

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 31

JUNE 2017

## SUPERINTENDENT

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified has completed another successful school year and our students are excited to begin the next step in their journey. Whether it's taking their first steps in our classrooms, preparing to transition into middle and high school, or unpacking boxes in their dorm rooms, I am excited to see what our students will achieve in the future.



**Dr. Hasmik Danielian**  
Superintendent

Our administrators and staff are focused on creating programs and activities that provide rewarding experiences for our students.

Our 2020 Learning Initiative focuses on enhancing curriculum by integrating technology into all subjects. The program provides technology carts stocked with 20 devices for transitional kindergarten to third-grade classrooms and personal mobile learning devices for grades four through 12 by the year 2020.

Each year, our teachers and administrators will continue to expand and develop the curriculum while our students expand their knowledge with access to programs used in professional industries.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada ha terminado otro año exitoso y nuestros estudiantes están emocionados de comenzar el próximo paso en su jornada. Ya sea tomando su primer paso en nuestros salones de clase, preparándose para la transición a la escuela intermedia o a la secundaria, o desempacando cajas en su dormitorio de la universidad, estoy emocionada de ver lo que logran nuestros estudiantes en el futuro.

Nuestros administradores y personal están enfocados en crear programas y actividades que proporcionan experiencias gratificantes para nuestros estudiantes.

Nuestra iniciativa de Aprendizaje 2020 está centrada en resaltar el plan de estudio al integrar la tecnología en todas las materias. Para el año 2020 el programa habrá proporcionado carritos de tecnología con 20 dispositivos para los salones del kínder transicional hasta el tercer grado y dispositivos móviles de aprendizaje personales para los grados del cuarto al doceavo grado.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 13

## Board of Education President Message

The members of Norwalk-La Mirada Unified's Class of 2017 have thrown their graduation caps in the air in celebration of completing high school. I am so proud to see our outgoing seniors getting ready to attend prestigious universities across the state and country this fall, inspiring our remaining students to overcome any difficulties as they seek to achieve their goals.

As we say farewell to another thriving cohort of students, we will continue to enrich the education of our students at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified, helping them to discover their futures and guiding them on a path to pursue their ambitions.

Helping us to achieve our goals are high-quality teachers who spend tireless hours ensuring that our students are mastering the skills to succeed. Our principals are the backbones of our schools, dedicating their patience and strength to their communities to create high-achieving academic cultures. Our classified staff helps our students learn in clean and safe campuses and facilitates the operations of their schools. Our District administrators provide rigorous curriculum, updated programs and relevant activities that ensure our

See **President Board of Education** • Sean Reagan • Page 13 • **Presidente de la Junta de Educación**

## Garcia Recognized as Teacher, Woman of the Year



**Project Lead The Way (PLTW) coordinator Kelly Garcia reviews a robotics project with Los Alisos Middle School students.**

By *Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent*

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified female students are empowered to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the help of Project Lead The Way (PLTW) coordinator Kelly Garcia, who was honored as Teacher of the Year by PLTW and Woman of the Year by Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon.

Garcia started her career at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified as a science and engineering teacher at Los Alisos Middle School six years ago, after serving in the U.S. Navy as a cryptologic technician maintenance petty officer second

See **GARCIA RECOGNIZED** • Page 13

## Mensaje del Presidente de la Junta de Educación

Los miembros de la clase de 2017 de Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado han lanzado sus gorras de graduación en el aire en celebración de completar la escuela secundaria. Estoy muy orgulloso de ver a nuestros estudiantes salientes del doceavo grado prepararse para asistir a prestigiosas universidades en todo el estado y el país este otoño, inspirando a nuestros estudiantes restantes a superar cualquier dificultad a medida que buscan alcanzar sus metas.

Al decir adiós a otro cohorte próspero de estudiantes, continuaremos enriqueciendo la educación de nuestros estudiantes en Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado, ayudándoles a descubrir su futuro y a orientarlos en un camino para perseguir sus ambiciones.

Ayudándonos a alcanzar nuestras metas están maestros de alta calidad que pasan horas incansables garantizando que nuestros estudiantes estén dominando las habilidades para tener éxito. Nuestros directores son las espaldas dorsales de nuestras escuelas, dedicando su paciencia y fuerza a sus comunidades para crear culturas académicas de alto rendimiento. Nuestro personal clasificado ayuda a nuestros estudiantes a aprender en sitios escolares

# Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



**Laurel Parker**  
Director

## Increasing Parent Involvement

This year, our program has focused on increasing parent involvement through a variety of strategies. We opened our Parent Resource Center at Ramona Elementary School, which has two computers for parent use, as well as a parent lending library and meeting space. At other sites, we began parent cafés, where parents are guided in discussions about their children's learning. These discussion groups were initiated as part of the Quality Start Los Angeles grant that our program received.

