

FREE

School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



Volume 15, Issue 71 February / March 2019



Building a Bright Future – Legacy Magnet Academy



The Tustin Unified School District's new middle/high school, Legacy Magnet Academy, will be built in the Tustin Legacy development and open in fall 2020. The state-of-the-art school will focus on Technology, Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (TIDE). (Please see the full story on page 4.)

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A Teacher's Contribution



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

A memorial concert was held on October 27 to honor Pioneer Middle School instrumental music teacher Doug Fisher, who passed away in June. The event was a beautiful celebration of Mr. Fischer's contributions to Tustin Unified music students, his colleagues, the schools he served, and his community. Mr. Fischer was remembered through music, words, and pictures. In 2017, Tustin High School teacher Mr. Ian Williamson was remembered for similar contributions in his field of science, technology, and engineering.

Both celebrations of life highlighted the contributions these two fine teachers made to their students and their

colleagues. While they were both passionate about their subjects (music and STEM), they were most passionate about their students' development, understanding, well-being, and success. I believe this is true of all great teachers and the reason why students fondly remember those teachers who had the greatest impact on them. In the words of Maya Angelou, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will always remember how you made them feel."

We can all learn from the examples left by Mr. Fischer and Mr. Williamson. Celebrated teachers demonstrate passion, caring, and concern in their interactions with students and colleagues. It is one of the great honors of our profession that we have the opportunity to make a positive and lasting impact on our youth. I am honored we get to do this work together.

Go TUSD!



Beckman High School Music Director Jim Kollias organized and conducted a concert in memory of Pioneer Middle School music teacher Doug Fisher. The concert featured many former Pioneer students. The impact Fischer had on music education for Tustin Unified students is immeasurable.



Mark Eliot

Director of Communications & Public Information
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TUSD News and Announcements

By Mark Eliot

Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District

TUSD Announces Full-Day Kindergarten for 2019-20

For the first time ever, the Tustin Unified School District will offer full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools, beginning in the 2019-20 school year. In the past, the District has offered half-day kindergarten. Now, all kindergarten students will be enrolled in the full-day program.

Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) registration will begin at all TUSD elementary schools on Monday, February 11. Kindergarten is for children age five years old (eligible students are those born between September 2, 2013 and September 1, 2014).

TUSD also offers a part-time TK program for children who are born between September 2, 2014 and December 2, 2014. If you are interested in the TK program, call the School Readiness Office at (714) 730-7592.

“Full-day kindergarten is a big step forward for the District and it will greatly benefit our students,” TUSD Deputy Superintendent Kathie Nielsen said. “Full-day kindergarten will offer a more relaxed atmosphere,

opportunities for child-centered creative activities and developing social skills.”

Extending the day will allow for more time in each of the content areas as well as more time for art and music. It also allows time for students to engage in developmental activities that can be difficult to find time for in a half-day program.

Other advantages include higher achievement for all children, fewer grade retentions, more time spent in individualized instruction and less time in large groups, additional time spent in play and reinforcement of positive social behaviors.

“This is something the community has wanted for some time,” Nielsen added. “It is believed by providing students with a longer day, they will have opportunities to increase their achievement levels and ensure they are best prepared for first grade.”

For enrollment information, call your local elementary school or visit the TUSD Website at www.tustin.k12.ca.us.

Tustin Unified to Open Legacy Magnet Academy in Fall 2020

The Tustin Unified School District is starting to build its newest school, Legacy Magnet Academy, in the Tustin Legacy development. The TUSD Board of Education unanimously approved the school's name at its October 22 meeting.

Legacy Magnet Academy is scheduled to open in fall 2020 and, depending on enrollment interest, will serve grades six through nine in its first year. Eventually the school will accommodate approximately 1,400 students in grades 6-12. The 33-acre campus is bordered by Valencia Avenue, Legacy Road, Moffett Avenue and Tustin Ranch Road.

School construction will take about 18 months with a completion date set for summer 2020. TUSD and the City of Tustin have formed an agreement that will eventually generate \$85 million to construct the school based upon the build out of the Tustin Legacy development.



Artist rendering of the new state-of-the-art school

Legacy Magnet Academy will focus on Technology, Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (TIDE). The key components will include project-based learning, innovative entrepreneurship-focus and design-thinking integration. The school will serve students in the Tustin Legacy development and will be open to student transfers from within the District and surrounding areas (based on availability and approved applications).

The District will begin the principal selection process in the coming months, and the school's

principal will be announced later in the spring.

“We are very excited to build and open Legacy Magnet Academy,” TUSD Board President James Laird said. “This new, innovative state-of-the-art school will guide our students to a bright future.”

TUSD Salutes Administrators of the Year Honorees

The Tustin School Management Association has announced its 2019 Administrators of the Year Honorees. They will represent the Tustin Unified School District in the 2019 Orange County Administrators of the Year Awards Program, sponsored by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17:

Elementary Principal of the Year – Stephanie Yang, principal of Benjamin Beswick Elementary School; Middle Grades Principal of the Year – Cindy Agopian, principal of Orchard Hills School; Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year – Mike Velez, assistant principal of A.G. Currie Middle School; Career Technical Education Administrator of the Year – Dr. Grant Litfin, Assistant Superintendent

of Administrative Services; Special Education Administrator of the Year – Gloria Olamendi, Director of Special Education; and Valuing Diversity Award – Rafael Plascencia, principal of Marjorie Veeh Elementary School.

ACSA annually recognizes outstanding administrators for their leadership skills, professionalism, creativity, innovation, and commitment to a quality education. Orange County Administrators of the Year will be announced in the spring. The 46th annual ACSA “Administrators of the Year and Friends of Education Awards” Dinner will be held on May 13, 2019, at the Irvine Marriott. Region 17 represents 28 school districts in Orange County.

Tustin Unified Teachers of the Year Celebrated by OCDE

The Tustin Unified School District’s 2018 Teachers of the Year – Carrie Murillo, fourth-grade teacher at W.R. Nelson Elementary School, and Joanna Vandal, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher at Tustin High School – were honored by the Orange County Department of Education at its annual Orange County Teachers of the Year Dinner on November 2 at the Disneyland Hotel.

Both teachers represented the District in the 2018-19 Orange County Teachers of the Year program. They were also selected as two of 15 semifinalists in the program.



