

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Torrance Unified School District



Volume 6, Issue 23

November 2019–January 2020

All Things Books!



The District hosted Nerd Camp SoCal over the summer. Over 350 students in grades 2-9 attended the one day camp and inquiry lab where they got to interact with over 20 published youth literature authors and immersed themselves in all things books!

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

SUPERINTENDENT

Educating Students and Parents



Dr. George Mannon

In a collaborative effort with the Torrance Council of PTAs, we kicked the year off with a special screening of a documentary called “LIKE.” Over 1,500 parents and students attended, and we engaged them in constructive discussions about technology use, screen time, and social media. We recognize that students today are dealing with additional pressures that cause increased stress and anxiety, and screen time is a contributing factor. We hope to

continue providing opportunities and resources to our parents and students throughout the year so that they may be able to better cope with these 21st-century challenges.

Additionally, we continue to host interactive events for our Torrance Unified School District families. In October, we hosted the third Fall Wellness Fair, bringing together health and nutrition resources to help parents and students with their overall wellbeing. In early November, we will be hosting our annual parent conference, which focuses on providing resources to the parents of our English Language Learners. Also, throughout the year we host a variety of parent workshops in an effort to provide parents with the tools to better support their students’ learning.

I am so proud of the quality of our students’ academic performance and continued character development. Every day there are incredible learning opportunities being offered to our students. Our faculty, staff, and administrators do a phenomenal job of providing rigorous, high-caliber education programs to our students, and our students regularly demonstrate growth.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Keeping Connected



Don Lee
President

The 2019–2020 school year began with a shift from previous years—school started in August with a pre-Labor Day first day. It was great to see students excited and eager to get to back to their friends and school. Many schools planned week-long activities in the first five days in an effort to get students, faculty, and staff off to an engaging start.

One of the priorities of the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) School Board is to ensure our parents and communities are engaged with our goals and mission. Earlier this year, the Board launched a strategic communications initiative in order to better gauge how to improve and enhance our communication practices. Since then, we have met with our various stakeholders and conducted a community-wide survey to understand what we are doing well and where we need to make adjustments. As we move into phase two of this process, one area we want to work on is expanding our two-way conversations with parents and the larger community. We hope through discussions, collaboration, and training, we can make some constructive changes and continue to grow our relationships with those we serve.

My time on the School Board has been marked by many milestones, the most significant being the passages of Measure Y and Z and then T and U. We worked tirelessly to build consensus in the Torrance community and voted to transform our schools—and we were successful. Recently the district once again received an AAA rating from Fitch Ratings, a financial rating agency. These ratings demonstrate that the district has continued to have a healthy financial position and Torrance property values have continued to increase. Additionally, the Board recently voted to refinance Measure Y bonds that were issued in 2014, which will save tax payers \$114 million in debt service. We are proud that the majority of bond projects in the past decade have been completed on time and within budget.

One of the projects funded through our bond measures is the new TUSD Aquatic Center. The Olympic-caliber facility has attracted the attention of the national swim programs. The National Women’s Water Polo Team played a match against China last December, and the Men’s National Water Polo Team called the Aquatic Center home from May to June 2019 as they trained and prepared for two major Olympic qualifying events. We hope that they will continue to use our Aquatic Center and that TUSD continues to be the center of strong academic and athletic programs.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



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Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org

Look Within

By Denise Spellman, President

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) oversees the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district. We are organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide information and instruction to our units, leadership training, and coordination of the efforts of our units.

TCPTA once again worked with Torrance Unified School district and the community to organize Project BOSS (Bring Our Students Supplies), a program since 1992 that provides backpacks, filled with the necessary schools supplies to help those TUSD students successfully complete their school work. The collective efforts and donations allowed TCPTA to stuff more than 400 backpacks.

Project HOPE (Helping Our People Everyday), is in its fifth year as a community outreach program serving foster care/homeless students and Torrance families. TCPTA is currently collecting costumes for nearly 70 needy students in TUSD. Throughout the year we collect non-perishable food, gift cards and personal hygiene items. We also help provide prom dresses or tux for our graduating high school seniors.

PTA continues to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. Each of our 30 school's membership campaigns are in full swing. If you have not joined PTA at your local school, please join and become part of the largest advocacy group in the United States.

TUSD Students are working on their entries for the National PTA Reflections program. The theme this year is "Look Within" Original works will be accepted in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Students will be submitting their projects to be judged at their unit level in October. Those first place winners submission will then be sent in November to District, State and National for judging. It is always great to see all of the original art pieces that the students turn in.

Welcome to a new school year. By now students are settled into their routines and focused on their academic goals. After reading the articles in this issue you will have an understanding of why it is a great time to be a student in the Torrance Unified School District.

On pages 22 & 23 are our popular student book reviews to help with your holiday reading selections.

Our next issue is January 29.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from the School News staff!**



School News

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Covering the

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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What Makes A Pregnancy High Risk?



