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# School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District**

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2012

## Reaching Our Maximum Potential

By Rudy Gonzalez, Principal  
Morrison Elementary School

Morrison Elementary School is proud to have again been awarded the title of California Distinguished School and, for the fourth year in a row, our school has earned the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award. Our Academic Performance Index (API) has grown steadily over the past several years, reaching 856. After three years of implementing English-Language Development (ELD) and Academic Language Development (ALD) systematically at Morrison, our school has closed the achievement gap, as demonstrated by the API comparison of sub-groups, between our English-Language Learners (ELLs) and our native English-speaking population of students. In fact, ELLs experienced the most API growth, at 60 points,



**Morrison Tigers creating the sweet sounds of success!**

between 2008 and 2011, compared to the API growth for all students, a 38-point increase.

We were able to achieve this growth thanks to the support provided by state standards and the alignment of state-adopted curriculum, assessment, data analysis, research-proven instruction, targeted professional development, a school-wide music program, an innovative technology program, and the willingness of teachers, support staff, and parents to do what it takes for students to learn. At Morrison, we continue to be committed to our goal of providing a caring, positive, and safe learning environment, where each child is encouraged to make responsible choices and to develop the academic skills necessary to reach his or her maximum learning potential.

### SUPERINTENDENT

Congratulations to our Award Winning Schools in Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District.

We are very proud of the hard work and dedication of students and staff. We are grateful to parents and community for their support. There are too many challenges today, including and especially the lack of proper funding for schools and students. Our schools could not achieve without the collaboration of parents and community.

Corvallis Middle School and Benton Middle School will soon begin the much awaited renovation of their buildings. This is all made possible because of your past support of Measure "S" tax funds and because of the exemplary leader-

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 14



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
Superintendent

Felicidades a las tres Escuelas Galardonadas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk la Mirada

Estamos muy orgullosos del arduo trabajo y la dedicación de los estudiantes y el personal. Estamos muy agradecidos con los padres y la comunidad por su apoyo.

Existen demasiados retos hoy en día, incluyendo y especialmente la falta de fondos apropiados para las escuelas y los estudiantes. Nuestras escuelas no podrían ser exitosas sin la colaboración de los padres y la comunidad.

Las escuelas Intermedias Corvallis y Benton pronto darán inicio a la tan esperada renovación de sus edificios. Todo esto es posible debido a su apoyo en el

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 14

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Every school in the Norwalk-La Mirada School District is like a separate city with a special bond and reflects the neighborhood and focus that enables students, parents and staffs to consider the site as their second home. We try to provide as many activities that promote rigorous academic enrichment activities in addition to programs that encourage and promote physical fitness.

We take great pride in our after school programs, for they are not like your programs in the good old days. Then again, were the good old days that good? We seldom promoted academic excellence, but we did keep the kids busy, and in that era that was perfectly fine, yet as we deal with a

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 14



**Darryl Adams**  
President

Cada escuela en el Distrito Escolar de Norwalk-La Mirada es como una ciudad independiente con un enlace especial y refleja la vecindad y el enfoque que permite a los estudiantes, padres y personal considerar el sitio escolar como su segundo hogar.

Intentamos ofrecer tantas actividades como sea posible que promuevan el enriquecimiento académico riguroso además de programas que alienten y promuevan la aptitud física.

Nos enorgullecemos en nuestros programas de después de clases, porque no son como sus programas de los buenos tiempos de antes. ¿Pero viéndolo bien, eran los buenos tiempos en realidad tan buenos?

Casi nunca promovíamos excelencia  
SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 14



# Head Start *Pre-School*



**Laurel Parker**  
Director

## Continued Growth

Our Family Fun Night on May 23 was a great success! We offered a variety of educational games for the children and special workshops for the parents, and everyone reported that they had a good time.

Each parent who attended a workshop received a free book to take home. In addition, we had representatives from several community agencies who set up tables containing information for our families.

Parents from the program also acted in and produced performances of *The Cat in the Hat*. They performed this play for the children several times in April and May.

As part of a recent state preschool self-assessment, we reviewed the growth that our students made in seven areas: self and social development, language and literacy, English language development, cognitive development, mathematical development, physical development, and health. Based upon our second assessment period data our students continue to show good growth in all areas.

## Summer Opportunities

Even though the school year is ending, our workshops are not. In partnership with the District's State and Federal Programs office, we will be offering parenting workshops throughout the month of June. Classes will be held at Ramona from June 4-18 at 9 a.m. Please join us for this outstanding program.

We also have opportunities for enrollment in our full-day program for low-income families which begins on July 17. If you are a parent who attends school full time, or works full time, or is seeking employment, please stop by our Ramona site at 14616 Dinard Avenue in Norwalk to apply for your preschool-aged child. Or you can call (562) 623-7127 for further information.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



As this school year comes to a close I would like to thank you for being loyal readers. I appreciate you including *School News* among your reading choices.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Don't forget to include the library in your summer plans. We are taking a survey of our readers to see what articles they would like to read in *School News* in addition to the school articles. If you would like to take the survey and be entered into our drawing for a chance to win \$100, please log onto our web site by June 30 [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com).

Our next issue is October 17.

