

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District



Volume 18, Issue 95

December 2021 / January 2022

Be Kind, Be Aware, and Be You



Eastbluff students, staff, and community participated in a meaningful Red Ribbon Campaign. (please see page 12)

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SUPERINTENDENT

Honored to Lead this District and Do Great Things Together



Dr. Wesley Smith
Superintendent

I am extremely excited to serve as the superintendent for Newport-Mesa Unified School District. In the short time that I have been here, I have had the opportunity to meet with many people, visit classrooms, attend athletic competitions, and connect with community members. We have an amazingly dedicated team of staff, students and community and I'm proud to serve as superintendent.

I believe that effective leaders bring people together in true collaboration and unify diverse interests. This is the only way to improve student outcomes and student wellness, and has been the focus of my entire leadership career. The key to success is building healthy relationships and doing so enables us to meet and exceed the academic, physical, mental, and emotional needs of our nineteen thousand students.

There are many competing interests in any educational organization, but if any interest competes with student learning, then it is time to refocus. Maintaining the appropriate focus requires that we keep student learning and well-being at the center of every conversation and every decision.

I love doing this work. I wake up every morning grateful. I am grateful to be an educator. I am grateful that I get to work with the school board, staff, caregivers, and community members to meet the diverse needs of our students and the adults who serve them. Since joining this community, I have witnessed incredible enthusiasm from everyone, and I am excited to work alongside them in support of student success.



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City of Newport Beach



Brad Avery
Mayor

It's Time to Help Newport Beach and the Environment!

In 2022, we all need to start recycling our organic waste. Organic waste includes yard waste material and grass clippings, food and kitchen scraps, and food-soiled paper.

This February your home will receive an additional trash cart specifically for organic waste. You'll also receive a two-gallon pail to collect organic materials in the kitchen. If we all separate our organic waste from regular trash and other recyclable materials, this new program will yield more than 500 tons of organic waste every month from Newport

Beach households! Instead of going into local landfills and creating more methane gas, the organic waste will be converted to high-quality compost. This means a big reduction in greenhouse gases -- at least 1,200 tons every year -- from Newport residents.

I hope all residents, especially families with school-age children, will use the launch of this new program to learn more about recycling at home. It's all about helping our community and the environment. To learn more, please visit our website at www.newportbeachca.gov.

100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/644-3004
www.newportbeachca.gov

City of Costa Mesa



John Stephens
Mayor

Snoopy House

I'm excited to announce the return on one of my favorite holiday traditions, the Snoopy House display at City Hall.

The last time we were able to host Snoopy House was December of 2019. Shortly after that, the COVID-19 pandemic hit us all, and we were forced to keep it to a drive-through display in the IKEA parking lot last year.

So first the first time in two years, Snoopy House is back and better than ever. We will have train rides, letters to and photos with Santa, an apple cider and hot chocolate booth, snow for sledding, carols and stage performers.



Having fun on the Snoopy House train.

Snoopy House will debut on Friday Dec. 17 and run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. until Wednesday Dec. 22.

We look forward to seeing you all at City Hall!

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5107
www.costamesaca.gov

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



Dan Stefano
Fire Chief

The Holiday Season is Upon Us!

A season of making memories, reflection and gratitude. A time to celebrate, giving thanks and being together, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue wants to share a few important holiday safety tips to remember:

- Stay in the kitchen when food is cooking; most fires in the kitchen occur because cooking is left unattended
- Use flameless candles in place of lit candles
- Water your Christmas Tree daily
- Always turn off holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and know how to use it
- Make (and practice) a safety plan for your family for any emergency

For more safety tips, www.ready.gov!



Happy Holidays and the brightest year ahead!

P.O. Box 1200, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 • 714/754-5106



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As this year comes to a close our *School News* staff thanks you for always including *School News* among your reading choices. If you missed any issues, we post all current and archived on our website. We also published the first annual *Meet the Orange County Mayors* which is on our site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 16 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is February 9, 2022. Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!



School News



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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop

562/493-3193

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

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Heidi B. Starnes, DDS, MS

1401 Avocado Avenue #210

Newport Beach, CA 92660

(949) 720-8145

Costa Mesa Public Libraries



Sarita Dangond
Branch Manager,
Costa Mesa
Donald Dugan
Library



Vivian Strabala
Branch Manager,
Mesa Verde
Library

Libraries are Open

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, visit 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
- Virtual Programming. Find details at 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:

- Toddler Storytime – Tuesdays, 11:00am
- Bilingual Storytime – Wednesdays, 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.

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

Newport Beach Public Libraries



Christine Chapel
Librarian
Newport Beach
Public Library

Winter Activities at NBPL

Are you looking for fun, FREE activities this winter season? Look no further than these special events at the Newport Beach Public Library.

Winter Wonderland Crafts

Wednesday, December 15, 2021, Balboa
All day, while supplies last

Wonderful winter crafting awaits you at the Balboa Library. Stop by and celebrate this creative season! For children ages 3-7.

Winter Wonderland Seek & Find

December 20 – December 31, 2021, Central and Mariners
Join us at the Central and Mariners Library for a Winter Wonderland Seek & Find challenge! Beginning December 20, children who visit are challenged to find winter surprises and iconic book characters hidden throughout the Children's Room. Find all hidden images and win a prize! For children ages 12 and under.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Friday, January 14, 2022, Corona del Mar — 10:30 a.m.
Online registration is required and will open on December 14, 2021.

Bring your stuffed animal friend and let them have an overnight adventure at the library!

Come to the Corona del Mar Library on Friday morning to share a special Outdoor Storytime with your stuffed animal. After you complete a craft, wave goodbye to your animal friend and let them go off on their own overnight library adventure. You can follow their activities by checking the library's Instagram page for photo updates throughout the evening before they get tucked in. Pick up is the next day at 12 p.m. For children ages 7 and under.

Lunar New Year Crafts

Saturday, January 22, 2022, all NBPL locations
All day, while supplies last

2022 is the Year of the Tiger! Learn more about the Year of the Tiger with the supplies to make some fun decorations and learn about Lunar New Year traditions. Be sure to check out our Lunar New Year craft video, too! For children ages 3-7.

