

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District**



Volume 18, Issue 94

October / November 2021

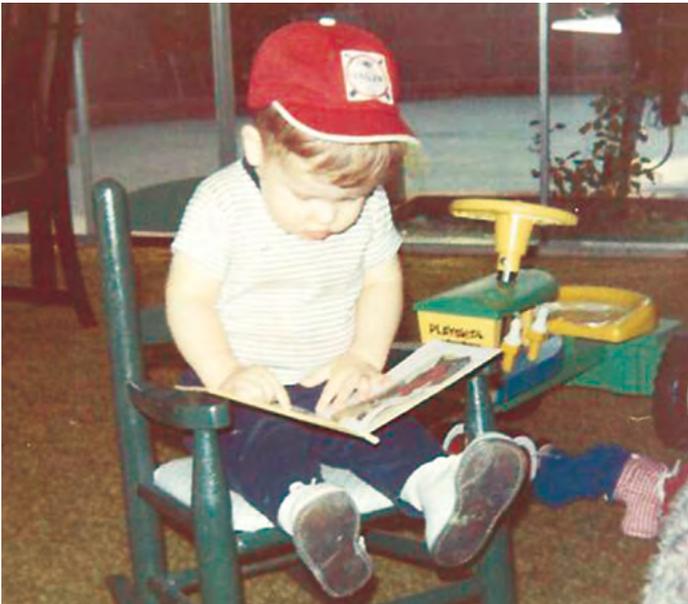
## Learn to Read and Your Life is Changed Forever!



**The Literacy Project**



**Lack of Electricity Doesn't Stop a Reader**



**Andrew as a Child and as a Father with His Two Sons**



# PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Taking control of your health is one of the most valuable things you can do for yourself and your family. Regular visits with your doctor and keeping up with annual exams are two simple steps you can take to prevent illness and maintain good health.

Our UCI Health primary care doctors offer convenient virtual appointments and in-person visits at locations throughout Orange County. As part of Orange County's only academic health system, they work seamlessly with our network of more than 500 specialty care doctors to provide the latest evidence-based care and access to leading-edge clinical trials. As a UCI Health patient, you can expect the most comprehensive, high-quality care in our area.

Make your health a priority. Choose a UCI Health primary care doctor today.

**Learn more at [ucihealth.org/choose](https://ucihealth.org/choose) or call 844-310-9750.**



**UCI Health**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Karen Yelsey**  
*President*



**Michelle Barto**  
*Vice President*



**Charlene Metoyer**  
*Clerk*



**Leah Ersoylu**  
*Member*



**Carol Crane**  
*Member*



**Krista Weigand**  
*Member*



**Ashley Anderson**  
*Member*

### A Great Start to Full In-person Instruction as We Welcome a New Superintendent



**Karen Yelsey**  
*President*  
*Board of Education*

After 18 months of various forms of hybrid learning, all of our 19,000 students now have the opportunity to be back on campus full time. We've learned a lot since March 2020, and have taken necessary precautions to provide for the safety of our students and staff to help keep our schools open throughout the school year.

We know how difficult the past year and a half have been for everyone, and we appreciate the support to help us continue with the academic education of our students. While our teachers have found creative ways to assure student academic success, we also know that this time has taken a social/emotional toll on many. Our District has taken measures to provide support not only for students, but for staff and families as well. We serve as the hub to an extensive network of world-class community partners that helps create a comprehensive continuum of mental health and wellness support for both students and staff.

The start of this school year was truly enhanced by the involvement of our Interim Superintendent, Dr. Hank Bangser, who provided a smooth transition to our newly hired Superintendent, Dr. Wesley Smith, who began his role with us on Oct 18, 2021.

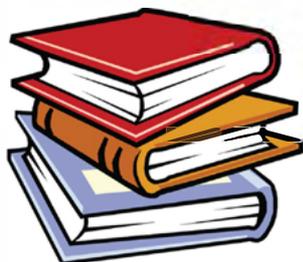


**Dr. Wesley Smith**  
*Superintendent*

Dr. Smith's 24 years in California public education include 13 years as a site and district leader, and eight years as an educator and influencer at the state and federal levels. He clearly has the experience and established leadership qualities that our school community and we, as a Board, were seeking. Superintendent Smith intends to be out in the Newport and Costa Mesa communities as much as possible to meet and talk with all of our stakeholders.

With renewed energy, a new leader and a great school opening, we look forward to a productive and successful 2021-22 school year!

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



## 2021 — 2022



# Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue

## Fire and Life Safety Awareness



**Dan Stefano**  
Fire Chief



October is National Fire Prevention & Preparedness Month! Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue encourages the community to increase fire and life safety awareness in your home, at school, work and at play in the event of ANY EMERGENCY!

Here are a few quick tips:

- Install, maintain, and conduct monthly tests with your working smoke alarms, which should be located on every level and in every bedroom in your home

- Have a fire extinguisher easily accessible on every level of your home
- Make a plan (escape or shelter in place) with your family for any emergency or potential threat. And... practice it regularly
- Participate in the Great Shake Out on October 21, 2021

For more information:

[www.readyoc.org](http://www.readyoc.org) or [www.shakeout.org/california](http://www.shakeout.org/california)



**For all the 67 Yrs old to 78 Years Young or More!**

### **NEW REVERSE MORTGAGE**

Now Known as the  
**Retirement Mortgage** or **Lifestyle Mortgage**

*Work with someone who will personally meet with you, who has been a mortgage banker for 43 years, who will give you a one-on-one reverse mortgage seminar, and who is not sitting in a cubicle with a headset on, reading from a script*

- NEW** The easiest mortgage that you can qualify for — the easiest!
- NEW** Your home, your trust, you control who inherits your home
- NEW** Tax free cash! Tax free!
- NEW** Payment option mortgage - you pick payment, or make no payment!

#### **Need More Reasons for your Lifestyle Mortgage?**

- Start a dream business or passion project
- Purchase a vacation home
- Enjoy a living inheritance by paying for grandkids' college or by helping children purchase a new home

**CALL NOW!**

**949-632-4347**

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

"In God we (I) Trust!"

Mortgage Banker for 42 YEARS  
Many, Many More Mortgage Programs  
for CASH OUT



James W Gordon Jr.  
Mortgage Expert since 1979  
NMLS329512 • DRE00517589

## City of Costa Mesa



**John Stephens**  
Mayor

### **National Child Awareness Month**

We've had some busy times in Costa Mesa the last month.

In September, we celebrated National Child Awareness Month.

The month is a time to encourage Costa Mesa residents to honor and support children charities and youth-serving organizations that are committed to enriching and enhancing the lives of children and youth in Costa Mesa and the rest of the county.

The City Council presented a proclamation to Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Founder & Executive Director of the Festival of Children Foundation.

Speaking of children, we also took the time in September to celebrate three Costa Mesa Little League All Star divisions that won the District 62 title for the first time in Costa Mesa's history. Additionally, we celebrated the Costa Mesa Pony Baseball for their participation in the 2021 World Series tournament.

Finally, in September I was able to honor Olympic Gold Medalist and Costa Mesa resident April Ross with the keys to the city and a street sign in her honor!

What a great day that was. April is an inspiration to us all, children and adults alike.

[www.costamesaca.gov](http://www.costamesaca.gov)



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year. It is an exciting time for students as they greet classmates and enjoy a bit of normalcy being back in the classrooms.

This is our 18th year publishing the NMUSD School News and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. We look forward to continuing to bring you the news from the classrooms under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Wesley Smith.

Our cover this issue is highlighting literacy. Please see pages 6 & 7 for public library information.

Our next issue is December 8.



