

**FREE**

# School News



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**Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District**

Volume 3, Issue 9

October 2019–January 2020

## Del Cerro Teachers Show Every Student Matters in SVUSD





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# Superintendent



## Welcome Back

Welcome to the start of a new and exciting school year at Saddleback Valley Unified School District! Students returned to classes on August 26th and 2019-2020 has already proven to be a year full of learning, growth, and opportunity for our students.

**Dr. Crystal Turner**

Our vision, SV Innovates: A focus on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies and innovative practices, continues to guide the direction of SVUSD. For the first time, full day kindergarten has been implemented district-wide. Additionally, our innovative programs are thriving as we continue to offer a variety of choices for our students and families with Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary, with STEAM continuing the pathway with 7th graders at Serrano Intermediate, Linda Vista International Baccalaureate Magnet Elementary, and the Saddleback Valley Virtual Academy (K-12). Our award-winning K-12 two-way immersion program at Gates Elementary, Los Alisos Intermediate and Laguna Hills High School, and excellent neighborhood schools continue their great work as they welcome new and continuing students for 2019-2020.

While we look ahead to the possibilities of 2019-2020, it's also a great time to reflect on some highlights and recognitions from 2018-2019 that came in over the summer break, including:

- 99 Full International Baccalaureate Diplomas
- 76 District Theater Awards
- 2019 Grazer Outstanding Achievement in Learning (GOAL) Award (Trabuco Hills HS)
- 3 National Merit Scholars
- One National, 2 State, 2 CIF, and 17 League Titles in Athletics
- 51 Two-Way Language Immersion Graduates
- Two SVUSD Teachers recognized by *Parenting* OC Magazine as a Top 25 Teacher and Top 5 Family Favorite Teacher in Orange County
- Mrs. Mandy Kelly, named Orange County Teacher of the Year by the Orange County Department of Education

In order to provide the highest caliber instruction and extracurricular activities to our students, updated facilities are a must. To this end, the SVUSD Board of Education recently adopted a Facilities Master Plan that outlines improvements and updates to every SVUSD school site. These include upgraded classrooms, STEAM work spaces, athletic and performing arts facilities, and school-site safety. We look forward to sharing the plan beginning this Fall, and are looking for ways to fund these necessary improvements.

You may find additional information regarding the Facilities Master Plan and our innovative schools and programs by visiting our website at [www.svUSD.org](http://www.svUSD.org). Thank you for your support of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District and may the 2019-2020 school year be full of new and exciting memories for you and your family!

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**25631 Peter A. Hartman Way Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • (949) 586-1234 • [svUSD.org](http://svUSD.org)**

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
**SADDLEBACK VALLEY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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By now the new school year is well-underway and students have settled into their routines.

Superintendent Dr. Turner begins this issue on page 3 reflecting on the highlights of last year and looking ahead to another successful year.

In this issue, you will read about classroom activities, plans for this year, meet new administrators and much more.

Our next issue is February 5. In the meantime, have happy holidays and we'll reconnect in the new year!



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[LionsHeartService.org](http://LionsHeartService.org) 800.894.8877



## Students and Teachers: Create "Change" for Elephants!

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**1**  
Gather your class and sign up to participate in the Change for Elephants program

**2**  
Receive your kit and start collecting change to support orphaned elephants

**3**  
Each student receives a special prize, plus there is a grand prize for the top collectors!

To participate or for more information, contact us:

education@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

949-305-3785





**Matthew Coulson, MD**  
Laguna Hills

### Dangers of Vaping and E-Cigarettes

In recent years, e-cigarettes have surpassed conventional cigarettes as the most commonly used tobacco product among youth. In light of this finding, it is critical for parents to understand the potential risks and communicate them with their children.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. No amount of nicotine is safe for youth. As the brain is still developing until the mid-20s, youth exposure to nicotine can lead to lifetime addiction and can disrupt attention and learning. Additionally, exposure to aerosol from e-cigarettes may be a trigger for children with breathing problems.

Vaping and e-cigarettes have recently been linked to an outbreak of severe pulmonary disease. Symptoms of this disease include cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, weight loss and nausea. Many patients have required hospitalization, some needing mechanical ventilation, and now a few deaths have been reported. All patients that have been diagnosed with severe pulmonary disease report vaping or using e-cigarettes.

It is important for children and parents to understand the dangers of vaping and e-cigarettes. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our MemorialCare Medical Group office or visit [MemorialCare.org/MedicalGroup](http://MemorialCare.org/MedicalGroup).

26538 Moulton Parkway, Suite 38E • Laguna Hills CA, 92653  
[memorialcare.org/LagunaHills](http://memorialcare.org/LagunaHills)

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Orthodontic Specialist  
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## Educational Services

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Liza Zielasko**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### Welcome 2019-2020 School Year!

The Educational Services Division, which encompasses Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Technology, Services for English Learners, Special Education, and Student Services, has been diligently working over the summer to prepare for another great year ahead. Many teachers have served on summer committees to build and refine curriculum, plan for professional learning, and create supports for teachers. Our priority area this year continues to be our work on implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support that focuses on meeting all students' needs in the areas of academics, behavior, and social and emotional learning. As educators, it is our mission to ensure that every student has the opportunity and access to achieve, as well as be prepared for college and career beyond graduation. We are committed to all students receiving the best education possible.

## Operations

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Robert Craven**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### School Modernizations Completed

Three school sites were modernized this summer: Portola Hills Elementary (PHE), Lake Forest Elementary (LFE), and El Toro High School (ETHS). The ETHS library was modernized into an innovation learning center. Both elementary schools, built in 1992, are now examples of next generation learning facilities with AV equipment, tackable surfaces, ceramic whiteboards and

active learning furniture in classrooms.

The PHES office was renovated with a new entry location, an innovation/library center with two breakout rooms



was created, and an outdoor learning area was installed. LFE had similar updates and included separating the food serving area from the MPR, allowing use of the MPR throughout the day.

The modernizations provide engaging facilities to reinforce educational programs and support instructional goals.

## Human Resources/Fiscal Services

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Connie Cavanaugh**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### Leadership Academy

During the 2018-19 school year, SVUSD offered all classified, certificated, and management employees the opportunity to participate in the inaugural SVUSD Leadership Academy. The Academy is for employees looking to develop leadership skills in their current position and/or interested in advancing to leadership roles. Thirty-two participants, selected through an application process, met monthly with district administrators to explore the concepts of Vision and Expectations, Values, People – Human Social Capital, Resources, Shared Leadership, Innovation, and Communication. The final day of the Academy was held at the Nixon Library and Museum and included mock interviews, a tour of the facility, and an exciting flip-grid exercise!



### SVUSD Leaders of the future!

The Leadership Academy was such a well-received learning experience, SVUSD will hold its 2nd Annual SVUSD Leadership Academy in 2019-20!

