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# School News

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**Covering the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District**

Volume 1, Issue 2

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

September 2016

## It is Going to Be Another Great School Year!



Mira Catalina Elementary students look forward to continuing music in the classroom.



Looking forward to another Pep Rally like last year's first ever RIS Pep Rally when Mad Scientists Lip Synced (Oschman, Cordova, Seymour, Barbara)



Silver Spur Elementary students had fun last year.

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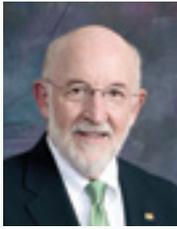
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# Board of Education



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**Suzanne Seymour**  
*Member*

## Leading a Dedicated Team



**Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

I am proud to enter my third year as Superintendent of Schools for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD). This district is special in many ways and is comprised of amazing students, dedicated staff members, and an engaged community. This edition is dedicated to meeting some of the leaders of our schools as we embark on what we expect to be the best year in the history of our district!

My wife, Paula, and I have three amazing children of our own. Two are away at college, and our youngest is a junior in high school. After growing up in Chula Vista, I headed to Baker University in Kansas to play football, earn my degree, and eventually meet my wife. It happens that those things occurred in the reverse order of importance!

Throughout my more than 20 years in education, I have discovered that nothing great happens without the right people in critical positions. This is true of our site principals, coaches, custodians, teachers, assistants, counselors, security, Board members, secretaries, and the host of proud employees who call PVPUSD home. In our case, this team is expanded to include unparalleled volunteerism, advocacy, donations, and support efforts from caring adults. It is a beautiful thing to observe when all of the pieces are working in harmony.

I have the advantage of visiting classrooms, fields, and stages often. I wish everyone had the same opportunity. From my vantage point, the experiences our students receive here are beyond anything most of us can imagine. It is my desire to stoke the fire and continue our journey from great to world class! Please celebrate our progress by following us on Twitter @pvpschools or @DonAustin\_PVP.

## A Legacy of Service

*By Malcolm S. Sharp, President Board of Education*

I was elected to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) Board of Education in November 2005 and re-elected in 2009 and 2013. Between 1999 and 2005, I served as a trustee of the Peninsula Education Foundation and served two terms as president.

Between 1983 and 2002, I worked for the University of Southern California in the School of Public Policy as an instructor and a project director involved in the administration of the university's information system. Between 1990 and 2002, I directed the Metro-Apex urban gaming simulation, a core component within the school's undergraduate program. Previously I taught at the elementary and middle school levels in Memphis, Tennessee.

A native of New Jersey, I moved with my family to Memphis while I was in high school. In 1972 I earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi and in 1977 a master's degree in education from the University of Memphis.

My wife, Wayne, and I moved to Palos Verdes in 1983. We have been married for 40 years and have two sons, ages 31 and 29, who both went through the PVPUSD. Our son Ben is a captain for Republic Airlines and is based in Pittsburgh, PA. He and his wife, Alyssa, presented us with our first grandchild in June. Our son Will is a professional scout for the Houston Astros and, along with his wife, Tatiana, lives in Athens, GA.

I come from a family dedicated to public service. My grandfather, Arthur P. Schalick, served 10 terms on the Board of Education of Pittsgrove Township, New Jersey. The local high school is named for him as a tribute to his public service.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the PVPUSD for over a quarter century.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Neta Madison*  
Netragrednik

# School News

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Covering the  
**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA  
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Welcome back to another school year. This is always an exciting time when students look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones, meeting new teachers, finding their way around campus, and settling into a schedule.

This issue we asked the leaders to write about themselves. It is always fun to learn where they went to school, about their families, pets, etc. We appreciate all they do. Superintendent Dr. Austin begins with his article on page 3 and his enthusiasm bounces off of the page! He has every reason to be proud of the district's students and staff and the supportive community.

We have added a column from Kathy Gould, Director of the Palos Verdes Library District. In her article below on this page, she introduces herself and the librarians who you'll meet on your library visits.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. We will be publishing the excellence from PVPUSD October, December, February, April and June.

We had so many entries in our Word Search Contest last issue and the winner is posted on page 15 where you will find the new contest. Thank you for your messages as you emailed your answers. Remember the contests are open to all ages.

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# Peninsula Education Foundation

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**Christine Byrne**  
Executive Director

## Supporting Our Schools

For the 2016–17 school year, the Peninsula Education Foundation has increased our pledge to PVPUSD to \$3.5 million. The additional funds will be used to support the PEF School Site Tech Squad. By increasing needed hours for technology specialists at all school levels, we can meet continually increasing technological demands and keep essential technology working for our children at each school site. An increase in technology hours frees our teachers to teach rather than spend precious instructional time on technology-related issues. Keep an eye out for the School Site Tech Squad specialist on your campus!

Fall being around the corner means that it's time for families to get their walking shoes ready! Save the date for the Skechers Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk on Sunday,

Oct. 23. We had a great turnout last year, and we are excited to have everyone participate again. An amazing turnout coupled with the matching funds from Skechers resulted in \$240,000 raised in support of our schools. I hope to see you all out there this October! Remember, if you can't be there, you can join as a virtual walker.

Growing up in Palos Verdes, I benefited from the amazing education I received through PVPUSD. As a parent, I wanted my children to also receive the world-class education offered in our school district, and it is this motivation that brought me back. Even before I stepped into the role of executive director for the Peninsula Education Foundation, I have been supporting PEF's mission to ensure that the children throughout PVPUSD are receiving the best education and support possible to help them become the successful leaders of tomorrow. I am very excited to be in my new position and am looking forward to the amazing school year that lies ahead of us!

