

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District**



Volume 8, Issue 28

May 2022

## High School Robotics Team On World Stage



(Please see page 2 for the article.)

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

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## High School Robotics Team On World Stage



**Brinda Leon**  
Deputy  
Superintendent

During the spring, the Brea Olinda High School robotics team — Mubotics Team 7157 — made a name for itself in the FIRST Robotics competitions, finishing as a semifinalist in regional action, earning the Imagery Award and ultimately advancing to the FIRST Robotics World Championship.

FIRST, which stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, includes competitions where teams of high school students around the world are

challenged to build industrial-sized robots to play difficult field games. This year's challenge was to create a robot that can scoop up two balls and shoot baskets, while also

climbing a set of bars. Mubotics' robot, Washington, could complete each task in 10 seconds.

Competing in its second World Championship since the team's inception five years ago, Mubotics posted a 7-2-1 record in the qualifying rounds and advanced to the playoffs, where they were eventually eliminated. Throughout the tournament, Mubotics consistently ranked Top 20 in its division with its highest ranking of 3rd coming late in the competition.

The robotics team hopes to use the success and lessons learned this season to inspire the next generation of STEM students to discover solutions to real world engineering challenges by letting their imagination run wild through the designing and building of robots.



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# School News



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Covering the  
**BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**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  
562/493-3193

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



562/493-3193

kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



Netragrednik

As this school year comes to a close I'd want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on pages 11 & 15 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is September 14. Until then have a wonderful summer and don't forget to include the library in your activity choices.



Start them early. They will read forever.



**Congratulations  
Class of 2022!**

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# Arovista Elementary School (K-6)

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • [arovista.bousd.us](http://arovista.bousd.us)



**Eric Barrientos**  
Principal

## Western Flair And Fun

Yee-haw! The heart of Arovista is exemplified in the long lasting traditions celebrated by our Allstars, teachers, staff and the community at large! We were ecstatic to hold the dear tradition of Round-Up in our learning spaces after the interruption due to the pandemic and its convening restrictions. Round-Up is the western-themed “extracurricular field day” where our dedicated PTA parent members and community volunteers stage a day of joy and celebration with games, ice-cream treats, prizes, and much more for students to enjoy. It was the perfect transition to welcome spring and symbolize a brighter tomorrow as our students continue to thrive this school year both academically and socially.



We thank our community volunteers who spent numerous hours decorating and staging the various fun opportunities, such as milk the cow, dino dig, high striker, basketball game, hoopla, football throw, lasso the cow, and giant jenga! The infamous maze was rebuilt this year and our Allstars had so much fun exploring the beautiful piece of art that has become the signature of this tradition. We

also thank Mr. Quinn for singing the traditional songs our students have cherished over the years!

Allstars had a day of community and appreciation for a sense of normalcy! Allstars had a special lunch and sweet treats to enjoy. The photo booth captured all smiles and the positive energy filled the spaces with an ALLSTAR character!

**62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL**  
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## Brea Junior High School (7-8)

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • [bjhs.bousd.us](https://bjhs.bousd.us)



**Dr. Kelly Kennedy**  
Principal

### 2022 California Pivotal Practice Award

Brea Junior High School is pleased to announce our recognition as a 2022 California Pivotal Practice Award Recipient. This California Department of Education recognition celebrates an innovative practice that was implemented during the 2020–21 school year, when California required schools to offer distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our application highlighted our BJH Student Wellness Campaign

that included supports like our school-wide distance learning behavior matrix, one-to-one counseling, group counseling, weekly Zoom friendship and socialization meetings, a weekly Wellness Wednesday social media campaign, and the creation of a BJH Virtual Wellness Center. As we move through this school year and in planning for next year, we are committed to enhancing our BJH Student Wellness Program. BJH is extremely proud of this Pivotal Practice Award, as the entire school community is committed to the mental health and well being of our students in order for them to live a positive, productive, balanced life.



## Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • [breacanyon.bousd.us](http://breacanyon.bousd.us)



**Dr. Kristin Risberg**  
*Principal*

### At Brea Canyon, Mi Casa Es Su Casa

Brea Canyon High School welcomed students and families to their annual Open House on Wednesday, April 27. It was an incredible night filled with learning, connection, games, and tacos! Social sciences teacher Mr. Jesus Horta, and his family, provided all attendees with delicious food and beverages. Sharing dinner together with students, families, faculty, BOUSD district leadership and school board

members was a bonding experience for all that came! Additionally, BCHS Coyote families were able to check in on all of the academic progress and social and emotional learning that has taken place throughout this academic year. A representative from the Fullerton College EOPS (Extended Opportunity Program and Services) Office was also in attendance to help answer any questions for BCHS students transitioning into their postsecondary planning. It was an unforgettable evening, and a reminder that Brea Canyon High School is a family where coyote life begins, and love never ends.



## Brea Country Hills *Elementary School (K-6)*

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • [countryhills.bousd.us](http://countryhills.bousd.us)



**Shelley Lopez**  
*Principal*

### We 'LOVE Brea' and BOUSD

At Brea Country Hills Elementary, we happily celebrated BOUSD day on Friday April 22, 2022, and participated in Love Brea, a volunteer opportunity for beautifying our school campus. Our BOUSD day was celebrated by Country Hills families making signs and showing their appreciation to all staff.

The next morning, several volunteers joined Mrs. Lopez at the school to wash windows and clean up the outside of classrooms. Windows and doors to the MPR, the school office, and each core building were lovingly sprayed, squeegeed, and towed off by volunteers, making a big difference in the cosmetic appearance of our site. The supplies were gifted to us by the city of Brea. Young volunteers took care of the lower/bottom

windows, while adults reached to the ceiling-high, outside windows. Having a park next to the school is wonderful, but can also really kick up the dirt!

We appreciate how much love and support the city and district has shown to Country Hills. Country Hills LOVES Brea! Together we definitely ROAR!



**Principal Lopez in front of posters made by the amazing Country Hills PTA.**

## Brea Olinda *High School (9-12)*

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • [bohs.bousd.us](http://bohs.bousd.us)



**Dr. Josh Porter**  
*Principal*

### A Celebration For The Class Of 2022

As the sun sets on the senior year for the Class of 2022, it is a great time to reflect back on the many successes at BOHS this year. We recently recognized 14 valedictorians who earned straight A's in all four years of high school while taking honors and AP classes and 11 salutatorians who earned almost all A's, with only one B in one semester. The accomplishment is even more impressive

when you realize that these students aren't even sure what normal high school means. They did this while adjusting to a global pandemic, new learning and teaching methods, Zoom school, hybrid classes and then the return to the new normal. What these 25 students have in common with their fellow classmates is the ability to adapt, adjust and make the best out of any situation.

The Class of 2022 did more than merely adapt. They thrived. In this class, many of our student-athletes won a league title, made CIF play-offs, and competed at the state and national level. We have student artists who performed beautifully on stage, competed and excelled in field

shows, participated in parades, and created works of art worthy of a gallery show. We have students who competed academically, bringing home honors and recognition for their ability to showcase their knowledge at MUN, Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon, and most recently a 7th place finish at worlds for the Robotics team. We have students who helped create the first-ever Wildcat TV broadcast and students who showcased the awesome work in our Career Technical Education programs through various events such as the annual Dog House competition, Design and Build, Culinary Arts competitions, Sports Medicine competitions (and support of our athletics teams) and Cyberpatriot competitions.

The Class of 2022 recognizes, respects, and celebrates diversity. They recognize each other's strengths and the value of teamwork. They are able to work hard and play hard while adjusting to any situation. We may not know exactly what the future holds for these wildcats, but we know they are ready to take on the world and excel as they pursue their dreams! They also know that as they spread their wings, they always have a home here. As the saying goes: Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat.