Michael Nageotte, M.D.,
associate chief
medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Each year, nearly 4 million babies are born in the U.S. The majority of women experience a routine pregnancy. However, some women experience medical difficulties, making their pregnancy high-risk. Conditions that cause a pregnancy to become high-risk can put mom and baby at an increased risk for complications. Factors that increase a woman's chance of having a high-risk pregnancy, include:

- Pre-existing health problems, such as diabetes, obesity or high blood pressure.
- Use of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco.
- The mother's age (younger than 17 or over 35).
- Multiple babies (i.e., twins or triplets).
- Multiple prior miscarriages.
- The baby being diagnosed with a genetic condition, poor growth or a physical malformation.
- Development of preterm labor or pre-eclampsia.
- Abnormal location of the placenta, especially with a previous cesarean section delivery.
- Problems during a previous pregnancy.

When a woman is diagnosed with a high-risk pregnancy, she'll need to see a physician with special training, like a maternal-fetal specialist, also known as a perinatologist. At the Cherese Mari Lauthere BirthCare Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, a maternal-fetal specialist is available in the hospital 24/7 to manage complex maternity and fetal care. Just down the hall from the delivery suites is a level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Our neonatologists and an expert care team are available to care for newborns and their families under one roof.

For more information about why women with high-risk pregnancies should choose Miller Children's & Women's, visit millerchildrens.org/OneRoof.



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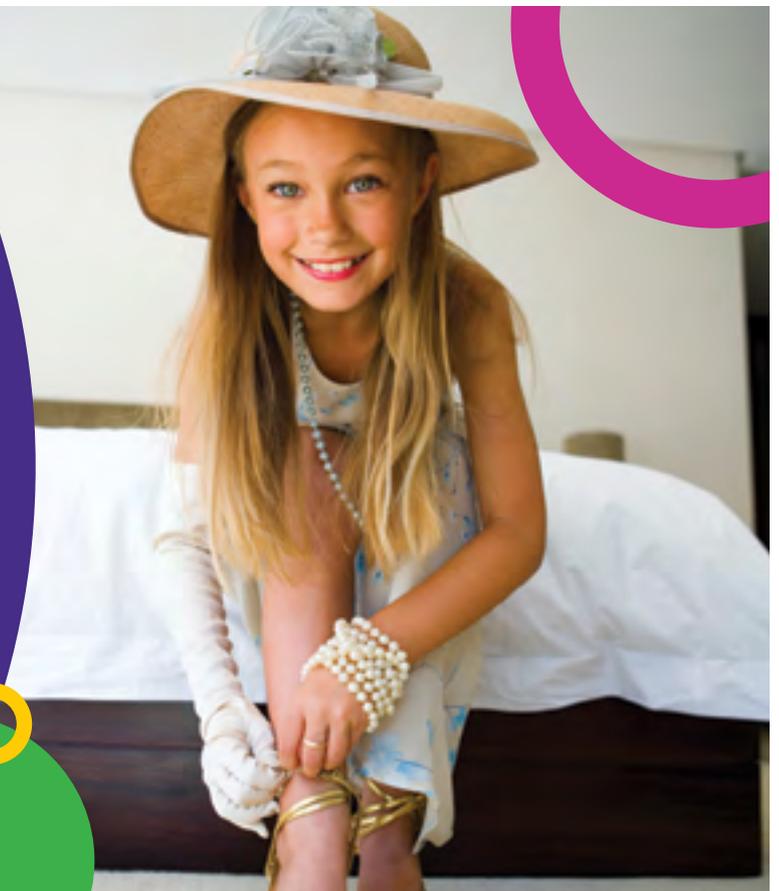
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ENGINEERING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Will it sink, or sail? Female students quickly discovered whether their boat design would stay afloat as they raced across the pool at the Torrance Aquatic Center during the third annual Cardboard Regatta. The competition brought together 175 students from seven Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) middle and high schools.

Their challenge? Build a boat from cardboard and duct tape. Female engineers and other professionals from Torrance Refining Company were on-hand to mentor the teams, who had just a few hours to design and build their watercraft. *"The team that won the high school event used physics and math to figure things out. They sure were fast!"*

"I'm so glad my girls participated this year," said one mother who watched the competition.

The Cardboard Regatta, sponsored by Torrance Refining Company, was launched by two TUSD teachers who wanted to stimulate interest in STEM-related fields, where females are underrepresented. *"We're thrilled that this activity grows every year, with support from Torrance Refining Company. The students were fully engaged during the building process and had the opportunity to enhance their teamwork and problem-solving skills,"* said Dr. George Mannon, TUSD Superintendent of Schools.

torrancerefinery.com



Arlington *Elementary*

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlington.tusd.org



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

Setup for Success

Welcome back, Super Stars! The Arlington Elementary School staff looks forward to another fantastic school year. We want to welcome our returning families and extend a special greeting to our new Super Stars across the campus, from staff to students.

This year promises to be another successful one, with many new programs and events!

We are excited to continue implementing Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS). This schoolwide system includes strategies for defining,

teaching, and supporting positive student behaviors to create a safe and positive school environment. With PBIS, students learn about behavior just as they learn math or science. A key strategy of the PBIS process is prevention. As a team, we are setting students up for success by teaching them how to follow the schoolwide behavioral expectations. All students will be encouraged to be respectful, responsible and safe. Students are excited to earn Star Bucks, which can be redeemed at our student store or their classroom stores.