TUSD 2018 Teachers of the Year Carrie Murillo and Joanna Vandal.

Tustin High T-Tech Academy Participates at OC Pathways Showcase

Tustin High School’s T-Tech Academy, led by engineering teacher/director Ed Hernandez, represented the engineering pathway for TUSD at the Orange County Department of Education’s fourth annual OC Pathways Showcase held on November 27 at Edwards Lifesciences in Irvine.

Tustin High T-Tech seniors Mark Gleeson, Angelica Pelcastre, and Chloe Carraway brought to the showcase their EVZ, an ultra-lightweight electric vehicle built by students to compete in the smallest vehicle class at the UC Irvine Energy Invitational. T-Tech Academy students learn skills in engineering, computer science, and product design.



Tustin High School students Mark Gleeson, Angelica Pelcastre and Chloe Carraway, and engineering teacher and T-Tech Academy Director Ed Hernandez participated at the OC Pathways Showcase.

“Each of the past three years, T-Tech Academy has been invited to represent the best of pre-engineering education Orange County has to offer,” Hernandez said. “Among their projects, my students are learning how to create vehicles that are more energy efficient while helping them prepare for jobs in the future.”

Based on the theme, “Our Humanity, Our Technology, Our Future,” the OC Pathways Showcase featured student-led projects and exhibits, and celebrated the collaborative efforts of

schools, colleges, and businesses to forge 21st century career pathways and work-based learning opportunities for students in 15 industry sectors.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

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Covering the

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

ADVERTISING SALES: Leslie Rawlings
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:
Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

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Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

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Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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TUSD *School News* and the excellence continues year after year. In this issue you will read about the new Full Day Kindergarten at all elementary schools and the opening of the Legacy Magnet Academy and much more...

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. I appreciate your comments when you email your contest entries. It is nice to know so many of our readers are putting pencil to paper and enjoying time away from technology for a few minutes.

Have a wonderful Spring Break. Our next issue is April 10.



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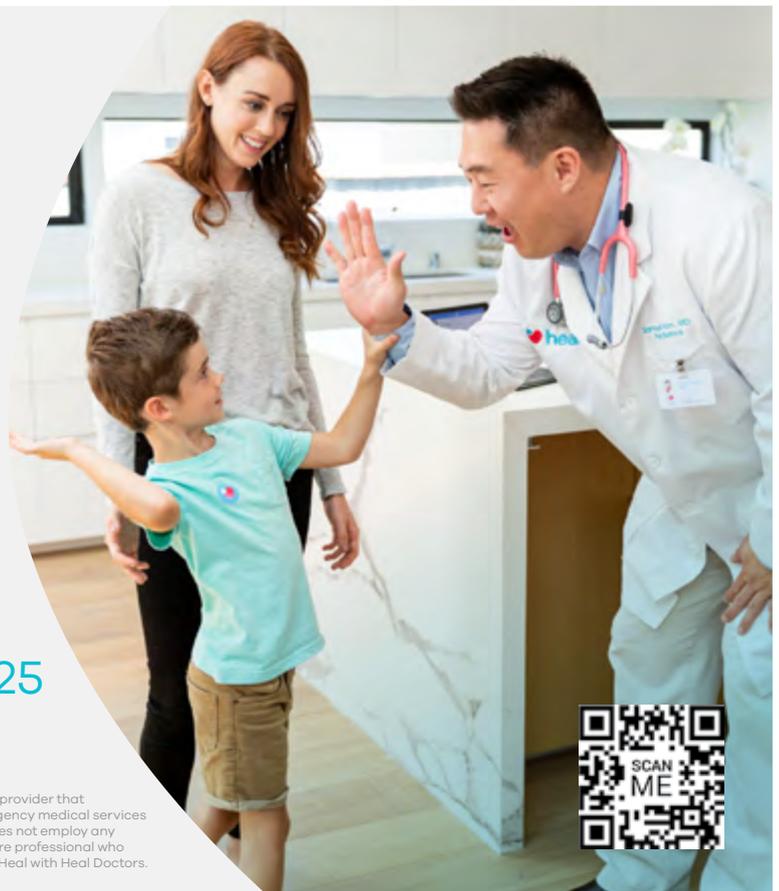
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**Carol Burby
Garrett**

Executive Director

Innovation Comes Alive

Tustin Unified teachers have been submitting grant proposals to the Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF) for the Innovative Grant Program, which provides up to \$2,500 per grant for new and innovative projects. Any Tustin Unified teacher may apply for funding.

Community members join TPSF board members to review proposals without knowing the particular teacher or school. Donations from community members and funds raised through the Dinosaur Dash make this program possible.

Last year, 36 grants were awarded to 21 schools, thanks to a matching grant from the Sarva Mangal Family Trust. Funded projects included Digital Storytelling, Art and Performing Arts, Library renovations and books, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) projects, robotics, and even teaching handwriting to preschoolers.

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation is grateful to those who donated funds for the Innovative Grant Program. This year's funded grants will be listed on the Tustin Public Schools Foundation website.



**A TPSF Innovative Grant supported
Beckman High School students' performance of "State Fair."**

Kindergarten Readiness

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7592



Lauralee Cabibi

*Coordinator
School Readiness*

Officers in Training

TUSD's Kindergarten Readiness Program is proud to collaborate with many local community partners, such as the Tustin Police Department. Each year the Tustin Police Department visits the preschool classes to educate our youngest students about safety. This year the police officers interacted with our preschoolers and taught them about how and when to call 911.

After their in-class presentation, the officers demonstrated the features of their police car. The most exciting part of the day was when our students got an opportunity to go inside a real police car and turn on the siren. For many students, this up-close and personal interaction with the officers gave them an opportunity to interact with and learn the many ways that police officers make our community safer.

Our students loved their time with the Tustin police. The experience even inspired several of them to become police officers when they grow up!



Kindergarten Readiness students at Estock Elementary School pose with Tustin Police officers after a safety presentation.

Educational Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 309



Kathie Nielsen
Deputy
Superintendent

The Power of Digital Storytelling

The Tustin Unified School District is excited to be continuing with its Digital Storytelling program this year. Teachers from the elementary, middle, and high schools have participated in special trainings to learn how to integrate academic movie making into their curriculum.

