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School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



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SUPERINTENDENT

We Are Thankful for Our Engaged Community



Dr. James Elsasser

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) recognizes that stakeholders play a vital role in the educational process. We value their opinions and feedback and seek to involve them in decisions that impact the education of our students. We establish a culture that encourages positive relationships among our students, staff, and parents as well as educational, business, and community partners.

In the district's strategic plan, known as The PYLUSD Advantage, Focus Area 3.0 outlines five strategies for supporting an engaged community. In fact, Strategy 3.1 states that the district will provide opportunities for students, staff, parents, and community members to participate in advisory groups and committees that engage the decision-making process at the site and district level.

Our district has several advisory groups that convene on a regular basis. This includes our Classified Advisory Group, Community Advisory Council, District English

Learners Advisory Committee, High School Advisory Council, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council, and Teachers Advisory Council. The mission of each of these groups is to facilitate open communication between different stakeholders and PYLUSD staff for the benefit of our students.

Some of the topics discussed at these meetings include our instructional programs, student and staff wellness, campus safety, optimized resources, and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff also take turns sharing about upcoming events across the district and other pertinent information from their respective departments. In turn, parents, guardians, employees, and community members take the opportunity to share exciting news from their students and school sites or share valuable feedback with district staff.

Without question, an engaged community is a vital pillar of success in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. I am truly proud of the work we have done and will continue to do in this area as we work to ensure our students have the Advantage of an outstanding education.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylUSD.org



Melina Michaels
President

From the Inside

What Advice would you give our younger self? Alumni & Students are talking and we're listening.

Young adults have a lot of wisdom to share and given a platform, our PYLUSD Alums share stories that inspire good humor, wisdom and spark creativity. From the Inside, a REACH Foundation Speakers program that began in Fall of 2020, brings together a panel of recent PYLUSD graduates for a conversation about their high school, college, and career experiences. An informal Zoom setting offers middle and high school students an opportunity to ask frank, open and insightful questions.

Previous speakers have encouraged the importance of being open to change as their education and experiences evolve. They reminded students to seek out mentors for advice and feedback, sharing that PYL Teachers and Administrators are a great source. Speakers also advised students to avoid the common trap of comparing themselves to others. Emily, an Alumni from EHS, Class of 2018, summed it up best, "You are incredible and you can accomplish your goals. Take other people's accomplishments as a rung on your ladder to climb up rather than a stick to beat yourself with". These exceptional Alums are the product of our PYLUSD educational system and their message is positive and uplifting. The REACH Foundation will be continuing the From the Inside program in 2022.

Three PYLUSD Middle Schools Awarded as California Schools to Watch

Congratulations are in order for the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District community as Bernardo Yorba Middle School, Tuffree Middle School, and Yorba Linda Middle School (YLMS) were recently recognized as California Schools to Watch in 2022.

Bernardo Yorba, Tuffree, and Yorba Linda were designated by the California League of Schools for their strong teamwork and exceptional results during these especially tough times.

This is the first year that Bernardo Yorba and Tuffree have received this award, with Yorba Linda receiving their second re-designation for 2022. YLMS was first recognized by the committee as a school to watch in 2015 and re-designated for the first time in 2018.

YLMS attributes their successes to their school-wide intervention program called Build a Better Bobcat (B3). Through this program, students can improve themselves and their academics by attending peer tutoring sessions, making up missing assignments or tests, and learning character lessons.

“YLMS prides itself on developing the whole student,” Principal Greg Kemp said. The strength of their



Professional Learning Community is an integral part of their positive results.

Principal Beth Fisher from Bernardo Yorba Middle School shared that while their academic achievements were a key factor in receiving this honor, it came down to the strong sense of belonging felt by the entire campus.

“Middle school can present some of the most challenging times. We are proud that our students have a team of teachers, staff, counselors and administrators to navigate the challenges and do so in a way where every Matador belongs,” Fisher said.

“For my Tuffree staff, this recognition is confirmation that our journey was worth the effort it took, acknowledging that there is more work to do,” Principal Cindy Freeman said. Despite the obstacles they faced, Mrs. Freeman recognizes the important role that her staff’s creativity, collaborative approach, and love for the students played in cultivating an engaging and caring environment for each student.

“I’m ever so grateful to be part of a school community that took a world crisis situation and created something special for students,” Cindy Freeman said.

The California Schools to Watch District Leadership Celebration will be held in March.

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endorse the advertisers in this publication.

The new year is well underway. Here's to a healthier year for everyone.

Dr. Elsasser begins this issue with his message on page 2 about the strategic plan and community engagement.

We have included our popular student book reviews on pages 21-23. If your child is interested in being a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information. Be sure to enter our Word Search Contests on pages 22 & 23 (all ages may enter). Thank you for including *School News* in your reading choices.



Since our next issue is May 11 I don't want to miss wishing Dr. Seuss Happy Birthday! Enjoy Read Across America Day March 2!

Bernardo Yorba Middle School (7-8)

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Beth Fisher
Principal

Belong at BeYorba: School to Watch Award

This March our school is proud to accept an award for being a "School to Watch." While our community has seen highlights about this prestigious award, we are most proud of the reason for our recognition.

