

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Alhambra Unified School District**



Volume 1, Issue 1

September / October 2019

## **PBS (Positive Behavior Supports) Learning**



**Kindergarteners at Brightwood singing a song about relationship building and being a good citizen. Every AUSD school teaches PBS (Positive Behavior Supports) Learning.**



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Neta Madison*  
Netragrednik

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
**ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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As this new school year begins, we are delighted to begin publishing the excellence from the Alhambra Unified School District the months of August, November, March and May.

In this issue the principals have shared their bios. It is always fun to learn where they went to college, about their families, hobbies, etc.

In subsequent issues you will read about specific programs being implemented in the classroom, — field trips, technology, relationship building, and much more. As Superintendent Jaramillo says in her article on the following page, AUSD embraces relationship building skills

as well as academics. Our *School News* mission statement is Education + Communication = A Better Nation. We look forward to communicating.

If you are a business owner and would like information to advertise in *School News*, please email or call for our rates or visit our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com). In addition to the printed copies, we also post all of our issues on our web site for our online readers as well as links on our social media.

Be sure to enter our contest on page 11 and enjoy the student book reviews on page 14.

Our next issue is November 6.

## Kids may think they're grown up. We Know Better.

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## Welcome Back to School



**Denise R. Jaramillo**

We are excited to welcome you back to school. All of us on the AUSD staff have been working all summer to get ready for you!

As we begin a new school year, I want you to know that at Alhambra Unified we are deeply committed to providing unique and varied TK-12 learning opportunities in combination with a district-wide, relationship-centered approach to ensure students reach their full potential. We believe relationships are the heartbeat of learning. No significant learning occurs without significant relationships.

Foundational to whole child education is a culture of belonging and connection, where empathy, collaboration, inclusion, and teamwork can grow, and bridges of understanding are taught and practiced. It is in this culture that academic excellence thrives. When students feel cared about, they try. Creative problem-solving, focus, initiative, emotional self-regulation, and resilience expand in a culture that values connection and relationships.

It is no surprise that it is these same relationship-driven social and behavioral skills that employers say they most value and seek out in new employees.

At every AUSD school and in every classroom, we embrace both academic rigor and a system of Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) to teach students relationship-building skills. The PBS learning extends to every AUSD staff member who then models the social, emotional and behavior skills that set up students to succeed in school and in life.

It takes all of us to grow a flourishing student. We can't wait to begin the journey together on this most important effort: the future of our children.

As a first step, I invite you to attend your child's Back to School Night and then stay connected with the school. I look forward to working with you!

## Bienvenida de Regreso a la Escuela

Estamos muy contentos de darles la bienvenida de regreso a la escuela. ¡Todos los miembros del personal de AUSD hemos estado trabajando todo el verano para prepararnos para ustedes!

Al comenzar un nuevo año escolar, quiero que sepan que en Alhambra Unificado estamos profundamente comprometidos con proporcionar oportunidades de aprendizaje TK-12 únicas y variadas en combinación con un enfoque centrado en relaciones en todo el distrito para garantizar que los estudiantes alcancen todo su potencial. Creemos que las relaciones son el latido del aprendizaje. No ocurre un aprendizaje significativo sin relaciones significativas.

La educación fundamental para toda la infancia es una cultura de pertenencia y conexión, donde la empatía, la colaboración, la inclusión y el trabajo en equipo pueden crecer y se enseñan y practican puentes de comprensión. Es en esta cultura que la excelencia académica prospera. Cuando los estudiantes se sienten importantes, lo intentan. La resolución creativa de problemas, la concentración, la iniciativa, la autorregulación emocional y la resiliencia se expanden en una cultura que valora la conexión y las relaciones.

No es de sorprenderse que sean estas mismas habilidades de comportamiento y sociales impulsadas por las relaciones las que los empleadores dicen que valoran más y buscan en sus nuevos empleados.

En todas las escuelas de AUSD y en cada aula, adoptamos tanto el rigor académico como un sistema de Apoyos de Comportamiento Positivo (PBS, por sus siglas en inglés) para enseñar a los estudiantes habilidades para construir relaciones. El aprendizaje de PBS se extiende a cada miembro del personal de AUSD que luego modela las habilidades sociales, emocionales y de comportamiento que preparan a los estudiantes para que tengan éxito en la escuela y en la vida.

Se necesita de todos nosotros para hacer crecer a un estudiante floreciente. No podemos esperar para comenzar el viaje juntos en este esfuerzo tan importante: el futuro de nuestros niños.

Como primer paso, les invito a asistir a la Noche de Regreso a Clases de sus hijos y a mantenerse conectados con la escuela después. ¡Espero trabajar con ustedes pronto!

