

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Westminster School District



Volume 18, Issue 106

June 2022

Superstars Shine Bright in WSD!





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Superstar Students across our District

Westminster School District has very bright and creative superstars. Each year Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program selects students to receive a scholarship award. Our very own Stacey Middle School student, Alejandra Guterrez Frias, was presented with a \$10,000 scholarship along with a laptop.



AVID aims to provide students with the best resources to prepare for college and career. The program focuses on organizational skills, leadership, critical thinking skills, and rigor. The goal is to ensure students succeed in higher education and life after high school in a successful career. All of our three middle schools and 3 elementary schools are AVID schools. We are in the process of expanding AVID at all of our elementary schools.

Celebrating 150 Years

By Tina Gustin-Gurney, President, Board of Trustees

Our district is celebrating 150th years of teaching and learning. All of our school sites across the district will be placing selected items into a time capsule to get opened in 10 years. Some of objects included; articles of clothing, photos and books. The purpose of this event is to recognize the 150 years of hard work, dedication and success at our schools and have accomplished throughout the years. Whether, a student is an Eagle, Thunderbird or Cougar Cub, we are all coming together to honor an amazing achievement in the community.

There has been much that has transpired since 1872; from the landmark breakthrough Mendez v. Westminster case that took place during the 1940s to the last few years where we tackled a global pandemic without missing a beat. The perseverance our district continues to demonstrate over the years, is why we have accomplished so much for nearly two centuries. It is a testament to who we are as a district and community. We are setting the precedence for generations to come.

As we look ahead, we are excited and optimistic about our future. We continue to serve and meet the needs of our diverse families...look forward to another 150 years of success.



Finley Elementary School students place items in the time capsule to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Westminster School District.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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Netragrednik

School News

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Covering the

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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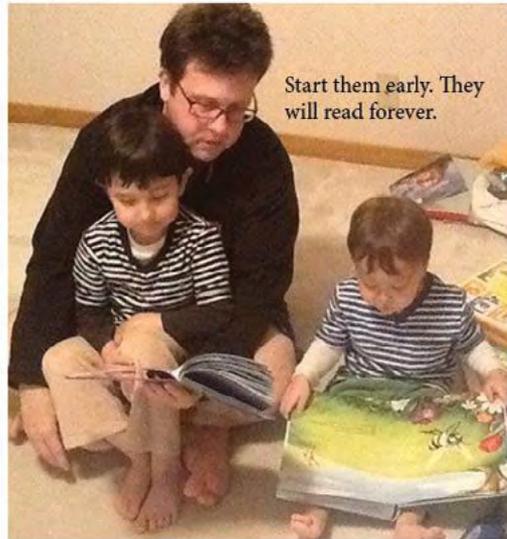
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advertisers in this publication.

Congratulations to Westminster School District celebrating 150 years! What a wonderful experience for students to select items to place in their school's capsule to be opened in 10 years.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on pages 9 & 19 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is September 21. Have a fun summer and please remember to include the library among your activities.



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Jennifer Rodriguez, BS, CIMI, CPST,
injury prevention coordinator,
Injury Prevention Program,
MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Tips to a Safe and Fun Summer!

The summer season brings the hot sun, trips to the pool and beaches, and fireworks lighting up the night sky. This summer, keep these safety tips top of mind, so your family can enjoy the fun, while staying happy and healthy.

Sun Safety

- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside and continue to reapply every two hours. For infants, avoid using sunscreen and dress them in lightweight sun protective clothing that breathes and covers their arms and legs. For babies six to twelve months, apply sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher with broad spectrum protection.
- Dress kids in wide-brimmed hats.

Water Safety

- Never leave your child in the water without adult supervision, no matter how shallow the water.
- Enroll your child in formal swimming lessons to reduce the risk of drowning.
- Wear properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices, like life jackets.

Pedestrian Safety

- Look left-right-left and behind for traffic before crossing the road.
- Cross in marked crosswalks, at intersections or where drivers expect pedestrians.
- Walk focused and alert.