The visiting team designated us as a "School to Watch" because of our approach to belonging and inclusion. As the team went into classrooms and spoke with as many students as possible, every voice reflected that students have a safe place to learn and feel that they belong at BeYorba. Middle School can be difficult to navigate. We are proud our students have a community to help them learn and grow.

Brookhaven Elementary School (TK-6)

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Julie Lucas
Principal

Brookhaven's Village of Helpers

Since the return to school this past fall, our students, staff, and families have shown resilience, grit, and joy in their learning! We are seeing a return of many of the traditional school activities on our Brookhaven campus, and we have our PTA and staff to thank for that in return.

Our theme this year is, "The Important Thing about Brookhaven is YOU." We have committed to making school engaging, fun, and appropriately rigorous as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. Whenever

our district office staff or substitute teachers visit or work at Brookhaven, they always comment about how happy, welcoming, engaged, and respectful our students are to everyone.

As a staff, we always strive to acknowledge the "pawsitive" behaviors that our students exhibit, and that we expect every day. We are grateful for the "village of helpers" who have pitched in to help foster the strong, positive, and nurturing environment that is Brookhaven. As ever, Brookhaven is a fantastic place for our students to learn and grow. We want to say "thank you" to our wonderful school community as we, along with all of the PYLUSD, will "Rebound, Reignite and Reestablish."

Bryant Ranch School (TK-5)

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Shannon Robles
Principal

Little Digger's Garden Club

At Bryant Ranch, we recognize the importance of students feeling a sense of belonging and making learning fun. This school year marks the 6th year for the school's

Garden Club program. After a hiatus, the Little Diggers are ready to dig in with their hands and eager hearts. The Bryant Ranch Little Diggers Garden Club is an immersive, all-inclusive gardening program that teaches young children how to take care of the environment and nature. The curriculum includes soil health, seed growth, compost, harvesting, healthy eating, and biodiversity.

At the first Garden Club meeting, 1st through 5th graders were able to add soil and fertilizer to get their garden ready for planting. Since then, they have



planted snap peas, green beans, herbs, lavender, irises and carrots! Coming up they will learn about pollinators and their natural habitats. We are so proud of our Little Diggers!

Buena Vista Virtual Academy (K-12)

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.buenavistavirtual.org



Jamie Jauch
Principal

Fun Friday

Buena Vista Virtual Academy is an online school, but we provide fun, optional, in-person activities for students and families throughout the year. "Fun Friday" events for elementary students encourage students to socialize and engage in STEAM activities. Students participate in art, coding, robotics, gardening, science, and physical play with grade span groups of students. Additionally, in conjunction with the PTSA, BVVA teachers have hosted a Truck-or-Treat Halloween event and a Winter Holiday Arts and Crafts Make and Take event. This spring, we are planning a "book tasting" to celebrate Read Across America Day, a spring STEM Fair, and even a theatrical production. We believe independent study is best when students have opportunities to get connected with peers and have a great time learning.



El Camino Real High School (Continuation High School 9-12)

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • www.ecrhs.pylusd.org



Carey J. Aiello
Principal

Math for Life

Math students sometimes do not see the real-world applications of the topics they study. El Camino Real math teacher, Susan Rotkosky, strives to empower students to demonstrate their knowledge through meaningful and creative assignments. She encourages

a growth mindset, reminding students they have the capacity to learn and apply complex concepts. At the completion of their latest unit, rather than give a test, students were asked to create a design that included a parabola, which is the graph of a quadratic function. After completing their designs, they were asked to identify key features of the parabola including the vertex, axis of symmetry, intercepts, equation, transformations, domain and range.

The Algebra 1B students designed some very creative objects with parabolas including roller coasters, bridges, buildings, animals, and more. Students got a glimpse of the design process and recognize that their math skills are important for future college and career opportunities.



Math in Action

El Dorado High School (9-12)

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



Joey Davis
Principal

Two New Olympic Banners

Just before winter break, El Dorado had the privilege of welcoming two Olympic banners into the Joe Raya Gym. First, Janie Takeda Reed was one of El Dorado's most decorated softball players. She earned

4 years of 1st team all Century Team honors and Co-MVP her

Senior year. She was named Female Athlete of the Year and Orange County 1st team honors in her Senior year, along with maintaining honor roll all 4 years. She attended University of Oregon and joined Team USA eventually winning a bronze medal.

Kelly Claes was a four-year varsity setter and captain for the varsity volleyball team at El Dorado. She was named League MVP all four years,

and set several school records for hitting and setting. After graduation, Kelly went on to play beach volleyball at USC where she was named a 2015 AVCA All-American. With her partner, Claes led USC to back to back NCAA Championships in 2016 and 2017. Claes and her current beach partner tied for 9th in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



Janie Takeda Reed



Kelly Claes

Esperanza High School (9-12)

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Jeff Giles
Principal

Gift Exchange

Students from Esperanza High School purchased every student at Ruby Drive Elementary School a gift for the holiday season.

Over 26 clubs, classes, and sports teams participated in this generous act of kindness. Then, on Thursday, December 16, Esperanza had 120 students visit Ruby Drive's campus

for the exciting gift exchange. The Esperanza students visited classes and helped the Ruby Drive students with crafts, worksheets, outside activities, and more. The day ended with the exchange of gifts and festive holiday wishes.