## School News

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Covering the  
**NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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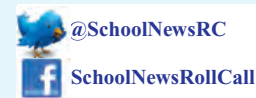
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## Optometry



*It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.*

~Albert Einstein

John Larcabal, O.D.  
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# Adult School



**Sharon Renfro  
Todd**  
Director

## Adults Enjoy Online Learning!

Students at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School are facing their fears and reaping rewards as they navigate through the APEX online curriculum on their way to earning their high school diplomas. Many of our adult students were uncomfortable with computers at first, but with successful use, they are now hooked on the technology and the immediate feedback offered through this online program. Teachers and administrators love it too, because the curriculum is more rigorous and consistent than the work that was previously done in the Individualized Learning Center (ILC).



Adults students access various diploma courses online.

By this September, all students in the ILC will be embarking on 21st-century learning by accessing and taking control of their curriculum online. If you have thought about completing your high school diploma, now is a great time to join your peers and accomplish that important goal!



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# Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553



**Michelle Green**  
Principal

## Big Wave for the Arts!

Ending the year on a series of high notes, Benton's Visual and Performing Arts departments have planned heart-stopping shows! The first two weekends of May saw the musical production of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, based on the award-winning children's book. In May and again in June, we hosted our first annual spring dance show, titled "Fire & Rain!" This combined dance recital and choir concert is the first of its kind at Benton.

For those who enjoy a more intimate gathering, we will host our inaugural piano recital on June 12. Our final concert will be an out-

door instrumental music festival to be held on June 14. In addition to our fine performances this year, we are pleased to announce our first-ever publication featuring the writings of our students, a sampling of student studio art creations, and prints from our award-winning photography students. At Benton VAPA Magnet, students ended an incredible year with a crescendo!



**Benton's VAPA Visits "The Phantom Tollbooth!"**

# Chavez *Elementary School*

12110 E. Walnut St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3565



**Robert Rayburn**  
Principal

## A Showplace School

What a phenomenal year we are wrapping up at Chavez!

We began some exciting and hugely successful new programs that will be continuing on into the next year. Our Playworks program for one was a smashing success. Chavez was recently featured in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* that highlighted Playworks and the positive effects it had on our student achievement and attitude.

We also had a very successful and professionally staged production of the opera *The Prospector*. It was part of our association with L.A. Opera, and which will continue into the next year.

Our sixth-grade magnet program for 2012-2013 is also fully enrolled now, and ready to push the boundaries of technology with its new iPads. This program is so popular that our parents began lining up at 3 a.m. just to sign up their children.

The sixth-grade trip to the Outdoor Science School was incredible, too. We were the only school that had snow this year! The new murals based upon student art are now complete as well. They help make our school a showplace,



while also honoring its history and culture.

And we know that next year will be even better. We will be continuing our successful programs, as well as adding more great opportunities for our students to achieve academically, and love their lives!

# Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678



**Bob Easton**  
Principal

## GATE Challenge Day 2012

Recently over one hundred Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students at Corvallis Middle School participated in the First Annual GATE Challenge Day. With the support of three Corvallis teachers Margaret Munoz, Deb Moffitt, and Jim Hug, students worked in teams to design and create a device to move a ping-pong ball from a lower elevation across a gap into a cup beneath a hole on the other side. The students were given identical sets of materials (straws, tape, and paper) and metric dimensions, but no other directions. They had to figure out how to

and build a device to accomplish this task in the least amount of time, which included setting up their device. It was a very exciting day, filled with critical thinking, problem solving, and fun!



**Corvallis GATE students are up for the challenge!**

# Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934



**Lorena Sierra**  
Principal

## Creativity and Project-Based Learning

We want to make sure that our students get exposed to 21st century skills as well as content. So it is important that we provide learning experiences which include organization, time management, inquiry, self-assessment, group participation and leadership skills.

One way we do this at Dolland is by bringing science theories to life in creative ways. So this spring, our students generated their own science projects! They were able to get experience in replicating the kind of experiments that can challenge their thinking and change their perception of what is possible.

We know it is important to provide students with the opportunity to improve their motivation, concentration, confidence and teamwork. So through art instruction our students can also experience the various forms and mediums of expression. This is done both independently and through collaborative projects. With these the students learn about form, technique, inference and representation.

This approach means that our students will be well-prepared for middle school, as well as become good citizens who can appreciate and enjoy the deeper forms of beauty.



**Fifth grade learns about representation**



# Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadowgreen Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734



**Susan Shanks**  
Principal

## Author, Author!

Creativity is alive and well at Dulles Elementary School. Students in our G.A.T.E. Program wrote and illustrated a piece of literature that was made into a professionally bound book similar to any book found at the library or a favorite bookstore.

Student, Makeila Catt says, "I really enjoyed writing this book because it was fun, and was a great experience. Drawing the pictures and knowing I was making an actual book made my family and me proud!"

Student, Nicole Bardales states, "the experience of writing a book made me feel like an author. "

Student, Katelin Gonzales learned that "it was fun, but you have to be careful not to make mistakes."



**Students become authors!**

We are very proud to celebrate our books and literature at our bi-annual Author Tea where our "authors" share their work through Read-Alouds to an audience of students, teachers, administrators, parents, and other community members. Bravo!

# Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480



**Yvette Cantu**  
Principal

## Distinguished School Award

Eastwood Elementary School has been designated as a 2012 California Distinguished School. The California School Recognition Program identifies and honors the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. The award is highly sought after by schools in all areas of the state.

We are very proud of this award, which recognizes our efforts to close the academic achievement gap and our strong commitment to two complementary signature practices: a balanced approach to reading instruction and a systematic English Language Development (ELD) program. These two practices are designed to increase listening, speaking, and reading skills through high-level questioning and active student engagement.



