

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2012

NLMUSD Supports Digital Learners

*By Ernesto Centeno,
Curriculum and Instruction
Technology Specialist*

The Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD) continues to make huge strides in supporting the changing needs of our digital learners.

Three hundred and twenty middle school students across Norwalk and La Mirada schools will be participating in a one-to-one iPad program this year. This pilot program is one of several initiatives being rolled out this fall by NLMUSD to better prepare students for academic success, upcoming California Common Core Standards test requirements, and



Benton Middle School students can't wait to show what they can do with their iPads!

the demands of living and working in an increasingly digital world.

Students in the pilot program will be assigned an Apple iPad, which they will use in their classes and also take home to extend their learning beyond the end of the school day. Parents can choose to partner with the school district and purchase an Apple iPad.

The district has spent the past year preparing for this program roll out, making investments in the schools' wireless networks and filtering software. Surveys at each middle school showed overwhelming parent support for increasing technology access for students.

Students will use the iPads to learn and apply technology learning tools in math, language arts, science, and other content areas. The iPads

SEE DIGITAL LEARNERS • PAGE 15

Welcome Back to School!

Dear Norwalk-La Mirada Parents, Community and Friends,
Welcome to another exciting school year. I hope you will take the time to visit the school websites to keep up to date on activities and important dates. The school web sites can be found by visiting www.nlmusd.org and clicking on School Sites on the left side of the home page. I hope you will also follow me on Twitter for important information regarding our schools and students.

In the last few years, our District has experienced much academic success! Our overall district API scores have significantly increased and our District schools and programs have also received distinguished honors:

- California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award
- Title 1 Academic Achievement School Award
- California Business for Educational Excellence
- California Distinguished School
- National Blue Ribbon School Awards

Last year, 13 elementary schools received National and State recognition! Our middle school magnet programs continue to offer engaging programs for students and receive national recognition. This year, we began a Transitional Kindergarten program at three elementary schools, Morrison, Chavez and Foster Road.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 15

¡Bienvenidos de Regreso a Clases!



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Estimados Padres, Comunidad y Amigos de Norwalk-La Mirada,
Bienvenidos a otro año escolar emocionante. Espero que se tome el tiempo para visitar los sitios de web de las escuelas para mantenerse al día sobre las actividades y fechas importantes. Los sitios de web de las escuelas se pueden encontrar visitando www.nlmusd.org y haciendo clic en "School Sites" Sitios Escolares en el lado izquierdo de la página principal. Espero que también me siga en Twitter para obtener información importante acerca de nuestras escuelas y estudiantes.

¡En los últimos años, nuestro Distrito ha experimentado un éxito académico amplio! Nuestra puntuación general de API del Distrito ha aumentado significativamente y nuestras escuelas del Distrito y programas también han recibido premiaciones distinguidas:

- Premiación de la Campana de Oro de la Asociación de la Mesa Directiva de California
- Premiación de la Escuela de Logro Académico de Título 1
- Negocios de California para Excelencia Educativa
- Escuelas Distinguidas de California
- Premiación Escolar Nacional del Liston Azul

¡El año pasado, 13 escuelas primarias recibieron reconocimiento Nacional y Estatal! Nuestros programas Magnet de las escuelas intermedias continúan ofreciendo programas atractivos para los estudiantes y recibiendo el

SEE SUPERINTENDENTE • PAGE 15



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Covering the
NORWALK—LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



We are celebrating publishing the excellence from NLMUSD for three years. Congratulations to the district for all of the awards Superintendent Pérez writes about in her column on the front page.

School is in full swing and students have settled into their routines. This issue is exciting with the news from the classrooms highlighting everything from theatre to character traits to magnet programs. The end result is the same—preparing students for success.

Our next issue is December 5. It is hard to believe the holidays are right around the corner. Happy Halloween!

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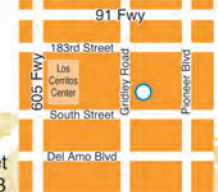
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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

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



Michelle Green
Principal

Composing a Symphony of Success!

This year's theme sums up our commitment at Benton to strive for excellence in every aspect of our school. Our students have made tremendous gains academically, have earned numerous accolades for their athletic accomplishments, and have won critical acclaim for their visual exhibits and outstanding performances! We believe our team of administrators, teachers, parents and students are the secret ingredients to our success.