Our students are learning how to turn their written storyboards into digital movies as evidence of new learning, and to share messages. The Digital Storytelling process boasts many potential benefits for our students as they experience and investigate new content and innovative technology tools.

Several schools are holding site or classroom film festivals in order to showcase our students' creations. Last year, the first TUSD Elementary Film Festival was held, featuring 30 student

films chosen from over 100 submissions and representing 13 elementary schools.

This year, another district-wide film festival is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th. We are excited to see the thoughtful and creative digital stories that our students have in store for us through Digital Storytelling!



Pioneer Middle School sixth-grader Timothy Okajima looks forward to the TUSD Student Film Festival on May 14.



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Teresa Squibb
Director

Video Contest!

You may have heard news stories discussing changing requirements for school meals. The biggest change eliminates the requirement for all grains to be whole-grain rich. Over the past few years, Tustin Unified has worked to increase the acceptance of whole-grain products by its students. The district has conducted taste tests with certain

products and purchased items with white wheat flour, which gives whole grains a lighter appearance. TUSD's menus will continue to offer whole-grain-rich products for our students.

The District Wellness Committee is sponsoring its fifth annual Wellness in Action Video Contest. Winners will be announced during Nutrition Week, March 4 through March 12. Students will be challenged to create a video highlighting nutrition education, school meals or physical education. The winners will receive a Front of the Line Pass for school meals and will be recognized at the TUSD Board of Education meeting.



Pioneer Middle School nutrition assistant Alba Perez assembles healthy school lunches of fresh turkey and cheese sandwiches on whole grain rich rolls for students.

Chandler, 11-months-old,
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Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

Facilities Update

Construction on phase I of the Legacy Magnet Academy is tentatively scheduled to begin in February. Phase I includes the school administration building, a state-of-the-art 24-classroom facility, parking, fields and site-infrastructure

work. This portion of the project totals approximately \$60 million.

Design work continues on the following projects slated for completion in 2019: long-range facilities master plan, solar carports/shade structures at various sites, and the C.E. Utt Middle School science-lab modernization.

Additionally, there was substantial work performed on several projects over the winter break. Highlights include infrastructure work for new classroom additions at Tustin Connect, Red Hill Elementary School and Hewes Middle School; refinishing the multipurpose room stage at Hicks



Among recent TUSD facilities projects, new synthetic turf has been installed in the courtyard at Beckman High School.

Canyon Elementary School; installation of approximately 8,000 square feet of synthetic turf in the Beckman High School courtyard; front-entry landscaping at Guin Foss and Jeane Thorman elementary schools; and geotechnical boring assessments and underground utility detection at six proposed solar sites.

Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 306



Dr. Grant Litfin
Assistant
Superintendent,
Administrative
Services

Device Pilot

The Tustin Unified School District High School Device Pilot was an absolute success. Over a 15-week period, more than 1,300 high school students and 20 teachers across

multiple subjects were able to use top-ranked devices from a number of well-known manufacturers. Instead of their currently issued device, students

exclusively utilized pilot devices to complete all in-class assignments.

Students and teachers were surveyed throughout the process, providing thousands of data points on usability, portability, durability and functionality. Additionally, eighth-grade students were given the opportunity to provide input regarding their thoughts on the technology and features that would be important for them as an incoming

high school student. These students will ultimately use the chosen device for all four years of high school.

Based on the data and feedback from our stakeholders, a recommendation for the next high school device will be made to the TUSD Board of Education in February.



Foothill High School European history teacher Nicole Hepinger's class was one of many classes in the District that participated in the TUSD High School Device Pilot.

Arroyo Elementary School

11112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Katy Sheyka
Principal

Breaking News and Building Friendships

By the Arroyo Times Journalists

The enthusiasm at our *Arroyo Times* student newspaper is so electric that you can almost taste it! But it isn't just a passion for writing that fills our room with smiles each Thursday afternoon at lunch. It's the teamwork, creativity, and community spirit

that really make our meetings at the weekly *Arroyo Times* one of the most exciting and enriching experiences for our fourth- and fifth-grade students.

After creating a staggering 12-page newspaper for our Fall 2018 issue, it is easy to see why the students are so proud of their collective accomplishment. Beyond a sense of voice and importance, becoming a student journalist also means discovering the value of teamwork and being a part of a supportive professional community.

Our newspaper content is 100 percent student-generated, and is led by parent volunteers. The dedication and drive from

students and parents alike only speaks to a larger culture at Arroyo, that of being Mustang Strong!



The Arroyo Times journalists include, from left, students Maddie Labrado, Tristyn Steeves, Isabella Oh, Mallory Fowers, Elizabeth Vadkerti, Simone Hoppe, Ella Lee, Ameera Zia, Nina Quintilani, Catherine Chu, Ava Eagleson, Erin Kang Logan Dawes, and Ally Tran.

Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

Basketball Players Host Camp

Over the winter recess, several Beckman High School basketball players worked together to organize the second Beckman All-Star Basketball camp for students with special needs.

Beckman student Shubb Khandhadia facilitated and planned the event that saw

16 campers attend along with 16 student volunteers. Participants took part in modified basketball activities including basketball bowling, skills practice, and a modified basketball game.

During the basketball game, volunteers cheered enthusiastically for the players as they tried to make baskets either on the standard basket or a makeshift hoop. All of those in attendance received T-shirts designed by Khandhadia's sister, Saloni Khandhadia, a junior at Beckman.

The players also received water and snacks. It didn't matter whether they made a basket or not, they were all winners on this day.



Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

12712 Elizabeth Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7531



Jackie Christy
Principal

Learning in the Great Outdoors

What better way for our students to learn the California State Standards for science than with hands-on science and ecology classes?

Each year our fifth-graders from Benson School participate in outdoor education camp. Here they are taught science and an ecology-based curriculum through interactive and experiential lessons.

Geography, renewable/nonrenewable resources, habitats, the food chain, and the food web are but a few of the subjects covered during the week. In addition, our students use the Four C's (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity) during team-building activities such as climbing, archery, orienteering, songs, and skits.

This year, Allison Goodlander's and Katy Stahovich's fifth-graders also experienced a new form of weather. This was a lesson in preparedness. Those who packed well were prepared for the cold and slushy snow and rain. All students persevered and discovered the beauty that can be found a short drive from our own beautiful Barbara Benson Elementary School.



