

**FREE**

# School News

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**Covering the San Marino Unified School District**



Volume 1, Issue 2

March-April 2020

## San Marino High Titan Seniors Sign Letters of Intent



San Marino High Titan seniors recently signed letters of intent to carry on their educational and sports careers. Superintendent Dr. Jeff Wilson, Kourosh Hassibi – University of Chicago (Football), San Marino High School Principal Dr. Issaic Gates, Kali Villaluna – University of San Diego (Swim), and Carver Weirick – Stevens Institute for Technology (Volleyball).

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## Superintendent



**Dr. Jeff Wilson**

We have very much hit the ground running in 2020. As a result of meager funding for public education in California, San Marino Unified, alongside districts across the State, has been tasked with refining our processes and programs to ensure our students have access to important resources, programs, and tools needed to be successful in their time with us and beyond. Likewise, limited local

and state funding mean we are survived by community support. Without financial contributions from our community, something such as Huntington Middle School's new, beautiful Barth Athletics Complex, which provides multiple rooms and equipment dedicated to the physical health and well-being of our students, would be impossible. Despite the hurdles thrown our way by having one of the lowest LCFE's in the State, San Marino Unified remains the best school district in Los Angeles County and one of the top three districts in the state and top 25 districts in the nation. The success of our students is the result of our Board of Education, team of teachers, staff, administrators, families, and community members leaning forward together to build positive momentum for success for our students and schools.

**San Marino Unified School District**  
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## Board of Education

*By C. Joseph Chang, President*

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish you a continued happy and healthy New Year with your family and friends!

First, we wish the best luck to our seniors, who eagerly wait to embark on the next journey in their lives. We are humbled by your hard work over the last four years. We encourage you to enjoy your remaining time at SMHS with your amazing friendships, family and teachers before going off to explore the world and your future.

As you know, the wellbeing of our students and staff is our top priority. We recognize global health concerns with the Coronavirus outbreak. We will continue to talk with the Los Angeles County Department of Health and update you with the latest details relevant to our district.

Of course, we support the continuous improvement of SMUSD educational options. Our district is proud to sign a College and Careers Access Pathways partnership agreement with Pasadena City College (PCC). These Dual Enrollment classes allow our students to take PCC courses and potentially earn college credit.

Finally, congratulations to our SMHS Drama Department for presenting such an incredible performance in "Peter Pan." With over 70 students involved, we are enthralled to see amazing San Marino talent. Most critical, we respect their countless unseen hours of hard work and rehearsal before the magic comes together on stage.

As always, we will strive to deliver a world-class education with recognized excellence in academics, arts, athletics, and activities.



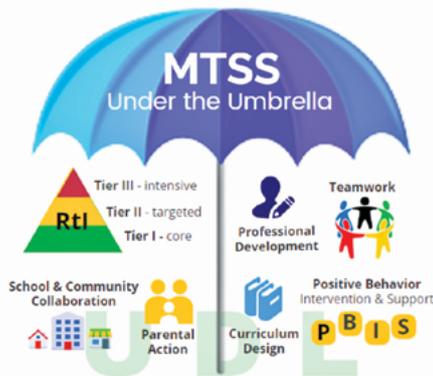


**Jason Kurtenbach**  
*Executive Director*

## Achieving at the Highest Level

The San Marino Unified School District has begun its work in developing a district-wide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for all San Marino students. Currently, at least one staff member from each school site, along with Mr. Kurtenbach, is engaged in working with the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The Office is also offering a free four-day training over the course of this semester to prepare school

districts for the work needed to develop and implement this powerful program.



MTSS isn't a particular "curriculum." It is a proactive approach that has several key elements, including but not limited to the following:

Among its features are universal screening for all students; increased levels of targeted support; integrated plans

to address students' academic, behavioral, social and emotional needs; evidence-based strategies; and a school-wide approach to student support, where teachers, counselors, psychologists and other specialists work as a team when they assess the students and plan and implement interventions.

There are also ongoing collaborative professional development in practices, such as Universal Design for Learning and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports. There is family involvement too, so that parents can understand interventions and provide support at home, as well as data-informed decision making through frequent progress monitoring.

As you can see, MTSS is a robust, clearly articulated and structured way for bringing all school site and district resources together to provide the best opportunity for our students to achieve at their highest level. We are excited to have begun this journey, and have planned summertime professional development in order to have this system up and running by the fall of 2020.

For more information on MTSS, please visit the California Department of Education's website on MTSS at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/ri/>.