## 欢迎回到学校

我们很高兴欢迎你们返学。所有AUSD工作人员整个夏天都在做迎接你们的准备工作！在新学年伊始，我希望你们知道，在Alhambra Unified，我们着重致力于提供独特的和多样的TK-12学习机会，并结合区范围以关系为中心的方法，确保学生们完全发挥他们的潜能。我们认为关系是学习的中心。如果没有意义重大的关系，就不会发生意义重大的学习。

整个儿童教育的基础是培养归属感和联系，其中，同情心、协作、包容和团队合作精神可以发展，理解的桥梁可以经过传授和实践。在这种文化中，学业会越来越优异。当学生感到被人关心，他们就会去尝试。富有创意的问题解决方法、专注、主动性、情绪自我管理，和适应能力在重视联系和关系的文化中扩展。

毫不令人惊奇的是，就是新雇员中的这些同样的以关系为驱动的社交和行为技巧，为雇主们所重视和寻找。

在每所AUSD学校和每间教室，我们都采纳严厉的学业要求和积极行为支持（PBS）制度，教予学生以构建关系的技能。PBS学习包括每位AUSD工作人员，他们成为社交、情绪和行为技巧的模范，教导学生如何在学业和生活中取得成功。

首先，我邀请您参加您孩子的返校晚会，并在以后的日子中与学校保持联系。我期盼与您合作！

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### Welcome Back to School

All of us on the Board of Education welcome you back for a great school year ahead!

We begin the year with a profound sense of appreciation. Every student, parent, guardian, teacher, and AUSD staff member contributes to the giving spirit for which Alhambra Unified is known.

We are also deeply grateful to the people and partnerships across the cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, and Rosemead, around the San Gabriel Valley and throughout Los Angeles County. It is these relationships that multiply the opportunities and experiences available to our richly diverse, multicultural, multilingual students. Our goal is always academic excellence and a quality education for every student.

The vibrant infrastructure of support from non-profits, faith groups, elected officials, local businesses, civic leaders, and city, county and state agencies is proof that our students matter to many. The difference they make is incalculable.

This kindness is contagious and builds a web of community connections that continues to grow. We invite you to follow AUSD on social media @alhambrausd to learn more as we highlight these contributions throughout the year.

Thank you and bravo to every one of you who show us that kindness and contribution can forever change a child's future.

### Bienvenida de Regreso a la Escuela

¡Todos nosotros en la Junta de Educación les damos la bienvenida de regreso para un gran año escolar por delante!

Comenzamos el año con un profundo sentido de apreciación. Cada estudiante, padre, tutor, maestro y miembro del personal de AUSD contribuye al generoso espíritu por el que se conoce a Alhambra Unificado.

También estamos profundamente agradecidos con las personas y asociaciones en las ciudades de Alhambra, Monterey Park, San Gabriel y Rosemead, alrededor del Valle de San Gabriel y en todo el Condado de Los Ángeles. Son estas relaciones las que multiplican las oportunidades y experiencias disponibles para nuestros estudiantes muy diversos, multiculturales y multilingües. Nuestra meta siempre es la excelencia académica y una educación de calidad para cada estudiante.

La vibrante infraestructura de apoyo de las organizaciones sin fines de lucro, grupos de fe, oficiales electos, negocios locales, líderes cívicos y las agencias de la ciudad, del condado y estatales son prueba de que nuestros estudiantes son importantes para muchos. La diferencia que ellos hacen es incalculable.

Esta amabilidad es contagiosa y construye una red de conexiones comunitarias que sigue creciendo. Le invitamos a seguir a AUSD en redes sociales @alhambrausd para saber más a medida que destacamos estas contribuciones a lo largo del año.

Gracias y bravo para cada uno de ustedes que nos muestran que la amabilidad y contribución pueden cambiar el futuro de un niño para siempre.

### 欢迎回到学校

我们教育委员会的所有成员欢迎您归来，迎接美好的新学年！

这一年，我们以不胜感激之情为开端。每一位学生、家长、监护人、老师和AUSD职员都为Alhambra Unified以之闻名的付出精神做出了贡献。

我们也特别感谢阿罕布拉、蒙特雷帕克、圣盖博、罗斯米德、圣盖博谷周边地区和洛杉矶全县的人们及合作伙伴关系。正是这些关系使我们拥有丰富多样性、多元文化和多语种的学生所获得的机会和经历迅速增加。我们始终学业优异以及对每位学生的品质教育为目标。

非盈利机构、信仰团体、当选官员、本地企业、民间领袖以及市、县和州级机构在充满生机的基础设施方面所给予的支持，证明我们的学生对于许多人来说非常重要。他们造就的变化不计其数。

这种善意会扩散，并构建出一个持续发展的社区连通网络。因为我们将在全年突出强调这些贡献，所以我们邀请您在社交媒体@alhambrausd上关注AUSD，以便了解更多信息。

谢谢！为向我们表达善意的每个人喝彩，善意和贡献会永远改变一个孩子的未来。

# Alhambra Educational Foundation

1603 Chestnut St., Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/943-3080 • www.aef4kids.com



**Stephen R. Perry**  
President

## Funding Supports Instruction Programs

The Alhambra Educational Foundation (AEF) incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit with the mission of raising funds to support educational programs for children in the Alhambra Unified School District. Governed by a Board of Directors, and independent of the AUSD, the Foundation works closely with district staff to identify areas of need. The volunteer arm of AEF is “Friends of the Foundation.”