Bug Safety

- Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools of water.
- The CDC recommendation for children older than 2-months-of-age is to use insect repellents containing 10% to 30% DEET, but do not use DEET on children younger than 2-months-old.
- When outside in the evenings, cover up with long-sleeved shirts, pants and socks.

Firework Safety

- Soak all fireworks before throwing them away.
- Keep sparklers away from your child's face, hair and clothing.

Have a safe and healthy summer!



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Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsdk8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Anderson's Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Jessica Ash, Anderson Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Ash is an amazing educator who makes a difference each and every year! She is dedicated to her students and their growth, educationally, socially and emotionally. As a

teacher leader, Mrs. Ash does it all, combo classes, master teacher, technology coordinator, choir, union representative, class performances and much more. She is innovative and always looking for new ways to meet the needs of her students. Her classroom is a model for small group instruction and how to "fit it all in."



Congratulations to Mrs. Ash, Anderson's Teacher of the Year.

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Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsdk8.us



John Staggs
Principal

Learning about Spanish Missions

On Tuesday, May 24th, the 4th graders at Clegg Elementary School had an amazing day at the San Juan Capistrano Mission. The students enjoyed exhibits featuring historic artifacts using hand-held audio controllers to learn about the mission grounds and all of its history over the years. They also listened to commentary about the mission's history and role in the town and California's

history. Mission San Juan Capistrano is one of 21 present-day missions in California. The Spanish missions were established between 1769 and 1833 as a way to spread the Catholic faith and colonize what is now Southern California. They experienced the tradition of the bell ringing, honoring the legacy of Saint Junipero Serra, who founded Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776. We thank all of our parents and PTA for sponsoring our field trips at Clegg so our students are able to have these educational experiences.



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DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • demille.wsdk8.us



Dr. Shannon Villanueva
Principal

It's Cool to Be Kind at DeMille

This year, Demille's VDLI 3rd graders have helped set the stage for an emotionally safe learning space - where mistakes are accepted and kindness is contagious. They published two books that teach simple ways to spread kindness!

After two years of remote learning, we finally returned to in-person learning. In addition to academic standards, educators must also address the myriad of traumas

and emotional struggles families have suffered during the pandemic. Students have missed out on developing critical social skills taught in their early years of schooling.

Our 3rd graders were excited to learn and teach a variety of ways to make our community a better place. According to third grader Hector, "Kindness is including people if they have no one to play with. If they're alone you will say, 'I will play with you.'" DeMille 3rd graders encourage you to spread kindness wherever you are and wherever you go.

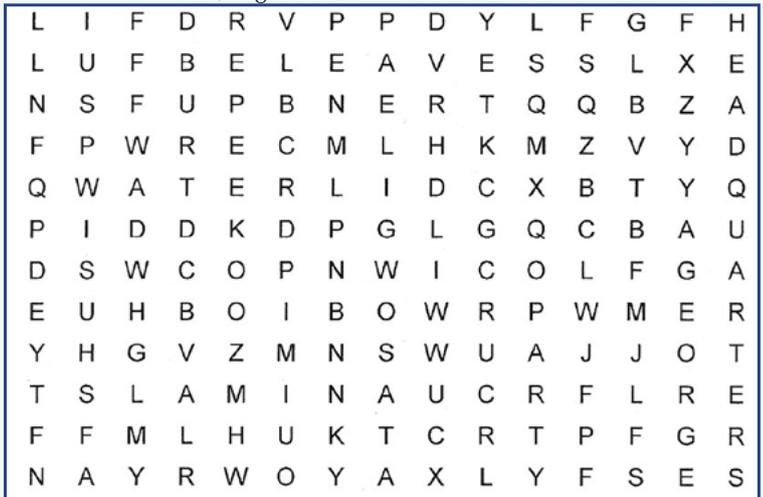


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When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Westminster in the subject line)

Curious George Goes to the Zoo—Word Search Contest

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 | |



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Thank you for sponsoring our contests.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • eastwood.wsdk8.us



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

The Dolphin Dad Campout

For years, our Eastwood Elementary School dads, or “Dolphin Dads,” have worked to preserve an Eastwood tradition. This is where families gather their camping gear, tents, RVs, and sleeping bags and hike over to the Eastwood campus for an exciting night filled with fun events!

