

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Garvey School District

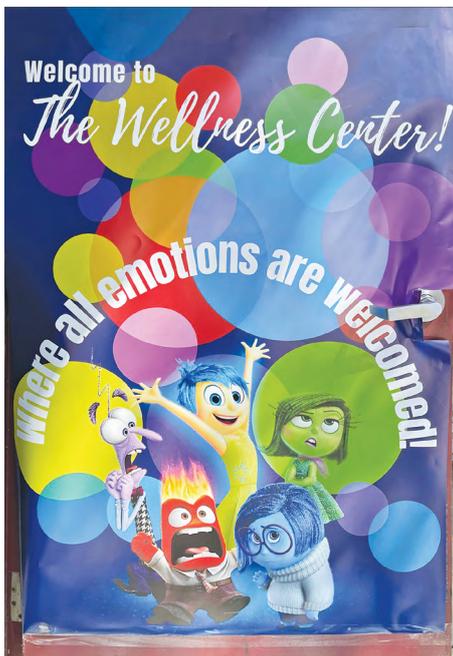


Volume 3, Issue 6

February–April 2022



GARVEY Stays STRONG & COMMITTED!



FIRST FINANCIAL
CREDIT UNION

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS TO HELP YOU KEEP
your New Year Resolutions

2022 LOADING...



Checking and savings accounts designed for you,
low fixed-rate Platinum Visa, and affordable and
flexible home and auto loans to help you save money.

Scan to schedule an appointment online:
or visit ffcu.org/Pasadena



Must meet First Financial Credit Union (FFCU) eligibility requirements to establish membership. All loans are subject to credit approval and FFCU policies and procedures. Loan rates are based on credit history, collateral criteria and term of loan. Restrictions apply. First Financial is an equal opportunity lender. Federally insured by NCUA. NMLS# 782737. Information is correct as of January 2022.



BOARD OF EDUCATION



Vinh T. Ngo
President



John H. Nunez
Vice-President



Maureen Chin
Clerk



Bobbi Brusech
Member



Ronald Trabanino
Member

SUPERINTENDENT

GARVEY Stays STRONG & COMMITTED!



Anita Chu

The year 2022 began with daunting challenges that have propelled our growth as leaders in the community. Despite the troubling Covid-19 situation, Garvey stays strong and committed to make a difference!

Garvey staff are frontline warriors! They go above and beyond with a relentless commitment to promote the wellness of our students and families. Working tirelessly, the District expands resources and develops strategies to strengthen the health and safety protocol and services to keep our schools safe for in-person learning. Through the partnerships with multiple community healthcare partners, the District has been able to host onsite vaccination clinics in an ongoing manner to promote vaccination for students and staff; implement weekly screening Covid-19 testing at all sites; distribute at-home test kits and health screening kits to all families, and conduct districtwide Covid-19 testing events.

While ensuring a safe learning environment for all, the District continues to design and implement rigorous, innovative, and evidence-based programs and services to realize the District vision of whole-child leadership development. Academically, target support is provided for high need students through intervention teachers and extended-day program providers; the early education program is expanding services to 0-3 years old in two newly renovated Early Education Centers; the signature Dual Language Plus program is launching recruitment events for the 2022-23 school year; an array of high-interest, high-rigor summer programs, including a STEAM

camp, is in preparation. To nurture the social-emotional wellbeing of students and staff, all schools are building a “Wellness Center,” a physically and emotionally appealing environment designed for group and individual SEL activities, including counseling and mindfulness exercises; the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program continues to grow with innovative ideas to enhance student engagement and to address inequity and implicit bias; and the Leader in Me program relaunches with a heightened level of mission and passion in troubling times.

Garvey parents are more than amazing partners! They continue to support the District with tremendous understanding, patience, and self-giving services. Parent leaders, working diligently and creatively with site and district staff, develop enrichment activities to foster school connectedness among students and families in the midst of the pandemic. To empower them in our journey together, in addition to the regularly-held parent meetings and parent newsletters, Parent Academy sessions, with the focus on academic support at home and online program resources, are offered to all parents.