Holiday Closures

All NBPL locations will close at 1:00 pm
December 24th and 31st. All locations are closed
December 25th, December 26th and January 1st. Please check www.newportbeachlibrary.org for your branch's holiday hours.

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach • 949/717-3800
www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids
Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach • 949/717-3838
Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, • 949/644-3076
Corona Del Mar Branch 410 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar • 949/644-3075

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Adams Elementary (K-6)

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • adams.nmusd.us



Stacy deBoom-Howard
Principal

Thankful and Happy

November and December are a time to remind ourselves the many things we are THANKFUL for here at Adams. We are so thankful to be back at school with our students, for the support of our PTA, ELAC, families and our extraordinary staff members

that help meet the needs of all students and most importantly the happy students we see daily.

During the month of November, we celebrated “World Kindness Day” with our students creating Kindness Bookmarks to exchange with Paularino Elementary along with earning special Kindness stickers and awards.

We wish all our Adams families a safe and Happy Holiday Season. We look forward to a bright New Year with lots of learning and a focus on the Arts!



Roy O. Andersen Elementary (K-6)

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • andersen.nmusd.us



Tiffany Lewis
Principal

Beautiful Expression of Giving

The holiday spirit is evident at Andersen Elementary. Being aware of all we have and creating an understanding that not everyone is “in our shoes” is part of our credo.

This year, Andersen families collected and donated over 14 bankers boxes and four extra-large moving boxes full of nonperishables. Students brought in everything from boxes of stuffing to cranberry sauce. In addition to the abundance of food, we were able to donate close to \$1,800 generated via our coin drive. Students learned about the wonderful things that Share Our Selves (SOS) does to support the community.

The food and funds donated from our drive will help fill the food pantry shelves of SOS in addition to providing access, care and social services to homeless individuals and families in need. Every year, SOS makes a Thanksgiving meal possible for over 800 families thanks to generous donations from the community.



We are proud of these children and our Andersen community! A special thank-you to Candace Quartararo and our amazing PTA for making this possible! Andersen wishes all Newport Mesa families the happiness of good friends, the joy of a happy family, and the wonder of the holiday season.

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • backbay.nmusd.us



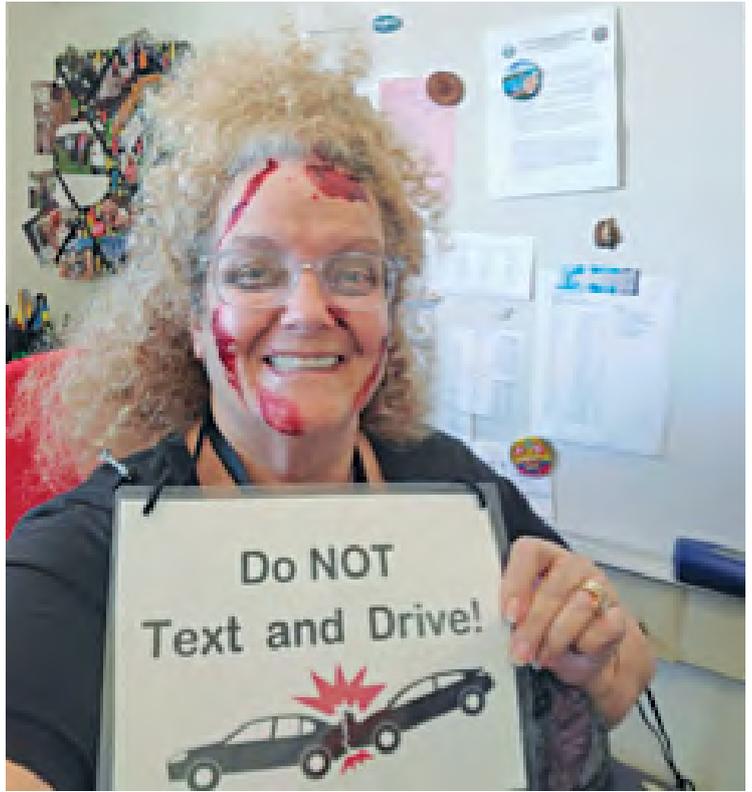
Mike Wagner
Principal

Moving into the Holidays of 2021!

October brought Back Bay & Monte Vista HS Fall festivities in the form of a 1st annual Fall Festival coordinated by our Wellness Team. Students and teachers participated in food, fun and music. Great times!

There was a door decorating contest that showed some very promising artists among our staff and students, along with pizza, costumes and music. A water balloon toss between staff and students proved to be a whole lot of fun and of course, a good corn hole competition never disappoints! Our teachers participated in a costume competition, with Kelly Davis, Back Bay & Monte Vista Office Manager walking away with the grand prize for best costume. Congratulations Kelly.

As a small campus of students, we are lucky to be able to create a caring community of students and staff, which, in turn, creates strong, resilient students.



California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • california.nmusd.us



Ryan Longacre
Principal

Science with a Buddy

The only thing better than science is science with a buddy! Several times a year, our amazing sixth grade students support our kindergartners with a variety of learning activities. Under the guidance of Mrs. Rousey (6th), Ms. Joshi (6th),

Ms. Ropp (K), and Mrs. Clifford (K), our sixth graders recently joined our youngest learners for a bit of outdoor education. Each of our kindergartners were paired up with a sixth-grade buddy, and then students went out onto campus for some “field research.” Fall leaves were closely observed for their structure, and then students chose a worthy specimen for closer observation and documentation. Leaves were

brought into our Multipurpose Room. Older students helped our young scientists use their specimens to create rubbings with paper and crayons. Once done, students were able to label the important structural parts they had studied in class. And that’s how science is done!



Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Rousey, and Ms. Joshi (left to right) join Ms. Ropp as they lead their sixth graders and their kindergartners through a collaborative science lesson on the amazing structure of a fall leaf.

Cloud Campus (TK—12)

www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus



Dr. Racquel Stephens
Principal

Engagement and Community in the Virtual Classroom

As Cloud Campus is now in full swing, our outstanding staff members are working to create a robust community of virtual learners. Our teachers and students are front-runners in finding ways to connect and engage online through various club, activities, and digital platforms.

