

School News



Covering the Torrance Unified School District

Volume 7, Issue 24

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

February / March 2020

South High school football team had a stellar season, winning the CIF Division 14 Championship game in November 2019!



Go Spartans!



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SUPERINTENDENT

Environmental Leadership



Dr. George Mannon

As 2019 and the second decade of the 2000s came to a close, there were many conversations about the power of youth, especially around the topic of our environment and sustainability. As I visit schools, I am made increasingly aware of how our students have taken on the role of environmental leaders and continue to inspire their peers to care about environmental issues.

Recently, many of our students, with the support of their administrators and teachers, have taken on the project of reducing one-time bottle use by creating awareness around the topic of plastic consumption. Two of our schools have already installed water refilling stations, while several others want to move in that direction. In December, three Magruder Middle School students, who are also Girl Scouts working toward their Silver Award, spearheaded an awareness event called the Walk for Water. Additionally, the Magruder Green Team launched the RISE Water Campaign through Grades of Green and was named one of the 2019 finalists and winners of an Eco-Grant for their school.

In partnership with Grades of Green, many of our students have learned the power of action. At the elementary level, students have participated in the Trash-Free Challenge in which students can see the significant results of their efforts as fewer trash bags are filled during lunchtime. Some of our schools also have gardens where students have the opportunity to experience the life cycle of plants as well as grow fruits and vegetables.

Over at South High School, students have taken the garden concept to the next level and built a small greenhouse. The value of the greenhouse goes beyond the educational uses and has also become a hub for plant exchanges with teachers and staff. Plants are beneficial to our physical environment, but they also make people happy, which is equally important.

I am always so impressed by the ideas that our students generate to make their schools and communities and our world a better place. We are fortunate to have administrators, teachers and staff that encourage and support our students to be leaders and to learn through action.



Walkathon for Water event at Magruder Middle School



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Happy New Year!

This is our 20th year publishing *School News* and the 7th year publishing the TUSD *School News*. During the past 20 years curriculum has changed in ways never imagined with the biggest change being technology. Gone are the blackboards, white chalk and erasers. Mentioning the 3 R's would bring a puzzled look and might be mistaken for Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. Discussing STEAM with anyone older than 60 would conjure up images of a train or an iron, but the younger generation would instantly visualize test tubes and robotics.

We have changed the format of most of our publications to glossy cover booklet and updated our masthead, but our mission has never changed: Education+Communication=A Better Nation. The one constant has been the focus on academics. It is a privilege to publish the excellence from the classrooms and we have only just begun. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Superintendent Dr. Mannon begins this issue with his message on the subject of environmental leadership. Our next issue is April 15.

School News

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Covering the

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Building Strong Schools

By Terry Ragins, President

It has been over 11 years since I was first elected as a School Board member and my third round as your Board president. I am a proud Torrance High Tartar, and my sons and daughter graduated as West High Warriors, so I know TUSD is a great place for students to learn and grow. In December, the Board welcomed three new members—Betty Lieu, James Han and Jeremy Gerson—as part of our team, and I'm personally excited about the new ideas and energy these new members will bring to the Board.

When I was first elected, the Board took on the challenge of passing comprehensive capital-improvement bond measures in order to modernize all the schools and build new facilities in the District. With the support and confidence of the Torrance voters, we successfully passed Measures Y and Z and then a few years later passed Measures T and U. Those bond measures helped us build the first ever TUSD Aquatic Center. The new facility opened in spring 2018, and it provides our swim teams a place where they are able to strengthen and grow their skills. The Olympic-size pool and state-of-the-art facility comprise an already popular venue for local and international teams to compete. Recently, the USA

National Women's Polo Team played an exhibition match against China to a full house of nearly 1,000 spectators. We hope one day that our students will come back to swim competitively and maybe even as part of a national team!

Throughout the challenges of the past 11 years, the Board and District have continued to maintain high-caliber instruction, providing students with quality programs and valuable learning experiences. We have been at the forefront of implementing the Next Generation Science Standards and math education, expanded our career technical programs, and built science labs at each of our elementary schools and gyms at every middle school.

Building and growing great schools is not a one-person operation. Great schools are built through a collective effort of collaboration, communication and consensus building. TUSD has amazing teachers, dedicated support staff, committed administrators, and an active and involved parent population. Together, we have built outstanding schools.

I look forward to continuing my work on the School Board with my colleagues to make certain our faculty and staff and our families and community are engaged and connected to our schools to ensure our students continue to grow and thrive.



Arnold Elementary students collected over \$600 to buy presents to donate to the Salvation Army Angels.

Understanding Concussions & What to Look for in Young Athletes



Peter Hahn, M.D.,
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Orthopedic Center, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

As more children and adolescents compete in team sports, practice martial arts, or enjoy pastimes like skateboarding, the number of head injuries among American youth is larger than once thought. Concussions can refer to anything from mild to moderate traumatic brain injury not causing permanent harm because of direct or indirect force to the brain.

Signs your child may have suffered from a concussion:

- Headache
- Dizziness or confusion
- Feeling sick
- Coordination or balance problems
- Blurred vision
- Speech problems
- Trouble thinking or remembering
- Changes in sleep or feeling sleepy

In most cases, symptoms happen immediately, but can show up hours or even days later. Treatment involves physical and cognitive rest. Rest is particularly important in the first 24 to 48 hours following injury, with gradual return to activity, first with light aerobic exercise and then full-contact play.

