

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Orange Unified School District**



Volume 14, Issue 66

June 2019

## Jordan Elementary Playground Dedication



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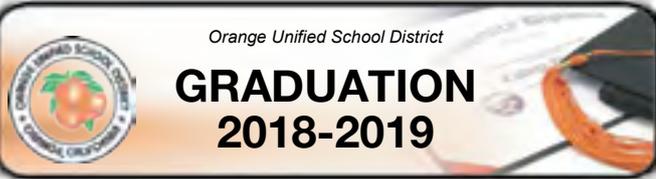
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Orange Unified School District

# GRADUATION 2018-2019

## Promotion & Graduation Schedule Thursday, June 13, 2019\*

### Special Education School

School	Time	Location
Tuesday, <b>June 11, 2019*</b> Canyon Hills	10:00 am	Gymnasium
Friday, <b>June 7, 2019*</b> Adult Transition Home School	10:00 am 3:00 pm	Alternative Education Site

### Middle School Promotions

School	Time	Location
McPherson Magnet	8:15 am	McPherson School Cafeteria
Portola	8:00 am	Portola School Field
Wednesday, <b>June 12, 2019*</b> Yorba	10:00 am	Yorba School Field
Cerro Villa	10:30 am	Cerro Villa Outdoor Amphitheater
Santiago Charter	10:00 am	Santiago Outdoor Amphitheater
Wednesday, <b>June 12, 2019*</b> El Rancho Charter	6:30 pm	El Rancho Outdoor Amphitheater

### High School Graduations

School	Time	Location
Canyon	4:00 pm	Angel Stadium
El Modena	1:00 pm	Angel Stadium
Orange	10:00 am	Angel Stadium
Villa Park	7:00 pm	Angel Stadium
Richland Alternative Ed	8:00 am	Angel Stadium

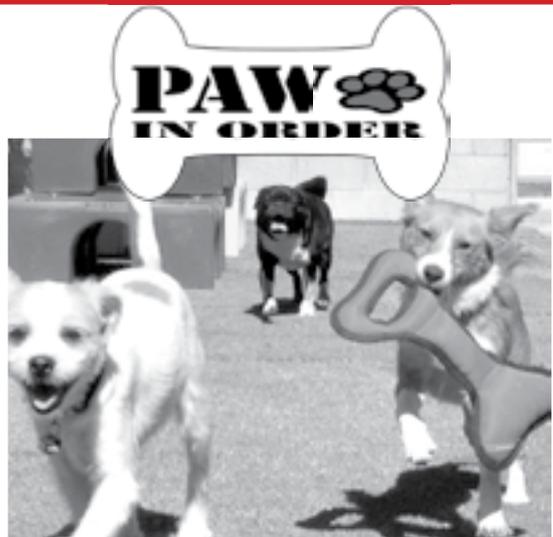
## Superintendent



**Dr. Gunn Marie  
Hansen**

### Strategic Planning

The Orange Unified School District engaged in meaningful dialogue with over 90 stakeholders during the Strategic Planning Event at Chapman University on Monday, May 13 and Tuesday, May 14. The District embarked on a well-planned process to develop a new Vision, Mission, Core Values, Strategic Initiatives, and Graduate Profile to define innovative learning opportunities to ensure all students excel into the future with college and careers. Overwhelming positive feedback has been received from the staff, community, parents, students, business partners and service organizations regarding their involvement in this event. Staff is now involved in implementation planning, and the writing team is busy synthesizing themes for the components of the Strategic Plan. During the summer, the OUSD Board of Education will have a Study Session to provide input to the plan and take action to approve it. The Board will also assist in identifying measurable indicators of success. The Roll Out of the OUSD Strategic Plan will be in the 2019-2020 school year making it meaningful, teachable, and visible in all OUSD Schools. Stay tuned for more information on the Orange Unified Strategic Plan!



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# School News



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Covering the  
**ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

We are at the end of another successful OUSD school year.

In this issue you will read about students celebrating Earth Day, a public speaking program, Math Masters, a robotic team, preparing for college and much more. Students have so many exciting opportunities to learn.

Our next issue is August 28 when we will begin publishing the excellence for a new school year.

Have a wonderful summer. On pages 24 - 26 we have included book reviews to help with your summer reading choices and camp ideas for fun and learning. Be sure to include the library among your summer activities.



## 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.



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

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## Is Your Child At Risk for Unintentional Drowning?



**Aileen Imai,**  
*Injury Prevention  
Coordinator,  
Injury Prevention  
Program,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach*

Every day, about 10 people die from unintentional drowning. About one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger. And for every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for non-fatal submersion injuries.

These non-fatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities, such as memory problems, learning disabilities or permanent loss of basic functioning.

### Drowning Prevention

With summer around the corner, it's important to keep water safety top of mind.

Children need a designated chaperone at all times. Formal swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning. Yet even when children have had formal swimming lessons, constant supervision and barriers, such as pool fencing to prevent unsupervised access, are still important.

Never leave a child in the water without adult supervision, no matter how shallow the water. And at no time should you consider that a flotation device will protect or save your child if you step away or are distracted, even for a moment.

In addition, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) performed by bystanders has been shown to save lives and improve outcomes in drowning victims. The more quickly CPR is started, the better the chance of improved outcomes. In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, CPR skills may save a child's life.

The Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach cares about keeping kids safe. That's why we focus on providing safety education to children and families in our community.



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# OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

Parkside Education Center: 250 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA 92869



## Greetings from Parkside Education Center!

As another successful school year comes to a close, we all look back in fondness on all of the great memories and lessons learned

throughout the year. As the site administrator I am extremely proud of our staff, students and parents that make Parkside such a special place. Our end of the year activities are in full swing and many of our students are being acknowledged for all of their excellent effort throughout the year. Whether it was a BBQ or a trip to the beach, our students all know how much they are appreciated and that we celebrate all of their victories!



**Ms. Bledsoe's class touring Olvera Street in Los Angeles**

## OUSD Child Development

Parkside Campus: 2345 E. Palmyra. Orange, CA 92869

### Child Development Services

*By Amie Wilson-Bird, Director*

One of the significant highlights of the year is celebrating the Child Development Department's 6th Annual Science Fair in the month of March. Within our Department we offer two preschool programs; School Readiness and the Child Development Center. We also offer an expanded learning program before and after school, at 19 school sites. In total, we serve over 2000 families each day!