**Eastwood Eagles: 2012 California Distinguished School**

Standards-based instruction is organized to include whole-group modeling, small-group guided practice, and individualized conferencing. Each classroom is designed to reflect and support current instruction with co-created charts, mentor text, classroom libraries, and attractive displays of student work.

# Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501



**Jacob Muñiz**  
Principal

## Making Points!

Eagles continue to soar! The CST was a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate all they know and help make history. Edmondson's scores are at an all-time high: 792 API! We have grown by almost 80 API points in the last two years—the most growth over a two-year period by any elementary school in NLMUSD.

English language arts, art, CGI math and ELD are all in full swing. Amidst all of our teachers' hard work, Mr. Muñiz hosted a CST assembly in order to get our students excited about doing

their best on the test. With PTA contributing snacks and prizes toward our CST assembly, it was a team effort! In addition, Edmondson's soccer team hosted our Norwalk Elementary Soccer Tournament at Los Alisos in May. Credit goes to our hardworking students and staff for their perseverance.



# El Camino *High School*

14625 Keese Dr., Whittier, CA 90604 • 562/944-0033



**Darryl Brown**  
Principal

## Giving the Gift of Life

On April 26, the Positive Alternative Outreach Club of El Camino High School partnered with the Red Cross to host a blood drive on campus. For two weeks these PAO members worked diligently to sign up both students and staff members to help participate in the event.

Seven staff members and 75 students donated blood on this important day. The students worked hand-in-hand with Red Cross staff to gain valuable, hands-on experience in the medical profession.

With the help of Mr. Oscar Diaz, PAO coordinator, our students actually facilitated the entire event. The Red Cross directors were extremely impressed by their



organizational skills and the seamless flow of the activity. We look forward to hosting this annual event next year, and perhaps also conducting both a fall and a spring blood drive.

The students learned that donating blood is an invaluable gift that is given to those in need of a necessary transfusion. It is indeed the gift of life!



# Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970



**Bonita Lytle**  
*Principal*

## Accepting Differences

Nationwide, April has been designated National Autism Awareness Month. This provides an opportunity for schools and agencies to highlight the growing need for awareness and concern about autism and issues within the autism community.

With the support of teachers, administrators and parents, Escalona hosted its second annual Autism Awareness Week in April. Students were engaged in activities that promote awareness, tolerance, respect and understanding of disabilities, specifically autism. The campus was adorned with colorful, informative posters

and ribbons that showed our support of this cause.

At the end of the week, students were asked to write what they had learned. As one third-grader wrote, "From Autism Awareness Week, I learned that children with autism may act differently but look like us. Some children with autism can talk, and others don't. Thank you for a fabulous week and for letting us get to know more about autism."

Escalona Eagles are aware, and they care!



**Raising awareness for Autism**



**Every hand counts!**

# Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128



**Eileen Burkholder**  
*Principal*

## Torpedos, Take Aim!

In April, Gardenhill students enjoyed an outstanding assembly by Michael Pritchard, who travels America teaching how to learn through laughter and play. His presentation focused on bullying, taunting, diversity, inclusion, respect for self and others, and how to connect with one another to build a safe school community. He spoke for 45 minutes and then gave students the opportunity to share their experiences. Many students had the courage to speak in front of their peers and describe how it feels to be made fun of, teased or bullied.

Mr. Pritchard gave Gardenhill students great words of wisdom, which he calls "torpedos," that made great impact on staff and students: You don't have to blow somebody else's candle out to make sure yours shines brighter; Too many boys in America are crying with bullets instead of tears; "Never whine—it's just another way of letting the bully know there is another victim on the block" (Maya Angelou); Stand up against bullying; don't volunteer to be a victim; The bad you do will be sad for you—the good you do will come back to you; "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to violence, and violence leads to suffering" (Yoda); and most pointedly, "It is not our enemies that hurt us the most. It's our best friends who stand silent when we are abused and do not defend us that hurt us the most" (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).

One other torpedo was one that a kindergartner said to Mr. Pritchard: "Don't let your sad turn to mad cause things get bad."

# Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 E. Foster Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908



**Dr. Jean Maddox**  
*Principal*

## Musical Minds

Foster Road School is soaring through another successful school year. With the high stakes of state testing holding schools accountable for student achievement, we are proud to share our focus is enhancing the education of the total child.

Our instruction begins with the brain in mind. We are learning brain strategies and applications for the classroom to keep the students engaged in learning, no matter what the subject matter may be. We have added more musical arts to our program, which has added more positive, creative, and lasting benefits to our students' education. Incorporating music into the standards-based curriculum nourishes our learners and their brains, which may simply develop better citizens for tomorrow. Music lifts our spirits, allows us to communicate with others, and hooks our emotions. The emotional system impacts the cognitive system, which impacts memory and stress.

It has been exciting to see the students develop their musical skills. They have increased their attention and focus as they listen and participate in the rhythm in our drumming classes. They have learned to work together to produce various sounds, write rhythm patterns, and create unity as they perform together. Music provides for the essential qualities that represent culture, imagination, creativity, rhythm, movement, pitch, melody, and harmony.

Our students love performing and expressing their identity. Their singing performance at Biola University in March a huge success. Music colors our world, ignites learning, and sharpens our minds in many powerful ways.

# Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796



**Kristine Cvar**  
*Principal*

## Reading IS the "Key" to Success

Our Gladiators have been immersed in a rich reading environment that promotes a love for reading and inquiry. Aside from providing an effective, balanced reading program and implementing reading strategies to develop a strong reading foundation for our students, our teachers are incorporating technology to increase their motivation. Technology-based programs are being utilized to assist with our quest to improve comprehension as well as increase student engagement within our classrooms. Since the implementation of the Accelerated Reader (AR) "app" on the iPad in a 1st grade classroom, the number of students who are taking and passing their AR comprehension tests has gone from 35 AR tests per month to over 100 AR tests per month... that's incredible! Glazier is definitely moving our students forward as they become independent readers and writers. Go Gladiators!



**The keys that students earn when they pass a comprehension test**



# Hutchinson

13900 Estero Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268

*MS Math, Science,  
Technology Magnet*



**Sara Siemens**  
Principal

## Superior Opportunities

March and April were big months for students at Hutchinson Middle School. On March 29, the Hutchinson Wind Ensemble received a unanimous superior rating in performance and sight-reading at the band festival. This is the highest rating that can be awarded to a performing group and the fourth consecutive year that the wind ensemble has earned a superior, moving us on to regional competition. The Hutchinson Concert Band earned an excellent rating, which ranks them third in the district of all middle school bands and orchestras.

Our seventh- and eighth-grade Academic Pentathlon teams brought back 36 individual medals and four team awards in their competition in April.



**Hutchinson band has a winning sound!**

Lastly, on April 28, we hosted our 5K Run/Walk for Technology, where we brought back three first-place medals, one second-place medal, and three third-place medals.

Congratulations to all!

# La Mirada High School

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431



**Bill Seals**  
Principal

## Exciting Times!

Spring has arrived, and the academy programs at LMHS are in full bloom! The Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Academy held its annual Extravaganza at a local performing arts center. This sold-out show provided the opportunity for both current and future Matadores to display their talents. Beautiful artwork was on display and students performed skits, songs and dances. It was a night to remember.

The La Mirada High School Future Business Leaders of America continued its success at the state competition in Irvine. With 2,000 students in attendance, Kurush Dubash earned 10th place in Computer Problem Solving and Giovanna Castro earned sixth place overall in the Client Service competition. Also, the Network Design team of Kurush Dubash, Justin Gocho and Kevin Lim placed third for the state of California!

Congratulations are in order for the La Mirada High School SkillsUSA students who competed at the 45th Annual SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference and Championships in San Diego. Bryan Sung earned a bronze medal in metal sculpture. Carlos Valenciano won silver in the same category. The welding fabrication team of Jordan Asti, Ryan Cooper and Dakota Sun won gold and will compete against champions from all 50 states in Kansas City at the end of June. Congratulations and good luck at Nationals!

Highlights from other academies include the Solar Academy's Walk or Bike to School on Earth Day and APPLE student's presentations at Foster Road Elementary School on the importance of trying your best on the CST exams. Matador Scholar Academy students are busy preparing for Advanced Placement exams, and AVID is actively recruiting students for next year!

# Glenn High School

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431



**Rick Ronquillo**  
Principal

## Advancing Our Potential

John Glenn High School (JGHS) is pleased to announce that the school has been selected to be part of the new College Board California Advanced Placement Potential Expansion (CAPE). CAPE is a pilot program brought about by California State Law SB 532, which encourages all California high schools to provide access to Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum for all students. The CAPE program offers willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to study at a college level, enabling them to develop the critical thinking skills necessary for college success.

As part of CAPE, JGHS will receive support for teachers, including full-tuition scholarships to attend an AP Summer Institute, as well as assistance acquiring textbooks and other imperative course-related materials, such as calculators and lab equipment. JGHS will use College Board's AP Potential data report to identify students with high AP potential, based on their PSAT/NMQST score analyses. The use of the test data will help JGHS identify overlooked students with the potential to benefit from participation in our AP courses.

JGHS is excited to be working with College Board on this initiative. This new partnership will help our students prepare and succeed in taking new and existing AP courses. JGHS looks forward to our students benefiting from the CAPE pilot program.

# Johnston Elementary School

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508



**Veronica Lizardi**  
Principal

## End of the Year

The school year has flown by, and the students at D.D. Johnston Elementary School should be proud of all that they have achieved.

For the second year in a row, our school has participated in the "Arts for All" grant. Our fourth- and fifth-grade students recently shared their dancing and drumming skills at a concert in April, and our kindergarten through third-grade students have also enjoyed the artists they've studied through their Meet the Masters program.

They also worked with a ceramic artist who taught them how to create their own ceramic projects, which will be featured during our open house on June 13. This year, the fourth- and fifth-grade piano music classes were also enhanced to include world percussion instruments. Next year we will be adding recorders to all of our third-grade classes as well.

Finally, we ended our exciting and memorable year with our Rockin' Roadrunner Talent Show on June 8.

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# La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104



**Terry Pace**  
Principal

## Our Future Looks Bright!

At La Pluma, we continue to pursue the path toward excellence! We have been preparing our students for their future by providing classroom experiences that encourage thinking, arts-enriching opportunities during and after school to promote creativity, and our family events such as our Fall Carnival, Family Fun Nights and our Read Nights that embrace community!

Our vision focus of integrating technology has also allowed for 14 iPads to be added into our fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms. In addition, we have five classrooms participating in our Modeled Integration of Technology Program. Those classrooms, equipped with iPads and additional desktops, assist students in connecting their learning to real-world application. Together, we have worked to provide a learning environment that not only acts as a complement to the whole-child but is also “Building Brighter Futures” for our students. We invite you to visit us in person or online at our website.