Immediate evaluation is critical. If you believe your child has suffered a concussion. The Orthopedic Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach has a care team of leaders in sports medicine and concussion protocols.

Children are continuously growing, which makes them much different than adults. Physicians who primarily care for adults might not be able to adequately treat injuries in children and may even cause further damage, so it is important that they receive specialized pediatric orthopedic care. At Miller Children's & Women's, our orthopedic specialists have received additional training to meet the needs of growing children and teens.

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Torrance Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1397, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/320-7232 • www.torranceeducationfoundation.org

Taking Education to New Heights

By Shireen Ossanlo, Executive Director

The Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) has been serving the community since 1992. TEF plays a critical role in providing resources and programs for all students in Torrance.

In 2019, TEF provided over \$50,000 in STEM Grants to schools and teachers in our district. TEF also provided resources and materials to furnish all 17 Torrance elementary school science labs.

This year TEF plans to donate over \$90,000 to our schools for participating in the Skechers Pier to Pier Walk that took place in October.

Each Torrance high school was awarded \$2,500 per school for their Academic Decathlon program. This statewide competition is where our Torrance students display their academic strengths and compete with other high schools across California!

Thank you to all Torrance families, donors, businesses, and community members for their support in 2019. Celebrate with TEF on March 26, for our Annual Fundraising Event! Visit www.TEF4Kids.org for more information.



Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org

Helping Our People Everyday (TCOTA)

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 Project HOPE (Helping Our People Everyday), one of our programs that help provide necessities to our TUSD students and families who are identified as homeless or in the foster care system, was able to provide 112 brand new Halloween costumes to these students with the help from many various donors. We were also able to donate 55 boxes filled with food to these families for Thanksgiving.

TCPTA, high school PTAs and the school district are co-sponsoring the College & Career Fair at North High on February 22, 2020 from 11am-2pm. Participants can visit with representatives from colleges, trade schools, the military, and attend workshops. Complete details are online on our website. The event is free and open to all.

In February 2020, TCPTA will be attending Thirty-Third District PTA's Sacramento Safari, an educational and advocacy-training trip. Through scheduled visits with legislators, TUSD high school students will learn about the California education system and how to advocate effectively for the students.

PTA continues to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. TCPTA has over 14,000 members and encourages those who have not yet joined the PTA at their local school to do so and join the nation's largest advocacy group.

Adams *Elementary*

2121 238th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4480 • adams.tusd.org



**Shayla
Smith-Taranto**
Principal

Patriot Star Leadership Team

In November, fifth-grader Brandon represented John Adams Elementary School at a TUSD Board Meeting. Brandon informed the Board that at our school, we have a group of student mentors and role models that we call the Patriot Star Leadership Team. Instead of doing Student Council, in which students vote for a person in office, we decided to create a community of leaders that work together for the benefit of the school.

We started the Patriot Star Leadership Team to show our school and our students that we are a community: one unit, one team. We have a common goal: to do our best every day for ourselves, one another and our school community. As a member of the Patriot Star Leadership Team, some of the jobs they have are to help with the school recycling program, run the safety committee,

mentor and support students in the primary classrooms, and help out at school assemblies.

Our Environment Group educates our school community about ways that our students can do their part in taking care of the earth. They also give fun facts during our weekly assemblies. Every Thursday, they pick up the recycling from the office and all of the classrooms, sort it, and put it into our recycling bins.

Our Safety Committee assists the teachers and the office during earthquake drills.

Our Mentor Group helps support younger students on the playground with conflict resolution and reading in the classroom as “reading buddies.”

Our Welcome Group runs the weekly Monday-morning assembly. They do everything from leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance to announcing the teacher of the week and our weekly student character-awards recipients.

The most important thing is that we are all working together in teams to make our school, John Adams, the best it can possibly be.

Anza *Elementary*

21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • anzaelementary.org



Barbara Marks
Principal

Acts of Kindness

Anza began the 2019–20 school year strong with the yearlong theme of kindness. Being kind and ways to be kind are discussed at every schoolwide assembly along with our PBIS expectations. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support and is a model to help all students meet behavioral expectations.

Anza's expectations are to be safe, respectful and responsible. The students enjoyed a thrilling three-screen experience

from CAMFEL early in September on how to spread kindness. Students were entertained with clips from modern cartoons and movies that showed acts of kindness. The presenter discussed the impact each student has on others and especially how kindness creates an inclusive and supportive school community.

Kindness week and kindness challenges are planned for the spring. In October, Anza will be celebrated Unity Day by wearing orange in October. Anza students are rewarded weekly for demonstrating behavioral expectations and random acts of kindness.



Arlington Elementary

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



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

The Wonders of Science

Slime, bubbles, coding, and robots, what fun! At Arlington Elementary, where we like to make learning fun, our teachers and PTA members recently hosted a Family Science and Coding Night where over 100 students and families participated in hands-on lessons and explored the wonders of science. Family Science and Coding Night brought our

families and teachers together for learning, problem solving, and a fun avenue to build strong school partnerships.

In addition to Science Night, students from across all grade levels are also having many fun and exciting hands-on opportunities to experience the curriculum in an



engaging and meaningful way in our new science lab! We also have many new after-school enrichment opportunities for students to extend their learning in robotics, programming, engineering, and more.

