

School News



Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Volume 3, Issue 10

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

February / March 2020

Trabuco Hills High School Honored with Golden Bell Award



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Superintendent



Dr. Crystal Turner

Happy New Year! As we enter 2020 and the halfway point of the 2019-2020 school year, I hope that everyone had a relaxing winter break and that our students, staff and families have had a strong start to the second semester. The fall semester saw quite a few highlights, as well as many examples of innovation throughout SVUSD. I am proud of the many accomplishments of our students and staff!

One of the major highlights of the fall was the selection of Trabuco Mesa Elementary teacher, Mandy Kelly, as a 2020 California Teacher of the Year. Mandy is one of five teachers, statewide, to receive this prestigious honor from the California Department of Education, and we are fortunate that she calls SVUSD home. In December, Trabuco Hills High School and SVUSD were awarded the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award for the great work the Mustangs are doing to promote equity and access through their Unified Champion Schools Program. "The CSBA Golden Bell Awards promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding programs throughout California and reflect the depth and breadth of education programs and governance decisions supporting these programs that are necessary to address students' changing needs." Additionally, THHS was named to ESPN's Top 34 Honor Roll as part of its Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools National Recognition Program, making it the first school in Orange County, and only the 2nd in California to make the list (including ALL elementary, middle and high schools in the country).

In November, the Saddleback Valley Unified School District Board of Education voted to place Measure M, a school facilities improvement bond measure, on the

March 2020 ballot. Measure M would cost the typical SVUSD homeowner about \$130 per year to repair and improve local schools. The District's Facilities Master Plan would be used as a guide for upgrades and improvements, and may be accessed through the district website at www.svUSD.org.

Lastly, we continually strive to improve communication among all stakeholders. To this end, we have an array of methods which help our community stay informed and up to date with what is occurring throughout SVUSD. Over the last 2 ½ years, this wonderful publication, *School News Roll Call*, has been provided to all school sites and businesses throughout the community. Around the same time, we also began publishing the SVUSD eNews, a bi-monthly electronic newsletter that is delivered directly to your inbox via email. We have also made a concerted effort among various SVUSD divisions and school sites to be a constant presence on all major social media platforms. In the spirit of innovation, this fall, we began utilizing two new communication tools: the *SVUSD 90 Second Round Up* and *Saddleback Valley Shares*. The Round Up is an approximately 90 second video clip that shares important and timely news and happenings throughout the district, shared via the district website, social media and eNews. *Saddleback Valley Shares* is a podcast that gives listeners the ability to hear in-depth conversations among district staff that discuss pertinent SVUSD educational topics. Released episode topics include the SVUSD Facilities Master Plan, The SVUSD Virtual Academy, and the School Choice Intra-District transfer process. You may find links to all of the above communication, as well as archived editions/episodes on the "Communications" webpage of the SVUSD website, accessible via the "Resources" tab.

2020 is looking like it will be another amazing year in Saddleback Valley Unified School District!

Board of Education



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Saddleback Valley Unified School District
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • (949) 586-1234 • svUSD.org



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Neta Madison
Netragrednik

Happy New Year!

We are celebrating 20 years publishing *School News* and three years publishing Saddleback Valley Unified *School News*. We now publish 35 publications with more scheduled. During the 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, but our mission never changes: 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. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is April 1, 2020.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
**SADDLEBACK VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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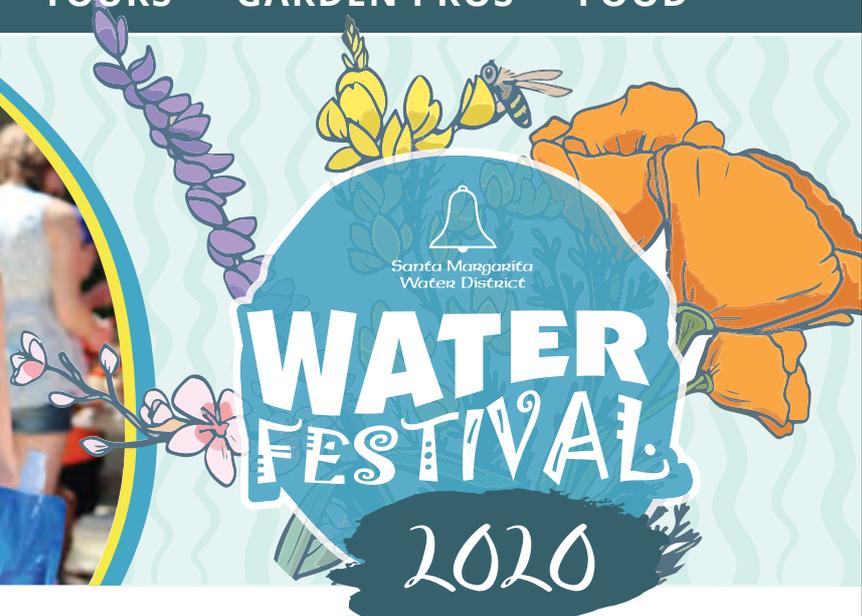
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MAY 2, 2020 • 10AM – 2PM

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MemorialCare Medical Group



Matthew Coulson, MD
Pediatrics

It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate

Flu season typically begins at the start of Fall and can end as late as May. The term "flu season" refers to the span of time in which the influenza virus is most contagious, but children can contract the flu all year.

- You can still benefit from the influenza vaccination even if you have already gotten sick with the flu. This is because many different flu viruses spread during flu season and most flu vaccines protect against four different flu viruses.
- Vaccination is recommended before the end of October, but you can schedule your children at any time.
- Getting vaccinated later can still be beneficial during most seasons for people who have put it off.
- Flu vaccination can be life-saving in children.