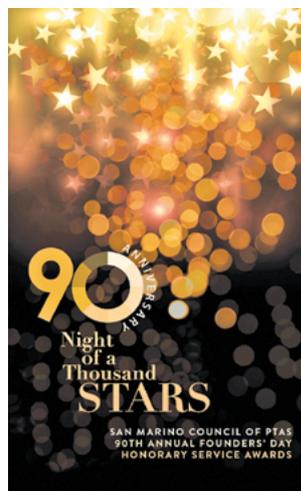
**Michiko Lee**  
*President*

## Founder's Day

Welcome to 2020! It is the year of the rat, representing the beginning of a new day. As we look ahead to the many exciting programs and activities for our kids provided by the PTAs, we also want to remember all the dedicated volunteers that help get us to this point. Each year, PTA celebrates our outstanding volunteers at Founders'

Day. This year is the 90th anniversary and we are actively seeking out past PTA Honorary Service Award recipients to honor them as we introduce this year's recipients. We anticipate a full house as we come together as a community and commemorate the numerous achievements of our exceptional volunteers.

Through PTA we can all make a difference. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. I look forward to new beginnings in 2020.



## San Marino Schools Foundation

1665 West Dr., San Marino, CA 91108 • 626/299-7014 • smsf.org

## Record Month

*By SMSF Executive Committee*

Before we completely settle into this new year, the San Marino Schools Foundation acknowledges and thanks the tremendous support we received in December 2019. During December, our community generously gave a total of over \$300,000, the most ever raised for the Foundation during December!

We thank our wonderful community for its support.

Because of their generosity, students at Carver, Valentine, Huntington Middle and San Marino High continue to benefit from the opportunities provided in the classrooms to help them grow, learn, and excel! We are grateful for their support of our schools.

As this new year begins, the Foundation has its sights set on raising funds for 21 full-time teaching positions. Donations to the Foundation directly make a difference in the lives of each student and in our community.

To learn more about SMSF and how to support our children, please visit our website.





**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

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## Covering the SAN MARINO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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This is our 2nd issue covering the San Marino Unified School District. Thank you for your nice comments when you emailed your entries for the Word Search Contest. The winner is announced on page 6 where you will find a contest to enter.

In this issue, Superintendent Dr. Wilson begins with his message of the importance of community support for the success of the students.

In this issue you will read about a district wide Multi-Tiered System of Supports, Universal Design for Learning, and the important work of the San Marino Schools Foundation thanks to your contributions.

Our next issue is May 6 just in time to congratulate the 2020 graduates. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.



# REGISTRATION

<b>MARCH 1, 2020</b> TK - 1st Grade Registration Opens	<b>MAY 1, 2020</b> 2nd - 8th Grade Registration Opens	<b>JUNE 1, 2020</b> 9th - 12th Grade Registration Opens
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<http://bit.ly/SMUSDRegistration>

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**Dr. Michael Lin**  
*Principal -  
Carver  
Elementary*



**Colleen Shields**  
*Principal  
Valentine  
Elementary*

### **Whole-Child Education**

Valentine Elementary and Carver Elementary Schools have a long-standing commitment to educating the whole child fostering intellectual, emotional and social development. Students are encouraged to be active, engaged learners empowered to tell their stories and create

new beginnings as responsible and caring citizens.

Staff at our schools are attending professional-development opportunities on the implementation of Universal Design for Learning practices in our classrooms.



It is exciting to see even our young kindergarten students provided with the opportunity to choose among multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning and then reflect on their choices. Our teachers are redesigning classrooms to provide students with a variety of options to access information and opportunities for flexible work and learning spaces that include individual quiet work, group instruction, and partner and small-group collaboration.

Both elementary schools are California Distinguished Schools and National Blue Ribbon Schools.



## **Huntington *Middle School***

1700 Huntington Dr., San Marino, CA 91108 • 626/299-7060 • www.hehms.us



**Alana Fauré**  
*Principal*

### **Universal Design for Learning**

Students pass through Huntington Middle School (HMS) in three short years, so we encourage them to get involved and try something new right away. An exciting opportunity this winter has been the start of our wrestling program. The team is open to boys and girls interested in learning how to wrestle competitively. Lee Schneiderman, an outstanding wrestler in his own right, is the team coach. The team competes in the Delphic League with schools like Harvard-Westlake School. We are thrilled that HMS students have a new sport to learn and enjoy.



HMS teachers and staff put a high priority on quality instruction. This year we're teaching our students about growth mindset while training them to become resilient individuals. Across the district, faculty members have been learning more about Universal Design for Learning, a framework for designing learning experiences to meet the needs of individual learners. In essence, UDL principles allow for flexible means, methods, and materials to give students increased choices in the learning process.

One example of UDL would be allowing students to choose how to demonstrate their learning about a particular topic. One student might write an essay, a group might make a short video, or a student might choose to create a presentation. UDL strategies increase student engagement and remove barriers to learning. A second group of HMS teachers is ready to begin UDL training this month.

The HMS faculty and staff are proud of the innovation taking place at Huntington Middle School.