Fall classes have begun with a flourish, including new offerings in French, pre-AP courses, an iPad initiative and our WEB Student Mentorship Program for all sixth-grade students! These complement our core academic and honors courses as well as the classes in studio art, stagecraft,

theater arts, orchestra, guitar, band, world percussion, steel pans, choir, piano, dance, creative writing, photography, media arts, video production, technology, AVID and more! Benton Middle Magnet School is poised to become a premier academy of visual and performing arts.



The Benton Middle School cast of "The Phantom Tollbooth"

Chavez *Elementary School*

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



Robert Rayburn
Principal

A World-Class Education

This year, Chavez Elementary School had one of the most dynamic starts to the school year! I am so happy to announce the return of our Playworks program for 2012–2013. During summer break, our wonderful Playworks coach, Luciano Mondolo, was named the Americorps Member of the Year for the state of California! "Coach" was honored for the work he does with our students. The awards ceremony, organized by the governor's office, was held at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History in July. Way to go, Coach!



Chavez Playworks Coach Mondolo Honored as California AmeriCorps Member of the Year.

I am also thrilled to announce the expansion of our arts program. Last year, parents asked that we provide more arts opportunities for our children. With tremendous support from our district leadership, all Chavez children will be learning to play at least one musical instrument this year. We have added an incredible African percussion and dance program, a xylophone lab, and recorders. Stop by and see the world-class programs at Chavez!

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678 • www.nlmusd.org



Bob Easton
Principal

We're Going to Climb Even Higher!

We can see that 2012–13 is already shaping up to be a great year! Here are a few highlights.

Student achievement scores increased at every grade level and subject area, and we far exceeded our state targets. Over 50 seventh- and eighth-grade student WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders welcomed our incoming students. WEB is a transition program that welcomes students and helps them feel comfortable throughout the year.

The modernization process started this summer. Work began on the infrastructure of the school, including updating electrical, irrigation, water, sewer, fire and safety systems. During the next phase, work will focus on completely updating classrooms, restrooms and other facilities. Interim classrooms are in place for students while the buildings are being modernized. In the meantime, there will be some noise and dust, but the end result is more than worth the inconvenience. Be sure to check the school website for updated information.



Seventh & eighth grade WEB Leaders/Mentors and Advisors.

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Developing Complete Citizens

Welcome to the start of a wonderful school year! At Dolland, we have a great community of students, and it has been wonderful to experience once again all the excitement a new school year brings.

One of our goals this year is to focus on fostering good communication and healthy social-emotional development for our students. Our plan is to concentrate on a positive character trait each month and to extend this learning to every child's home by incorporating interactive family activities in our monthly newsletter. Our student body council and staff here at Dolland are leading this valuable work and taking time to recognize students who participate in these activities. We are working together to bridge connections about the importance of being caring and responsible citizens.

Here at Dolland, we want to celebrate strong academic success and ensure that our students also develop strong principles and values.



Good character is fostered at Dolland Elementary!

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadowgreen Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Summer Reading, Success All Year!

Welcome to Dulles Elementary school! We are building a new foundation for learning. Dulles is a cute little school in a lovely community. Our teachers had two books for summer reading to give them a new start and fresh ideas on teaching strategies. The books covered some brain-based strategies to hook our students into the learning process. Our teachers know that students learn if they enjoy their education and are completely involved in the lessons. With the strategies the teachers are learning, they will make learning fun and empower their students to use the new strategies to create their own learning to build success. Every child can achieve outstanding results. Our teachers will help our students build their confidence in their ability to achieve.

Our students in first through fifth grade will be working with a new program called i-Ready. We are excited to have this diagnostic tool to help our teachers to begin designing and delivering lessons aligned with where the students' needs are. With i-Ready, the teachers will be able to provide differentiated instruction so that each student is working at the right level. The teachers will have a strong instructional action plan for every student. Dulles teachers will be raising achievement and closing the learning gaps.

Come and visit Dulles Elementary. We are back on the map and open for business. We have a wonderful supportive PTA that assists us with added supplies and field trips that build on the learning and create more fun for our students.

Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

A Quality "Arts for All" Program

We are pleased to announce our visual and performing arts program.