Talk with your health care provider so he or she can decide whether vaccination is right for you, as there can be other options to the traditional vaccination method. In addition, there is another alternative to the traditional vaccination method. Be sure to talk to your health care provider prior to receiving any type of influenza vaccination.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact our MemorialCare Medical Group office or visit MemorialCare.org/MedicalGroup.



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Cielo Vista *Elementary*

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



Frances Hansell
Principal

AVID Ambassadors Lead

Cielo Vista welcomed Dr. Rowena Mak, Director of Services for English Learners for a tour of their designated English Language Development (dELD) program.

AVID ambassadors shared the awesome activities that are practiced daily in the classrooms to support all learners.

Cielo Vista is committed to ensuring that culturally relevant teaching (CRT) is evident for all students. It is a commitment to celebrate students' cultural knowledge, prior experiences, performance styles and diversity. AVID ambassadors and other student leaders are ensuring that Cielo Vista minimizes the "opportunity gap" that exists in our education system today so that every student has their social identity recognized.

Cielo Vista is striving to become an AVID inspired school with the mission of closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. We are proud to be difference makers!

Go HAWKS!



Cordillera *Elementary*

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



Jennifer Kajdasz
Principal

Arts are Alive!

Cordillera was pleased to entertain our students, staff, and community members with our very own special edition of, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". The students have been busy since the beginning of school

practicing their lines, learning new

songs, and completing countless costumes changes. The cast entertained a packed house, as we were all swept away to Whoville for two daytime shows and two evening shows.

This production could not have happened without the effort and support of several parent volunteers and a special thank you to Laura King for directing

our Cougars to have such a successful experience. The performing arts build so many strengths in students as they build confidence in front of others, learn how to work as a team, all the while fostering their creative passions.

Next up on the playbill is Lion King and we cannot wait to see what talents come to light!



Free Field Trips for Moulton Niguel Schools!

Moulton Niguel Water District and OC Coastkeeper
bring Watershed Education and Field Trips
to Students in 5th -12th Grades.

What does each class get?

In-class presentation with information on:

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

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

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

Program available: February 2019 - June 2020

Location: Aliso Creek Trail

Funding includes: In-class presentation, field trip to a local creek, water quality tests, and round-trip busing.

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



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

De Portola *Elementary*

27031 Preciados Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-5830 • svusd.org/deportola



Brendon Morrow
Principal

Positive Culture Development

De Portola is the newest member of Orange County Department of Education's "PAL Certified" schools. PAL, or Peer Assistance Leadership, is a group of 4th-6th grade student leaders spreading kindness and reinforcing positivity throughout our campus. De

Portola's PAL mission

statement is, "To empower students to take on leadership roles that ignite a positive culture, help their peers, and prepare them for success by building 21st century skills." Monthly Friendtastic Fridays at recess times, along with several modest community outreach projects, have our school moving towards our goal of increased cohesiveness and inclusivity.

For anyone interested in learning more about our school, please RSVP to one of our school tours on February 19th or February 25th by calling our office at (949) 586-5830. The public is welcome to attend our annual School Showcase on the evening of February 12th. Visit our school's website at svusd.org/deportola for additional details.



Del Cerro *Elementary*

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



Kristin Thomsen
Principal

Team Kids Challenge

Del Cerro students recently wrapped up four weeks of giving and service to those in need. For the second year, our students participated in the Team Kids Challenge. The Team Kids Challenge is a month-long program that brings community role models into elementary schools to inspire

kids to engage in service. Each week, kids learn about a critical issue in their communities and conduct a related Challenge donation drive. This year, our students selected three different organizations to serve: South County Outreach, The Jesse Rees Foundation, and Operation Hope.

While all students at Del Cerro participate in the weekly Challenges, 5th and 6th grade students volunteer, during their lunch recess, once a week during the month, on the Team Kids Leadership Team to plan a school-wide carnival. The Challenge program begins with an assembly and ends with a carnival, followed by a Celebration of Service.



Del Lago *Elementary*

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



Jonathan Kaplan
Principal

Fun While Learning

Del Lago teachers have dived into math, continued to work on explicit phonics instruction, and every class teaches the new curriculum of social-emotional learning. All of these are powerful

goals for our school. We work hard, but we play just are hard!

This past week saw several fun activities, all tied to curricular items, and making memories. Several classes made gingerbread houses (architecture), while others practiced



and performed songs around the holidays (performing arts). One culminating activity (and included in physical education, or PE) was the art of throwing snowballs at targets! Using a sno-cone making machine run by a fabulous parent volunteer, our students took turns attempting to hit snowmen targets – all in good fun!

As we challenge ourselves to learn and persevere with math, language arts, science and social studies, we also work hard at visual and performing arts, PE, and just plain fun! Go Dolphins!

Esperanza *Special Education*

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



Raymund Bueche
Principal

More Opportunities Offered

The Adult Transition Program has a new home at Esperanza Education Center. Students are working on pre-vocational and vocational skills, and have the opportunity

to participate in vocational opportunities on or off site through a partnership

with Career Start, a district transition and vocational program. Participating in these activities allows our students to learn communication skills, leadership, teamwork, problem solving, professionalism and job seeking skills.

On October 18, students from the Adult Transition Program (ATP) participated in a basketball game with intercollegiate athletes from Saddleback College; the first Unified event held with the support of the college. The ATP students were fully integrated in a basketball game with athletes, referees,

coaches, and cheerleaders. The gym was packed to cheer on these adults as they participated in an inclusive sporting event. All participants had a great time! We look forward to developing more opportunities to support the Unified Sports model.