Lily Dilworth and other students from Katy Stahovich's and Allison Goodlander's fifth-grade classes watch as a peer attempts the climbing wall.

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

1362 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7385



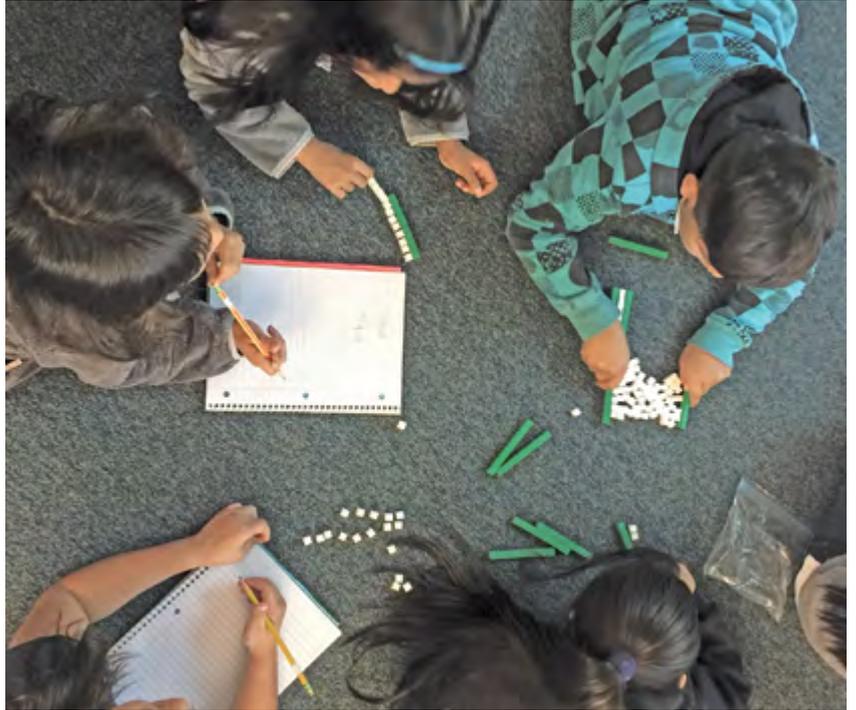
Stephanie Yang
Principal

Strengthening Math Skills

Beswick Elementary School continues to build on our signature practice of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) math as we forge ahead into 2019. In CGI, students are encouraged to apply a variety of solving strategies in order to come up with a solution. Additionally,

collaboration with fellow students and creativity in solving is encouraged! Students use manipulatives, containers, writing and partner work to approach their work in completing Counting Collections, Number Talks, estimation activities to build number sense, writing in problem solving and more!

In addition to CGI, staff and students focus on incorporating risk taking and developing mathematical thinking when approaching math problems. At Beswick, we know that we are all capable of learning math to high levels and work hard to support the development of strong math concepts and skills in all students!



Beswick first-grade students collaborate and use Base-10 blocks as a problem-solving strategy.



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Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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Maggie Burdette
Principal

Earning Green for Going Green!

Five Columbus Tustin Middle School students recently participated in the Grades of Green Water Campaign, a semester-long competition encouraging schools to research local water issues and create innovative solutions to conserve and recycle water.

The Grades of Green Team created a video to share their research findings and conservation plan, and encouraged others to join their water conservation movement. The video outlined a plan to recruit a “Conservation Team” of students to hand-wash lunch tables in order to save the over 90 gallons of water used per day to hose them down after lunch.

Over the course of a school year this will save 18,000 gallons of water! Additionally, they proposed using

rain barrels to collect rainfall and then use the extra water for the school garden and planter boxes around campus. The team was awarded the \$1,000 grand prize for their video submission, and to use towards the implementation of their proposal.



Congratulations to the Columbus Tustin Grades of Green Team on their grand prize win. Pictured are Tina Castillo, Akil Nafi, Noah Karnowski, Katy Connor and Zion Choi.

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7360



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Students take City Hall

Currie’s entrepreneurial students recently made a visit to Tustin City Hall. As part of their course requirements, the students made a formal presentation to members of the City Council, local business leaders, and the Tustin Chamber of Commerce.

The students worked in teams to identify a specific area within the City of Tustin into which they would like to introduce a new business. Each group of students put together a specific presentation to be shared with a panel at the Tustin

Council Chamber at City Hall. The presentations included topics like zoning, traffic, population, and future residency trends.

At the conclusion of each presentation the panel then provided feedback to our students on the feasibility of the ideas as well as the overall concept. Currie entrepreneurship teacher Zachariah Samarin prepared his students for this invaluable experience, one that will support their future capstone project where they can develop and run their own businesses.

Watch out, Tustin! We’ve got some young business men and women coming your way.



Students share the dais with the Tustin City Hall staff and business leaders along with Currie entrepreneurship teacher Zachariah Samarin and Principal Erick Fineberg.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Dr. Amanda Heineman
Principal

Welcome, New Principal!

Estock Elementary School welcomes our new principal, Dr. Amanda Heineman, following the retirement of Principal Wendy Hudson.

Dr. Heineman has worked in education for 15 years, most recently serving as the coordinator of elementary curriculum and teacher induction for Tustin Unified School District. Previously, she taught first, second and third grades at Loma Vista and Peters Canyon elementary schools.

Dr. Heineman has bachelor's and master's degrees from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a doctorate from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Heineman is excited to join the Estock family. It is her goal to continue the success established by building strong relationships with staff, students and parents. At Estock, every child is valued and supported. As principal, each child's social, emotional and academic well-being are her top priorities. She believes that together, we can ensure that students are excited to come to school and prepared to take on the day.



First graders Josie Carbajal and Nerea Magana, Principal Dr. Amanda Heineman, and kindergarteners Emory Dang and Matthew Perdomo share a fun moment.

Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/ 730-7464



Michelle England
Principal

Knights take Classroom to Competition

Seven members of Foothill High School's Thespians troupe competed in the California State Thespians Southern California Play Festival, winning first place and sweeping all acting awards. The competition was held at Los Alamitos High School and featured more than a dozen schools and over a hundred performers.