Parents have been excited about these groups and have even participated in handing out flyers at the beginning and end of school to let other families know about the sessions. Pictured, you can see a father and daughter recruiting another parent to attend!



**Angel Esparza and her father Miguel Esparza**  
publicize the Sanchez Parent Café

We are currently accepting applications for the next school year for all programs. We now serve pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Contact the Ramona office for more information.

# Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/868-9858  
15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/670-9279 • www.nlm.org



**Sharon Renfro Todd**  
Director

## A Critical Support

We frequently publicize our outstanding educational programs, but there are other programs that make a critical difference to student achievement. Our counseling office is one of them.

Many of our students start here for placement or GED testing, transcript evaluation, programming, and academic or personal support. That's because our counseling office is a one-stop assistance center where all of our advisers are credentialed, and our support secretary has served students for more than 20 years.



**Support Secretary, Janet Below and Counselor, Debbie Van Driesen, look forward to serving you!**

Why is this so important? Because our adult students juggle a lot of responsibility and face a variety of challenges, it is important that they have well-trained and experienced counselors and staff members to assist them in navigating their path to success. Our counseling staff loves to help students gain confidence in the classroom and graduate in an efficient time frame. Students need and deserve the best support they can get, and we are happy to provide this to them at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School.

# School News

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Covering the  
**NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



As we say goodbye to another school year, I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Congratulations to the Class of 2017 and to their parents and loved ones who supported, encouraged and often sacrificed to make sure they succeeded. Thank you to the dedicated educators who care deeply about our future generations and continue to educate themselves to be better educators. Thank you to the volunteers and community as a whole. Our next issue is October 11. Have a wonderful summer.

## Optometry

Congratulations on another great school year and wishing you all the best this summer!

John Larcabal, O.D.  
Sandra Stevens, O.D.  
Diane Almanza, O.D.

(562) 868-8233 • drjohnlarcabal.com



## Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Preschool Programs

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Ramona School Office  
14616 Dinard Avenue  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 210-4205



- 1** Head Start, Early Head Start and State Preschool are offered across multiple sites. Home base or center base options are offered to 0-5 year olds beginning in July and August. Classes are currently being filled. Ofrecemos una variedad de programas y escuelas. Home Base, clases para niños de 0 a 5 años, las clases empiezan en julio y agosto. Las clases se llenan rapido.
- 2** We toilet train too! ¡Les enseñamos a usar el baño!
- 3** We welcome children with disabilities. Aceptamos niños con necesidades especiales.
- 4** We offer services to expectant women. Ofrecemos servicios a las mujeres embarazadas.

The programs serve all eligible children regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or disabilities, and refrain from religious instruction or worship. Estos programas sirven a todos los niños elegibles, sin importar raza, sexo o incapacidad, y no proporcionamos instrucción religiosa.

www.nlmusd.org/preschool  
Applications available online (website)

License#1915708262, 191595830, 198009691, 1980096931, 198013724, 191500784, 198015222, 198015619, 198013856

## Be Part of the Largest National Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives - including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.



Receive up to \$150 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!

# UCLA

### What will participants do?

There are 1-2 visits in the first year. During these visits, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan!

If interested, contact us:  
**ABCD Study @ UCLA**

Phone: (310) 794-0089

Email: abcdstudy@ucla.edu

For more info, visit: **AbcdStudy.org**

## Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553 • www.nlmusd.org



**Dr. Michael Gotto**  
Principal

### VAPA is Alive and Well at Benton

Benton Middle School is pleased to announce that it had another successful showing at the annual California Streaming Digital Photography Contest. This annual event brings in hundreds of entries from across the State. Only 10 entries per school are allowed. Benton earned 9 Honorable Mentions and 1 Winner out of over 600 entries. Thank you to our Photography Teacher, Mrs. Pflanzner for guiding our students to success. In addition, Benton's National Junior Art Honor Society (NJAHS) held its annual art contest. Students submitted a variety of visual art pieces. NJAHS members, under the guidance of Mrs. Hodge (Art Teacher), scored the works and gave prizes to the winners. During lunch and after school on Wednesday, April 26, students and parents had the opportunity to view the work in Benton's dedicated Art Gallery (Room 83).



National Junior Art Honor Society members and advisor pose before the opening of the art contest.

## Chavez *Elementary School*

12110 E. Walnut St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3565 • www.nlmusd.org



**Gabriela Galvez-Reyna**  
Principal

### Celebrating Cesar Chavez

Our yearly celebration of the great man, Cesar Chavez, is always a very special event here at Cesar Chavez Elementary. This year was no different. Each grade participated by performing a song, dance, poetry, or sharing paintings they had created. One of the Kindergarten classes dressed in yellow and danced the chicken dance! Another adorable group danced "La Raspa" in costume. Traditionally, we end the celebration with "De Colores." The song was made even more beautiful as everyone raised colored streamers and waved them to the beat of the music. This year, hundreds of family members came to Chavez Elementary for the celebration!



## Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934 • www.nlmusd.org



**Lorena Sierra**  
Principal

### AVID's Inaugural Year

We're so proud of our first year of AVID implementation in all fifth grade classrooms! As Huskies, we wanted our students to think ahead and start planning for college. Part of this process was setting out and establishing goals to help provide a college- and career-driven culture.

The first goal was helping our students understand that organization is key. Fifth-graders were given binders, agendas and content-area notebooks and learned to take two- and three-column notes to support reference, reflective learning, ownership and responsibility.



Students enjoying a day of learning at Cerritos College!

The last goal was to create a college-driven environment. We converted our computer labs into college themes and created classroom space where teachers could share their own college journeys. Students researched the colleges and universities of their choice to grow interest and build connections.

This year, with the support of Cerritos College, we provided a wonderful field trip to their campus where our students received firsthand information about classes and coursework.

## Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480 • www.nlmusd.org



**Yvette Cantu**  
Principal

### 2016 Star Honor Roll School

Congratulations to the students and teachers for being chosen by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) as a 2016 California Honor Roll recipient! The California Honor Roll is part of a national effort known for its extensive and rigorous analysis of student achievement in public schools. Our school stood above other schools in the state because of our success in getting students to grade level achievement and beyond.

This year, the Honor Roll includes 1,866 public K-8 and high schools that are recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. The Honor Roll:

- Includes a measurement of improvement
- No application process is necessary
- Establishes a higher bar of performance than any other award
- Takes into account equity and closing achievement gaps



## Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



**Shanti Gallegos**  
Principal

### Dolphin Buddy Bench

Our student leaders at Dulles recently saw that some of the children were lonely and needed a friend to talk to at recess. So they chose a bench on the playground to become our "buddy bench."

The buddy bench is a simple idea to help eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. It is helpful for children who need more strategies for making friends and initiating play. It will also help those who already have these skills by giving them a way to practice showing empathy for others and facilitating support.

Student leaders presented the idea at an assembly where they created posters, showed a video, and performed a skit to introduce their plan. Our designated Dulles buddy bench has a "Welcome Dolphin" flag tied to it for identification. Students and staff are excited to use the buddy bench and build friendships!



Ibraheem Yousef, Elizabeth Henning, and Miranda Gonzalez

## Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501 • www.nlmusd.org



**Sharon Stewart**  
Principal

### Beyond Our Walls

Our DUAL teachers were invited back to address educators for the third consecutive year at UCLA. Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Covarrubias and third-grade teacher Mrs. Salguero discussed their implementation of the balanced-literacy approaches of shared and independent reading as well as our model of RtI interventions, differentiation, Read Across America and much more!

Mrs. Salguero is also a VAPA-trained teacher. She incorporates arts instruction throughout the year by teaching her students Ballet Folklórico. Her class again performed at the district office for NLMUSD's DELAC end-of-year celebration in May. That same afternoon, they took their show on the road to perform for the first time at Foster Road! Thanks go to Mr. Ramirez, our music teacher, who helped them prepare. They sang, played musical instruments, and danced to traditional Spanish songs. They performed again at Edmondson's Spring Fiesta and presented the play *Peter Pan* to students, parents, and staff at the end of May. Go VAPA!



## Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678 • www.nlmusd.org



**Bob Easton**  
Principal

### College and Career Ready

This year students, including those in our AVID, AVID Excel, and G.A.T.E. programs, visited three local universities, California State University, Fullerton, Biola University, and California State University, Long Beach, to learn about college life and what it takes to go to college. These visits to public and private universities helped our students envision what the future will look like with hard work and dedication. In addition, to these college trips, the Career Center is open to all students to take interest inventories, search college majors and university programs, as well as learn about financial aid options. It is never too soon to start planning for college and to begin thinking about career possibilities, which is why we celebrate the college going message every week at Corvallis!



AVID student leaders visit Biola University.

## Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org



**Bonnie Lytle**  
Principal

### Howdy, Partner!

“Physical education significantly contributes to students’ well-being,” Jack O’Connell, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, noted. “The arts cultivate essential skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, effective planning, time management, and teamwork.”

Students at Escalona Elementary School receive a high-quality educational program that includes physical education and instruction in visual and performing arts. Recently, third-grade teachers combined the arts with physical education to engage student and parents in a good, old-fashioned hoedown.



Escalona students promenade while square dancing

Third-grade students learned and practiced folk, line, circle, and square dances and then performed these dances at our first Escalona Hoedown. Parents were even invited to get into the swing.