The Aztecs would like to share a special thanks to Principal Carmona and all the Ruby Drive teachers and staff for allowing the Esperanza students to come and celebrate with the Ruby Drive scholars!



Fairmont Elementary School (TK-6)

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Anne San Roman
Principal

Rebound, Reignite, Reestablish

In addition to achieving academic excellence, Fairmont also has a tradition of giving its students the opportunity to participate in the dramatic arts through the annual school play activity. This year we are grateful to be able to reestablish this wonderful tradition. That's because

our incredible PTA has made it possible for over 170 students from kindergarten through the sixth grade to participate in the play *Annie Jr.*

Students met after school for months memorizing lines, songs, and dance moves. They learned new skills, became confident performers, and made new friendships while successfully weathering the COVID storm. Their experience in our drama productions may also lead them to pursue the performing arts in high school and beyond. In fact, several former Fairmont Falcons who now participate in drama

at Esperanza High School came back to volunteer for this production.

This event also gave parents an opportunity to reestablish their connections with our school, as many of them contributed thousands of hours to help make this incredible production happen. Students, parents, and teachers reignited their sense of community and belonging by participating in this great school-wide event.



George Key School (Special Education) / Venture Academy (Adult Transition Program)

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.georgekey.org/ 701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178 • ventureacademy.pylusd.org

Rebecca Allan, Principal

At George Key, the student body learns by using different types of modalities. The teaching staff exposes these scholars to the California standards via the following; low and high tech technology, visually, kinaesthetic, auditorily, socially, solitarily, as well as verbally. Mrs. Gordon's class begins each week with a new subject. An overview of the topic is presented to the whole group with the use of visuals, technology, through music, and tangible items. Throughout the week, both fiction and nonfiction stories are read to the class. By the end of the week these Scholars will have completed a Step Up to Writing project, a sensory based art task, as well as a direct draw activity which focuses on following directions and fine motor skills. By Friday, the students are experts on the subject matter of the week.



Way to show off your knowledge! George Key Students Rock!!

Glenknoll Elementary School (TK-6)

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



David Cammarato
Principal

Student Leadership in Action

Glenknoll offers students the opportunity to explore personal leadership styles and develop broader understanding of leadership through both our PAL (Peer Assisted Leadership) and our Cougar Team. These programs help develop thinking and leading that build connectedness, spirit, and community at school. Many of our student leaders find themselves involved in ASB during middle and high

school. It is fun to watch our student leaders take so much pride in our school. Throughout the school year they have planned spirit days and led activities across campus. Not only do they take pride in planning events, our student leaders also support our primary students and help facilitate positive play on our playground. We look forward to seeing how they will lead as they begin to prepare for our kindness month coming up in March. They are dedicated students that give up their time and energy to help make Glenknoll a great school. Thank you student leaders!



Some of our PAL leaders prepare to assist at recess.

Glenview Elementary School (TK-6)

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Jane Roh
Principal

School Assembly

Glenview's students have been hard at work this trimester. We are very proud of their academic and social-emotional growth. Our generous PTA provided a t-shirt for every student on campus and we show our school spirit every Friday. Students earn Bulldog Bucks

for classroom and school-wide prizes, including a Principal's Party every trimester. Our Principal's Party for first trimester was successful. Students decorated pumpkins generously donated by a local grocery store.

As a part of our PBIS focus this year, we hold a schoolwide morning assembly on the first Monday of every month.

Student council, made up of 4th-6th grade students, share announcements and other important information. For the month of December, we held a sock and toy drive and were able to donate to families in need and to Operation Santa Clause, a local social services program that provides toys for children in foster care and from underprivileged homes.



Golden Elementary School (TK-6)

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Kristin McDonald
Principal

Golden Eagles are Walking and Talking Before School

Golden has implemented a new Walk & Talk before school each morning on both the primary and upper grade blacktops. Now when students arrive at

Golden, they drop their backpacks off in line, and they begin walking around the blacktop with their classmates and friends. As an added bonus, teachers who supervise have been playing fun music using outdoor portable speakers purchased by our PTA as the students walk around and talk. You can often find students singing and dancing around the chalk drawn track together. Not only are our Golden Eagles warming up their bodies and minds, it is a fun and positive way to start off their day! Teachers state that their students



come in ready to learn more than ever, and it has helped to decrease tardiness and behaviors. This is just another way we have been able to Bring Back the Love at Golden this year, which has been the theme for our entire school community!

Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Michael Young
Principal

Science Olympiad Competitions

Kraemer Middle School's Science Olympiad Team continues its legacy of success during the 21-22 school year. Science Olympiad competitions consist of a series of 23 team events including: genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. Kraemer's team annually ranks high in competition, winning regional and state level events. This year, the team is on a

mission to outperform themselves by earning more medals at each next invitational event they compete in. The team began its year by placing 6th at the Dodgen Invitational out of 66 teams. Most recently, on January 8th they placed 6th out of 197 teams from across the country at the National Invitational hosted by CalTech. The team's dedication truly drives their success. By studying diligently each week and leveraging the support of coaches and parents, the KMS Science Olympiad team continues to inspire us through strong teamwork and determination.