**La Pluma students integrate technology into their learning**

# Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroff Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273



**Cindy Rayburn**  
Principal

## Fitness, Fast Friends and a Fine Education!

The students and staff at Lampton have been hard at work racking up yet another award. In addition to the California Distinguished School Award, Lampton was recently recognized with a Title 1 Academic Achievement Award. We earned this award for doubling the academic growth targets for all our significant student groups for each of the past two years!

In recent months, Lampton has had many wonderful events. Students and staff put on their sneakers and ran in our PTA Jog-a-Thon, helping everyone become more fit. Parents attended a series of nutrition classes and



**Geronimo the Greyhound made a visit to Lampton!**

students tried out healthy recipes in class as part of the Harvest of the Month. Our fast friend, Geronimo the greyhound, a BARK therapy dog, also made weekly visits as his owner read to students and provided them with new books.

If you and your child prefer more than just the Three R's, come join us at Lampton!

# Los Alisos

14800 S.Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865

*MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*



**Dr. Gloria Jimenez**  
Principal

## Going Green!

Los Alisos Middle School is gearing up to Go Green! Each year our students prepare for their testing to show the state how much they have learned. Our current AYP is 786, and so our goal this year is to become an 800+ school. We can do it, too!

During the week of testing our wore students green shirts, ate green food and received green treats. This was to promote our moving to the “green band” which represents proficiency in the state tests.

Additionally, thanks to our community sponsors, we also motivated students with major incentives during the testing window to help keep up their effort and attendance. There were prizes from the following: Frantone's and Tams Restaurants, Golf N' Stuff, Keystone Lanes, AMC tickets and Starbucks gift cards.

There was also an iPod Nano per grade level; a brand new mountain bike; and a special barbecue next October for those students who show the most growth in English language arts or math.



# Los Coyotes

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368

*MS Centurian Honors Magnet*



**Dr. Sylvia Begtrup**  
Principal

## Challenging Students and Providing Support

This spring, our Los Coyotes students took part in the Academic Pentathlon competition. They studied math, language arts, science, social science, and also read a novel in preparation for the event.

This is one of many after-school activities that is offered to our students at Los Coyotes, and a big congratulations goes to all of these hard-working achievers.

The incoming sixth-grade students also visited Los Coyotes for a special tour. This summer we will be implementing “Where Everyone Belongs” (WEB), a program that connects the new incoming students with trained, older student-mentors. These student-mentors will be teamed with small groups of sixth-grade students to help provide them with support during their first year in middle school.

The Centurian Honors Magnet is also expanding next year due to an increased number of students who are interested in performing at a higher academic level. Congratulations goes to those Honors Magnet eighth-grade students who were recruited by the Matador Scholar Academy for participation in the academy next year.



**Los Coyotes sixth grade Academic Pentathlon Team.**



# Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071



**Maureen Bixby**  
Principal

## Go Green

The students at Moffitt Elementary School have been working hard all year to “Go Green” on the California Standards Tests (CSTs). The “Go Green” theme was an exciting way to encourage students to score proficient or advanced (green) on the state test.

In order to move more students to green, teachers are continually providing a rigorous curriculum, as well as additional opportunities for enrichment and academic support. Some of our support programs include before- and after-school tutoring, Mustang Academy, Gifted And Talented Education (GATE), and

our Max Time intervention program for struggling students.

The entire school community is also participated in our Test Prep Question of the Day, a fun and interactive way to reinforce skills that have been taught throughout the year.

Students have been working hard all year to show what they know on the CSTs. We are proud of you, Moffitt Mustangs!



**Mr. Jay supporting a student with test taking skills.**

# New River *Elementary School*

13432 S Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848



**Michelle Centeno**  
Principal

## We Go for the Gold!

Students were all set for CST after their hard work! This year's theme was “Going for Gold on the CST!” in honor of the summer Olympics. The testing period commenced with a CST kickoff assembly sponsored by our PTA. Activities included a brief presentation by our Knights' Leadership Student Council on Olympic history, a K-5 Olympic torch relay and an opening-ceremony march carrying classroom flags around the track.

PTA announced our CST goal of 800-plus and incentives for achieving it. PTA also provided CST goodie bags for every classroom. They included daily attendance charts for students, pencils and other items. Our principal, Mrs. Centeno, visited second- through fifth-grade classroom

to explain the test's significance. Children created Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely or SMART goals for language arts and math. These were shared with their teachers and parents. Parent meetings were held to explain how parents could support their children during testing.



**New River Going for Gold on the CST!**

# Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878



**Rudy Gonzalez**  
Principal

## Learning In the Cyber Dimension

At Morrison, we continue to expand our outstanding technology program. Our success is due in a large part to the support and training given to us from the 21st Century Project.

All students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade use state-of-the-art hardware and software. Each classroom is equipped with iMacs. Students use these computers to create multimedia projects designed around their rigorous curriculum. Our iPods provide students with opportunities to practice their reading and math skills, create works of art and even practice playing the xylophone! Every teacher has a set of iPods, which allow students to take photos and record audio and video. Their recordings are then downloaded into their various computer projects.

All Morrison teachers have designed and published Web pages on weebly.com. These class websites outline and showcase their class events and creative student projects. The technological experiences we provide our students with at Morrison will help ensure that they are well equipped to compete in the 21st century.



