

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Garvey School District**



Volume 3, Issue 5

November 2021–January 2022



**Revisioning, Revitalizing & Relaunching...  
to Reach Unparalleled Heights!**



# SUPERINTENDENT

## Revisoning, Revitalizing & Relaunching...to Reach Unparalleled Heights!



Anita Chu

2021-22 School Year is a unique time in history.

The Garvey Team welcomes the new year with a relentless commitment to journey through this unprecedented time with our students and community to reach unparalleled heights.

### Revisoning

Leadership development has been the heart of the District's vision. Since the onset of the pandemic, much of the District focus and school life experiences have been redefined; however, the devastating disruption has not derailed the District from pursuing our vision. Quite the contrary, the real-world trials during the pandemic have brought us a deeper conviction and a clearer vision of leadership development. It has become very clear to us that...when uncertainties and chaos overwhelm the world, we need proactive leaders who are resilient and can turn adversity into growth opportunities. When anxieties and despair seize the community, we need leaders with inner strength and character to serve those in pain and suffering. Emerging from the pandemic, the Garvey team has gained a new insight into our vision of leadership development. We have recommitted to cultivating leaders who are academically competent and morally driven to advance the global society in the 21st century, not only for prosperous times but more critically for turbulent times.

### Revitalizing

Compelled by a larger and stronger vision, the Garvey team is tapping into the synergy of our partners to realize the daunting mission. We greatly appreciate the partnership of our self-giving parents who took on new roles as home instructors during school closures and have continued to provide extensive support for their children to accelerate their learning and rebuild social-emotional wellness since school reopening. Garvey is also blessed with the partnership of many community agencies that have provided a variety of services and supplies in support of a safe and happy school reopening, including onsite testing and vaccination services, additional student supervision staff, PPE supplies, food and school supplies. Most importantly, we believe that only happy and productive staff and parents can nurture happy and productive children. Garvey leaders devote ourselves to building a culture of mutual support where we practice

“sharpening the saw” and self-care as well as provide support for each other's wellness.

It takes a community of passionate and caring leaders to create dynamic synergy to revitalize the school experiences for our students.

### Relaunching

Driven by a compelling vision and fueled by the synergy of a committed community, the District has worked studiously to relaunch the new school year with an extensive array of innovative programs and services to address the unique and diverse needs of our students. To promote social-emotional wellness, particularly for students who are struggling with negative impacts resulting from the extended period of isolation and distress during school closures, the District provides additional behavioral, mental health and social-emotional staff to increase individualized support services; teachers, working in collaboration with counselors, implement the newly adopted social-emotional learning (SEL) program; school staff design and implement high-interest leadership and student engagement programs, such as STEM clubs and sports competitions; schools establish a “wellness center” purposefully designed to provide a physically and emotionally appealing environment for group and individual SEL activities, including counseling and mindfulness exercises. To promote learning acceleration and learning recovery for a diverse group of learners, additional intervention teachers and support staff have been hired, extended-time intervention programs and homework support are offered, and research-based individualized intervention and enrichment programs and resources are utilized. Additionally, health and safety of all remains as the District's top priority. Besides the increase in health supports staff and safety supplies and equipment, the partnership with community healthcare providers has enabled the District to provide onsite testing and vaccination services in an ongoing manner.

Emerging stronger from the pandemic, Garvey embraces the 2021-22 school year with great excitement as our community of leaders journeys and works together in revisoning, revitalizing, and relaunching to reach unparallel heights for all students.

Please visit our schools' and the District's websites at [www.gesd.us](http://www.gesd.us) to learn more about our programs and services in supporting our students, and community and partnership opportunities.

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
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**Kay Coop**  
 Founder/Publisher



This is our third year publishing the *Garvey School News* and there have been many changes; however, I think this year students were the happiest to be back in the classrooms. By now they have settled into their routines and looking forward to the holidays.

Thank you for your word search contest entries and nice emailed comments. The contest is on page 8 of this issue and all ages may enter.