Through funding and hands-on assistance, AEF supports instructional enrichment programs and projects for AUSD children. For example, AEF raised funds to implement the “Music and More” program, which returned music instruction to the schools during an earlier time of budget cuts. Today, AEF underwrites K-3 classroom music; instrumental music in grades 4 and above; supports the intermediate schools’ bands and orchestra; and funds additional college counseling at the high schools.



The Foundation funds and administers the national program “Reading is Fundamental” (RIF) for students in grades Pre-K to 3rd. To support literacy, the Foundation’s RIF program invites these students to select three books a year for their home library.

This year, the Alhambra Educational Foundation is underwriting two exciting additional AUSD student educational and enrichment activities: The new district overnight Outdoor Science Camp for 5th graders at the YMCA of WSGV’s Camp Ta Ta Pochon in the San Bernardino Forest, and the AUSD 238-member All-District

Marching Band’s historic invitation to perform in the 131st Rose Parade® presented by Honda, which showcases the district on the national stage.

In upcoming issues, we will share our efforts to provide the children of the Alhambra Unified School District with the best educational program possible. We invite you to visit our website at [www.aef4kids.com](http://www.aef4kids.com) to learn more.

## Alhambra Educational Foundation is Proud to Present

Join us in a celebration filled with Music, Magicians, a BBQ Throw-down, Drinks and much more!

Hurry and grab a ticket for a magical evening!

# MAGIC IN THE music

PERFORMING BY DJ  
RICHARD BLADE

**Saturday, October 12, 2019**  
6:00 pm – 10:30 pm  
2nd Street, Alhambra  
(Between Main Street & Commonwealth Ave.)

Tickets go on sale August 1, 2019  
\$60 ea. (\$70 ea. after September 30)  
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For more information, VIP Experience &  
General Ticket Sales visit [www.aef4kids.com](http://www.aef4kids.com)



# Alhambra High School

101 S. 2nd St., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-6900 • ahsmoors.org



**Marisa Palacios**  
Principal

Welcome! My name is Marisa Palacios and it is an honor to be named the principal of Alhambra High School. As an alumna of Alhambra High, I take great pride in serving our community by supporting all students in achieving academic, social/emotional, and personal success. With over 18 years of experience, I have worked in public, private, and higher education. In the last 15 years, I served Alhambra Unified students, parents, and our community as an English teacher, Friday Night Live club adviser, California Partnership Academy coordinator, assistant principal of student/employee welfare, assistant principal of instruction, and assistant principal of school counseling at San Gabriel, Alhambra, and Mark Keppel High Schools, respectively.

Together, the amazing Alhambra High staff and I look forward to building a partnership with you to ensure our

students achieve their highest potential during their high school careers. We recognize that to be successful in school and in life, students need support from both the home and school. Your strong relationship with your student will make a enormous difference in your child's education and future. When a student knows we believe in them, everything changes.

This is a memorable time in your child's life. We are excited to work with you and share in their enthusiasm and successes. We thank you for this opportunity to get to know you and for your support of your student and Alhambra High. We can't wait to begin our school new year.

One more thing: If you do nothing else this year, please join us for AHS Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 5, 2019, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Your participation will set your child up for success.

Go Moors!

## Martha Baldwin Elementary (K-8)

900 S. Almansor St., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-3300 • baldwinelementary.org



**Chris Takeshita**  
Principal

Welcome! I am Chris Takeshita. It is truly an honor to serve as the principal at Martha Baldwin Elementary School. For the past 15 years, I've worked in Alhambra USD and thoroughly enjoyed my tenures at all three comprehensive high schools and now three elementary schools. Growing up in Monterey Park, I graduated from Brightwood Elementary School and know first hand how special this district is. What might surprise some is that I reside in the area with my wife and two sons. I continue to be an active community member coaching little league baseball and basketball teams.

Martha Baldwin School is rich in tradition and has a hardworking staff that always looks out for its students and community. Martha Baldwin was honored

as a 2018 -2019 Honor Roll STAR School. This year our 2nd grade helped the City of Alhambra with its Arbor Day Celebration and tree planting to help beautify our city. Our ASB puts on interactive game days to help all students interact and build relationships across all grade levels.

What I love most about Martha Baldwin is that all of our stakeholders are eager and willing to help one another and make Baldwin School the best it can be. Our Back to School Night is August 22, 2019 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. We welcome all our Baldwin families and the entire community to come see the wonderful things that are happening at Baldwin School.

Our office is open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm during the school year, if you have any questions. Please feel free to call us at 626-943-3300.

Join the Baldwin Family and share in our Cougar Pride!



## Brightwood *Elementary (K-8)*

1701 Brightwood St., Monterey Park, CA 91754 • 626/570-6200 • brightwoodelementary.org



**Natalie Tee Gaither**  
*Principal*

Hello, and welcome to Brightwood School! My name is Natalie Tee-Gaither and I have been principal at Brightwood since 2014.

I am proud to be a home-grown product of the district, having attended AUSD schools from kindergarten through high school. After college, I came back to AUSD to teach at my alma mater, Alhambra High School. I later taught at Northrup Elementary School and was an instructional specialist in the Educational Services division before moving into administration. In addition to my five years as Brightwood's principal, I have also been an administrator at the district office, Ramona Elementary School, Alhambra High School, and Repetto Elementary School.