**School News**   
*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
 Covering the  
**NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
 562/493-3193  
[kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193  
**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**  
 Emily Ung  
**COPY EDITORS:**  
 Kate Karp, Anna Zappia  
**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder  
 Netragrednik by Neta Madison

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
 P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
 562/493-3193  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
 Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
 Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

 @SchoolNewsRC  
 SchoolNewsRollCall  
 SchoolNewsRollCall



**STARNES**  
 ORTHODONTICS

Can give you the  
 smile you've always wanted!



Incognito® Hidden Braces  
**Invisalign®** for Teens & Adults  
 Clarity® Clear Braces  
 Traditional Metal Braces  
 Comprehensive Early Treatment  
 Personal Attention & Tailored Treatment

*We offer flexible financial arrangements!*



**Heidi B. Starnes, DDS, MS**  
 1401 Avocado Avenue #210  
 Newport Beach, CA 92660  
 (949) 720-8145

# Newport Beach Public Libraries



**Christine Chapel**  
Children's Librarian,  
Newport Beach  
Public Library

Let's celebrate Halloween at Newport Beach Public Library with some chilling children's chapter books. Do you dare? My suggested titles start with the less creepy books and get scarier as you go further down the list. Whether you want to be a little startled or totally frightened, these are great books to choose from.

If you want to be slightly scared and smile a lot, *Bunnacula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery* (series: Bunnacula and Friends) by Deborah and James Howe is the right book for you.

Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their founding baby bunny must be a vampire.

From children's horror superstar R.L. Stine, *Welcome to the Dead House* (series: Goosebumps) is perfect for those who like to be frightened. A haunted house, in a strange town, where people are unlike any you have known before.

A title that combines horror and mystery is *Serafina and the Black Cloak* by Robert Beatty. A creepy and suspenseful read set in 1899 South Carolina. Serafina must solve the mystery of the disappearing children.

If you haven't read this Newbery Medal winner, you are long overdue. *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman is

chilling at the beginning and the end, with a spooky and poignant middle. Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except he's being raised by the inhabitants of a graveyard.

*Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz is a children's classic horror collection. It presents stories of ghosts and witches, "jump" stories, and scary songs based on American folklore.

Finally, are you ready to be alarmed and terrified? *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden will definitely do the trick. Ollie, Brian and Coco try to avoid terrifying, animated scarecrows and a smiling man who makes deadly bargains.

If you want a break from reading, check out Newport Beach Public Library's Halloween Extravaganza on October 30th! Each branch will have a variety of spooky crafts. And don't forget to wear a costume for the photo booth/backdrop!

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

949/717-3800 • [www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids](http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids)

Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

949/717-3838

Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, CA 92661

949/644-3076

Corona Del Mar Branch 410 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

949/644-3075

**Grandma,  
Why Do You  
Have Cracks  
In Your Face?**

Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.

Now Available on  
**AMAZON  
& BARNES  
AND NOBLE**

By Kay Coop  
Illustrated by Melanie Florio

**PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER**  
MARINE EDUCATION

**DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

Let us bring the world of marine mammals to YOU!

Meet our patients & hear their stories

Live, interactive, & NGSS aligned.

Ocean conservation  
Human Impact

<https://www.pacificmmc.org/distance-learning>

**STUDENT STRESS  
& ANXIETY**

A gentle approach to helping students with anxiety & depression

*"Removing barriers to student success"*

**KATERINA SORRELL, MA, PPSC, Clinical Counselor**  
National Board Certified, State Licensed, LPCC #4909

**949.464.7990 TheProfessionalCounselor.com**

# Costa Mesa Public Libraries



**Sarita Dangond**  
Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Donald Dugan  
Library



**Vivian Strabala**  
Branch Manager  
Costa Mesa  
Mesa Verde  
Library

Orange County Public Libraries are open for in-person services according to State and County guidelines. In addition to Costa Mesa branch hours listed below, please visit [ocpl.org/libraries](http://ocpl.org/libraries) and click on any of our branches to see hours of operation.

- Get a Library Card!  
Find details at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

- Virtual Programming. Find details at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)  
In-person Storytimes have resumed!

### Storytimes at Costa Mesa/Donald Dugan Library:

- Toddler Storytime – Wednesdays, 10:30am
- Bilingual Storytime, Thursdays, 10:30am
- Family Storytime, Saturdays, 10:30am

### Storytimes at Costa Mesa/Mesa Verde Library:

- Music & Movement Storytime – 1st Saturday, 9:30am
- Toddler Storytime – Tuesdays, 11:00am
- Family Storytime, Thursdays, 11:00am

**Kindergarten Readiness Backpacks:** Check out specially themed backpacks that support kindergarten readiness concepts such as Alphabet, Community, Feelings, and Math. Each of the 13 different backpacks includes different items for educational and fun discovery, such as board books, puzzles, games, puppets, and activities.

### OC Public Libraries

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

#### Costa Mesa Donald Dugan Library

1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/646-8845

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm

Fri - Sun 9am – 5pm

#### Costa Mesa-Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/546-5274

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm

Fri and Sun 9am – 5pm

**OCEAN SUPER HEROES!**  
Calling all future marine biologists, conservationists, and ocean stewards!

After-school - On-Site  
Ages 8-12 - once a month - Fridays - Oct thru May  
<https://www.pacificmmc.org/ocean-heroes>

We sell  
**GUITARS & UKULELES!**

New students—Buy a 6 pack of our **“Fun and Easy”** music lessons and we will add one more for **FREE!**  
*Anyone in the same immediate family can join you at No Charge!* Offer expires 12/31/2021

**NEWPORT GUITAR and MUSIC**

359 San Miguel Drive, Suite 103  
Call **949 706-1800** • [newportguitar.com](http://newportguitar.com)

**BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP**  
at World-Famous Historic  
**Mission San Juan Capistrano!**

Destination for Learning Remote and In Person!

**Save Money by Booking Early!**

**FREE “Mission Matters” Class for All Students\***  
Book and take your field trip by **November 30, 2021**

**FREE “In our Voice: Mission Bell Ringing and Native American Singing Video” (\$50 value)**  
Book ANY Onsite or Distance Learning Program

[www.missionsjc.com/book](http://www.missionsjc.com/book)  
*\*Exclusions apply. Visit website for details*

Featuring Onsite Educational Programs, Immersive Experiences and Virtual Programs for Public, Private, Charter and Homeschools

**History Depot**

Learn about  
World History  
US History  
Videos • Art • Music  
Study Habits

**FREE Enjoy! History Buffs Teachers Students**

**HistoryDepot.com**

# CATRINA Cafe

A CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN CAFE  
WITH AN AUTHENTIC MEXICAN TWIST

**WE ARE NOW OPEN FOR:**  
Indoor and outdoor dining,  
takeout, and curbside pickup!

Serving Breakfast & Lunch all day

Housemade Pastries and Breads  
baked fresh daily

Serving Beer & Wine

Weekend Champagne Breakfast —  
Bottomless Mimosas

330 Main Street, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562.296.5477 | [www.catrinacafe.com](http://www.catrinacafe.com)  
7am to 2pm Tuesday - Sunday, Closed Monday

## Real Estate Matters



**CathyLyn  
Brooks**

### A Stepped-Up Basis?

For nearly 100 years, upon the date of a person's death, many of the decedent's assets have been assessed at their current market value. The purpose of the regulation has been to simplify establishing the value of an estate for taxation, and to enable the government to collect the maximum amount of taxes, as the estate shows a greater monetary value than if the calculations were based on the "cost basis" of the assets.

For example, if a home is purchased in 1970 for \$50,000 and upon the death of the owner in 2021 the value is \$850,000, the "basis" in that property is, quite generally speaking, the original price paid for the property, plus the value of improvements made. If the property is willed to a beneficiary, such as a child, relative, or friend the property is inherited at the "stepped-up basis" of \$850,000. If the property is sold close to the time it is inherited, the capital gains are virtually nothing, as the market value and the basis are essentially the same.