I'm truly looking forward to another great year as your principal, and I'm proud to be an Arlington Super Star!

Arnold *Elementary*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4524 • arnold.tusd.org



Justine Lang
Principal

Another Year!

Arnold Elementary School started the school year off with community spirit and a dedication to creating a learning environment where all students can see success. Our fifth year of registration went extremely well, with 635 families turning in their required paperwork and getting their teacher assignments the week before school started. We even added a Kindergarten Camp

this year so that our youngest Alleycats could practice learning to acquire skills before starting school.

Thank you to our PTA and all of the staff volunteers who helped make this happen! The PTA also sponsored an ice cream social after school on the first Friday to bring our community together and start the new school year with some sweet fun.

On the Tuesday after Labor Day we kicked off our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) month. Through PBIS we teach our students the schoolwide behavioral expectations that will help guide their decision-making. We also spend the entire month talking to children about what it means to be Respectful, Responsible, Safe, and Use Your Best Effort.

This year we even added videos that were created by staff, which the students loved! We are also focusing on social-emotional learning, which goes along well with our PBIS efforts. We know that it is important to educate the whole child while also providing rigorous academic instruction.

All of the work we do reinforces our School Mission: Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it. You can definitely feel the excitement on campus as we begin another year here at Arnold Elementary School. Go, Alleycats!

Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • callemayormiddleschool.org



Dave Mosley
Principal

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Calle Mayor Middle School. We hope that your child is as excited about the new school year as we are. We are also proud to announce that we have begun construction of our new school gymnasium. This gymnasium is a great addition to our already wonderful campus. This construction is part of bond measures T and U, which were passed by the

Torrance community. We would like to thank you all for this wonderful addition to our campus.

With the continued support of our PTSA and the Calle community, Calle Mayor is excited to offer its students many after-school programs, including robotics, woodshop, computer programming, speech and debate, Model United Nations, physical fitness and tutoring. These California



Gold Ribbon School-identified after-school programs give students opportunities to participate and learn many new, challenging and fun skills, which will prepare them for the 21st century.

Casimir *Middle School*

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • casimir.tusd.org



Susie Holmes
Principal

Leading with Kindness

The Casimir Middle School community has always believed that helping others should be a way of life for everyone. Last year, both the 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 student councils joined together to raise money for foster and homeless students in the area.

The project is called Together We Rise.

The Casimir student leaders wanted to raise funds to create “sweet bags” for both groups of students. Typically, when a child enters foster care, he or she is given a trash bag to transport any belongings. This is also very typical for students who are homeless. A sweet bag is a new duffel bag filled with essentials, such as a teddy bear, a blanket, a hygiene kit, and much more.



Through the efforts of the Casimir community, enough money was donated to purchase 70 sweet bags. Students and parents were encouraged to decorate these bags during our Humanities Night.



Are you looking for me for the contest on page 23?

Edison *Elementary*

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • edison.tusd.org



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Our New Room

As part of the South Bay Lakers' year-long adoption of Edison, our last school year ended with a campus beautification project where 30 Lakers and South Bay Lakers staff members came to renovate a special room for us. As we plan to go 1:1 with classroom Chromebooks, we are phasing out our need for a computer lab, which made this old site a perfect choice for a new multipurpose room called “The South Bay Lakers PBIS (Positive Behavior) Rewards Room.”

Our teachers brainstormed ways in which their whole class could earn rewards based upon positive behaviors and academic goals. Some classes are filling up a class marble jar, while others have set a number of Keep it R.E.A.L (Respect, Empathy, Awareness, and Learning) slips as their goal. For academic goals, the teachers will monitor whenever the students reach a certain percentage on ST Math, or the number of books they have read. All of the goals are being set to motivate our students to perform well and “Keep it Real”!

Festival Trees for Pre-Sale December 3–5

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Fern Elementary

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



Michael Remland
Principal

Broadening Our Horizons

Fern Elementary serves over 570 students from many different countries and cultures. It is important for all members of our school community to work together

for the betterment of the students we serve. It is also important for a school to understand the cultures of the students and families it serves.

Here at Fern Elementary a large proportion of the students we serve are from Japan. In an effort to increase the cultural experiences and understanding of school leaders, the Japanese Business Association of Torrance recently invited Principal Dr. Michael Remland and two other Torrance principals to take a 13-day tour of Japan and experience its educational system from kindergarten to high school.



Mrs. Marin, Dr. Remland and Dr. Hath in traditional kimonos and Samurai garb during an experience in Japan.

Dr. Remland, along with Dr. Hath from Arlington and Mrs. Marin from Jefferson Middle School, all taught lessons and visited with elementary students at Tachiai Elementary School in Tokyo. In the course of our travels we visited schools and important cultural sites in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Ikaruga, and Nara. This experience really

opened the eyes of all the participants, and broadened everyone's understanding of what it means to experience a day at school as a visitor from another culture.

Here at Fern we are working to ensure that all members of our school community are welcomed warmly, and have the tools they need to begin learning, no matter what culture or community of origin they may come from.