Our next issue is February 2, 2022. In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## BOARD OF EDUCATION



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## Head Start / State Preschool

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



**Dr. Rosa Guerra**  
 Principal

This is my fourth year with the Garvey School District and I am thrilled to be serving in my new role as the Director of Child Development! I have been in the education field since 1994 in a variety of capacities, most recently, as an elementary school principal. I graduated from California State University, San Bernardino with a Liberal Arts degree and earned my doctorate in Educational Leadership through Azusa Pacific University.

Our Child Development program serves students ages 3 to 5 years old in State Pre-School and Head Start programs throughout our district. We are excitedly preparing to receive 18- to 36- month-old in our Early Head Start program at Williams Education Center! Together with our dedicated staff and our families, we will partner to ensure that all children in our care are ready to learn in a safe, nurturing environment. We are honored to serve our community!

## Arlene Bitely *Elementary School*

7501 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3318 • [bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Soomin Chao**  
*Principal*

### **Bitely's Focus on Wellness**

I am Soomin Chao, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving the students, staff, and families as Bitely Elementary School's principal. I feel so fortunate to be able to share an exciting new student support program for our Bitely Community.

Bitely's new Wellness Center is a powerful investment in the health and academic potential of all of our Bitely Bears. Through the center students are provided access to caring adults and services such as support with Bitely's Counselor Ms. Rodnuson and Bitely's School Psychologist Ms. Akrawi, social emotional programs such as Second Step and Mindfulness with Ms. Kelly, and peer-to-peer student support. Bitely teachers visit the center often to help their students thrive in the classroom and beyond! It provides access to free selfcare

resources, behavioral health services, and positive youth activities in a location that is fun, safe, and convenient – right on Bitely's campus. Bitely's Wellness Center is a safe space that seeks to support the academic, emotional and social well-being of students and their families.



**Bitely Bears Breathe: A Focus on Wellness**

## Dewey Avenue *Elementary School*

525 E. Dewey Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/307-3341 • [dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Denise Williams**  
*Principal*

My name is Denise Williams and I am honored to be the principal at Dewey Elementary School. For the past twenty-four years I have dedicated myself to serving the Garvey School District in different capacities. As principal, I strive to provide a safe environment conducive to learning for both students and staff. One of my goals is to lead Dewey Elementary in achieving

high standards of academic achievement that fosters a cooperative and positive attitude on the part of students, staff, and parents. I am also very proud to offer the Spanish Dual Language program at Dewey. This program allows students the opportunity to develop simultaneous proficiency in both English and Spanish.

I truly value education dearly which has shaped my vision that "all students can be successful". I am looking forward to a successful school year!

## Ralph Waldo Emerson *Elementary School*

7544 E. Emerson Pl., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3333 • [emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Ethan Stocks**  
*Principal*

My name is Ethan Stocks, and I am the principal of Emerson Elementary School in Rosemead. Before I came to Emerson, I worked as a high school English and Theater teacher, a high school assistant principal, and district office administrator. I have degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles; University College London; and San Jose State University. I am passionate about literature, film, and music. In my spare time,

I enjoy reading books and writing songs.

I believe every student is entitled to an excellent education, and I am committed to developing students' knowledge, skills, and behaviors in a safe, supportive school environment. I work closely with Emerson teachers and staff to deliver relevant, engaging curriculum and instruction while building strong relationships with all students and their families. I expect every student to leave Emerson prepared for middle school, high school, college, and beyond.

## Duff *Language Magnet Academy*

7830 Dorothy Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3344 • [duff.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://duff.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Benson Kwok**  
*Principal*

Hello, Hola, 你好! My name is Dr. Benson Kwok and I am honored to be the principal of Duff Language Magnet Academy. I have worked in education for over 15 years as a teacher, educational coach, technology leader, site and district administrator. I hold a Doctorate of Education from the University of Southern California and graduate degrees in educational leadership, technology integration, and teaching from Azusa Pacific University.

As we emerge from the constraints of the pandemic, my perspective on educating children has changed. New doors have opened allowing us to reflect, reimagine and redesign the way we will interact with one another. I am passionate about changing the way learning happens. There is an opportunity to rethink how education can be offered and reflect on the role students have in their own learning.