This provides tax relief for the beneficiary, while increasing the value of the estate for the government to maximize inheritance taxes. However, since the current value of an estate subject to estate tax must exceed several million dollars, repeal of this tax treatment would leave beneficiaries with the original purchase price as a basis and the tax burden on the beneficiaries, most often family members, will be significant. In the example above, the taxable amount will be approximately \$800,000. Elimination of this provision may force the sale of more assets as beneficiaries may need to liquidate holdings to cover taxes due.

This stepped up basis tax treatment applies to real estate, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, businesses, and equipment but not IRA's, 401(K)'s, pensions, tax deferred annuities, money market, and CD accounts. The death of a spouse can also engage the use of this tax provision if title is held in a certain fashion. \*

\*For more specifics, please seek legal and tax advice, as this column is not intended to instruct on these matters.

CathyLyn Brooks, CRS, GRI has worked as a real estate broker since 1980, is a graduate of USC, the UCI Paralegal Program, and serves FINRA as a public arbitrator. She holds Broker's License No. 00797147 and is affiliated with United Real Estate Professionals in southern California. Consumers should seek legal and tax advice pertaining to their transactions. She can be reached at [real.estate.matters@outlook.com](mailto:real.estate.matters@outlook.com)



## GORDON

42 Years EXPERIENCE

### MORTGAGE RATES

*Get cash out if you Wish!*

<p><b>CONVENTIONAL</b> <b>LOAN LIMITS \$625,000.00</b> 30 Yr. FIXED - <b>As Low as 2.68%</b> 20 Yr. FIXED - <b>As Low as 2.56%</b></p> <p><b>JUMBO CONVENTIONAL</b> <b>LOAN LIMITS \$937,500.00</b> 30 Yr. FIXED - <b>As Low as 2.84%</b> 20 Yr. FIXED - <b>As Low as 2.72%</b></p> <p><b>SUPER JUMBO</b> 30 Yr. FIXED - <b>As Low as 3.17%</b></p>	<p><b>OTHER LOAN PROGRAMS</b></p> <p><b>Reverse Mortgages</b> Bank Statement Loans Asset Depletion Loans Cash Flow Rental Loans Apartment Loans Commercial Loans <b>HARD MONEY LOANS</b></p>
---	--

**For a Simple Quote, I will NOT Ask for your Social Security Number, or Demand we Run your Credit**  
*Rates as of September 25, No ARP's calculated, 750 minimum FICO, terms and conditions apply, rates subject to change without notice. If these conditions are not met, you may not qualify for the above rates, but other rates.*

**CALL NOW!**

## 949-632-4347

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

"In God we (I) Trust!"  
Mortgage Banker for 42 YEARS  
Many, Many More Mortgage Programs  
for CASH OUT



James W Gordon Jr.  
Mortgage Expert since 1979  
NMLS329512 • DRE00517589





# CalPERS members, there's an easier way to get the care you want

With the UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue® Alliance or Harmony HMO plans, you'll have a helping hand in health care. These plans provide broader provider networks with access to many medical groups, plus personalized digital tools designed to help make managing your health—and health plan—easier. It's all here to help you get the care you want, the way you want it.

**Visit [uhc.com/calpers](https://uhc.com/calpers) or  
call 1-877-359-3714 to learn more**

**United  
Healthcare**

## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • [adams.nmusd.us](http://adams.nmusd.us)



**Stacy deBoom-Howard**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back

Welcome back AMAZING All-Star students and families! We have been thinking of you this summer and have been looking forward to seeing you ON campus!!

We are going to continue our focus this year of “Kindness” on campus,

online, in the community and at home. Any act of kindness, whether big or small can have the power to change someone’s day! As we return to campus and look around our community let’s try to bring a smile to someone’s face each day.

Building the love to read!! As we start the year one of our goals is to instill the love of reading in our All-Stars. Our library is open for students to check out books and Mrs. Emma is ready to help our students find a book that will help them feel successful and on a topic they love. We look forward to celebrating students at Flag Deck for reaching their reading goals!



## Roy O. Andersen *Elementary (K-6)*

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • [andersen.nmusd.us](http://andersen.nmusd.us)



**Tiffany Lewis**  
*Principal*

### Andersen’s Dolphin Academy

We are deeply indebted and grateful for our DEANs’ support of our Andersen Dolphin Academy teachers! Each teacher brings their own personality, experiences, and expertise to our program. Dolphin Academy teachers provide a variety of support to our school and students. They meet one-on-one with the primary students in administering assessments and pull small groups to support and enrich all students.

As our needs change, so will our outstanding Dolphin Academy teachers. All of our Andersen students are benefiting from the program, and we are so fortunate and appreciative of the DEANs’ support.

Differentiation is a critical, high-impact teaching strategy used by teachers to craft lessons and projects that will provide the right amount of support and challenge for every student. This structure is flexible, allowing students

the opportunity to exit a support group once it no longer presents a need, and then move into the next opportunity of challenge. Both groups are intended to extend the learning of the lessons.

Andersen is excited to offer both extension activities and enrichment projects. Enrichment projects are projects based on a topic that the student is interested in and that will lead to new, in-depth learning, or is based upon a topic discussed in the classroom.

To help challenge these students, teachers create enrichment projects that allow them to dig deeper into the content. These projects can use the students’ prior knowledge as a baseline, and will push our learners more deeply into the topic. The projects can enhance our students’ education by bringing new concepts to light, or by using old ideas in new ways.

Dolphin Academy teachers also provide ELA and math support, and enrichment, problem-solving, critical thinking, and Spanish and primary PE instruction.

# Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • [backbay.nmusd.us](http://backbay.nmusd.us)



**Mike Wagner**  
*Principal*

## The Year is in Full Swing!

This school year we welcome our new assistant principal, Dr. Michelle Stevens. We could not be more excited to have her join our team! We also introduce Hugo Solorzano, community facilitator for Back Bay and Monte Vista. Hugo is available for support to all of our Spanish-speaking families.

Back Bay and Monte Vista High Schools are looking forward to a year full of academic success and full in-person learning. What a fantastic way to mark the start of a successful and engaging year!

Every staff member at Back Bay and Monte Vista is devoted to addressing our students' diverse needs and individualism. They make sure that each student has the tools they need to earn a high school diploma, and are set up to be fully prepared for life beyond the high school classroom.

As a school, we strive to offer opportunities that our students may not have at their comprehensive campuses. As a small campus, we are lucky to be able to create a caring community of students and staff members which in turn creates strong, resilient learners.

Each of our students has the potential to reach for the stars. We are looking forward to a full, fun, and exciting year!

# California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • [california.nmusd.us](http://california.nmusd.us)



**Ryan Longacre**  
*Principal*

## Read-a-thon

California Elementary's annual Read-a-thon was a huge success. This PTA-sponsored event not only encourages our students to take full advantage of summer vacation to enjoy literary

and informational text, but it also raises money to support classroom libraries and assemblies and events that promote literacy. Students use reading logs to track the number of books they read and/or the number of minutes they spend reading. Family and friends support the effort through generous donations via 99Pledges. To sweeten the experience and entice participation, PTA awards students in several individual and group categories across multiple grade levels: most minutes read, most books read, and highest donations earned. Congratulations to Kinnick Verostek (Kindergarten) for reading a total of 301 books, Charlie Erlston (3rd) for reading a total of 2,122 minutes, and Parker Dow (5th) for reading a total of 4,180 minutes. And thank you to the California Elementary PTA for sponsoring such a fantastic event!



