosen as one of a handful of schools in Carlsbad Unified to be part of a pilot program that utilizes Chromeboxes in our computer lab this school year.

Simply put, a Chromebox offers a less expensive means of having a working desktop computing station in our lab that can also handle all of the tasks and programs that we currently support for instructional purposes. The Lenovo Chromeboxes that our district decided to purchase rely completely upon an internet connection for all software functions. In short, they are entirely web-based.



5th grade student, Will Barton, utilizing the computing power of our new Chromebox stations.

In reality, our district IT team deserves the credit in regards to creating greater efficiencies and with a lower overall price tag. Our IT team has offered a creative solution to meet instructional needs with an initial low cost, and they have successfully made it possible to retain a lower replacement cost moving forward. Hopefully, this will be a model that all of our schools will be able to benefit from, and one that we can further grow to each of our classrooms' student computing stations as well.

Receiving the new Chromeboxes has allowed us to disperse our existing desktops in the computer lab to other classrooms to help further support our teachers and students. At a very low cost, we were able to upgrade our older desktops so that the antiquated machines could handle the various tasks that only newer machines had the capacity for. This technology transition ensures that our teachers will be able to keep pace with all of the responsibilities and tasks that our newer software programs (Achieve 3000, Illuminate, Aeries, etc.) offer and require.

Valley *Middle School (6-8)*

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • www.vms.schoolloop.com



Tom Bloomquist
Principal

What Community Achieves

As first semester quickly comes to a close, it offers us a moment to reflect on what makes Valley such a special place. It is not only the fact that we have outstanding staff members, awesome students with heart, a terrific group of parents and supportive family members, and a great facility—it is also the fact that all those things come together to form the Valley community, a community of high expectations and support that encourages everyone involved to participate and share in the joy of learning.

In classrooms throughout campus, you will find students involved in work that requires careful analysis, the synthesis of information, and the development of complex arguments that cite evidentiary support. As a direct result of fund-raising campaigns, we have been able to put more technology in the hands of students. English, social science, science and math courses all use some online components with which students can gain access to in-depth reading and curriculum within arm's reach of a computer or a smartphone.

In February, our award-winning broadcasting teacher, Doug Green, will be officially named and celebrated as a California Teacher of the Year. The Valley community is extremely excited to share in the recognition of such an incredible teacher and program.

As we move into second semester, it is with a great sense of pride and appreciation of our staff, students and community for joining together to support one another in this journey of education.

Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com



Robert Devich
Principal

Expanding Student Knowledge

Pacific Rim's Computer Science Week and Hour of Code events were held in early December. Our goal for this week was to show our parents, teachers, and students that computer science can be fun and easy to learn!

The Hour of Code is a global movement, and one of the largest learning events in history. It consists of a one-hour introduction to computer science that is designed to demystify code and show that anyone can learn its basics. Pacific Rim was one of more than 120,000 schools from across the globe that signed up this year to participate.



Members of Carlsbad Unified and Carlsbad School board visited classrooms during the week.

Our students participated in a variety of activities that week – both high-tech and “unplugged” – in the school's computer lab and with their Chromebooks. They also participated in various take-home activities, including downloading a coding app on a mobile device; teaching a parent how to code; listening to experts in the field of computer engineering; visiting websites dedicated to teaching engineering and digital literacy skills; and practicing keyboarding on a web-based browser.



Students learned to code in the computer lab using games like Minecraft and Angry Birds.

In early December, we had several special visitors from the Carlsbad School Board and School District who were interested in watching our students engage in coding activities. They witnessed classrooms buzzing with excitement as K-5 students learned the basics of coding. Several students even used these skills to create original art pieces, puzzles, and new video games.

Our kindergarten students also showed off their computing skills by using code-driven “Bee-bots” to help understand computing basics during a literacy lesson. Our community looks forward to watching these students increase their technological skills and expand their knowledge about computer science.

Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



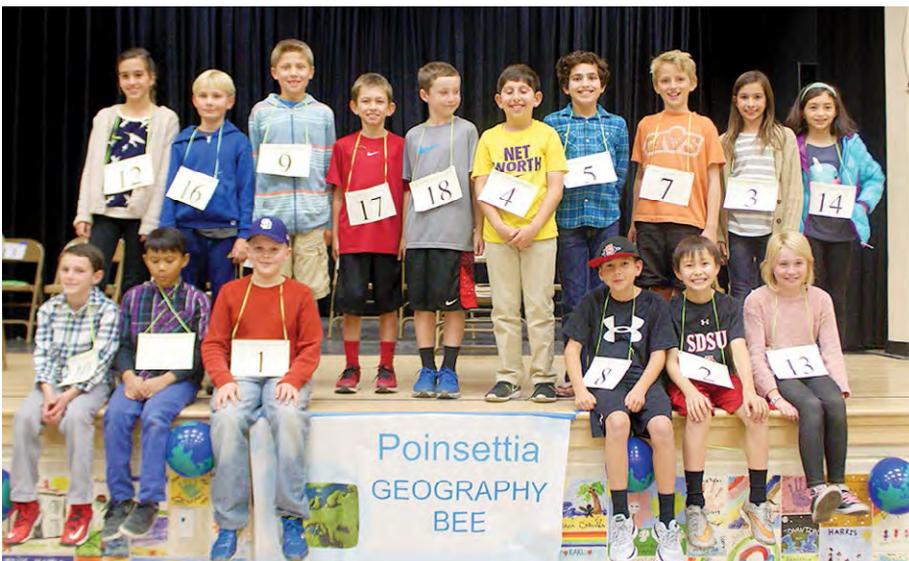
Marjorie Giordani
Principal

World of Knowledge!

Poinsettia conducted its annual geography bee with fourth- and fifth-grade students. This is the 28th year that the National Geographic Society has had the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades. Thousands of schools across the United States participate in the bee, and Poinsettia is the only participating elementary school in Carlsbad.



Geography Bee.



The winner of this year's bee is Nate DeCamp, a fifth-grade student. The runner-up is Kruna Masic, with Jack Wright coming in a close third. All fourth- and fifth-grade students were given a written pretest, and the top 25 were invited to compete in the Geographic Bee. The questions focus on U.S. geography, cities in the United States, historical places in the United States, world geography, cultural geography, and the continents. Most of this information is not covered in the elementary curriculum, so these students have shown a passion for learning about the world around them. If you want to test your own geography knowledge, go to www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee.



Jump Rope for the Heart.

In other areas, Poinsettia has been focused on the community. We are participating in Jump Rope for the Heart in January to raise money for the American Heart Association, we helped "Stuff the Bus" with the Girl Scouts in December, and we are participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. Knowing the needs of the community and learning ways to help as a school comprise an awesome experience.

Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600 • www.sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Cesar Morales
Principal

I Know Who I Am

The Sage Creek High School experience prepares graduates for college and career success. Equally important, it inspires all students to discover and apply their personal strengths, talents and passions.

The Sage Creek counseling team is leading the charge to inspire each student to understand his or her skills and strengths. This academic year, all ninth-grade students kicked off their high school career by completing the Strong Interest Inventory online assessment that informs them about careers, education programs and work environments that align with their personalities and interests. Furthermore, students received feedback on their talents and strengths as well as industry sectors that they may be interested in exploring, including related occupations within each sector. Then at the midyear point, students participated in the Strengths Explorer and Do What You Are assessments to further explore natural patterns of thought, personality traits and careers that match their interests.

By accessing feedback early in their high school career, students can then tailor the many opportunities offered by Sage Creek's trimester schedule. Students can interweave college-prep, honors and advanced-placement courses; dabble in a diverse electives menu that includes courses in the visual and performing arts, technical courses in engineering, architecture design, biomedical science and digital photography; and immerse themselves in one of the three world languages offered: American Sign Language, Chinese and Spanish.

Genius Project Criteria

IMPACT
on our community

PASSION
for learning

CHALLENGE
to ourselves

The Genius Project

The Sage Creek Genius Project originates from Google's 20 percent policy in which employees are encouraged to take 20 percent of their work week to innovate and create. The Sage Creek staff firmly believes that students will be future ready and successful if the academic experience is connected to students' strengths, talents and passion while providing guidance and time. At Sage Creek High School, 11th-grade students initiate their Genius Project by selecting something they want to research or learn and then pitch their ideas in a shark-tank-like presentation to the onsite project manager, their English teacher and a content-area mentor, a professional in the field, or a community member. The two-year project culminates with a TED Talk-style presentation at the end of the student's senior year.

The net goal of the Sage Creek High School experience is to merge two key experiences: aligning each student's strengths, talents and passions to their academic experience, and challenging students to be innovative.



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