## PVP Council of PTAs

### Welcome!

*By Beth Meyerhoff, President,  
and Lori Siembieda, Publicity Chair*

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Council of PTAs is excited to embark upon the 2016–17 school year with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District and Board, all school sites, parents, teachers and the greater Palos Verdes community to make this an exceptional school year! For the past 60 years, the PVP Council has coordinated 16 PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations) and PTSAs (Parent Teacher Student Associations) throughout Palos Verdes to coordinate the National PTA Reflections program, organize Mock Elections and the Capital Convoy Sacramento lobbying trip, fund disaster and safety training, and run the truly unique Costume Closet.

Each school site varies in the programs that its PTA/PTSA provides, dependent upon the school level. For example, PTA programs and enrichment can include cultural assemblies; field trips; Art at Your Fingertips; Red, Yellow and Green Ribbon Weeks; honorary service awards; disaster preparedness; parent education, and numerous other programs specific to the various schools. None of these programs would be offered at any Palos Verdes school were it not for the support at each school. Support for these programs comes in various forms—directing drive donations, PTA/PTSA membership for each family, and thousands of hours of parent volunteer work. Each of these is vitally important to the continuation of these PTA programs in our schools.

As you begin this school year looking for ways to support your school, please consider the important first step of a PTA membership for you and your family. Not only

does this support the programs that parents and students have come to expect at our schools but it also provides you with a voice at your school site and in the National PTA organization that advocates on behalf of all our children. Involvement in your PTA provides a great way to be involved in your children's school in ways both big and small, and it helps make a tremendous difference in our community.

I am honored to serve for a second year as council president with our dedicated executive board and school presidents. My family moved to Palos Verdes for the schools, and PTA provides me with a way to support my children in their schools.

PTA continues to offer all parents and teachers an opportunity to advocate and support our students in our community. I welcome your suggestions through our e-mail. We look forward to welcoming you at one of our many PTA events this year!

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## Cornerstone @ Pedregal *Elementary School*

6069 Groveoak Pl., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-2261 • 310/378-0324



**Jeff Keeney**  
*Principal*

### **A Supportive Community**

My name is Jeff Keeney, and I am the proud principal of Cornerstone @ Pedregal Elementary School. I am delighted to begin my 18th year with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD).

I grew up locally and attended school in San Pedro, CA. After graduating, I received my bachelor's degree in elementary education from Arizona State University. I

began my career in 1999 as a fifth-grade teacher at Vista Grande Elementary School, where I taught for five years. In 2003, I received my master's degree along with my administrative credential from the University of La Verne. I then taught second grade at Vista Grande for two years. In the summer of 2006, I was selected as the principal of Mira Catalina Elementary School, where I served for seven years. In the summer of 2013, I was asked to lead Cornerstone @ Pedregal Elementary School, and I am thrilled to begin my fourth year as the principal.

My beautiful wife, Kristin, and I have been married for 13 years, and we have two wonderful boys, 10 and 8, who attend school in the PVPUSD. In my spare time, I love to play outdoors with my family and friends, golf, go freshwater



boating, watch sports, work out, and illustrate cartoons.

Cornerstone @ Pedregal is an exemplary, cooperative, community of staff, administration, parents, and students. As collaborative partners striving to go beyond standards and address the needs of the whole child, teachers meaningfully utilize trained parents, and parents commit to supporting teachers effectively. A sense of community abounds on campus with numerous extracurricular activities driven by resourceful and creative parents, encouraged and supported by administration, and loved by students. This exceptional academic, social, and cultural experience contributes to the development of responsible, confident, and well-rounded students prepared for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

## Dapplegray *Elementary School*

3011 Palos Verdes Dr. North, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-7303 • 310/541-3706



**Nancy Parsons**  
*Principal*

### **And I Get to Go to School!**

Research proves that a high percentage of first-born children are successful in school and end up in academic careers. As the oldest sibling with seven younger brothers, my selecting a career in education was not a conscious decision so much as it was the natural progression from bossy older sister to teacher to administrator!

My Midwestern upbringing in a small town in Kansas established a strong work ethic as well. It also established my belief that you treat everyone with fairness and kindness, and set the expectation to always do your best.

I attended Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in education. I began my teaching career immediately after graduation in a beautiful two-story brick building three miles from the original site of the landmark Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education

decision. I also completed a Master's in Elementary Education at Kansas State University within my first few years of teaching. Continuing education and professional development have always fueled my enthusiasm for learning, and my belief that quality teaching is the key to student success.

With my husband's employment with the FBI, I had the opportunity to relocate several times; eventually teaching in Northern and Southern California, Virginia, and Arizona. My experience in multiple states and school districts has allowed me to continue to learn, grow, and benefit from working with exemplary educators from coast to coast.

While my heart will always be in the classroom, the possibility of an FBI transfer prompted me to get an administrative credential at California State University at Fullerton late in my career.

Throughout my years in education I have always felt fortunate to have been able to say, "I don't have to go to work, I get to go to school!" Please visit Dapplegray School anytime to find out just what that means.



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# Lunada Bay *Elementary School*

520 Paseo Lunado, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-4377 • 310/377-3005



**Julie Tarango**  
*Principal*

## **A Community That Cares**

Lunada Bay Elementary School is nestled on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean in a place we call home. It is here that we live our core value of “one community” from our school district to our campus. Families continue to gather on the front lawn as new generations come to attend school here.

While our traditions run deep, our community is

very welcoming to many newcomers from around the world. I love the stories parents tell me about their experiences as students!

Growing up in Wisconsin, I was accustomed to elementary schools with sledding hills and snowy days. Lured by the beauty of southern California, I moved here 12 years ago to begin my career as a third-grade teacher in Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. When I arrived at Lunada Bay last summer, the warm welcome I received from the staff and families

made me feel like I was right at home. I can't get enough of the ocean views from our campus! This is a special place in a world-class school district.

Our academic programs offer students rich experiences in the arts and sciences. Our fine arts program has been inspiring students for 14 years. This integrated and critical program offers students experiences in all genres of the arts, developing life skills such as

creativity, communication, collaboration and presentation skills. Students gain confidence, poise, and respect for the arts. To further our “one community” approach, we align, partner and collaborate with our neighboring “big brother and sister” schools, Palos Verdes Intermediate School and Palos Verdes High School, to inspire students with science. Middle and high school students mentor our students at our annual Science Field Day, help at Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Build Day, and support our science events throughout the year. Collaboration is powerful!