## English Learners

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Dr. Rowena Mak**  
Coordinator

### 51 TWI Graduates

The Saddleback Valley Unified School District's K-12 Two-Way Language Immersion (TWI) Program offered at Ralph Gates Elementary School, Los Alisos Intermediate School, and Laguna Hills High School continues for the 2019-20 school year. Last year, Laguna Hills High School had 51 students who were TWI graduates.

On October 1st we are excited to welcome Maria Leyre Tejada Botas, as the program's Language Instructional Assistant from Spain. Since SVUSD is an International Spanish Academy (ISA), Señorita Leyre is sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Spain as part of the program's collaboration with that country. We take pride in our TWI Program being the first K-12 ISA in the nation in partnership with the Consulate of Spain!





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## Cielo Vista *Elementary*

21811 Avenida de Los Fundadores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-7456 • svusd.org/cielovista



**Frances Hansell**  
*Principal*

### **AVID Summer Institute**

Everything is awesome as we build success at Cielo Vista! Twenty teachers attended three different AVID Summer Institutes in June and July! These dedicated teachers and their colleagues, who attended

conferences in Anaheim and San Diego, brainstormed areas of need for our site goals during a site team planning session. Collaborating with the other two cohorts we decided to use the WICOR framework to guide student learning: Writing to learn, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading to learn. This year our Leadership and AVID Site Teams will use data to inform instruction and integrate STEM activities with flexible grouping across all curricular areas. SMART goals will guide

our purpose and provide a focus on rigor and best first instruction for all students, all needs, all the time, as we promote inclusivity at Cielo Vista. Go Hawks!



## Cordillera *Elementary*

25952 Cordillera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-3400 • svusd.org/cordillera



**Jennifer Kajdasz**  
*Principal*

### **Proud New Principal**

Welcome to the home of the Cougars! As your new principal, I feel very fortunate and am excited to be a part of the Cordillera Elementary School community. I have enjoyed every minute of my 15 years in the education field within the Fountain Valley School District, ranging from an elementary educator myself to an Assistant Principal for the last several years.

Thank you for trusting us to make your child's school experience a positive one. We want them to start off on the right foot and foster a love of learning. We believe in ALL kids and we believe ALL kids will be successful!

As I proudly begin my first year here, I am thrilled to know that this school year will be the best one yet with the help of our staff, community and students!

Go Cougars!



**Student Council and Mrs. Kajdasz showing their smiles on the red carpet on the first day of school.**

## Del Cerro *Elementary*

24382 Regina St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5430 • svusd.org/delcerro



**Kristin Thomsen**  
*Principal*

### Learning and Creating

Del Cerro staff, students, and parents have enjoyed a successful start to the new school year! Teachers and staff welcomed our new and returning students and families for another amazing year of learning and friendship. Our very supportive PTA has already been busy planning fun family and school events for our community and collaborating with our staff on supporting our school and district vision of SV Innovates. This year, our students will enjoy learning and working in several redesigned learning spaces. With the help of our school's Girl Scout Troop and PTA, our library has been transformed into an inviting beach themed reading and study area with flexible seating. Next door to our library is the "Da Vinci Room" where students can create, design, build, and explore with both tech and non-tech resources. This past August, Del Cerro was fortunate to have an Eagle Scout renovate our Science Lab's kitchen, and our PTA purchased a new cooking range for it. Our 6th grade teaching team has already been busy designing learning experiences for all Del Cerro students that will include our school garden, healthy eating, and food science. Last, all of our school community is looking forward to continuing to "Ride the WAVE" this year. Last year our school was trained in Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and this year we will continue to refine and enhance both our teaching and recognition of positive student behavior. To support these efforts, every Del Cerro class begins each day with a social-emotional learning (SEL) lesson or activity that focuses on one of the five core SEL competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. Connecting and strengthening relationships is a great way to begin each day!

WAVE: We are respectful, act responsibly, value integrity, and everyone is safe.

## De Portola *Elementary*

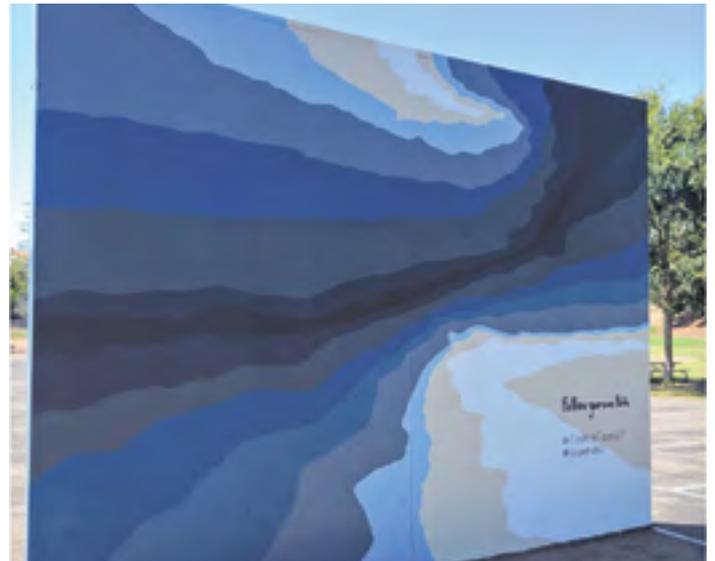
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**Brendon Morrow**  
*Principal*

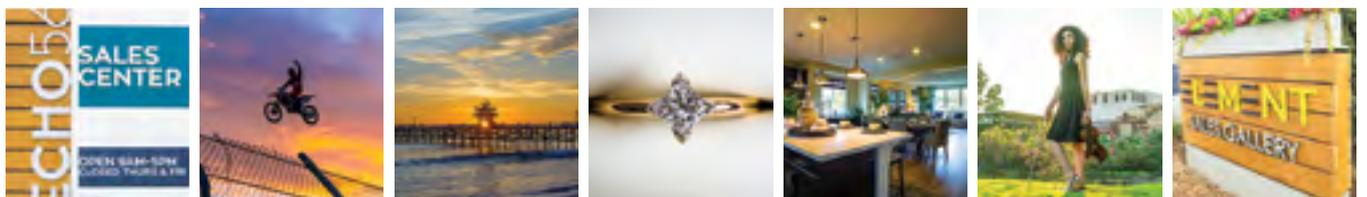
### Thankful for Community

De Portola is off to another great start this year. Summer work on our campus included exciting projects like fixing the concrete at the back of our school to avoid flooding, removal of some old technology, acquiring new touch screen Chromebooks, and of course our newly-painted handball walls. Truly the culmination of teamwork between community, school, and district; our newly-designed handball walls look amazing! De Portola staff and community are so fortunate to have such amazing parent volunteers. We are thankful these parents sought approval for, planned, scheduled, and painted our new walls, even when faced with some of the hottest weather of the year.



Thank you to our parents for bringing us all some joy as we begin another amazing year!