Each grade level will be receiving weekly instrumental music lessons. The lessons for kindergarten through third grade will focus on world percussion and rhythm. Starting this year, our students in the fourth grade will be treated to lessons with percussion and wind instruments. Our fifth-grade students will participate in 10 African drum and dance lessons from guest artists.

There will also be several opportunities throughout the year for our students to show off their talents. Choir performs twice a year; each grade level will host a showcase event at the end of their instrumental music course; and every student will perform during our annual International Day.

The students will all be participating in the Meet the Masters visual art program as well. This year the art style and historical time period of Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Lawrence, Chagall and Calder will be studied.

Primary and upper-grade students will attend musical performances or plays at the La Mirada Civic Theater or the Cerritos Center of the Performing Arts. The teachers will also submit class projects based upon their experiences with the Cerritos Center. Last year, all three of our second-grade classes were honored by the Center. Bravo!

Optometry



The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.
-Helen Keller

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Edmondson *Elementary School*

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

Expect Excellence



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Expect excellence. Esperemos excelencia. That is our new vision/mission for the 2012–2013 school year. The Edmondson Elementary School Eagles pride themselves on building successful leaders for the future, and we are proud to say that Mrs. Mayorga, our third- and fourth-grade combo teacher, kicked things off by holding nominations and elections to install our student council. We are very excited because one of our goals this school year is to take our student council members to our state capitol, Sacramento! PTA has also been working hard planning fund-raisers, special assemblies, and trips for students for the upcoming year. Edmondson PTA just held its annual membership drive.

Our Back-to-School Night was held on September 27 and was a huge success! Our staff met with parents, welcomed them warmly, reviewed classroom expectations, and went over the homework policy. Parents were also given a sneak peak at upcoming projects.

Every Friday, we host a kindergarten through fifth-grade Eagle Pride assembly, where we celebrate student accomplishments by honoring our teacher-selected Eagles of the Week, conduct the flag salute in English and Spanish, and make important announcements for staff and parents. All are invited!

Here's to a great year full of learning and fun! And remember, expect excellence! Esperemos excelencia!

Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org

Eagle Pride



Bonita Lytle
Principal

Escalona Elementary School's staff is extremely excited and committed to making 2012–2013 a successful and enjoyable year for all! Education at Escalona is designed to meet the academic and social needs of each student while fostering a love of learning. Our commitment to high levels of learning for our students is reflected in the achievement of our children. I am proud of our students' success on the California Standards Tests! Our scores continue to soar!

Escalona's talented and professional staff continues to implement educational techniques and strategies which inspire and empower students to be their best. We teach the importance of academic achievement paired with the importance of good character. This year, Escalona students will learn about six pillars of character through a program called Character Counts! Students will learn the importance of respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and good citizenship.

We believe in the importance of a strong home and school partnership. We value the work of our PTA and parent volunteers. I highly encourage you to join our Escalona PTA and become involved in the many fine programs that we offer at Escalona. Your volunteer efforts and your participation in school events will make a positive impact on each child!

El Camino *High School*

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

Ready for Success



Darryl Brown
Principal

El Camino High School is off to a great start for the 2012–13 school year! Energy among the staff is still upbeat from the accomplishments of 2012, which saw El Camino graduate 151 students!

Students came back to school well rested and ready to continue their path toward graduation. Schoolwide assemblies were held within the first weeks of school, and students were reminded of the attributes that lead to success at El Camino. Emphasized during the assembly were the importance of attendance, abiding by the code of conduct, being a proactive learner, and holding oneself accountable. Administration also focused on resources in the community for adolescents and brought forth a heightened awareness of the zero-tolerance policy for bullying and how to seek support. Students were also invited to participate in on-campus groups including Positive Alternative Outreach, ASB, Straight Talk and Intramural Sports.



**Principal Brown and Superintendent Pérez
with one of El Camino's one hundred and fifty-one graduates!**

Through collaboration with ROP, students have signed up and begun taking classes in cosmetology, the ACI (Automotive Collision Institute) Program and the Dental Assistant Program.

We have established high goals and expectations for all students. El Camino is poised to make this another productive year!

Please Drive Safely

Students are Back in School

Foster Road *Elementary School*

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

What If...