Lunada Bay Elementary is a community that cares for one another. Welcome!



**Science Field Day 2016 PVHS**

# Mira Catalina *Elementary School*

30511 Lucania Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-6272 • 310/377-6731



**Brett Egan**  
*Principal*

## **Giving Thanks**

I am very honored to be the principal of Mira Catalina Elementary School. This will be the start of my third year as principal, and my thirteenth year as an administrator with the

PVPUSD. I feel very lucky to work at a place where the students are engaged, the staff is amazing, and the parents are so supportive.

Mira Catalina is a special school, one where the faculty balances the importance of instructional rigor while also supporting the “whole child.” This strong commitment allows our students to grow into well-rounded individuals. Our teachers also focus on preparing their students for the challenges of today while also looking forward to what tomorrow may bring.

We strive to emphasize creative problem solving and critical thinking through open-ended classroom instructional strategies. This balanced approach results



**Outdoor education. Learning happens everywhere at Mira Cat!**

in our students moving into intermediate school as confident, compassionate, and knowledgeable young people. Much of our school's success is due to the ongoing support from our families and members of the community.

Our PTA for instance offers enriching activities to the students both during and beyond the school day. In fact, we could not provide the fantastic experiences we do at Mira Catalina without the support of our wonderful PTA. We also receive support from the Peninsula

Education Foundation (PEF), which assists with our elementary music program, our STEM program, and technology help at the school. This commitment to our current and future students can be seen every day on the Mira Catalina campus in both our teachers and parent volunteers.

Mira Catalina is a special place. We will continue to support all of our students by motivating them to “win the day” and be the best that they can be. Go, Mira Cat!

## Miraleste *Intermediate School*

29323 Palos Verdes Dr. East, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-6470 • 310/732-0900



**Brent Kuykendall**  
*Principal*

### Challenges and Opportunities

Education and connecting with young people has always been a passion of mine!

I realized this early on, and even as a teenager I took steps to prepare myself by coaching athletes and volunteering on elementary school campuses. I am also a proud product of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. I grew up on the hill and attended Vista Grande, Ridgecrest, and Peninsula High School before heading off to

Arizona for my undergraduate degree.

I was later fortunate to have the opportunity to return to my alma mater (Vista Grande) to complete my student teaching and credentialing process. This led to substitute teaching at multiple levels across the district before being invited to join the first faculty of Ridgecrest Intermediate when it re-opened in 2000.

I then enjoyed nine years as a middle school math and physical education teacher before transitioning to administration with the assistant principal position at Miraleste Intermediate. I have since worked at Palos Verdes High School, and Ridgecrest Intermediate, before returning to Miraleste in 2015 as its principal.

During this journey I have enjoyed each of my positions

and school sites, and have been able to work alongside some of the most talented educators around while also building strong relationships with the community. Most importantly, I have gotten to know our students. I am always amazed at the caliber of the young people that we as a district are able to produce. As a community, we benefit from a balance of dedicated students, involved parents, and amazing educators!

I am also a local parent, which gives me the unique opportunity to appreciate this district from another angle. My three children will soon be entering the kindergarten, second, and fourth grades at Soleado Elementary School. They love going to school, and I have seen how they are growing both academically and emotionally all along the way. This ever-changing aspect of my life helps me to appreciate the opportunities and challenges of raising a young person in today's society. Like all parents, I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments, and look forward to seeing how they will continue to thrive.

I anticipate another great year as a proud member of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. This is an amazing place to raise a family, and I can't wait to continue to work with the students, staff, and community to help support our ongoing success and growth as a world class institution.

## Point Vicente *Elementary School*

30540 Rue de la Pierre, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-5364 • 310/377-6972



**Beth Hadley**  
*Principal*

### A Passion for Literacy

By way of introduction, I would like to share that I think I am a little like Mrs. Piggleswick from the children's book series, the Harry Potter character I identify with most is Professor McGonagall, and my favorite movie character is Annie Savoy from Bull Durham.

I was raised in the great state of Ohio, a stone's throw from Ohio State University, and I remain a diehard Buckeye fan. I graduated from Syracuse University and then moved to beautiful California. After I married my wonderful husband, Leonard Hernandez, we settled in the South Bay. I completed my master's degree at California State University, Long Beach and started teaching in Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) in 1995. After completing my administrative credential at Loyola Marymount University, I became an assistant principal in 2003 and worked at Palos Verdes, Ridgecrest, and Miraleste Intermediate schools before coming to Point Vicente Elementary School in 2012. My children, Nick and Julia, attended PVPUSD schools, and I can say with conviction and pride that from

my perspective as a parent, teacher, and administrator, PVPUSD values good teaching and is committed to world-class schools.

I love my work, but my treasured outside interests include knitting and gardening—and I love to read. Developing literacy skills and a love of reading in students is my most passionate goal. My other priority is promoting research and support for childhood cancer. I became a “cancer mom” in 2010, when my daughter (then a sophomore at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School) was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, a rare, aggressive form of childhood leukemia. We are one of the lucky families—after a seven-month hospitalization, Julia regained her health and reached the five-year survivor milestone last year. My experience supporting her throughout this challenge has helped me to be more prepared to understand the needs of families enduring crisis.

My vision for Point Vicente is this: I can. I care. I count. I want each child and each staff member to recognize his or her unique skills, to be emotionally invested in the school experience, and to feel valued and appreciated. I'm very proud of the Point Vicente school community, and we welcome your support.

## Montemalaga *Elementary School*

1121 Via Nogales, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-1671 • 310/378-5228



**Jody Pastell**  
*Principal*

### Teaching Is My Life!

Making a difference for every single student has always been a goal of mine in all educational settings where I have worked.