Lakeview Elementary School (TK-5)

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lakeview.pylusd.org



Stephanie Given
Principal

Lakeview Lions Learn the Importance of Literacy

On January 28, our Kindergartens took their first field trip on a big, yellow bus to the Yorba Linda Public Library. They were greeted by friendly librarians who led them into the Children's Storytime Theater for puppet-led stories and songs. Students learned about the checkout system, responsibilities of borrowing books, and many received their very own library card. Students squealed when they saw their favorite Gerald and Piggie story or huddled



Lakeview Lions receive their own library card!

together to read picture books on unicorns. Some even ventured into the racks of young reader chapter books. Providing children opportunities to read and reread to find their "beloved book" is a great way to increase literacy confidence, a foundational skill for reading comprehension that will come in subsequent grades. No child is too young or old to be read to. So grab your "beloved book" and curl up together as a family to fall in love with literacy.

Linda Vista *Elementary (TK-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavistaelementary.org



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Young Interns Serving the Community

This year, our 5th-grade students are benefiting from a wonderful project-based learning opportunity that allows them to learn job skills, improve the school site, and make a positive impact on the community. Serving as student interns, they have been tasked with developing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Linda Vista. This involves collecting data, inspecting drains, removing debris, testing

runoff samples, analyzing results, developing an action plan, and presenting the plan to esteemed community officials. Many students have also taken the initiative to maintain drains in and around their homes as they have become passionate about environmental education and sustainable solutions.

Our young interns have stepped up to the challenge and have begun this important work under the leadership and guidance of 5th-grade Teacher, Barbara Wilson. We are incredibly proud of these young interns and we look forward to hearing more about their findings and experiences in the coming months.



Daniel H. ensures the drain is free of debris.

Mabel Paine *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.mabelpaine.org



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Student Store

Mabel Paine has a school-wide matrix that details specific behavior expectations in various areas around campus. Students can find posters around campus defining that Mindful Mustangs do the right thing in the right place at the right time. Teachers and support staff actively reward

Mindful Mustangs positively with Mustang Money. Mustang Money can be given in any venue around campus to reward students for showing that they are Mindful Mustangs. This money can be spent on incentives in classrooms and in our Student Store, brought to us by PTA. The Student Store is open every two weeks and run by PTA and student leaders. Popular items sold at the Student Store include sunglasses, pencils, erasers, small toys, snap bracelets, and more! In addition to physical prizes, students can buy Picnic with Pals, Popsicles with Pals, Games with the Principal, Art with the Principal, and Picnic with the Principal.



Melrose Elementary School (TK-5)

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • melrose.pylusd.org



Kindness Challenge

Melrose Elementary is making Kindness a priority. Students participated in a weeklong celebration

Nicole Hernandez
Principal

of Kindness. One day in particular students went Wild for Kindness by dressing up in animal print and camouflage. In addition, Melrose Marlins completed a Kindness Challenge where they tackled such tasks as writing thank you notes, sharing compliments, and helping each other out. It was a great week of celebrating all that is good about Melrose and reminded students that a little kindness goes a long way.



Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

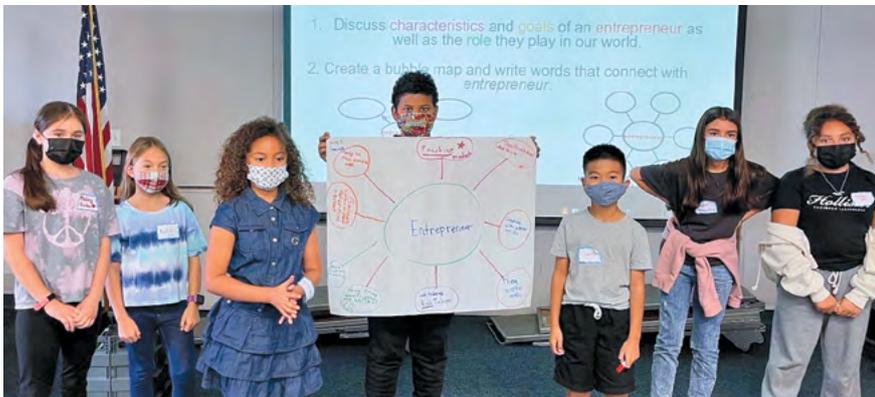
431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morseschool.net



21st Century Skills

On January 20, Morse Elementary launched an exciting after-school enrichment program to inspire fourth through sixth-grade students and provide an innovative platform for learning. BizWorld is an interdisciplinary, project-based program that gives students the opportunity to start and run their own companies. Students learn the basics of entrepreneurship, business, and finance while they engage in activities

that reinforce math, social studies, language arts, and economics. BizWorld emphasizes the value of teamwork, cooperation, and communication as students work in teams to create and run successful companies. Participation in the simulated friendship bracelet industry enables students to learn financial literacy skills while engaging them in authentic opportunities for applying 21st Century skills. Just like the real business world, each company will create, market, and sell its bracelets (products) to make the most money (revenue) possible. In the end, the company with the highest team value will be recognized!



Parkview Home Schooling (TK-12)

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • www.pylusdparkview.org



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Lights! Camera! Action!