In spite of the continued uncertainties and challenges in the year 2022, Garvey will remain strong and committed to journey with students, families and community partners to create unprecedented possibilities to realize our vision of developing leaders who lead today and build tomorrow. Please visit our schools' and the District's websites at www.gesd.us to learn more about our programs and services in supporting our students, and community and partnership opportunities.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News Roll Call

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
GARVEY 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

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Garvey School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

By now the new year is well underway. Here's to a much healthier year for everyone.

Superintendent Chu begins this issue with a positive message. As you read the school articles you will continue to see that positive attitude with a focus on health and wellness.

Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 9. Congratulations to Raquel Gochi, winner of the November contest.

Have a fun Spring Break!
Our next issue is May 11.



Head Start / State Preschool

7424 Newmark St., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3396



Dr. Rosa Guerra
Principal

Coming Soon!

Grand Opening of Early Head Start Classrooms at Williams Education Center!

We are excited to announce that we have been approved to open four Early Head Start classrooms at Williams Education Center. We will have eight students in each classroom, for a total of 32 students. The age groups we will serve will range from 18-24 months in



two of the classrooms, and 24-36 months in the other two classrooms. While we are already fully enrolled, we do have a waitlist available. You may contact (626) 307-3396 for more information. With support from the Garvey School District and LACOE's guidance, we have prepared a beautiful, safe and engaging learning environment for our littlest learners so that they may continue to play, learn, grow and develop in all domains and be school-ready!

Arlene Bitely Elementary School

7501 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3318 • bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us



Rudy Torres
Principal

Navigating Challenge with Mindfulness

As we continue to face the challenges and uncertainty of Covid-19, I share with you that Bitely Elementary is committed to the physical and mental health of every student on campus. We are committed to supporting the Mental Health needs of our students through our Wellness Center. As an element of our whole-child mission, we provide our students with a “space” who may at times feel anxious, stressed, or maybe experiencing disruption in their daily lives. All students are afforded lessons related to social-emotional health as well as lessons in breathing and self-calming techniques. In this “space”, our students can find wellness, company, and conversation knowing that their school affords them a community where they can find social-emotional wellness and safety.



The Bitely “Wellness” team - Our students find new leadership roles by helping their peers navigate challenges through “Mindfulness & Wellness”

Dewey Avenue Elementary School

525 E. Dewey Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/307-3341 • dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us



Denise Williams
Principal

Working through the Pandemic

Despite all the challenges confronting the 2021-2022 school year, Dewey Elementary continues to provide academic and social emotional learning. We provide targeted intervention in reading and language arts both during the day and after-school for students. Teachers have continued field trip experiences in a virtual way. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History brings the experience into our classroom. SEL lessons are provided to all classes by our school counselor weekly. We also offer an afterschool program called “Woodcraft Rangers.” Students receive academic assistance, snacks, physical fitness activities and enrichment clubs.

These clubs include music, dance and arts and crafts. We also provide a language class to learn Mandarin.



Students taking a virtual field trip

Duff Language Magnet Academy

7830 Dorothy Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3344 • duff.garvey.k12.ca.us



Dr. Benson Kwok
Principal

An Emphasis on Health and Wellness

The global pandemic has brought about challenges that we have not seen before in education. Although we have returned from prolonged distance learning, our learning community still encounters public health requirements that may have increased

anxiety and a sense of isolation from one another.

Our response

at Duff Language Magnet Academy has been to emphasize mental health and wellness by finding ways to build support into the school day. Our school counselor, Ms. Castro, facilitates small group sessions and delivers social-emotional lessons through the Second Step program. We are also in the development of a wellness center, which will be to offer a safe and welcoming space on

the Duff campus to provide mental health support, healing from trauma, social-emotional wellness, and to connect local community agencies and other service providers to support our students, families, and staff. It is critical to have the right perspective. Here at Duff, we believe that resilience comes from taking on challenges as it is vital to the growth and development of our school community.



Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School

7544 E. Emerson Pl., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3333 • emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us



Ethan Stocks
Principal

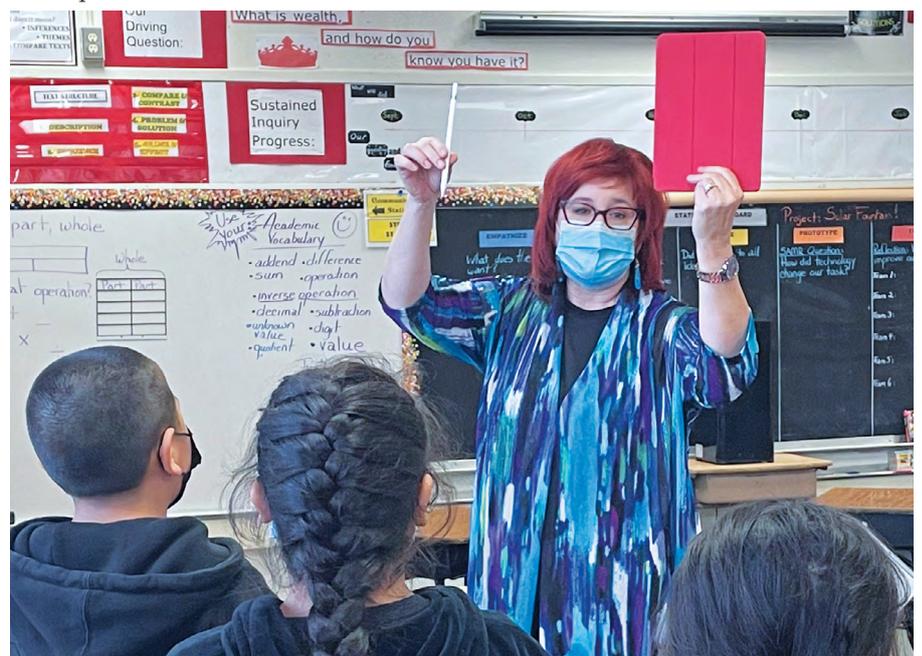
Emerson Intervention Program

It is a well-known fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a number of unprecedented challenges over the past two years. Fortunately, Emerson Elementary has turned one particular challenge—the learning loss that occurred during school closure—into an

opportunity to target students' individual learning needs.

In Fall 2021, Emerson introduced a new pullout intervention program during the school day. Under the tutelage of Mrs. Ventura, select students in Grades 2-6 receive extra support in math, reading, and/or English Language Development based on their latest i-Ready and ELPAC scores. Ms. Ventura uses a variety of tools and strategies—including iPads, Apple Pencils, and virtual portfolios—to engage students, hone their knowledge and skills, and track their progress.

In a short time, participating students have shown tremendous growth and demonstrated their ability to apply their new knowledge in the classroom. We are excited to continue offering the program in the second trimester.



Richard Garvey *Intermediate School*

2720 N. Jackson Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3385 • garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us



David Alarcon
Principal

Garvey's Science Team Continues to Excel

Even through these difficult times, Garvey Intermediate has still been able to pursue higher education throughout this year by building a Science Team of 50 students that participate in many competitions such as the Los Angeles County Regional Science Olympiad and Sea Perch, an underwater robotics competition. These students have been reaching their academic heights because competitions bring out the best in their pursuit of excellence. Some competitions are

being held in various states and hosted by other Science Olympiad teams through a satellite platform designed by computer programmers at CalTech Institute of Pasadena.

Garvey students have been enjoying the extracurricular activities all year because it allows them to compete and collaborate safely with each other. They work towards a common goal and overcome difficult challenges such as building a mousetrap powered vehicle or a mini-capacitor powered electric motor glider. Although challenging as it is, it has brought our students together after they have felt separated from each other during the pandemic.

Hillcrest *Elementary School*

795 Pepper St., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3371 • hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us



Laura Quintana
Principal

Student of the Month Assemblies

Hillcrest Elementary School celebrates our students by holding a Student of the Month Assembly each month of the school year. At the assembly one student from each class is recognized for a positive trait. So far this year, students have been recognized for academic achievement, attentiveness, kindness, a growth mindset, and leadership.