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Hickory *Elementary*

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Debbie Mabry
Principal

Restorative Circles

As part of a restorative justice approach, Hickory Elementary has begun implementing restorative circles throughout the school day. Restorative circles are aimed at building a community within a classroom as part of a more proactive and positive approach to student behaviors.

We want our Hounds to be successful in and outside the classroom, and social-emotional learning addresses those skills. Through restorative circles, students learn and practice how to get along with others, communicate effectively, and be problem-solvers. Restorative circles also help students communicate in a clear way through a talking piece, and give every student an opportunity to share within the group. Students also learn about the four guidelines to

“speak from the heart, listen from the heart, no need to rehearse, and say enough.”

These guidelines allow the group to build trust among one another, as well as a mutual understanding of the expectations within circles. Students get to know each other through various questions such as, “What is your favorite color?” to more in-depth questions such as, “What is something that you are nervous about this school year?” Students often have an a-ha moment when realizing that they are not the only ones who feel nervous about tests, or that reading can be difficult.

Restorative circles also provide an open space of communication, and help those involved come to an agreement about how to solve a problem. They provide everyone with an opportunity to tell their own story and be heard. Each student has already had the opportunity to participate in their first circles of the school year.

J.H. Hull *Middle School*

2080 W. 231st St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4516 • hull.tusd.org



Patty Girgis
Principal

Welcome Everyone Back

As the new school year started on August 26, the JH Hull Ambassadors and Hull teachers were back on campus earlier to welcome all new 6th graders to Hull at WEB (Welcome Everyone Back) on Wednesday, August 21. The program is designed to help make new 6th grade students comfortable and acclimated with the campus before the school year starts.

There were over 200 students who attended this event to familiarize themselves with their new school. The program included getting textbooks, tours, walking through their own class schedules and practicing opening lockers. The future Hull Hawks practiced class competition games and got a pizza lunch to end the great day before school started.

We are excited for the upcoming class of 2022 and what they bring to the already great family of Hull Hawks!

LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • launch.tusd.org



Teresa Lanphere
Principal

The LAUNCH and Tykes Program

It has been a very exciting start of the school year for our 4- and 5-year-olds in Torrance. On August 23rd, we had close to 350 students start Tykes at our school sites of Arlington, Carr, Edison, Lincoln, Torrance Elementary, and Wood. The staff worked diligently to get everything up and ready for the students, and our classrooms looked beautiful for the first day of school.

We held our Back to School/Ready, Set, Go event at LAUNCH on September 4th to welcome parents to the campus, answer questions, and get the required documentation needed for the first day of school. Parents also had the opportunity to participate in our PTA meeting.

We started class on September 9th with over 250 preschoolers, which included our special needs students and typical peers, called PALS. We are looking forward to another great year of learning and fun for our preschoolers in the TUSD at LAUNCH and Tykes!

Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • jefferson.tusd.org



Yvonne Marin
Principal

Growing Leaders!

Jefferson Middle School has an amazing student council. The council has 28 students that represent all eight grades.

Mr. Cheney is a teacher and the student council advisor. He believes wholeheartedly

that all our students deserve to have as many opportunities as possible at this formative age. The council plans six pep rallies per school year to unite staff and students. Mr. Cheney connects with our feeder elementary schools to find out a schedule of family events so that our students have volunteer opportunities. These dedicated students also plan many activities on campus, like club rush, spirit days, college week and staff vs student basketball game, to name a few.

We are truly growing leaders! We are proud to say that many of our former students go on to run for ASB position at the high school. The team-building skills they learn with Mr. Cheney carry them on into adulthood!



Lynn *Middle School*

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • bertlynn.tusd.org



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Tutorial Time

We are very happy to share our current success with our “Tutorial Time” program. Reflecting over a year of implementation and revision, Bert Lynn Middle School’s faculty and staff found a daily schedule that affords our learning community the “gift of time” within the instructional day—specifically, a 30-minute period we call Tutorial Time.

While 30 minutes does not sound like a lot of time, one might be surprised by the activity and student choice produced as our campus springs into action. Key to our Tutorial Time is a fundamental commitment to provide small-group learning opportunities to students seeking help with essential learning targets. For example, many students utilize this time to clarify complex concepts in mathematics, or some

students drop in on writing workshops for help on project reports.

While our Tutorial Time is important to supporting student learning, it has also opened opportunities to offer additional enrichment choices during the instructional day. This is a very exciting opportunity for our students and staff to offer small three-to-six-week exploratory modules. Historically, our students were limited to one elective per day, but our daily schedule now provides students with additional enrichment choices that include cricket, robotics, Jazz Band, journalism. Student Council, Junior Scholarship, Mathematics Team practice time, keyboarding and chess. Additional modules under development include electronics, Chemistry through Cooking and fundamental aquaculture.

As we continue our work, we are reminded of our school’s motto: “Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!”



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california.providence.org/pediatrics

Madrona *Middle School*

21364 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4562 • madrona.tusd.org



Jeffrey Nielsen
Interim Principal

Wildcat Justice

This year the students and staff at Madrona Middle School are implementing a new peer mediation restorative justice program called Wildcat Justice. Student peer mediators came in before school started in August to receive training on peer mediation and restorative practices from the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center. They studied conflict, the role of emotion in disputes, communication skills, and how to create solutions based on common interests.