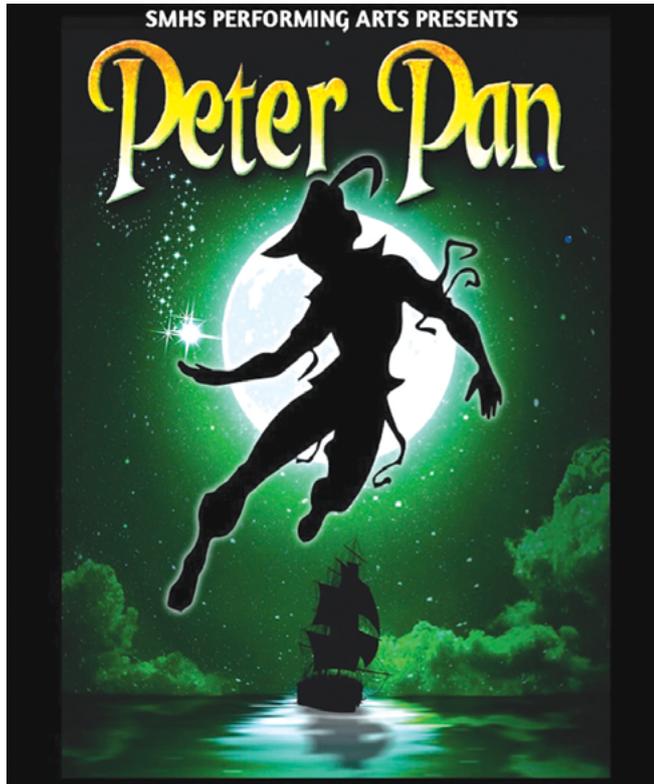


**Talent and Tradition**

Art is dubbed the vitamin “C” of the instructional diet because it cultivates a student’s creativity, collaboration,

confidence, cultural awareness, and empathy. Critical thinking and courageousness is definitely thriving at San Marino High School.

San Marino High School’s all-school musical *Peter Pan* was truly a “must-see” performance. Our SMHS students blended a combination of technical skill and artistic acumen into a harmonic performance that never left the audience waiting for the next incredible moment.



Throughout the show, students displayed the industry-standard proficiencies, such as the technical skills needed to have Peter Pan and the Darling Family fly across the stage. They also had the creative talents to full personify the characters of Nana and Crocodile. The show was framed and supported by a specific brand of positive energy, one that promoted community excitement and a family-friendly atmosphere.

Our *Peter Pan* was an excellent performance for all ages. The show opened in the last week of January and ran through the first week of February in San Marino High School’s Neher Auditorium.

**Things in the Sky–Word Search Contest**

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

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

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| STARS    | RAIN    |
| SUN      | SNOW    |
| MOON     | SLEET   |
| AIRPLANE | WIND    |
| KITE     | CLOUDS  |
| BALLOON  | SMOG    |
| JUPITER  | FOG     |
| MARS     | PLUTO   |
| MERCURY  | RAINBOW |
| SATURN   | ROCKET  |
| URANUS   |         |

Entries must be received by **April 15, 2020**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.



**Congratulations to Grace Davis**  
**Winner of our November Word Search Contest!**

## Tyson's Book Review

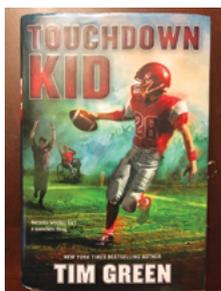


Tyson

### Never Give Up

*Touchdown Kid* by Tim Green

Cory is an awesome football player from the Westside. He is 11 years old and is just moving into middle school, along with his friend, Liam. A



well-known coach from HBS, an elite junior high school, is giving a scholarship to a player he thinks is good enough to play football there. If Cory gets it, he will get to live in a nice neighborhood with a host family in a cozy home, and play football, his passion. His best friend's brother isn't the nicest guy and pulls him into trouble. If he is late, he won't play. What will he do? This is his dream. Find out more about this crazy adventure and read *Touchdown Kid*. This book is great and pulls me in. I can relate a lot to this book and if you're an athlete, you'll love it. I'm not much of a bookworm and I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!

Tyson is an athletic 6th grader who loves basketball, soccer, and volleyball. His favorite subjects are P.E. and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of his 3 guinea pigs with his brother. He looks forward to going to Lakers games with his dad.

## Katie's Review



Katie C.

### Changes

Title: *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

Author: Patricia MacLachlan

Anna and Caleb have had no mother for many years. When their Father puts an ad in the paper asking for a wife, Anna and Caleb are elated at



the idea of being able to have a mother again, to fill up the emptiness they felt on the prairie. When Sarah Elizabeth Wheaton of Maine answers, Caleb and Anna are both intrigued, curious, and nervous for the new life they might be able to experience. They wonder day after day, if she will be nice, if she will like them, and if she will stay. When she comes, everyone experiences the pain and sadness of being together but also being reminded of the old lives they held. Nevertheless, Sarah brings a new comfort to the family, bringing her stories, ideas, and most importantly, her love.

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.

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