Cloud ASB is well underway with the planning of our virtual activities. October was a busy month for ASB too, as they planned Red Ribbon Week activities for K-12 students, and activities such as door decorating contests and Kahoot games.

“Fun Fridays” are in full effect too, with recent activities such as Slime Time and No Bake Spider Cookies, and with more fun to come as the holiday season approaches.

Cloud also has several clubs to highlight, including Poetry, Fitness and Movement, Ukulele, Book Club, Culinary, Travel and Adventure, and more! Our secondary students are on the home stretch of the semester, with finals approaching the week before winter break.

Our secondary school newspaper, the *Cloud Cover*, is a student-run online newspaper with articles, announcements, stories, and a space to highlight student accomplishments. We are proud of Cloud Campus as a viable virtual option for students in the NMUSD!

College Park Elementary (K-6)

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • collegepark.nmusd.us



Jake Topete
Principal

You Are Loved

In the summer of 2020, College Park got a fresh coat of paint, and in that process we covered many of the old and outdated murals on the campus. This year we wanted to bring some more color and positive messaging to the walls of College Park. Through the support of our amazing PTA, and working with muralist Alex Cook, we have added

our first mural! The mural says You Are Loved, in English, Spanish, and Mandarin. We chose English and Spanish languages to represent the two main languages spoken by the student population at College Park along with Mandarin as our school houses the district’s Mandarin Immersion program. The message of You Are Loved is a great reminder for our students to read each and every day. We are thankful for the support of our community to bring this first mural to College Park!



Corona del Mar High School (7-12)

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • cdm.nmusd.us



Dr. Rebecca Gogel
Principal
7-8 Grade



Josh Hill
Principal
9-12 Grade

Open Mic Night!

*By Nika Aydin,
11th-Grade Student*

This past Wednesday, CdM's Visual and Performing Arts Committee, also known as VAPA, held an open mic night in the CdM quad. The event highlighted many talented artists, including ASB's Sophia Rabin, Sabina

Martin and Emily Valentine. There were also performances by Harmony Calata, a member of HRC; eighth-grader Andrew Rabin; and Jackson Jaha-Anderson, a senior member of CdM's Drama Department.

The festive array of lights decorating the quad stage added to the ambience of the event. According to Ms. Rabin, "that was the goal: to make it feel like a coffee shop." Ms. Calata added that she appreciated how it felt like "an intimate concert." While the atmosphere was owed in part to the decor, Ms. Rabin added that it was mainly "the people and the energy that all the artists brought" that made the event a success.

The night was filled with creativity and gave the audience a heartwarming performance. Open Mic Night seems like a great midweek escape and de-stressor for students looking to have a night out filled with music and accompanied by friends. While this is the first Open Mic Night of the year, Ms. Calata would call it a success, stating that "these kinds of events are important because you get to really show a different side of yourself that you don't always get to show around school." Ms. Rabin said she thought "it was a great lineup of extremely talented people."

CdM's VAPA will be hosting another Open Mic Night during the spring. Ms. Rabin encouraged people to not only sign up but to also come watch. Giving a special thank-you to the artists, she said, "We wouldn't have been able to put it on if no artists signed up, so I'm very grateful for everyone who did."

It is certainly a new way for CdM's aspiring artists to showcase their talent and help represent the immense promise here at CdM and an opportunity that a year ago today students and families would not have experienced.

Costa Mesa High School / Middle School (7-12)

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • cmhs.nmusd.us



Dr. Eugene Kwong
Principal
7-8 Grade



Jake Haley
Principal
9-12 Grade

Battle of the Bell

School spirit is alive and well at Costa Mesa middle / high school. This fall our student body came out in droves and supported our fall sports & VAPA events. In middle school, our Maverick Ambassadors hosted their first outdoor Hawaiian themed Dance,

an indoor Rally, and our athletes resumed league play in boys' volleyball and girls' basketball. Our girls' basketball team had a great season placing second behind Harbor Day Middle School in the postseason tournament.



From the fall play Almost Maine, Inside Out Dance Performance, CIF volleyball, marching band / color guard, competitive cheer qualifying for nationals, CIF water polo, CIF cross country, and CIF football, we proved that the STAMPEDE is here to represent and support everything MESA. The culminating home event was a 14-7 win against rival Estancia for the Battle of the Bell game; not only did we win the bell in football, but also in water polo & volleyball!



Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • davisagnet.nmusd.us



Christy Flores
Principal

Successful Soctober

Our 5th annual “Soctober” event was another success, thanks to our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) Student Leaders and our generous community. Soctober was the first philanthropic event of the year and our Davis Ducks stepped up by donating 1,681 pairs of socks to Project Hope Alliance (PHA). PHA assists people

experiencing homelessness and this is by far the most socks we have ever collected during the annual event. Socks are one of the most needed items, especially as we go into the winter months. Our next community project will be our annual Pajama Drive, which supports families through the Wounded Warrior Project based out of Camp Pendleton. Thank you, Davis Ducks, for supporting our efforts to help our community. Your thoughtfulness gives us great #davisduckspride! #ShareJoy



Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • earlycollege.nmusd.us



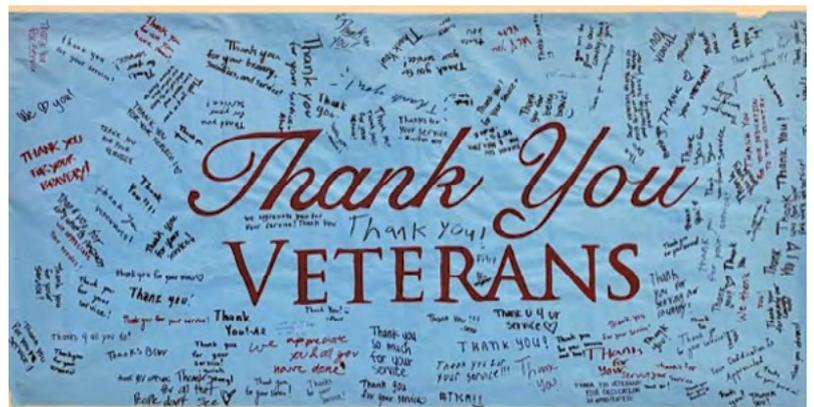
Dr. David Martinez
Principal

College is Here

ECHS held its first Information Night on October 27th for those prospective new students and their parents who wished to apply for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

ECHS also held its fifth annual California College Application Success Campaign Event on November 16th. We celebrated every senior in our Class of 2022

for submitting at least one college application that day. Distinguished guests from our school district, the Costa Mesa City Council, and local colleges and universities participated in our event. While the seniors completed their applications in our MPR, the ninth- through eleventh-grade students took part in panel sessions about how to prepare for college that were facilitated by our teachers.