Over the weekend at the Performing Arts Center, TK-12th grade Parkview Panthers showcased their talent in a spectacular performance of the musical Honk! This heartwarming adaptation of “The Ugly Duckling” taught students that being different is not a bad thing to be; We are all special and

unique, incorporating a message of tolerance. Our production team consisted of all parent volunteers. From costumes to choreography, our dedicated parents did it all. The countless hours of rehearsals turned into a seamless production. In the Spring, Parkview School’s production of Honk! will be recognized as a participant in the Macy Awards. The Macy program recognizes, celebrated and awards high school musical theater students and productions.



Parkview’s Performance of Honk!

Rio Vista Elementary School (TK-5)

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • www.riovistaschool.org



Brandon Frank
Principal

Be Respectful and Be Positive

Two of our most important “Leopard Laws” at Rio Vista are to Be Respectful and to Be Positive. What better way to show our commitment to those expectations than

by celebrating the Great Kindness Week Challenge! Throughout the week, our Leopards participated in dress-up days, learned great lessons about the power of kindness, and celebrated each other through reflective activities that highlighted specific instances when they were kind to others. Our students were so enthusiastic about sharing their good deeds with each other. Rio Vista Leopards are making the world a better place, one act of kindness at a time!



Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

What Makes Us Special, Makes Us Strong!

This trimester our Roadrunners are excited and committed to working, collaborating, dancing, and singing together to bring this year's school musical, *Shrek the Musical, Jr.*, to life!

As part of our vision to provide students with opportunities to think critically and be creative, our upper-grade students are working in collaboration with the Huston School of Music to present this year's school musical at the Performing Arts Center.

You can hear our students rehearsing weekly and sharing their passion for music and the arts. It is inspiring to see our scholars growing and learning every day. In addition, our PTA and parent volunteers are also working together to support our production and get all of the behind-the-scenes materials ready.

From costumes to props, to set pieces and more, our families are working together to make this production a great success, and a memorable experience for our students. We hope you will join us this year at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 12th at 7 p.m. for an evening of hope, fun, and imagination.



Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.org



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Spreading Kindness like Confetti

Spreading kindness and showing gratitude is more important than ever, and at Ruby Drive, Kindness is "Spreading Like Confetti!" During Kindness Week, scholars brainstormed acts of kindness and pledged to "Be the I in K-I-N-D." Students

decorated the blacktop with encouraging words, participated in a door decorating contest, and walked in a Kindness

Parade. The week closed with thank-you letters and thoughtful notes to others. The collective effort of staff, students, and community has shown that one kind act can have a ripple effect. Kindness Week has cultivated a caring atmosphere that will continue to impact future habits.



Sierra Vista Elementary School (TK-6)

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.sierravistapta.com



Jacquie Bluemel
Principal

Kids Heart Challenge

On Tuesday, January 25, Sierra Vista students and staff kicked off the Kids Heart Challenge through the American Heart Association. Students participated in a virtual kick-off

assembly where they learned about the importance of keeping their heart healthy through both movement or exercise and spreading kindness. Students were encouraged to register online and commit to one of these two important goals. Sierra Vista students have participated in activities that encourage movement



#proudtobeaneagle kindness initiative reminders are seen on campus at Sierra Vista

both in the classrooms and while at recess and/or PE for many years. Likewise, the school's kindness initiatives of #choosekindness and #proudtobeaneagle have been something the students are encouraged to share and live each day - both in and out of school. Student participation in the Kid's Heart Challenge has become an extension of what is general practice at Sierra Vista and we are so proud of each of our students!

Topaz Elementary School (TK-6)

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topazschool.org



Eva Matthews
Principal

Topaz News

I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to lead Topaz Elementary a school with such a rich tradition of education and community engagement. I feel very fortunate and humbled to have received a warm welcome from the Topaz family. This month our Student Leadership Team led by our amazing 4th grade teacher Mrs. Pon have crafted some fun Spirit Days! We kicked it off with 'dress like your favorite book character' day and oh what fun it was! Next up, we have the battle of the decades, '50's vs the 60's'. We are also looking forward to Read Across America week and our school book fair.



Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Dr. Taylor Holloway
Principal

Kindness Month at Travis Ranch

Travis Ranch celebrated Kindness month in January. Our Trailblazers demonstrated acts of kindness on campus and in the community throughout the entire month.

Elementary school students “dressed their best”, “spread compliments like confetti”, and learned

how a simple act of kindness can impact others. In middle school, the leadership students planned lunch time activities such as the ever popular, “No One Sits Alone”, and wrote notes of appreciation that were distributed across campus. The Travis Ranch community also came together in a large act of kindness and supported the American Heart Association with a significant financial donation.

Throughout our AHA Kids Heart Challenge, students participated in daily activities that promoted physical health, mental well-being, and tips to help others with special hearts! Thank you Trailblazers for always being kind and contributing to the well-being of others.



Elementary school students playing at recess and wearing school spiritwear as they do every Friday!

Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Tuffree Encourages STEM Skills!

Tuffree Falcons are exploring a lot this year in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Lab classes! STEM is a great program where students can get hands-on experiences in the sciences and engineering! There are the usual water rocket launches, CO2 dragsters, and building bridges the students complete, but this year, the students will also be introduced

to topics in sports medicine. New this year, Tuffree STEM students are receiving hands-on experiences with medical

procedures. From checking each other vitals, to taping an injured ankle, each student will get a chance to practice these skills. Tuffree plans to offer a STEM class for students interested in becoming future



health professionals. By introducing topics of medicine, it exposes students to new career paths in the medical field. Many of our students are excited to learn something new and are considering a career in medicine now.

Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.johnotynes.org



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Spelling Bee

Tynes Elementary annual Spelling Bee was held once again. Students in grades 4th through 6th who qualified in the preliminary round competed against their grade-level peers. The competition was fierce as many students spelled their word(s) correctly and continued

on, round after round. After two hours of battling back and forth, three winners emerged at each grade level. Our champions had to spell words such as, “orientation,” “intolerance,” and “conurbation.”

Congratulations to our 1st place winners for 4th grade: Elliot Choi, 5th grade: Ayesha Patel, and 6th grade: Rachel Park. Our top three finishers for 6th grade, Rachel Park, Aroosh Jha, and Vu Bui, will be invited to compete against other middle school students at the Orange County Spelling Bee in February. Congratulations to all our participants and winners on a job well done!



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.valadezacademy.org



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

New Wellness Center

Valadez Middle School Academy is proud to announce the unveiling of its brand new Wellness Center designed and hosted by our Wellness Specialist, Mrs. Yvette Kettering.

In the VMSA

Wellness Center, students may come in for scheduled individual or group counseling. However, they may also just drop in at various times of the day if they need support to calm down, ground themselves, or have a quick check in. The Wellness Center is open during break and lunch periods for students who want a quiet place to play games,

or decompress with calming activities and videos. The Wellness Center is now one of the most popular safe spaces on campus for all students!



Valencia High School (9-12)

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Top University Acceptances

As principal of Valencia High School, I am proud to share the exciting news that many of our seniors have received in recent days, as some universities are announcing early-decision admission results. Students from our prestigious Val Tech and International Baccalaureate Programs as well as many from the general population have been accepted early to the following institutions:

Arizona State, Augusta, Baylor, Cal Tech, Harvey Mudd, Loyola Marymount, Mercer, Pittsburg, Purdue, Seton Hall, Tulane, University of the Pacific, Vanderbilt, Xavier and more. It's early in the process, so we expect our usual high representation among the state and nation's finest

universities and colleges. Our students have a distinct advantage given the rigorous yet accessible programs offered at VHS.

Of our VHS seniors, 61 have also been recognized by the National Merit Recognition Program and are enrolled in our prestigious Valencia Academy and/or our AVID National Demonstration Program. The addition of the Cambridge AICE International Diploma program will only add to our students' advantage, beginning with the class of 2024.

We applaud the tenacity, perseverance and resilience displayed by the class of 2022, which has experienced their education in a most unusual manner. Similarly, we applaud and appreciate our Valencia High School teachers who have demonstrated determination, flexibility, creativity and patience throughout the pandemic.

Van Buren Elementary School (TK-6)

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



Connie Roe
Principal

Reward Walk With the Principal

What a joy it is to announce that Van Buren Roadrunners have finally resumed our monthly "Reward Walk With the Principal" outings! As part of our PBIS rewards system, students in 4th-6th grade have the opportunity to purchase this fun event using their "STARS Bucks" each month. This outing is made possible by

our amazing Van Buren PTA and our local yogurt shop. Teachers and staff continue to reward students for their hard work, kind spirit and STARS behavior! As principal of Van Buren, I am humbled by everything our PTA, families, and community members have done to get us through these pandemic times. The patience, kindness, and support our community has shown our students, teachers and staff has been tremendous and I am eternally grateful. Thank you all!



Wagner Elementary School (TK-6)

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.wagnerwildcats.org



Janice Weber
Principal

Kindness Crew

I am proud of our Wagner school and community. In spite of the many challenges that we are all facing in some way, our staff, students, and parents never cease to amaze me! By keeping a steady eye on collaboration, kindness, and learning, we finished

January on a high note! Our Wildcats students and staff participated in the Great Kindness Challenge Week by making note cards, coloring cards, and decorating posters. Our new student leadership body called the “Kindness Crew,” comprised of 6th graders, can be seen on campus each day helping students at recess with playground games, the

occasional skinned knee, and ensuring that no one is alone or lonely! And on the final day of our dedicated kindness week, spirits soared as we hosted our Jog-A-Thon on campus once again! We ran, we walked, and we danced. I am very grateful for the generous contributions of our families and community partners. Go Wildcats!



Woodsboro Elementary School (TK-6)

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



Dr. George Lopez
Principal

JoyDrive

Woodsboro students and families showed their generosity and compassion during the holidays by contributing many toys to area children fighting cancer. It was part of the JoyDrive

started by former Orange County student, Jessie Rees, who sadly lost her battle to cancer in 2012. While receiving treatment, Jessie started the Never Ever Give Up campaign because she wanted to bring joy and encouragement to children going through the fight against cancer. The toys collected by Woodsboro students and families went to the foundation where they were packaged in Joy Jars and distributed to local cancer patients, in hopes that the toys would keep the kids busy and distracted during treatment.

We are very proud of our scholars for opening up their hearts to these children during these very difficult times.