We are proud of our Superstars and how much they have already accomplished this school year. Keep it going, STEM learners!



Arnold Elementary

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



Justine Lang
Principal

Life-Long Skills

Arnold Elementary School is dedicated to educating the whole child, and understands the importance of social-emotional learning for its students.

A child is unable to fully access their academic school work without the ability to understand and manage their feelings and reactions to events. In order to facilitate this learning, our school counselor is going into all of our classrooms to directly teach these skills with the help of two programs known as “Second Step” and “Zones of Regulation.”

Both programs introduce students to self-control, self-management, and impulse control. Students are taught how to recognize strong feelings and are given coping tools to help them calm down.



Students who can manage their own behaviors and emotions are better prepared to learn and get along well with others. It is amazing to watch students from across all grade levels utilize their social emotional learning to solve problems and practice empathy for others. Our Arnold Alleycats are gaining skills that will last a lifetime!

Calle Mayor *Middle School*

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



Dave Mosley
Principal

Enhancing Learning

Our Calle Mayor students recently attended the hands-on CIMI and Astro Camp.

CIMI (the Catalina Island Marine Institute) is a sea camp on Catalina Island where students can learn about marine and outdoor life. Astro Camp is an outdoor camp where students

have an opportunity to learn about space and science. Calle Mayor has worked hard to offer these once GATE-only camps (Gifted and Talented Education) to our general education students, and so this year we are excited to announce that we sent over 105 students to CIMI and over 85 students to Astro Camp.

The Calle Mayor Speech and Debate Club recently had its Fall Ted Talk event, and it was awesome! Students from Casmir Speech and Debate joined in these talks, which included topics like the Japanese internment camps, music and its wonders, the



U.S.S.R., and why testing hurts students. We will be having another speech and debate event in the spring, and so please check our website for dates and times.

Carr *Elementary*

3404 W. 168th St, Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • carr.tusd.org



Katie Schenkelburg
Principal

Mind and Body Enrichment!

Our Carr Cubs are enjoying many opportunities to enrich their lives and continue to learn and grow. Our fourth- and fifth-grade Carr Cubs are learning how to code from a West High School student, Anoushka Gupta, who is generously

volunteering her time to teach them how to animate

stories, program computers, and create their own game!

In another after-school class, our students are also learning about mindfulness and yoga during our Connected Cubs class, which helps them to learn about breathing techniques, yoga poses, stretching, relaxation exercises and guided meditation for self-awareness. Social and emotional learning

are important at Carr, and our Kind Cub Leadership group is helping to promote our Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Program. Our Peer Mediators continue to look for ways to solve conflicts in a constructive and respectful manner.

Coming soon in January is our Kindness Challenge! Go Cubs!





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Casimir *Middle School*

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



Susie Holmes
Principal

Canned Food Drive

Casimir Middle School (CMS) students continue to show their generosity and their competitive spirit, as evidenced by another successful canned food drive hosted by the CMS Student Council. Each year before Thanksgiving, the CMS fourth-period classes compete to see who can collect the most canned food, which is donated to the Salvation Army.

Students earn points for each can of food but they can also “sabotage” another class by giving them boxes of tissues, which subtract points from the other class’s total. The winner of the friendly competition wins a party. This year Casimir students collected 953 cans to help needy South Bay families. Additionally, they collected 155 boxes of tissues, which will be used by the Casimir student body.

The CMS student council, led by co-advisers Chelsea Keys and Kimberly Jones, worked closely with the student leaders to plan the week-long event. The students did a fantastic job of publicizing the event, monitoring points, collecting the cans, and, finally, throwing the reward party for Mr. Rose’s Advanced Band class.



CMS canned food drive

Edison *Elementary*

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



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Dads of Great Students

We held our first annual “Pizza with Pops” WATCH D.O.G.S event (Dads of Great Students) with over 220 dads, uncles, and grandfathers attending with their children. The purpose of this event was to recruit dad’s (father figures) to help volunteer for one full day at Edison. Since this event there have been one to two male role models per week who have volunteered all day. They provide an extra pair of eyes for campus security, help supervise recess periods, speak to their child’s class about their career, eat lunch with their child, and volunteer in the various classrooms they are assigned to.

When asked what the highlight of their day was, one dad said, “The respect and kindness of everyone, especially the kids.” Another remarked, “Seeing the smiles on the faces of every student I interacted with, and all the high-fives I got!”

One dad had a special thought. “The whole experience was memorable,” he said. “I got to hang out with my daughter and help students in the classroom.”



Fern Elementary

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



Michael Remland
Principal

Math is Family Fun!

On Thursday, November 21st, our Fern Elementary cafeteria was transformed into a Math Fun Zone. The cafeteria was set up with 12 different interactive math activity stations that were designed to be challenging and fun for students of all ability levels.

Each classroom was able to participate during the regular school day, but the fun did not stop there.

Our parents were invited back in the evening so that their students could also show them what incredible mathematicians they were!

The parents returned to campus for more math fun with their children after participating in the Fern Family Meal event. During the evening, students timed how many words they could write in one minute, weighed and balanced blocks, and worked out various addition methods, among other great activities.

In all, almost 80 students and families showed up to celebrate and practice their math skills at our first Family Math Festival.



Fern families exploring math at the First Annual Fern Family Math Festival on Thursday, November 21st.