On November 22nd, ECHS also hosted the Living History program through the Freedom Committee of Orange County. Local U.S. veterans spoke to all U.S. history classes that day, and the event was also featured in local newscasts.

Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • eastbluff.nmusd.us



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Students Say YES

Eastbluff students say YES to the Be Kind, Be Aware, and Be You message and Intentional Acts of Kindness!

Our Red Ribbon Week was a huge success! Eastbluff students, staff, and community participated in a meaningful Red Ribbon Campaign. The week was dedicated to the theme of Be Kind, Be Aware, Be You! Student Council beautifully decorated the campus

with large red ribbons. Students were involved in many activities throughout the week such as wearing red, signing healthy choices pledges, and celebrating how they are all special in their unique way! We also had a very successful Walk to School Day that Thursday where several of our Newport Beach Police Officers led students walking to school from the Boys and Girls Club. We ended the week with students selecting healthy snack choices from several fruits and snack bars which were donated from our PTA. We are so proud of our Eastbluff Students!



Horace Ensign *Intermediate (7-8)*

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • ensign.nmusd.us



Samantha Payne
Principal

Three Tech/Career Classes

Ensign offers three different career and technical-education (CTE) classes: design and modeling, robotics and programming, and human anatomy. In the seventh-grade design and modeling classes, students have built ankle-foot orthoses and air skimmers and are learning 3D modeling skills. The eighth-grade robotics and programming classes are hard at work on their VEX

Robotics Competition robots, with an eye for competing in this year's game, "Tipping Point." These classes will be moving forward to 3D printing and programming in the coming weeks.

So far in human anatomy, students have learned about the organization of cells in the human body, the musculoskeletal system, the circulatory system and the respiratory system. Students dissected chicken wings to look at comparative anatomy between a chicken and a human, and they identified the major muscles and bones of the chicken wing as well as how they interact to move our bodies. This class utilizes modeling to learn the major organs using posters, play dough and clay in order to better visualize how each system works. Mrs. Anderson, the human anatomy instructor, is looking forward to receiving the zSpace AR computer systems to help enhance students' experience with the body systems sometime this month.

Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • estancia.nmusd.us



Michael Halt
Principal

Using AR and VR

Through funding from N-MUSD's College and Career Department, Estancia High School students enrolled in anatomy and physiology courses have been using zSpace this year to enhance their learning of the human body. zSpace combines elements of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to create

lifelike experiences that are immersive and interactive.

The zSpace laptop, tracked glasses and stylus use perception of depth, the ability to look around, and kinesthetic realism to examine human body systems. Anatomy and physiology students at Estancia High School have used zSpace to learn about the structures of the heart and cardiovascular-system functions. Later this year, students will utilize the applications for learning about the skeletal system, respiratory system, digestive system, nervous system, urinary system, brain, eyes, skin and muscle mechanics.

Estancia's anatomy and physiology teacher completed 15 hours of training over the summer to be able to offer her students this learning experience. Instructors will also integrate zSpace into student learning in Estancia Medical Academy courses.



Anatomy & Physiology students using Zspace to learn about the structures of the heart.

Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • harborview.nmusd.us



Gabriel Del Real
Principal

Innovation, Creativity, and Enrichment

In one corner of the Innovation Lab, kindergarten students are shuffling through bins of Lego to build unique creations and join them to the Lego wall.

In another corner, students are following the teacher's instructions, using the Chromebook trackpad to move animated fish into circles on their Chromebook screens.

Elsewhere in the room, the remaining kindergartners are building cars, houses, and two-story structures using magnetic tiles. These activities all represent a typical afternoon for young students in the Harbor View Elementary Innovation Lab, a space dedicated to exploration, creativity, and enrichment for students. These kindergarten experiences lead the way for students to take advantage of robotics, coding, and engineering activities throughout their elementary years. By the time students are in sixth grade, they

record and edit videos using a green screen and create strings of code to program movements in robots. Through a cooperative space, students develop their own ingenuity and their ability to collaborate with peers.



Kindergarten innovators at Harbor View.

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • kaiser.nmusd.us



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Our Unsung Heroes!

Research tells us that movement and unstructured play time are essential elements of school experiences for students. Chances are that many people reading this article have especially fond memories of their time on the playground!

Some of our unsung heroes are the Student Supervision Assistants (SSAs) who keep our Kaiser Knights safe before and during school hours. With their multi-pocketed orange vests filled with hall passes and band aids, along with their walkie-talkies and big hats, Patti, Cindy, Jeannette, Elsa, Jasmine, and Robin watch over our Kaiser students with the care, consideration, and the respect they would want shown to their own children.

They resolve the challenges that arise with disagreements about game rules, and also let the office folks know when a student might need some TLC. They

greet our Knights with a smile in the morning to start them off on a positive note. They are also there when students fall or are lonely. They know the rules for all of the games, and also love to get out there and play!

Kaiser's Student Supervision Assistants are so deserving of accolades. They remind us all of the importance of what goes on behind the scenes to maintain a school that feels good for its students. Thank you, SSAs. You are true heroes!



Kaiser's Student Supervision Assistants are ready for action!

Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • killybrooke.nmusd.us



Laura Sosa
Principal

A Positive School Climate

Our student council has been working hard this school year to create a positive school climate.

In October, student Council sponsored Kindness Week, promoting kindness across our community through challenges. Kindness Challenges included sharing compliments, helping your family, and making sure everyone is included at recess. The week culminated with a "rally of kindness" at Flag Deck and the reveal of our Kindness Cave, a place where students can go to build community using partner games.