This enjoyable, fun-filled event will become an annual tradition, as we continue to develop patterns of physical activity and appreciation for the arts which can be maintained for a lifetime, providing social, mental and physical benefits.

## Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908 • www.nlmusd.org



**Salvador Villagomez**  
Principal

### A Great Achievement

The end of the year is fast approaching, and our staff and students are working hard to finish off the semester. All efforts are aimed at striving for academic progress and performing to the best of our ability. Foster Road Stars are looking to shine!

In the theme of striving to shine, I am proud to announce that the Foster Road community has been recognized for its efforts. The Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) recently informed us that we are a recipient of the 2016 California Honor Roll. It is a great honor to be selected. Only 1,866 schools throughout California were chosen to receive this honor.

The criteria for recognition as a California Honor Roll school includes, but is not limited to, measured improvement, closing of achievement gaps, and performing at a high level. We will soon be featured on the Honor Roll website, and will be proudly hanging a banner at our school.

It truly takes the entire community to be able to achieve this award. So we at Foster Road would like to acknowledge the hard work that our staff, parents, and students have put into achieving their best. Let’s continue our dedication to making our school among the top in the state. Go, Foster Road stars!

## Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128 • www.nlmusd.org



**Sarah Gilbert**  
Principal

### International Day

Our Gardenhill students filled their passports with stamps from 19 different countries represented at our First International Day!

During this event, the families from Gardenhill brought out heirlooms, food from their represented countries, pictures, books, dances, and various facts to share with our students. Students traveled from country to country to learn about the customs, cultures, and geography of the represented countries. China, England, Australia, Mexico, Peru, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Cambodia, Eritrea, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Germany, Canada, Guatemala, and Samoa were among the countries shared.



Gardenhill Students and a parent dressed in hanbok, representing Korea.

This was a fun family event that brought everyone together to open our students’ eyes to the world around them, and to celebrate the beauty of different cultures. Polynesian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Mexican dancers shared their art form with the crowd and got the other students involved. We are looking forward to this event again next year, and to having even more countries represented by our community!

## Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796 • www.nlmusd.org



**Adriana Nakano**  
Principal

### Seussical Jr.

After eight months of diligent preparation, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students of our Extra Curricular Musical Theatre Program shared their acting, dancing, and singing skills. This year at Glazier we celebrate 5 years of Musical Theatre. Students put forth so much time and effort, 5 days per week, after school to proudly present Seussical Jr. Of course this production wouldn’t have been possible without the parents, staff and volunteers who ensured that our students were able to perform at their peak. We would like to thank the District Office staff that helped provide a safe and positive environment for our performers, guaranteeing “EVERY student is given EVERY opportunity to demonstrate EXCELLENCE!”



## Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



**Jennifer Padilla**  
Interim Principal

### College and Career Successes

April has been a month of successes for Glenn. On April 26th, we held our College Commitment Day Assembly where we recognized graduating seniors who have already committed to attending a UC, CSU, Community College, or military branch for the fall. The class of 2017 has big plans: 160 are going to community colleges, 50 to California State Universities, 11 to University of California campuses, 3 to private universities, 2 to the US Army and 1 to the US Marine Corp.

The gym was packed with students, staff, and parents as we recognized the hard work and achievements of the class of 2017 Scholars. This is the first of many senior events that we are looking forward to leading up to graduation in May.



## Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



**Robin Padgett**  
Principal

### Two Awards For Our School

Hutchinson Middle School has been awarded two significant awards: the 2017 California Gold Ribbon and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence 2016 California Honor Roll!

We applied the California Gold Ribbon for this award based on our model STEM Magnet & school-wide technology programs and exceptional student achievement. The CBEE Honor Roll recognizes California schools for demonstrating consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps.

These awards reflect Hutchinson’s success in creating a positive learning atmosphere for our students. Such success is a direct result of our dedicated, creative, and talented staff, and our supportive school community!



## School News

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## Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Rory the Lion from the American Heart Association visits Johnston to celebrate their giving hearts**

### Giving Hearts



**Angela Togia**  
Principal

Johnston School partnered with the American Heart Association for the third annual Jump Rope for Heart event. During the month of February, we kicked off with an assembly challenging students to make better health choices. Students were

informed about the importance of healthy hearts through choosing good nutrition, doing regular exercise, and living tobacco free.

In March, Coach Chris facilitated our Jump Rope for Heart event. During recess, students were given the opportunity to go through stations, which included jump roping. We were given the goal of raising \$1,000 to support the American Heart Association's research. Our Johnston Roadrunners and their families raised \$1,016, which is the most we have ever raised. Due to their accomplishments, they received a special visit from Rory the Lion. Rumor has it that it was Mrs. Togia, the school's principal, inside the costume—but, shhhh! She will never tell!