Aside from the health and safety of our students and staff, our number one priority this year at Duff is reestablishing, renewing, and reinvigorating our relationships. Everyone at Duff is dedicated to supporting students to achieve high levels of biliterate proficiency and multicultural competence. Our students learn to value and respect all languages and cultures through a rigorous

English and Mandarin dual immersion program with a complementing Hispanic arts enrichment program. These and other diversified experiences help students to develop a sense of global citizenship. Our Duff Dragons R.I.S.E. and Shine!

As 2020 has come to pass, we take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of distance learning. Our students, families, and staff approached distance learning with optimism and resilience. Our teachers and their families created an online partnership for the betterment of students. Our educators were tasked to reimagine what teaching and engagement looked like. They focused on building relationships, knowing their students, families, and fostering social-emotional learning while acquiring Mandarin in a dual immersion setting. They designed an impactful instructional environment that is a combination of synchronous, asynchronous, and personalized small group instruction.

As we move into 2021 we envision Duff as a place to celebrate cultural diversity. Through the infusion of the visual arts, our teachers will make meaningful artistic connections to our multi-cultural student body. Our dual-immersion Mandarin program is characterized by a passion for the exploration of culture and takes pride in fostering a welcoming community.

## Richard Garvey *Intermediate School*

2720 N. Jackson Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3385 • [garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**David Alarcon**  
*Principal*

Hello, my name is David Alarcon and I'm the Principal of Garvey Intermediate School. I grew up in Rosemead and it is my pleasure to serve this same community. I have been principal at Garvey Intermediate for 4 years, however, I have worked in the Garvey School District for 20 years. I am proud to lead such an

amazing team of teachers and staff that I know are completely dedicated to the success of our students.

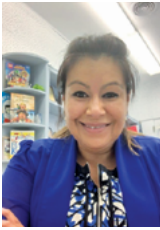
I would like to introduce our new Assistant Principal, Arin McDonald. Mrs. McDonald comes to Garvey with 19 years of K-6 teaching and 5 years of high school administrative experience from Santa Ana and Bassett Unified School District. She has a big heart for students and is very excited to be part of the team at Garvey. She looks forward to becoming more involved in the community and its partnerships. Mustang Pride!



**Principal, David Alarcon and new Assistant Principal, Arin McDonald.**

## Hillcrest *Elementary School*

795 Pepper St., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3371  
[hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Laura Quintana**  
*Principal*

Hello, my name is Dr. Laura Quintana, the proud principal of Hillcrest Elementary School. Home of the mighty Huskies! I have been working in education for over 22 years. I began my career as an Elementary School Teacher where I taught Grades 2-5. I also taught at the High School, 10th through 12th graders. I have served as an Instructional Coach, Program Specialist, High School Assistant Principal, and Middle School

Principal. I hold a B.A in History and French Studies from Smith College, a Masters from Whittier College, and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University. I speak three languages and am looking forward to learning Mandarin.

I am a huge advocate for instilling a passion for life- long learning and reading in all students. I firmly believe all students need to be engaged in active learning everyday through Project Based Learning, STEM exploration, and interdisciplinary studies. Here at Hillcrest we take pride in providing students with a rigorous curriculum and a variety of enrichment opportunities such as Associated Student Body, Husky Ambassadors, and VAPA. This year we will be opening our Makerspace for students and expanding our PBIS program.

## Monterey Vista *Elementary School*

901 E. Graves Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3300  
[mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Hing Chow**  
*Principal*

Hello Monterey Vista School and Garvey Community!!! It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you all. My name is Hing Chow and I am the principal of Monterey Vista School. I have served our community for the past 19 years since 2003. It was very exciting for our staff and I to have in-person learning for all of our students this school year. We miss each and every one of them and are delighted that they are back in school to learn and

connect with teachers and students once again. I also want to inform our parents and community that our staff and school is committed to providing a quality first education and preparing all students for the 21st century. Please do not hesitate to call, email or class dojo us for any assistance you may need. We are here for you!!!

## Eldridge Rice *Elementary School*

2150 N. Angelus Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3348  
[rice.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://rice.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Judy Gonzales**  
*Principal*

My name is Judy Gonzales and I am honored to serve as principal of Rice School and to work alongside an outstanding group of leaders! I am driven by a strong desire to ensure that every child who leaves our school does so with great confidence because they have the academic, communication, thinking, and social-emotional skills needed to pursue their dreams.