After school, they search our field for that coveted camping spot, roll out the sleeping bags, and plop down on a lawn chair. Is it dinner time yet? Shortly after they get settled, a variety of food trucks arrive and fill the air with the smell of a summer cookout. Families sample barbecue, burgers, and hot dogs. As the

sun begins to set, excited students then get in line for free kettle corn and s’mores. “Time to find a seat for the movie!”

After the ending credits roll, our tired families don’t have to walk far to find their campsites. The students put on their jammies and crawl into their sleeping bags. “Zip up the tent dad, lights out.”

As dawn approaches, our Dolphin Dads are already up and setting a pancake breakfast with all the fixings! Sausage, syrup, and gallons of coffee are served to tired parents. It was another wonderful Eastwood event filled with opportunities to make cherished memories with loved ones! A big thank-you goes to all of our Dolphin Dads for making this happen!



Finley *Computer Science Magnet School*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • finley.wsdk8.us



Pam LeMueix
Principal

Preserving Their History

As part of the Westminster School District's 150th Anniversary Celebration, students from Finley Computer Science Magnet School collaborated to create a time capsule filled with memories of the 2021-2022 school year. The Student Council members presented a collection of student work, school photos, and other items that represented their time as Finley Eagles.

The COVID pandemic was a theme of many of the contributions. Fourth-grader Julia Bautista said, "It wouldn't be a time capsule from 2022 without a COVID test and mask. We wanted people to know we were strong and kept learning."



Mrs. Rainey's third-graders class wrote about how they persevered, and were "superheros in the face of adversity--the Coronavirus pandemic." Other items in the time capsule represented 2022's favorite lunch menu items, the most-read books, and trends such as clothing and music.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the students watched as the time capsules were buried in the school reading garden and sealed with cement. "It's really nice to know that we get to tell our story to future Eagles," said Julianna Banaeles, Student Council president.



Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdk8.us



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Support Programs

Fryberger Elementary is fortunate to have two childcare options for our families. Our Extended School Program (ESP) offers childcare before and after school. ESP offers our students social-emotional learning, character development, a nutritious snack, STEAM activities, and homework support. Our families may choose this program for their child on a part-time or full-time basis.

Our second program is the PRIDE program through the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster. P.R.I.D.E. is an after-school program that supports students who may need support academically and/or socially. P.R.I.D.E. offers students, team sport activities (i.e. dodgeball, basketball, and baseball), enrichment activities (i.e. art, music, gardening, and STEAM), and homework assistance. A daily meal is also served during this full-time after-school program.

We currently have more than half of our students attending one of these support programs. Fryberger is proud to be able to offer this support to our amazing families and their children.