1st graders Harper D’Erasmus, Victoria Gordon, and Fay Nguyen donating toys to the JoyDrive.

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



Greg Kemp
Principal

Build a Better Bobcat

Yorba Linda Middle School has been redesignated as a Schools to Watch for 2022 by The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. The organization is an alliance of educators, researchers, national associations and officers of professional organizations and foundations committed to promoting young adolescents' academic performance and healthy development.

To accomplish its goal of improved academic and developmental outcomes for all students in the middle grades, the Forum identifies and disseminates best practices, articulates and promotes effective policies,

recognizes and develops enlightened leadership, and informs and engages the public.

YLMS first became a Schools to Watch in 2015 and then had its first redesignation in 2018. YLMS prides itself on developing the whole child. At YLMS, the signature practice is a schoolwide intervention called Build a Better Bobcat (B3), which was developed and refined by the staff. B3 allows students to make up classwork, homework or assessments once a week. It also is a time-designated once-a-month opportunity for character lessons.

Each teacher will have the same students in B3 for the year and work with each student individually while developing relationships to help students gain a sense of belonging.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

1990 Bastanchury Rd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Richard Dinh
Principal

Preparing Students for Success

The Yorba Linda High School staff and community is proud of their resilience and efforts in preparing students for success in college and the ever-changing career world. Despite the various challenges common to public high schools, 95 percent of our recent graduates attend a two- or four-year college or university.

We have maintained a 70 percent UC/CSU A-G completion rate, an 86 percent Advanced Placement passing rate, and our students have also scored among the highest in Orange County in the state standardized math and language arts assessments.

To promote college and career readiness, our teachers incorporate the "Future Ready" skills of creativity and innovation into their classroom instruction and curriculum. At Yorba Linda High School, we offer five career technical education programs (business, culinary arts, brand creation, game development, and photography) that engage our students in creative exploration, and are designed to give them hands-on experience in various industry sectors.

Our culinary arts career teacher Jenni Messick was also recognized for her ability to prepare students for success now and in the future, as she was recently honored as the North Orange County Teacher of the Year! Our Mustang community looks forward to an exciting second half of the school year with continued celebrations.



Katie's Review



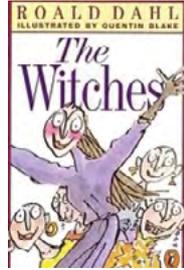
Katie C.

Witch is Which?

Book Title: *The Witches*

Author: Roald Dahl

Think of a group of women, gathering to speak at a convention in a hotel. Nothing out of the ordinary-- except they wear wigs and gloves, don't have toes, and turn children into rats. That is the premise of "*The Witches*," by Roald Dahl. In this fantastical story about witches who hate children, there is no end to your imagination. From the drawn out, shrill voices of the vicious women to the very magical potions they concoct, there is no doubt that you will find the missing piece to all the supernatural myths of the world. A grandson is warned from a very young age about these mystical, mysterious women--but can he face the dangers that creep upon him? If you like a suspenseful story, "*The Witches*" is a perfect book for you.



Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

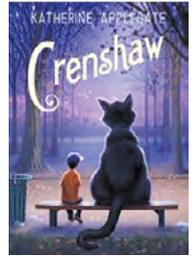
An Imaginary Friend

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate is

about a family with very little money for rent and even less money for food and toys. When Jackson's dad lost his job, his sister, mother, and the family dog have to move from

place to place. When there was no more money for rent, the family has to live in their minivan. Jackson has an imaginary friend named Crenshaw. Crenshaw is a huge fluffy cat. Crenshaw always comes into Jackson's life whenever Jackson needs help.

The story is full of excitement and sadness. I learn more about homelessness and friendship from this story. Reading this book makes me understand why my parents always tell me to appreciate everything we have, to share when we can, and not to take anything for granted. This book also shows how important it is to have a good friend, even if they're imaginary. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.



Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Taegyong's Book Review



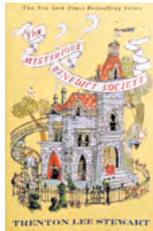
Taegyong K.

A Secret Society

Title: *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

Author: Trenton Lee Stewart

Reynie Muldoon is a very intelligent boy. He is an eleven-year-old boy and lives at an orphanage. One day, he finds an advertisement in the newspaper. It says that if you pass the test, it will let you into a school. Reynie finds the test asking strange questions. He passes the test and meets three other children, Sticky (George) Washington, Kate Wetherall, and Constance Contraire who pass the test like him. Then, they meet Mr. Benedict. He tells them that "The Emergency" is coming from a secret institute that makes the world in danger. Now, they are on the mission to stop it. Will the four be able find the secret of "The Emergency" with Mr. Benedict? This book is written in third person perspective. I feel intrigued in the story more as it progresses. I recommend this book to those who have a thirst for adventure.



Taegyong K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Yoona's Review



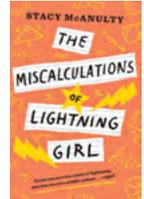
Yoona C.