**Parker Dow (5th grade), Kinnick Verostek (Kindergarten), and Charlie Erlston (3rd grade) proudly display the prizes they won as a result of their participation in our annual Read-a-thon event.**

# Cloud Campus (TK—12)

[www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus](http://www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus)



**Dr. Racquel Stephens**  
Principal

## All Silver Linings!

Cloud Campus is excited to start the 2021–22 school year! Cloud Campus is in its second year of operation as a fully virtual independent-study option for families in NMUSD. At Cloud Campus, all of our students in TK through 12<sup>th</sup> grade participate in both synchronous and asynchronous learning daily. Our elementary students have specialists for music, PE and science! We have our club rush coming up soon as well as our parent-teacher conferences!

At Cloud Secondary, students in grades seven through 12 are also participating in a variety of online classes,

including our core classes, AP classes, and specialty electives such as civil engineering and guitar.

Our school year is starting strong, with our student government and ASB for secondary. ASB has a variety of current and upcoming activities such as Red Ribbon Week, which is scheduled for October 25–29. Students will participate in a week full of educational fun that includes a virtual pumpkin-carving contest, educational video games, bingo, a virtual walk and videos to show how they stay healthy and drug free.

ASB is very excited about partnering with Journalism to create our biweekly announcements. Our students are eager for clubs to start, so Club Rush is coming soon, and students can join the club of their choice. So many great things happening in the CLOUD!

# College Park Elementary (K-6)

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • [collegepark.nmusd.us](http://collegepark.nmusd.us)



**Jake Topete**  
Principal

## Let's Read!

It has been a great return to school this year! Our College Park Cougars are off and running and have been doing an amazing job coming back to school. This year we will continue to emphasize the importance of becoming a strong reader. One addition to

our campus has been our free book library that is outside of our front office. Students are able to take a book from the shelf and borrow or keep the book. We want to thank our tremendous PTA for setting this project into motion. We know the importance of students not only loving books but having access to them. I am continually inspired by our incredible school community and I am so excited to see all that we accomplish this year at College Park. Go Cougars!



**Happy Halloween**

## Corona del Mar *High School (7-12)*

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • [cdm.nmusd.us](http://cdm.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Rebecca Gogel**  
Principal  
7–8 Grade



**Josh Hill**  
Principal  
9–12 Grade

### Changes in Policy

*By Kaydence Osgood,  
10th grade student*

The past few weeks at Corona del Mar High School have been fraught with bathroom destruction as a result of Tik Tok challenges and poor student judgment. Many of these offenses take place during class time. To

mitigate the chaos, CdM has instituted new bathroom policies.

The new bathroom policy requires multiple steps on behalf of the student and teacher before a student can leave the classroom. If a student wants to leave, they must follow three steps. First, the student or the teacher must complete a Google Form. Next, the student must exchange their phone for a pass from their teacher. They must have this on them at all times when outside the classroom. Last,

they must fill out the same form when the student returns. This allows administration to track of who is out of class, when, and where. By doing this, vandalism offenses can be narrowed down to the few out-of-class potential culprits. Further measures include requiring any students who are on campus during their open period to prove they have an open period and limiting the bathrooms students have access to.

Mr. Hill sent a video on Monday, October 5, regarding the new policy. After explaining what was happening on campus, he stated, “Regardless, we need to address it to ensure that our campus is a safe and productive place for students and staff to learn and work.” He then reviewed the new expectations. He closed the video by recognizing students who have been helpful during these strange times. He stated, “Students have been responsible for the damage, but they have also been responsible for helping us find the people who caused it, helping us clean it up, and literally putting out fires.”

## Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • [cmhs.nmusd.us](http://cmhs.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Eugene Kwong**  
Principal  
7–8 Grade



**Jake Haley**  
Principal  
9–12 Grade

### Returning to a New Normal

This fall we have been able to resume FULL in-person learning for Costa Mesa Middle & High School students (welcome home, 2021) and staff. We kicked off the year with a welcoming of new staff members (new staff, 2021). We continue to have COVID-19 monitoring protocols and

with the help of our community, mask wearing indoors, and a commitment to safety, we have had a wonderful first quarter of school. Lessons are designed to engage students, empower student voice, and encourage communication between students to share what they learn and know. In addition to primary instruction, we are happy to introduce our after school Learning Lab to provide additional academic support, our online tutoring-- Paper, and a robust Wellness Center to provide wrap-around support for students. Our HS athletic teams have been off to a great start this fall and in the coming weeks we will host the first band competition of the year, a dance performance, and our fall play, Almost Maine.



## Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • [davismagnet.nmusd.us](http://davismagnet.nmusd.us)



**Christy Flores**  
Principal

### National Blue Ribbon School

The Davis Magnet School community is full of pride and joy as our school was named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School! It is a tremendous honor as 28 schools in California received this award with a total of 325 K-12 schools across the country. Davis is only the fifth NMUSD school to receive this recognition in the award's forty-year history. Davis Magnet School was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School

falling in the top fifteen percent of California schools for whole school performance, school subgroup improvement, and school subgroup performance. Additionally, the Davis team completed an in-depth application that required evidence for pre-pandemic, as well as, modifications made during the pandemic describing our academic supports, curriculum and instruction, school climate, family engagement, professional culture, leadership, and cultural responsiveness. Achieving such success has truly been a team effort. Congratulations to the entire Davis community for this extraordinary accomplishment!



## Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • [earlycollege.nmusd.us](http://earlycollege.nmusd.us)



**Dr. David Martinez**  
Principal

### Moving Ahead

This year ECHS is celebrating “15 Years of Excellence.” Since the school first opened in 2006, it has received state-wide recognition in 2009, 2015, 2019, and 2021.

Our many student accomplishments during the past school year were announced in August. For a second straight year in a row, over 53 percent of our student body earned the Principal's Honor Roll award, which is a 3.5 or higher unweighted academic G.P.A., and the California Scholarship Federation Award. We are also proud that close to 93 percent of our graduating Class of 2021 met all the prerequisites to be UC/CSU-eligible, our highest rate ever.

As tradition, all of the new students were initiated into one of our “4 Houses” as part of our first assembly and house competition held on August 20th. They are the Barracudas, the Narwhals, the Sea Dragons, and the Stingrays.

In September, our second “Virtual Back-to-School Night” was held for parents on September 2nd. Later in the month, the PTSA held its first General Session Meeting on September 21st. It is looking once again to make a positive impact on our students and our ECHS programs since its establishment in 2015.

We are looking forward to participating in the annual NMUSD College and Career Night, which is being held virtually this school year on October 20th. We will end the month by participating in both Red Ribbon Week and our Fall Festival on-campus student events.

## Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • [eastbluff.nmusd.us](http://eastbluff.nmusd.us)



**Cheryl Beck**  
Principal

### Celebrating Eastbluff Pride

We had a great opening to our 2021-2022 school year, and are so excited to be starting this year off with everyone in-person every day. Our school theme is Kindness, and we are going to be working on exhibiting many intentional acts of kindness with Eastbluff Pride!

We kicked off this theme at our first Friday Flag Deck, and were thrilled that everyone was in person. We are excited to still have the Flag Deck tradition at our school, and can offer parents the opportunity to participate virtually now, which will help foster more of a sense of community. At the ceremony, we talked about what kindness means, how we can choose to be kind in any given situation, how we can spread kindness wherever we go, and how kindness is contagious and can change everything.

Eastbluff School is so proud to have also been recognized with the Platinum PBIS Award. Our consistent implementation of PBIS strategies has made such a positive impact on our students' academic and social emotional success, and has helped to create our wonderful school culture.

We are also committed to teaching our students strong character traits and positive scholarly behaviors. This is achieved through a focus on

our Positive School-wide Behavior System, and additional character development through the John Wooden Pyramid Program.

Our students are showing "PRIDE" every day! This special acronym stands for "Prepared, Respectful, Integrity, Determined, and Excellence," and it clearly defines the expected behaviors of our Eastbluff students.

We will again this year be celebrating our students with PRIDE tickets on Fridays, and every other month they will be showing their best Eastbluff PRIDE at our Student of The Month awards ceremony at Flag Deck. We are so proud of our students, and are looking forward to an exciting year together!