El Toro High School

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



Terri Gusiff
Principal

Community Concerts

The El Toro High School Charger Family thrives on and encourages generosity, compassion, and service. Under the leadership and vision of choral director, Mr. Dave Roberts, the ETHS Vocal Music Program is continuing a 40-year tradition of connecting with and bringing joy to the community by providing two weeks of student choral music performances at senior centers, community centers, elementary schools, and SVUSD events. Mr. Roberts is a longtime supporter of community concerts, “There are things students can learn by not being in class. I want to teach the importance of community and giving back.” These concerts have a strong

impact on both audience members and students. “There have been many times when an audience member leans on my shoulder while I’m conducting – and he or she is crying. These are moments you never forget.” Savannah Mojarro, grade 12, said, “(These performances) teach you so much about life... about gratefulness and how little things can make someone’s day. It sparks interest in helping others in the music field or in pursuing change in the world even in little ways.” Madeline Bagley shared, “I remember singing a song about summer – and the lady in the front row looking down at her wedding ring. I realized that I will sit in that chair someday.” To continue the tradition, former student Katie McManis Chally, class of 2005, is taking her own small children to senior centers to sing holiday songs; she has chosen to continue this tradition with the next generation.

Foothill Ranch Elementary

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



Deborah Shaver
Principal

PAL is Here!

The OCDE Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program has come to Foothill Ranch! Students interested in becoming PAL members completed a rigorous selection process which lasted several weeks. In the end, 24 fifth and sixth grade students were chosen to be PAL Leaders for the 2019-2020 school year. PAL leaders participate in service learning throughout the year, and have

already organized and collected food through a physical and virtual food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank.

PAL leaders will continue throughout the school year holding weekly meetings lead by their PAL advisors. These meetings will develop or sharpen student’s communication, assertiveness, and problem-solving skills. They will also focus on goal setting and achievement, building social confidence, formulating wellness plans, and developing positive support networks. We believe having PAL leaders on campus will help to build relationships and conduct activities that support a positive and caring school environment.



Gates Elementary

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



Diane Clearwater
Principal

Zero Waste Challenge

Gators at Gates Elementary have taken on the challenge to learn about the value of natural resources and what we as a school can do to help reduce waste.

As part of the initiative, students have participated in two, all-day, workshops where they

learned about the journey of trash and the importance of landfills in our community. They also had the opportunity to work with a representative to make earth friendly plant based cleaning products. After gathering all the information, students created posters that hang throughout the school, describing ways we can recycle, reduce, reuse, and repurpose different materials.



Through this initiative, students came up with a school wide waste reduction program where Gates Elementary will be recycling paper, plastic bottles, and markers throughout the year! If you'd like to see our Gators in action, our next two-way immersion school tour is February 19th.

Glen Yermo Elementary

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



Jennifer Televik
Principal

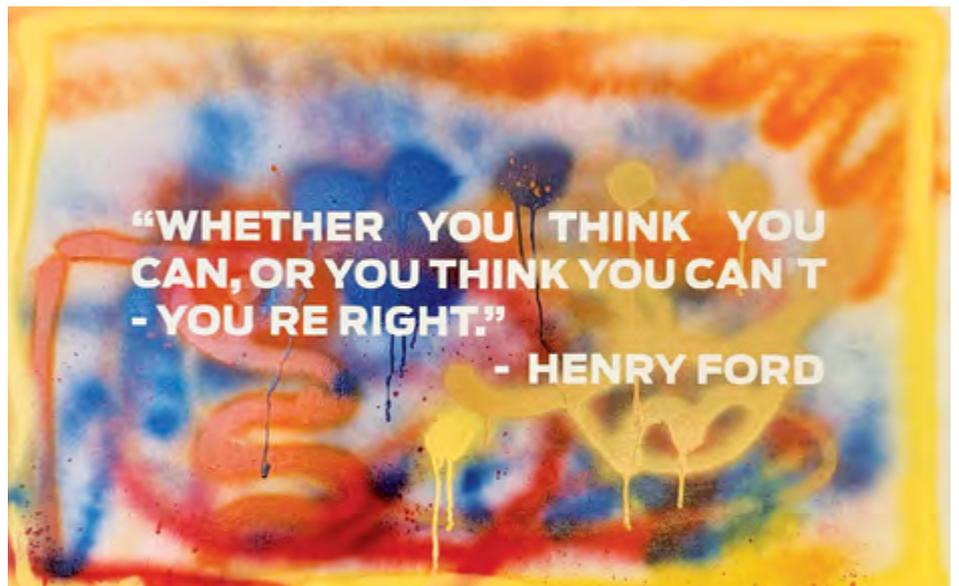
Driven to Success

Through our partnership with the OC GRIP program, a group of Glen Yermo students had the opportunity this year to work with employees of the Ford Motor Company in a mentorship opportunity aimed at preparing them for college and future careers.

Students learned

about educational pathways and career options and submitted original designs for a Ford vehicle wrap in a county-wide contest. In December, the group was invited to attend a special event at the Ford Motor Company Headquarters where they toured the facility and attended motivational presentations by professional athletes, designers, entrepreneurs, and law enforcement. The group also created a collaborative piece of art to display at the school.

The purpose of the OC GRIP program is to inspire students to be successful in school and their future. The program emphasizes characteristics of attitude, academics, and attendance and includes many motivational components to mentor students and encourage their success.



La Madera *Elementary*

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



Jennifer Gass
Interim Principal

Theater in Action

Throughout the year, all La Madera Koalas have the opportunity to participate in our Theater in Action program. This PTA sponsored activity offers all of our students the opportunity to learn a musical theater song and dance, and then perform it for their families.