Hickory Elementary

2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • w1.hickory.tusd.org



Maggie Mabery
Principal

Young Ocean Stewards

This fall, all Hickory fourth-grade students had the unique opportunity to participate in a squid dissection with local marine biologists. The fourth-grade teacher team partnered with the Roundhouse Aquarium in Manhattan Beach to bring this hands-on

experience to their students. The

Roundhouse Aquarium is a nonprofit oceanic and environmental organization. Their mission is to connect and engage students to the oceans through interactive experiences with marine life and habitats of Southern California, and to inspire them to become good stewards of our environment.

Our students were given a presentation by a marine biologist who discussed local

species of animals that they might see or feel in the ocean. The students then participated in the squid dissection from squids that were caught in the South Bay waters. Through this experience, our fourth-grade Hickory students learned about the various parts and functions of the squid. During the cleanup, the specimens were preserved to help feed the organisms within the Roundhouse Aquarium.



J.H. Hull *Middle School*

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



Patty Girgis
Principal

PIQE

For the last eight weeks, Hull Middle School has been working with the Parent Institute For Quality Education (PIQE) to support our Hull students. This organization has been offering free classes to our Hull families to help educate parents on how to

support their students

as they matriculate into high school and beyond.

The classes are about supporting students both at home and in school, as well as how to continue that support beyond high school. As the parents and guardians of today will be working with their own students to get them ready for school both today and in the future, PIQE also offers

additional support called “How to ready our students for their own future.”

The PIQE graduation was a joyous occasion, as parents and families celebrated their own hard work in coming to these classes. Thank you, PIQE, for your assistance, and thank you Hull parents for your continued support of our Hull students!



Jefferson *Middle School*

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



Yvonne Marin
Principal

A Very Special Event

Jefferson Middle School hosted its annual Dia de los Muertos Family Night in early November. Mrs. Ana Salfity, Spanish teacher and English language development coordinator, has been building the Dia de los Muertos event over the last three years.

In the first few years we had our two Spanish classes working on ofrendas and masks to display. This year, all of our classes school-wide prepared ofrendas, calacas, masks, and flowers for display, and many families worked on them together. Mrs. Salfity also secured a mariachi quartet to play for an entire hour. Staff and families even donated Mexican sweet bread and Mexican hot chocolate for our visitors to sample.

The Family Night was absolutely amazing. We all enjoyed learning about each other's families and listening to the fine music. Special thanks goes to our Student Council Committee for sponsoring the event, and for working closely with Mrs. Salfity to help make our vision a reality.



LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

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



Teresa Lanphere
Principal

"Let It Snow!"

In December we held our annual Holiday Workshop at LAUNCH Preschool so that our special needs preschoolers could "shop" for gift items for their family and friends. This event provided an opportunity for our young three- and four-year-old students to have some hands-on experience in selecting and buying a special gift for their mom, dad, or family member.

Students use their knowledge of selection, counting, money, and words or other methods of communicating to help make their purchases. They then go back to class to wrap their gifts. Parents and staff members first donate the items for purchase at the Holiday Workshop, and each student develops a list of people to purchase gifts for. The students bring their money in and our staff then assists them with making their selections for gift giving. Each item costs just one dollar.



Thanks to our wonderful PTA, we also have parents serve as special helpers to assist our students with their purchases. This event is especially meaningful to the gift recipients, as our LAUNCH staff and volunteers actively help our students, who often struggle to communicate effectively, do something special for their family without the parents having to facilitate it. There are lots of special treasures that will soon be making it home to our families for holiday gift giving!

Lincoln *Elementary*

2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • lincoln.tusd.org



Katherine Castleberry
Principal

Multicultural Literacy Night

In November, Lincoln Elementary held its Multicultural Literacy Night. Lincoln's school community came together to provide families a magical night of literacy that included storytelling, multicultural performances, food samplings and helpful comprehension strategies to use at home.

Students had passports stamped as they listened to volunteers read wondrous stories from around the world. Along with trying tasty treats from different cultures, students collected literacy cards that could be used to guide comprehension conversations at home. Throughout the event, participants enjoyed performances representing countries such as the Philippines, Laos, Mexico and Samoa.

To culminate the evening, everyone was taught the original Chicken Dance while enjoying a live accordion performance. Students used their completed passports to enter a raffle where 12 students won a basket of books for their reading enjoyment. Everyone had an amazing time as Lincoln's school community came together to celebrate the importance of literacy and multiculturalism!



Lynn Middle School

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



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Learning and Leading

Bert Lynn Middle School ended its first quarter by celebrating its students' achievements.

We are very pleased to see that our efforts to support student learning increased the number of children who qualified for Honor Roll. This quarter, 53 percent of our students received a GPA of 3.5 or better. We are also delighted to note that 95 percent of our

students are maintaining a GPA above 2.0 or better. To celebrate their hard work and achievements our students were treated to a pizza party!

Maintaining good grades is key to celebrating additional after-school activities, especially our annual Winter Formal Dance sponsored and supported by the PTSA. Students experienced this delightful event with good food, music, and dancing. The rewards that are associated with hard work underscore our school's motto of, "Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!"



Madrona Middle School

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



Jeffrey Nielsen
Interim Principal

Leadership and ASB

Madrona's Associated Student Body course is the most popular class on campus. It is led by social studies teacher Melissa Waller, who encourages our leaders to step up, collaborate, and implement change both for our campus and our community.