## Horace Ensign *Intermediate (7-8)*

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • [ensign.nmusd.us](http://ensign.nmusd.us)



**Samantha Payne**  
Principal

### AVID at Ensign

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a nationwide, college prep pathway that guides students through the process of being college ready upon graduation of high school. Ensign currently has six AVID classes, with an enrollment of approximately 130 students. Our AVID students are motivated, willing to make the behavioral and academic changes

necessary to perform at a highly competitive level, and are college bound. Here at Ensign, we guide students on this path by focusing on organization via a streamlined usage of planners, note taking, study skills, and language development so that our students are prepared to meet the rigorous demands of high school. To help keep them motivated we also take field trips to local colleges when possible. As we continue to partner with our feeder elementary schools and Newport Harbor High School to recruit for and refine our AVID program, more students will be prepared to attend a four-year college.

# Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • [estancia.nmusd.us](http://estancia.nmusd.us)



**Michael Halt**  
Principal

## "All In" on School Spirit!

Estancia High School is determined to rebuild school spirit and community after the past year and a half of school closures, distance learning, and hybrid, in-person instruction.

Last spring, a group of dedicated educators volunteered their time to begin planning how to rebuild school spirit for the 2021-2022 school year. As a result of their efforts,

Estancia has just introduced "5 Star," an online platform that is designed to increase student and staff engagement.

Through 5 Star, students can earn points for being involved on their campus through programs, clubs, and

sports; participate in school spirit events; and demonstrate positive behavior in the classrooms. They can then redeem the points they have earned for exclusive merchandise and experiences. Estancia also introduced class colors in August, and our students and staff members are encouraged to wear their class-color shirts to show their Eagle Pride.

During the first week of the new school year, the teachers presented mini-lessons to their students each period to help welcome our Eagles back to the nest. The lessons included information about behavior expectations, mental and emotional health, physical health, digital citizenship, the importance of being able to communicate with diverse audiences, and the value we place on collaboration here at EHS.



**EHS Faculty in their new class color shirts.**

## Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • [harborview.nmusd.us](http://harborview.nmusd.us)



**Gabriel Del Real**  
Principal

## Culture of Laughter and Positivity

Sometimes, school traditions develop from relatively simple beginnings and become critical to the atmosphere we wish to create for students. One such tradition is the Joke of the Week during our Friday flag-deck ceremonies. Last school year during distance learning, I was unable to hold in-person flag-deck ceremonies for the whole school, so I created weekly flag-deck videos for teachers

to show their classes on Fridays. Knowing that students would not be overwhelmed with joy from simply listening to their principal talk, I decided to include a Joke of the Week to keep the flag-deck videos interesting. Jokes such as "Where do pencils go on vacation? Pennsylvania!" or "What did the volcano say to its mother? I lava you!" quickly

became weekly traditions students could anticipate with enthusiasm. Parents even emailed me to let me know their children would share the Joke of the Week at Friday family dinners. In short order, students were approaching me with jokes of their own. Now as I chat with students around campus, students share jokes with me in hopes of them making an appearance at that week's flag deck-ceremony.

When I started the Joke of the Week last school year during distance learning, I hoped it would bring joy to students during a most unusual school year. Each week, I would search the internet for the perfect joke. Now, with the ability to hold flag deck as an in-person event to build a sense of community for the entire school, I have a long list of student-provided jokes to choose from. This opportunity to contribute to a positive atmosphere has created some contagious joy for all our Harbor View Vikings. Smile and pass it on.

## Heinz Kaiser Elementary (3-6)

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • [kaiser.nmusd.us](http://kaiser.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
Principal

### We are Back!

Billy Joel wrote a song years ago entitled, *We Didn't Start the Fire*. In that song, he created a bit of a time capsule that highlighted the great challenges which faced the world between the 1950's and the late 1980s. It is with a humble tribute to our teachers, staff members, students, and families that Kaiser continues to gracefully overcome the great challenges of the last 18 months.

On the day the library opened, our students entered with hushed reverence. And they still keep their masks above their noses and below their mouths! They also play exuberantly on the playground.

Watching our students help each other up when they fall while playing football or teach each other fancy moves on the Gaga ball court leaves the adults smiling. The after-school Ukulele Ensemble and Orchestra concerts have also just started and are filled to capacity. Whatever the subject, our teachers are creating

interesting learning experiences in bright and inviting classrooms.

Working alongside parents who continue to look for meaningful and memorable student and family experiences provides the reminder that we are all focused on being back and then some! It doesn't get any better than this. Kaiser is back!



**Kaiser Knights investigate cell structure in science lab.**

## Killybrooke Elementary (K-6)

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • [killybrooke.nmusd.us](http://killybrooke.nmusd.us)



**Laura Sosa**  
Principal

### 60th Season

Killybrooke Elementary is celebrating its 60th year. Established in 1961, this fall marks our 60th anniversary - a milestone worthy of celebration. On the heels of a challenging 59th season, we are able to celebrate six decades of successfully and positively impacting the Killybrooke community. With high academic standards, a focus on student engagement, a welcoming culture, and a

top-notch team dedicated to supporting our students we will continue our pattern of demonstrating excellence. Our school wide theme for the year is Celebrating 60 seasons of MVPs. We will focus on encouraging students to "play ball" and actively engage in their education, while fostering the understanding in each of our students that they are the Most Valuable Players at our school. They are valuable, capable, and able to make this season in their lives a huge success.

Our students know that an MVP does the following:

- Believes in and respects themselves and others
- Works hard
- Doesn't give up
- Demonstrates a "Team First" attitude
- Thinks and Acts on "How can I best contribute?"
- Connects with and cares about their teammates
- Exudes positivity and kindness
- Celebrates their teammates' success

Students are selected weekly by their teachers for embodying these positive characteristics and contributing to their classrooms and the school community. They are recognized at our Flag Deck Assemblies and during daily announcements. Staff members are also able to nominate their peers for displaying excellence in teamwork to help make our school year successful.

While the start to our 60th season has been unique, team Killybrooke is looking forward to a successful year of supporting our Colts to achieve excellence both collectively and individually.

## Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • [lincoln.nmusd.us](http://lincoln.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Kristin DeMicco**  
*Principal*

### Rainbow of Possibilities

At Lincoln Elementary, we have coined this year a Rainbow of Possibilities! With each day, we are so grateful to be able to bring more and more experiences back to campus for our students and staff. We have returned to our weekly in-person Friday 5 assemblies outdoors in the quad, and we are especially excited to celebrate our

Lincoln ROARS winners live and in-person at our monthly Flag Decks. Our music program is back and better than ever with record numbers of upper grade students signing up for band and chorus this year. Student Leadership opportunities have returned to campus as well, with student council campaigns underway. We have also welcomed new support staff to our team, including a part time counselor to support students in whole class, small group and individualized settings as needed. It truly is a great time to be a Lincoln Leopard, and we can't wait to see what additional opportunities are on the horizon!



## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • [mariners.nmusd.us](http://mariners.nmusd.us)



**Matthew Broesamle**  
*Principal*

### Student Government

One of the many things that our fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students look forward to each year is a chance to run for student government. Students that choose to run for office must deliver a speech to their classmates, presenting their ideas for how they will work alongside our school's staff to promote positive school spirit and how we can positively impact our community.

These young leaders demonstrated an amazing amount of courage as they stood and presented their ideas to about 200 of their fellow classmates. The members of our school's student government play a huge role in promoting our positive school spirit, leading weekly flag deck assemblies, and meeting throughout the year with our advisors, Ms. Stark and Mr. Qualey. I am excited to work alongside this amazing group of students throughout this year, and I am so very proud of all of our students for showing their Mariners PRIDE. Go Marlins!