With an undergraduate degree in Spanish and elementary education,

I began my career with teaching bilingual education for Los Angeles Unified School District. Half of the day subjects were taught in Spanish, and during the other half of the day, curriculum was presented in English. I recall getting to know the families at Union Avenue Elementary well since all teachers spent time doing several afternoons of home visits.

I took a leave from teaching after getting married and having children. When our four children were very young, I was the PTA president and was very involved with running the library at our neighborhood school. I truly enjoyed working with the school community and returned to be a classroom teacher just as soon as our youngest was in kindergarten. I have taught at the elementary and intermediate levels: Rancho Vista, grades two and three; and Palos Verdes Intermediate, grades seven and eight—math and Spanish! I earned a master's degree in education



**Students enjoy the challenges of being "Principal for a day"**

with an emphasis in counseling from the University of La Verne and continued to study at California State University, Dominguez Hills for my clear administrative credential. At Palos Verdes Intermediate School, I was the director of activities and the assistant principal before becoming an elementary school principal for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District in 1999. Additional leadership opportunities have been outstanding and very worthwhile experiences: mentor teacher; director of curriculum and instruction, UCLA Principals Academy; and currently, the principal at Montemalaga Elementary.

### Award-Winning Curriculum

Montemalaga Elementary provides a very nurturing, safe and rigorous educational environment for all students in transitional kindergarten through grade five. All grade-level teams value the importance of students doing their personal best daily. Montemalaga recently earned

the National Blue Ribbon Award for academic excellence and the State Gold Ribbon Award for our outstanding writing program. Additionally, parent involvement and encouraging lifelong learners continue to be a primary focus of our school. Working with the excellent staff and families in our community is truly a pleasure!

## Palos Verdes *Intermediate School*

2161 Via Olivera, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-1983 • 310/544-4816



**Frank Califano**  
*Principal*

### A Fabulous Place

We have all had tough days at work: a meeting not going well, technology not working during the essential part of the presentation, family issues at home, some unexpected news.

In my nine years as principal of Palos Verdes Intermediate School, I have had my share of all of those. But when needed, a short walk down to the school's back gate usually cures what ails me. From that back gate, on a clear day, I can see the Santa Monica Mountains, Point Dume, the west end of Catalina, and when lucky, Santa Barbara Island. Normally that view and a couple of deep breaths of sea air make me realize what a fabulous job I have.

PVIS has always been a high-achieving school. The reasons for that success are clear: a very supportive community and school district, great students, and most importantly, an incredible teaching staff. PVIS has a group of professionals unlike any that I have had the privilege of working with in my 30 years as an educator. Their teamwork turns wide-eyed sixth-grade babies into eighth-grade young men and women ready to tackle the social and academic challenges of high school.

As we prepare for a new school year, I want to thank Dr. Charles Park from Palos Verdes High School, and Julie Tarango from Lunada Bay Elementary, for partnering with PVIS in our application for the Golden Bell Award. Our topic was the incredible STEM program that spans all three schools. Working as a team was a victory whether we win the award or not!

# Palos Verdes *High School*

600 Cloyden Rd., Palos Verdes, Estates, CA 90274-1869 • 310/378-8471



**Charles Park, Ed.D.**  
*Principal*

## School Is Home

Palos Verdes High School (PVHS) is one of the best high schools in the world, and I am humbled and grateful to serve as our school's principal. PVHS excels in the arts, athletics and academics and has done so since 1961. With multiple CIF championships and seniors going to colleges all around the world, PV High is a destination high school that offers something for every student.



**Our PVIT High Altitude Balloon**

Born in Seoul, Korea and an immigrant to the U.S. at the age of 7, I was welcomed to second grade by Mrs. Geeson, who taught me English and the notion that school is home. I felt welcomed and nurtured in her class, and that initial feeling has never left me. To this day, I know that I entered into education because I wanted to give back to the very place that gave me so much; I see the same provided for my own two daughters, who attend PV schools.

The partnership we have with our sister schools of Palos Verdes Intermediate and Lunada Bay Elementary is special, as we partner on STEM activities in a multilevel collaborative environment. Palos Verdes Institute for Technology (PVIT) is one of our signature programs that give our students opportunities to rise to amazing levels in engineering projects.

What sets PVHS apart from the rest is our no-nonsense approach to making our high school a good fit for every student and customizing our educational offerings. In the end, students create a high school experience that is as unique as they are.

Welcome to the Home of the Sea Kings, and please contact me to get to know our school even better at [parkc@pvpusd.net](mailto:parkc@pvpusd.net).

# Palos Verdes Peninsula *High School*

27118 Silver Spur Rd., Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-2300 • 310/377-4888



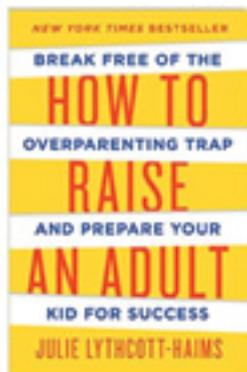
**Mitzi Cress**  
*Principal*

## Our Panther Family

Joining our Peninsula High staff as a counselor in 1995 was a real homecoming for me, since I am both a product of our school district and a fourth generation member of this community. Later I served as an associate principal for 10 years before becoming the school's principal in 2010.

Over these last six years we have continued to grow and build on our foundation as an exemplary high school. With our community's generous support we have added new buildings, renovated existing classrooms, modernized our library, and enhanced our athletic and fitness facilities. We also anticipate more exciting changes to our physical campus in the years to come.

With the support of our faculty and staff, Peninsula students also continue to perform at unprecedented levels. This ranges from classroom metrics on standardized testing to earning both state and national recognition in areas as diverse as research, debate, leadership, and the performing arts.



For all of our accomplishments however I am most proud of what we call "The Panther Family," a daily ethos of working together in an environment that supports learning, creativity, fun, and the unique gifts that each student brings to our school.