In ASB, students collaborate, organize, and plan daily to create dances, student achievement rallies, and meaningful community events. Some of their yearly

activities include clean-up at Madrona Marsh, social engagement with the local senior center, and outreach at our local family crisis center, to name a few.

These service-learning projects create real-world experiences and opportunities towards mastering leadership skills, including brainstorming, advertising/marketing and writing, research, and special event planning. Throughout the year these positive experiences provide our students with a deeper understanding of how citizens can make a difference, and what it feels like to help others in need. ASB is a great learning experience for students.





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San Pedro, CA 90731
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Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 348-3706
Appointments: (855) 359-6322



Magruder *Middle School*

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



Lisa Nunes
Principal

Academic Support

At Magruder Middle School, we offer more than 20 different sessions of after-school academic support for our scholars each week. These sessions include homework help for Tier 2 students and math, English, and other support for our English learners.

This year our California Junior Scholastic Federation (CJSF) students have volunteered to work collaboratively with English

the volunteers, who help them with reading, pronunciation, and comprehension. This new model has proven to be successful, not only in academic areas but also in building new relationships between the students.

This program is a reflection of the longstanding culture of Magruder, where helping others is paramount. We are proud of all of our Mustangs and especially celebrate those who are volunteering their time to support one another and the students who faithfully work so hard at their growth in English language development.

language learners in our after-school programs from 3 to 4 p.m. two days a week. Students work collaboratively together on English language acquisition with a focus on reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills. Our English language development students read aloud to



North *High School*

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



Chris Sheck
Principal

Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program

As part of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program, North High students were given a unique opportunity to participate in a pre-apprentice program designed to deliver an effective and proven employer-directed career development tool, which is used to attract new talent to the Bioscience industry.

The Bio-Flex program is designed to prepare students in a variety of areas, including:

- Work readiness skills training for success in the work environment
- Industry-specific occupational skills determined by the individual employer
- Work-based learning experiences
- Stackable, industry-recognized certifications and credentials

Sponsored by a local Torrance company which specializes in process development and manufacturing of biochemical polypeptides, this opportunity was offered to 17 students enrolled in PLTW Biomedical Science Program at North High School. Besides earning a Blueprint Certificate of Completion (with a course assessment of 70% or higher), students also earned a \$300 stipend for their hard work. GREAT WORK SAXONS!



Richardson *Middle School*

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



Tayo Balogun
Principal

In Overdrive!

This is a busy time of year here at Richardson Middle School, and our staff has been in overdrive!

Mrs. Beck's leadership class organized a packed week of activities for Red Ribbon Week. Also, under the guidance of Michael Fujii and with the support of Board Member Betty Lieu, North High math teacher Rosita Oey and retired TUSD principal John Magee, 50 eighth-grade students competed in the American Mathematics Competition.

Joe Petito's sixth-grade elective class completed an investigation of Newton's Laws of Motion with their mechanical-motion project. Using three supplies—white glue, wooden dowels and repurposed cardboard boxes



found on campus—students created mechanical dioramas that represented a meaningful part of their lives. Students applied concepts from the science, math and arts standards by creating and refining their designs, coming up with scale drawings at a 1:1 ratio, and building their model to form these wonderful works of mechanical art.

Riviera *Elementary*

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



Christie Forshey
Principal

Dance Team

SHS Sophomores Olivia Mummery (Past Roadrunner) and Kira Sorvino (St. James) coach Riviera's Dance Team. Both girls have an accomplished dance background and are on the SHS Dance Team.

Their volunteer service and mentorship of younger students is notable! Twenty-three

4th and 5th grade girls learn choreographed routines and practice every Monday after school.

The dance team will perform at Riviera's Talent Show which will be held in the brand new SHS Performing Arts Center on February 21st. You are cordially invited to come watch Riviera's Dance Team and other talented Roadrunners!



Seaside *Elementary*

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



Michele Bauer-Bean
Principal

Building Community

Every year, Seaside Elementary School has a theme, an important message that we deliver consistently to the students, parents and staff. This year, Seaside's theme is Community. Staff, students and parents are working together to recognize that all of us are important to our community and that the contributions of each person are valuable and come together to create our Seaside community, a great place to be.

Character instruction and multicultural appreciation are taught in relation to the theme. As an enthusiastic supporter of our message, Pat Bressi, PTA parent, has established a vehicle for students to share their cultures with the student body at a Friday assembly. Presentations are created by the students, they audition for roles, and the presentations are refined until perfected for the audience.



Third-grade students Mia C., Suri S., and Averie S. dance to share the culture of Mexico.

Later in the year, students will attend Multicultural Day. Here, parents and community members create a culture or country booth with information, games, and activities to engage and educate students. Students are given passports, which they have stamped after each booth visit is complete.

Parents have helped staff members become further aware of the diversity present at Seaside, too. Parents have been providing multicultural food for the staff to enjoy.

These are just a few of the ways that Seaside is working to help our students grow to appreciate each and every member of our school.

Shery *High School*

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



Jamie Jimenez
Principal

Young Literacy Coaches

Our Leadership Program has been working with students from Torrance Elementary for many years. In past years, students were TAs in the classroom but rarely worked one to one with the students.