**Students present their speeches to all their classmates**



When You Imagine Their Future...  
Imagine a Beautiful Smile!



We always treat your children like they are our own!

**DAMON** SMILE  
More than straight teeth™

INBRACE

 invisalign®

**invisalign** | teen

**BarkateSmiles.com**

*Newport Beach • Ladera Ranch • San Clemente*

## Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • [nce.nmusd.us](http://nce.nmusd.us)



**Somer Harding**  
Principal

### Walk to School

We have noticed a big increase in the amount of students who are choosing to walk to school, and we think that is just great!

Walking is a great opportunity for families to get a little exercise as they see their children to our campus. We are grateful to have crossing guards from the City of Newport Beach and those supported by the NCE Foundation both helping our students

get safely across the Newport Coast intersection and our busy driveway.

To celebrate, our PTA recently organized a big Walk-to-School event on October 6th. This was called International

Walk-to-School 2021, and it involved communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking on the same day. There is a website where you can see everyone who participated. There were 1,681 events registered nationwide, and many more all across the world. This organization works to focus on safe passage for all children in all schools every day.

Our PTA helped us celebrate the event with a lot of cheer and encouragement, and some special guests. If you lived too far away to walk, you could drive to a designated parking area and walk from there. Everyone was able to get in on the action!

We hope that this day encouraged more people to find a new way of arriving to and leaving from school. Walking is great for everyone!

## Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • [newportel.nmusd.us](http://newportel.nmusd.us)



**Amanda Estrada**  
Principal

### Thriving Together

Every year we choose a theme for our school. It serves as a goal which can help anchor our work and give us something to celebrate. This year we selected “Thriving Together” as our theme. We want all of the members of our school community to thrive, not just survive.

We define thriving together as being our best selves and helping those around us be their best selves too. As a school community, we are now reading *Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine*. In this book, Dr Borba presents seven character strengths that set “thrivers”

apart: self-confidence, empathy, self-control, integrity, curiosity, perseverance, and optimism.

Each month we focus on one of these strengths. I first read aloud a story on the topic in each classroom. The teachers and our new school counselor then do follow-up lessons throughout the month. We are excited to be fostering these character strengths in our students.

One way that we acknowledge students who are thriving is through our Shout Out Awards. We present these at Flag Deck (pictured), and invite the award winners to a monthly luncheon with their teachers. It’s wonderful to be able to have Flag Decks in person again! This is an important time to build community and celebrate the great things that are happening on our campus.



# Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • [nhhs.nmusd.us](http://nhhs.nmusd.us)



**Sean Boulton**  
*Principal*

## Lights, Masks, Action!

Newport Harbor High School's Robert B. Wentz Players continue to adapt to the current times with a four-show season scheduled, beginning Nov. 12. Last year, we discovered a work-around for COVID-19 restrictions by recording two productions television style without an audience and then streaming. This year, we're excited to perform for houses at 25% capacity. Just

seeing the students light up during rehearsals and to hear them sing—it's so much of what's been missing for me and the theater program these past few semesters, and I believe most performing-arts teachers feel the same way. To see the students so happy, determined, engaged and passionate about work—it adds that additional layer of

importance for me as a teacher and mentor, and it shapes our path forward with joy rather than fear.

The first show is a musical revue, *All Together Now*, that will be performed nationwide on the same weekend, Nov. 12–14, courtesy of Musical Theatre International. Live shows without the support of a live audience can be very challenging—performers feed off that energy—so join us for one or all four shows this year. We will be honored to share our hearts, sweat, joy and efforts with you.

Shows will follow in December, February, and April Nov 12-14 (Fri-Sun) is a musical revue, *All Together Now* Dec 6-8 (Mon-Wed) is I.B. Theater Presents, a series of short one-act plays

Feb 4-6 & 11-13 (Fri-Sun) is the 1930s comedy, *Harvey* Apr 22-24 & 29-May 1 (Fri-Sun) is the musical, *9 to 5*

# Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • [newportheights.nmusd.us](http://newportheights.nmusd.us)



**Terri Clarke**  
*Principal*

## Back-to-School is a Success

Fall 2021 brought so many incredible new components to NHES while also bringing back so many wonderful traditions and in-person events for our students and families! We kicked off the new school year with our brand new logo, new positivity murals around campus, new digital marquee, new "Shark Squad" student leaders, and a new Shark House system for our students to build community

and lasting connections. We also had our first in-person student Awards Assembly since spring 2020 where we celebrated our students' achievements, hard work, efforts, and Shark PRIDE. To top it off, our parent organizations hosted community events like the PTA Game Night where students, families, and community members came together on the NHES playground to play games, get to know each other, and show their school pride. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, positive, and successful 2021-22 school year. Can't wait to see what's in store next for our NHES sharks.



## Paularino Elementary (K-6)

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • [paularino.nmusd.us](http://paularino.nmusd.us)



**Annalisa Schwartz**  
Principal

### Back to School!

This year our Paularino Elementary staff members are fully committed to supporting the academic, social emotional, and behavioral needs of our students. Teachers are now hard at work implementing district-adopted curriculum and differentiated strategies to help support all learners.

We are fortunate to have a part-time school counselor join our Panther staff to help address the social emotional needs of our students. We are so excited for our students and staff to be integrating these new positive behavior supports in the classrooms and on the playground.

Paularino is also fortunate to have a robust Wellness Center team composed of key staff members who can

support our students in various avenues, including health, behavior, academics, social emotional, and attendance. Our Wellness Center team meets regularly to discuss the variety of concerns and needs of our Panthers and how to best approach these situations.

The ever-changing health and safety guidelines of COVID-19 have allowed us to open our doors and kick the school year off with in-person instruction. Our teachers and staff members are so excited to have their students back in class for a full day of learning, and with most of our activities. We have also welcomed back our specialists for in-person learning in PE, science, and music. These extensions of learning will help support our students to be creative in their thinking and learning.

Thank you to all of our Paularino families for your continued flexibility and support. Welcome back, Panthers!

## Pomona Elementary (K-6)

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • [pomona.nmusd.us](http://pomona.nmusd.us)