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Foster Road School is off and running into action! Our story of success continues. Our teachers and students are happy to be back to school, and the flow of imagination is igniting. The first thing for them to do is to learn all about their new students in their classrooms. Our teachers set the mindset to “hope and success” for each individual student who enters their rooms. No matter where the students start, with applied effort and someone in their corner, they will elevate their learning and break down the obstacles and shape their future for success.

Each student from kindergarten to fifth grade sets his or her learning goals. We all learn differently and in various ways. Our teachers help the students exercise their imagination and put their goals in motion. Taking action on how they are going to achieve their goals begins their journey for this new school year. We have all read a story to a child and left the ending out for the child to imagine what the ending would be like. This is a fantastic way to stimulate their imagination. Setting goals can be paralyzing, for we embrace “what is,” but if we are taught to look at things differently, we can say “what if.” By helping the students break the steps into chunks, they can begin to embrace the strategies they need to help them on their way.

We welcome you to Foster Road. We invite volunteers to help make learning meaningful and purposeful for our students. Make the difference!

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Academics and Anticipation

Gardenhill Elementary School is excited about the 2012–2013 school year. We are so proud of the success of Gardenhill and are so pleased with our incredible Academic Performance Index score of 910! We achieved this score due to our amazing staff, students, and parents, who work tirelessly together to create an outstanding academic school with a caring, nurturing environment.

Some of the exciting programs students can look forward to this year are our after-school Arts Academy, our literacy initiative, our 21st-century technology emphasis, and our partnership with Biola University. Biola teaches their Introduction to Teaching course on the Gardenhill campus, and Biola students observe our teachers in action while also helping in our classrooms.

Our first community fund-raiser is our annual Fall Festival on October 19. Volunteers come together to create a fun-filled evening of games, activities, and food for our local area. Come join the fun!



Fun at the Fall Festival!

Glenn *High School*

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



Greg Puccia
Principal

New Pilots and Copilots

John Glenn High School is starting a new chapter in its long history in Norwalk. The school has a new principal, Greg Puccia, who is intent on providing Glenn students with a safe and challenging school environment that focuses on academics, athletics and the arts. Mr. Puccia is joined by a new administrative team that includes assistant principals Jennifer Hopkins and Michael Gotto. All three bring a wealth of experience to Glenn High School.

John Glenn has an excellent faculty and staff and provides students with outstanding opportunities to pursue their individual interests while preparing for success after high school. The school has two California Partnership Academies; TCAP focuses on technology, and ACE focuses on careers in education. There is also a film and TV pathway that provides students with hands-on experience in the entertainment field.

John Glenn has an award-winning arts program that includes the school's drama department and orchestra/music program. The drama department recently participated in the International Thespian Festival during the summer of 2012 and received a number of awards. The music department performs in local and state competitions and has been recognized as a top program in Southern California. Glenn High School is very excited about the new Mariachi Band class as well.

John Glenn High School is a school on the move and is honored to provide the students and families of Norwalk with a top-notch educational program. We look forward to growing and improving in the coming years, with the support of our district and our families. Go Eagles!

Glazier *Elementary School*

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



Kristine Cvar
Principal

Shooting for the STARS!

Armed with Knowledge, Empowered for Life

Glazier Elementary has been named a “Star” school by the “California Business for Education Excellence” (CBEE) foundation for two consecutive years. Every year the CBEE identifies schools based on the results of the California Standards Test (CST). One criterion for becoming a “Star” school is showing evidence of closing achievement gaps and increasing proficiency rates among a population of minority students. Over the last five years, Glazier has consistently demonstrated high levels of student academic achievement and has exceeded annual state targets. There has been significant growth in increasing student achievement across all subgroups of students. We are very proud of this prestigious honor and the Glazier staff will continue to provide the best instructional practices and standards-based instruction to our students. Go Gladiators!



Hutchinson

*MS Math, Science,
Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



Sara Siemens
Principal

The Arts, Science and Technology

The staff of Hutchinson Middle School is excited to partner with students, parents and the community for the 2012–13 school year. Our 1 to 1 iPad Honors Academy is off and running, providing students with a rigorous pre-AP learning environment. Students utilize their iPads for research, project development, digital textbooks, word processing, student responders and formative assessments. Our Math, Science and Technology magnet introduces students to units in environmental science, structural engineering and principles of engineering, and robotics. Our Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program includes our award-winning



Hutchinson students utilize iPad for learning!

band program as well as guitar, world percussion, music and technology. Students also have opportunities to participate in AVID, Leadership, Yearbook, Academic Pentathlon, after-school sports and cheer.