This program is designed to equip students with the skills and self-awareness to manage difficult situations and help their peers who are struggling socially here on campus. The students in Wildcat Justice were able to visit the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, where they learned about culture, tolerance, and how to always stand up for what is right.

The participants meet for 30 minutes a day four days a week to create interventions and mediate with students on campus. By implementing this program, Madrona hopes to reduce the absenteeism that is due to not wanting to come to school, and also to reduce suspensions by addressing conflict before it gets out of control.



Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • magruder.tusd.org



Lisa Nunes
Principal

Club Day 2019!

The start of the new school year is the start of so many new things, such as clothes, school supplies, and teachers. Here at Magruder, our students are encouraged to share their interests with one another by starting their own clubs. Hence, "Club Day!"

This much anticipated event evolves from the students' select topics, approved through the Student Council. Once a club is approved

on Club Day, each one has a table displayed to showcase the interests, events, and activities that will be a part of their specific group.

This student-driven event also includes music from a local DJ, giveaways, and energy that is off the charts! The

students sign up to join the club of their choice and shortly thereafter the meetings begin.

This event is sponsored through our Student Council. However, the actual clubs are only possible due to the goodness of our dedicated staff members who are willing to be the adult "sponsors." Clubs have included anime, chess, movie, baking, Rubik's cube, DIY, and even knitting!

We know that the more engaged the students are in their school community the more there is an increase in attendance, academics, and positive school spirit. Our team members support these efforts faithfully and with much joy. Thank you to all who dedicate their time, effort, and creativity to one of many components that makes Magruder such a magical place.

North High School

3620 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4412 • northhighschool.org



Chris Sheck
Principal

Summer Youth Institute

During this past summer we had 17 North High School students participate in our inaugural 2019 Summer Youth Institute. Sponsored by the YMCA, this program required full-time (35 hours per week) participation over the course of eight weeks. The program promoted positive youth development and leadership skills, as well as the construction of pathways to post-secondary education and career readiness.

Our students benefited from over 275 hours of program activities designed to improve academic achievement and stimulate interest in post-secondary education; improve the technology, career, leadership and decision-making skills that promote readiness for post-secondary education or career entry after graduation; and promote bonding to ensure that they remain engaged in their schools and communities.

What's more, throughout this school year our students will continue to build relevant skills for a competitive college and career resume, while receiving assistance with homework, completing college applications, and engaging in service learning projects.



KAYAKING IN NAPLES

Steve MacAller, executive director of the Torrance-South Bay YMCA, notes that, "In the YMCA, we believe in 'Change-Makers.' A Change-Maker is a young person who sees an opportunity to do good, and seizes upon it. With the individual (and group) accomplishments our students had this summer...each one can be a Change-Maker to benefit their school and community."

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Richardson *Middle School*

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • richardsonmiddleschool.org

Tayo Balogun, *Principal*

Applied Behavior Analysis

As I enthusiastically start the 2019-20 school year, I would like to introduce myself as the new principal of Richardson Middle School. My name is Tayo Balogun, and I have been an educator for over 15 years.

Richardson's programs support the needs of a diverse student body. One of the programs that caught my eye is the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) class. ABA is a type of therapy that focuses on principles and techniques of learning theory to help improve social behavior, develop new skills, and refine previously learned skills. Students in the ABA class work on developing these skills while interacting with their general-education peers during electives and physical education.

In PE, the students participated in a jump-rope unit in which they practiced their gross-motor and social skills with the general-education students. The students were able to interact with one another and learn from their differences.



Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



New Playhouses and Future Upgrades

Riviera Elementary School just received two new playhouses for the Kindergarten playground that were constructed by South High School Wood Shop students. Here you see students enjoying this

new addition! Mr. Wood, SHS Wood shop Teacher (What a perfect name!) made arrangements to donate these colorful and well-constructed structures to local elementary and pre-schools.

Later this year, Bond Measure U, the Physical Education and Community Recreation Measure that was successfully funded by Torrance residents will bring new playground renovations and equipment to all 17 elementary schools in TUSD.

Thank you to our high school students and community members for making these exciting upgrades possible!



Riviera playhouses!

Seaside *Elementary*

4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • seaside.tusd.org



Michele Bauer-Bean
Principal

We Love Our PTA

Seaside Elementary School started the year off with a ton of fun! Parents and children were invited to campus on the Sunday before the first day of school to find their assignments for the new year and meet some PTA parents. The children were

provided with free treats and

tours (if needed) to make the experience more festive.

After the first few weeks, when everyone had settled in, the PTA hosted the first Fun Assembly of the year. It was a BMX bike presentation that had the students roaring with cheers, laughter, and a little fear.



Our PTA partnership at Seaside is strong. Our parents work so hard volunteering in the classrooms, providing art instruction, running the school library, and giving the students field trips and fun assemblies, that we are really so very thankful and thrilled to be working with the devoted parent body that we have. It is a testimony to the Torrance community!