PRIDE Basketball League

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdk8.us

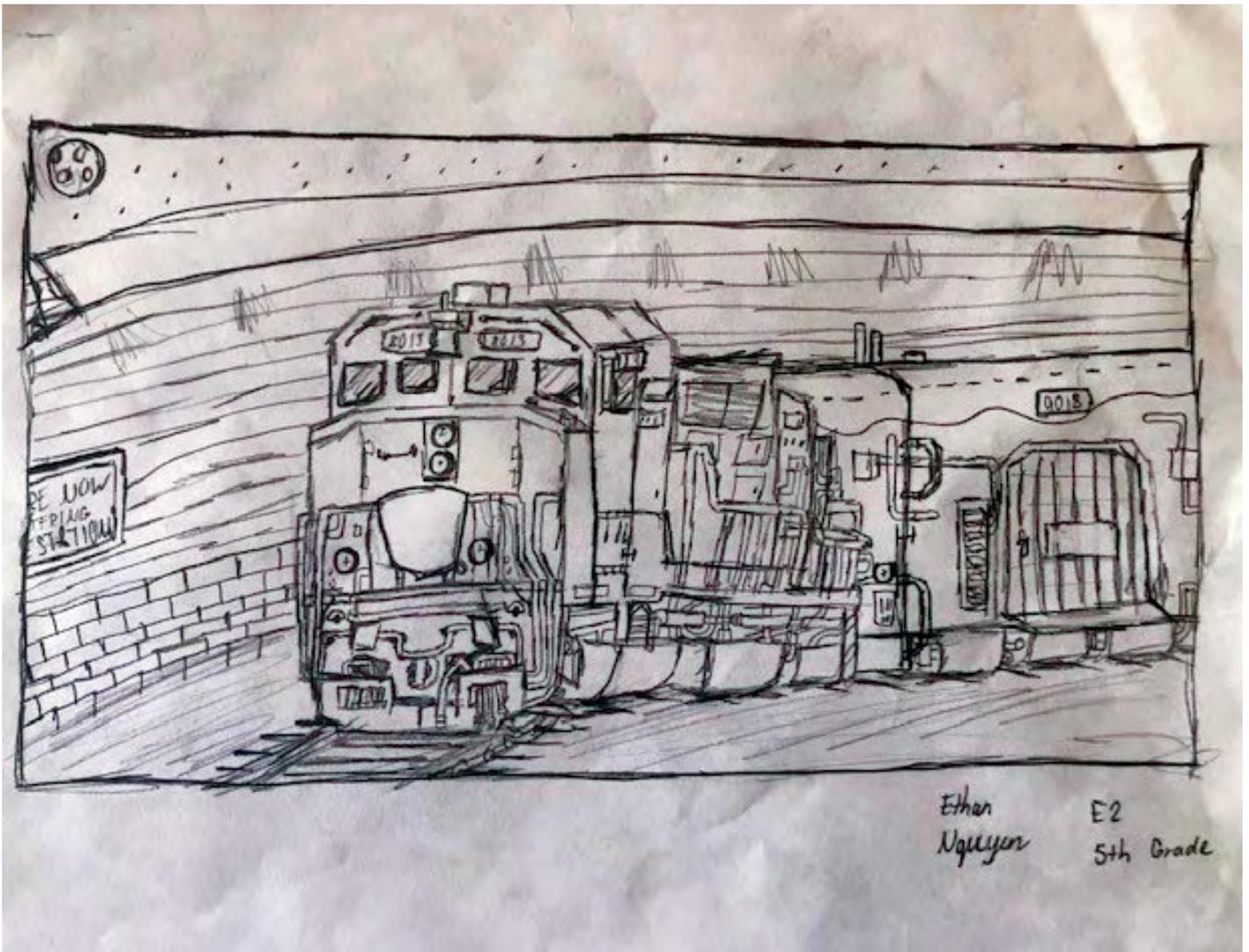


Mark Murphy
Principal

Drawing Contest

This past month Hayden Elementary held our first annual drawing contest. Every student from every grade level could participate if they chose. We gave the students the choice of which materials they could use and any topic they wanted to draw. The staff helped to select a first, second and third place winner from each grade level.

At Hayden, we believe in giving students the opportunity to express themselves through the arts. It also helps to promote creativity, confidence, perseverance, improve motor skills, risk taking, decision making and helps boost critical thinking. We had so many amazing entries but here are the winners for each grade level. Pre-School: Geraldine, TK: Thanh, Kinder: Jacob, 1st: Tommy, 2nd: Leyna, 3rd: Thin, 4th: Emily and 5th: Ethan. Thank you Hawks for participating, you are all amazing artists!



Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdk8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

Club Row

Johnson Middle School was excited to host over 200 of our incoming students to visit for New Student Orientation. Incoming 6th and 7th grade students were able to walk down Club Row to learn about and talk to students representing such activities as archery, weightlifting and puzzle club. Students learned

about leadership, yearbook and other electives offered at Johnson. Incoming Warriors were also given a tour by our current students. The day ended with a pep rally where students enjoyed a performance by our drama department of the play Annie and enjoyed songs from our advanced band students. Along with fun games and activities, students were allowed to truly get a sense of the excitement and energy that is present at Johnson each and every day.



Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • land.wsdk8.us • 714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
*Executive Director,
Early Education &
Expanded Learning*

Early Education Matters

Parents of children who turn 4 years old on or before September 1, 2022 now have a choice to send their child to preschool or TK for the 2022-2023 school year in the Westminster School District. WSD programs are free or at low cost depending on income eligibility. Most of our preschool programs are 3-hours a day but we do have full day programs for working families and those who qualify. Bilingual programs are also available on a first come first basis, space is limited. WSD TK programs are 6-hours a day with options for before and after school care at most sites. WSD programs focus on social emotional learning and developmentally appropriate curriculum. Studies show that students who attend high quality early education programs are more successful in school academically, socially, and emotionally and are also more likely to pursue higher education. WSD programs provide age appropriate activities, safe learning environments, and nutritious snacks. Let us navigate through this early education journey with you and your child!



Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

Hard Work for a Crazy Year

The 2021/22 school year has definitely been an interesting one. We started with mandatory masks, social distancing, no visitors on campus, and staggered recess and lunch. We were sending out close contact letters and students and staff had to quarantine if they had COVID or any symptoms. Now masks are optional, social distancing is a thing of the past, and we can

play together instead of just near one another. Through it all our teachers have worked harder than they ever have before, trying to engage students in learning, trying to make up for lost time, all while meeting the needs of every student at every level in their classroom. They deserve a huge round of applause. Our classified staff has been wonderful as well. It has been a team effort to hold everything together. Without all of their hard work and commitment to this community, we could not have made it through another crazy year!



2022 has been quite a year!

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Celebrating WSD's 150th Anniversary with Time Capsules & Patriotic Songs

The Schmitt Family built beautiful memories earlier this May as we celebrated our students of the month along with mementos to place in our time capsules. Some of these mementos included student letters that highlighted our resilience in the past couple of years, illustrations, “pop

its”, hand-sanitizer, a souvenir to honor a military veteran, and our class photos. We also enjoyed hearing Ms. Elliott’s Kinder students sing the “Star Spangled Banner” as well as Ms. Perez’s third graders sing, “Proud to be an American”. These students entertained us with their beautiful voices and smiles. These performances were followed with the certificates to our students of the month. We concluded with the burying of our time capsules. It was indeed an inspiring and memorable day.



Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

End of Year Bash

This year our awesome PTA hosted an End of Year Bash! Families were able to spend time together after school on our field. Families enjoyed yummy food from different food trucks and our local Scout Troop! Our students

also enjoyed a BMX show, yard games, and a cake walk! The DJ played music throughout and also had fun activities for the students to participate in. Thank you to our PTA for hosting such a fun event for our Mustang Families! It was a wonderful way to end the school year – together, making memories.



Families enjoyed a variety of games to play on the playground.



The photo booth was so much fun!



Families enjoyed being together.



Families enjoyed a variety of games to play on the playground.



The Cakewalk was a hit!

Sequoia Academy

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminister, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



April Derr
Principal

Everybody wants to be a CAT!

Sequoia Academy is so proud to continue to be a part of the Disney Musicals in Schools program by having our amazing scholars performing the AristoCats this year. Sequoia is currently in our fourth year of this fantastic program that supports musical theatre in schools. The program was received by grant and allows our school the

performance rights, training, and materials to perform a 30-minute Disney musical written for elementary school performers. We are so grateful to our teachers: Mrs. Mizuo, Ms. Ballard, Mrs. Schiffner, and Ms. O'Donoghue for all their hard work and effort to help support our students in learning how to perform this fantastic musical and teach students backstage support. Our scholars put on an amazing show for our community and families! Way to go AristoCats team!



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 Westminister in the subject line)

Road Trip—Word Search Contest

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.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Maps | Sunglasses |
| Blanket | Water |
| GPS | Sunscreen |
| Pillow | Clothing |
| Motel | Cell Phone |
| Humor | Radio |
| Hotel | Money |
| Camera | Flashlight |
| Car Games | Credit Card |
| Boots | Spare Tire |
| Snacks | |

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Thank you for sponsoring our contests.

Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Wendy Baird
Principal

AVID Program and Our Stand-Out Scholar

Stacey Middle School is proud to offer a variety of electives. One of these electives is AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. This class teaches students the tools they need to succeed in school, ultimately preparing them for college and their future careers. We offer three AVID classes and incorporate AVID strategies into all of our classes. Our AVID students participate in tutorials

twice a week, working collaboratively using inquiry in small groups with an AVID tutor who helps support their learning on challenging assignments. The AVID students visited Golden West College, Orange Coast College, and Westminster High School this year and had a virtual trip to UCLA. This year, the Angels Baseball Foundation chose eight AVID Stand-Out Scholars county-wide to receive a laptop and a \$10,000 scholarship. We are excited to share that our very own AVID student, Miss Alejandra Gutierrez Frias, was granted this award. Stacey is so proud of its AVID scholar!



Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kenneth Lopour
Principal

Closing with Class!

It has been a wonderful year at Warner Middle School! Our amazing staff and students have worked incredibly hard and have found success both in their academic and extracurricular activities.

We recently held our campus awards night during which over 300 students were honored for their academic achievement and for their stellar classroom presence.

The fact that such a large group of our students in all grade levels was honored was a true testament to the grit and perseverance of our student population.

In addition to academics, we at Warner believe strongly in educating the whole child and incorporating social-emotional learning into much of what we do. On May 25, we held our annual Kid Conference, which is a “for kids, by kids” event during which our own students created an entire day of activities and events to promote teamwork, work on their inner selves, and look to the future. Each grade level had a specific focus and attended specific sessions with their needs in mind. Our sixth-graders worked on teamwork and communication, and

their activities were designed to have students actively participating in groups with activities that required verbal and nonverbal communication to be successful. Our seventh-graders focused on looking inward, with activities that focused on positive mental health, grit and concern for others. For our eighth-graders, we invited multiple groups from Westminster High School to present about success strategies that they will need when they move on to ninth grade.

As a culminating activity, over 100 Westminster High School students who represented many of the performance groups on their campus—band, dance, cheerleading and so on—came to give a 45-minute performance. This final event showed our students many of the awesome extracurricular groups they could eventually join, and it got them excited about their upcoming high school journey. In all, this was an exciting day filled with fun, comradery and learning, and the fact that it was organized and run by students is absolutely incredible!

While the 2021–22 school year is coming to a close and we will sadly have to say goodbye to our wonderful eighth-grade class as they move on to the next level, we are eagerly looking forward to meeting our new students for the 2022-23 school year!



Some of our students in a “Kid Conference” breakout session.