We are excited for our new school year and are committed to once again provide our students with a quality academic environment. For more information, explore our website.

Johnston *Elementary School*

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



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

Be Kind

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. —Mark Twain

Our school wide commitment towards our Caring Pillar is to Be Kind. At Johnston, we build character one pillar at a time. One way we demonstrate our school wide kindness is in the mornings before school starts. Our Roadrunner Representatives greet students and parents as they walk on to campus. Our Roadrunner Representatives are 5th grade students that are part of our Kids Care Club. Every year, 5th grade students are eager to join this wonderful club. This year, we are hoping to do more community projects that demonstrate our kindness even more. Stop by and visit our beautiful campus where you can see first hand how our Johnston Scholars demonstrate excellence and kindness!



Roadrunner Representatives greet parents and students every morning.

La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Terry Pace
Principal

Teaming Up for Success!

The La Pluma Team is excited about the 2012–2013 school year! Our mission remains focused on inspiring students to lead and care about others, to think critically, and to learn cooperatively. As we “Team Up” for success, we have many wonderful opportunities planned for the upcoming school year.

Thanks to our PTA, the La Pluma students will once again have enriching experiences with music, choir and art. Teaching students how to care and lead others will also be embedded in our work with character development, through the Character Counts program.

We also look forward to the implementation of iReady, a new web-based program that will assist us in diagnosing and prescribing student academic needs in the areas of reading and math.

We are committed to reaching even greater heights this year through our continued focus on student achievement. We invite you to visit us on our Web site.



Principal Pace talks to students about Character Development.

La Mirada *High School*

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



Bill Seals
Principal

Welcome, New Matadores!

On September 5, La Mirada High School (LMHS) welcomed over 600 new freshman students. They entered our campus a little nervous but have now adjusted to their new surroundings. Our middle schools and the students' parents are to be commended on how well they prepared these young people. We look forward to watching them grow and mature during the next four years.

These students are not the only new Matadores. The La Mirada staff has a few new faces as well! I would like to take the opportunity to welcome these outstanding educators to our school: Mr. Joel Hasemeyer, language arts teacher; Mr. Sean Jasso, English language and language arts teacher; Ms. Melissa Naudin, language arts teacher and the director of Matador Scholar Academy; and Mrs. Amber Hardy Soto, math coach. Each of these individuals comes highly recommended and is eagerly beginning an educational career.

La Mirada High School also received a few transfer teachers, whom I personally have had the pleasure to work with. Mrs. Stephaine Foster, Mr. Tom Taylor, and Mr. Steve MacFarland are all outstanding Special Education teachers, who transferred to our campus from John Glenn High School. They will bring many years of successful teaching experience to our site.

We are fortunate to be able to hire two part-time visual and performing arts teachers. Mr. Jeff Fazarkerley has been hired to teach one section of drama, and Mr. Evan Eliason will instruct a section of beginning guitar and a section of advanced guitar.

I would like to personally welcome these outstanding educators to our community and wish them well in their first year at LMHS!

Lampton *Elementary School*

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



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Off to a Great Start

The Lampton Dolphins are off to another great school year! Our students were welcomed back by mermaids, dolphins and colorful fish on the new undersea murals throughout our cafeteria.

Lampton is both a California Distinguished School and a Title 1 Academic Achievement Award winner. We pride ourselves on our quality teaching and the positive relationships that we develop among our students, staff and parents. Here's what a few of our new students had to say about our school:

The teaching here is good. —Aileya, 4th grade

I made a lot of friends here! When I was new, they helped me out, and showed me around the school. —Tommy, 5th grade



Lampton welcomes new friends and families!

My teacher is the nicest, and the best I ever had! —Sarah, 3rd grade.

Our teacher is helping us on what we each need most. She's helping me with my math. My mom is happy that I came to this school! —Kimberly, 5th grade.

If this sounds like your kind of place, come and join the Lampton Family!

Los Alisos

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

MS Math, Science,
Technology Magnet



Dr. Gloria Jimenez
Principal

National Recognition!