## Brea Online Academy (TK-6)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • [onlineacademy.bousd.us](https://onlineacademy.bousd.us)



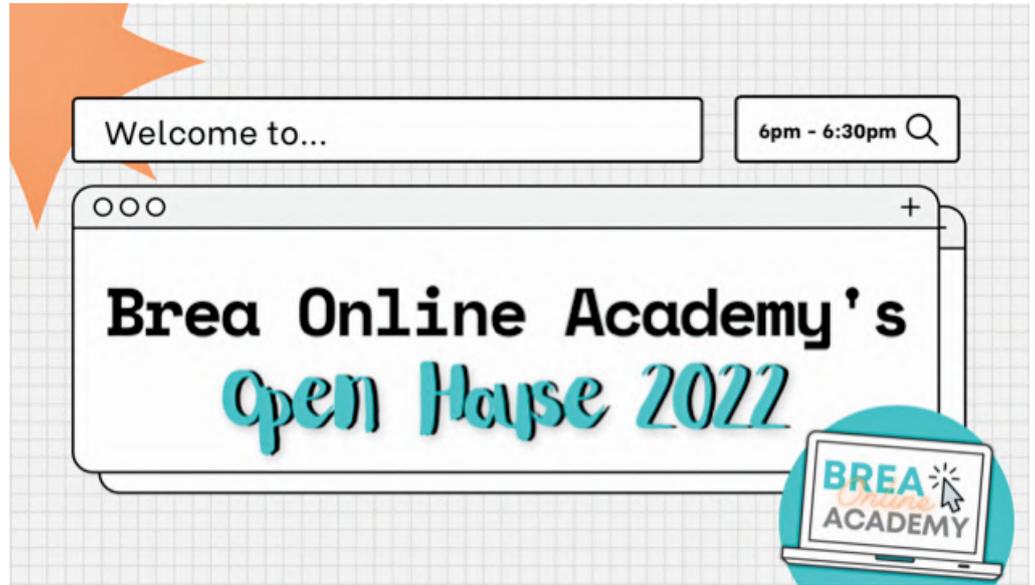
**Dr. Kristin Risberg**  
Principal

### Virtual House Opens

At Brea Online Academy, the virtual program shows firsthand how learning together happens, even when we are apart! On April 26, Brea Online Academy hosted their virtual Open House which allowed for students, their loved ones, and faculty to gather virtually and celebrate

all of the wonderful things taking place in every single Brea Online Academy classroom. Principal Dr. Kristin Risberg led the Open House Zoom, providing Brea Online Academy families with current school happenings and upcoming pertinent information. After a question and answer session, students and their families were able to connect with their teachers via

a Google Slides presentation in order to explore all of the academic and social and emotional learning achievements that have taken place throughout this academic year. It was a night to remember! Being a part of this virtual Open House experience was definitely a reminder that we are proud to be...Brea Online Academy.



## Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • [falcon.bousd.us](https://falcon.bousd.us)



**Karen VanDine**  
Principal

### Falcon Big Buddies

Falcon Big Buddies, one of our favorite traditions, was brought back this year on a limited basis. Upper grade students partner with a primary class to serve as mentors and role models. Big Buddies meet with their little friends approximately once a month. They participate in all types of activities that involve hands-on learning.

After our Code to the Future Showcase, kids shared their projects with each other. The first graders presented their Scratch projects and then the 6th graders taught the kids all about their Lego robots.

They participated in holiday STEM activities where they built a haunted house out of marshmallows and toothpicks. The older students taught their little buddies how to create a Google document, add graphics and change the font. First graders published their holiday stories into the Google Classroom. The partners did a dinosaur dig and talked about archeologists and then tied it to dino puzzles and writing.



These relationships and experiences are so impactful to our littlest learners and make memories for our Falcons that last a lifetime.

# Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration (K-6)

200 S. Flower Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2520 • [laurel.bousd.us](http://laurel.bousd.us)



**Lauren Tovar**  
*Principal*

## A Centennial Celebration

On March 22, 2022, Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation & Career Exploration celebrated our 100th anniversary. The celebration included a ceremony with a commemorative tree planting and an entire day filled with activities for our students. To prepare for this day, our students and staff researched the history of our city, Brea, and the history of our school. Students learned

about significant individuals, various innovations, and significant events during the decades between 1921 and 2022. The activities involved center rotations that included an oral history of the 1920s, art of the 1930s, games of the 1940s, an “I Love Lucy” showing for the 1950s, a classic car show of the 1960s, planting seeds and learning about the Laurel Tree for the 1970s, video arcade games of the 1980s, a scavenger hunt for the 1990s, and a dance station for the 2000s. Our students loved moving from center to center and a great time was had by all.



# Mariposa Elementary School (K-6)

1111 W. Mariposa Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-4916 • [mariposa.bousd.us](http://mariposa.bousd.us)



**Rick Torres**  
Principal

## Bringing Art To Life

The gift of art appreciation is one that is provided by Mariposa's amazing kindergarten teachers. This comes in the form of The Pageant of the Masters, a spectacle appreciated and loved by our community. The show begins with a kindergarten narrator setting the scene, "the kindergarten students have been practicing standing absolutely still, which has been a great feat

in itself. The mission of the pageant is to promote the appreciation of art by bringing it to life."

After two years of canceling this time-honored tradition, it has returned to delight parents and students once again. Each scene is set as kindergarten students provide background information of well-known artworks projected

on a screen, explaining the significance of the piece along with details about the artist. As the screen is raised, a bell rings, and the magic of imagination allows the art to come to life. Students reenacting the piece begin to perform a dance, song, or even a hand-clapping game. Whichever the case, the audience is provided a window to a clearer understanding of what is occurring in the work. These living art pieces do far more than entertain; they educate and allow true appreciation. Mrs. Maurer, who brought this event to Mariposa, works with students a month prior to the show. This is an all-hands-on-deck event, with parents supporting students in memorizing lines and performances. Volunteers gather and dress students in costumes and help the young performers learn their positions to reenact the artwork as well as the actions they will do when that magic bell brings them to life.



## Olinda *Elementary School (K-6)*

3145 E. Birch St., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/528-7475 • [olinda.bousd.us](http://olinda.bousd.us)



**Dr. Preetom Bhattacharya**  
*Principal*

### Walk through Season is Here!!

After experiencing the Walk Through History assemblies virtually last year, we were excited for our upper-grade students to have the opportunity to participate in this interactive program in-person again. The assembly provides a retelling of history through the use of games, music, dance, and

stories to help our past come to life. Fourth graders exhibited and built upon their knowledge of California's history. Fifth grade students participated as characters and key members of the American Revolution, while sixth graders discovered details about ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome. All three assemblies are directly tied to California's Social Science Framework and standards. The California Weekly

Explorer organization facilitates this authentic experience for our students and our teachers and staff work very hard to prepare students to perform in front of their families and classmates. The Olinda Parent Teacher Organization funds this program and we were thrilled to experience this once again at school!



## Summer Fun–Word Search Contest

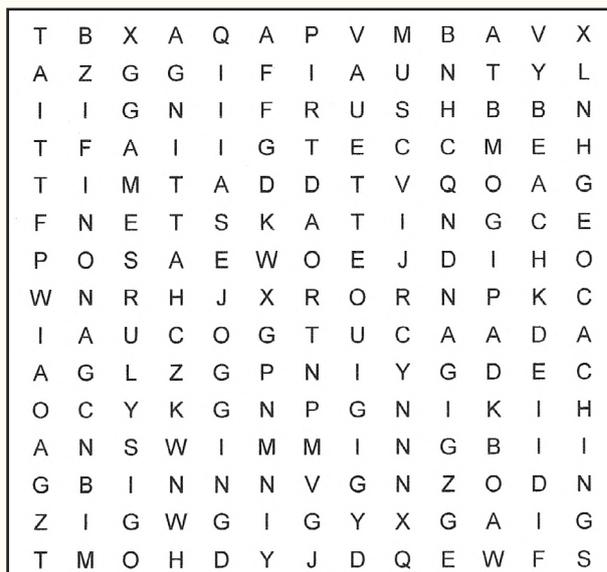
**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