Brightwood School is an amazing place and I am honored that we have received numerous accolades over the years. Some of our recent awards include being

named a California Gold Ribbon School, a Title I Academic Achievement Award recipient, and a California Honor Roll School. These recognitions are due to the hard work, dedication, and strong partnership of all our stakeholders.

Last year, our district launched PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) at all our schools. At Brightwood, PBIS focuses on four key components we refer to as S.T.A.R. (Safety first; Try your best; Accountable for your actions; and Respect everyone and everything). We encourage our students to show S.T.A.R. behavior at school and at home.

I am excited to be returning for my sixth year as Brightwood's principal. Being able to work with students, staff members, and families on a daily basis is a joy. I believe, "Happy children learn better," so I hope you will find Brightwood School to be a positive and nurturing environment where we can learn and grow together.

## Century *High School* / Independence *High School*

20 S. Marengo Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-6681 • centuryhs.org / independencehs.org



**Phuong Nguyen**  
*Principal*

Welcome to Century and Independence High Schools! My name is Phuong Nguyen and it is my honor to serve as the principal of Century and Independence for my fifth year.

I grew up in Vietnam and came to the United States with my mother and sister when I was 14 years old. It was difficult in a new country with many new things to learn as a teenager. I struggled in school just like most of our students. However, one of the

most important things that I learned was the value of education. I believe education is the single most consistent way to open doors of opportunity.

As a principal of alternative programs, I have the privilege of working with many struggling students every day. It brings me great joy to see our students transform into confident young men and women who believe in the

wonder of possibilities. One of my favorite days of the year is graduation day, where I get to see the happiness in our students and see how much they have grown since the first day I've met them.

This year, in addition to the initiatives and exciting programs at Century and Independence, I look forward to working with our students to help them achieve their academic goals while instilling in them the values of kindness, determination and humility.

Parents: I want to work closely with you to support your teenager on this journey. Please reach out to me for any support that you need to ensure that we find the best possible solutions to help your child be successful. There is an African Proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child".

Let's be that village for our students and have a wonderful year!



## Emery Park *Elementary (K-8)*

2821 W. Commonwealth Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/943-3340 • emeryparkelementary.org



**Jeremy Infranca**  
*Principal*

Hello, I'm Jeremy Infranca, and this is my fourth year as principal of Emery Park School. Since 2006, I've proudly served as an AUSD administrator.

I believe that family is first, that family should be everything. I am a proud husband and father. My wife Veronica and I celebrate our 20th year of marriage this summer. Our eldest son, Jacob, 15, is ready for his sophomore year in high school. Isaac, who just turned 12, will be in 7th grade.

Being a principal is my greatest professional honor. There is nothing more humbling than hundreds of people counting on you every day to provide consistency, guidance, structure, and support. I lead by constantly finding the good in people, and sharing what IS possible, not what isn't. My love for this job is best captured by

former Secretary of State Colin Powell when he said, "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

There is so much to love about our school, but the heart of what we do is work together. We support one another.

Emery Park is a community school — we love to open our doors to our families. We have beautiful events such as the Dia de los Muertos Festival, PTA-sponsored Movie Nights under the Stars, and our annual Community Read-In.

My advice to parents is this: Each day is a special gift with our children. Take the time to connect and be a part of your child's experience at Emery Park, because before you know it, it will be over.

Emery Park has a long tradition of collaboration with our community. We want you to be a part of our tradition. Join us for Back to School Night on August 29th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm!

## Fremont *Elementary (K-8)*

2001 Elm St., Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/943-3360 • fremontelementary.org



**Robby Jung**  
*Principal*

Hello, my name is Robby Jung and I'm celebrating my 14th year in public education and my 2nd year as principal of Fremont School.

Family is one of the centerpieces in my life — it is what keeps me grounded. I have the privilege of being husband to Grace, and father to our two boys. Our eldest son, Jeremiah, is entering 6th grade and Joshua will be in 3rd grade. Both boys love playing baseball and some of my most joyous moments are playing catch with them.

My greatest professional honor is to lead Fremont as principal. Having a front row seat to the wonderful accomplishments of our students is an immense privilege. My goal each day is to be the biggest cheerleader for our Fremont students.

Our school is a vibrant community. You'll hear students

engaging each other in academic conversations, learning to play together outdoors, and achieving their best through collaboration. You might even hear this in another language: Spanish. As one of two AUSD dual language schools, Fremont is raising a generation of bilingual and trilingual learners.

We invite you to see our students in action at Back to School Night, Dia de los Muertos, PTA and Los Amigos de Fremont (Booster) activities, and at our Open House. We can't wait to showcase the great work that our amazing staff and students do on a daily basis for you, our Fremont community.

One of my heroes, the late Coach John Wooden, encouraged those around him "to make each day your masterpiece." As principal, I find that my most important role in the lives of students is to believe in them as they create their masterpieces. It takes all of us for our students to thrive. Together let's support and celebrate all their successes along the way!



## Garfield *Elementary (K-8)*

110 W. McLean St., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-3380 • garfieldelementary.org



**Dr. Stephanie Richardson**  
*Principal*

Hello and welcome! My name is Stephanie Richardson and I am eager to start my 4th year as the principal of Garfield Elementary.