Four teams of Foothill High students participated in the national CyberPatriot competition. Over the course of the six-hour cyber security competition, they worked hard to make computers less vulnerable to hacking by setting passwords, closing ports, and removing harmful files. The students

demonstrated their mastery of the Windows 10, Windows 8, and Ubuntu 14 Operating Systems. Three of the four teams scored in the Gold Tier!



Foothill High School students work to combat hackers in the CyberPatriot competition.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

18492 Vanderlip Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7552



Ray Hernandez
Principal

What are You Focusing On?

Guin Foss student James Phan was born with a rare medical condition, so rare that most specialists in the field are unsure of its true diagnosis. The only conclusion medical experts have made is that James has joint muscle contracture, which limits his range of motion.

James started physical therapy at 6 months of age. At two years of age, he had his first episode of casting to stretch out the muscles at his ankle so that he could walk without tiptoeing. Though the casting was successful, the muscles continued to tighten up. So for the first six years of his life James tiptoed when he walked. James continues with treatment, currently it's acupuncture.

When asked by his doctors about his latest treatment modality, James responded, "I only focus on the things that I can do, and I let go of the things that I cannot do." What a wonderful outlook on life!



James Phan enjoys fitting right in with his friends at school.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

15571 Williams St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7521



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Season of Roadrunner Excellence

In the autumn months of the 2018–19 school year, Heideman students had special opportunities to strive for and display excellence.

For the 2018 Turkey Cup on the day before Thanksgiving, teams showed their soccer skills in a round-robin tournament. Special guest Joy Fawcett,

an Olympic and World Cup champion, inspired the players with her story of pursuing and achieving excellence.

In December, the second annual Heideman Invitation Speech and Debate Tournament was held. Students from around Southern California competed at the elementary and middle school levels. At

the conclusion of the awards assembly, it was clear that Heideman team members had performed with excellence.

Later in December, Heideman held a Making Thinking Visible event, during which parents and other family members joined their children in the classroom. Roadrunners and their families sat side by side to learn and practice reading, engaging in mini-lessons, independent reading and grand conversations.



Olympic and World Cup champion Joy Fawcett poses for a photo with some of the Roadrunner soccer players who competed in the Turkey Cup.

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7339



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

They Love to Code!

Heritage Elementary students love computer science and coding! As part of the STEAM curriculum at Heritage STEAM Magnet School, students engage in coding and robotics starting in transitional kindergarten and progressing to advanced robotics in fifth grade. Each December, Heritage students participate in the Hour of Code, an international computer-science week that promotes coding and computer-science careers.

One hour of coding is not enough for the Heritage students! In addition to the Hour of Code, Heritage students engage in coding throughout the entire school year, with an emphasis on application through robotics. Students work with various robotics systems to apply their coding skills and knowledge, and to increase their logical-thinking skills. From simple direction-based coding robots to more-complex robots that students must build and code, computer science is a dynamic learning opportunity for students. Coding is a core element of the Heritage curriculum and one that is beloved by students.



Third-grade students Mia Nielsen and Benson White are build and code Lego Mindstorm robot as part of Heritage's computer science curriculum.

Hewes *Middle School*

13232 Hewes Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7348



Eric Kilian
Principal

Building Technological Skills

Our STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) continues to expand and thrive. We now offer three different STEM classes (11 cohorts in total) to all grades six through eight, reaching over 400 students.

In our exploratory wheel classes, Hewes offers sixth-graders the opportunity to learn about circuits and programming through the use of electronics kits and drones. For the seventh- and eighth-graders, we offer year-long courses that provide experiences in 3D designing/printing, robotics, programming applications, forensic science, isometric and orthographic sketching, mechanism design, and the chance to participate in the OC Maker Challenge held at Chapman University. Last year, one of our Hewes' teams won the award for the Most Innovative Project in Middle School, taking home a cash prize.

We are thrilled that our STEM program continues to reach an increasing number of students. It provides them with career-technical pathway experiences that can build the kind of problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration skills that are essential to them for years to come.



Sixth-grade students video an explanation of how this circuit was coded to operate.

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Deena Vela
Principal

Huskies Get a VIP Tour

Students at Hicks Canyon Elementary School work towards getting the VIP treatment! Each trimester, five lucky students each get to bring along a friend on an all-access, behind-the-scenes school tour! The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports team

(PBIS) sponsors this experience, which gives students an eye-opening tour that highlights the never before seen parts of our school that most students don't even realize exist.

To become one of the lucky few, students must not only submit some their hard-earned Husky dollars for a raffle ticket, they must also meet a behavior criteria for the month leading up to the drawing. Each trimester our students cross their fingers and hope that their raffle ticket will be selected!

This highly popular experience is no ordinary school tour. Hicks Canyon secrets and surprises abound at every turn. With the help of teachers, custodians, and office staff members, it makes for a truly unforgettable experience.



PBIS Coach Joe Baran meets with First Trimester's lucky winners.

Hillview *High School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7356



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

"College Angels" Help Students Succeed

Hillview High School is extremely fortunate to have three amazing volunteers who are literally changing the lives of our students.

Annette Haigh, Dianna Tyson, and Margot Schrank are known as the "College Angels" because of their hard work in helping our seniors get signed up for college and providing the extra support they need.

School counselor Nubia Barcelo recently stated that, "It's so inspiring to see community members step up and help out our students. These ladies really want what is best for our students and want them to succeed."

The Angels meet with each senior to learn about their plans for after graduation. They then work one-on-one with the students to register and help them complete their financial aid process. When the students start college, the ladies are also there to make sure they have the supplies they need. They also offer words of encouragement and guidance.

Annette, Dianna, and Margot are to be commended for their service to our community.



Hillview's "College Angels," Annette Haigh, Margot Schrank and Dianna Tyson, volunteer their time to help students prepare for college.

Ladera Elementary School

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7505



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

Lights! Camera! Action!

Ladera students and teachers continue to utilize digital storytelling across the curriculum. Digital storytelling allows students to share what they have learned through digital media. Students use iMovie, ChatterPix, green screens, stop motion and much more!

For the second year in a row, Ladera will be hosting a schoolwide film festival in the spring in lieu of a traditional Open House, in which students will showcase their learning from throughout the year. Our Film Festival will feature student-made films on topics such as habitats, conservation and food waste; passion projects; state history; and historical figures.