**Relaxing with my husband and fur babies.**

On a personal note, I have 30 years of teaching and administrative experience from Pre-K through 12th grade. My husband and I just celebrated 26 years of marriage! We are the proud parents of Victoria-24, Xavier-21, and Diego-19, and guardians of Leo-6. I am the eldest of nine and the first in my family to go to college. I received my BA from UCLA and MA from Cal State LA. I am excited to work with our entire school community to make this an unforgettable year full of amazing opportunities and growth for all of us. Thank you!

Thank you for reading *School News*.

To advertise your business, the next issue is February 2, 2022.

Please email [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) for rates and info.

## George I. Sanchez *Elementary School*

8470 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3368 • [sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Gabriela Benitez**  
*Principal*

Having been Sanchez' Principal now for 7 years has been the most heartfelt rewarding experience. This school has become my second home and a place where I find comfort, joy and pride.

Since 2014, I have observed Sanchez Elementary grow into an incredibly strong and resilient team. Our collective efforts of building a stronger community are evident in our campus

culture and the classroom care demonstrated by the professionals who serve our children.

My hopes for this school year is for all Eagles to reset and familiarize themselves with the at-home and in school routines, that will support and encourage their personal and academic leadership. Additionally, my vision includes continued, in depth participation from all members of our devoted team. Lastly but most important, I hope to develop a stronger partnership with our wonderful parents as they assist and support us in providing an academically rich and engaging experience for all our students.



**If you can dream it, you can do it. – Walt Disney**  
**ASB hosts Disney Day at Sanchez**

## Roger W. Temple *Intermediate School*

8510 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3360 • [templeint.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://templeint.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Robert Boyd III**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back

Hello, Welcome back to Temple Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year. My name is Robert J. Boyd III, and I am proud to serve as your school principal. This is my 22nd year as an educator, and my 6th year as principal here. My passion is guiding students to a place of reasonable independence as they transition from elementary school to high school and beyond.

The two years students spend at Temple Intermediate during this transition period is critical to their success after they exit.

We have labeled the 2021-2022 School Year as a "Rebuilding Year". Prior to the Spring of 2020, Temple Intermediate was a very good school, on the brink of greatness. We lost momentum when school was closed for over a year. So now it's time to rebuild and work our way back to where we were. Our starting place is to focus our classroom instruction on filling the learning gaps created by the long absence from in-person learning. From there, we will re-establish our extra-curricular programs that give all of our students a healthy balance of recreation and fun to accompany the hard work involved with their daily



**Temple Intermediate students enjoying the lighter side of student life with Principal Boyd.**

learning. That is the essence of the Temple Intermediate experience for our students- a place where hard work and fun are valued as necessities.

# Frances Willard *Elementary School*

3152 N. Willard Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3375 • [willard.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://willard.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Jeff Maljian**  
*Principal*

This is my 17th year in public education. I began as a 1st grade teacher, then Kindergarten and 1st grade Intervention teacher and finally an Academic Coach for teachers before becoming Principal at wonderful Willard Elementary in Garvey. My passion is to help my teachers and staff build their capacity so they have the greatest impact on the students and families. I believe that the best path towards this is to create a positive environment so that all the staff feel supported, valued and encouraged not only as employees but as individuals. I want my staff to feel that we are a true family at Willard. My vision for the school is also rooted in my passion. In all that I do with the students, I want to treat and support my students and families like they are my family. Being a parent of my own 3 children, I continuously strive to use the “lens” as a parent in my support, love, and educational expectations of my students and families.



**Mr. Maljian with our future leaders.**

## Toy Store Items–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 Garvey in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by December 15, 2021.**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| BIKE     | MARBLES    |
| DOLL     | CRAYON     |
| TRIKE    | PENS       |
| BOOK     | COMPUTER   |
| LEGOS    | DOLLHOUSE  |
| SOLDIERS | BUGGY      |
| BALLS    | KITCHEN    |
| BUBBLES  | TEA SET    |
| CROQUET  | BAT        |
| BLOCKS   | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES    |            |



**Congratulations to Lucil Chua**  
**Winner of our May Word Search Contest!**