## GERALD VILLALUZ PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN



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## Del Lago *Elementary*

27181 Entidad, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/855-1125 • svusd.org/dellago



**Jonathan Kaplan**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Mr. Kaplan

After eight years at Robinson and four at San Joaquin, I am proud to say I am the new Principal at Del Lago Elementary. My name is Jonathan Kaplan and I am so excited to get started! So many students and families have greeted me with kindness and respect in the first few days of school. I know great things

are on the horizon for Del Lago and I cannot wait to get to know our families better.

One of the first projects of the year is beautifying parts of our campus. We are gathering a committee to seek ideas for possibly beautifying the hill near our transitional kindergarten classes or displaying 'Del Lago' near the parking lot in decorative ways. I look forward to sharing before and after photos in coming issues and sharing more about the Dolphin community!



**Students Welcome Mr. Kaplan to Del Lago**

## El Toro *High School*

25255 Toledo Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-6333 • svusd.org/eths



**Terri Gusiff**  
*Principal*

### Changes at ETHS

El Toro High School is a great place to be in 2019-2020! The Bill Bailey Innovation and Learning Center (library) is now open - complete with flexible learning spaces, furniture that supports collaborative student work, and state-of-the-art technology.

This incredible space is welcoming and conducive to helping students learn beyond the constraints of the traditional classroom

environment. In addition, El Toro High School has twenty newly-furnished classrooms with furniture built for both individual and collaborative work. Additionally, the building formally used for world language instruction is under complete construction; in its place will be classrooms and shared spaces for students and teachers to work on innovative projects, collaborate in shared spaces, and find connections across traditional curricular boundaries.



**Brand new Bill Bailey Innovation and Learning Center at El Toro High School.**

Students, teachers, and staff are excited about the changes, morale is high, and excitement is in the air. Stay tuned for more great news from El Toro High School!

## Esperanza *Special Education*

25121 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5470 • svusd.org/esperanza



**Raymund Bueche**  
Principal

### Welcome

My name is Ray Bueche and I am looking forward to working as the new administrator at Esperanza Education Center. I have spent most of my journey in education in Adult

Transition. For the past fifteen years, I have held a variety of transition roles in the Irvine Unified School District which include job coach, TPP case manager, and education specialist. I earned my Bachelor Degree in History and my Masters in Special Education from CSUF, where I completed my training.

Esperanza also welcomes two new teachers to our FUTURES staff. Mrs. Jones joins us from Montevideo where she has worked in the Autism program for the past



four years. Mr. Seyler comes to SVUSD from East Whittier Unified School District where he served most recently as a mod/severe Autism Middle School Teacher.

I'm looking forward to a great 19/20 School Year!

## Foothill Ranch *Elementary*

1 Torino Dr., Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 • 949/470-4885 • svusd.org/foothillranch



**Deborah Shaver**  
Principal

### PAWSitively Good Start

Foothill Ranch students, teachers, staff and parents excitedly welcomed in the 2019-20 school year at PAWSitively the best school around! Our Bobcats are off to a great start as we have been learning what it means to be an FRE Bobcat who is Positive, Always Kind,

Working Hard and Showing Respect. Students attended a first day PAWS assembly and playground rotations where they learned problem solving strategies such as, "Vote, Do Over, Walk Away" and "Stop, Walk and Talk." Our dedicated staff is committed to providing each student with a safe and enriching learning environment through a challenging and developmentally appropriate curriculum with a focus on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and developing innovative practices that create successful students. Check out our Instagram page

(#frebobcats) and Twitter (@FREBobcats) for more exciting beginning of the year activities as well as more adventures in the year to come! Go Bobcats!



St. Council officers helped remind students about PAWS at our first day PBIS/PAWS assembly.

## Gates *Elementary*

23882 Landisview Ave., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-2260 • svusd.org/gates



**Diane Clearwater**  
*Principal*

### Go Gators!

I'm honored to accept the position of principal at Gates Elementary School. We were very fortunate to have our former principal Sra. Estling visit our campus to drop off her daughter, greet our students, and welcome me on the very first day of school. We congratulate her on her new role as the new Director of Elementary Education for SVUSD. It is my goal to continue the excellent work going on here at Gates!

Prior to joining the Gator family, I spent 23 years as a bilingual teacher and administrator in Santa Ana. The last two years I served as the Title I Resource teacher here at Gates. With our award winning two-way Spanish immersion program, we are preparing students to be global citizens of the future. I'm excited about this school year and feel confident we will achieve great success as we work together for our students!



**Sra. Clearwater and Sra. Estling on the first day of school**

## Glen Yermo *Elementary*

26400 Trabuco Rd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-6766 • svusd.org/glenyermo



**Jennifer Televik**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back Mountain Lions!

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a wonderful start at Glen Yermo Elementary! I am very excited to join the Glen Yermo team this year, and am looking forward to working alongside such a wonderful group of teachers, staff, students, and families. In the first weeks of school, I can already feel what a strong community we have here and can't wait to see what the year brings.

Glen Yermo is fortunate to have recently been awarded the Title I Academic Achievement Award, the Californian Gold Ribbon Award, and the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award. We are proud to be able to provide our students with a number of programs to support their academic and social success and are committed to the belief that all of our scholars can achieve at the highest levels. At Glen Yermo, we ROAR!



**Glen Yermo School**

# Free Field Trips for Moulton Niguel Students Grades 5-12.

Moulton Niguel Water District and OC Coastkeeper  
bring watershed education and field trips to  
Moulton Niguel Water District Schools.

## Each class will receive the following items:

### In-class presentation:

- The Moulton Niguel service area and local watershed, water efficiency, urban runoff, watershed function and health.
- Moulton Niguel's rate structure and its use as a tool to indicate whether a household is over-watering their landscape.
- How over-watering contributes to dry-weather runoff, which carries pollutants into storm drains and eventually into local creeks and beaches.

**Field trips:** help students make the connection between daily actions and impacts to local watersheds.

- **Exploring Your Watershed:** entails a guided hike at a local trail with a naturalist.
- **Water Quality Testing:** entails a water quality lesson and students perform water quality tests at a local creek.

**Program available:** July 2019 - June 2020

**Location:** Aliso Creek Trail

**Funding includes:** in-class presentation, field trips, water quality tests, and busing to and from a local creek.

**Ready to sign up?** Teachers or school administrators can notify us of their interest in the program by completing the following survey: <http://bit.ly/MNWDcoastkeeper>



Have questions? Contact Dyana Peña at OC Coastkeeper.  
Email: [dyana@costkeeper.org](mailto:dyana@costkeeper.org) | Phone: (714) 850 -1965 x1004

## La Madera *Elementary*

25350 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/770-1415 • svusd.org/lamadera



**Jennifer Gass**  
*Interim Principal*

### Leap into the New Year

I am beyond excited to begin the year as Interim Principal at La Madera. The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start. This year, our teachers are excited to focus on social emotional growth, as well as academic success for our students.