The Math Girl

Title: *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

Author: Stacy McAnulty

The main character's name is Lucy. Lucy was struck by lightning. She loves math, and is actually a genius with math! Lucy most of all loves pi. If she doesn't sit, stand 3 times pi appears and keeps going in her head. Lucy is homeschooled and lives with her Grandmother. She is ready to go to college, but her grandmother insists and forces her to go to middle school for at least 1 year. Her grandmother says to make 1 friend, join one activity, and read one book. Later on, the school has a project where you have to help places, or people in need. Lucy and her friends plan to help a dog shelter. She later finds a dog named Cutie Pi and instantly falls in love. Lucy's Grandmother soon finds a school that is good for her intelligence, but she's not sure if she wants to go...Does Lucy decide to leave the school and friends? I like this book because there are a lot of changes in this book, which makes it more interesting.



Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

Jenna's Review



Carry Us Away

Book Title: *Stargirl*
 Author: Jerry Spinelli
 Change is a big word and is something a lot of people do so that others will like them. Stargirl is a character that differs from everybody else. Leo the narrator always tells himself



that Stargirl is weird, but do you think that? Your opinion may change throughout the book because of Stargirl's choices. Stargirl is new to the school and catches attention quickly for being unique such as singing with her ukulele in the cafeteria. She becomes the good luck charm at the football game because she starts singing which motivates the players to try harder. She becomes the Queen of the school, but does she maintain her popularity with her quirkiness? Read to find out!

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

David's Review



The Aliens

Title: *We're Not From Here*
 Author: Geoff Rodkey
 We're Not From Here is about a kid named Lan and his family who travel from their human colony on Mars to a faraway planet Choom to start a new



human population. Unfortunately, once they get there, the aliens on Choom tell them to leave immediately. Now they have a big problem that they have to figure out because they don't have enough fuel in their spaceship to go back to Mars. What do they do? Read and find out! I really liked this book and I recommend that you should read this book too if you like action, suspense, and humor.

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Leadership 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 PYLUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2022**
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished | Organized |
| Caring | Powerful |
| Confident | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model |
| Drive | Strong Willed |
| Enthusiastic | Suitable |
| Focused | Teamwork |
| Independent | Trustworthy |
| Initiative | Understanding |
| Intelligent | |



Daniel's Review



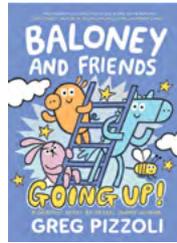
Daniel H.

Funny Friends!

Title: *Baloney and Friends: Going Up!*

Author: Greg Pizzoli

Baloney the pig and his friends Peanut the horse, Bizz the bee, and Krabbit the crabby rabbit do funny things and have fun in the many short stories of this



second book of the Baloney and Friends series! You'll laugh about the things they do, like finding a lost sneeze, using a ladder, and appreciating trees. My favorite story is when Baloney and his friends make up a silly theme song for their group and everyone helps out in their own way. Baloney is my favorite character because he is a good friend. I felt happy when I read this book and I think you should read it too!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

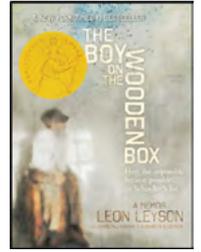
Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

Moments of Hope

In this tragic but wonderful story, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, author Leon Leyson shares his emotions of fear, confusion, and anger. With his early childhood shattering into pieces as



he is taken away and transported to a fatal concentration camp, separated from his friends and relatives. However, even as depression and pain surrounds his life, Leyson experiences unforgettable moments of hope that are unexpectedly injected, reminding me that through this pandemic that I am fortunate to have friends, family, and freedom. A bonus was reading that Leyson had lived his last few years in Fullerton, making me feel connected to his story more.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.

Going Green! 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 PYLUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by March 15, 2022

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

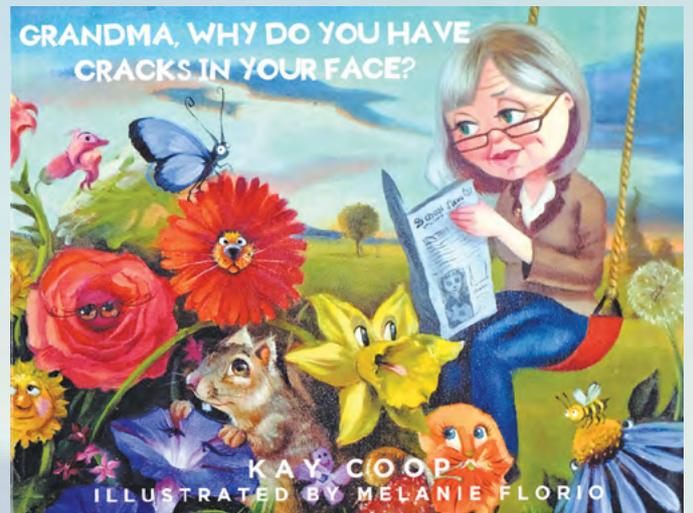
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|--------------|----------------|
| Carpool | Low Waste |
| Compost | Planet |
| Conservation | Process |
| Difference | Protect |
| Eco Friendly | Recycle |
| Efficient | Reduce |
| Emissions | Renewable |
| Energy | Resources |
| Environment | Respect |
| Future | Responsibility |
| Garden | Reuse |
| Healthier | Solar |
| Impact | |





Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



NOW AVAILABLE ON
**AMAZON &
BARNES AND NOBLE**

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.