Last fall, reading recovery teacher and literary specialist Ada Kawa and TUSD intervention and instruction resource teacher Jackie Ivcevic decided to revamp the program. They trained our students, now referred to as Shery Coaches, to work with students on specific reading skills to help the children learn their letters, sounds and sight words and even to administer basic assessments. Over the year, the Shery Coaches saw the growth in the students they were helping. Many of their students went from not knowing any of their letters and sounds to knowing them all by the end of the year.



This program has been amazing for both the Shery High students and the Torrance Elementary students. We look forward to many years of helping build confident little readers!

South High School

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



Michelle Fournier
Principal

Health and Environmental Support

At South High, our PTA is doing exceptional work to support our students' health and campus environment. In November, we held the first-ever TUSD District Vaping Town Hall. This PTA-sponsored event included confiscated devices for parents to see, an informational video, a keynote speaker and an excellent panel.

This parent/student educational piece is vital in our efforts to curb this new epidemic. But that's not all. The following Saturday, South High's clubs came out in force to support PTA's annual School Beautification Day. PTA donated over \$5,000 in native low-water succulent plants, soil, bark and rocks to freshen up the front of the school, flagpole area and gymnasium planters. Close to 100 student volunteers showed up to make our campus shine!

Service to school is alive and well at South, thanks to our amazing PTA!



Torrance Elementary

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



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

Family Fun

On the evening of Friday, November 15th, the Torrance Elementary PTA hosted its first Fall Festival. As a last-minute event and with only a month to plan and gather ideas and buy materials, the result ended up being great!

With the weather allowing, there was a large turnout of students accompanied by families both immediate and extended.

The event was beautifully decorated with scarecrows, flowers, leaves, pumpkins, and donated hay bales from local pumpkin patches that no longer needed them. There were

also photo backdrops where our families were able to take pictures with props.

The festivity was lit by strung-up Christmas lights and flood lamps. We also had game stations that were manned by Torrance Elementary alumni who needed volunteer hours for Hull Middle School.



There were many activities to see and enjoy while walking around, such as game stations, face painting, a prize table for the game winners, a guessing game, and two raffle baskets. The raffle basket winners were announced and later called to pick up their gifts on the following Monday.

There was also pizza, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, popcorn, cotton candy, and pie and cookies for sale. Many attendees made sure to stop a PTA member to express their gratitude for the event. It was fun for families of all ages!



Torrance High School

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



Karim Girgis
Principal

Breaking Records!

Our annual Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive brought in more than 13,000 items this year! It is the sixth time we have crossed the 10,000 mark, and we were once again happy to partner with Project Hope and El Camino College. This is another of the example of our Tartar Pride culture: behaving respectfully and responsibly and thinking of others before we think of ourselves.

In athletics this fall, our boys water-polo team captured first place in the Pioneer League. This is the first time in our history that the boys have brought home a league title! Congratulations to Coach Lara Williams and her staff. In cross-country, our girls qualified for state and finished a school best ninth! We are proud of our athletes and thank

Coach Pose and his staff for their continued success. A fond goodbye and a huge Tartar thanks to Coach Hollis, who retired at the conclusion of the football season after more than 25 years of dedication to our student-athletes.

Torrance High is a very diverse and active school that features more than 45 clubs varying from interest to culture to service. We would like to spotlight one of our many clubs. Our KIWINS club is our largest club on campus, with more than 150 members. They are affiliated with Kiwanis International. This past October, they were a key part of the Diamond Division's win at the annual Fall Rally that featured more than 30 schools. Students in KIWINS are required to contribute a minimum of four hours of service a month. THS is grateful for their sponsor, Ms. Jensen as well as all of the students for their dedication to service and our school.

Torrance Adult School

2291 Washington Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8300 • www.tastusd.org



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Principal

Success Follows Student!

By Marcia Bergen, Adult Ed. Literacy and High School Program Coordinator:

Former graduate Silvia Yantuche came to Torrance Adult School from Guatemala in 2017. She was looking for an institution where she would feel welcome and where she could learn English. A friend told her about Torrance Adult School, Hamilton Center.

At first, Silvia's intent was just to learn English, but over time, she learned that she could also take high-school-equivalency preparation classes. She prepared for the high school equivalency exam and passed. At that time, Silvia said, "Miss Sharon was very helpful to my decision to continue with my higher

education. She made me feel comfortable in her class, and she saw potential in me that I didn't know that I had. For that, I will always be grateful to her."

Silvia is now enrolled in four courses at Harbor College. Her English 101 professor has presented her with a certificate that states she is "acing the class with an A+" and doesn't need to turn in assignments between now and her final paper. Silvia's hard work and Miss Sharon's teaching skills in English have produced an excellent student!

Torrance Adult School is very proud of Silvia. We are also proud of being a vital institution in our community, assisting students from all over the world who would like to transition to a college, find a career offering upward mobility, or attend for personal enrichment.

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Towers *Elementary*

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



Sandy Skora
Principal

Our Book Exchange

Every year in early December, our PTA volunteers hold a Children's Book Exchange. This is a chance for students to pass on books their family no longer wants to read. In return, the student has an opportunity to choose books from those donated by other

Towers students to take home and keep.