Students are given a certificate and photographed with our mascot and teachers. But that is not all, our students are also invited to enjoy treats with the Principal. Students demonstrating our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) expectations, known as BARK, also get recognized. These behaviors are: Be a Leader, Act Responsibly, Respect yourself and others, Keep a positive attitude. The students are given Paw-some Cards which go into a drawing for prizes. The assemblies are a wonderful experience for our K-6 students.



Monterey Vista *Elementary School*

901 E. Graves Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3300 • mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us



Hing Chow
Principal

Students Continue to Be Engaged and have Fun

I would like to wish both the Monterey Vista School and Garvey School Communities a Happy New Year 2022. Monterey Vista School began the year with opportunities and challenges in the midst of COVID 19. In order to continue providing a quality education and learning experience for our students, teachers at our school provide opportunities for student engagement. In Mrs. Birozy's fourth grade class, students used individual science kits to learn about soils, rocks and landforms at their own desk while following safety protocols.



There are also after school clubs at Monterey Vista to engage students to provide high interest topics for students such as Karaoke Kids Club, Yearbook Club, Lego Club, Enhanced Hobby Club and Garden Club. All clubs follow safety protocols to ensure a safe and fun learning environment. Here we have Mrs. Nguyen and Mrs. Yamasaki directing students singing Holiday songs at the Karaoke Kids Club.



Eldridge Rice *Elementary School*

2150 N. Angelus Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3348 • rice.garvey.k12.ca.us



Judy Gonzales
Principal

Wellness Center

At Rice Elementary social-emotional wellbeing is our top priority! Our teachers started the year off with a targeted effort to ensure that our students felt supported and confident to return to campus. To add to our arsenal of supports, I am excited to share that our Wellness Center opened up earlier this year and has quickly become a very important space on our campus. The center is a beautiful, calm space where students and staff are able to come in and nurture their social-emotional well-being. Our Counselor, Mrs. Rodriguez, and Behavior Intervention Aides, Ms. Nuno, and Ms. Valdez, have done a fantastic job of creating a vibrant space that is warm, welcoming, and supportive to meet the many needs of our students



and staff. Our teachers bring their classrooms for social-emotional lessons through our Second Step Curriculum; College and Career lessons; yoga; meditation; and support with specific issues occurring in their classrooms, etc. The center offers individual and group counseling sessions; academic support; mental health resources; self-regulation strategies; and so much more. Our students can often be seen in line waiting to go in during recess! We LOVE our Wellness Center!!



George I. Sanchez Elementary School

8470 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3368 • sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us



Gabriela Benitez
Principal

Looking Forward to a New Year of Opportunities

Happy New Year from Sanchez Elementary! They say there is no strength gained without pain, resistance or challenges.

Being that 2022 is the year of the Tiger, Sanchez plans on embracing its characteristics of strength and bravery and push on.

Our school community will continue paving the way in seeking out opportunities to grow, regardless of the difficulties posed by the pandemic.

First and foremost, we look forward to good health and a balanced lifestyle that keeps us happy and whole.

We hope to be inspired by family, friends, and all supporters of our vision and mission.

We aspire to connect with more agencies of change who seek to optimize learning experiences while improving student lives.

Lastly, we invite everyone to LEAN IN and join our team efforts in building a better future for our students while supporting the hard work and dedication of our frontline staff at Sanchez Elementary.



BIA, Monique Vuong-Tran leads Sanchez ASB in preparations for Lunar New Year.