Each grade level focuses on a different composer or musical and spends three consecutive weeks practicing prior to their performance. So far this year, our 6th graders performed numbers from *Grease* and our 2nd graders performed musical selections from *Disney on Broadway*.

La Madera students and teachers are so thankful to our generous PTA for bringing this program to our school and providing our students the chance to get a taste of musical theater!



La Paz *Intermediate*

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

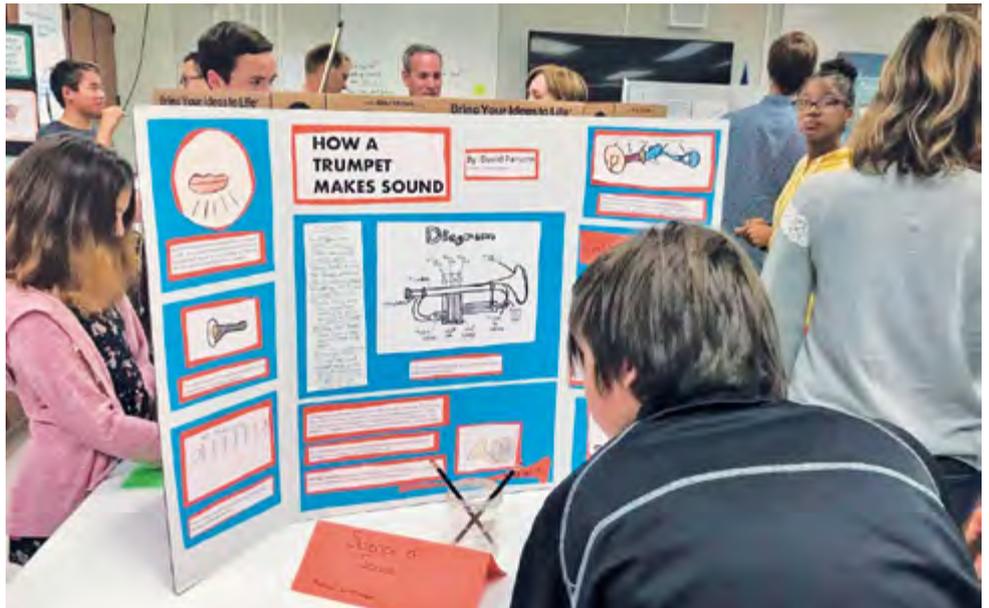


Jean Walker
Principal

Annual Science Night

The stars, planets, and the moon were out on Friday, October 4th, along with an estimated 800 students, parents, and community members for La Paz Intermediate School's First Annual Science Night. Working with a non-profit group of professional scientists, the La Paz Science department set up over 30 different interactive science displays, including activities for younger siblings in a "Young Explorers Room." Some music students researched and demonstrated their instruments in a "Science Behind the Sound" room. A portable observatory was also on campus, and visitors enjoyed seeing Jupiter's bands and moons clearly in the night sky through that telescope. La Paz

also collaborated with the Orange County Astronomers, who brought additional telescopes, which were aimed at the moon, Saturn, and a double-star cluster. The event was such a success; La Paz is already planning their next Science Night for October 2, 2020!



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Laguna Hills *High School*

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



Hack A Thon

On Saturday, December 7, Laguna Hills High School hosted the 3rd annual Hack-A-Thon for computer science enthusiasts.

Bill Hinds
Principal

This was part of the Internationally recognized Local Hack Day that took place around the world. The event was attended by over 150 participants from elementary and intermediate schools throughout SVUSD.

LHHS Junior Joshua Martinez, a member of our Computer Science Club, organized the event that featured topics including 3D design and printing, video game design, coding, app development, and robotics. Classes were taught throughout the day and into the night which included an e-sports tournament. Many of these classes were taught by our own Laguna Hills High School students.



Lake Forest *Elementary*

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



Giving Back

Lake Forest Elementary is continuously involved in giving back to our community. This November, students and families participated in Candy Crush. A local dentist's office collects leftover candy and donates it to the troops. In December, the Lake Forest students participated in The Giving Tree. Students and families pulled tags from a tree in the front office and brought in unwrapped

gifts to help military families from Camp Pendleton. It brings joy thinking we helped make their holidays a little brighter. In January, Lake Forest students will participate in a hygiene drive. Students will donate items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, and much more. When the hygiene drive is complete, our student council will personally deliver the items to the Orange County Mission.

Each year our students are able to take a personal tour of the facilities and come back truly understanding the impact of their contributions.



La Tierra *Early Childhood Center*

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



Marion Springett
*District
Coordinator*

Sounds of the Season

La Tierra ECC staff take great pride in wall-decorating in order to transform our school into a rich bevy of school holiday spirit, geared for student enjoyment and learning. Classes toured the campus, taking in the sights and sounds of the season! The

inclusive holiday wall décor provided interactive, hands on experiences for students to expand their sensory development outside of their classroom setting.

This year, students not only learned about the importance of teamwork and the joy that accompanies joint efforts, but they learned about diversity and acceptance of others as they experienced “The Sounds of the Season,” teaching that while each of us are a single note, “together we create a masterpiece!” Although often bustling and busy, at the



La Tierra Early Childhood Center, the holiday season was also a fun, energetic time of year that provided rich educational experiences for our students!

Linda Vista *Magnet Elementary*

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



Suzy McMasters
Principal

Find Out More

What is the best way to learn more about LVM? Ask!

“I love that there are a lot of nice people. The teachers are really nice. I enjoy the

class projects we do, especially in writing. Right now we are doing a (project) about the

Transcontinental Railroad. I really like it.”-Kaelyn Honda, 4th grade.