In order to participate, the student must have parent permission and books must be suitable for children in grades TK-5 and in good condition. Students bring their books to the cafeteria during selected mornings. On the day of the book exchange, PTA volunteers set up the cafeteria and students go to the book exchange

after school. Once the Book Exchange is completed, all remaining books are donated to other programs. Last year, we had 2,600 books donated, 1,367 books taken by students, and the remainder of the books donated to local charities.

This has always been a very positive event. Thank you, Towers PTA!



Victor *Elementary*

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



Bill Baker
Principal

Keeping the Peace

Victor Elementary trains peer mediators that help other students resolve conflicts. Types of problems include disagreements on the playground, rumor and gossip, and name

calling. Naturally, serious issues are handled by school administration.

Peer mediators do not make decisions but rather work toward a win-win resolution for both sides in order to avoid further trouble. This process has proven to be very effective at Victor. Office referrals for these types of matters have declined substantially. The key to this program is that it helps change the way our students understand and resolve conflict in their lives. Changes include improved self-esteem, listening and critical-thinking skills, and



school climate for learning as well as reduced disciplinary actions. These skills are transferable outside the classroom and will help our students for years to come.

Walteria *Elementary*

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



Dr. Efren Ponce
Principal

Break for Job Well Done!

As part of our PBIS program, the staff and I are always looking for new ways to reward students for being Respectful, Responsible and Safe! With the fall setting in and the weather turning cold—cold by Southern California

standards—our best-behaved Wildcats were recently invited to join the principal for a Cocoa and Doughnut Break.

We love to celebrate good citizenship and behavior at Walteria. Other events include being invited to a Cartoon Lunch, where our students are invited to enjoy a fun cartoon while having lunch with their friends. And the most popular reward

has to be the Popcorn Lunch! For this event, each student that is recognized gets to watch a cartoon while having lunch. What makes this special? Our young participant gets to bring a friend to the event, where they each get to enjoy some delicious and healthy popcorn. What a treat!



West *High School*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Whole-Teen Approach

West High is focused on enriching achievement and academics. To assist students in reaching their full academic potential, the whole child must be embraced. This comes with understanding the development of skills necessary to becoming resilient, ethical and motivated learners.

A whole-child approach is defined by policies, practices and relationships that ensure that students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. High school students need support to pursue authentic learning experiences. West supports these experiences by offering multiple cross-curricular opportunities to encourage students to explore interests and challenge themselves. We understand that no single program or initiative provides the silver bullet for school improvement but rather that the application of child-adolescent growth, layers of support, and supporting learning within a specific community of care create the opportunity for each child to succeed. Educational

progress will be limited if students are not connected to their school, motivated, and able to learn.

Although we offer a variety of opportunities for students to connect, explore pathways, and excel, we are equally committed to supporting the social-emotional and physical well-being of students to effectively develop the skills necessary to be that resilient, virtuous and motivated learner. Through our Warriors of Wellness programs, a full-time therapist, enrichment courses and activities, teacher-student connectedness in addition to our Warrior Workshop tutorial periods built into the school day, West works to support the whole teen. Warrior Workshop allows students the automatic opportunity twice weekly to connect with teachers and administrators, seek help and support in a course, receive intervention, participate in extension activities, or join in an enrichment activity such as mindful meditation and friendship groups. Students enhance their education through these opportunities and are provided the time necessary to explore interests and options, receive support, and connect with staff on a whole different level of engagement.

Wood Elementary

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



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

Coding is Fun

Our students are learning how to code in kindergarten by using a variety of robots. Mrs. Morimoto and Mrs. Austin recently began introducing their kindergartners to coding through the use of tiny robots which follow color codes to move. The children then experimented by using different color combinations to have their robots change speed, make U-turns, and spin.

When the children first started talking about coding they wrote out the steps about how to cross a street. Just as there are steps that one must follow to safely cross a street, the robots must follow steps to complete their different tasks.

With funds from TEF and STEM grants, our Wood kindergartners are now able to learn how to code on their Chromebook by using many different robots and coding games. Our kindergartners are having a blast discovering coding and having fun, while also learning at the same time.



Yukon Elementary

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



Elaine Wassil
Principal

Our Students Shine!

At Yukon, there are many ways we highlight our student's accomplishments. One exciting new way is Spotlight on Yukon's Awesome Authors. Teachers choose a great piece of student writing, and the principal reads it at our schoolwide assembly and then interviews the author, just like

on NPR! We discuss what inspired the author or other aspects of the writing, such as character or setting. Modeling great writing is a way all our students can be inspired and aspire to be "awesome authors" themselves!

Additionally, some students are preparing to compete in Math Olympiads and others in Yukon's Spelling Bee. The stars on our café bulletin board are filling up with pictures of our students who have already met year-end reading benchmarks and have been celebrated by "walking the red carpet."

Every student is encouraged to work hard and excel. There are so many ways to shine at Yukon.



Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Under the Sea in 3D

Ludwig the Sea Dog

by Henning Löhlein
is about a dog named Ludwig who lives in a book. The main plot of the story is about Ludwig trying to help his friend, Peter the penguin from



a broken submarine. Since everything in Ludwig's world is made out of paper, it is impossible for Ludwig to go under the sea to help Peter. Ludwig needs extra help. With the magic potion from the fairy and a lot of help from his friends, Ludwig is able to help Peter.

This book is a 3D picture book that comes with a pair of 3D glasses. The 3D makes reading this book more exciting and fun. This book teaches me that the impossible can be possible if we work together as a team and that it is okay to ask for help when we need help. I recommend this book for anyone who is adventurous and love to explore the sea.