Not a day goes by that I am not reminded of what it means to be a member of The Panther Family either. I hear about it from graduates who stop by to visit with their former teachers, and I see it while watching staff members work with our children as if they were their own, perhaps because many of their own children are or once were Peninsula students! Most of all, I see it in the eyes of our students when they accomplish something that they first thought was impossible.

As I approach the start of my seventh year as principal, I will continue to find new ways to support the well-being of our students. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 6, as we welcome our first speaker of the year, Julie Lythcott-Haims. She is the author of "How to Raise an Adult; Breaking Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid For Success."

As always, my door is open.

# Rancho del Mar *High School*

38 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA 90274-5058 • 310/377-6691



**Rosemary  
Humphrey**  
*Principal*

## Community Service Important

My hometown is Palm Springs. I attended the University of Santa Clara as an undergraduate, received my teaching credential from the College of Notre Dame, and earned a master's degree and credential in administrative services from the University of San Francisco. I worked for Redondo Beach for 21 years, serving in a variety of positions, including: classroom teacher; coordinator of state and federally funded programs; site administrator; Program Quality Review trainer and reviewer. In 2000, I was hired by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District as a coordinator for the Recreation/Community Programs Department. In 2001, I took on an additional role as Rancho del Mar High School's principal. I currently hold a dual position as Principal and as Director of Recreation/Community Services.

Community involvement and service have always been important to me. I served three terms as president of the Peninsula Education Foundation and two terms as the president of the Holy Family Services Los Angeles/Orange Counties Adoptive Parents Board of Trustees. I also served as president of both the Palos Verdes Junior Women's Club and the Peninsula Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. At the University of Southern California, I served as president of the Interfraternity Parents Council and on the Greek Coordinating Council. I currently serve as Scholarship

Co-Chairman on the Alumnae Coordinating Council.

I recently retired from the Palos Verdes Estates city council, having served for 25 years, including four terms as mayor. I have also served as liaison to the League of California Cities, South Bay Cities, Sanitation District, and on numerous other public service committees, including 10 terms as the chairman of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Joint Powers Transit Authority.

My PTA involvement has included serving as a volunteer, officer or president at multiple schools and on the Council of PTAs. I have served on two religious education youth planning teams and held leadership positions in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Other youth service groups with which I have been involved include Coordinator of Palos Verdes Assembly and founding member of Los Hermanos.

Throughout my career, I have received many awards and recognitions, including California Continuation Education Association, District VII "Administrator of the Year" and Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." I carry the value of community service onto the Rancho del Mar campus, encouraging the students and staff to support causes such as the Rainbow Shelter, Inc. toy and sundry drive and the Community Helpline phonebook delivery. As a leader, I try to demonstrate qualities that instill in others the desire to excel and support the community. The awards I have received belong as much to others, as they do to me.

# Rancho Vista *Elementary School*

4323 Palos Verdes Drive North, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-1576 • 310/378-8388



**Salvatrice  
Kuykendall**  
*Principal*

## Excellence in Education

I am delighted to begin my sixteenth year as an educator, and my twelfth year in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. Over the past 16 years I have had the fortune of working at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. My experience as a teacher, counselor, dean of students, and assistant principal has been invaluable in shaping my career as an educator.

I first obtained my bachelor's degree from Cal Poly Pomona. I also received my master's degree in counseling from Loyola Marymount University, and am currently attending Concordia University to earn my Doctorate of Education in educational leadership. The focus of my research study is professional development for teachers; most specifically, those teachers who have been teaching for more than five years. Although I will complete my doctorate this following year, I always enjoy learning, and will continue to seek new ways in which to improve and expand my knowledge in education.

This year will be my first as principal at Rancho Vista Elementary School. Having had the opportunity to meet our staff members, parents, and students, I am thoroughly impressed with the community's dedication to excellence in education.

This year I will continue to grow our signature programs, including STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). In math, Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI)

will continue to influence instruction based on student understanding and mathematical thinking. In language arts we will continue to use the programs Daily 5 and Cafe, where students can build independent reading stamina and work in small groups with writing skills, reading to someone, reading to self, listening to reading, and word work.

Our Edible Garden program will also continue. This allows our students to extend and apply their grade-level science learning with hands-on experiences. These programs, along with many others, are in line with Rancho Vista's school mission of providing all of its students with an engaging and challenging learning environment, one that empowers children to become high-achieving, responsible, and productive citizens of the world.



**Our students engaged in STEM activities.**

## Ridgecrest *Intermediate School*

28915 Northbay Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-4902 • 310/544-2747



**Kelli Keller**  
*Principal*

### Inspired Administrator

I am a member of the local Palos Verdes Peninsula community and live within a stone's throw of Ridgecrest Intermediate School with my husband, who is also an educator, and my daughter. I received my master's degree from Chapman University and began my career in education in 1999 as a teacher in my hometown of Manhattan Beach. I have served as an elementary,

middle and high school teacher and as an administrator at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels.

I am an educator who believes that her position as an educational leader is to stand up for the future of our community's children. I believe that all students deserve the right to learn in an environment that is safe, accepting, engaging and rigorous and that provides the opportunity for continued success beyond school throughout life. Students must be competitively educated to thrive in today's society, and I am determined that Ridgecrest

Intermediate will serve as each child's continued step toward higher education and to meet this worldly challenge.

Ridgecrest Intermediate School is the largest and most diverse of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District's middle schools. The Raiders have a strong tradition of positivity, personality and perseverance. Our students are supported in the preparation for college and career advancements and are celebrated for their unique attributes. The school's motto, "Ready to inspire someone?" furthers the tradition by imploring our students to seek out these same characteristics in others. Raiders are ready to inspire!