## La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)

### College Ready



**Lisa Reed**  
Principal

The Matador Scholar Association (MSA) is the honors club at La Mirada High School. It aims to encourage students to achieve their academic best, be prepared for college, and give back to the community.

MSA offers a variety of opportunities for students to distinguish themselves both in and outside of the classroom. During the 2016–2017 school year it partnered with the “A Million Thanks” group to send over 500 letters to the men and women of our Armed Forces. During their annual toy drive, and in collaboration with Toys for Tots, MSA also collected and distributed over 700 toys to more than six schools within the NLMUSD, including Chavez, Foster Road, and Escalona. Our MSA students also celebrated Read Across America this year alongside the students at Gardenhill.

Current MSA President Christie Tan, who is headed to UCLA's School of Nursing, noted that MSA was instrumental in helping her prepare for the college setting. When asked about our school, Christie noted that, “La Mirada has given me the indispensable opportunity to be a leader in and out of the classroom, to excel in my AP classes, and to serve my city.”

Overall, MSA sends the best and the brightest to many of the top universities in the United States, from the University of Pennsylvania to MIT and UCLA. Our MSA students have the confidence of knowing that they can be admitted into any school.



## La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)

### Story Character Parade



**Seryna Huynh**  
Principal

We were proud to introduce our very first Story Character Parade this year. In previous years, students dressed up for Halloween and trick or treat through classes in a parade-like fashion. Over the years, however, Halloween and school parties have been reduced due to the loss of instructional time.

For the first time in La Pluma Elementary School history, our amazing staff and faculty, with the support of our equally amazing PTA team, hosted a Story Character Parade to make things fun, engaging, and academically relevant for our students.

In lieu of the Halloween parade, students and teachers were given the choice to dress up as their favorite storybook characters. They paraded to music, creating an atmosphere of color and enjoyment.

The parade was a resounding success. Students, staff, and parents all had a great time, as evidenced by the continued excitement about the parade in the weeks that followed.



**A fun, creative, exciting, and memorable event for everyone!**

## Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Cindy Rayburn**  
Principal

### Hands on Science with Cabrillo Marine Museum Outreach

In April, the Cabrillo Marine Museum Mobile Classroom brought dozens of marine specimens for Lampton students to view and touch. Our junior scientists learned about marine animals that shed their exoskeleton, ones that regenerate limbs, and even about ones who push out their stomachs to consume their prey. Our students loved getting their hands wet and cold in the touch tank, where they got to touch live sea creatures.

### Cotsen Foundation Art of Teaching Fellowship



Eight Lampton teachers were selected to participate in the Cotsen Foundation “Art of Teaching” Fellowship. This prestigious program provides individualized professional development for teachers. The Cotsen fellowship lasts for two years and provides a site mentor for the participating teachers. The seven Lampton teachers who were selected as Cotsen Fellows are: Caren Casriel, Lisa Sims, Robyn Morgan, Jody Gardner, Billie Bixby, Amanda Cobian and Rosemary Segal. Lampton's Cotsen Mentor will be Elisa Erickson. Go Lampton!

## Los Coyotes *MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Jacob Muñiz**  
Principal

### Building Student Leaders

Los Coyotes Middle School is very proud of all of our students and staff. However, a special shout-out goes to our W.E.B. and Leadership/ASB groups respectively for helping our school earn the California Gold Ribbon!

We applied for this award under the guise of “Building Student Leaders,” because that is what we do best. I'd be remiss if I failed to mention and give a special thanks to my predecessors Dr. Stanley and Dr. Begtrup, as well as our language arts and math department teachers, for making this possible.

In addition, the staff and community of Los Coyotes Middle School earned the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll School 2016 Award. This very special honor was earned for closing the achievement gap. It goes without saying that we continue to be extremely proud of our staff, students, and school community for all of their hard work, dedication, and passion for student achievement.



**CA Gold Ribbon Committee**

## Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Rachel Garcia**  
Principal

### Jump Rope for Heart

On April 10th, 2017 Moffitt Elementary participated in Jump Rope for Heart. It was a successful event in which students had lots of fun and exercised their hearts by participating in various stations such as a jump rope station, hula-hoop station and an obstacle course. Through participation in Jump Rope for Heart, students learned about the importance of exercise, healthy eating and heart health while also raising money for the American Heart Association. Moffitt exceeded its school goal of \$1,500 by collecting a total of \$2,000 in donations for the American Heart Association. Way to go Mustangs!



**Moffitt students having fun during Jump Rope for Heart.**

## Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Mike Garcia**  
Principal

### Terrific Set of Weeks!

At Los Alisos, we held our annual College and Career Week. The events took place during a week in April. We had professionals from many different careers come and educate our students on how to gain entry into their specific fields and what their jobs entailed. It was an amazing experience for our students!