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Shery High School

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • shery.tusd.org



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

Charging Stations

Our staff reads a few articles about the issues surrounding cell phones and distractibility. One psychologist did a study and found students unlock their phones 50 times a day, using them for more than four of every 24 hours. Our staff also discussed the amount of instructional time wasted when teachers have to ask students to put their cell phones away, so we decided to try offering charging stations in the classroom for students.



These charging stations are available for all students; however, we do not make it mandatory to use them. We suggest to the students that if their phones are charging during class time, they will not be distracted by notifications and checking their messages. They also will leave class with fully charged phones.

So far, teachers have reported very positive results. Students are using the charging stations, allowing them to talk to each other more and stay more focused in class.

South High School

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • shs.tusd.org



Michelle Fournier
Principal

Another Reason to be Proud

South High is not only constantly working to better its teaching and learning, but our entire physical campus as well!

This year we are finishing several

campus projects. The biggest and most exciting is our brand new Performing Arts Center, which was officially dedicated on Monday, October 14th. We were glad the community was able to join us as our students performed well to celebrate the opening of this amazing new venue.



with a completely updated pavilion and new lights in the gymnasium.

Thank you, Torrance community, for supporting the construction of a campus that our students are proud to come to every day and call their home. Go, Spartans!

But this is just the beginning! It is undeniable that school facilities impact student achievement and a child's sense of belonging, and so the PTA has generously funded our library refurbishment to make this space a more welcoming and usable one for our students. And thanks to Measures "T" and "U" and "Y" and "Z," our new softball field is almost finished too, along

Torrance Elementary

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torrancel.tusd.org



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

Adventures in Art

Adventures in Art (AIA) is a volunteer-run fine-arts program that annually provides training for five elementary school projects and five middle school projects for school volunteers from participating Torrance schools. Projects are written by local artists and art educators and are selected by AIA to give students hands-on opportunities to learn fine-arts methods while working with quality art materials.

Participating schools send their school volunteers to attend AIA's docent orientation and five grade-level art workshops to learn projects directly from the artist/educators. School volunteers return to their schools to lead

students through these projects in their own classrooms.

AIA schools celebrate students' artwork and continuing artistic development by creating annual student art exhibits on their campuses, featuring current-year projects. The goal of the Adventures in Art program is to provide fine-arts enrichment opportunities for children that encourage the development of a solid foundation of artistic exploration that will ideally interest and inspire them in creative and innovative works beyond our program's annual projects.

Our 15 docents put about in about 100 volunteer hours for students to enjoy the program. Torrance Elementary Art Show could have not been possible without Debbie Tosolini, AIA chair; Jennifer Paiz, first- and fifth-grade docent; and Deane Widmark. Our goal is for students enjoy the program during the six years they attend Torrance Elementary.

Torrance High School

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • ths.tusd.org



Karim Girgis
Principal

Memorable Visit!

Beverly Hills 90210 is synonymous with Torrance High. The show featured THS as the fictional West Beverly Hills High School during the filming of the series from 1990–2000. In August, some of the stars from the show and more than 500 fans gathered in our auditorium for

the taping of series star Brian Austin Green's podcast. It was a very fun trip down memory lane that included a performance from Color Me Badd and especially memorable for the more than dozen TUSD teachers in attendance that were students at Torrance High during the filming of the show.

In athletics, the Tartars are off to a great in cross-country and water polo. Both the boys and girls cross-country are ranked in the top 10 of their CIF

divisions, and our boys water polo team has finished third in two pre-season tournaments.

Homecoming is just around the corner, and once again, it is good to be a Tartar!



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Torrance *Adult School*

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tastusd.org



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Principal

An Outstanding Student

Renu Dawadi arrived in the United States three years ago in hopes of providing a better life for her family. She enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at Torrance Adult School (TAS) to learn English and to assist her in-laws, who have become ill.

In addition to her ESL classes, Renu is enrolled in the pharmacy tech course upon discovering that TAS's Allied Health program

offers job training. At first, she was skeptical about her ability to succeed, saying, "This program is intense." But her tenacity and work ethic have made her an exemplary student. She has completed 120 hours of externship at one of our reputable partner pharmacies, passed her pharmacy technician exam, and received her license from the California State Board of Pharmacy.

We are so proud of Renu's bravery and dedication to her family and her future. She has accomplished her goal and achieved a portion of the American dream.

Towers *Elementary*

5600 Towers St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • towers.tusd.org



Sandy Skora
Principal

Makerspace Room

Our Makerspace Room will be open again this academic year. A makerspace is a collaborative workspace for making, learning, exploring and sharing. It uses high-tech to no-tech tools. We have a simple yet profound mission: that every third-through-fifth-grader will be given the opportunity to make something of his or her choosing at no cost. Children are invited to attend

specialty focused classes or are free to drop in during their lunch-recess hours to explore any area they're interested in pursuing.

There are so many simple tasks our children want to be taught. Often, the simplest tasks are those that an adult takes for granted: using a screwdriver to take something apart or threading a needle to do some simple sewing. We also have the ability to offer what may seem to be advanced topics, such as robotics, coding and 3D printing. Children often use their time making things that can be used in class projects or gifts for friends and parents.