**Morrison Tigers take learning to new levels!**

# Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431



**Dina Wilson**  
Principal

## Streets to the Sea Challenge

Generation Earth (GE) challenges middle and high school students all over Los Angeles County to educate their peers about water pollution on their school campuses and how to take actions to protect the watershed. They challenge students to design a unique public education campaign that directly links to real problems students themselves identify at their own school.

The ninth-grade Millennium students, Melanie Ortiz, Angel Delgado, Megan Nolasco, went to a GE Water Pollution Prevention workshop at Van Nuys High School in November. They learned about watershed science and formed a team. Weeks and weeks of meeting, planning, executing, journaling, data collection, and promotion, they worked on water pollution prevention.

In April, we hosted the spring GE Water Pollution Prevention workshop. The students made a presentation to show what they had accomplished since November. Michelle Pulido, a senior, assisted with the physical set up as part of her senior project.

The Streets to the Sea Challenge is a fun way for environmentally-conscious students to share their voices and make a difference at school and for the planet.

In April, at the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, the top 10 schools presented highlights of the campaign to their peers. Norwalk High School was chosen as the first-place team and won a classroom trip to the floating lab off San Pedro! The trip will take place in June and provides an authentic marine biology laboratory experience.





**LaTasha Buck**  
Principal

**Working Together**

Where has the time gone?  
Throughout the year, our teachers have been collaborating on instruction and looking at the students' data in order to celebrate their successes and address their needs. In turn, the students were definitely engaged in their learning. All of this tireless work prepared them for the STAR testing in May, and I am confident that we will see many positive results from their efforts.

But our students weren't the only ones learning throughout the year. Our parents also learned as well!



Nuffer hosted several parent workshops, the most recent of which was provided by the Parent Institute of Quality Education (PIQE). The PIQE program really helped our parents understand how to partner in their children's education and keep them on the path to college.

Overall, this has been a successful year. Many thanks go to our teachers and parents. They have all worked together to guarantee the best education for their students.



**Maribel Galan**  
Principal

**Exposing Students to Technology**

The educators at Arturo Sanchez Elementary School are amazing and committed to doing whatever it takes to provide students with different experiences. Several of our teachers provide technology as a means to expose students to academic experiences and to the skills they need to become active users of technology.

Our second-grade team organized a wonderful field trip to a technology store in Cerritos, where students developed amazing projects with the guidance of the store's technology team. Sanchez students created movies using iMovie on the spot and were excited to show off their talents and showcase their projects. The store's trainers and team also provided our students with free T-shirts!

Ms. Sances and Ms. Nguyen provided this wonderful opportunity to continue to educate students about technology. In addition to these exciting events, our students are using SMART Boards and iPads to bring learning to life.



**Sanchez 2nd grade students at the Apple Store**

# Pokemon Word Search Contest

**NEW 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 is the word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put NLMUSD in the subject**

**Entries must be received by July 15, 2012**

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

**A special thank you to Tristan Luedee, 7 years old, for suggesting this Pokemon Word Search and emailing the words.**

- |            |            |           |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Aerodactyl | Jigglypuff | Rotom     |
| Bayleef    | Kingler    | Seviper   |
| Chikorita  | Lileep     | Togepi    |
| Ditto      | Meowth     | Unown     |
| Electabuzz | Noctowl    | Vibrava   |
| Flygon     | Oddish     | Wobbuffet |
| Grimer     | Pokemon    | Xatu      |
| Hoothoot   | Pikachu    | Yanmega   |
| Igglebuff  | Qwilfish   | Zubat     |



**Congratulations to Kang Family: Michelle, Paul, Pauline  
Winner of the April Word Search Contest!**



# Southeast Academy

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237



**Sgt. Marty Schafer**  
Director

## Reflecting on 2012

As the 2012 school year ends, we are reflecting on many memories and accomplishments. This year, we introduced our first freshman class at Southeast Academy. They have proven to be hardworking and willing to take on all challenges. With the anticipation of our senior class's graduation, sophomores and juniors are preparing to assume the responsibilities of leading the Academy for next year.

We must recognize our senior class. The graduating class of 2012 is very special. When you try something new, there is no guarantee that you will like it. When this class started at Southeast Academy, everything was new. The ability to learn new things together has brought this class together with the acknowledgement that it is okay to be

challenged outside your comfort zone. Congratulations Class of 2012 on a job well done!

Finally, we want to thank the parents, teachers and staff. Your dedication and devotion to student success are never overlooked. Thank you for a great year!



# Waite MS Careers Magnet

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981



**Willie Norman**  
Principal

## CSUF Math Partnership To Extend to Science!

This year we have had a terrific opportunity to have math ambassadors at Waite. A more detailed article can be found on Cal State Fullerton's website at <http://calstate.fullerton.edu/inside/2012sp/Math-Ambassadors.asp>. Below are the percentage gains of students who are Proficient or Advanced:

- 27% to 46% (a 70% increase) in sixth-grade math
- 69% to 82% (a 19% increase) in seventh-grade Pre-Algebra

The percentage of students who are at basic, proficient and advanced math levels rose from:

- 48% to 66% (a 38% increase) in eighth-grade Algebra 1A
- 73% to 75% (a 3 percent increase) in eighth-grade Algebra



**Kristen Littlefield, right, helps Waite Middle School students with math as part of the Math Ambassadors program.**

We are certain that the partnership has been a key element in these successes. Based on the achievements we've had in math, we are excited to expand into Science next year. We invite you to visit Waite and see for yourself! It's great at Waite!