All three programs have worked together in collaboration for this year's 6th Annual Child Development Science Fair. Each year the Science Fair continues to expand. As we predicted, over 3500 families participated and attended this year's event. Our collaborations with the STEAM Initiative and the community has afforded us the opportunity to co-host the Community STEAM Night held at Santiago Canyon College on Friday, March 22, 2019 from 5:30-8:30pm. We were thrilled about the growth of our department that enables us to reach so many children and families in the community.

The Science Fair Community STEAM Night highlights the STEAM learning that takes place in each program. It also allows students and families to share science projects, interact with local science and natural science vendors, as well as win prizes for their hard work. Discovery Cube, Lakeshore Learning, Bricks 4 Kidz, Inside the Outdoors, and Girls Inc. participated with hands-on activities for children and families. The theme for this year's Science Fair Community STEAM Night was "Digging into Science" with an OUSD Maker Challenge Exhibit. The contributions of the Child Development Department to this event showcased projects created by three and four year olds in preschool as well as school age children in our CARES program.

Our Child Development staff takes pride in the accomplishments of our students and they work hard each year to make this a night of fun, family, and discovery. We are grateful for our dedicated staff as well as the opportunities to collaborate with Santiago Canyon College and amazing vendors to promote STEAM in our schools and communities.

## Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169



**Nicole VanWilgen-Moore**  
*Principal*

### Tree Planting Ceremony

Anaheim Hills Elementary School (AHES) hosted a Tree Planting ceremony in partnership with the City of Anaheim to celebrate Earth Day. The City of Anaheim, represented by Anaheim City Council Member, Trevor O'Neil

and Anaheim Public Utilities General Manager, Dukku Lee, graciously donated a tree to AHES's Kindness Garden. Mrs. Rotsios and Mrs. Martin's fourth-grade student authors read original written pieces to the prompt "What is Earth Day?" and the fourth-grade class performed the song "Wake Up, America." In attendance of the ceremony were Orange Unified School District leaders including Board Member, Kris Erickson; Superintendent Dr. Hansen; Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, David Rivera; and Assistant Superintendent of Human



Resources, Ernie Gonzalez. The ceremony concluded with AHES students, City of Anaheim leaders, and Orange Unified School District leaders planting the donated tree to celebrate Earth Day. All of AHES students enjoy visiting the new addition to our Kindness Garden.

## California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104



**Dr. John Albert**  
*Principal*

### News and Announcements

California Elementary School home of the iInspire Academy where technology and language flourish is a school that is routed deeply in fostering community.

We have a strong PTO that meets bi-monthly and is a huge presence on our campus and in our community. They have hosted several family engagement events such as the Bubble Run, Daddy Daughter Dance, STEAM Night, Mother Son Game Night, Family Festival, Movie Nights, and Book Fairs.

Parent voice is a huge influence in guiding our programs and school. We actively seek parent input through use of digital surveys, parent focus groups, and bi-monthly PTO and ELAC meetings. In addition, our School Site Council is made up of an equal partnership with our parents to guide our school goals. We truly value our parent's voice.

We hold bi-monthly parent education classes. We partner in educating our parents on how they can help their



children as well as invest time to build an understanding of what we do at school that has led us to becoming one of 440 Apple Distinguished Schools in the world as leaders of innovation.

As equal partners in the success of our students, we have an abundance of parent volunteer on campus and in the classroom. We want thank all our volunteers and especially Gabriela Chavarria, Sadie Leal, and Inamorata Julian, our 2018-2019 Volunteers of the Year.

## Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103



**Diane Lew**  
Principal

### Multi-Tiered System of Support

Cambridge Elementary has created a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to ensure equitable access and appropriate supports for all students in the areas of academics, behavior, and social emotional learning. Students thrive when there are clear expectations, structured routines, and proper supports in place. Our Learning Lab offers differentiated interventions



in Reading, Mathematics, and Social Skills to support students throughout the school day. Our Lunchtime Club offers structured, supervised, and highly preferred activity clubs and intramural sports at lunch (i.e. capture the flag, basketball, pep squad, gaming, Lego engineering, etc.). With these supports, students are able to make better decisions socially and behaviorally. Lastly, our Mental Health Counselor is co-teaching in each of our classrooms to deliver a Social Emotional Learning curriculum to facilitate emotional literacy, self-control, social competence, positive peer relations, and interpersonal problem-solving skills. Students get what they need at Cambridge Elementary and we couldn't be prouder!

## Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000



**Craig Abercrombie**  
Principal

### Dreams and Doers Luminary Award Recipient

The Disneyland Resort selected Canyon High School senior Jasmine Nguyen as a Dreamers and Doers Luminary Award recipient. Dreamers and Doers are high school students that are making a positive difference in their communities and schools. Each school year 250 students receive recognition as Dreamers and Doers;



however, only five students receive the top recognition of a Luminary! Jasmine has been a tremendous leader on the CHS campus, especially in her work as President of the Junior State of America Club. JSA is a non-partisan club for students interested in politics and government. Under Jasmine's leadership, JSA membership grew 166% and the number of delegates from Canyon High grew 525%! Along with her recognition as a Luminary, Jasmine will receive a \$1000 grant for a the JSA club at Canyon High School, a \$3000 grant for a nonprofit organization of her choice, and an \$11,000 college scholarship!

## Gerry Miller, Psy.D.

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# Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171



**Dr. Karen Hanson**  
*Coordinator*

## Variety of Activities

This has been another wonderful year at Canyon Hills. Students have participated in a variety of activities, including outings in the community and seasonal celebrations on campus.

An important partnership has grown this year between the Anaheim Hills Rotary Club and Canyon Hills. The Rotary club has sponsored three holiday events this year, with the most recent being an Easter egg hunt, held on Friday, March 29. Club members provided treat-filled eggs, arts & crafts, and refreshments for the morning activities. Mattie May, a service dog owned by one of the Rotarians, also attended. This activity provided students with opportunities to use their communication, listening, and attending skills, as well as, gross and fine motor skills. Canyon Hills is most grateful for all the support received from the Rotary Club in helping meet the unique mission of Canyon Hills, to expand the independence of all of our students.



# Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027



**Dr. Michelle Owen**  
*Principal*

## Public Speaking Thrives

Canyon Rim Elementary is home to a unique program called, Chatters and Blabbers. The Chatters and Blabbers program is inspired by Toastmasters, a nonprofit educational organization that promotes communication and public speaking skills. All sixth-grade students participate in public speaking events every Friday afternoon. Students are assigned four distinct roles which include: Table Topics (impromptu speeches), Poetry Reciters, Evaluators and Blabbers who give two- to three-minute prepared speech. Students host the session and have specific roles from timers to “Uh” counters and secretary for each meeting. Students work throughout the year to practice public speaking and grow their skills in addressing both large and small audiences. Each student participates in the delivery of several unique public speaking opportunities such as impromptu speeches, persuasive arguments, informational and demonstration speeches. The goal of the program is to develop every student’s ability to deliver strong oral communication and demonstrate leadership skills while fostering self-confidence and personal growth.



**Sixth Grade students, Maddie, Sadie, Aiden, and David presenting an argumentative speech as part of the Chatters and Blabbers program to build and encourage public speaking.**

## Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251



**Lisa Ogan**  
*Principal*

### **Vikings Strive to Do Their Best on the Test!**

Cerro Villa is currently focused in preparing for the upcoming state exams and for continuing academic excellence during the third trimester. Staff and Leadership students will offer programs the week prior to testing to motivate students to perform well. Activities planned include: a stress-relief session with a visit from OCSPCA therapy dogs, coloring with the counselors, “smart cookies” cookie decorating, as well as an “I’m taking this test for” letter-writing campaign, with the notes displayed around campus as reminders of whom the students want to make proud. In addition, academic vocabulary scavenger hunts, whole-school aerobic stretching sessions, a DJ dance party, and yard games with staff will culminate the week. Proper sleep and nutrition reminders will also be posted on campus. As a result, the entire school population will be inspired and ready to do its best. Bring on the test!



## Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043



**Jana Saenz**  
*Principal*

### **Math Masters**

PTA and Chapman Hills are working together to make the best learning environment for our students. Our outstanding PTA heard the need for improved math excellence for our CHE students and created a PTA program called Math Masters. This program is in connection to the at home work on Khan Academy. Students enter a class at their grade level and work toward completion of their skills at that level. We have embedded incentives along the way working toward earning fun patches for percent completed. For example, students have earned the coveted Math Masters Patch and the Bobcat for 100% completion of their grade level. Additionally, students earn pins along the way as they get 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% completion. We have more and more students joining



this fun and interactive program each day. Students can purchase “letterman” style jackets and dawn them with their patches and pins. We are looking to expand this wonderful school spirit and celebration to more school programs such as John Wooden Pyramid of Success, Reading Counts, and the KROC.

Let’s go Bobcats the sky is the limit to where our academic skills can take us.

## Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371



**Shele Tamaki**  
*Principal*

### Celebrate National Poetry Month

*By Alan Saldivar, First Grade Teacher*

Beginning in 1996, and organized by the Academy of American Poets, National poetry month is celebrated each April. It is a way

to “increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United

States.” Our librarian, Mrs. Hooper, who is a highly enthusiastic promoter of reading and the enjoyment of books, was able to schedule an impressive guest to share his love of poetry with our students. His name is Grant Hier, and he is Anaheim’s inaugural poet laureate and literary ambassador. Hier was greeted by our sixth graders in a morning assembly where he shared writing strategies,

read poems and answered questions. He also visited some classrooms, and our PTA provided a meet and greet, where student council officers presented Hier with a poetic thank you card and gift. Grant Hier truly made this year’s poetry month highly memorable!



## El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331



**Jill Katevas**  
*Principal*

### New Science Building

El Modena celebrated the Ground Breaking of our new, state-of-the-art science building. Parents, teachers, students, and community members

came to join the celebration. Santiago Middle School’s band and cheer programs as well as El Modena’s cheerleaders kicked off the event. Sophomore, Kassandra Bravo, sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem followed by freshman class president, Peyton Smith, leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Kris Erickson spoke about how, despite the work in passing the bond, a community who works together can accomplish a great deal. Trustee Rick Ledesma shared the school board’s commitment to improving all of our facilities throughout the district.



Mayor Mark Murphy and State Assembly Member Steven Choi also spoke to honor our community’s commitment to building a 21st Century Science learning center for our students.

The event concluded with a ceremonial “turning of the dirt”. Pictured is El Modena staff who joined in the festivities.

# El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238



**Michele Walker**  
*Principal*

## Dollar Donation Day

El Rancho Charter School's ASB class has been busy raising money through a school-wide event called "Dollar Donation Day." The goal of "Dollar Donation Day" is to have each

student donate one dollar on a designated day in support of charity and/or local projects. In the fall, El Rancho students raised \$386 in one day for prostate cancer awareness. In February, the school promoted "Dollar Donation Day" with a student versus staff volleyball tournament, which raised \$427 for Canyon high school's gym renovation project. El Rancho Charter School's donation days have been a

huge success, and the school community looks forward to supporting more charities and educational projects in the future.



## Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157



**Christina Yokoyama**  
*Principal*

## The Robotics Team is Gearing Up!

Esplanade's robotics team has been busy collaborating, building, creating, revising, and practicing to prepare for the upcoming 2019 OUSD VEX Championships that will be hosted at Canyon High School in May. Having participated in one scrimmage already at the Community STEAM night hosted at Santiago Canyon College, this talented group of students is eager to compete again and perform better than ever. Esplanade's

challenges they must complete. A favorite challenger for the robotics team is the ringmaster competition in which students must direct the robots to pick up rings and place them on both horizontal and vertical poles. It is definitely a difficult challenge, but Esplanade's robotics experts do not give up. They continually modify their robots to be better at picking up the rings, and they practice, practice, practice! When asked why the students like being part of the robotics team, they explained that they love working together, collaborating with each other, and they especially like creating and modifying their robots.