Presently, with the support of our PTA and parent volunteers, the room is equipped with sewing machines, 3D printers, 3D pens and a great collection of robotics teaching tools. The room also has items such as electronics kits.

We would like to thank Mr. Tefft, a Towers' fifth-grade parent, who organizes and runs our Makerspace Room.

Victor *Elementary*

4820 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • victor.tusd.org



Bill Baker
Principal

Project LEAD

This school year our 5th grade students will participate in Project LEAD.

This program sponsored by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, encourages the office's attorneys, investigators and other professional staff to teach 5th grade students about the criminal justice system.

Through Project LEAD we try to better prepare our students to make good choices so they don't end up in court as a defender, but rather a judge, lawyer, law enforcement officer, juror or witness. Volunteers from this initiative serve both as teachers and role models to our students. Thereby, giving Victor Vikings a better appreciation for the law and a deep respect for prosecutors and law enforcement personnel.

The goal of this program is to ensure our students stay in school and stay out of trouble.

Walteria *Elementary*

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4487 • www.walteriaelementary.org



Dr. Eren Ponce
Principal

A More Beautiful Place

Over the summer, our campus was given a fresh, new look. Through a generous gift from the Walteria Elementary School PTA, we purchased and planted 16 new trees, which will soon grow to provide much-needed shade for our students. Our young Wildcats will be able to enjoy the newly created shade areas during their recess breaks or when they are working outside on projects or independent reading.



And, there is more to these trees than just their beauty! They are also an important part of the ongoing refinement of our emergency plan. The trees were strategically planted so that students no longer have to sit in the sun if they ever have to evacuate their classrooms for an extended period of time. Whether for a drill or, heaven forbid, a real emergency, having refuge from the sun will make the experience more manageable for our students.



Are you looking for me for the contest on page 23?

Wood *Elementary*

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • wood.tusd.org



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

Our Summer Reading!

Reading is a big deal at Wood Elementary School, and what better way to keep a reading focus is there than reading over the summer! Wood Elementary hosts a summer reading program every year, and it is not only a big hit with the students and their families but also a huge success in combating “summer slide”!



At the end of each school year, our Woodchucks “shop” for books, looking for titles they would like to read over the summer. After choosing a handful of interesting books at or near their reading level, they eagerly await the arrival of those books. Over the summer, one book a week is delivered to our students via mail. The package also includes tips for families and students to keep improving. Woodchucks love summer reading!

West High School

20401 Victor, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4299 • whs.tusd.org



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Arts Education

This past spring, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced schools selected as a California Distinguished School and schools selected as having Exemplary Programs in Arts Education. West High School was honored as one of only 10 schools selected as both a California Distinguished School and as a high school honored for an Exemplary

Program in Arts Education. This was quite the recognition for our whole school community!

West High earned this recognition for our outstanding fine arts program, where students are continuously engaged in enriching opportunities to showcase their talents. An example of this engagement recently took place in our Performing Arts Center. On October 17, our West High choirs had the unique opportunity to partner with acclaimed music and artistic director Carlo Ponti

and the Los Angeles Virtuosi Orchestra (LAV), with the accompaniment of professional violinist Tina Chang Qu, for the performance of a lifetime. The groups performed music from Mozart and Vivaldi in "Viva Vivaldi!"

West High Fine Arts has a mission to foster, develop, and encourage lifelong learners as advocates for the arts. This is why opportunities like partnering with renowned professionals is vital to our program and student success. Classes provide guidance and classical art training so every student can experience artistic success, inspiration, and encouragement for individual expression. Students learn and apply skills through performances, productions, publications, and displays.

The WHS fine arts experience generates valuable lessons that serve students well in business, relationships, and life. Our programs are among the strongest in the South Bay, as our students are recognized and awarded often for their efforts and talents.

At West High, art is our link to the past and our gift to the future.

Yukon Elementary

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • yukon.tusd.org



Elaine Wassil
Principal

Ready to Grow

The Yukon Elementary School staff is looking forward to another fun and exciting year of growth. We begin this year with the good news that Yukon has earned the Bronze Award for our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program! This is the highest level a school can earn when the school completes the first level of this three-level program. PBIS teaches our students great social skills while helping us

create a positive and high-achieving school culture.

This year our students will gain leadership skills through Yukon's brand-new student council. Huskies who are interested in student government are busy making posters and preparing their speeches as they start campaigning for student offices.

We are also upping our school-to-home communication. Every teacher now has an app that parents can download to get instantaneous communication and enjoy news of their child's classroom as interesting and exciting learning occurs.

We are on our way to another successful year!



Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

Full of Adventures

Title: *The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer

This book is about twins who visit a place called the Land of Stories. They go on different adventures and meet different characters such as Froggy, Goldilocks,



Queen Red Riding Hood, Jack, and Mother Goose. Froggy is a prince who was turned into a frog by Enchantress Ezmia. Froggy is the Bailey twins' friend and the first character the Bailey twins met at the land of stories. Froggy is related to the charming brothers and is afraid of going back home. Now he lives in the Dwarf forests. When Queen Red Riding Hood loses in an election between her and Bo Peep, soon after Bo Peep's death, the citizens of Red Riding Hood Kingdom elect Froggy to be their king. Froggy changed Red Riding Hood's kingdom's name into The Center Kingdom and finds the love of his life, Red Riding Hood! There are a lot more adventures readers can explore in this book.