**Mission Eagle's Nest a Seventh Grade Multi-Disciplinary Unit**

## Silver Spur *Elementary School*

5500 Ironwood St., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-1739 • 310/378-5011



**Marta Jevenois-Richardson**  
*Principal*

### Another Great Year Awaits!

I would like to express my sincere admiration and appreciation to our families, students and staff for the support you have lent me during my first year at Silver Spur. I have had the honor and privilege to observe firsthand the kindness, optimism, perseverance, creativity and hard work that defines our Broncos. Thank you for a phenomenal first year!

For those of you who do not know me, I was born in Getxo, Basque Country, Spain. I lived in Getxo until I moved to the United States in 1995. After completing my B.A. at the University of Deusto, Bilbao, I moved to Los Angeles in order to pursue my Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Southern California. While at USC, I taught Spanish language and literature to undergraduate students and worked on my Ph.D. Ultimately, in 1998, my research took me to a kindergarten classroom. I truly found my passion and started teaching elementary-age children and getting involved in school administration.

For the next 17 years, I worked for the Los Angeles

Unified School District as a teacher, a coordinator, an assistant principal and a principal. As an assistant principal, I worked at three very large year-round elementary schools in East and South Los Angeles, in some of the poorest and most challenged areas of Los Angeles. Prior to coming to Silver Spur, I was principal at Trinity Street Elementary in South Los Angeles for five years.

Being an educator has always been my passion. Since I was five years old, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. As an educator, my passion is to provide children with the richest opportunities academic, socially and culturally. I feel blessed to be able to lead Silver Spur alongside our outstanding teachers and staff, as well as you parents as partners.

In April 2015, I moved to Palos Verdes Estates with my husband, Anthony, and my stepson, Sebastian. In July 2015, I was selected as the new principal at Silver Spur Elementary. It is my absolute pleasure to serve the community where I live. I enjoy going for walks and running into many of our families and students. It brings back the sense of community I had growing up.

I am very much looking forward to seeing our returning families and to meeting our new families. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of your children's lives.



## Soleado *Elementary School*

27800 Longhill Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-3909 • 310/377-6854



**Gina Stutzel**  
*Principal*

### **Growing As a Leader**

I'm an enthusiastic South Bay local, and it makes me proud to be the principal of Soleado Elementary School. I've been employed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District for over 19 years, and I have had the privilege of

developing the minds of young students, leading excellent teachers, and creating lasting relationships with parents.

Growing up as one of five girls, I learned quickly about cooperation and teamwork. My parents knew that in order to keep five girls productive, they would need to encourage team sports, participation in the arts and, most important of all, responsible citizenship. I will be forever grateful to my parents for having raised my sisters and me with the strong understanding of responsibility, integrity and hard work.

Leadership was encouraged in my family. So when I began working, my jobs focused around management and



leadership. From being a supervisor in the retail industry to saving lives as a lifeguard, I learned to be flexible, patient, responsible, courageous and dedicated. Sports and participation in the performing arts had a strong influence on me in high school and college. They each played an instrumental role in my development as a leader.

### **The Importance of Teamwork**

Running a school is a lot like being part of a team. We have a shared goal, that of educating young minds. The opportunity to build a campus where teamwork is expected and encouraged, relationships are honored, hard work is required, and support and collaboration are seamless gives me the opportunity to honor not only my parents but also those coaches and directors that made

an undeniable impact in my life.

As a school leader, I will remain steadfast in supporting creativity, collaboration, character and teamwork. I am dedicated to the profession of teaching and learning and leave you with an open invitation to come by and enjoy our "sunshiny" school!

## Vista Grande *Elementary School*

7032 Purpleridge Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-3059 • 310/377-6066



**Jeri Delatorre**  
*Principal*

### **My Heart Belongs with Educating Children**

My desire to become an educator began in Mrs. DeBerry's second and third grade combination class. I spent two years with this amazing teacher who ignited my passion for discovery. Entering college, my father advised against becoming a teacher since "there are no jobs and the pay isn't good." So I dutifully explored other majors including sociology, psychology, social welfare. But my heart belonged with children and their education.

A love for children was modeled by my parents at an early age. We became a foster family when I was in fifth grade. Mom loved the babies. One after another, we opened our home to newborns and toddlers. I admired the advocacy mom displayed for these children. She made sure that services were provided to the drug addicted baby, the hard of hearing child, the developmentally delayed twins, as well as the child who needed leg braces before learning to walk

By 1976 my path was clear. I pursued my teaching credential at Biola University, earned my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from CSUDH and my administrative credential from Brandman University.

Vista Grande works closely with its parent community through the PTA. We are excited to initiate a Gardening Program in 2016-17. This will complement a strong Art at Your Fingertips program. This year will

also see the advent of a Science Olympiad program, the continuation of our Battle of the Books reading program, and our popular Running Club. Vista Grande is unique in its participation in Team Kids. This student leadership program focuses on monthly philanthropic outreaches. Students choose the cause and then promote, organize and collect donations. They "develop the values and skills that enable them to make positive choices in their own lives, while making a difference in the lives of others." (Team Kids) Developing an empathetic mindset has been a clear result of this schoolwide program.

As for dad's advice...there are plenty of jobs, for those who are willing to work hard and great satisfaction in a job well-done. No profession has greater rewards than education. I eagerly come to work every day for reward of watching children grow and make their own discoveries.



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## Going Green! Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by **September 20, 2016**  
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game, which is fun for all ages.

Carpool	Future	Reduce
Compost	Garden	Renewable
Conservation	Healthier	Resources
Difference	Impact	Respect
Eco Friendly	Low Waste	Responsibility
Efficient	Planet	Reuse
Emissions	Process	Solar
Energy	Protect	
Environment	Recycle	

**Congratulations to *Jacqueline Adler***  
 Winner of the June Word Search Contest



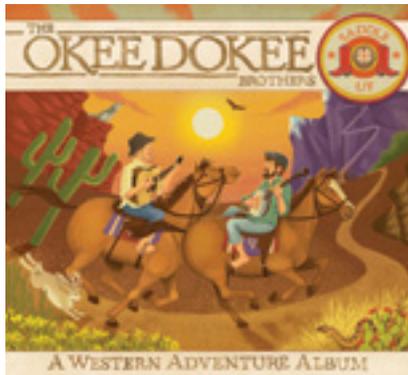
## Note-ables



Kate Karp

### 'Saddle Up'

Childhood buddies Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander—the brothers neither of them ever had—are off at a gallop with *Saddle Up*, a spirited musical jaunt along the Continental Divide region. The Grammy-award-winning pair gives cowboy, bluegrass and American Western music a good turn—sometimes right on the ear—and boy, howdy, can they rustle up a good band!