Ladera teachers have worked closely with TUSD Connect coach Jonny Parker as well as with the district gurus of digital storytelling: Connect coaches Denise Granger and Monica Wyman. Thanks to the help of these three experts, Ladera students are taking their filmmaking skills to the next level!



First-grade student Jacob DePrima teaches the Four Shot Challenge to kindergarten classmate Liam Barbour.

Loma Vista Elementary School

13822 Prospect Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7528



Dr. Lauren Steinmann
Principal

Family Partnerships Help Us Thrive

Loma Vista recently hosted a highly successful “Social Emotional Learning Family Night” on campus. Andrea Owen, our counselor, along with TUSD Connect Coach Courtney Lu, helped to educate our families on school-wide norms including Social Thinking, the Zones of Regulation, and problem solving techniques.

Additionally, books on relationships, mindfulness, parenting, self-regulation and more were on display for our families. Students and parents were also given punch cards and invited to participate in various stations manned by Mrs. Lu, Mrs. Owen, Principal Lauren Steinmann, and our fantastic counseling interns Miss Ashley and Miss Tanya.

Crafts included making a rain stick, balloon, flour stress ball, mindful reminder bracelet, and glitter calm jars. Once complete, the students then turned in their punch cards for a stress-relieving prize.



Connect Coach Courtney Lu, Principal Lauren Steinmann and Counselor Andrea Owen share the Zones of Regulation with Loma Vista families.

It was a packed house full of information, laughter and fun! Truly, the Loma Vista community and our partnership with families help us thrive!

Myford *Elementary School*

3181 Trevino Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1875



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Students Shine at Entrepreneur Fair

Myford Elementary School recently hosted its first-ever Entrepreneur Fair. The project started through a schoolwide makerspace challenge in which students were tasked with creating something that others would want to buy.

Students worked through the engineering design process to explore, design, create, test, and improve various products. Some of these projects culminated in sellable items. Students across the school were then provided the opportunity to submit individual proposals. Their proposals and a sample of their product were reviewed and assessed to ensure high-quality goods. About 60 students and nine classrooms created products that they

sold over lunch as well as after school, with some parent participation as well.

In addition, students were asked to donate a portion of their sales. Over \$300 was collected to support a family for the holidays through Operation Warm Wishes. This event was almost entirely student run and was a huge success!



Students shop during the first and very successful Entrepreneur Fair.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

14392 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7536



Melinda Smith
Principal

Multicultural Music Festival

This year, Nelson Elementary School celebrated its fourth annual Multicultural Music Festival and Dessert Potluck. Nelson Transitional Kindergarten- through fifth-grade students entertained hundreds as families and friends flocked to this standing-room-only event.

Grade-level teachers selected and prepared the musical selections. Songs performed included The World is a Rainbow, It's a Small World, and With a Lantern in My Hand, which was sung in both English and Portuguese. The school's musical director, Becca Valdez, organized and facilitated the evening. We are grateful to all of the staff members who provided this opportunity for our students to perform!

We concluded the music celebration with the singing of our school anthem This Is Me, from the movie The Greatest Showman. It captures the resilience and grit we commit to each day as Nelson Tigers.

Before leaving, we enjoyed a fabulous dessert potluck that spanned five tables! It was an evening to remember, and a nice way to usher in the holidays.



Becca Valdez, musical director, gets ready before the opening act.

Orchard Hills School

11555 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/730-2078



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Moving, Shaking and Making

As our Orchard Hills robotics teams continue to shine and compete in local and state competitions, we are reminded that the foundational skills our students need to succeed in the areas of innovation, design thinking and technology begin at a young age, and are centered around their strengths, interests and values.

Being a K-8 school, Orchard Hills kicked off its first K-5 Mobile MakerSpace with a student-led professional development for all K-5 teachers. Our student “TECHsperts” led the teachers through challenges at three stations. The focus of this professional development was to give the teachers some hands-on experience in the types of challenges and learning that their students will be engaging in with the Mobile MakerSpace.

Our teachers and students are excited to get started, and can't wait to break down the walls of their classrooms and participate in this “out of the box” learning experience. Our new Mobile MakerSpace is due to open in this new year.



Student TECHsperts lead teachers and administrators through a lesson on how to use Little Bits in the classroom with their students.

Peters Canyon Elementary School

26900 Peters Canyon Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7540



Brooke Carreras
Principal

Expert Coders

By Kelly Morgan

Coding time is highly requested in Peters Canyon teacher Kelly Morgan's fourth- and fifth-grade combo class. Tynker has become the class favorite after two students were featured on the app's blog.

Fifth-grader Brian Choi was first introduced to Tynker as a fourth-grader and immediately became the class expert on coding. Last year, one of his games was featured on the app, meaning it received over 1,000 views and over 10 likes. Tynker reached out to Brian to interview him about his coding journey.

This year, Brian taught his fourth-grade classmates how to make a game that would entertain Tynker users so they could get the necessary views to be on the blog. Fourth-grader Chase Gress took the challenge and was also interviewed by Tynker and featured on the blog. Brian just completed his second interview and blog feature.

Both Brian and Chase are expert coders who aspire to learn more!



Fifth grader Chase Gress and fifth-grader Brian Choi teach the class coding tips and tricks.

Pioneer *Middle School*

2700 Pioneer Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7534



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Students Excel

Pioneer Middle School recognizes its students for their growth in developing Career Technical Education (CTE) talents.

As students begin their journey in identifying their passions through a wide variety of educational programs, all students practice communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking

within all of their classrooms.

Pioneer is proud of its teachers who continue to push themselves in learning new pedagogy through Collaborative Structures, Reading/Writing Workshop, Next Generation Science (NGSS), and College Preparatory Math (CPM). These new educational practices are

positively influencing Pioneer students in their ability to effectively share their thinking through written and oral communication, work in teams, and understand that failure is a measurement of perseverance and grit, while growth is something they can control through quarterly goal setting.

All of these efforts continue supporting our students in reaching Pioneer's mission: Maximizing every student's academic potential and personal responsibility!