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us

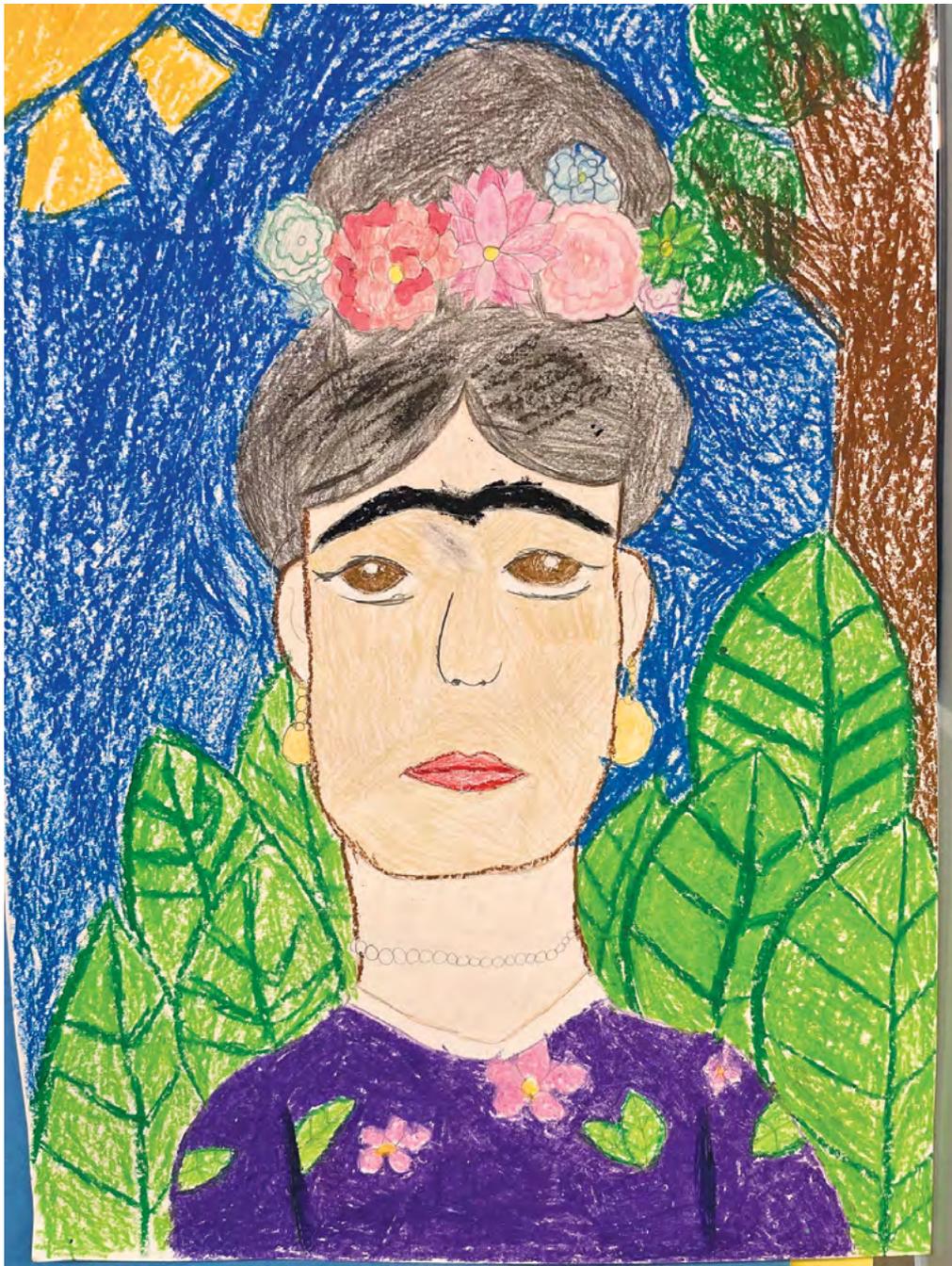


Robert Murdock
Principal

Art Museum

Webber Elementary School created an art museum for parents to come see what their kids have been working on at school. The displays included photography inspired by Ansel Adams, drawings inspired by Frida Kahlo, examples of aboriginal style artworks, painting using perspective, impressionist still lifes, and chalk on paper. We also included sculpting with clay, 3D drafting and printing,

and models built to represent the California missions. These projects represent a small taste of what we want to accomplish moving forward at Webber. These visual arts will combine nicely with our performing arts programs that will continue and expand for next year. In the coming year, we will perform the musical, Aladdin, we will continue our ukulele after-school program, and we will add both instrumental and vocal music programs after school. Visual and performing arts are vital components of a well-rounded education. That is our goal here at Webber!



Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsdk8.us



Tieumi "Domi" Ellis
Principal

Future Cougars!

The Stacey Middle School gymnasium was booming with cheers and excitement as our Thunderbirds played Hungry Hungry Hippo and Musical Chairs against Webber, Schroeder, Eastwood and Clegg School. Stacey ASB began with an introduction to the school, played games, and culminated with a tour of the campus. Students asked questions, saw old friends, and many won Cougar t-shirts. It was so rewarding to see

our Thunderbirds begin their next journey and explore their interests. Electives such as Robotics, Spanish, Leadership, Yearbook, and Videography are some of the amazing opportunities that await them. We know that we have prepared our traditional 5th graders well and are thrilled to see them spread their wings. Willmore is also excited to announce that our Award-Winning Dual Language Immersion Program will be offered from Preschool to 6th grade! Our program emphasizes and promotes multilingualism through the acquisition of three languages: English, Spanish, and Coding.



Mrs. Lies and Mr. Canavan's 5th Grade students tour Stacey Middle School.



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