Our Koalas were welcomed back to campus to find a freshly painted blacktop on our playground. Over the summer our fabulous PTA volunteers came together and added several sensory paths to our blacktop. These colorful pathways look amazing, and encourage students to engage in a variety of activities. Students can hop, skip, and balance along the pathways. These paths provide opportunities for students to develop motor skills, engage their five senses, and also offer students a high-energy “brain break”. Our students were eager to leap into the new school year.



## La Paz *Intermediate*

25151 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-1720 • svusd.org/lapaz



**Jean Walker**  
*Principal*

### Welcome to LaPaz!

What makes La Paz Intermediate such a fabulous place to learn? La Paz is a very special place where students, parents, teachers, support staff and community members join forces to provide all students with a stellar education in a caring environment. The 2019-20 school year has just begun, and it is evident La Paz Pride is in full swing.

The August Leopard Run Registration was organized by a team of staff, parents, and students. At this one-stop event, families turned in various forms, took school pictures, got their student IDs, selected PE clothes, received student planners, verified courses, signed up for the Student Teacher Parent Organization (STPO), ordered the Yearbook, learned about the International Festival, and picked up home-sets of textbooks. Families accomplished everything in about an hour, all the while checking in with friends about their summers!

Under the guidance of wonderful advisors, Mrs. Pogue and Mr. Van Tassell, our Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) 8th grade student leaders, welcomed all incoming 7th grade and new 8th grade students to La Paz. The orientation, led by the eighty WEB 8th grade leaders, included a high-energy assembly, and small groups where everyone participated in team building activities. By the end of the morning, all students had lots of new friends! On the first day of school, the WEB student leaders arrived early in their bright turquoise WEB t-shirts. Throughout the day, they helped students find classes, answered questions about lunch, and insured that all students had a great day. WEB also organized a fun lunchtime activity for students and teachers alike. The activity included teams, water, sponges, buckets and plastic cups. The water activity was perfect as temperatures were scorching hot!

The La Paz community of learners are excited to continue their journey together throughout the school year!

# Back to School!



## Laguna Hills *High School*

25401 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/770-5447 • svusd.org/lhhs



**Bill Hinds**  
*Principal*

### Learning to Fly

Laguna Hills High School kick-started the year with their Freshman Orientation on the first day of school. Teachers, staff and student leaders welcomed the incoming Class of 2023 with music, school spirit, and a

comfortable environment to help ease the uncertainty of their first day on a new campus. Student leaders and freshmen met in small Nest groups to build connections and excitement about the year ahead.



**LHHS welcomes freshmen to their Nest!**

Freshmen will meet monthly with their Nest student leaders and Nest support teacher in order to continue developing positive relationships and to receive support as they become active members of our Hawk community. Laguna Hills High School started the Freshman Nest Program three years ago to facilitate the transition to high school and to help set the tone for a successful high school experience.

Welcome back to school, and as always, Go Hawks!

## Lake Forest *Elementary*

21801 Pittsford Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/830-9945 • svusd.org/lakeforest



**Audra Bailey**  
*Principal*

### New Innovative Classrooms

Lake Forest Elementary spent the summer getting a complete make-over. After long days and a lot of hard work, the school looks amazing and was ready for

students on the first day. The school was outfitted with new carpet, remodeled bathrooms, and a fresh coat of paint. Additionally, the classrooms were outfitted with two state-of-the-art monitors in every room,



along with flexible seating and white board tables for the students. Families were so excited when we clapped our students in on the first day, welcoming them back to school.

Students are loving flexible seating with different options throughout the day. They can choose from standing tables, floor tables, white board tables, wobble stools, chairs and tall stools. With new technology, students and teachers can

move around the room and show their work on big monitors using the classroom iPad as a document camera. Everyone is excited for an amazing year!

## La Tierra *Early Childhood Center*

24150 Lindley St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/707-5276 • www.svusd.org/schools/elementary-a-l/la-tierra-early-childhood-center



**Marion Springett**  
*Psychologist on  
Special Assignment*

### Ready for Success

My name is Marion Springett, and I am the Coordinator of the La Tierra Early Childhood Center (La Tierra ECC) in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2019-20 school year! This year marks my 4th year leading the La Tierra ECC staff as we embark

on another year of providing quality learning experiences that prepare our students for future school readiness and academic success!



**The La Tierra ECC Lion**

At La Tierra ECC, our special education teachers and specialists provide hands-on learning experiences that support student growth across academic areas, including: literacy, number concepts, social skills, and communication aligned to the California Preschool Learning Foundations. We believe that school should be a safe place where trained, caring professionals celebrate diversity while fostering student independence by providing specialized instruction that is fun, meaningful and practical.

I am looking forward to an exciting year!

## Linda Vista *Magnet Elementary*

25222 Pericia Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-0970 • svusd.org/lindavista



**Suzy McMasters**  
*Principal*

### Explorers Navigate Learning

Linda Vista Magnet Elementary is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program World School Candidate. The scholars are deep into becoming more globally minded through the IB Learner Profile Attributes of being inquirers, thinkers, risk-takers, communicators, caring, knowledgeable, principled, open-minded, balanced and reflective. The scholars at LVM participate in specialist classes each week in music, physical education, Spanish and the IB Hub in the Library. Please call the school office to reserve a spot to come for an IB tour at 9:00am on October 23, November 20, December 18, January 22, February 19, March 25, April 29, and May 20. Join us on February 20, 2020 for our Showcase.

Linda Vista Magnet Explorers Wonder, Navigate, Excel, and Strive to build a globally-minded community of citizens who contribute to a diverse world.



**Students gather in the library to hear a story during the first week of school**

## Lomarena *Elementary*

25100 Earhart Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-1370 • svusd.org/lomarena



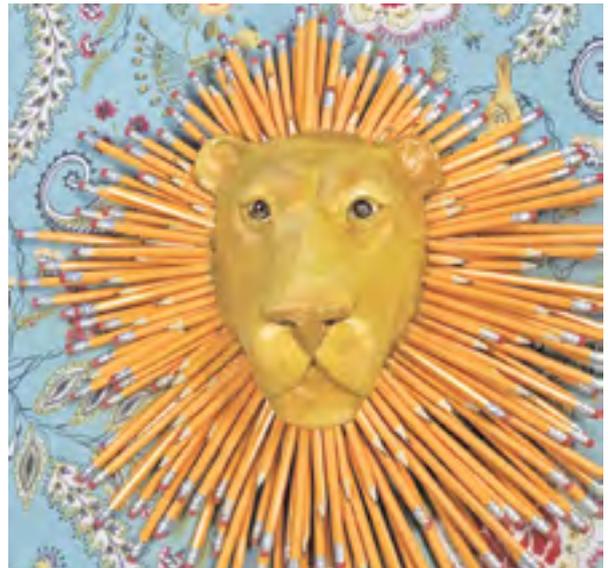
**Mona Montgomery**  
*Principal*

### ROARing into 2019-20

The Lomarena Lions have opened the 19/20 school year with a ROAR and we are so thrilled for the new school year! On the students' first day on campus, we kicked off the year with our "clap", where students and staff alike, dance their way into their new classrooms.