Math students practice the Four C's – communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

11911 Red Hill Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7543



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Students Show Gratitude

Red Hill students know that our three pillars are “respect, responsibility and building relationships.” Student Council decided it was time to “show what we know” and planned a very special event. This event was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Student Council members delivered handwritten invitations to the Tustin Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff Department. Police officers parked their motorcycles out front for a show-and-tell, and deputies brought a rescue vehicle as well as safety gear. All students took turns visiting the MPR to speak with officers and deputies personally to ask questions, express thanks, and watch a video that fifth-grade students created thanking law enforcement officers for their service. Parents helped support this inaugural event by providing coffee



Students and staff celebrate Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

and treats, and many had the opportunity to stay and speak with officers as well.

It was a great morning of meaningful conversations, learning and gratitude. Go Rockets!

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7364



Deanna Parks
Principal

Panther Play

We have been noticing that only a few students are playing the kind of recess games we grew up, such as foursquare and handball. But children physically engaged at recess and practicing their sportsmanship skills makes for happier students. Because of this, we started Panther Play!

Each month our Americorps member, Sara Benitez, teaches our classrooms in grades one through five a new game and good sportsmanship habits in individual 30-minute sessions. The games are run at recess time with the help of parent volunteers and junior coaches, who are also fourth- and fifth-graders.

The students are having a blast! Our first game was foursquare, and it culminated with an action-packed tournament. Next came dodgeball, which is now a campus favorite. A fifth-grade student was recently heard exclaiming with joy, "Dodgeball is the best thing ever!"

Physical activity teaches our students healthy habits, and also improves coordination, posture, and balance. It also makes muscles and bones strong. Panther Play is a win-win for everyone.



Second grader Dylan Pelaez's face shows the joy of a good game of dodgeball. He and other students join in Panther Play fun at lunch.

Tustin Connect *Online School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/430-2052



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Principal

The Science of Gingerbread

For the fourth consecutive year our Tustin Connect students applied their science, social science, and engineering skills to create and submit projects to "The Science of Gingerbread" competition at the Discovery Cube Science Museum.

Students and families were held in suspense while in attendance at the Gingerbread Awards Ceremony. They were thrilled when they heard that the judges selected a Tustin Connect group entry for the first-place award.

The Tustin Connect winning entry was designed and engineered by third-grade students Elise Kim and Airi Ochoa. The students spent weeks going through the engineering and design process to build a structurally sound and creative holiday scene featuring ornate evergreen trees, a frozen lake, and a cozy decorated cottage.



Tustin Connect third-grade students Airi Ochoa (left) and Elise Kim (right) display their medals with teacher Emily McCourtney.

This is the third year in a row that Tustin Connect has been honored with a first-place award. Congratulations to our gingerbread architects!

Tustin High School

1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7414



Dr. Jon Tuin
Principal

Model United Nations Conference

Tustin High School hosted its 26th annual Model United Nations (MUN) Conference on November 17 and 18. Over 1,500 high school and middle school students from throughout California participated in this event, which is one of the largest student-led conferences in the United States. This year's theme was "Compass of Creativity."

MUN is an academic program that offers

an opportunity for students to simulate the activities of the United Nations organization. Through debate and collaboration, MUN students discuss a variety of international topics and current events. Once again, the Tustin High conference was a huge success!

In March, the MUN team will compete internationally at the SEK Model United Nations Conference in Madrid, Spain and nationally at University of California, San Diego in April. Tustin High's MUN teams continue to rank among the strongest in the nation in competition.



Students from throughout California participate in opening ceremonies for the Model United Nations Conference at Tustin High School.

Tustin Memorial Academy

12712 Browning Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7546



Sharon Maeda
Principal

The Impact of Helping Others

The students and staff members at Tustin Memorial Academy have been making an impact! In collaboration with the California Highway Patrol, our Student Council recently led a "CHiPs for Kids Toy Drive" throughout the month of December.

In the spirit of helping others, and with a focus on kindness, the fifth-grade students also held a collection drive to help create baskets for donation to the children at Olive Crest. Many items were collected and put into the baskets by our students!

The Student Council also voted on a charity to raise money for their cause, and decided to hold a candygram sale. Classes throughout our campus also created winter Random Acts of Kindness, where collectively

they first created a December calendar. Each day they then determined a kind act to do, such as write a veteran a letter, thank the custodian, make a decoration for the librarian, or smile at someone new. TMA continues to help others and make a difference!



Student Council and CHP officers get ready to load a bus full of toys.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

12950 Robinson Dr., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7580



Kathi Denny
Principal

Awesome Attendance Award

Tustin Ranch Cool Coyotes take attendance seriously! Our students are learning the importance of coming to school every day and realizing that they miss out on exciting learning experiences when they are absent. We have a very special new trophy, the Awesome Attendance Award, which is awarded each month to the class with the best attendance. Not only does the

winning class get to display this awesome trophy in their classroom window for that month but they also get an extra recess with Principal Kathi Denny.

The Awesome Attendance Award was originally given to the school as a gift from Gerry and Diane Aust in 1995, when Tustin Ranch Elementary School first opened. The Awesome Attendance Award received a new coat of paint and some lettering this year. The heart and sentiment of this gift makes it extra special for our staff and students.



Teacher Curtis Porter's fifth-grade class received the Awesome Attendance Award in December.

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Heather Bojorquez
Principal

Celebrating Kindness Through Art

The Utt community couldn't be prouder. Our very own eighth-grader, Yesenia Saldana, was chosen as the 2018–2019 MD4 (California) winner of the annual Lions Club Peace Poster Contest!

Gary Siegel, chairman of the Tustin Host Lions Club, exclaimed, "All of the Tustin Lions Club

members are so proud of her achievement that we're about to "bust our buttons!" Yesenia was first a winner at the local Lions Club level, then at the District 4-L4 level covering all of Orange County and portions of Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire, and now at MD4 in California.

Utt art teacher Kiara Moreno shared the enthusiasm, saying, "I am extremely impressed and proud of Yesenia's success which was, no doubt, the result of her dedication and hard work."

When asked about how it felt to have her artwork chosen as the state winner, Yesenia responded, "I am truly honored, and I look forward to



Utt Middle School eighth grader Yesenia Saldana's artistic take on the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest theme of "Kindness Matters."

seeing how far my work will go in the International Peace Poster Contest section.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7544



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Learning About Family Traditions

At Veeh School, teachers understand that listening and speaking competencies are complex skills that need to be developed over time. Listening and speaking

competencies are best developed with activities in the classroom that provide authentic speaking opportunities.