In October, Student Council organized a clean campus day where they encouraged their peers to sacrifice recess time to remove trash from campus. Over 200 students participated! The playground has never looked better. Additionally, our student leaders hosted

a food drive to benefit local families. They collected, organized, and boxed all donated goods which amounted to over 300 items collected. The impact was spread over ten local families. Keep up the amazing work!



Student Council pauses to pose as they organize food for local families.

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • lincoln.nmusd.us



Dr. Kristin DeMicco
Principal

Jog-a-Thon

In keeping with our theme, “This year is a rainbow of possibilities,” we have embraced every opportunity to think outside the box to build community and increase school spirit at our school. Although we were not able to invite parents on campus to participate in our Jog-a-Thon this year, we

were able to create a viewing area off campus so our families could participate from a distance. Parents and families brought signs, pompoms, and a whole lot of enthusiasm to cheer for and encourage their students. To increase the joy along the Jog-a-Thon tracks, our grade level study buddies came out to cheer on their buddies with signs and words of encouragement. Some of our 6th graders even started running with their kindergarten buddies to help them stay motivated during the event. We are so grateful for opportunities to bring traditions like this back to Lincoln.



4th grade students showing their school spirit and cheering on their 1st grade buddies.

Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • mariners.nmusd.us



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

Ready, Set, Paint!

Mariners Elementary is getting back into the artistic spirit on campus with Paint Club by Timree. Students are participating in a creative painting experience led by artist Timree Gold. With the generous help of our Mariners PTA, each student is provided with easels, canvases, paints, and paintbrushes to make their own masterpiece. Each month all grade levels will participate

in a previously recorded directed paint lesson where students will have the opportunity to let their creative juices flow by following Timree’s tips to painting:

1. Take a deep breath.
2. Always paint from the heart.
3. “Let it go”
4. Love it ...and leave it.
5. Everything looks better from a Distance.

This month we painted a delicious pumpkin pie, which will be a conversation piece at any Thanksgiving Dinner table. We are beyond grateful for our students to have this unique experience and nurture their artistic capabilities with every stroke.



Marlins at work creating a masterpiece.

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • nce.nmusd.us



Somer Harding
Principal

Live Streaming

At NCE, we are getting quite good at Live TV!

COVID has created restrictions regarding the guests that we can have on campus, and so family participation in many of our beloved traditions is limited. We have a gorgeous campus, but visitor parking is sparse, and we don't have an adjacent field where parents can gather and peek in to see our Flag Deck assemblies. Being creative, we realized that we are able to create some live-streaming events that can

allow our parents to get a glimpse of the fun things we do here at school.

So far, we have invited the parents to watch our award Flag Decks, where we celebrate students being both honorable and organized, and we have also shared our Halloween Parade. This month our parents will be treated to a "Holiday Caroling" event of students singing some favorite holiday songs.

Until we are able to open our doors as before, we are happy to be sharing some of the special programs that our parents enjoy. Our production skills are certainly improving with each event!

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • newportel.nmusd.us



Amanda Estrada
Principal

Giving Back

One of our values at Newport Elementary giving back to our local community and teaching students what that means.

Our student leadership group has started an annual tradition of holding a Mac and Cheese Drive. During the month of November, our students and their families donate boxes of macaroni and



cheese which are donated to local charities. This year we collected 1,113 boxes of macaroni and cheese which were donated to 3 local charities and food banks. A fun bonus aspect of this tradition is the Mac and Cheese Topple. One of our teachers, Mr. Nguyen, uses the boxes of macaroni and cheese to create

a giant domino display. The students love seeing their donations turned into a fun and creative topple.

Fun Things and Places—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 NMUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by January 15, 2022

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](http://www.BarkateSmiles.com)

CARNIVAL	PARTY	ZOO
HOME	MOVIE	HIKE
SCHOOL	POOL	BIKE RIDE
PARK	FOREST	REUNION
SLIDES	CAMP	CRUISE
SWINGS	SEASHORE	SKATING
ROAD TRIP	FARM	VIDEOS

L	A	V	I	N	R	A	C	G	U	Z	C	V	U	F
S	R	M	T	Y	T	R	A	P	S	Q	L	X	W	S
K	E	D	H	N	U	K	M	F	E	G	Z	R	W	I
A	U	A	T	I	T	B	P	V	D	U	I	I	I	G
T	N	C	S	E	K	R	A	P	I	L	N	O	C	R
I	I	E	E	H	M	E	I	V	L	G	G	H	E	I
N	O	Z	R	L	O	O	H	C	S	U	C	Q	J	U
G	N	B	O	P	L	R	H	O	Q	B	R	Z	U	Y
F	W	O	F	O	S	C	E	I	V	O	M	Z	N	R
E	P	Z	P	H	Q	D	E	D	I	R	E	K	I	B
O	U	A	W	R	I	B	L	H	A	Z	Z	L	S	P
Y	Z	W	V	V	G	C	B	F	A	K	A	H	D	Z

**Congratulations to [Michael Juric](#)
Winner of our October Word Search Contest!**

Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • nhhs.nmusd.us



Sean Boulton
Principal

International Baccalaureate Program

Newport Harbor High School is involved in challenging and rigorous coursework for its students. As an IB World School, the International Baccalaureate Program offers college preparedness and potential university credits. Within the IB Business Management class, students participate in DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America). DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. These programs benefit students in real-life challenges and experiences to gear the students toward success in career readiness.

In addition, a requirement of the IB Diploma Program is the extended essay. Students learn how to write a research

paper on a topic of their choice. Investigative research and understanding the writing process of a well-written paper are valuable skills to help students achieve success in college.

“The NHHS IB program gave me the skills I needed to be successful in college. It taught me how to manage my time, build the right scholarly habits, and build the work ethic that is expected of me at the college level. I even submitted one of the essays I wrote in an IB English class for a sportswriter job application, and I got the job! That experience has opened the door to even more opportunities as well. It’s safe to say I wouldn’t be where I am today without the Newport Harbor IB program.”