My favorite part of being a principal is seeing the spark in students' eyes when they learn something new and discover their unlimited potential.

Prior to joining Alhambra Unified School District, I taught 3rd grade in Michigan, first grade in Palm Springs, and eighth grade in Palos Verdes. I also spent ten years in Compton as an assistant principal and principal.

Our motto at Garfield is "Every Scholar, Every Day." Our goal is to develop true Wildcat students who are: Well-rounded, Imaginative, Literate, Determined, Challenged, Accepting and Successful!

Garfield is one of 74 schools in the nation participating in the Kennedy Center Turnaround Arts Program. We are beginning our second year of implementation and as a result, in the 2019-2020 school year all students will participate in weekly music classes, bi-weekly visual arts classes, and arts-integrated academic lessons.

We will also host several art events including: Annual Talent Show, music concerts, Family Art Night and our annual school musical. At Garfield, we strongly believe that the arts are essential for all students and our goal is to fulfill the words of W.B. Yeats, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

We are looking forward to a great year together at Garfield! Can't wait to meet you on August 29th at Back to School Night from 5:30 to 7:30 pm!

## Granada *Elementary (K-8)*

100 S. Granada Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-3600 • granadaelementary.org



**Chris Ng**  
*Principal*

My name is Chris Ng and I am excited to start my fifth year as principal of Granada School. I was born in Hong Kong and grew up in the melting pot known as the City of Angels. Growing up as a Non-English speaking minority had its share of challenges, but with the support of my family I learned to always do my best and never give up. These early experiences helped shaped part of who I am as a leader today.

I graduated from California State of Los Angeles and earned my Master's degree from Grand Canyon University. I've been part of the AUSD family for 24 amazing years. My main goal for all Granada students is to provide them with quality learning experiences to prepare them for high school.

My favorite part of being principal at Granada is getting

to know each student. When I ask a student to share about their work or something they did over the weekend, I see their faces light up. I strongly believe that building bonds and connections with all students is essential to help them become the best they can be.

Granada is a small but mighty school. We have dedicated teachers and support staff who go above and beyond to help our students succeed. Students in our STEAM program are learning through hands-on science, engineering, coding, robotics, architecture, and math activities.

Our fantastic Granada PTA sponsored a Fall Fair, multiple movie nights, and donated school supplies to our classrooms.

A challenge for you: Next time you sit at the dinner table with your children, after asking how their day went, follow up by asking, "What did you do for others today?" You will help them see life from a much different perspective.



# LIFT (Learning Independence For Transition) *Program*

1515 W. Mission Rd., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-3420 • sites.google.com/site/liftausd/home

## Moor Field *Early Education Center*

1001 S. Sixth St., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-3562 • moorfield.org



**Harry Wong**  
*Administrator*

Hello! My name is Harry K. Wong and it my great honor to enter my fifth year as the Administrator for our Moor Field Early Education Center and LIFT Adult Transition Programs. In my over 25 years of service within the Alhambra Unified School District, I have been fortunate to gain valuable perspectives on education through my roles as an instructional aide, teacher, instructional specialist, and finally as an administrator.

My philosophy in education has always been to help students develop the skills they need to persevere and become lifelong learners. Working with special needs students throughout my educational career has helped me to gain exceptional experiences in how students learn. I believe every student can learn. It is up to us to provide the environment they need to succeed and grow.

I practice this philosophy with all the students and staff in our programs. As educator and author, Robert John Meehan once said, "It shouldn't matter how slowly a child learns, as long as we are encouraging them not to stop".

My wife and I are celebrating 20 years of marriage this year and we are proud parents of two exceptional children. We've learned that every moment is valuable. To quote a wise saying from the movie Kung-Fu Panda, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why it is called the present."

We cherish the parents of our Moor Field and LIFT students. They have been our greatest advocates and have donated valuable time and resources to help our programs thrive. We had our first ever Color Fun Run this year and look forward to continuing this event in the Spring. All of us at Moor Field and LIFT look forward to another year of amazing discoveries in learning.

## Marguerita *Elementary (K-8)*

1603 S. Marguerita Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/943-3620 • margueritaelementary.org



**Teresa Johnson**  
*Principal*

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I'm Teresa Johnson. As I begin my third year as principal at Marguerita School, and my 20th year in education, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve in the AUSD community.

While growing up in the San Fernando Valley, I never thought I would go into education, but that changed when I began a part time job teaching struggling students how to read. I found my passion. After 10 years teaching middle school, I felt called to school administration to support teachers in the "Why" of what we do in education: To impact the future lives of young people for the benefit of our communities.

As CA Distinguished School with a Dual Immersion Mandarin program, Marguerita Elementary is known

for our welcoming school climate and appreciation for diversity. The staff demonstrates daily their dedication to building trustful relationships. Each student is unique and has a story. We work together to engage our students in a positive, motivating environment, to help them reach their maximum potential for character development, high academic achievement and social emotional health.

Personally, the greatest gift in my life is my 26 year old son, Austin, who continues to strive for excellence after completing a successful military tour. In my free time, I love time with family, traveling, the outdoors, and to pursue continuous personal growth.