We are excited to welcome two new teachers, Mr. Purnell and Mrs. Gambrell, to the Lomarena Family. It is thrilling to see our school grow and for our students, staff, and parents to be ready and eager for another amazing school year!

The staff was inspired by SVUSD Superintendent, Dr. Crystal Turner's message at the opening kickoff of our new school year. We will continue to spread the message - KIND IS THE NEW COOL!



**Lions ROAR into the new school year!**

# 208 EMERALD

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NEWPORT BEACH, CA



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2 1/2 Baths

2,286 SF



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[www.208EMERALD.com](http://www.208EMERALD.com)

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**RYAN GUNDERSON**

DRE#01869795

## Los Alisos *Intermediate*

25171 Moor Ave., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-9700 • svusd.org/losalisos



**Rich Freda**  
*Principal*

### Caught on Camera

Larry the LOBO made his debut appearance to launch the 2019-20 school year! On day one, students participated in our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Station Rotations with all expectations addressed in a positive tone. They were able to tour the campus and learn

how to be ready, responsible and respectful at various locations, such as classrooms, blacktop/field, restrooms and lunch lines. Students then met in our gym for a welcome from staff and a short rally, led by our ASB to show LOBO Pride! We had a packed day of events to pump up that LOBO spirit.

Los Alisos is proud to have received Platinum Level recognition, the highest in the state, for our PBIS program last year.

We are off to a great start of the school year, with the best students, staff, parents and community members. Here's to a fantastic 2019-20 school year...Go LOBOS!



**Los Alisos students are welcomed by Larry the LOBO**

## Melinda Heights *Elementary*

21001 Rancho Trabuco, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/888-7311 • svusd.org/melindaheights



**Kathryn Martin**  
*Principal*

### Think – Engage - Learn

Welcome to the new school year! The staff at Melinda Heights looks forward to a 2019-2020 full of connections, community and purpose as we lead our students into the next decade. Melinda Heights Elementary is nestled in the hills of Rancho Santa

Margarita, and serves more than 1000 eager learners. At Melinda, our mission is threefold. We aim to challenge our students with purposeful use of technology, provide a balanced educational program and instill the character traits necessary for success in the world of tomorrow. Melinda Heights Mountain Lions ROAR as they share: "I am Responsible, I Own my choices, I Act with Integrity and show Respect." The outstanding team at Melinda Heights has embarked upon this

new school year with great enthusiasm and is committed to providing a safe, challenging environment that will empower our children to become innovative thinkers, and engaged, inspired learners prepared for a bright future.



**Staff Members ready to ROAR at Melinda Heights**

# Mission Viejo *High School*

25025 Chrisanta Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/837-7722 • svusd.org/mvhs



**Tricia Osborne**  
*Principal*

## Prestigious IB Program

Mission Viejo High School is proud to announce that 47 students from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Class of 2019 received full diplomas. MVHS was the first high school in Orange County granted affiliation with the prestigious program. The IB Diploma is recognized for its rigor in the United States and throughout the world. These

distinguished graduates are now attending schools such as UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, MIT, and Johns Hopkins, among others.

The IB is a comprehensive program for highly motivated students, sponsored and administered by the International Baccalaureate Organization. The IB Diploma is awarded to students who complete a challenging course of study featuring examination in six academic areas: Studies in Language,

Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, and one elective. Students also complete a 4,000 word thesis on a subject of their choice. Academic studies are enhanced through IB's creative, athletic, and social service activities. Go Diablos!



**Graduates from the MVHS Class of 2019**

# Montevideo *Elementary*

24071 Carrillo Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8050 • svusd.org/montevideo



**Lisa Graham**  
*Principal*

## Equipping our Students

Montevideo's staff, parents, and students have experienced boundless success by intentionally coming together with talent, teamwork, and the agreement of WHO & WHY. Montevideo places children at the heart of collaborative effort focused on rigorous and engaging academics, positive school culture, social emotional learning, and specialized programs and enrichment. Each year, plans are implemented to further

student and school progress in four key areas: Intentional Design in programs and lessons, Stimulating Environment focused on student engagement and academic rigor, Social Emotional systems to support the whole child, and Collaboration among and between staff, parents, and students. When asked about the school's success, Principal Graham, readily shares, "Montevideo is an amazing school with passionate staff and parents; and our students are precious! Our school's family atmosphere and achievement can only be described as a shared success." Montevideo Elementary Mountaineers... Equipping our students to scale the heights of their learning and talents.



**Students dance Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Trepak from the ballet The Nutcracker as a part of the Pacific Symphony's Class Act Program. This year's composer is John Williams!**

## Olivewood *Elementary*

23391 Dune Mear Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-6682 • svusd.org/olivewood



**Alex Perez**  
*Principal*

### Ready for Success

Welcome to Olivewood Elementary School! Our Mustang family is excited to welcome a new group of lifelong learners. We feel it's important to not only build academic capacity but also build social and emotional capacity. We promote an inclusive learning environment where students from different ethnicities, upbringing, and lifestyles can collaborate and combine abilities. With the support of our community, P.T.A., extended family members and local stakeholders, we will provide an exceptional learning experience for all of our students.

It is important to highlight a few areas of growth and achievement. Our Mustang students showed positive growth on the California Assessment of Student Performance and

Progress (CAASPP) in both English Language Arts and Math. We have refreshed our technology so all students, TK-6 grade, can establish a stable foundation for building digital competency and academic rigor. Our Teaching staff continues to remain focused on increasing student achievement by conducting structured Professional Learning Communities, analyzing data, creating short term and long term goals.

As Principal I believe in developing a community of lifelong learners, creative thinkers and responsible individuals by providing an innovative educational program in a safe and supportive learning environment. I will shape our path toward success through collaboration, data disaggregation and specialized training. As a Mustang family we will recognize our achievements and powerful moments by highlighting our bright spots.

## Rancho Canada *Elementary*

21801 Winding Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/786-5252 • svusd.org/ranchocanada



**Dr. Larry Hausner**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back!

Rancho Cañada is off to a great start this school year! Our school community kicked-off the year with a PTA sponsored Welcome Back Party which was a true success. Rancho Canada is a close community that strives to ensure the safest and most rewarding academic program a school can offer. The educational program at Rancho Cañada Elementary School is designed to meet the needs of each individual student. Our school's Vision Statement is, "Rancho Cañada students will strive to become independent thinkers, resourceful problem-solvers, and confident citizens in tomorrow's world." High standards and expectations for each student in regard to academic performance and responsible citizenship are also at the foundation of our school. Upcoming events include Kindness Week, and in October our signature event-the ever popular Jog-a-thon!