— Joe Skinner, IB Diploma Class of 2018, USC Presidential Scholar, USC Annenberg Media Freelance Columnist, USC B.A. Communication and Journalism Class of 2022

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • newportheights.nmusd.us



Terri Clarke
Principal

PTA & Foundation Bring “Recess Art” to NHES

For the first time, NHES students had the opportunity to let their creative juices flow through “Recess Art.” Our PTA and Foundation teamed together to provide this fun, hands-on outlet for students! Each month, students will have the opportunity to engage in different art projects during recess while collaborating with schoolmates, learning something new, and having fun. The first project in November was Thankful Turkey’s

where students learned that marker on a coffee filter sprayed with some water can turn into a beautiful design. Some upcoming projects are intricate snowflakes for winter, African-inspired masks to celebrate our school play: Lion King, Jr., painted rocks for our kindness garden, and more! Thank you to our PTA for coordinating the projects and volunteers to run “Recess Art” and to our Foundation for funding the program through the generous donations of families and community members. We are excited to see our students engaging in this art opportunity and can’t wait to see their upcoming creations.



Paularino Elementary (K-6)

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • paularino.nmusd.us

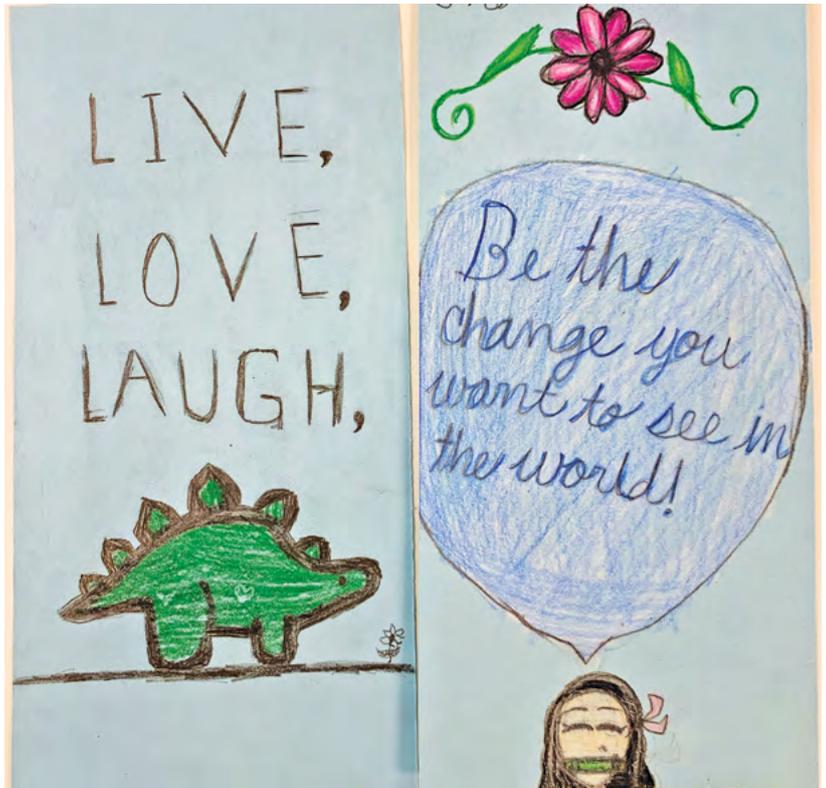


Annalisa Schwartz
Principal

World Kindness Bookmark

World Kindness Day was Saturday November 13th. Our librarian, Ms. Rosi Collins, hosted a World Kindness Bookmark Swap with a neighboring Newport-Mesa elementary school. Our Paularino Panthers were asked to participate by creating a kindness bookmark. Once bookmarks were collected they were sent to the neighboring

elementary school and hidden into various books in their library. The goal would be that students would check out a book and unknowingly receive a kindness bookmark made by another student. Bookmarks from the other campus were placed into various books in our Paularino library waiting for students to see what kindness means to the other school. Almost every classroom participated in the World Kindness bookmark Swap. Our Paularino Panthers created beautiful bookmarks for the swap by coloring, drawing, and creating their own image to show their kindness on paper. Way to go Panthers!



Pomona Elementary (K-6)

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • pomona.nmusd.us



Cindy Pedroso
Principal

Pomona Students Shine

It is so hard to believe that we are in the holiday season, and one of the things that we are most grateful for is our students! It has been so wonderful to

have them back engaged in great learning opportunities and playing with their peers.

We are also thrilled to be bringing back some activities for our students and families with our first Trunk or Treat experience, hosted by our amazing student council and PTA. This event was so full of energy, and it was a wonderful way to welcome our families back. This no doubt will become a Pomona tradition.

This year we are really focusing on our students' emotional well-being to ensure that their ability to learn

is optimal. We are excited to be bringing in new opportunities for student engagement, including after-school enrichment STEM and soccer programs with embedded social-emotional lessons.

Pomona students will also have an art program, which will give students the opportunity to shine in more ways than just academics. Pomona students are scholars, athletes, artists, and so much more. #pantherpride #thrivers



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

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • rea.nmusd.us



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

AVID Family Nights

AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a team effort in which the school-site and district staff, parents, students and community work to prepare students for college readiness and success in a global society. Our recent AVID family night, AVID in the Classroom, was a huge success. Students and their families were motivated to come to the virtual evening as

different grade-level students, and their teachers presented the AVID tools and strategies in each classroom. Given that parents have not physically been in the classrooms this year, these classroom-specific presentations provided parents with a glimpse of their children's classroom surroundings. The parents were invited to look at those things on the walls, organizational systems, student seating and more.

The over 100 participants in the virtual meeting engaged in a bingo activity. As they viewed each classroom, they looked for AVID anchor charts, AVID cheers, Costa's Levels of Questioning, growth-mindset support, writing, inquiry, collaboration, three column notes, class colleges and more.