Marguerita is a place where our students discover their gifts, learn to help others, and are inspired to make a difference in the world. Our students truly R.O.C.K. with Respect, Ownership, Cooperation and Kindness! It is my honor and privilege to be the principal at Marguerita School.

# Back to School!



## Mark Keppel *High School*

501 E. Hellman Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-6710 • [ensign.nmusd.us](mailto:ensign.nmusd.us)



**Jeannie Gutierrez**  
*Principal*

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! My name is Jeannie Gutierrez and I am looking forward to my second year as the principal at Mark Keppel High School (MKHS).

I am incredibly fortunate to be working with such an amazing group of students, teachers, staff members, and families. Our recent California Distinguished School Award is a result of the support, determination, and dedication to excellence of our entire school community.

My commitment to public education began over twenty years ago when I started out as a teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. My family relocated to Pasadena in 2005, and I was hired as an administrator by the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD). After serving in a variety of assistant principal positions at both the elementary and

high school level, I am now thrilled to call MKHS home.

As I enter my 14th year in AUSD, I can say with confidence that this is a district that cares about students. My guiding belief is that student needs and student success should be our number one priority. Every decision we make should be viewed through the lens of, "Is this the best thing for students?"

There is a quote from Malala Yousafzai that keeps me motivated and inspired to do the best job that I can every day, "Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world."

I invite our families to attend our Back to School Night on the evening of September 5th. Family involvement is essential to the success of our students and our school. It is by working together that we make a difference in the lives and the futures of our students.

## Monterey Highlands *Elementary School (K-8)*

400 Casuda Canyon Dr., Monterey Park, CA 91754 • 626/570-6220 • [montereyhighlandselementary.org](http://montereyhighlandselementary.org)



**Dr. Wendy Molina-Solis**  
*Principal*

Greetings, I am Wendy Molina-Solis. I've had the extreme pleasure to serve as principal of the magnificent Park School community for the past four years. Now, my career path takes me towards another new, exciting venture, bringing me back home to Monterey Park where I grew up. For the 2019-2020 school year, I will serve as the proud principal of the beautiful Monterey Highlands School.

I believe in spending quality time with those you love as these moments will make for priceless memories that will be treasured for a life-time. I have such fond memories as a little girl when my dad played tea with me, despite how tired he might have been from working all day. He always stressed the importance of being present with loved ones. As a mommy, I try my best efforts

to emulate these practices with my own two boys and husband, being both physically and mentally present for them, creating as many cherished memories as possible.

During my undergraduate years at USC, I developed a love for the poet Ruben Dario. A professor described his poetry, "as elaborate as a store during the holiday season." One of my favorite quotes is, "I seek a form that my style cannot discover, a bud of thought that wants to be a rose." This concept guides me in both my personal and professional life, pushing me to go beyond what is before me and ensuring every thought evolves into a blossoming rose.

I look forward to becoming a part of Monterey Highland's beautiful garden. I come to Highlands with over 23 years of public school experience, excited to share my passion for learning and nurturing social emotional growth! I know we will have an amazing school year together!

## Contest!!

This chicken is somewhere in this publication.  
When you find it, email the **page number** to:

**Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com**  
(Please Alhambra in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by October 15, 2019  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



## William Northrup *Elementary (K-8)*

409 S. Atlantic Blvd., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-6620 • northruelementary.us



**Dr. Rosa Northcott**  
*Principal*

Hello! My name is Rosa Northcott and it is an honor to serve Northrup School as the principal. After growing up in a small town in Illinois, I found my way to Southern California to attend college at UCLA. (GO BRUINS!) It was there that I realized my passion to become an educator. I love seeing the curiosity of children discovering and learning about the world around them.

As an administrator and parent of school age children, I truly believe relationships are fundamental to the success of students. It is my hope and goal that every student at Northrup develops a meaningful connection to school. Every student has a name and a story, and at Northrup, we want to know that story and help advance the plot of that story in a positive way.

Among our students, there may be a teacher, an artist, a scientist, a small business owner, an athlete, or an employee at a job that does not currently exist. What an extraordinary privilege we have to be able to teach and guide our students toward their dreams.

The one piece I want to share with parents is this: You are the best gift you can give your child. You are your child's most important teacher. Spend time with your child. Be present in the moment. The years go quickly, and these elementary years are among the most pivotal and fundamental years of your child's life.

I look forward to welcoming our students, parents, and stakeholders back for the upcoming school year! We want to meet you at our Northrup Back to School Night on August 29th. Join us at 5:30 pm for the General Meeting and at 6 to 7:30 pm in classrooms.

Go Gladiators!

## Park *Elementary (K-8)*

301 N. Marengo Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801 • 626/943-3640 • parkelementary.org



**Carin Gasca**  
*Principal*

Hello families and friends of Park Elementary School! My name is Carin Gasca, Principal of Park School.