## Robinson *Elementary*

21400 Lindsay Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/589-2446 • svusd.org/robinson



**Megan Hannen**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Principal Hannen

Hello SVUSD Community! My name is Megan Hannen and I am very honored to be the incoming principal of Robinson Elementary. I was previously the Interim Principal at La Madera Elementary and prior to that I was the Assistant Principal at Foothill Ranch Elementary.

I came to SVUSD in 2018 from LAUSD where I managed the Elementary Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Programs and supported the needs of the secondary VAPA arts district-wide. I have dedicated the last 28 years to working in K-12 education with a focus on providing equity and access to the arts for all students. I look forward to leading teachers, parents and students as we continue to engage in innovative and intentional learning. Go Rattlers!

## Portola Hills *Elementary*

19422 Saddleback Ranch Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/459-9370 • svusd.org/portolahills



**Ed MacNevin**  
*Principal*

### Beautiful New Look

Students at Portola Hills Elementary (PHE) opened its doors this school year to a brand new state of the art modernized campus. Each classroom at PHE has been transformed into a flexible learning space. The classrooms boast brand new tackable

wall surfaces, floor to ceiling white boards, two seventy inch monitors that display curricular content from an iPad, and flexible modern student seating with wheels which students can quickly and easily move into various teacher-directed collaborative learning configurations. The MPR has been transformed into a state of the art multi-use facility with four large seventy inch monitors and a vaulted ceiling with enhanced acoustic features. Perhaps the most stunning new feature at PHE is the new Innovation Lab that doubles

as the library with two modern glass student collaboration rooms and modern rolling curved bookshelves. Even the front office was reengineered and modernized to better serve parents, students, and staff.



**Portola Hills Principal and students are excited about their new look.**

## Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

21931 Alma Aldea, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/459-8253 • www.rsmintermediate.com



**James Newton**  
*Principal*

### A Warm Welcome

The opening of the 2019-2020 school year has been exciting at RSM. Thanks to our ASB students, parent volunteers, and school staff, the New Student Orientation was a highlight of the summer!

Like our orientation, the opening day activities focused on developing relationships and teaching schoolwide expectations through teambuilding and campus tours.

These activities were both exciting and reinvigorating. As we welcomed our students to campus we strengthened our commitment to working together to positively impact their learning and experience.

As a collaborative team, RSM will continue to:

- Provide a safe and productive learning environment for our students
- Emphasize engagement, literacy, and technology in classroom instruction
- Prepare our students for success at RSM, high school, & beyond
- Promote inclusion of all students

We are looking forward to another exceptional year and appreciate your partnership in the adventure! Go Roadrunners!



## San Joaquin *Elementary*

22182 Barbera, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-3450 • svusd.org/sanjoaquin



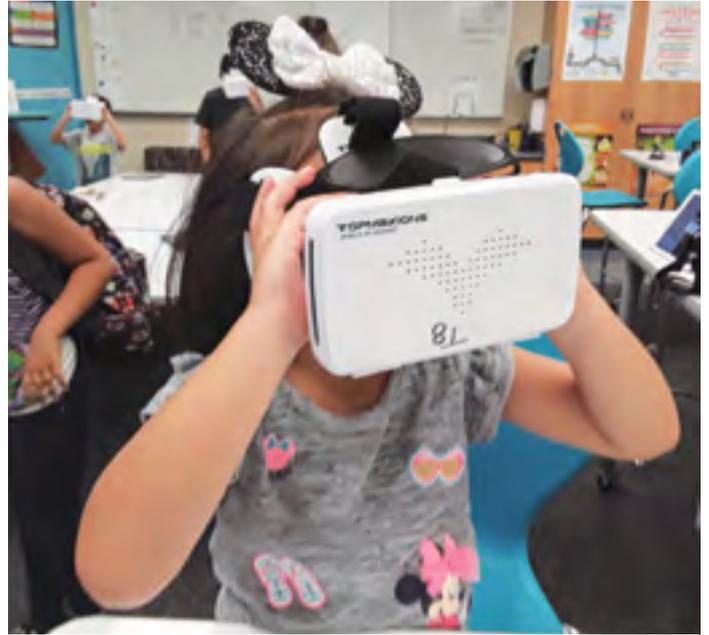
**David Shun**  
*Principal*

### Leveling Up Innovation

At San Joaquin, we are “Leveling Up” our innovative practices that will connect students with college and career ready skills, as well as help them focus on becoming well-rounded citizens in a competitive global economy.

As a recognized Common Sense School, we provide an innovative approach to digital citizenship. Our kindergarteners and first grade students have 1:1 iPads and second through sixth grade students have 1:1 Chromebooks. Students will utilize our new 3D printer, robotics, coding, and 3D Virtual Reality lessons and field trips to enhance their experience.

New this year, we are introducing eSports and a Drone program, across grade levels, connecting critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity in fun and educational ways. We will also continue our PBIS and AVID focus which emphasizes positive expectations, organizational skills, and study strategies. With so many innovative initiatives, we are all excited to launch an awesome year!



**Technology in the classroom helping students Level Up!**

## Santiago *STEAM Magnet*

24982 Rivendell Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-2820 • svusd.org/santiago



**Howard Johnston**  
*Principal*

### Continuing to Grow

Santiago STEAM Magnet begins its second year bigger and better than ever! We've added more classes and more teachers to our staff. Our mission is to provide meaningful, innovative learning experiences for a community of diverse learners who solve complex problems with creativity and confidence. We envision students who are empowered thinkers and creators positively impacting our global community.

Our teachers worked over the summer refining their high-quality Project Based Learning units. We will continue with Second Step, our social-emotional curriculum in all grades. This year we will be developing our MTSS (Multi-Tier System of Support) process to support all student academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

We have also improved our technology by increasing the number and quality of our devices, thereby supporting our efforts to offer all of our students a better learning experience. We look forward to a great year!



**Please Drive Safely — Students are Back in School.**

## Serrano *Intermediate*

24642 Jeronimo Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-3221 • svusd.org/serrano



**David Young**  
*Principal*

### Seahawk Spirit

Serrano spirit is in the air! Sammy, our Seahawk mascot, welcomed new and returning students. The positive environment is easy to see and feel for anyone entering our campus, where students take pride in their campus and ownership for their actions. Students learn, practice and exemplify Serrano's 3 R's: Readiness, Responsibility and Respect. We provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all of our students, and Seahawk pride is present everywhere!

Our fully inclusive Unified PE program unites students with disabilities and those without in one class. This combination brings students of varying ability levels together through sports, leadership and wellness activities. This course focuses on the physical, intellectual and social growth of all participants. By engaging in physical activity and sport alongside all peers, our students will build and foster important social relationships. At Serrano, we accept and embrace all students regardless of our differences. Go Seahawks!