In addition to an opportunity to view classrooms, this activity highlighted the variety of ways that AVID strategies are being used across the campus as a means to support high academic standards and to prepare students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Although the AVID Family Night theme provided parents with a window into our classrooms, it is our hope that parents are able to visit classrooms soon. At Rea, we all thank parents for your support of bringing out the very best in each child. Let's continue to work together to prepare our students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • sonora.nmusd.us



Mia Doidge
Principal

Art Masters

The Sonora Eagles have been so excited to once again have opportunities where they can learn about art! Through Art Masters, the

students are currently learning about Georges Seurat. He is a post-impressionist artist most well-known for his style of pointillism, which are tiny, detached strokes of color that create brilliant scenes when you see the entire work. Students had options between creating an umbrella or a sailboat and were all smiles as they worked diligently on their art. It's so great to see our students shining in moments where they can be creative!



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

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • tewinkle.nmusd.us



Dr. Dipali Potnis
Principal

Changing the World

The theme of our school year is “Knowing our Community’s Names, Faces, and Stories – The Sheroes and Heroes of TeWinkle.” Our belief is that all members of the community embody superpowers and strengths. As a school, our job is to be able to tap into our students’ superpowers and have them gain the confidence to bring their strengths to life.

When we found out that the PTA Reflections project theme was called “We can change the world by...”, our team was ecstatic. PTA Reflections is an annual opportunity for our students to showcase their artistic abilities. This school year, TeWinkle added a drawing and painting class to campus, and we were enthusiastic about the high level of participation by our student body and the students in this class.

We had over 75 students participate, and several who received accolades district-wide. One student even moved forward to the statewide competition. We always knew that our students were artistically talented, but what we are most confident in relation to them is that they have the capacity to change the world.



Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • victoria.nmusd.us



Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal

Arts are Back

November is filled with activities at home and at school – and with the recognition of Thanksgiving just around the corner, it is a reminder of how many things we have to be grateful for. One thing we have to be grateful for is the return of enrichment activities at Victoria. Our Art Masters program provides our students an opportunity to explore the



arts and feed their creative paths. One Friday a month our students can engage in expressing their inner artist by creating paintings, drawings, and crafting with various objects to create one of a kind art projects. At Victoria we believe that the process of creativity develops mental and personal growth, encourages problem solving, and celebrates a child’s uniqueness... the arts are back at Victoria.....Go Voyagers!



Whittier Elementary (K-6)

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • whittier.nmusd.us



Randy Lempert
Principal

A Season for Sharing and Caring

The Whittier Dolphin community always has a keen eye to demonstrate pride. Our students continue to strive to showcase their personal best, respect, living an “I am career- and college-bound attitude,” determination, and excellence both inside and outside the school. The whole Whittier community recently took on a prideful challenge to collect and donate food items to help kick off the holiday season.

This initiative was a vision created by our Whittier student council. With the support of teacher-advisers Mr. Perez and Ms. Ochoa, our Whittier leaders devised a plan that would encourage the students to bring food items to school for later donation to a local food bank. Our kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms rallied to fill up their classrooms with these donations. A little friendly competition between the classrooms also helped to motivate our students to showcase their room’s determination to collect the most items.



Whittier did not disappoint. The students stepped up to the challenge of thinking beyond themselves and others. At the end of the month our student leaders counted and collected the various food items, and the results did not disappoint. The students compiled over 2,000 items! This fantastic response truly showcases their passion for making a difference in our community.

Whittier continues to be proud of its students for being good difference-makers. Thank you to our student council, teachers, and students for creating a culture of sharing and caring here at Whittier. Go, Dolphins!

Wilson Elementary (K-6)

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • wilson.nmusd.us



Dr. Jennifer Heckert
Principal

Wildcats Walk to School Safely

Wilson Wildcats walked and rode to school safely on October 13, 2021. We are so grateful to the City of Costa Mesa for supporting us during this event. Our students, staff, and families had an opportunity to learn about safe routes to school as well as bike and helmet safety expectations. We met in the morning and

joined together as one, strong Wilson community to demonstrate and practice safe methods for coming to school. We are also so thankful to the Costa Mesa Police Department for escorting us and even stopping traffic at Wilson and Placentia for a safe and memorable experience. Wilson Wildcats are also learning about the importance of exercise and healthy habits that help us to feel good and THRIVE! Thank you to all that participated to support our Wilson community.



Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • woodland.nmusd.us



Dr. Amy Nagy
Principal

Art Masters Legacy

The Kaiser Woodland Parent Faculty Organization (KWPFPO) continues to provide our students with many supplemental and enrichment programs including Art Masters Legacy. This year, we

are studying a more diverse group of artists. We started with Louise Nevelson, a leading sculptor of the twentieth century and the first woman artist we've studied. Future artists include Mexican painter, Diego Rivera, and Jacob Lawrence, who was known for his paintings portraying African-American life. In addition to studying these artists, students will also have the opportunity to learn about the history of Chinese brush painting. Through this art program students develop the skills needed to “cultivate imagination, evaluate works



TK and kindergarten students had a chance to create their own masterpieces using the monochromatic, box-like structures and nested objects that Nevelson pioneered.

of art and create their own masterpieces.” Woodland is a GREAT place to learn!

Early Childhood Education

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



Michelle O'Neill
Coordinator

Annual Jog-A-Thon

The preschoolers at Newport Elementary School participated in its annual Jog-A-Thon to raise funds to support several exciting school activities. The

preschoolers started the day off at flag deck where our principal Amanda Estrada cheered the students to a fun filled day of jogging. Our classroom teacher Mrs. Merin and Instructional Assistants Ms. Mackenzie and Ms. Theresa made all the superheroes capes the students wore for the day. The preschoolers enjoyed jogging, listening to music, and taking class pictures with their friends.



Ms. Mackenzie, Mrs. Merin (teacher) and Ms. Theresa

Health Services

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



Merry Grasska
MPH, FNP-C,
RN
Director

Music and Health: Connected?

Our lives have changed since COVID-19 hit the USA. One of the impacts for many, including children, is around emotional wellness.

I began to wonder about the arts, particularly music and its influence on emotional health and feelings of well-being. During the shutdown, musical performances and concerts were canceled while public health professionals studied and offered best strategies to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Observing this, I became curious about the body's response to music.