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 Garvey in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 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 | |

Congratulations to Raquel Gochi Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

Word Search by Gunnar Coop

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

Roger W. Temple *Intermediate School*

8510 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3360 • templeint.garvey.k12.ca.us



Dr. Robert Boyd III
Principal

An Opportunity in the Face of Challenges

Temple Intermediate has had its share of challenges due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. These challenges have tested our faith and flexibility equally. Despite these challenges, we have managed to grasp opportunities to bring come together for the benefit of our students. On December 11, 2021, the Temple VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) Department hosted our annual Winterfest-

a showcase of our Music and Drama students. In previous years, the event would take place inside of our Gymnasium. Unfortunately, in 2020 the event was cancelled due to Covid 19. This year, through the teamwork between our school staff and district leadership we made adjustments to hold the event outdoors. **IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.** The student performers were nothing less than amazing, and the audience responded accordingly. This is how we respond to challenging times- with faith, flexibility, and a focus on our students. **KNIGHTS RIDE!**



Temple students performing at Winterfest



Frances Willard *Elementary School*

3152 N. Willard Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3375 • willard.garvey.k12.ca.us



Jeff Maljian
Principal

Finding Joy in the Face of Challenges

Nearly two years into the pandemic, we have faced numerous challenges. At times, these challenges have weighed heavily on each of us. At other times, these challenges have pushed us to think of new opportunities and ways to bring “something good out of something bad.” This is what we have faced when we brought students back to school and attempted to bring some normalcy and joy into the students’ and families lives. So, during the recent holiday, we focused on bringing joy. Since we could not do our normal celebrations, we did class pictures outside with “Bob the Wildcat” Santa, we did a livestream of our Holiday Show for parents, and we did a Holiday Drive-Thru with lights and decorations so students could drop off letters for Santa (shh... I was Santa this year). More than ever, we need to look at the situation we face today as “glass half-full, not half-empty.”



Putting Joy in the Children’s Hearts!

Independent Study

<https://www.garvey.k12.ca.us>



Alberto Alvarez
*Assistant Principal
on
Special Assignment*

In Challenging Times, Lies Opportunity

Serving as administrator of Garvey School District’s Independent Study Program is an honor and challenging in many ways. Often, conversations with students and their families turn into discussions where they talk about some barriers that make it hard for our students to do well in school.

My mother ingrained in me, “When your family needs you, you must help. Always be of service to others.” I carry those teachings with me as my drive and motivation in all I do. This ideology has carried me through most of my life and has helped me tremendously in my current role in Independent Study.

One of the numerous challenges in distance learning is sharing this message (of being of service to others) with our students. In spite of challenges such as these, the teachers in the program have found ways to do it. Teachers

in the program set high expectations while posing intellectual challenges for students. This is done in caring and loving ways where student learning and intellect are supported along the way until mastery is attained. While these challenges placed on teachers is high teachers feel gratified every time our students excel. I feel blessed to be part of this team.

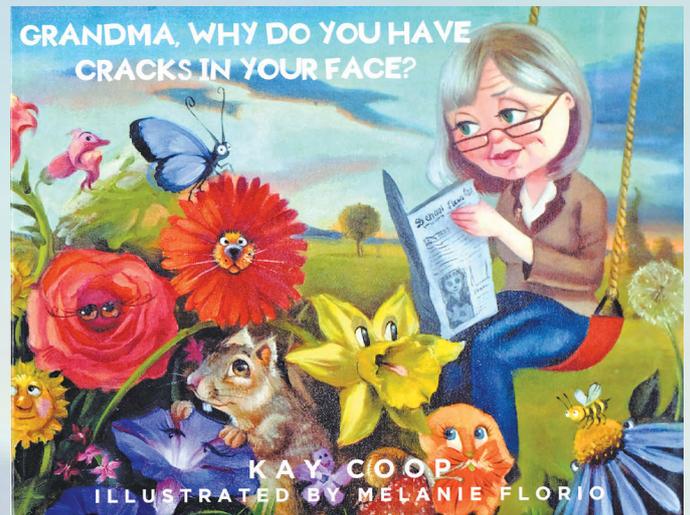
The world of distance learning is challenging and demanding in various ways. One challenge arises as teachers communicate with students in virtual classrooms. Some might argue that it is impossible to establish relationships via the internet; I believe that students and teachers in Independent Study would strongly disagree with that. Our teachers defy these barriers overcoming challenges on a daily basis, all in the name of learning and teaching.

At the end of the day, although remote learning poses various challenges, it is fun to provide an alternative mode of instruction for our students of Garvey School District.



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.