Project Lead
The Way "Gateway to Technology" has awarded Los Alisos National Recognition for playing a significant role in the growth of the Magnet program; which provides pathways to Engineering Courses for grades 6-8. These students will have the option of enrolling in Norwalk High School's PLTW courses and earning college credit for their course work.



Los Alisos Middle School get political! It's the start of the fall presidential election season, and our students gear up and join other middle school students across the state for the MyVote California Student Mock Election, which will take place on campus on Tuesday, October 30th.



WEB – 89% of our 6th Grade students participated in the WEB Orientation on September 4th and 54 WEB Leaders, including our A-Team, 10 7th graders who all did an amazing job and used their leadership skills to teach, guide and excite our 6th graders. Our WEB Coordinator, Ms. Dufresne, and a group of dedicated teachers pulled off this great event without a glitch. They guided, supervised, entertained, and served snacks to over 400 students.

Los Coyotes

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

MS Centurian
Honors Magnet



Dr. Christina Stanley
Principal

Mentor Program Highlights the New Year

Los Coyotes Middle School is celebrating the start of the 2012–2013 school year, and we have much to celebrate! This summer we hosted our first WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) orientation for the incoming sixth-grade students. The program pairs seventh- and eighth-grade students as mentors to the incoming sixth-graders in order to help them with the start of school and the rest of the year.

On the first day of school, the PTSA also unveiled the new Centurian mural on the wall of our Multi-Purpose Room (the MPR). The Character Counts! pillars on the mural serve as the foundation for our interactions with students, parents, staff members and the



The new LCMS mural

community. The WEB leaders and leadership students were also on hand to help our new and incoming sixth-grade students become familiar with the campus and find their way.

We are looking forward to a year full of exciting accomplishments, amazing experiences, high student achievement and more celebrations!

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Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Maureen Bixby
Principal

On the Road to Success

Opening day was a success at Moffitt Elementary! We welcomed over 600 students and 60 staff members to the new school year. The students showed up dressed for success and ready to learn in their new school uniforms. Parents, students and staff were all extremely supportive of the addition of school uniforms on our campus this year.

At Moffitt Elementary, we are committed to excellence. Our staff implements proven strategies known to promote critical thinking, develop academic language and increase comprehension in all areas of the curriculum. We strive to instill a love of learning and a drive to seek new knowledge in all of our students. In addition to a rigorous standards-based curriculum, we provide additional opportunities to support our students both inside and outside the classroom. Student academics are supported and enriched through our MaxTime Intervention, Playworks, a state-of-the-art media center and a music program for all students in the fifth and sixth grades. We are looking forward to another successful year at Moffitt Elementary!



New River *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Centeno
Principal

Ready to Learn

New River Elementary School started out the new school year on a very busy but positive note! Here are a few highlights.

We have begun assessing our students from kindergarten through fifth grade in the content areas of English language arts and math using the district's new Web-based program, iReady. Teachers are able to view their students' results immediately and know where the areas of strength and challenges are for individual students. Instruction can then be tailored based on students' needs.

We held our Recess Rodeo for first- through fifth-grade students. Recess Rodeo is a fun, school-wide event designed to teach students how to play games and use the equipment available to them at recess and lunch times. Teachers demonstrate how to play the various games so that all students learn consistent rules. In addition, school expectations are reviewed to help keep all students safe.

Reading Intervention for first- through third-grade students is gearing up to begin. Parents will be invited to meetings throughout the year to teach them how to help develop and support their children's reading at home.

Our fourth-grade students will be utilizing iPass Math Intervention to provide additional support in developing math skills.

The arts are alive at New River, and our Art Studio is now open! Students will learn about many great artists using the Meet the Masters curriculum. Be sure to ask your children for their beautiful masterpieces, created in the style of the focus artist of the month!

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Continuing with Our Distinction

Welcome to Morrison Elementary School! We are proud to have been named a California Distinguished School for the second time in a row and to have also been awarded the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award four years in a row. Our Academic Performance Index (API) has grown steadily over the past several years. 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.

Music has always been a part of Morrison's curriculum, and this year, our students will be singing, learning to read music, and expanding their knowledge of rhythm, tempo and beat. They will be learning on a variety of instruments. On the technology front, the 21st-Century Project is continuing for its third year. Morrison uses a variety of technology tools to enhance individualized learning, create integrated learning opportunities and extend learning beyond classroom walls.