In reviewing some of the research, I learned that music can have a powerful influence on human beings. Studies show that music connects us through shared experiences, which is a social and emotional benefit. It can enhance learning and memory, lighten mood, reduce anxiety and depression, decrease fatigue, and serve as

a motivator or energizer during physical activity like dancing or working out.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins and the Mayo Clinic found that certain neurotransmitters that play a role in brain function are released when people listen to music. These naturally occurring neurochemicals in the body help reduce stress, influence immunity, have the power to change mood, and reward the body with feelings of pleasure. These studies included participants from a wide variety of backgrounds, including age and gender. Most noteworthy, participants reported similar reasons for listening to music.

One of the most common reasons for the use of music was that it helped people regulate their emotions, affected their mood, and helped individuals process feelings. Think about it the next time you are listening to your favorite tunes. How do you feel, what are you thinking about? Try different types of music to see if the experience varies with style of music. Next, listen to music with your children and watch their responses. Is there a connection, and is it helpful?

Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition



Todd Hatfield
Director

We are Grateful

By Pam Williams, MPH, RD, Nutritionist

The school year is moving along quickly, and Nutrition Services is excited to report that we now offer hot entrees to our students regularly!

What makes our excitement over the top? In the midst of so many shortages around the world, we remain grateful that we have a healthy staff who work hard to provide

good and healthy meals. In addition to hot foods, our staff members still look for the freshest fruits and vegetables, along with milk and other choices to provide a complete meal. How does this work?

Each day, our central kitchen staff carefully navigates the world of food availability, and with a keen eye to find the right combinations of food that will be delivered at the right time. Each one works hard to bring these foods to

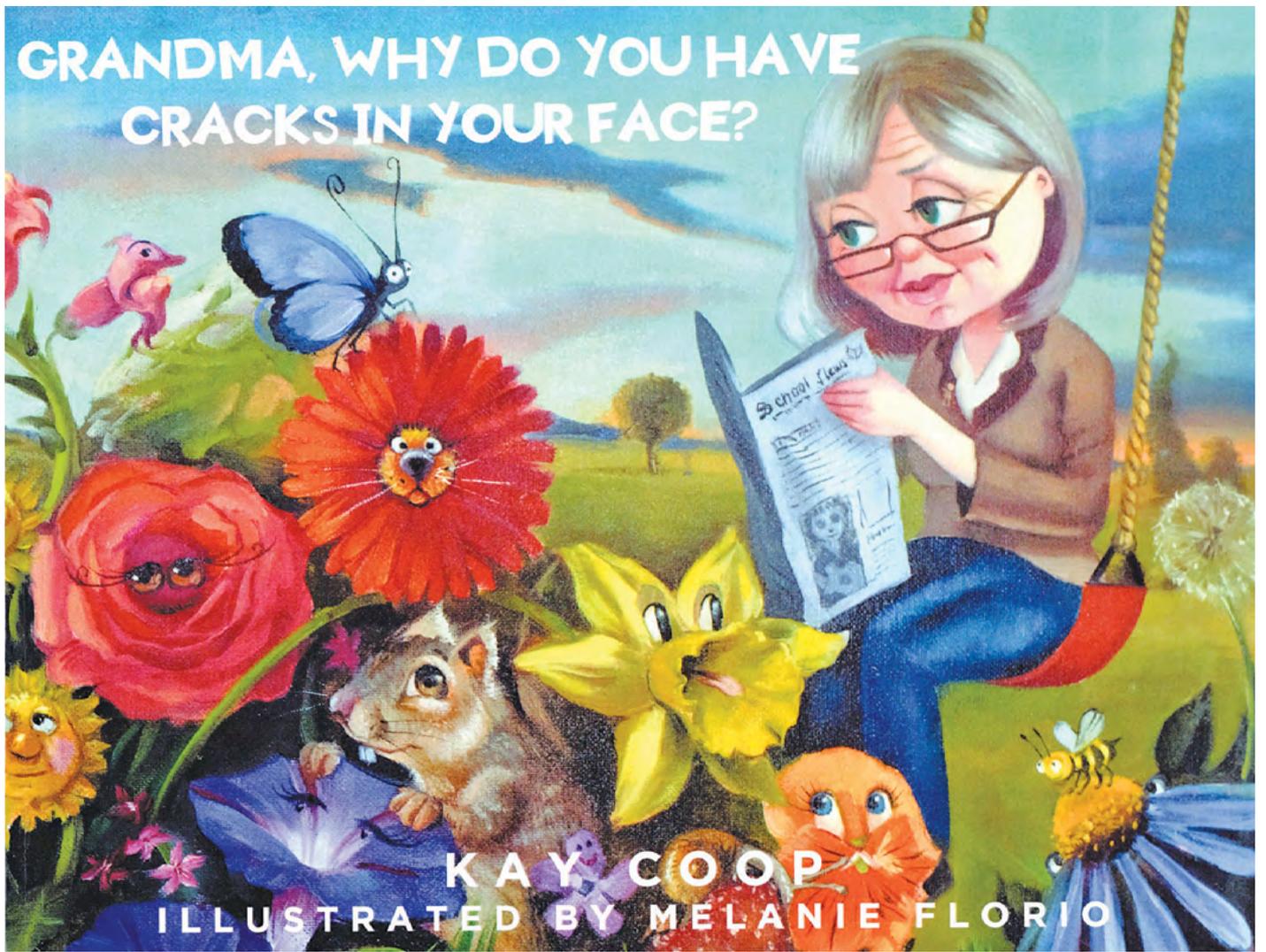
our warehouse and then distribute them to the elementary, middle, and high school students. Cafeteria workers then prepare each food item and wait for the students to file through the lines one by one. With each meal, our cafeteria workers express their contentment. Something so ordinary has turned into a precious ritual that brings them much joy.

Our ultimate goal is to continue to serve our student population hot and delicious meals, while each one can continue to study and learn. We are thankful to be providing the nourishment that will keep our students learning as they grow scholastically. We appreciate coming to work every day to play our part in creating a healthy community and, ultimately, a healthy society.

The Nutrition Services staff members are grateful for the students, parents, and school staff employees who help our food programs succeed. And what a perfect attitude to kick off the holiday season. Happy eating to everyone!



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Now Available on
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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.