Robotics Experts consists of students in grades 4, 5, and 6 and leading them is none other than Esplanade's Robotics Master, 5th/6th-grade teacher, Mrs. Aihara. The students work together in teams, each with their own robot. The teams collaborate on the design of their robot and the



## Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178



**Karen Sandors**  
*Principal*

### Parent and Students Learning Together

Fairhaven Elementary had a great evening of learning and engaging in science. We started the night with a presentation from guest speaker Terri Nii, district CTE (Career Technical Education) specialist. Ms. Nii talked to the parents and students about the courses that the different high schools have to offer to help students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers. Many parents were surprised that there were so many choices that their children could consider as they move into their future education. Next the families moved to some fun science experiments. Families experimented with magnets, made slime, gas bubbles, ice cream, and had a chance to view the robots and field that our robotics team worked on. It is always a fun night when families come together to learn and play together.



## Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181



**Sara Pelly**  
*Principal*

### Principal for a Day

Orange Unified School District held its annual “Principal for a Day” event on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Scott Dormaier, publisher, was the honored guest at Fletcher. The program’s purpose is to foster relationships within the community and to share the outstanding work of OUSD teachers, students, and staff.

Arriving at Fletcher that morning, “Principal” Dormaier was given the VIP treatment – including the use of the principal’s parking spot and his name on the school marquee. He toured the school, read to Fletcher students, who were celebrating Read Across America, and got an unexpected Mandarin lesson from Fletcher’s dual immersion kindergartners!

According to Dormaier, he was most impressed with the ability of very young students to speak, read, write and understand Mandarin, after only months in the program. Xièxiè, Mr. Dormaier, and come back to Fletcher any time



## Handy Elementary

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183



**Erika Krohn**  
Principal

### Angels Adopt a School!

On Friday, April 19, Angels Baseball adopted Handy School! Handy 3rd graders kicked off a school-wide assembly with a spirited performance of *Take Me Out to the Ball Game!* Then, radio host Roger Lodge and the Strike Force girls introduced Angels' pitcher Luis Garcia. He spoke to

the students about the importance of working hard to achieve a dream. The students asked him many interesting questions. After the school-wide assembly, a smaller group of teacher-selected students that demonstrate kindness and respect got to attend a meet and greet and autograph session with both Roger and Luis. Angels Baseball presented a \$2000 check to the school and a water bottle for each student! Best of all, every student and staff member received 4 tickets to the May 26 Angel Game! The Handy Community cannot wait to have fun at the ball game together! Handy School is incredibly grateful to Angels Baseball for their generosity and inspiration!



## Imperial Elementary

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282



**Amber Miller**  
Principal

### Outdoor Science

Our 6th grade students and teachers recently packed their bags, and snow boots, and headed up the mountain for a trip they will remember forever. They spent a week at Outdoor Science School in Arrowhead Ranch where all hiked,

camped, explored, and built relationships. This camp and science learning experience encouraged the students to unplug for the week and explore their inner survival skills. Following our California State Science Framework, students learned about botany, geology, astronomy, meteorology, the water cycle, ecology, habitats and adaptations, and energy and conservation in an outdoor

school setting. During a visit by the administration mid-week, elated smiles and excited conversations filled the mess hall. We are most excited to continue this 6th grade tradition at Imperial Elementary School and look forward to many more years to come at Outdoor Science Camp.



## Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187



**Lorena Rubio**  
*Principal*

### Focused on Reading

Jordan Elementary School is committed to providing high-quality reading instruction that meets the needs of our students and inspires them to become lifelong readers. Our teachers and staff foster a love of reading through our Reading Counts program.

Teachers set individual Reading Counts goals with each of their students focused on a number of Reading Counts quizzes passed or

a number of words read. Our librarian, Mrs. Carrie Pavlik, has been an amazing asset to our Reading Counts program. She works extremely hard to honor student effort through Reading Counts incentives, such as doughnuts for the class once every student has 10 quizzes passed, a free book for 25 quizzes passed, the Million Word Reader Club In N' Out luncheon, and numerous awards given at our Trimester Awards assemblies. She also runs the Morning Family Literacy Project that invites families to check out books,

read together, and take Reading Counts quizzes three days a week.

In March, Jordan participated in Read Across America Week, an annual reading motivation and awareness program. Students received a free book through the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program, decorated a Dr. Seuss hat to wear, listened to their teacher read their favorite childhood story, wore crazy socks to honor Dr. Seuss' Fox in Socks, read outside with their classmates, and the culminating activity was our Guest Reader day. On March 1st, guest readers from throughout the community read to our classes including our esteemed guest, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond. What an honor to have Mr. Thurmond visit our amazing school!

In April, our students voted for their favorite California Young Reader Medal nominees. Students that read the chapter book nominees received 30 ROAR tickets and a special luncheon with Mrs. Pavlik.

Jordan scholars can and will succeed in reading!

## La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155



**Lydia Roach**  
*Principal*

### Pyramid of Success

La Veta students had the opportunity to work with UCI Women's Soccer Coach, Scott Juniper during an assembly sponsored by Harper for Kids. Coach Juniper helped introduce Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success. Students were given suggestions on how to strive for their "Personal Best" in everything that they do. Some students and teachers including Mrs. Gaut, Ms. Meyer, and

Mrs. Dion practiced the skill of kicking with Coach Juniper who focused on the building blocks SKILL: Practice Makes Perfect, and DETERMINATION: Slow and Steady Gets You Ready. La Veta School appreciates the partnership that has been established with Tim and Peanut Harper and Harper for Kids. Through this partnership, teachers received many resources like the posters of the Pyramid of Success that are now displayed in every classroom. We look forward to future assemblies and more opportunities to share these character education building blocks with La Veta students.

## Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153



**Heriberto Angel Jr.**  
*Principal*

### Success on the SBAC!

SBAC is around the corner and our students have been working hard all year to prepare for this test. Every year, we hold a school-wide pep rally assembly to get our 3rd – 5th grade students pumped. This year's assembly will kick off on Thursday, May 2nd, in which our students are given words of wisdom and encouragement and are introduced to our testing slogan, "Success

on the SBAC!" Our students are expected to have **S**uccess on the SBAC, **B**e at school daily and on time during testing,

**A**lways give their best effort, and **C**arefully read questions and directions. Our teachers have been working all year to prepare our students. In fact, they have also been rehearsing daily to perfect their choreography and vocals for our assembly, as they will be performing "Can't Stop the Testing", a parody of Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling". The assembly will conclude with Mr. Angel and Dr. Perales challenging our students. If Lampson students fulfill our SBAC testing expectations, Mr. Angel and Dr. Perales will get a pie in the face! There is no doubt that our Lampson Leopards will do great on the SBAC. Lampson Leopards will have success on the SBAC!

## Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201



**Ginette Kelley**  
*Principal*

### Next Generation Science Standards

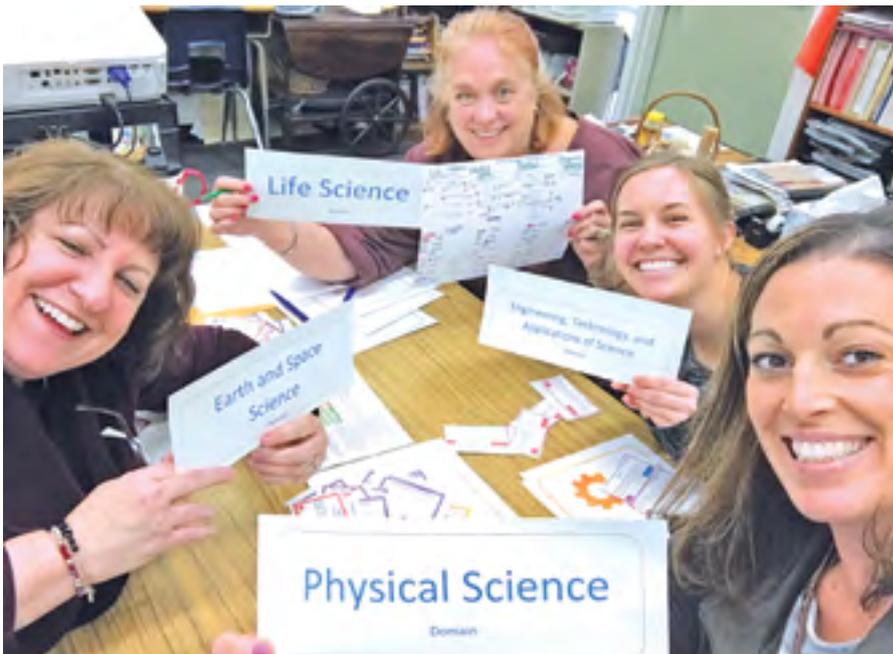
As our children grow, we send them to school to learn the ABC's and so much more.

We strive to encourage life-long learners. We prepare them with tools that include critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. To do that, we believe that our

teachers need to continue their learning as well. Did you know that OUSD teachers participate in Professional Development each month? Recently, Linda Vista Teachers expanded their knowledge of the Next Generation Science Standards. Our teachers worked collaboratively, using their communication and critical thinking skills to actively participate in learning activities. At Linda Vista, we will continue to learn more about our Science Standards and bring effective science strategies to our classrooms. We truly believe in being life-long learners.

Leopards have Potential, Aspirations, Wisdom, and Skills!

We are Leopards; We have PAWS!



## McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384



**Joe Erven**  
*Principal*

### Launch and Gateway Programs

McPherson Magnet School celebrated its Project Lead the Way Distinguished school status for both their elementary (Launch) and secondary (Gateway) programs.

McPherson is one of four schools in the entire county to achieve distinguished school status for the elementary program and they are the only school in

the county to receive the designation for the middle school program. At the ceremony on Wednesday, March 27th, students from 3rd through 8th grade expressed their love for the Project Lead the Way STEM program. Lily Mastroianni, 3rd grade student, detailed her creation of simple machines in the STEM Lab. Trey Esperanza, 5th grader, said it best, "PLTW makes learning fun because we are building and learning by doing." McPherson Magnet has received the Distinguished School status due to the access of the Project Lead the Way STEM program for all students. The program empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset



through compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. As students engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

# Nohl Canyon

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203



**Heather Bosworth**  
*Principal*

## Mary Poppins

Nohl Canyon Elementary is excited to have brought another outstanding musical theater production to the stage. Mary Poppins is a musical based on the story of P. L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film. Over 100 Nohl Canyon Elementary students were part of this elaborate production.

Mary Poppins is Nohl Canyon's 11th musical production. The Arts at Nohl

Canyon is a musical theater program that began in 2012. It started as a simple talent show with about 40 of our students. Over the last five years, the program has evolved to produce two major musical theater productions per year. We had a record number of 120 Nohl Canyon students participating in Mary Poppins involving them in all the important elements of producing a staged musical production including costumes, sets, lighting, sound, a professional program, photographer, and a videographer. Students rehearsed for the 8 weeks

prior to opening night. Obvious to any audience member was the reality that these kids perfected the ability of how to act, sing and dance. Most even learned how to talk with a British accent. However, there is so much more that these kids learned behind the scenes. They learned that it takes hours and hours of hard work and dedication to create something beautiful. They learned that even when they are tired and not in the mood to practice, great things happen when you persevere. They learned to value of coming together as a team to create some much greater than what they could produce alone. They learned how to handle the disappointment of not getting the part they wanted yet still putting 100% effort into doing their personal best with the role they did receive. They will use these skills every day, long after this show closes.

For each performance, the auditorium sold out, and over 660 audience members experienced the magic of this classic tale through the talents and hard work of our dedicated students.