“One of the things I love about Linda Vista is we learn and explore! We are caring and nice.”-Vincent Jones, Kindergarten.

“I watched my girl thrive in a new environment for the last two years and she even asked to try for Student Council Vice-President next year. Thank you for bringing my shy girl to her bold moves!”-Beshell O’Neil, mother of a 5th grade.

“It’s a caring family environment. We work very hard for every child. We make a difference!”-Mrs. Gonzalez, 6th grade.

Join us at our Showcase to find out more: February 20, 2020 5:30 pm.



Lomarena *Elementary*

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



Mona Montgomery
Principal

Lion Pride Grows

Lomarena is continuing to grow and welcome many new families to our Lion Pride. Our families have enjoyed our Fall Festival, complete with our amazing carnival and trunk or treat.

Recently, we had our Bubble Run Jog- A-Thon, which is our largest fundraiser of the year.

The students ran to earn money to purchase more technology, playground equipment, and to fund our amazing art program. Music played while staff, students, and parents smiled through the flurry of bubbles. By coming together, every student was able to participate in our Mega Party reward. Through the kindness and support of all students, we achieved this goal.

We see every day that the students at Lomarena are growing academically as well as socially and emotionally. We are proud of our Lion Pride!



Los Alisos *Intermediate*

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



Rich Freda
Principal

Two-Way Immersion Presentations

Our Two-Way Spanish-English Immersion Program is growing! We currently have 166 students in the program and now offer three classes in Spanish: Spanish Language Arts, Science for 7th graders and United States History for 8th graders. Pictured here are students

demonstrating their speaking skills in Ms. Mostert's Spanish Language Arts class. Ms. Mostert took an innovative approach to trimester one finals. Students had to prepare a recap of the trimester and could choose to work in groups or alone. They then had to create an oral presentation and, to raise the bar, they had to present in front of a parent audience, in Spanish! Seventh grade units included an exploration of the relationship between Mexico and America, Hispanic heritage, Chicano history and skills in narrative writing. Eighth graders studied Spanish geography, including the Balearic and Canary Islands, Spanish poetry and skills in informational writing.



Melinda Heights *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

STEM Emphasis Continues

From hands-on science to coding to robotics, Melinda Heights students are problem solvers, innovators, team members and risk-takers in the STEM lab and in their classrooms.

Our fully integrated program combines Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics with student-centered learning in our classrooms, our outdoor spaces and our Lil Scientist STEM Lab. Our students are naturally curious, and Melinda Heights offers them the opportunity to solve real-world problems, ask critical questions and collaborate with their fellow students. This year, our Mountain Lions, at every grade level have been engaged in problem-based activities such as building robots, identifying matter, designing bridges, building towers and creating wind turbines. Coding is emphasized K-6 with multiple specialty STEM curriculums. Melinda Heights



students in grades 4-6 have the opportunity to apply for our Future Scientists and Engineers of America club, where they further investigate practical engineering applications of science and mathematics.

Mission Viejo *High School*

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



Tricia Osborne
Principal

Drama Builds Character

Under the leadership of Kathy Cannarozzi Harris over the last 25 years, Mission Viejo High School's Drama department is known in Southern California for its award-winning productions.

MVHS has won countless awards, including the Cappie Award for Best Play "Peter and the Starcatcher", Best Musical "Legally Blonde" and Best Critic Team, Best Choreography for "High School Musical".

This year, students won 1st place at the OC RoleAbout Theatre Festival for monologues and scenes.

The program offers opportunities for all students with courses from Drama 1, 2, 3, Stagecraft, Play/Musical and Dance Production to IB Theatre, HL1, and HL 2. Students can work to prepare for careers in the entertainment industry in performance, writing, and technical theatre including lighting, sound, and design. Mission students also learn valuable life skills such as public speaking, confidence, collaboration, time management and mindfulness.

Join us this spring for the musical "Singin' in the Rain."



Montevideo *Elementary*

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



Lisa Graham
Principal

Students of Service

Our passion is to educate the whole child by making learning matter. So... it is only natural that as parents contribute to our school (PTA, ELAC, School Site Council, Dads of Great Students, classroom volunteers...) and model collaboration, that our children blossom into students of service.

As we provide opportunities for students to meaningfully apply their skills as readers, writers, and mathematicians in real-life activities that positively impact others, we kindle their minds and hearts. Whether students are creating an inclusive environment as Unified Buddies, facilitating kindness challenges and mentoring as a part of the PAL Team, leading our

school in community donations (food for seniors/holiday toys for children) and spirit activities as ASB Members, or documenting it all as our KidsROCK video team; joy abounds.

Come and see us in February for our Showcase (12th, 6:00 PM) / Tours (19th & 28th, at 9:00 or 12:00), 949-586-8050.



Olivewood *Elementary*

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



Alex Perez
Principal

Parents in Action

Parent support is an important part of our children's success. Parents in Action / Padres en Acción helped educate our community of parents on how they could help improve health at school and at home. Olivewood parents attended six classes that

focused on school wellness policies, health & nutrition, how to be an active participant and volunteer at the school, and much more!

Upon completion of the first class, parents were already discussing the positive changes they have made in their lives. One parent shared how she has chosen to walk her children to and from school instead of driving a few blocks. This change gave her the opportunity

to have improved conversations with her children, along with reducing the stress of the morning rush and drop off. Parents in Action / Padres en Acción has helped increase parent visibility, and participation. We are proud to see our Olivewood community grow.