Research shows that there is a direct correlation between student success and parent involvement. At Morrison, it is an expressed goal to involve all parents in the education of our students. Our mission is to not only educate our children but to also support our parents by providing them with tools to enhance their learning at home and increase their effectiveness as parents.

We are excited about the possibilities and opportunities we will encounter this year and look forward to working with all our stakeholders to make this our best year yet!



Norwalk *High School*

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



Rick Ronquillo
Principal

Off to a Great Start

As the fifteenth principal of Norwalk High School, it is my pleasure to welcome our 2,200 students to the 2012–2013 school year.

The Lancer community is facing many changes this year. In the midst of a new schedule and new leadership, our students have arrived with enthusiasm and some new "traditions" for our future Lancers.

During the first week of school, the senior class experienced their first "Senior Sunrise." Over 120 students came to school at 6 a.m. to watch the sunrise together. The purpose was to make a pledge of positive commitments and goals for the upcoming year, as well as discuss how to become

more positive role models and leaders for all of the NHS students.

At the end of the school year they will also share a "Senior Sunset." Here they'll reflect on the commitments and goals they made, and celebrate their accomplishments.

It was a touching morning of fellowship and bonding. The "spirit" of the Class of 2013 started the school year off in the right direction.



Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788 • www.nlmusd.org



LaTasha Buck
Principal

Parent Involvement

We're off to a great start at Nuffer Elementary School! On September 13, Nuffer hosted Back-to-School Night to welcome all of our families to the new school year! In addition to meeting our teachers and learning about expectations, families shuttled between the book fair, the music stage, the PTA information tables, the taco stand, and Shave-It! Resource materials and books that are no longer being used in the classrooms were given away to families to support students at home.



Mr. Patterson welcomes families into his room to discuss expectations for his 4th/5th grade class.

The Parent Institute of Quality Education (PIQE) was also in attendance to sign up parents for our upcoming fall sessions, which are from September 25 through November 27. We're excited to bring PIQE back to our campus to help our parents gain more information about how they can be partners in their children's education. Having our parents on board early is going to be the key to a successful year!

Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365 • www.nlmusd.org



Maribel Galan
Principal

Character Counts!

Sanchez Elementary School is committed to academic success and providing a positive, safe environment for all! We are excited and proud to introduce a new way of interacting and creating a positive environment through our new Character Counts initiative. At Sanchez, we are committed to the following goals: enhance a data-driven system of instruction and interventions to address the needs of all students; allocate time to support effective teacher collaboration; implement accountability and effective communication in support of student achievement through shared leadership; and promote a positive school environment for student achievement.

The Character Counts initiative supports our final goal. The Sanchez team of educators, support team, and families are teaching, modeling, and enforcing the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. We are seeing the difference! Our Sanchez scholars are already living the spirit of our six pillars. Two students recently found a bankcard and credit card on our school grounds and immediately informed the office. We are very proud of our caring and honest students!



Diana and Matthew model Good Character

Southeast *Academy*

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



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Showcasing Opportunities

Southeast Academy High School has a small population, which allows us to develop strong professional relationships. This year we are showcasing the great opportunities we have for cadets. As a staff, we have been working together with our district to identify major school goals to meet the needs of our cadets. Looking at data and patterns will help prepare for the next step and the future of our school.

If you are new to Southeast Academy—welcome! The level of commitment in the classroom, extracurricular activities, and community service is extraordinary. Our cadets are setting the example by being involved in multiple activities and still making academics their top priority.

Leadership is a key component at Southeast Academy. Cadets enroll in leadership classes so they can become successful leaders.

Our unique training in athletics and leadership assists in the development of effective and successful cadets.

We are proud of the educational experiences we offer and look forward to an exciting and outstanding school year.



Southeast Academy Cadets honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Willie Norman
Principal

Career Path Magnet

Waite Middle School is destined for amazing things in 2012–13! The gifts and talents of our students combined with the dedication and passion of our teachers allow us to strive for excellence.

Excellence is not the result of a good intention or a clever slogan. It comes from a strong, urgent desire to improve how we do things when we see something we can do better. We continue to work hard to ensure that Waite Middle School will be recognized as a top-performing school in academics, athletics and student activities. As we strive for excellence, we will move from good to great. It's great to be a panther!