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## Orange High School

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211



**Dennis McCuiston**  
*Principal*

## Panthers Preparing for College

Panthers kicked off May with their third annual Junior Rush event which aims to prepare the current eleventh grade students for their postsecondary options. Students were taken through the process that they will undergo starting now in preparation for their journey after high school. The best part of the event were the workshops that all 11th grade students were given the choice to attend. OHS worked with our community

partners and had representatives from Santiago Canyon College, College Bound, Cal State Fullerton, and UCI to host five separate workshops. The topics of discussion for each workshop included the following:

- Personal statement planning
- Four year requirements for UC, CSU, out of state and private institutions
- Transferring from a Community College to a four year University
- Certificate Programs at Community Colleges or Trade Schools
- Finalizing and Finding a Match for College

Great knowledge was gained by all Juniors and helped ease tensions about the future. This is another great opportunity provided to Orange High students to prepare for their bright futures. #ReachHigher



## Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218



**Heather Darrow**  
*Principal*

### Students Spread Sunshine to Others

We've all had days when we need a little kindness to get us through. At other times, spreading kindness is what helps us the most. For this reason, Olive students have created the Sunshine Club, which strives to bring a little sunshine into the lives of fellow students each day. One Sunshine Club member shared, "Being a part of the Sunshine Club makes me feel happy and

good because I get to make other people feel happy." Sunshine Club students spend their morning recess with primary students, making sure each child has someone to



play with and engages them in positive interactions with others. Another member stated, "It's important to have this club so that students who feel bullied or alone can work with Sunshine Club members to change their behavior in a positive way." Olive Elementary is proud of the work our students are doing to support a kind and caring community of learners!

## Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207



**Brenna Godsey**  
*Principal*

### AVID Buddies

Palmyra Elementary School is an AVID school! AVID teaches students to be organized, uses strategies to improve critical thinking skills, and builds leadership qualities. In order to promote and support these skills, all of the classes at Palmyra are partnered with another class for "AVID buddies". Primary and Upper grade classes partner up with their "AVID buddies" to

engage in an AVID based activities together. Ms. Campbell's 5th/6th GATE class partnered with Mrs. Rowe's 2nd/3rd grade class to do the "Partner Drawing" AVID activity.



In the "Partner Drawing" activity, one partner verbally describes a picture to their partner, while their partner listens carefully and draws the picture without looking. This activity requires students to use descriptive language and strengthens listening comprehension skills. Ms. Campbell says "students love this activity, especially when it's time to see what their partner drew or what the picture being described actually looks like."

Our sixth grade students in Ms. Thomas' class partner with Mrs. Wood's Kindergarten and first grade students. Mrs. Wood's students were learning about (animals). Their 6th grade buddies helped them research online and then taught their younger partners how to document their research in 3 column notes.

## Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265



**Jeremy Mortensen**  
*Principal*

### Give and Grow Event

Panorama Elementary was very fortunate to partner with a company to host a Give and Grow Event on Friday, April 12th. They generously took their time with over 100 volunteers, finances, and expertise to rejuvenate Panorama's campus with new paint on the blacktop with games for our kids to play at recess, a new playground for our kindergarteners, and an amazing Mindfulness Garden – essentially an outdoor

classroom – for our teachers and students to learn and enjoy. The Mindfulness Garden features a blackboard, indigenous plants, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, shade, and fresh air for our kids to become inspired in their learning and provide a myriad of STEAM activities for our students to learn and enjoy. Moreover, the Safran Group donated playground equipment for our students to enjoy at recess and PE and two 3D printers!

This was a once in a lifetime event that our students, staff, and Principal Mortensen will never forget. We are so thankful for this opportunity!



## Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361



**Jeff Morgan**  
*Principal*

### Visiting an Entertainment Headquarters

10 lucky and deserving Matadors recently visited the an entertainment headquarters in Irvine. Our students have had three meetings with some of the most influential people from the company, whose jobs vary from game and character designers to being in charge of some of the largest eSport events in the world. One of the major highlights for our students over the past month has

been collaborating with the mentors and creating their ideal characters. They were surprised during their visit to see that actual artists created their characters from their planning and they were able to take them home. We hope that this experience has been an example to our students that you can make a living doing what you love and the possibilities are endless if you pursue your passion.



## Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271



**Sally Hughson**  
*Principal*

### STEAM Lab

Prospect Elementary's new STEAM Lab is a great success! Students in 1st - 6th participate in engineering

challenges, coding using Dash (robot), and creating unique projects using 2 Bit Circus Wall, all based on the Next Generation Science Standards. The year started with a focus on rotating students through collaborative challenges, for example: building a tower with foam blocks, measuring it, then improving the tower to make it taller and stronger.



In January, we rolled out our first school-wide engineering challenge: to build a paper airplane that would fly the farthest, with paper clips as cargo. Students used the Engineering and Design Process to plan, design, test and improve their planes to fly even farther. Classes competed to determine a grade level winner for this design challenge. Having a place for students to problem solve, create, build and design will ensure Prospect Students will be future Engineers, Scientists, Teachers, and Artists.

## Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167



**Dr. Elsie Briseño Simonovski**  
*Principal*

### Very Special Prom

On Friday, April 26th a group of RHS students attended the Orange Blossom Ball, hosted by the Assistance League of Orange. Our Condors along with our amazing team (Community Liaison, Ms. Torres and teacher Ms. Clark) attended the community-hosted event. The Orange Blossoms of the Assistance League helped our students prepare for Richland High School's upcoming prom which will be held on

Friday, May 31st at the Costa Mesa Country Club.

Students who attended the event were greeted with a friendly check-in that included a \$20 voucher for a pair of shoes, followed by a personal shopper who assisted our students in selecting three dresses. All students attended a free make up session and received a make-up bag for attending. All of our attendees had the opportunity to select matching jewelry, a new clutch and accessories to match their new wardrobe ensemble!

Following the personal shopping, all participants enjoyed a lovely meal, courtesy of the Assistance League. The event concluded where our students participated in a free workshop on self-esteem and positive motivation. Richland High School is incredibly thankful to be a part of local programs that enrich our student's experiences, strengthen their self-esteem and enrich their young lives by providing positive experiences and great opportunities for a very special high school Prom. Thank you, Orange Blossoms!



## Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512



**Mark McLaughlin**  
*Principal*

### **Buddies Program**

Running Springs Elementary is excited to showcase our Buddies program between Miss Meehan's 6th grade students and our Moderate/Severe Special Day Classes with Mrs. Moeller, Mrs. Houghtling, and Miss Herkimer. Every Friday the 6th grade students participate as positive peer models for our students with special needs. 6th grade students are paired with a student



from a Special Day Class to complete an art project, play games on the playground, or read books. This positive interaction builds relationships and boosts leadership skills. The Buddies program has been an amazing program to build understanding and inclusive practices for all Redhawk students.

## Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275



**Katherine Rizzo**  
*Principal*

### **Don't just fly...SOAR!**

Serrano students can be found all around Villa Park! A fifth-grade fundraiser was held at a local fast-food and broke the bank! Serrano managed to beat all previous records for sales; the students were so excited to see their teachers at the drive up window, the counter taking orders, calling out orders and delivering food! A great time was



had by many! A week later, Serrano students could be seen walking over to Villa Park High School where they were treated by a Villa Park Drum Band presentation. Students in grades fourth through sixth were enthralled to see and hear the high school students in a very exciting and engaging program. Later in the month, Mrs. Rizzo could be found at Villa Park City Hall for the Villa Park Woman's League meeting. The philanthropic club awarded Serrano a school grant donation to be used for flexible seating purchases for our classrooms. Thank you Villa Park Women's League!

## Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277



**Renee Ybarra**  
*Principal*

### **Connections are Key!**

Connecting with the family and school community is a foundation for student success. At Sycamore, we offer many ways families can build relationships with each other and the school. Having healthy family relationships is important for children's development. At Sycamore we offer a 10 week Strengthening Families program through Phoenix House every year. This program is not only for parents, but for kids as well!

Additionally, Sycamore offers many opportunities for families to spend time together here at school. We have a monthly Family Lunch opportunity in which we usually have over 100 family members in attendance. This year we held a Family Reading Night and Family Math Night so families can learn and grow together while having fun. Additionally, our PTA hosted our first ever Family Valentine Dance this year. Students and parents had a blast dancing,

making Valentines, taking pictures in the photo booth, and enjoying a meal together. Our youngest (and future) Sea Lions can bring their parents once a month to Toddler Storytime in our Library, too!

Students have many ways they can connect with each other and their teachers here at Sycamore! Some opportunities for students to have fun together include: Kindness Kidz Club, STREAM Club, Robotics Team, and the Joy of Gardening Club. Additionally, student leadership groups include Student Council and AVID Academic Council. At lunch, many of our students enjoy the PureGame Soccer group, and we even have a group of students that read together after school before playing soccer with the PureGame staff. Several of our classes have developed connections with each other through a class buddy system, also. Older and younger classes will team up to read, work out in PE, or do art projects together.

Having healthy connections with family and friends creates a happy, successful life!

# Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366



**Dr. James D'Agostino**  
Co-Principal



**Ashley Pedroza**  
Co-Principal

## Advocacy Day

Santiago Charter students traveled to Sacramento during Charter School Advocacy Day this year. The visit started with the students having an opportunity to shadow the State

Superintendent Tony Thurmond. The students were recognized as audience members in Superintendent Thurmond's Press Conference, as well as, part of a panel of educators who discussed diversity amongst the teaching profession. Students walked from the Department of Education straight to the State Capitol where they had an opportunity to sit down and discuss Charter School Policy with Assemblyman Dr. Steven Choi and enjoyed a personalized tour throughout the Capitol building. Part of being a Santiago Santana is participating in unique real-world opportunities to memorialize your middle school



experience. Whether students are traveling abroad, lobbying for legislation or embarking on a virtual field trip in class - being a Santana is a unique experience.

## Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254



**Connie Smith**  
Principal

## Camp Read-A-Lot

Taft Elementary families recently participated in a fun night of literacy and reading activities. Several rooms at the school were transformed into *Camp Read-A-Lot*. During the camping themed night, students and parents were hosted by several teachers who led the activities. Those who attended had fun making bookmarks and

reading cubes, participated in a campfire book walk, followed written directions to make and eat s'mores, and got cozy in tents under the stars to read books by flashlight. The turnout was great and a fun time was had by all. It is sure to become an annual event for the Taft Tigers!



## Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281



**Sara Beggs**  
*Principal*

### Team Kids Challenge

The Team Kids Challenge is at Villa Park Elementary! For 5 weeks VPE students work with local Police Officers, Firefighters, and Team Kids Coaches to learn they are not too young to change the world while tackling the needs of their community one week at a time! Villa Park students collected gently used towels and blankets for a local animal shelter

during the first week, hygiene items for the Illumination Foundation in the second week, and food items for South County Outreach in the third week. Over seventy-five 4th-6th graders have volunteered to be part of the Team Kids Leadership Team to create a student-run carnival in which all proceeds will go to a local animal shelter. This program has encouraged our VPE students to work collaboratively, think critically and creatively towards a common goal that supports our community. Go Bobcats!



## Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020



**Dr. Ken Miller**  
*Principal*

### School of Excellence

We have had some amazing results from our spring academics and athletics at Villa Park. Please allow me to elaborate and illustrate why we are a School of Excellence where Winners Win:

- We are seeing the largest admissions to Universities such as UC, Cal State, Ivy League and private schools we have seen in many years. We are so proud of our students!
- Girls Golf won their 3rd straight CIF Southern Section Academic Championship. The team had the highest grade point average in the Southern Section and will be honored on the field at Angel Stadium on May 20!
- Cheer was a close second in the final Academic Championship tabulations and finished as the CIF Southern Section Academic Champion Runner Up!
- Baseball and Boys' Golf won League Titles.
- AP Research/Capstone final presentations, the culmination of their authentic research studies,

have been spectacular this month! These students are demonstrating college graduate level work!

- We are continuing our marketing at Anaheim Stadium! Villa Park High School not only appeared on The Big A for the month of April celebrating our School of Excellence but we are also in the Angels Baseball Program for the duration of the 2019 baseball season as we show off our Highlights' Sheet! We have also marketed at Angel Stadium at the 5K Run as well as at Main Place Mall and The Village in Orange.
- Speaking of Angel Stadium, our distinguished graduating class will be graduating on Thursday, June 13 at Angel Stadium! We can't wait!
- The Science Building is running on schedule for a late Fall, 2020 opening!
- Finally, we also have prepared a promotional video for showing in movie theaters for the month of May and for the Memorial Day movie season. We want more families to enroll and attend our amazing school district!

## West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283



**Monica Murray**  
*Principal*

### Annual Career Day

West Orange Elementary is excited to share with you our annual Career Day event that took place on Friday, April 19th. During the school year, Ms. Cho, our library Media Technician, worked diligently with WO staff to select representatives from local businesses and

organizations to speak to our young scholars. Our guest speakers were Arturo Castillo, Rachelle Casillas, John Savage, Michael Kowalski, MacKenzie Crigger, and James Henson, who brought to life their careers.