Portola Hills *Elementary*

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



Ed MacNevin
Principal

Exciting New Innovations

Portola Hills Elementary School teachers are excited about learning new ways to teach so that our students are exposed to the latest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). PHE students are expected to be problem solvers and to be able to create, collaborate, communicate, and use critical thinking skills in all that they do. The PHE innovation lab's new furniture has been ordered and the space will soon provide a dedicated area for students to think outside of the box and to build projects that solve current issues. Our teachers are already scheduling innovative lab time for their students, as exemplified by our 4th grade teaching team, who recently used the space to offer students the opportunity to build structures that can withstand a large earthquake. Come by and see what we are up to at PHE!



Rancho Canada *Elementary*

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



Dr. Larry Hausner
Principal

Social Emotional Support

As the need to address social emotional issues with our students arise, we recognize the importance of providing students with the support and strategies to overcome these issues and give teachers the tools to address them.

As a result, SVUSD purchased a social emotional curriculum for every school. The philosophy being "More than just a classroom curriculum, an holistic approach helps create a more empathetic society by providing education for professionals, families, and the larger community with tools to enable them to take an active role in the social-emotional growth and safety of today's children."

The program promotes:

- School success
- School connectedness
- Safe and respectful school climate

The lessons taught strengthen students' ability to:

- Learn
- Have empathy
- Manage emotions
- Solve problems

Rancho parents receive a weekly principal communication detailing the lessons to strengthen those concepts at home.



**Free Field Trips for
Moulton Niguel Schools!**

**Please see
page 7 for
details.**

Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

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



James Newton
Principal

Extending Student Learning

RSM Intermediate School teachers work collaboratively to give our students a rich and meaningful educational experience.

Under the leadership of Mr. Treibel, our Digital Media students have participated in activities outside of the classroom on a consistent basis. This past trimester students attended a workshop with Mr. Joe Little of NBC7 San Diego. During the workshop, they

learned about Mr. Little's unique approach to storytelling. In addition to discussing his method for acting as the camera operator and reporter, he shared tips regarding writing for features and conducting interviews. More recently, our students had the privilege of visiting the Warner Brothers Studio in Burbank and in the spring, they will participate in a national filmmaking competition.

We are thankful that our students get to participate in these additional experiences, giving them unique opportunities to extend their learning, and explore college and career interests, in an engaging and relevant way.



Robinson *Elementary*

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



Megan Hannen
Principal

Alumni Beautify Campus

As Robinson Elementary begins 2020, we would like to recognize our Eagle Scouts, Scotty DeBerard and Mazi Ostowari. Both are Alumni of Robinson and returned to complete their respective Eagle Scout Projects to beautify the Robinson Campus. Scotty planned for a modern concrete bench to be installed at the pick-up area for students to sit while they await their ride

home and Mazi created an intricate new footpath where a dirt path existed before. Charli DeBerard, also Robinson Alumni, repainted the world map as part of her Girl Scout Service Project. Robinson could not be prouder of all of their accomplishments and their dedication to their community.

The Performing Arts were also in action for the holidays. Elf Jr., our after-school performing arts program, run by JoAnn Curtis and Wendi Grinstead, was a hit and Mr. Spinello's 6th grade class performance, Scrooged, left audiences full of the holiday spirit.

San Joaquin *Elementary*

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



David Shun
Principal

Be Royally Kind

In November, San Joaquin Elementary launched a three-week, Royally Kind, kindness challenge with the intention of raising the level of awareness of intentional acts of kindness.

Students were given examples of how to

show and share kindness.

“Be Royally Kind” are the words echoed in the halls at San Joaquin where our Cheetahs have made a conscientious and concentrated effort to develop a culture of kindness. In celebration of all the effort our students and staff have made with contributing to our kindness challenge, the Royal Court from a local medieval theater, awarded students who have completed their kindness challenge by “Knighting” them!

We are honored that our students, families, staff, and community supports and celebrates our students’ efforts at making our campus, and thereby our community, a kinder place to be.



Santiago *STEAM Magnet*

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



Howard Johnston
Principal

Year Two Ignites!

Santiago STEAM Magnet prides itself on its High-Quality Project-Based Learning design to support all students to become empowered thinkers and creators positively impacting their global community. High-Quality Project-Based Learning teaches students

through: Challenging Problems, Sustained Inquiry, Authenticity, Student Voice & Choice, Reflection, Critique & Revision, and a Public Product.

From Kindergarten students designing and building a maze to get animals safely to food while avoiding a predator, to Sixth Graders creating a model that predicts the genetic variation of an offspring of two parents with different traits, Santiago students push the limits! Three times a year, students have the opportunity to present their new learning in a public format called, “Ignite Night.” Santiago’s next Ignite Night is February 20, 2020!



We are also supporting all students through our Positive Behavior Support System (PBIS), Social-Emotional curriculum (Second Step), and our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

Serrano *Intermediate*

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



David Young
Principal

Friends of Rachel

Serrano caps off 2019 with kindness, compassion and giving! Following our successful Rachel's Challenge assemblies in October, Serrano students continued the chain reaction of kindness and compassion by setting up a chapter of the Friends of Rachel (FOR) Club. This club reflects the heart

and soul of the Serrano community. Students immediately sprang into action by challenging classmates to bring in food for needy families at Thanksgiving. The response was fantastic, and our students donated so many items that the top homeroom earned the reward to throw pies at the Principal and Assistant Principals.

The FOR Club has also opened Rachel's Closet- a boutique style setting offering clothes, school supplies, food and personal hygiene items to students in need. If you would like to contribute and help us continue our chain reaction of kindness and compassion, please contact the Serrano office.