A group of 68 eighth-graders had an amazing spring break! They were able to attend the American Heritage East Coast trip. They spent time in New York and Washington, D.C. They learned a ton about our government and the history of our country!

We are also very proud of the Los Alisos boys' and girls' basketball teams and the soccer team. The boys finished in first place in basketball, and the girls finished in second place. Our soccer team also was first place! Congratulations, and great job!



## Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Rudy Gonzalez**  
Principal

### A Hands-On Workshop

Julia B. Morrison Elementary School has fully embraced the NLMUSD Math Campaign this year!

During the month of March, we held three parent workshops to provide training on how to support our students in their understanding of specific mathematical concepts. The parents were given strategies for changing the way they praise children, and they also learned the power of celebrating mistakes to help build growth mindset.

Growth mindset is the belief that everyone can learn through dedication and hard work. During these hour-long workshops our parents engaged in hands-on activities to build deeper understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and fractions. They solved math problems by using manipulatives, mental math strategies, and modeling with pictures.

In addition, they practiced explaining their mathematical thinking to one another. Over 50 Morrison families were represented in this event. Our parents look forward to more practical hands-on workshops in the future.



**Genevieve Silebi, Instructional Coach in NLMUSD, teaches Morrison parents how to use manipulatives to teach and support their children in Math.**

## New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**David Hoffman**  
Principal

### Learning Leadership Team

With Norwalk-La Mirada USD's continued support in developing professional learning communities (PLC) at each of its sites, New River Elementary School has re-created its PLC team this year, and it is now known as the Learning Leadership Team (LLT).

New River's LLT consists of the site principal, the intervention TOSA, the instructional coach and one teacher member from each grade level from kindergarten through fifth. The LLT serves as a decision-making body and a conduit for information sharing between outside resources, the NLMUSD and the New River staff.

This year New River's LLT has been instrumental in the creation of new mission and vision statements, supporting grade-level teamwork in relation to essential standards and assessments, supporting the use of learning targets in the classroom, and helping develop ideas to support students.

New River's Learning Leadership Team is working hard to move our school forward. Go Knights!



**New River's Learning Leadership Team hard at work.**

## Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • [www.nlmusd.org](http://www.nlmusd.org)



**Dr. Sylvia Begtrup**  
Principal

### Renaissance Achievements

May brings a time for reflection and excitement at Norwalk High School. The Class of 2017 has been planning for life after high school. These students are excited as they get ready to graduate.

Our fabulous Associated Student Body (ASB) hosted Renaissance, a Lancer tradition of honoring students and their accomplishments. This event truly focuses on peer recognition for academic accomplishments that support student success, not only in high school but after high school as well. Students in the top 20 of their class were recognized, along with students who received awards in the following areas: perfect attendance; Advanced Placement (AP) scholars; scholar athletes; Golden State Seal Merit awardees; and top-scoring SAT students.

The Class of 2017's top scholars are: Diana Trujillo (valedictorian); Denise Estrada (salutatorian); and Karina Uriostegui. In the Class of 2018, the top three students are Anton Alcala, Jacqueline Arzate-Figueroa, and Bianca Barcelo. The Class of 2019 boasts top scholars Paulina Calderon, Jose Castillo, and Jacob Castro. And the Class of 2020 is proud to recognize Joshua Calizo, Daniella Carvajal, and Aldo Campos at the highest academic achievers.

We wish the Class of 2017 the best in all of their future endeavors, and we welcome the Class of 2021 to Norwalk High School.

#GoLancers



## Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788 • www.nlmusd.org



**Makara Sar**  
Principal

### Students Receive Free Glasses

On May 9, 2017 Vision To Learn came to Nuffer to give a complete vision screening to all students who failed the school vision screening, were referred by their teacher or already wear glasses. Before the end of the school year these RV's will be back to fit the students for their New Free Glasses. The students are so excited as they will finally get to see the board again or get that back up pair so they can keep one at school and at home. Our staff is appreciative as over 80 students will be taking home a much needed pair of glasses.



The Vision to Learn RV is ready to screen our students for free glasses.

## Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237 • www.nlmusd.org



**MSgt. Marty Schafer**  
Director

### Academic Success

As I reflect on another year at Southeast Academy High School, I think about our achievements and our dedicated Staff, who have worked very hard to achieve our school wide goals. At Southeast Academy we strive for our cadets to be Career and College Ready. We want cadets to look at all the possibilities available to them, and connect their academic life, to their long - term success.

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2017, you're a reflection of success.



## Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365 • www.nlmusd.org



**Alicia Rubio**  
Principal

### Beautifying Our Neighborhood

On April 25, 2017, our fifth grade students were invited to help beautify a local park where a walkway was created for the neighborhood. The students planted more than 20 trees to line the walkway. They began by learning about the importance of trees in the environment. Next, groups of students worked with City personnel to plant trees. Students were also invited to participate in an art contest focused on the importance of trees. Winners will be picked by community members during the City's Arbor Day celebration, and recognized at a City Council meeting.