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

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| BEACH    | CHATTING    |
| HIKING   | ROAD TRIP   |
| WALKING  | HANGING OUT |
| JOGGING  | SWIMMING    |
| RUNNING  | DIVING      |
| READING  | WATCH TV    |
| TEXTING  | IPAD        |
| SKATING  | GAMES       |
| PICNIC   | INSTAGRAM   |
| SURFING  | GEO CACHING |
| SHOPPING |             |

**Entries must be received by July 15, 2022**

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



**Congratulations to Aveena Desai  
Winner of our March Word Search Contest!**



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## David's Review

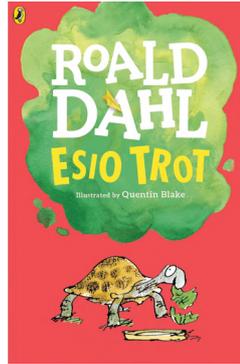


David H.

### A Tortoise and Love

Title: *Esio Trot*  
Author: Roald Dahl  
*Esio Trot* is about

a very shy man named Mr. Hoppy and the woman he likes, Mrs. Silver. Mrs. Silver loves her beloved pet tortoise Alfie and will do anything to make him grow. Mr. Hoppy comes up with a clever plan to make Alfie bigger and have Mrs. Silver fall in love with him. Read this book to find out what happens and if his plan works. I liked this story so much that I've read it multiple times! If you like tortoises and a little bit of love, you should definitely read this book.



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.

## Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

### Love and Courage

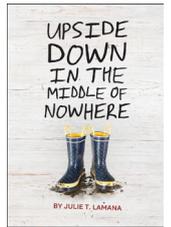
Title: *Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere*

Author: Julie T. Lamana  
Alex, Betsy, Donna, Elsa, and Fiona. Do you know what these are? They are not the names of my friends. They are all hurricane's names. This

book is about a girl and her family who lived in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans where 'Hurricane Katrina' hit.

Armani Curtis is waiting for her 10th birthday. She is very excited for her birthday and looking forward to it. It seems that everything goes well. However, Hurricane Katrina hits her town on her birthday. What will happen to her and her family? Can she go through with this hard time? What do the boots in the book cover mean for her?

This is a realistic fiction story for upper graders. As you read the book, I am sure that you can find yourself cheering for Armani.



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

## Jenna's Review



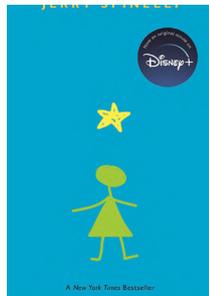
Jenna C.

### 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.

## Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

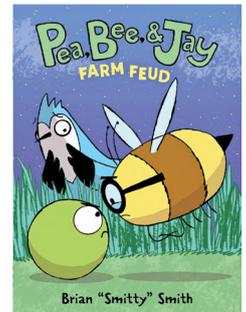
### Best Friends Forever?

Title: *Pea, Bee, & Jay: Farm Feud*  
Author: Brian "Smitty" Smith

Best friends

Pea (a pea), Bee (a bee), and Jay (a bird) are back in this fourth book of the Pea, Bee, & Jay

series! Pea and Bee are arguing so Jay decides to go find new best friends. Then Pea and Bee try to find new best friends too. At the same time, there is a hungry snake who wants to eat them all! I really liked this funny book with cute characters who are silly and have good hearts. Read this book to find out what happens to them and also to learn the lesson that you should never forget about the friends you have.



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.