Lansing on banjo and Mailander on guitar join up with fiddles, acoustic guitars, steel drums, cardboard boxes, a washboard—of course—and a Nigerian Urdu drum. The Lovin' Spoonful's John Sebastian and his harmonica join the hoedown on "Lead a Horse to Water;" other guest artists—the Benally family's Navajo chant song "Sister Moon and Brother Sun" and Carlos Medina y El Trio Los Gallos "Somos Amigos"—illustrate how wonderfully diverse genuine American music is.

The Okee Dokee Brothers are home on their usual range of metaphor and an amazement and appreciation of nature, all expressed through tenderness and spicy, sloppy dollops of youngster-appealing humor. "The Jackalope" is a Holy Grail legend with a wink to the listener, and "Last Lullaby" gives a sweet treatment to "My Little Buckaroo" and comfort to the listener.

But hold your horses—there's another saddlebag full of goodies. The included DVR treats each song to regional geography and beauty, highlights the artists, and lassoes us in with spirited hijinks and home movies of the Brothers' childhood, nostalgic flashbacks on "Good Old Times."

Cowboy music has come a ways. Roy Rogers would be proud—maybe a little envious, too.

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

## A Bit of History

### Note Taking

By D.H. Coop

When I went through paramedic training I took pages of notes on yellow legal tablets and tape-recorded every lecture. The guy that sat in front of me took a one-letter size page of notes for each lecture. I passed tests with 94% and he passed with 99%. I looked at my note taking and saw that with my notes I was reviewing the whole lecture and not focusing on the central points. I decided it was not necessary to write notes in complete sentences. Notes should be key words that trigger memory for a quick review.

Later, when I continued my education at a university, everyone took notes as they read with a highlighter. Some of their highlighted pages had turned into a pages of pink, yellow or green color. That caused them to reread the complete pages once more taking valuable time. Rereading is good if one wants to have a better understanding of the subject; however, rereading is not good for review.

When I became a secondary teacher, I noticed my students would take notes in complete sentences with every "the," "and" and "a" in their notes. They also followed the same highlighting practice of coloring in whole paragraphs and pages. This not to say that all students made these mistakes and that they had not been told how to take notes. The fact was they had been told many different methods to take notes and given samples of note taking. The problem was the form became the grading standard instead of the understanding of material. For example, I told the students to highlight key words and that there should be no more than ten words highlighted per page. Being bright students, they randomly highlighted words to demonstrate that they had taken their notes. They miscalculated in that I did not look at the page and count the words highlighted. Instead I asked what the words triggered in their memory. Note taking should be for the recall of important points and to internalize information.

So here are my three suggestions for note taking. First, when listening or reading, write only key words related to the topic that will cause you to recall and connect to the topic. Second, review and rewrite notes at a later time and fill-in blank spots. If you cannot fill-in the blanks, write down your questions and reread that section or ask the teacher. Finally, talk to someone about what you have learned. This allows you to internalize the information and develop a better understand.

Please Drive Safely — Children are Back in School

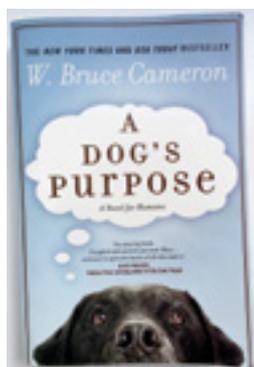
## Keira's Book Nook



Keira

### Man's Best Friend

*A Dog's Purpose*  
By W. Bruce Cameron



This remarkable story is about a dog who was reborn as a golden-haired puppy. Bailey tries to find his purpose in life, which leads him to an eight-year-old boy named Ethan. During his life with Ethan he learns to be good. "Good dog, Bailey." This is one of the most important sentences Bailey has ever known. However, this is not the end of Bailey's journey. When he is reborn yet again he wonders when he will find his full purpose. By the way, this is a story for humans from a dog's point of view. It describes the unbreakable bonds between humans and dogs. This is a great book, and I could read it over and over again! I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.

Keira Fukuwa is a fifth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys jazz dance, art, crafts and traveling. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 being the highest.

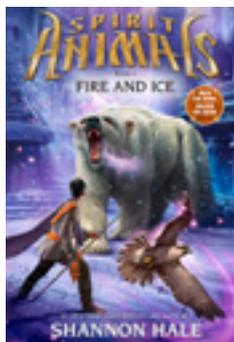
## Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

### Spirit Animals Fire and Ice

By: Shannon Hale  
Follow the team of Meilin, Abeke, Conor, Maya, Tarik, and Rollan as they travel across Arctica to find Suka the polar bear in hopes



of retrieving her talisman. After losing one of the teammate's family members, the team thought they had received their fair share of broken families but they seem to have thought wrong. What will happen when a close relative to one of the team members shows up in Arctica as a minion of the Devourer?

I won't spoil who this story is mostly about (although you can probably just look at the cover and tell) so that you will be surprised at who the relative is. I'd probably give this book four stars because while this is a fantastic story, it outlines one of the main character's confusion and depression so it makes me depressed.

Alana F. is a student columnist invited to review her favorite books for our readers. She rates the books on a scale of 1—5 with 5 being the highest.