The students were excited about the opportunity to make a positive impact on their community and to help make their park more beautiful.



## Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981 • www.nlmusd.org



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
Principal

### State Recognition for Literacy

Waite Middle School has been recognized for raising student literacy levels by strengthening student reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills over the last three years through Project READ. Through a multiyear grant from Napa County Office of Education, Waite teachers have access to within-day trainings and online resources to strengthen literacy skills among English learners, students with disabilities and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

This year, Waite achieved Project READ's Exemplar Site status—one of only 12 middle schools in California to receive this distinction. Families and community members have joined in workshops throughout the year to become more involved in their children's reading, showing them how to interpret text and explaining reading concepts such as word identification and comprehension-skill development.

As an Exemplar Project READ school, Waite will have the opportunity to showcase its methods and progress through webinar panels, regional institutes and hosting site visits. Combined with our ELAC, PTSA and City of Norwalk partnerships, Waite staff and families are dedicated to wonderful partnerships for success in middle school and beyond!



### President Board of Education • From Page 1 • Presidente de la Junta de Educación

students are offered every opportunity leading them to success. Our parents are also our greatest partners in ensuring that our students are ready to learn inside and outside the classrooms.

Thank you to our Norwalk-La Mirada Unified community for filling 2016-17 with wonderful achievements and memories. I look forward to what we will accomplish in the next school year.

limpios y seguros y facilitan el funcionamiento de sus escuelas. Nuestros administradores del distrito proporcionan currículo riguroso, programas actualizados y actividades relevantes que aseguran que a nuestros estudiantes se les ofrezca cada oportunidad que los conduzca al éxito. Nuestros padres también son nuestros socios más importantes en asegurar que nuestros estudiantes estén listos para aprender dentro y fuera de los salones de clase.

Gracias a nuestra comunidad unificada de Norwalk-La Mirada por llenar el 2016-17 con maravillosos logros y recuerdos. Espero con gusto lo que vamos a lograr en el próximo año escolar.

### SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

The success of our students and schools stems directly from the dedication of our teachers, administrators and staff. Their hard work is being recognized throughout the state and within national programs. We also recently held our annual Star Awards night to recognize exemplary individuals in our District. I am so proud to work with talented educators passionate about their work and who inspire our students to discover their dreams.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall, ready once again to reach ever higher in their goals.



**Dr. Hasmik Danielian**  
Superintendent

Cada año, nuestros maestros y administradores continuarán expandiendo y desarrollando el plan de estudio mientras que nuestros estudiantes amplían sus conocimientos con acceso a programas usados en industrias profesionales.

El éxito de nuestros estudiantes y escuelas proviene directamente de la dedicación de nuestros maestros, administradores y personal. Su arduo trabajo está siendo reconocido en todo el estado y dentro de los programas nacionales. Recientemente también celebramos nuestra noche anual de premios de estrellas para reconocer individuos ejemplares en nuestro distrito. Estoy muy orgullosa de trabajar con educadores talentosos apasionados por su trabajo y que inspiran a nuestros estudiantes a descubrir sus sueños.

Espero ver a todos de nuevo en el otoño, de nuevo listos para alcanzar aún más alto en sus metas.

### GARCIA RECOGNIZED • From Page 1

class and as a District parent volunteer. She became one of three teachers certified to teach the PLTW Gateway Program before becoming a PLTW coordinator.

Outside the classroom, Garcia trains teachers at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified and across the country in adopting PLTW pathways and updating educators with new skills and current materials to enhance school curriculum. In the classroom, Garcia challenges students to see the opportunities available to them through STEM careers.

"Ms. Garcia likes to push us to our limits so that we know what we are capable of," Los Alisos Middle School eighth-grader Brianna Lozada said. "She makes the effort to make sure you can be on your own."

To encourage parents to support their daughters to become involved in traditionally male-dominated careers, Garcia collaborates with District teachers to organize annual events, such as Female Engineering Day and Mother-Daughter Engineering Workshop and Tea, providing information about rewarding STEM career opportunities. Garcia also informs educators on hidden gender biases in the field and offers strategies and tools to better engage female students as part of PLTW professional development workshops.

"Girls are always under-represented, and I want to reach out and engage them better," Garcia said. "Students already know what they want to do in elementary school, and we need to support them in pursuing their passion at an early age so that they are on the right pathway through high school and beyond."