THUR 11-4 • FRI 11-4 • SAT 11-4

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# MODEL MANIA

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# Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

## Who is BOB?

*Bob* by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead is a magical fiction about a girl who helps an old friend find home. Olivia (Livy) is 10 years old when she travels to Australia to visit her grandmother she hasn't



seen in 5 years. Livy doesn't remember much from her last visit to grandma's, but when she sees Bob, she has a feeling she may have known him. Bob is a short greenish creature in a chicken suit. He doesn't know who he is. He doesn't remember anything about his family or where he came from. When Livy was 5, she promised she would help him find home. Bob has been waiting in her closet at grandma's house for Livy's return ever since. Livy and Bob become closer friends as they try to unravel the mystery of where Bob came from.

This book is sweet, emotional, and magical with a touch of suspense. I also learned more about friendship from the book. I give this book 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.

# BVA

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## Curious George Goes to the Zoo—Word Search Contest

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

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

Entries must be received by July 15, 2022

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

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Amazing      | Leaves    |
| Animals      | Park      |
| Climbed      | Party     |
| Curious      | Rhino     |
| Danced       | Water     |
| Fun          | Wild      |
| George       | Wonderful |
| Giraffe      | Zoo       |
| Headquarters | Zookeeper |
| Hippo        |           |



# Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*

After moving to a farm in Westminster, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez sought to enroll their three children at 17th Street School, one of two elementary campuses in the city.

The year was 1943, and the Mendez children and their parents were all American citizens. Still, they were turned away from 17th Street, then known as “the White school,” and directed instead to Hoover

Elementary, designated for students of Mexican heritage.

That set the stage for the groundbreaking case of *Mendez v. Westminster*, which struck down the legal justification for forced school segregation in California and laid the foundation for the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark *Brown v. Board* decision.

While U.S. District Court Judge Paul J. McCormick originally ordered local school districts to end discriminatory practices against students of Mexican descent in February 1946, his ruling was appealed to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. It was upheld there a year later — on April 14, 1947, exactly one day before Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier.

This past April marked the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of the Mendez case, which had profound ramifications that reached far beyond our county’s borders. Yet the case wasn’t widely known in the decades that followed — even in Orange County. That began to change when Sylvia Mendez, one of the children at the heart of the lawsuit initiated by five families, began raising awareness at her mother’s request more than two decades ago.

Since then, the Mendez case has been the subject of news articles, books and documentaries, and it was even commemorated with a U.S. postage stamp. In 2000, the Santa Ana Unified School District opened Gonzalo Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School. The Los Angeles Unified School District also named a high school after Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, who became the subject of a Google Doodle.

The family’s story came full circle in 2019, when the Mendez family was celebrated by the Westminster School District, which changed its marquee to read “In Honor of La Familia Mendez.”

“This is such an honor for my father, Gonzalo, and mother, Felicitas Mendez,” Sylvia Mendez said. “My father grew up here in Westminster, and we fought the case and won it. And after it was won, nobody said, ‘Gracias, Gonzalo.’ But look at the wonderful ‘gracias’ we are getting today from this wonderful school district.”

Westminster High School also dedicated its new learning pavilion in Sylvia Mendez’s honor in 2021. Meanwhile, OCDE, which produced a scripted podcast on the case in 2017, has teamed up with the City of Westminster for the creation of an interactive park and trail to recognize *Mendez v. Westminster* and its legacy. Both public spaces are set to open this year.

The Mendez case may still be less known than other high-profile legal battles, including *Brown v. Board*. But it’s a critically important turning point for our nation, with reverberations that extended into all areas of society where separate-but-equal policies stifled equity for all citizens.

Keep in mind that this case was pursued by five regular families who emptied their bank accounts and spent years of their lives working to guarantee access for generations of students they would never meet. For that, we owe them an extraordinary debt of gratitude, and we owe it to them to remember.

As we mark 75 years since *Mendez v. Westminster*, this anniversary is not simply about acknowledging an historic injustice. It should be celebrated as an affirmation of our shared values, a reference point to measure how far we’ve come, and a reminder that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they band together behind a just case and put children first