## Silverado/Mira Monte *Continuation High School*

25632 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8800 • svusd.org/silverado • svusd.org/miramonte



**David Gordon**  
*Principal*

### Silverado SOARS

Much has happened during the summer at Silverado.

Three of our teachers, along with our principal, attended the AVID conference in San Diego in June.

We are excited to have Cindy Garamoni as our new Assistant Principal. With her experience and knowledge, familiarity with the school, compassion for our students, and her long-standing dedication to Silverado, we know that Cindy will be a tremendous asset in her new role.

Welcome to our new staff members: Ransome Nfor, Chemistry teacher, Soudabeh Borujerdi, Instructional Assistant, and Luis Gomez, our much-needed additional night custodian! We are looking forward to getting to know these new faces.

Our Positive Behaviors Intervention and Support (PBIS) team, led by our Academic Coach DeeAnn Crouch, has been diligently working to get the program in place and get everyone on board. Our Successful, Optimistic, Accountable, Respectful posters are displayed all over the campus and in classrooms to reinforce our renewed mantra and to remind our students of their importance, value and responsibilities.

We will also continue with our Soaring Eagle trophy that recognizes a member of our staff each month for going above and beyond their assigned duties.

A big thank you to Efreem Miranda, our lead custodian, and his helpers Rolando Acosta and Luis Gomez for getting our campus spotless and ready for the new school year!

Silverado is ready to SOAR!

## SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-12*

21001 Rancho Trabuco Rd., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/580-3457 • svusd.org/virtualacademy



**Glenn Giokaris**  
*Principal*

### **Virtual Academy Growth**

Critical to our success and a foundational component of the SVUSD Virtual Academy (SVA) is our commitment to continuous adaptation, improvement, and innovation. This summer, many of our teachers attended a four-day, social and emotional learning conference and returned equipped with ideas and enthusiasm to teach, model, and support the growth of students' social and emotional intelligence. Building a sense of community and belonging among our students is one of our highest priorities and a key to maximizing student learning and growth.

Additionally, as enrollment and interest in the SVA continues to increase, we are excited to welcome three new members to our SVA team: Counselor, Haley Glasgow, math teacher, Angela Dean, and science teacher, Annie Granados. It is an honor and a privilege to work with our amazing staff, students, and community.



**K-6 class on the first day of school.**

## *Trabuco Elementary*

31052 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678 • 949/858-0343 • svusd.org/trabuco



**Lisa Paisley**  
*Principal*

### **Math Mindset**

Trabuco Elementary students began this school year engaged in academics, but with a twist! Our new and returning coyotes jumped right into Unit 0 for mathematics. Unit 0 is a math mindset unit in SVUSD's scope and sequence where students are involved in fun, collaborative activities. These activities teach students they can be successful in math and perseverance.

Trabuco Coyotes spent the first week of school solving puzzles and practicing skills that will carry through the entire year's math studies. At Trabuco, we find that working in partners and groups of four to eight students produce the most in depth and lasting understanding.

We have also organized our K-6 students into writing "families" of 7 students, comprised of one student from each grade level. These families will participate in three writing fairs, offering group writing opportunities and peer share circles.

It is a good year to be a coyote!



**Students engaged in Unit 0 math!**

## Trabuco Hills *High School*

27501 Mustang Run, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/768-1934 • svusd.org/thhs



**Craig Collins**  
*Principal*

### **An Unstoppable Year**

Trabuco Hills started off our Unstoppable year with an outstanding first few weeks of school, starting with 200 seniors attending Senior Sunrise at 5:30 a.m. on the first day of school!

Throughout the first week, students had the opportunity to play games, listen to music and participate in fun trivia games.

At our kick off assembly a wonderful motivational speaker spoke to all 2800 students in the gym. It was a 90 degree day but the students were captivated by his message. He spoke about opening up about who you are, reaching out for help if needed and promoting acceptance amongst our

family (Ohana) here at Trabuco Hills High School. He also conducted a parent event, where he helped coach parents how to provide students with opportunities to gain freedoms that teenagers so desperately want.

It's going to be a great year at THHS!



**Students were greeting with their theme for the year on the first day of school.**

## Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

21301 Ave de las Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/858-3339 • svusd.org/trabucomesa



**Caryn McGrew**  
*Principal*

### **Welcome Bulldogs!**

Our entire staff would like to welcome all new and returning families to our school. We have an awesome school community of kind students, dedicated staff,

and supportive parents who work together to reach a higher plateau of learning for all students. We are a GATE magnet school, with GATE classrooms in third through sixth grade. We encourage students to have a growth mindset, become life-long learners, and learn scholarly habits to help them be successful in their educational journey. The Staff embraces the SVUSD Mission – SV Innovates: Focusing on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and innovative practices that create successful students. PTA supports and funds STEAM at our school:



**Trabuco Mesa Staff Ready for the School Year.**

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math programs. Students strive to be safe, respectful, and responsible and follow school-wide expectations as part of our Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Program. Trabuco Mesa is a great place to be!

# Valencia *Elementary*

25661 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/830-3650 • svusd.org/valencia



**Wendie Hauschild**  
*Principal*

## Our School Family

Full of pride and eager to build relationships, Valencia Elementary School's first day of school was festive with a step-and-repeat, balloons, student leaders at-the-ready with school maps, and a "Tears and Cheers" coffee and pastry bar for our parents. Valencia

emphasizes equity and dignity for our "Oranges" and supports their social-emotional well-being through a daily school-wide 30-minute block of Second Step instruction, morning meetings, restorative circles, and other activities that build community. Each student is part of a multi-grade Valencia School Family with a teacher as the head. This "Family" meets multiple times throughout the year to forge cross-age friendships and create a mentor-relationship with another staff member on campus. Our recess schedules are

designed to provide opportunities for our older students to support our youngsters while building their own self-esteem. We want every student to feel a sense of belonging and purpose at Valencia.



## Leadership Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Saddleback in the subject line.

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

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

**Barkate Orthodontics sponsors our contests**  
[www.BarkateSmiles.com](http://www.BarkateSmiles.com)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

Congratulations **Isabella Nicholson**  
winner of our May contest.

## Word Search by Gunnar Coop



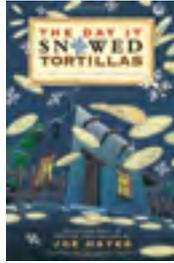
## B is for Book



Bailey

### 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.



**Tutoring Club**  
MATH | READING | WRITING | SCHOOL SUPPORT  
**GIVE YOUR STUDENT'S GRADES A BOOST.**  
**Please see back page for details.**



## *The Center Stage Studio* "A Triple Threat Performing Arts Center"

The Center Stage Studio & Dance was voted "Best Performing Arts" Studio 2015-2018.

We provide Orange County children with a safe and caring environment while enjoying dance (Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Lyrical etc.), Musical Theater productions, nationally ranked competitive Song & Dance Teams, voice & acting classes, as well as year round camps & birthday parties!