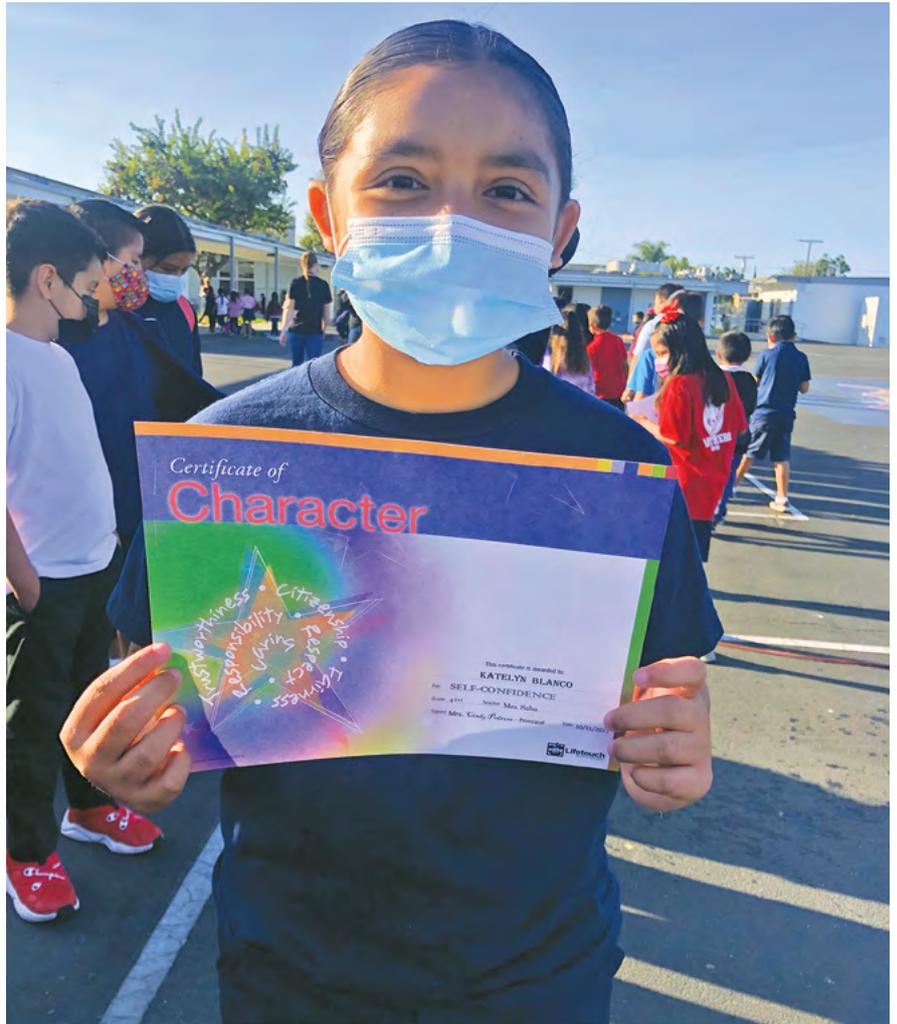
**Cindy Pedroso**  
Principal

### Happy, Healthy and High Performing

“Welcome back” had a completely new meaning for us this year. Our staff had a renewed energy when they received our students back on campus full time this fall.

The ability to return this year a little closer to our norms was very exciting for us. Students were eager to reconnect with peers during lunch and recess, creating a happy sound out on the playground. Without a doubt, things have really moved into a more positive direction. We kicked off the year with a great guest speaker, author of *Thrivers* Michele Borba. In her book, we learned about the seven essential skills students need to become thrivers. This, along with the growing supports we are providing our students, is really going to make a positive impact.

We are thrilled to have additional support-staff members that specialize in mental health, which really creates a robust support for all students. Our goal is to help our students to be happy, healthy and high performing!



## Everett A. Rea *Elementary (K-6)*

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • [rea.nmusd.us](http://rea.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
*Principal*

### The “Tool” Approach to Math

Rea Elementary School remains committed to increasing student achievement in the area of mathematics. The staff at Rea will continue a multi-year commitment to join elementary school teachers from across our entire school district to focus on effective researched-based mathematics instruction.

Specifically, Rea teachers have been trained in Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI). A tenet of CGI is that all students come to mathematics with something to contribute to the problem-solving process. It is our job to identify each child’s ability and create a culture where they can learn from one another.

In many cases, students learn through the use of tools. “Mathematically proficient students consider the available tools when solving a mathematical problem. These tools might include pencil and paper, concrete models, a ruler, a protractor, a calculator, a spreadsheet, a computer

algebra system, a statistical package, or dynamic geometry software. Proficient students are sufficiently familiar with the tools appropriate for their grade or course, and can make sound decisions about when each of these tools might be helpful, recognizing both the insight to be gained and their limitations.”

At Rea, students may also be engaged in Counting Collections, which involves receiving a collection of objects. A collection of as few as 25 items and as large as 1000 might contain paper clips, pencils, play money, or other items. The children are encouraged to work in teams to count the items. The teacher is able to then quickly ascertain a student’s ability to count by ones and tens, their use of strategies to count items, and their understanding of multiplicative properties, place value, and more.

Students at each grade level are encouraged to use those tools that best address the problems they seek to solve. Tools at Rea may include cubes, fraction models, the abacus, and more. All of us are working together to help our students use tools, explain their thinking, and generally fall in love with math!

## Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • [sonora.nmusd.us](http://sonora.nmusd.us)



**Mia Doidge**  
*Principal*

### Developing Character

Sonora Elementary is off to a great start for 2021–22 to reinforce and rebuild a sense of community here on our campus. For many years, each classroom has represented a college or a university. This year, we decided to also have each classroom incorporate a character trait

to learn about and promote throughout the year.

Having a positive character is extremely important for personal success and growth. Positive character traits not only help in self-development but also help cope with various challenging situations our students will face throughout their lives. Character traits are something we learn in our environment and imitate: from parents, teachers and friends. We can help our students to make the best choices of adopting these traits for themselves.

The students in Ms. Nguyen’s TK class chose “Be Kind” as their trait. Each week, they select a different person or classroom to demonstrate an act of kindness to. Last week, they chose to show kindness to their third-grade buddy classroom. We can’t wait to see how our students’ character grows this year!



## Charles W. TeWinkle *Intermediate (7-8)*

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • [tewinkle.nmusd.us](http://tewinkle.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
*Principal*

### Surviving and Growing Together

Over the last year and a half our community demonstrated resiliency in the dealing with the many unknowns that were brought forth by the pandemic. While resilience is an essential part of our development as human beings, sometimes we can appreciate a sense of normalcy. As such, our community is thankful to be back to in-person learning five days a week.

During the summer, our teachers participated in professional development together in the same facility. Their energy was dynamic, and their active participation in extending learning outstanding. The pandemic illuminated the need for connection and taking care of each other. It also showed the strengths of our stakeholders as we

navigated through these challenging times.

These challenges led to the theme of our school year. Inspired by how we overcame the last year as a collective, our school theme is, “Knowing our communities names, faces, and stories—the heroes and heroes of TeWinkle.” At TeWinkle, we believe that each individual embodies unique superpowers, and that, as a team, it is important to know those strengths of individuality and celebrate them. We are also sharing the importance of vulnerability, and how leaning in on each other can provide an opportunity to develop as a unit.

Kindness, empathy, drive, motivation, authenticity, showing gratitude, respect, going the extra mile to support one another—these are just a few of the superpowers that our team embodies. That is what makes our place beautiful.



## Victoria Elementary *(K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • [victoria.nmusd.us](http://victoria.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
*Principal*

### Rock the Chalk

The 2021-2022 school year began with a rejuvenation of hope and dreams at Victoria Elementary. Our PTA sponsored a Rock the Chalk activity for our students, allowing them to message

their hopes and wishes for a great year! Students spent time before, during, and after school creating colorful and inspiring messages



of kindness, friendship, and encouragement. The activity energized our students and staff with the power of positivity. Thank you Voyagers for teaching all of us that we control our outlook and destiny. It will be a great year at Victoria as students make new friends and grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Go Voyagers!

## Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • [whittier.nmusd.us](http://whittier.nmusd.us)



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

### Strong Beginning

Whittier Elementary is excited to welcome our students and families to the 2021–22 school year. On the morning of August 23, the Whittier community lined outside the school eager to start a memorable school year. Students from grades TK to sixth were ecstatic to meet their new teachers, reunite with friends, and make new connections.

On the first day of school, teachers waited outside their doors to welcome their students into their learning environment. Teachers put a special emphasis on building relationships and setting a strong foundation for their lasting relationships.

Equally as excited as the students were the Whittier Elementary School's new administration team, Randy Lempert and Alice Formaneck. Mr. Lempert is new to the Newport Mesa Unified School District and has over 10 years of administration experience. He feels fortunate to be able to work alongside the Whittier community and students as the new principal. Ms. Formaneck is a longtime NMUSD educator and will fulfill the role of assistant principal. Ms. Formaneck is passionate about providing students with a meaningful classroom experience and supporting teachers.

This year, the Whittier team is going to continue to build on the long tradition of supporting students and the community. Through a strong partnership with the teachers, parents and community members, Whittier students are going to grow and flourish in the school year. Best of luck to all, and go Dolphins!

## Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • [wilson.nmusd.us](http://wilson.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Heckert**  
*Principal*

### Wilson Wildcats are ROARING & THRIVING

Wilson Wildcats ROAR each day! Wilson prioritizes safety and positive choices. Our goal is to reinforce students for positive actions when they focus on R - Respect, O - Ownership, A - Attitude, R - Responsibility, and S - Safety.