Jenna is a 4th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Finding Treasure

Unicorn Magic, the Hidden Treasure, is 1 of the 4 books in Unicorn Magic chapter book series written by Jessica Burkhart.



Bella (the Princess of Crystal Kingdom) & Glimmer (her unicorn pet) travel together to hunt for a magical

crystal that is hidden deep inside Crystal Castle. If they don't find this hidden treasure in 1 week, Queen Fire (Bella's evil aunt) will take Glimmer away from Bella. The best friends go through the Dark Forest, the stables of the unicorns, and through the castle rooms. Glimmer uses her magical power to protect Bella through the journey. Bella doesn't have any magical power, but her love for Glimmer gave her the courage and strength to keep fighting/looking for the hidden crystal. Reading this book makes me feel like I'm on the adventurous journey with them. I gave this book 5/5 stars for bringing me through an exciting journey. I recommend this book for anyone who loves adventure, princesses, and unicorns.

Kailani is a 2nd grader. When not playing with or reading to her baby brother, Kailani enjoys coloring and drawing. Her favorite weekend activities are ballet, hula, and musical theater.

Note-ables



Kate Karp

Swamp Romp

The ingredients alone will make you lick your chops: Cajun, zydeco, R&B, Carolina beach and the great Fats Domino;



luminaries like Irma Thomas and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band; a potpourri of bayou musical instruments from accordions and guitars to washboards and a cane fife; and a booklet of cultural and historical details. *Swamp Romp* is a spicy musical jambalaya!

Louisiana-roots-music duo Johnette Downing and Scott Billington conceived the collection as a dance party for children. From the first song, title tune "Swamp Romp," the good times will roll. You can line-dance to "Mud Bug Boogie"—mudbugs are crawfish—and no matter how you learned to spell *Mississippi*, the catchy "Mississippi River" encourages children to worm their bodies around in time to the music to shape the letters in the word. Hey—teaching idea!

And what's a party without food? "Gather Something Sweet" is a lilting Caribbean melody about picking fruit, and "How to Dress a Po' Boy"'s washboard accompaniment is like a grumbling tummy. "Baby in the King Cake" sings of a centuries-old tradition of baking a plastic baby—sometimes a ring—into a cake. Whoever gets the baby will have good luck but also has to host the next party!

My personal favorite is "Poor Worry Anna," a haunting swamp-music/doo wop ballad about a woman who worries about everything. The dual voices of Irma Thomas and Johnette Downing intensify the song's mournful beauty.

Bayou music is family music. That's *Swamp Romp*. Bring your dancing shoes and your spoon and bowl, and *fais do-do!*

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



Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

The Princess's Vacation

The Princess in Black takes a vacation

By Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

The Princess in Black was tired because she had battled monsters all night. Then in the morning again, she had to go defeat another monster.



She had 15 monsters to defeat this week. Suddenly, The Goat Avenger came and said to the Princess that she needed to take a vacation. So the Princess packed up to go to the beach. When she was at the beach, a sea monster roared. She had to do something. While she was fighting with the sea monster, the Goat Avenger tried to protect the goats. Can the tired Princess in Black finally take more vacations at the beach? Can the Goat Avenger complete his mission? I like this book because it is related to summer vacation.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to make stories as well.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

Daydreamer

Title: *Words with Wings*

Author: Nikki Grimes

Gabby is what you would call a daydreamer. She always seemed to be in her own world and sometimes it got her in trouble. Daydreaming was a way to escape from her parents' arguments.

She daydreamed at home, at school, everywhere — until it became a way of life. She seemed to meet everyone that discouraged her dreams, until she meets a new teacher. This new teacher shows her that her dreams can help her, that they can spark imagination and cause her to create great things. Gabby finally realizes that rather than daydreaming everything, she can WRITE. This book is a collection of poems that shows the mental growth of a girl who was lost in her own world.



Katie is in 10th grade. Her passion is to write, specifically poems. She loves to be around little kids and help them. Running is also one of her favorites.

Office Terms Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put in the subject line.

Entries must be received by December 15, 2019
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MOUSEPAD	PHOTOSHOP



Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

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-o-rama" pages that show animation. I also like how Dog Man fights against injustice.

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.

Ethan's Review



Ethan H.

Who Are They?

Found is the first book of the series *The Missing*. It is about two boys named Jonah and Chip who are regular kids in the 20th century. When Jonah and Chip start getting mysterious



letters in the mail, they set out on a quest for clues to answer the question, "Who are we?" They discover many secrets and learn that people from the future are coming to get them. Will Jonah and Chip learn who they truly are before time catches up to them? I loved his book because it's full of surprises! I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in time travel and mysteries.

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

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This little boy reading is hidden 2 places in this issue. When you find him, email the **page numbers** to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Torrance in the subject line.

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



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