Mr. Castillo is an OC Park Ranger who delivered a hands on presentation where students were able to engage in wildlife artifacts and with live animal inhabitants. Ms. Casillas shared her love of being a community ambassador and the 2018 Mrs. Philippines Transcontinental Woman of Inspiration. She talked of the importance of being an uplifting member of our community. Mr. Savage, an OC Mosquito and Vector Control representative, enlisted the help of our students in conducting real life experiments. Students learned the



importance of mosquito fish aide in mosquito eradication. Mr. Kowalski, Associate Dean of Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University, captivated students with his expertise in film and media development. Ms. Crigger, Energy & Sustainability Manager and Professor of Environmental Science at Chapman University, empowered students to become energy savers and provided each student with reusable straws. Mr. Henson, Attorney at Law, inspired students to advocate for the greater good. From animal critters to environmental science our West Orange Scholars are on a college and career ready path.

## Yorba *Academy of the Arts Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161



**Sandra Preciado-Martin**  
*Principal*

### Visiting Chapman University

Yorba Toro's extended their learning beyond the confines of Yorba Middle School! On April 11, Yorba students visited Chapman University's campus where they had the opportunity to experience life as a Chapman student. They joined a mini lesson on constructive critical feedback by Dr. Golden and his colleague, Steve Goodman, who Skyped in from New York. Students used the knowledge gained through this

lesson and worked with Chapman students to give critical feedback to their peers' articles. Students also visited the office of The Panther, Chapman's newspaper. After this informative session, Isa Basche, a Chapman mentor in the partnership, gave a campus tour of the school. To finish off this amazing experience, students had lunch in the Randall Dining Commons. Yorba students had a plethora of choices for lunch and they could not have been happier! This amazing experience would not have been possible without the support and funding of the Lloyd and Elisabeth Klein Legacy Foundation.



## Rabina's Review



### **Humor and Suspense**

*No Talking*

This book could be considered a realistic fiction because kids who are currently reading it or kids who have already read it, could relate to



**Rabina K.**

how things are in a school. The book is about a middle school boy named Dave Packer who is a part of a pack of middle school boys, and a middle school girl named Linsey who represent a group of girls in the same middle school. Both of these groups started a competition against each other to stay quiet. They went through a lot of challenges to lead a 'no talking' day in school or at home. For example, the teacher called on Dave to present his project to the class but, since he could not talk, he had to sacrifice his grades for the victory of his team.

I recommend this book to other kids because not just that this book is full of humor but, it also creates enough suspense at times to sure keep you at the edge of your chair. I give this book 10 out of 10 stars.

Rabina is a 5th grader, who enjoys reading historical fiction and biographies. Writing is her passion. Besides, reading books and writing, she also enjoys playing soccer and piano.

## Victoria's Review

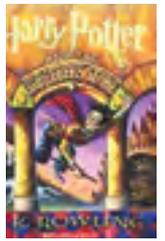


### **Wizardry and Witchcraft**

*Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K.

Rowling is a phenomenal book.

The plot is very interesting because it's a wild wild tunnel of wizardry and witchcraft. Harry is born into a family of wizards, but then his parents die when he is one year old. He is raised by his cruel Aunt Petunia and her wretched family. Harry is taken from this unpleasant life and sent to Hogwarts, a school of wizardry. Harry learns that old philosopher, Nicolas Flamel, originally made a Sorcerer's Stone to keep his wife alive forever; but, it was lost and may land in the wrong hands. He befriends two wizards, Hermione and Ron, who help him find the Sorcerer's Stone which gives immortality so Voldemort will die. The stone must be found before it's too late and Voldemort kills him first! Harry learns that anything is possible with cunning, hard work and friendship! I rate this book "5 out of 5" smiles.



**Victoria L.**

Victoria L. is an 8th grader. She loves school and her favorite subject is Science. Victoria enjoys books that have mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them with a "Smiles." Victoria gets spell-bound by great musical theatre performances and has a profound love of singing. She is a member of her school's choir and also sings classical soprano in a local collegiate choir

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## Encouraging Teens to Read for Pleasure

The amount of time that teens spend reading for pleasure has declined a lot over the past few years. Whether this is due to time spent with screen media, or other factors is unknown.

Fortunately, we do know the way to encourage readers of any age: Keep books in the house, set aside daily reading time, and read yourself. For teens specifically, it may help to tap into whatever they're passionate about — if you can name it, there's a book about it. In a world filled with entertaining diversions, it can be difficult for teens to find reading material that really motivates them to read. Check our reviews (you can sort our book reviews by age, genre, and topic). Here are some more ideas:

**Try an ereader.** Ereaders offer your teen a bit more independence, flexibility, privacy — they're great for travel.

**Consider humor.** Some teens just need the funny.

**Draw inspiration from pop culture.** Late-night comedians, musicians, and even software developers (think Steve Jobs) are great subjects (or authors!) for teen reading because they're relevant to teens' lives.

Insist that they read the book before seeing the movie.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)



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## B is for Book



**Bailey**

### Princess X gets an A+!

*Princess X* is an awesome book with a great story line and interesting illustrations.

May's life hasn't been so great since her best friend Libby died in a car accident. Her

favorite memory is drawing comic books with Libby. Their character was named Princess X. Years after the accident, May sees their Princess X on a sticker! She sets up to find out who else knows about Princess X.

This book is full of adventure, mystery, and even comic books inside! The clues to follow keep you hooked. The author made the situation in the book feel realistic and like it fit in the modern world.

I would recommend this books to upper grade students and middle school kids. I rate it 5 out of 5!

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.



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## Ask Dr. Shari



**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

### Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

#### Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

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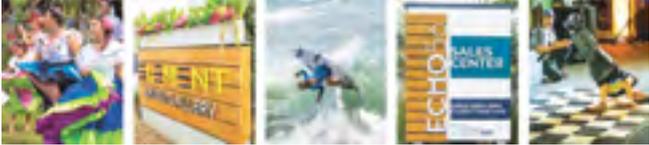
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