Trabuco *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paisley
Principal

Family Writing

The advent of our new Buddy Program is off to a great start! Students in grades K-6 are grouped into "families". Each group has met to create family crests that will be kept at Trabuco for future generations (think Houses at Hogwarts from *Harry Potter*). Since our major instructional goal is on the writing process, we had

to get our families involved in collaborative writing to celebrate their first trimester accomplishments. Our team organized a fun day of writing activities with family writing centers.

Pictured here are our "families," led by the older students, engaging in creative writing. In addition, students participated in a peer share group, where students took turns reading their writing, followed by positive and specific feedback from "family" members.

We will be gathering samples of this student writing to include in our first edition of "#TrabucoRocks#TrabucoWrites", a brand new periodical to celebrate our writing successes.



Silverado *High School*

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



David Gordon
Principal

Silverado Gives Back

The Eagles hit new highs at our blood drive. A total of 29 pints of blood were donated.

Our canned food drive competition yielded a total of 325 pounds of food, which was sent to South County Outreach.

The highlight of the first trimester was our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Over 400 meals were served on campus, and another 500 meals were boxed up and were sent to the Calvary Mission in Mexico. It was a team

effort by staff, parents, and community members. Thank you to everybody who helped make our feast a success and donated to this worthy cause!

After our Thanksgiving break, we welcomed 36 new students to Silverado, for the holidays, Silverado staff provided gifts for 40 of our students. In addition, Saddleback Memorial Outreach adopted three families from Silverado to provide gifts for them.

Last but not least, Silverado has again been designated a Model Continuation School.

The Eagles are soaring!

SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-12*

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



Glenn Giokaris
Principal

Saddleback College Partnership

Beginning next school year, (2020-2021) the SVUSD Virtual Academy (SVA) will partner with Saddleback College to provide high school students with a pathway to a certificate in business administration.

The courses, taught by professors from Saddleback College, will earn students both high school and college credit. Students who enroll in the SVA College Pathway Program

will complete one or two college courses each semester they are enrolled in the program. In addition, students enrolled in the college courses will receive extra support from the SVUSD Virtual Academy to enhance their ability to achieve success at the collegiate level.

The SVUSD Virtual Academy is committed to providing students with not only a flexible education experience but



one that is meaningful, engaging, and prepares students to thrive in a globally interconnected, rapidly evolving, and technological environment.

Trabuco Hills *High School*

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



Craig Collins
Principal

The Golden Bell

Trabuco Hills High School and the Saddleback Valley Unified School District received the very prestigious Golden Bell award. The honor comes from the California School Boards Association. The CSBA honored about 40 districts from over 900 in the state.

Trabuco and SVUSD were honored for their Unified Sports Program and their movement towards full inclusion of our

Special Needs students into the entire school program. Trabuco Hills, under the direction of Kara Johnson, has led the charge in the SVUSD for inclusion. With the support of the district, this movement has quickly taken root and the entire Saddleback Valley District has qualified as a Unified School District. Kara started Unified Sports four years ago with a few pick-up basketball games.

This past spring, Trabuco hosted the Unified Track and Field Championships and sent our team to the CIF Master's Meet. Trabuco now offers Unified PE, Unified Track and Field, Unified Arts, and United Sound. Many other schools in the district and in the region are starting programs as well. All of these programs are based on the same premise, that ALL students are special and ALL students can share with others.

While Unified programs are wonderful for the Special Needs students, the benefit to the entire school population cannot be stressed enough. The friendships and partnerships that develop among these students is heartwarming and inspirational. To see students accepting each other for who they are and meeting them where there skills and abilities are, is fantastic to behold.

We can ALL be very proud of ALL of our students.

Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

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



Caryn McGrew
Principal

Unified Sports Program

We are proud to be a part of the Unified Champion Schools program! This program helps students learn acceptance, tolerance, and inclusion, through youth leadership.

We kicked off the program with a school-wide “Choose to Include” assembly with graduates that have

participated and benefited from this program throughout their educational career. Students saw the deep friendships this program has encouraged and how it can make a difference in many students’ lives. Our students, with and without disabilities, work together and have enjoyed collaborative activities such as, dancing on the playground, weekly PE activities, and painting kindness rocks for National Kindness Day.



Partners and athletes have worked together raising money at our Family Nights to help fund our upcoming trip to the Special Olympics, where they will demonstrate the different PE skills they have learned throughout the year.

Students look forward to joining their buddies, and many new friendships have developed.

Valencia *Elementary*

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



Wendie Hauschild
Principal

We've Got Spirit

School spirit is part of who we are at Valencia. Every Friday is a Spirit Day! Students, and Staff alike, sport Valencia-wear or our orange and blue spirit colors, and our sixth graders proudly wear t-shirts designed especially for them.

In addition, our PAL and Student Council students plan monthly dress-up days. It is so fun to attend our special Flag Raising and Student Recognition assemblies with students decked out in style – Ties, Tutus, and Tiaras; Decades Day, and our all-time favorite, Crazy Hair Day!

We know that, as adults, what we remember most about school is the bond we built with friends and teachers, not to mention the fun, silly things we did.

Spirit Days help us build community and provide a conduit to self-expression for our students. It's no wonder that we have students whose parents attended Valencia! We know we are facilitating the building of fond memories.



Educational Services

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



Liza Zielasko
Assistant
Superintendent

The Whole Student

This school year, we have continued the implementation of SVUSD's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). MTSS focuses on the Academic, Behavioral, and Social-Emotional needs of all students. In order to address these Social-Emotional needs, students in 3rd through 12th grade participated for the first time in the online Panorama Social Emotional Learning survey during the month of November. In preparation for the survey, permission letters were sent out to parents outlining the purpose of the survey.