Each week students have opportunities to earn Wildcat tickets for their ROARS choices. Wildcat tickets are put into a school-wide drawing where students are rewarded.

Students can also earn a special lunch with the principal for ROARING!

We are also THRIVING together and focusing on Thriver traits from the book *Thriver* by Michelle Borba. Each month we are talking about a new trait that helps us to THRIVE.

In September, we learned about self-confidence. What are our unique strengths, talents, interests? We learned that our self-confidence can support us when we face challenges. In October, we will learn about empathy and how experiencing another's feelings can help us to THRIVE!



## Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • [woodland.nmUSD.us](http://woodland.nmUSD.us)



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
*Principal*

### National Walk to School Day

Our Woodland Dragons met up with the Kaiser Nights at Lindbergh Park on October 6th for National Walk to School Day. This event is typically held on the first Wednesday of October. The weather this time of year is perfect for walking and walking is one

of the best forms of exercise. The route we followed was about one mile and approximately 2,500 steps! We had a big group of staff, students, parents, and other family members and were led by our Costa Mesa Police Officers! NMUSD Nutrition Services provided water and apple slices for our students once they arrived on campus. It was a fun community event. Woodland Elementary is a GREAT place to learn!



## Early Childhood Education

2985 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Michelle O'Neill**  
*Coordinator*

### Healthy Social-Emotional Preschoolers

We are excited to welcome our preschoolers to the 2021-2022 school year. Our preschoolers are immersed in age appropriate research based literacy instruction, explorations in science, math and technology. The preschool program carefully integrates teacher directed instruction with structured and independent play activities that promote healthy social-emotional, physical and cognitive development. NNMUSD has 12 preschool sites including tuition preschool, state part day and state full day preschool classrooms. Our preschool curriculum is based on developing the whole child. The teacher lesson plans foster physical, emotional, social and cognitive growth of each child. A developmental profile is used to assess children in all areas and set goals for their individual growth and development. The preschool curriculum is aligned with California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks. The classrooms integrate the following research based curriculum: World of Wonders PK (English Language Arts & Math), Bridges PK (Math), Hand Writing without Tears (Fine Motor) and Second Step (Social Emotional).



# Health Services

2985 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Merry Grasska**  
MPH, FNP-C,  
RN  
Director

## Working Collaboratively and Staying Healthy

We are back to school, and that means snacks and lunches for students in addition to the evening meal and breakfast. In the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD), our school nurses and the Nutrition Services Department work together to support student nutrition.

The district follows the federal nutrition standards, and specific information and healthy eating tips are found on their website. We are also fortunate to partner with Dr. Patricia Riba, a board-certified physician who specializes in pediatrics and healthy nutrition. In her book, *Fit Kids Revolution*, she addresses how students can learn healthy habits regarding food, physical activity, and overall well-being.

My take is that it is critical to keep mealtime enjoyable, and at the same time offer a selection of healthy and appealing foods. Portion size also helps to maintain a

healthy weight, and including fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables is important to enhance meals. Many foods come prepared or packaged, so that whenever purchasing these items, reading the ingredient list is helpful when making the healthiest choice. Physical activity is also important, and setting the stage for fun activities that include movement can contribute to physical fitness.

The NMUSD also partners with Dr. Marc Lerner, a board-certified physician who specializes in developmental pediatrics. Both Dr. Lerner and Dr. Riba participate at parent education programs, provide staff education, and support various health and wellness initiatives throughout the district. Their expertise and collaboration efforts help our nurses stay informed, and provide strong best practices to safeguard student health.

As we find our way through the various phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important to help our students acquire good habits that will keep them healthy now and into the future. In the NMUSD, collaborative practice among district departments, including partners with health expertise, helps us do just that!

# Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • [nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition](http://nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition)



**Todd Hatfield**  
Director

## We are Committed!

*By Pam Williams, MPH, RD, Nutritionist*

Our lives have changed so much since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It has changed the way that we learn, the way we communicate and even the way we get our food. Farmers and others struggle to make sure we have access to food in our stores and schools. And it shows. Here in the United States, we still have access to a wide variety

of foods. We walk up and down grocery-store aisles, and we see many choices in spite of the bare shelves.

In school districts across the nation, students have also felt the pinch. In spite of the challenges, school food services still provide a variety of choices just as our stores do. These bare places in school lunches may look like fewer fruit and vegetable availability or hot lunches. In the face

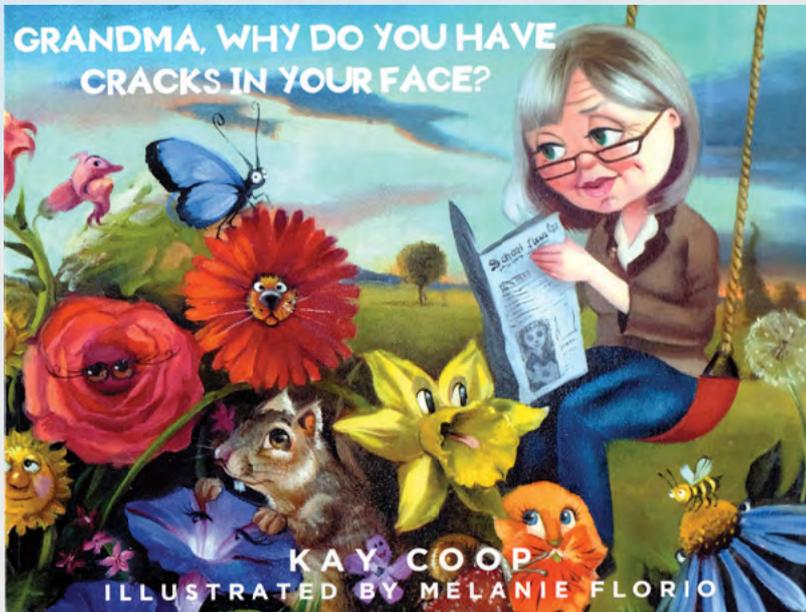
of these changes, Newport Mesa's Nutrition Services works hard to ensure healthy food options for our students.

What does Nutrition Services do? We still serve our students a variety of fruits, vegetables and other foods. We work hard with food organizations, local farmers and others to continue to source nutritious foods that help keep our students healthy and alert. Now, we have secured a good supply of vegetables such as fresh broccoli, zucchini and corn. We have added bananas, oranges and tangerines to increase fruit variety. We are also working to bring whole apples, grapes, pears, plums, seasonal fruits and other produce over the next few weeks. And that's not all. We are looking to add some of the favorites such as chicken drumsticks, spaghetti, and macaroni and cheese.

Although the changes from the pandemic may continue to flow, Nutrition Services is still committed to creating healthy meals. Why? We want our students to have healthy food options.

School News Roll Call  
Welcomes You  
Back to School!





# Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop  
Illustrated by Melanie Florio

Now Available on Amazon & Barnes and Noble

## Halloween 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 NMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2021  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Thank you **Barkate Orthodontics**  
for sponsoring our contests.  
[www.BarkateSmiles.com](http://www.BarkateSmiles.com)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT     | HALLOWEEN      |
| CANDY         | JACK O LANTERN |
| CARVE         | MUMMY          |
| CEMETERY      | SKELETON       |
| COSTUME       | SPIDER         |
| DECORATIONS   | SWAMP CREATURE |
| FRANKENSTEIN  | TRICK OR TREAT |
| FRIGHTFUL     | VAMPIRE        |
| GHOST         | WEB            |
| GHOUL         | WEREWOLF       |
| GRAVE         | WITCH          |
| HAUNTED HOUSE | ZOMBIE         |



Congratulations to **Nieves B. Perez** Winner of the June Word Search Contest!