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## Art To Grow On

### Ready, Get Set,...Create!



As a parent, I really now understand what everyone was saying when my sons were born: “It goes by so fast! Before you know it they will be....” And it is true! Since they grow so fast, I often think, what are the “seeds” that we parents should plant in our children? Manners? Of course! Respect? Of course! Self-esteem and self-confidence? Yes and yes!

But as I my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

Math calls for it. Social studies calls for it. Playing in the yard and getting into arguments call for it—the ability to analyze a situation, concretely or theoretically come up with solutions, and communicate those solutions through thought, speech, written word, movement, or art.

I opened Art To Grow On Children’s Art Center, Inc. in 2000. There were not as many demands on our children as there are now. Kindergarten is truly the new first grade. Our children’s minds need to be agile, sharp, open to new ideas, curious, passionate, and creative, no matter if they will become chemists, professional athletes, teachers, artists, musicians, or business executives.

If you can give your child a gift in 2012, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children’s Art Center, Inc.  
www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028

## Ask Dr. Shari

### Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about trades, people and being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others

via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

#### Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Dr. Shari is the founder of the “Brainpower” program for schools, Author of “*The Learning Toolbox - Memory Skills for Everyone*” used in schools nationwide, “*Inspiring the Love of Learning*” and “*The Algebra Toolbox - The UN MATH Solution*” in schools Fall 2011. Dr. Shari is a syndicated columnist, radio host and author of over 200 articles on the topics of Learning and Memory. Contact Dr. Shari at [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com). For a schedule of radio and television appearances see [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com).

## Keeping Up With the Jones’

### Wear It—Or Don’t Ride!



By Lisa Genshock

Some of my best Summer memories are of riding my Schwinn Stingray Fair Lady bicycle. It was a hand-me-down from my older sister, and I loved it. I had a mod flower power banana seat with orange, red, and purple daisies all over it. The purple metallic paint sparkled in the sun. To me, it signified freedom. Peddling happily, I would ride to my friend Linda’s house, one-half mile away.

I loved the wind blowing through my hair as I rode. So, when my Dad came home one day with a helmet, I was mortified. “Wear it” he said, “Or don’t ride your bike.”

According to the latest statistics from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, and the American

Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) nearly 50 percent of children 14 and under hospitalized for bicycle-related injuries are diagnosed with a brain injury. In California, it is law that all persons under the age of 18 years must wear a helmet while bicycling.

Parents, put a helmet on your child and wear one yourself. You are the example.



Jones Bicycles & Skateboards, 5332 East 2nd St., Long Beach, CA 90803, 562/434-0343  
<http://jonesbicycles.com>

## Note-ables

### The Hero in You, Ellis Paul



Kate Karp

Channeling Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger in both content and style, songwriter/musician Ellis Paul has put together a collection of little ballads celebrating heroes sung and unsung—until now. You’ll recognize most, if not all, of the champions of all



walks and stripes featured in the 14-song CD *The Hero in You* (Black Wolf Records), which also includes a booklet containing song lyrics and short bios of the subjects. And the title song? That one’s for you!

Paul masterfully accompanies himself on guitar in the same folksy manner as did Guthrie, Seeger Ben Franklin and Bob Dylan in the early days of his career. Thomas Edison and Ben Franklin are as honored for their inventions as are Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks and journalist Nellie Bly for their bravery. At the turn of the 19th century, Bly checked herself incognito into an asylum to expose the poor treatment of mentally ill patients and wrote about it, with very good results. Other individuals who may not have made the A-lists of most history texts include Martha Graham, Georgia O’Keeffe and a man who was called Mr. Tee Tot and who was Hank Williams’s mentor. Not surprisingly, Woody Guthrie is included. Augustus Jackson, an African-American who became the White House chef during James Madison’s presidency, is bound to be a favorite—he got the whole ice cream thing going.

Send the children off to summer glories with the words and spirits of these songs. It’s hoped that they’ll find the heroes in themselves and in others.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



## Magic Book Garden

### Reading/Writing All Spring & Summer



**Rozanne Lanczak Williams**

Keep your beginning reader's hard-earned literacy skills from slipping and sliding this summer with some simple and fun activities. Along with signing up for spring and summer reading programs at the library or bookstores, make sure you keep reading aloud to your child every day. Stressed for time? Check out books on tape, and play these in the car when running errands or on road trips. By listening along, too, you can discuss the story with your child, make predictions about what will happen next, think up new endings, and so on. These kinds of activities build and extend reading comprehension as well as promote the enjoyment of reading.

It's sometimes hard to find books for beginning readers on their levels. So, be sure to encourage your child to read and reread the little books he or she made at school during the year. Even reluctant readers will enjoy these short easy-to-read books, and they will get lots of practice reading sight words, reviewing vocabulary, and building fluency. Also, before school is out, ask your child's teacher for a book list that includes titles that would be appropriate for your child—not too hard, not too easy, but just right, to keep reading going!

If you are supermotivated, get together a group of children reading approximately on the same level, and form a book club. Get together once a week and have a book exchange. Have each child recommend a book to the group. Start each meeting off with one parent reading a favorite book aloud. Make it fun and engaging! Don't ask children to do workbook pages!

### Reading Travels Well

Keep a Magna Doodle in the car. Write little messages to your child at stoplights so that he or she can read and write an answer back. Encourage your child to write postcards to friends and family while on vacation. Even if you don't go anywhere far, send them from your area.