A growing body of research shows that social and emotional learning is fundamental to students' overall success. Social-emotional learning (SEL) is about helping students develop a range of skills they need for school and for life. It is the process through which students manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

The information gathered will be used exclusively by SVUSD, with each site working with their leadership team to analyze data and set goals to reinforce SEL as part of our commitment to overall student success.

Operations

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



Robert Craven
Assistant
Superintendent

By-Trustee Area Voting

On December 12, 2019, the Saddleback Valley Unified School District Governing Board formally adopted a resolution to transition to a by-trustee area election system to meet the requirements outlined by the California Voting Right Act or CVRA. The Board adopted Map 1 as the District's trustee area plan. In the by-trustee area plan, the district is divided into separate trustee areas and one governing board member is elected by the registered voters in that particular trustee area.

Prior to making its decision, the Governing Board held public meetings to review proposed maps and took comments from the community. Next, the Governing Board will submit a petition to the Orange County Committee on School District Organization for review and approval. The new "by-trustee area" election system takes effect for the November 2020 elections in areas 2, 3, and 4. Trustee area elections for areas 1 and 5 are in November 2022. More information can be found at: <https://www.svusd.org/board/transition-to-by-trustee-area-election-system>

Human Resources/Fiscal Services

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



Connie Cavanaugh
Assistant
Superintendent

Measure B

In March 2004, voters in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District passed Measure B to fund facilities improvements. The \$180 million School Improvement and Repair Bond was supplemented with an additional \$145 million from the State Facility Program matching funds for a total of \$325 million in facilities improvements. The District modernized, enhanced and/or constructed new facilities at every one of the 36 school sites. In 2019, the final project funded by Measure B was completed. The funds have been closed out and the final audit will be completed by March 2020.

The District actively seeks to save local taxpayers money by continuing to seize opportunities to take advantage of low interest rates to refinance outstanding General Obligation Bonds. The District began its refinancing program for the Measure B funding in 2013. Since then, several refinancing transactions have been completed to save taxpayers in excess of \$24 million.

English Learners

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



Dr. Rowena Mak
Coordinator

Mission and Vision

In the fall, Two-Way Immersion (TWI) teachers from specific grade levels at Gates Elementary, Los Alisos Intermediate and Laguna Hills High School, along with their principals, gathered with Dr. Rowena Mak, Services for English Learners Coordinator, and Karin Fortt, District TWI/ELD Resource teacher. The purpose was to continue the articulation process among the three school levels to ensure a seamless K-12 TWI program. The day's outcome was to reflect on how the TWI Mission and Vision define the program by identifying its essential components. The goal of this program is to develop oral fluency and literacy in two languages, Spanish and English, while students are learning the district core curriculum. Richard Romero, Orange County Department of Education



Program Specialist, joined the team searching for a model TWI Professional Development. Leyre Tejada Botas, Instructional Assistant from Spain, also participated in the articulation process.



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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 Saddleback in the subject line.

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2020**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble compliments of **Barkate Orthodontics - www.BarkateSmiles.com**

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| LAPTOP | GOOGLE |
| WINDOWS | PRINTER |
| APPLE | FAX |
| KEYBOARD | CELLPHONE |
| WIFI | ICON |
| BETA | EMOJI |
| URL | EMAIL |
| FACEBOOK | MICROSOFT |
| TWITTER | DISK |
| MOUSEPAD | PHOTOSHOP |



**Congratulations to [Alexa & Nick Marin](#)
Winners of our October Word Search Contest!**

B is for Book



Bailey

Life is Numbers

Rated by Melissa Grey is an intriguing, mystery like book.

In this society, it truly matters what people think because every person has a "rating". Their rating reflects just about everything, from if they have a good job, to if they



said "thank you" to the waiter. The future of every individual lies on their rating. When someone vandalizes Maplethorpe Academy with red paint reading "THE RATINGS ARE NOT REAL," it will bring these six students together, Bex, Tamsin, Hana, Chase, Noah, and Javier. Although they have absolutely nothing in common, they thrive together! But will they be enough to solve the mystery and conclude the corruption of their society?

This dystopia depicts a possible reality that will keep the reader thinking days after finishing the book. I have read the book several times and it still fascinates me. I rate it 5 out of 5 stars.

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

Sean's Book Review



Sean

Banned from Olympus

The Hidden Oracle Book 1 of Trials of Apollo by Rick Riordan

Some of you guys may enjoy Greek mythology, and if you do, this is the book for you. Apollo, the god of poetry, music, and the sun,



was banned from Mount Olympus (the home of the Greek gods) and is now a wimpy, mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos. He starts his quest to show his father, Zeus, that he belongs in Mount Olympus. Apollo runs into many new and ancient encounters, such as Roman emperors and peach spirits. He works with a daughter of Demeter, Meg, who is his new master and helps him along the way his treacherous journey. I think that everyone who reads this book will enjoy the twists, jokes, and adventures that Apollo experiences. Overall, I loved reading this book and I enjoyed the way Rick writes because you can understand and imagine everything that's happening. I give this book a 10 out of 10.

Sean Cheng is a 5th grader who enjoys cubing (Rubik's Cubes), watching Rubik's Cube videos, and playing basketball. His favorite subjects at school are math and P.E. He loves his 3 guinea pigs and looks forward to summer vacations.



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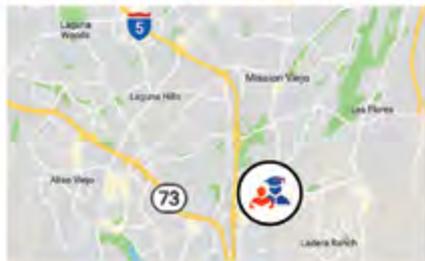
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