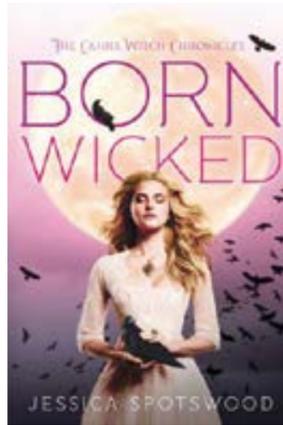
## Captivating Read



Katrina D.

*Born Wicked* by Jessica Spotswood is the first in a series about a trio of sisters named Cate, Maura and Tess. Living in a world where their roles in the world are rigidly controlled by a group known as the Brotherhood, the Cahill sisters must strive to stay under the radar of these

powerful men or risk being shipped off to asylums as witches. However, the fact they actually are witches puts them at a greater risk than anyone else. Eldest sister Cate takes up the role of leader for her motherless sisters, attempting to protect the three of them from being discovered. But when Cate comes of age to either marry or join the Sisterhood, what choices and sacrifices will she make? This book is absolutely captivating with a Salem Witch Trial feel to it and an enchanting plot. With a touch of romance and a dash of magic, this book is a must read for all YA lovers. This book was given 5 crescent moons.



Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her books from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

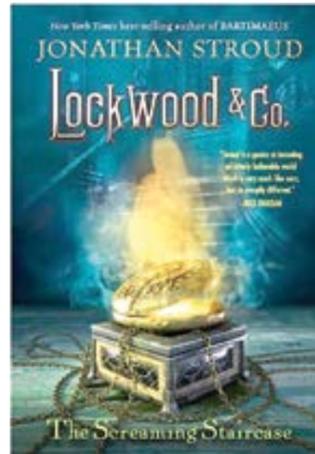
## A Creepy and Fun Read



Abbas D.

*Lockwood & Co.* by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?

This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 5 smiley faces.



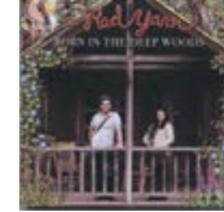
Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

## Born in the Deep Woods



Kate Karp

Red Yarn, alter-ego of performer and songwriter Andy Furgeson, has recorded the third element in his his Deep Woods Trilogy. Deep Woods is Red's own conception of a charmingly primal place where woodland animals dwell—an earthly, loamy, good place to live. Each song was either written by Red or adapted from traditional folk tunes, all featuring animals and performed by Red and his wife, Jessie Eller Isaacs and a bucolic multi-instrumental band.



*Deep Woods* doesn't have the vibe of a traditional children's collection. In contrast to lighter songs associated with young music, it sings something deep and rooted. Red's musical background grew from those roots—authentic country, bluegrass, blues and heartland rock 'n' roll are woven with the lyrics and stitch together a warm, tuneful quilt. The title ballad lets the tortoise and the hare of the fable poetically tell their own story as turtle and rabbit. The traditional "Mockingbird" transforms into a Bo Diddley ditty with a toss of Elvis pepper and a pinch of Ray Charles salt. "Old Mother Goose" is given a new pair of dancin' shoes, and "Frog Went A-Courtin'" hops to a different beat. "Little Baby Born Today" is an old-style Bob Dylan tribute to new life and mothers, particularly Eller-Isaacs, who was pregnant with the couple's second child when it was recorded. The CD's lyric booklet bears some of the most beautiful, evocative illustrations seen in a music collection or anywhere else.

If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.

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



## Water Polo

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# Animals 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 NLMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- |            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| BLUE JAY   | LEMUR     | POLAR BEAR |
| CHEETAH    | LION      | RABBIT     |
| DOLPHIN    | MARMOSET  | SLOTH      |
| DUCK       | ORANGUTAN | TIGER      |
| FLAMINGO   | OWL       | TORTOISE   |
| FROG       | PANTHER   |            |
| GRAY WHALE | PARROT    |            |
| KOALA      | PEACOCK   |            |

Congratulations to **Millie Casillas-Palacios** Winner of the April Word Search Contest!



## Marissa's Movie Mentions

### A Family Movie



Marissa Aldegarie

"Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2" follows the original movie, "Guardians of the Galaxy." This movie is good for the whole family. It's has a lot of the same space battles as the original movie and has new characters and a new writer. The main character, Peter Quill (Chris Pratt), calls himself Star Lord.



Peter was raised by his Mother who passed away when he was young, and never knew his biological Father. All his Mother would tell him was that his Father was from the stars. Growing up, he longed for having a Father. This movie explains the history of his childhood. In the end, Peter realized that his friends cared and looked out for him more than his biological Father. The Guardians of the Galaxy really was his family now. The move introduced some new characters who will surprise you with their actions. I enjoyed watching this movie because it was funny and very action packed. I recommend watching this move and I would give this move a 4 out of 5 stars.

Marissa is a 7th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

Where the original Karate Kid movie was filmed!

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