## Lucy's Book Review

### Fascinating!



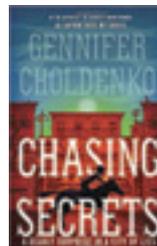
Lucy Davis

### Chasing Secrets

Author: Gennifer Choldenko

Set in the year 1900, Elizabeth is a thirteen-year-old girl living in San Francisco. Not really fitting in at her finishing school governed by an unruly headmistress, Lizzie wants to become a scientist. She loves her family's cook, Jing, who always has an encouraging word, friendly smile, and occasionally a surprise-filled cake!

Suddenly a deathly surprise steps in. The bubonic plague has hit San Francisco, especially rat-infested Chinatown. Jing is unfairly placed in the quarantine because of his ethnicity. Now it's up to Elizabeth, along with the help of her brother and the cook's son, Noah (secretly living in her attic), to get Jing out of quarantine. Can they do it?



I give this book five bookworms because of the suspense and hope that Elizabeth gives the reader. Every step of the way you'll be on her side cheering her on to the very last page of this truly fascinating book.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

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# Palos Verdes Library District

701 Silver Spur Rd., Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 • 310/921-7500 • www.pvld.org



**Kathy Gould**  
Director

## Learning and Inspiration

The Palos Verdes Library District is an award-winning public library system serving the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Our mission is to collaborate with our community to create environments for learning and inspiration, and to share the unique history of the Peninsula.

Supporting education is at the heart of what we do. As Director of PVL D I am pleased to introduce the librarians who are on the forefront of serving students, teachers and families.

Young Readers Manager Laura Henry has a BA in History and a Master's Degree in Library Science (MLS) from UC Berkeley and is responsible for PVL D's services for infants through teens. Her team of librarians helps students find books and other resources at just the right reading level for school assignments, personal information, and for fun. They present 14 highly interactive story times each week to help preschoolers build essential early literacy skills, and a Summer Reading program that entices several thousand kids to keep reading and avoid a "summer slide" in reading skills.

Michael Barb is our School and Student Services Librarian. He has a BA in History and an MLIS from

UCLA. A successful grant writer, Michael participated in the California State Library's prestigious Eureka! Leadership Institute. He is passionate that students have the information literacy skills needed to succeed at school and to be savvy information consumers. Whether he's helping a single child at the library or 35 5th-graders in their classroom, Michael teaches students to use library resources and develop strong research skills. He's also always ready to help teachers integrate research and information literacy skills into their curriculum.

Young Adult Assistant Manager Louise Beebe has a BA in Illustration and an MLIS from San Jose State. As PVL D's Young Adult specialist, Louise oversees The Annex, PVL D's after school space for 6th-12th graders, works with PVL D's Teen Advisory Council and teen volunteers, and is currently expanding the Young Adult space at the Peninsula Center Library. Louise collaborates with PVPUSD High School librarians in endeavors like bringing renowned author Andy Weir to speak at Peninsula High. A member of the organization Lifelong Information Literacy (LILi), Louise is keenly interested in ensuring that high school students have the research skills they need for success in college.

We look forward to seeing you at a PVL D library soon. We'll have more on our educational services and resources in future columns.

## Car Seat Safety

### Got a 5th Grader?

By Heidi Heflin, MN, RN, CNS, CPSTI

Kids are at risk of serious injury if their safety belts don't fit properly - especially if the lap belt is placed over the soft tummy area rather than on the strong hip bones.

Booster seats lift the child up so that the belt is positioned properly. In a crash, this transfers the force onto the strongest parts of the child's body. That's why injuries are reduced by 45% when kids ride in booster seats!

Most kids need a booster until between 10 and 12 years old. Find out if your child needs to ride in a booster by taking the 5-Step Test today. It could save the life of someone you love!

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. provides telephone counseling (800)745-SAFE and interactive Web site ([www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)) for parents who need help choosing or correctly installing safety seats.

*SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. is the national non-profit organization dedicated solely to protecting children from death or injury in vehicle crashes through the correct, consistent use of safety seats and belts. For more information, visit [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org) or call the Safe Ride Helpline 800/745-SAFE, 800/747-SANO. Heidi Heflin, MN, RN, CNS, CPSTI is a Program Consultant with SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. She can be reached at [CarSeatRN@gmail.com](mailto:CarSeatRN@gmail.com).



1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat.



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### Bettolino Kids Word Search

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PASTA  
CIAO  
RAVOLI  
MEATBALLS  
PIZZA  
SAUCE  
DOUGH  
TOMATO  
MANGIA

I L O I V A R C L O G R Y U H  
P X X I F W U N G W I J Z G F  
X N K Z K R L Y H I S N N U J  
X N D D A F Q D S L L G R W J  
P D K D D D U W L B O J P L B  
H E C U A S T A R F I S J O W  
M X L F X B B E T T O L I N O  
D A J E Y T R Y E O N N C J W  
R L G M A I G N A M M U G I T  
Q J F E A Z B O M V G A L E Z  
Q A M Z H D I Y L X O Z T U K  
N G Z L O O V H E C J A I O P  
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Bonus paid by ScholarShare as a deposit into account.

## Transfer your 529 college savings account to ScholarShare today at [ScholarShare.com/Switch](http://ScholarShare.com/Switch).

Your kids are growing fast and your 529 college savings account needs to keep up. Luckily, right now you can give it a boost by transferring your 529 account into a ScholarShare account—one of the best 529 plans in the nation. Depending on your current balance, we'll give you up to \$500 to switch to ScholarShare (see chart below).\* You are permitted to transfer funds from another 529 college savings plan to an account in ScholarShare for the same beneficiary once within a 12-month period without incurring federal income tax. The 529 college savings plan from which you are transferring funds may be subject to differences in features, costs and surrender charges. You should consult your tax advisor or the other 529 college savings plan. State and local taxes may apply.

Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



**SCHOLARSHARE**  
529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

[scholarshare.com/switch](http://scholarshare.com/switch)

\*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com). Past performance does not predict future results. Source: [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com)



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit [ScholarShare.com](http://ScholarShare.com) for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.