Twenty-two years ago, I began my career at Northrup School in the Alhambra Unified School District. For the first five years, I worked as a Bilingual Instructional Aide to support students in grades K-5 and the following nine years as part of a dedicated team of middle school teachers. I transitioned from the classroom to our district's technology department as an Instructional Specialist, then spent two years serving Brightwood families as the site Instructional Specialist. For

two years I served Park School as Assistant Principal and my last 3 years at Repetto School as both AP and Principal. It is my distinct pleasure to be back at Park.

Park Elementary is a stand out school in the City of Alhambra that provides A.C.C.E.S.S. to enriching opportunities that allow for students to maximize their greatest potential. Park is distinguished amongst Alhambra schools for its positive and warm environment that includes Academic Rigor, Collaboration, Community and Parent Involvement, Environment that is Safe and Supportive, Specialized Programs and Student Success. Our Park Elementary staff believes strongly in what kids can do, which is best described by Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the places you'll go!"

## Ramona *Elementary (K-8)*

509 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/943-3660 • ramonaelementary.org



**Dr. Debbie Kotani**  
*Principal*

Hello and welcome to Ramona School! My name is Debbie Kotani, and I've been part of the Alhambra Unified community for over twenty years.

My experience includes coaching varsity basketball at Alhambra High School, teaching at Ramona School, being a professor at CSULA, serving as an assistant principal at the elementary and high schools, and serving as a principal. My most recent assignment was serving as a principal at Monterey Highlands School for seven years where I enjoyed working with a phenomenal group of students, staff and parents.

I was fortunate to have received a full scholarship to play collegiate basketball and was a division one

women's basketball referee for ten years. From my athletic background, I'm a strong believer in raising a whole child who is well-rounded and equipped to be successful in dealing with real world situations. I also believe that it takes a village to raise a child and that the wisdom from different generations and a wide range of people can positively enhance a child's experience.

It was my sixth grade teacher who influenced me to be an educator. Like her, I aspire to be genuinely caring, someone who makes a positive difference in the lives of everyone around me. I'm looking forward to working with the Ramona community of students, staff and parents and forging our new relationships together. I can't wait to meet each of you at our Back to School Night on September 5th from 5:30 to 7:45 pm.

## Repetto Elementary (K-6)

650 S. Grandridge Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91754 • 626/570-6240 • repettoelementary.org



**Dr. Steve Suttle**  
Principal

Welcome to Repetto! My name is Steve Suttle and it has been my utmost pleasure to serve public schools for over 17 years.

Growing up with parents who were both school teachers, my siblings and I were always encouraged to do well in school. We were constantly reminded how important our education is and my parents ensured that we practiced all of the habits that fostered academic success. As my brother, sister, and

I got older we all began to realize the great reward of not only being successful students, but also helping students. It didn't take long for all of us to decide to follow in our parents' footsteps and pursue a career in education. After four years as principal at Ramona Elementary, this year I will be principal at Repetto Elementary, while my brother is a high school assistant principal, and my sister is an instructional specialist.

I take the most pleasure in helping students reach goals and attain dreams that they may have previously thought were not possible. With the tremendous social pressures, changing demands on the 21st century learner, and the competitive global marketplace, it is harder than ever to be a kid. When our students get the support they need to achieve whatever their dreams desire, we educators have done our job. My favorite quote has always been, "Don't wait for your dreams to happen --- make them happen." Every child deserves to make their dreams a reality, and I feel that it is not just my job but my moral and ethical obligation to help each and every student make that happen.

I look forward to many more successful and rewarding years building relationships with our Repetto students to help them accomplish their goals and realize their dreams.

## Ynez Elementary (K-8)

120 S. Ynez Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91754 • 626/570-6260 • ynezelementary.org



**Janett Perales**  
Principal

Greetings! I'm Janett Perales, and this is my third year as principal of Ynez School. In the past 20 years, I have been honored to serve AUSD as an educator, Gateway to Success counselor, and school administrator at the high school and elementary level.

The role of parents and guardians surpasses any other influence on a child. As the parent of a 19 year-old who just completed his first college year, I can tell you that the hard work, dedication, and trust we place in our children during early years will produce smart, confident, and resilient young adults. Let's work together to bring out the best in your child.

Being principal of Ynez school is a rewarding and exceptional experience and our team of teachers, support staff, and our school community are welcoming, warm, and dedicated. We offer rigorous lessons, social emotional learning, and a rich positive-behavior-support environment (PBS). I invite you to get to know the resources and opportunities available in your home language at Ynez school.

Building community partnerships is one of our biggest strengths. We collaborate with Monterey Park Police Department, Monterey Park Fire Department, Catalyst SGV, mental health agencies, and local businesses to provide resources for our families. We ensure the well being of our students not only during school hours, but afterwards, through varied services and opportunities. We treat our incredible staff to self-care workshops.

Get involved at Ynez by joining us for Family Game Night, Family Literacy Night, Family Movie Night, Family Math Night, International Fiesta, Middle School Student & Parent Conference, and Parenting Workshop Series.

Join me, as we work towards another amazing school year in service to our students, parents, and community. See you August 22nd at Back to School Night!

## San Gabriel High School

801 S. Ramona St., San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/943-6800 • sgshmatadors.org



**Debbie Stone**  
Principal

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! My name is Debbie Stone and I am thrilled to be entering my fifth year as the principal of San Gabriel High School — home of the Matadors.