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.

Jenna's Review



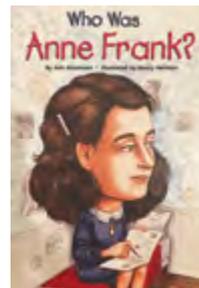
Jenna C.

A Scary but Positive Life

Title: *Who Was Anne Frank?*

Author: Ann Abramson

Imagine you are in a war and you are one of the people who face in danger of life. There was a girl named Anne who had to hide from a



group of people called Nazis. She had suffered from a person named Hitler who wanted to kill all Jews. Since Anne was a Jew, she had to go into hiding with her family and other people. She loved reading history books and Greek myths. On her thirteen's birthday, she got a diary. She named it Kitty after an old friend with that name. She kept writing a diary until she got caught by the Nazis and was sent to a concentration camp. Do you know what Ann wrote in Kitty the diary? She wrote about her life, friends and emotions. I recommend this book as you can learn about a life of a young girl who faced danger but had hope.

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

Katie's Review



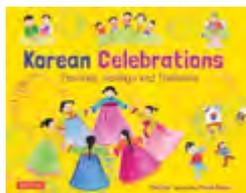
Katie C.

A Whole New World

Title: *Korean Celebrations*

Author: Tina Cho

Many cultures have different traditions, festivals, and holidays. In this book, *Korean Celebrations*, Korean



culture is explained in depth. Words are explained and English pronunciations are provided. Holiday foods, gifts, and games are explained, and you can even replicate some of the rituals that they used during special events and holidays. The national anthem is translated, and you can learn about other sports that first occurred in Korea. One of the most interesting things in Korea is Children's Day. This holiday is a day just for children, where there is no school and children are able to go to amusement parks and receive presents from their parents. This book is recommended to those who want to learn more about the culture of another country. I give this book a five out of five stars.

Katie is in 10th grade. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to the kids who want to find more good books.

Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

The Mystery of the Feather

Title: *Pearl the Cloud Fairy*

Author: Daisy Meadows

Once upon a time there were two girls named Rachel and Kirsty. They have a secret that they can turn into fairies to help fairies all the time! The queen of the fairies gave fairy dust to them. One day all the people had clouds over their heads. The girls felt weird. Why would everyone be sad, grumpy, or angry? At home they met a fairy of clouds. The fairy's name was Pearl. She said that a goblin took a feather away from the fairies. The seven feathers control the weathers. The girls went to the candy factory and saw the goblin eating cotton candy. He also had the feather! Pearl asked Rachel and Kirsty to get the feather. Can these two girls complete their mission? I like this book because it gives adventurous stories in detail. I recommend this book to people who like fantasy.



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



FOSTERING INNOVATION IN STEAM EDUCATION

Twenty-eight Torrance Unified School District teachers received a boost to enhance their curriculum in a variety of ways, including hydroponic gardening equipment and 3D printers, thanks to \$100,000 awarded by Torrance Refining Company (TORC) through the TORC Innovation Education Grant Program (IEGP), which helps teachers implement innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) curriculum in their classrooms.

“This grant program is so important because it helps teachers amplify their curriculum by allowing them to purchase necessary equipment or supplies for creative activities and projects,” said Steve Steach, Refinery Manager.

To qualify, teachers are required to show a direct link to Design Thinking techniques while incorporating Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards into their proposed curriculum. A grant-selection committee comprised of Refinery employees and community volunteers selected the winning proposals.

“As a Biology and Chemistry teacher, I sometimes observe students struggling to imagine the microscopic objects we study. These funds have allowed me to see students experience that ‘aha’ moment of comprehension, when they can finally ‘see’ the process of protein synthesis or other reactions. I am endlessly appreciative of TORC’s commitment to enhancing the hands-on learning in my classroom.”

Katie Doupe, North High School



torrancerefinery.com

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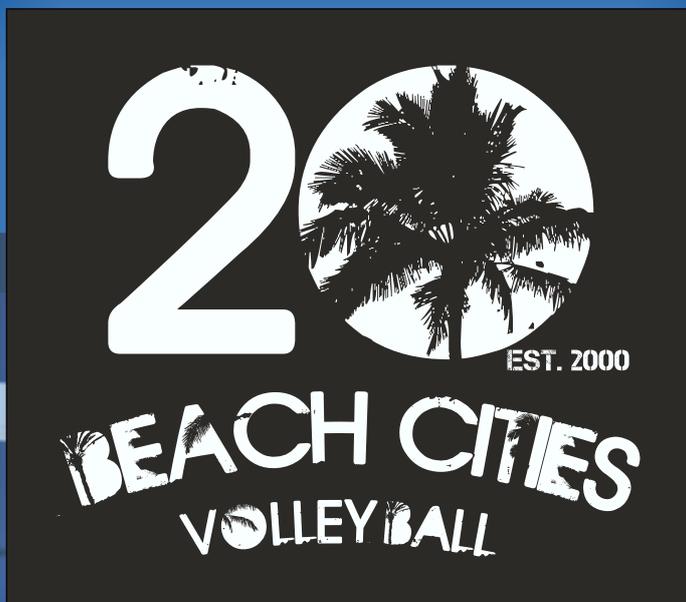
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