If your child is begging you to go on a special outing, have him or her write you a persuasive letter explaining why this is such a good idea. Write back to your child explaining your decision.

Start your child on a summer scrapbook or journal. It doesn't have to be fancy—even a simple notebook will do. Attach photos and invite your child to write captions and descriptions. Cut and paste pictures and paragraphs from brochures of museums, theme parks and other destinations. Encourage your little one to add illustrations. Your child can ask a friend to write and illustrate a page in this scrapbook.

For more information and great ideas to promote spring and summer reading, go to [readingrockets.org/calendar/summer](http://readingrockets.org/calendar/summer) and [readwritethink.org](http://readwritethink.org), and click on "Summer Activities."

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: [www.magicbookgarden.com](http://www.magicbookgarden.com)

## School News Survey Says...

Take our survey online and you will be entered in our drawing for a chance to win \$100. Your survey entry must be received by June 30, 2012.

It's easy. Just visit our website [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com) and click on the Mr. Ruler icon



## "Summer Fun in Norwalk!"



Don't sit around bored at home all day, go to the park! Each week has a different theme and all of the activities for the week will be based around the theme. Play superheroes versus villains in a game of capture of flag or create a yummy treat that you can eat. There's always fun to be had and something exciting to do when you go to the park. Call (562) 929-5702 for more information.

Free Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Gerdes & Hermosillo Parks for those under 18

July 5 – August 31

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- Dunk a **BASKETBALL**
- Write from **A to Z**
- Groove to the **HIP HOP** beat
- Paint **MASTERPIECES**
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ship of our School Board of Education. Thank you for making this possible for our well-deserving students.

**California Distinguished Schools Awards**

Eastwood Elementary School  
Morrison Elementary School

**Title I Academic Achievement Awards**

Morrison Elementary  
Lampton Elementary School

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Glazier Elementary School  
Johnston Elementary School  
Lampton Elementary School  
Edmondson Elementary School  
Dolland Elementary School  
Morrison Elementary School

**“Scholar Schools”**

Escalona Elementary School  
Eastwood Elementary School  
Gardenhill Elementary School

As we approach the “home stretch,” for the school year, students and teachers are getting ready for the yearly state standardized tests. Everyone has worked diligently to prepare our students to experience success. Please help us to encourage our students to remain focused on their studies. When our students achieve, we all achieve!



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**

pasado a los fondos de impuestos, la Medida “S” y debido al liderazgo ejemplar de nuestra Junta de Educación. Gracias por hacer esto posible para nuestros merecedores estudiantes.

**Premiaciones a las Escuelas Distinguidas de California**

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Escuela Primaria Morrison

**Premiaciones por Logro Académico de Título I**

Escuela Primaria Morrison  
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**Negocios de California para la Educación Excelencia  
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Escuela Primaria Johnston  
Escuela Primaria Lampton  
Escuela Primaria Edmondson  
Escuela Primaria Dolland  
Escuela Primaria Morrison

**“Escuelas Eruditas”**

Escuela Primaria Escalona  
Escuela Primaria Eastwood  
Escuela Primaria Gardenhill

Al estar llegando al final del año escolar, los estudiantes y maestros se están preparando para los exámenes anuales estandarizados del estado. Todos han trabajado diligentemente para preparar a nuestros estudiantes para permanecer enfocados en sus estudios. Cuando nuestros estudiantes lo logran, todos lo logramos.

shrinking world and the desire to do more with fewer resources, we must provide opportunities for our children to strive and be as successful as possible.

The *Los Angeles Times* recently ran an article that touts the success of our after school programs and the services that we provide. This is a key term-services that we provide. Like other districts we are working on innovative ways to extend learning and appreciation of the arts beyond the bell in order to facilitate the growth and desires of the children. This is accomplished through hard work by the administrative teams, specialized programs, volunteers, PTA, and caring staff members. They have all recognized the fact that schools are to remain the focus of our attention as well as an integral part of our future.

I want to encourage every parent, neighbor, and business owner to connect or reconnect with your local public school. The more we are able to extend the hours of activities, supervision and enrichment opportunities for our children in a safe and positive location like our schools, we all win.

**Have a wonderful summer!**



**Darryl Adams**  
President

académica, pero si manteníamos a los niños ocupados, y en esa época eso estaba perfectamente bien, pero al lidiar con un mundo menguante y el deseo de hacer más con menos recursos, debemos proporcionar oportunidades para que nuestros estudiantes luchen y sean lo más exitoso posible.

El periódico *Los Angeles Times* recientemente escribió un artículo que promueve el éxito de nuestros programas de después de clases y los servicios que proporcionamos. Este es un servicio clave que proveemos. Como otros distritos estamos trabajando en maneras innovadoras para extender el aprendizaje y la apreciación de las artes más allá de la campana para poder facilitar el crecimiento y los deseos de los niños. Esto

se logra a través de arduo trabajo por medio del equipo administrativo, programas especializados, voluntarios, Asociación de Padres y Maestros (PTA por sus siglas en inglés), y miembros del personal cuidadosos. Todos han reconocido el hecho de que las escuelas deben permanecer el enfoque de nuestra atención así como una parte integral de nuestro futuro.

Quiero animar a cada padre, vecino, y dueño de negocio para conectarse o reconectarse con su escuela pública local. Entre más seamos capaces de extender las horas de actividad, supervisión y oportunidades de enriquecimiento para nuestros hijos en un lugar seguro y positivo como son nuestras escuelas, todos ganamos.



**Board of Education:**  
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