We have a tremendous Matador community of students, parents and staff that work together to ensure the success of all of our students. Our WASC accreditation was reaffirmed this past year and is a tribute to our commitment to excellence.

My passion for education started in my small hometown of Lubbock, Texas where I began my teaching career as a middle school science teacher. After relocating to California in 1994, I began working within the Alhambra Unified School District. Over the last 25 years, in addition

to being principal at SGHS, I have also worked as a teacher, instructional specialist, support provider for new teachers, district coordinator and assistant principal.

It is important to me that we work diligently with our students so that they can envision their future after high school. Both my parents were first generation college students so I understand the struggles that many of our students face when making decisions about their futures. My favorite quote has always been, "Anything is possible with hard work and dedication." Together we can have all of our students believe that anything is possible.

I would like to invite you to attend our Back to School Night on Thursday, September 19th from 5:30 – 8:00pm. It promises to be a wonderful evening. I look forward to seeing you there!



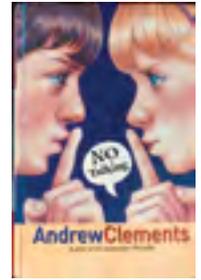
## Rabina's Review



### **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

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.

## Richard's Book Review

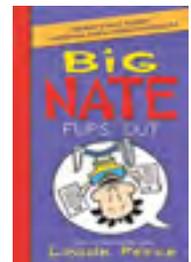


### **Finding the Right Way of Doing Things**

*Big Nate Flips Out* by

Lincoln Peirce

Nate is a 6th grader, known by everybody for his sarcasm and sloppiness. A lot of things happen with Nate and his friends. The main thing



is that Nate and his friend Francis are participating in putting together a school yearbook, but things do not go easy. Another student Gina, also involved in this project, hates to work with Nate, because he's messy and irresponsible. One problem after another, and Nate runs out of patience and excuses for himself. He takes a drastic step and asks a hypnotist to hypnotize him to become neat and responsible. But does it work and does he and his friends like it? You'll have to read the book to find out.

I enjoyed this book, it is funny and relatable. Half of the book are comics, which are fun to read. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Richard is a curious 5th grader. His favorite subjects are math and P.E. He likes to play sports with his friends, read funny books and watch nature documentaries. He likes writing book reviews, because he hopes they will interest other kids to read these books.



### **Half Man Half Dog**

*Dog Man Unleashed*

is a great book. It is very humorous. The best thing about *Dog Man* is that it is very entertaining. Once you read it for a while you get addicted to it. My favorite characters are Petey and Dog Man. I like them because they are very smart and witty. It is a great choice for someone who does not like to read. My favorite pages are the "flip-orama" pages that show animation. I also like how Dog Man fights against injustice.

**Manhar M.**



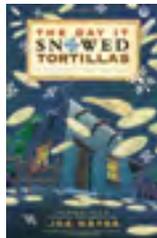
Manhar M. is in First Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

## B is for Book



### **Folk Tale Galore**

*"The Day it Snowed Tortillas"* by Joe Hayes is an awesome Mexican folktale book with ten interesting tales to learn from.



Ranging from "La Llorona" to "Juan Camison", my favorite one is "The Best Thief" where a boy must prove to the king that he's the best thief. In "Good Advice", a boy spends three months of earnings on advice. His parents drive him out of the house, thinking it was a waste. Were they right? In "The Prince", a few friends made along the way may be the only thing a prince needs to win.

I love this book because there are many important lessons, like always listen to your parents, lying will only get you into trouble, and intelligence is stronger than physical strength. I also enjoyed this book because it includes all the stories in Spanish too. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.

# Alhambra Council PTA

1515 West Mission Road., Alhambra, CA 91803 • 626/386-3690 • www.ausd.us



**Christina Lerma**  
President

## Join Forces for A Brighter Future

Alhambra Council Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is excited to welcome new and returning families to the 2019-2020 school year. The Alhambra Council PTA consists of all 14 elementary/middle schools and high school PTA's within the Alhambra and Monterey Park area. The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by

engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Volunteering through PTA is not mandatory but when we work together we can make a real difference. Studies show that a child's academic success and self esteem increase when parents become involved with the school. There are many opportunities to contribute, so please check with your school to see how you can make an impact. By collaborating with the Alhambra Unified School District, school site administrators, teachers, and other parents, we can enhance the education experience and the lives of all our students.

Joining your school's PTA is easy: Simply pay your school's annual dues. By becoming a member you will be connected to an amazing network of parents and teachers. There's no better way to learn what's happening at your child's school and it's a great opportunity to meet other parents who share a common goal of promoting family engagement. The PTA gives you a voice, a forum where suggestion to make positive changes at your child's school are heard.



Contact your school to learn about all the exciting PTA activities and events for the year. One event that begins the school year is the annual National PTA Reflections Art Competition.

This year's theme is "Look Within." Your school's PTA will have the contest and deadline details. Lastly, make time to attend a PTA meeting and get involved. When we join forces, the future is better and brighter for everyone!

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- **Sundays** 10am-12pm & 2-4pm at San Gabriel Academy, 8327 E. Broadway, San Gabriel
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