For more information, please call us or visit our website! BRAVO!

**949.305.9758 | TheCenterStageStudio.com**  
**27101 Aliso Creek Rd. #136, Aliso Viejo, CA**

## Richard's Book Review



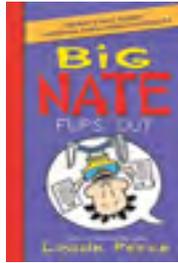
Richard J.

### 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.

## Tara's Review



Tara Z.

### Eye-opening, Transcending, and Lovely

*Five Feet Apart*

by Rachel Lippencott is one of those wonderful coming of age novels, that will leave you smiling, laughing, or shedding a tear or two at one point or another. The story



follows the life of Stella Grant, a cystic fibrosis patient who is on the brink of becoming 18. Stella is the epitome of order, and her life, like that of many other CF patients, depends on a mixture of factors, but one of the most important is following a medical regime, filled with meticulous patterns of med dosages and activities. For Stella, following her regime, means keeping her shattered family together. However, when Will, another 17-year-old CF patient, arrives at Saint Grace's Hospital, things change for both young CFers, and for once in their lives, they have come to the realization that they will not let cystic fibrosis take away everything they have got.

Tara Z. is a tenth grader. She loves painting, reading, and writing about art and books. She hopes to study medicine and travel through all the world's continents.



Calling all future marine biologist and ocean stewards!

## Explore the world of MARINE MAMMALS!

Ocean Heroes is an after school program designed for children ages 8-12 that engages them in marine science through interactive lectures, games, arts and crafts.

Join us this fall for

- Hands on lab activities
- Guest speakers
- Offsite excursions

Ocean Heroes meets once a month from October-May, 4-6pm



Pacific Marine Mammal Center

949.494.3050

20612 Laguna Canyon Rd.,  
Laguna Beach, 92651

[www.pacificmmc.org](http://www.pacificmmc.org)

Pacific Marine Mammal Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

## Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

### Tests Your Imagination

*The Magician's Nephew*

by C.S Lewis is about Polly, Digory, and Andrew. Andrew makes gold rings that take you to other worlds, and green ones that bring you back. Polly touches the gold one and Digory follows. On



their way back, they encounter a witch who destroys her world and hitch-hikes back with them. In London, Andrew becomes her slave and the witch causes chaos. They get the witch into what they thought was her world, only to find the world is becoming Narnia. Narnia has talking animals and the witch flees north. The lion in charge gives the cabbie man and his wife a special job, while Digory and Polly search for a cure for Digory's mother.

What will become of Narnia and the outsiders?

I rate this book 5 stars a because of the excitement and how it makes the reader (no matter how old) use their imagination.

Isabella is a 7th grader and just published her first short story in a school anthology of young authors after winning first prize with her work. She rates books on a 5 star scale.

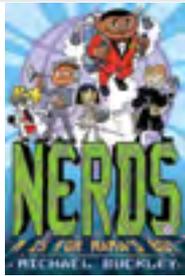
## Ethan's Review



Ethan H.

### N.E.R.D.S. Rule

*N.E.R.D.S.: Mis for Mama's Boy* by Michael Buckley is a book about kids who are constantly bullied at their school. Their weaknesses are turned into strengths by a machine that is powered



by a robot named Benjamin. N.E.R.D.S. stands for National Espionage Rescue and Defense Society. My favorite character is Julio "Flinch" Escala, because he has the power to turn sugar into strength and speed. Will N.E.R.D.S. be able to stop Albert the mama's boy and Simon's plan to hypnotize the world?

This is a very good book! I rate it 5 out of 5 stars. I recommend this book to people who love technology!

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.

## Sophie's Choice



Sophie O.

### An Adventure!

This book really takes you on an adventure. I'm not kidding, it's an adventure book!! Now on to the info or quick summary of *Mysteries of the Attic Trunk*.



The book is about a girl named Sue who was adopted from China and had hoped to explore California with her grandmother. Her grandmother ends up getting sick and is unable to come and take Sue on their California Adventure.

For Sue's 10 birthday, she gets to open a trunk that her grandmother left her. The trunk is no ordinary trunk. Once opened, it takes Sue on unexpected adventures to California, visiting historical or famous places. During her travels, Sue learns new things and visits new places. A little bit of history is at every stop and the excitement of never knowing where the trunk will take her next and who she will meet keeps the journey a mystery.

If you like mystery then this is a good book for you to read to yourself or others. I give this book a big thumbs up and 5 stars.

Sophie O. is a 6th grader who loves to play soccer and bake. She's an avid reader and writer and is working on writing her first book. She hopes to be an architect one day.

# 2019/2020 SEASON

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## 5 Simple Steps to a Healthy Family Media Diet



Many parents struggle with exactly how much screen time is OK for their kids. Is a half-hour show OK but a full-length movie “bad”? How much gaming should you allow when your kid also uses his computer for homework? Does Wikipedia count as “reading”? And when does a passion for say, video games, become problematic? The truth is, there is no magic formula. And just as every family differs in what they eat, when they eat, and what they like, a healthy media diet is different for every family. The key is making sure that the things that are important to your family are fairly balanced over the long term.

A healthy media diet balances activities (games, social media, TV), time (15 minutes? Three hours?), and choices (YouTube, Minecraft, Star Wars) with offline activities (sports, face-to-face conversations, daydreaming). At some point, kids will be able to manage their own media diets. In the meantime, these tips can help set them up for success. (Learn more about the screen time habits of families with kids under 8 in Common Sense Media’s most recent research.)

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)

**Find balance.** Instead of counting daily screen-time minutes, aim for a balance throughout the week. Get your kids to help plan a week that includes stuff they have to do and stuff they like to do, such as schoolwork, activities, chores, reading, family time, and TV or gaming. Decide on limits and behavior using our Family Media Agreement.

**Walk the walk.** Put your devices away while driving, at mealtimes (learn about our Device-Free Dinner initiative), and during important conversations. Kids will learn habits from you.

**Talk about it.** Ask questions about kids’ favorite games, shows, and characters. Discuss ideas and issues they read about or learn about through a TV show or a game. This is an opportunity for bonding, learning, and sharing your values.

**Create tech-free zones.** Set rules that fit your family, such as “no devices during dinner,” “no social media during homework,” or “all screens off before bedtime.”

**Check ratings.** Choose age-appropriate, high-quality media and tech for your kids.

## Ask Dr. Shari

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



**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

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.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

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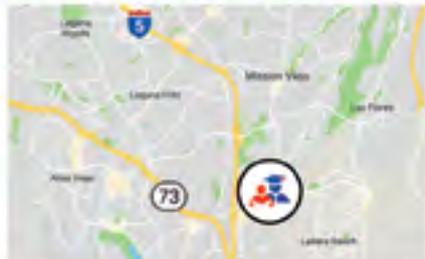
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