Recently, our second-grade Dual Language Immersion students shared about family traditions to promote just that. Having their parents participate in this experience made sharing about their traditions even more authentic as it allowed the students to feel comfortable and secure all while practicing important skills necessary for language acquisition such as: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



Second-grade Spanish Dual Immersion student Raelenna Bailey shares with the class about her family traditions.

Most importantly our students and families got to share in an experience that promoted cross-cultural understanding and respect.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

Confidence is Key

Title: *Inspired*

Imagine being put into two worlds and interchanging between the two with just a mirror. That was normal for Rocket, whose life seemed to be falling



apart. Her aunt was apparently a muse who needed her help immediately. Rocket had just moved to a new house and a new school, and with the chaos going on between the “real” world and the “imaginary” world, she didn’t know how she would be able to survive. Everything was just so new to her. But through hard work and lots of love, Rocket learned that she is the biggest person in her own life. I rate this book a five out of five stars. It taught me that confidence is the biggest influence that you can have on your own life.

Katie is a ninth grader. Her passion is writing and she likes finding new ways to structure poetry. She is working on creating a story line with a series of poems. In her spare time, she enjoys soccer, song writing and reading books.





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Jenna's Review



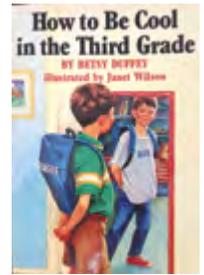
Jenna C.

Being Cool

Title: *How to Be Cool in the Third Grade*

Author: Betsy Duffey

Robbie really wanted to be cool in the third grade. He made a list how to become cool. 1. Get rid of the name Robbie—Rob is better. 2. Get jeans. 3. No



more kisses from mom at the bus stop. There was a boy named Bo Haney, a bully at school. When Robbie got on the bus on the first day of school, he accidentally sat on Bo's lap and Bo made fun of him. The nightmare continued. Robbie got the same class as Bo. Worst of all, Robbie got Bo as a book buddy. Robbie decided to speak up for himself. Will Robbie stop Bo from bullying him? Can Robbie manage to be a book buddy with Bo? Can Robbie become as cool as he wished?

I like this book because the story is about a third grader like me and it tells you how to stand up for yourself.

Jenna is a third grader. She likes art and soccer. She likes imaginary stories and someday she wants to be a book illustrator.



CAMPING—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 Please put TUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2019**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble

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TENT	BUGSPRAY
BLANKET	COT
WATER	



Congratulations to

Haruka Harayama and Ryder Rae

Winners of our December Word Search Contest!

Christina's Book Review



Showbiz is Not for Everyone

But I don't Want to be a Movie Star is a bit unrealistic, but entertaining. English girl Katriona (Kat) is a skater from a family with modest means. Due to a series of events she has to stay with her famous actress grandmother Noni Waters in US. Somehow 15-year old Kat and her very young-looking grandma are a spitting image of each

Christina J.

other. Kat gets to spend the summer in a mansion with a swimming pool, but she doesn't appreciate this life of luxury. All she wants to do is go skateboarding with her buddies. Then her grandma sprains her ankle and can't meet with her producer to talk about shooting of her next movie. Kat offers to impersonate her and does so good, that she is offered a role in a movie herself. There is a lot of funny and amazing things happening with Kat being Noni Waters, but in the end Kat refuses all the opportunities because "she just wants to be a normal girl!". I give this book a 4 out of 5. I personally can't relate to Kat's choices, but the characters were funny and charming.

Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).



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Dr. Al Mijares
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On a recent Tuesday morning, an atrium inside the Irvine headquarters of Edwards Lifesciences offered a glimpse of the transformational shift that's taking place in public education.

Educators mixed with business leaders to talk about meaningful work-based learning opportunities. Student-led exhibits highlighted career paths in critical industry sectors, including health science, engineering, agriculture and hospitality. High-level executives shared their time and their stories with future leaders.

The occasion was the fourth annual OC Pathways Showcase, which on Nov. 27 celebrated partnerships between educators and industry leaders that are creating classroom-to-career pathways that begin as early as middle school.

Led by the Orange County Department of Education, OC Pathways was launched in 2014 with a grant from the state, and it's since expanded to include dozens of school districts, businesses, colleges and local agencies. All are working together to equip students with the competencies they'll need to thrive in an economy that will look very different than the one that's dominated the last century.

Automation, artificial intelligence and other high-tech disruptions are dramatically reshaping how we think about work, inducing varying degrees of anxiety. According to a 2017 report by the McKinsey Global Institute, nearly half of the activities performed by employees in today's global economy have the potential to be automated with technologies that are already available.

Yet, as is noted in a separate analysis released by OC Pathways in partnership with the Orange County Business Council, some jobs will continue to thrive based on the high degree of creative intelligence they require, including civil engineers, lawyers, landscape architects and physicists. Skills such as active learning and complex-problem solving will continue to be in high demand.

In 1965, engineer and businessman Gordon Moore, who would later co-found Intel, famously predicted that computer processing would double about every two years as we figured out how to pack more and more transistors onto a single circuit.

Five decades later, what's known as Moore's Law remains a relevant trajectory. Yet as Moore's own philanthropy will attest, the human experience is not defined merely by our ability to exponentially increase processing power. With education as a key driver, mankind's success will instead hinge on our ability to marry technology with creativity to meet human needs.

It was fitting, then, that the latest OC Pathways Showcase would take place at Edwards Lifesciences, a leading medical equipment company that is literally saving lives with artificial heart valves and innovative techniques for delivering them.

"Our job is to see what's coming," Edwards Lifesciences Vice President of Advanced Technology Jinny Lee told the gathered crowd.

The same can be said of our educational systems, which are increasingly reaching out to industry partners to prepare students to meet an array of human needs, including those we can't yet envision.

This is not easy work, but it is essential. And it's arguably never been a more exciting time to be an educator.





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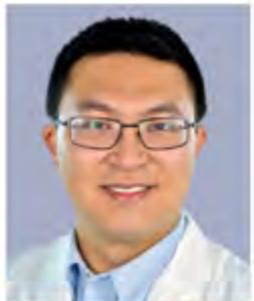
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