We are currently expanding our PTSA, so we hope that more parents and community members will join in this year. Come visit Waite today, or go to our webpage.

Adult School



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

The Flexibility of Online Learning

More and more adults are taking advantage of the benefits of online learning. They are discovering the satisfaction of working on an important goal and the convenience of doing so at their own pace and according to their own schedule. Often, online learning activities are also accessible in the comfort of one's own home. The Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School offers online learning for high school diploma classes. Students receive training on the use of the online program and then have the option of accessing the system on campus or at home. Many adults are a little uneasy using a

computer in this way at first, but it does not take long for them to feel comfortable with the process and become engaged in the topic of study. If you have thought about taking that important step towards a diploma, the flexibility of online learning may be exactly what you need!



Student access high school diploma courses online.

Head Start *Pre-School*



Laurel Parker
Director

Off and Running in the New Year

This year, we will be opening preschool classes at Foster Road and Morrison Elementary Schools, and adding a Home Base program to Huerta. That means that we are now serving 929 children across ten sites!

Upcoming events include: Policy Committee member elections and training for Board and Policy Committee members from October 8-11 at Ramona, parent workshops and classes including ESL, and workshops and support groups for fathers and father figures.

We are excited to announce a partnership with Cerritos Family Guidance Center, which is called Families First. This partnership is providing mental health services to children and families. We are thankful for the initiative from this agency to create a strong connection with community resources, and to be able to serve all families enrolled in our program.



Staff from Families First attended the Preschool Family Fun Night in May 2012.

HALLOWEEN 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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put NLMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2012
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Thank you **Brecken Runquist**
for this Word Search Contest

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT | GHOST | SPIDER WEB |
| CANDY | GHOUL | SWAMP CREATURE |
| CARVE | GOBLIN | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CEMETERY | GRAVE | VAMPIRE |
| COSTUME | HAUNTED HOUSE | WEREWOLF |
| DECORATIONS | JACK O LANTERN | WITCH |
| FRANKENSTEIN | MUMMY | ZOMBIE |
| FRIGHTFUL | SKELETON | |

Congratulations to Marisol Esparza
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!



Back to School



The period just before a new school year can be as stressful as it is exciting, for both students and parents. Start your school year with less anxiety:

Start preparing for the first day of school 10-14 days ahead of time. This amount of time allows students to complete (or start!) any summer work that was assigned, complete school-related shopping trips and for students' bodies to acclimate to "school year" routines.

Rajeshri Gandhi

Talk with your child to gauge sources of excitement and anxiety. Getting to know your child's apprehensions makes you aware of potential triggers and better allows you to coach him/her. Having this knowledge will also allow you to communicate with his/her teacher better should a situation arise.

Use the new school year for a new start. Encourage your child to enter the new year without any old baggage (conflicts with classmates, apprehensions about academics, etc.) Help your child learn the lifelong lesson on how to use time as a healer.

Prepare your child for major changes, especially if your child is transitioning to a new school. Every new school year holds changes and change can cause anxiety. You can help address questions and ease your child's fear. An older student can serve as a mentor, answer any 'technical' questions and provide your child a peer/ 'in house' expert.

Prepare yourself financially for the start of school. Starting a new school year is expensive! Request the school supply list ahead of time. Calculate additional classroom costs (projects, fieldtrips, uniforms etc) and optional choices (sports, scouts, lunch, etc) to budget and talk with your children ahead of time about their choices.

Go through steps 1-4 above for yourself. As a parent, you have your own set of emotions about sending your children back to school and working through your anxiety allows you to be best prepared to help your child.

Rajeshri holds a BS from the University of Michigan and a MA in School of Leadership with Principal Certification from Harvard University. She uses her background in public and private schools both teaching and administration to collaborate with students, parents and schools about the various educational options available. Rajeshri may be reached at rgandhi24@gmail.com www.rajeshrigandhi.com

Note-ables

Make Believers, 23 Skidoo



Kate Karp

The title of this inventive collection of contemporary musical styles may be initially deceptive—none of the songs, even the one about "Jack and the Beanstalk," concern fantasy play. Instead, they're vehicles and metaphors intended to make believers out of children—believers in themselves.

The performer and writer of the songs, hip hop artist Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, has gathered an ensemble of musicians that include vocalists from indie bands, his wife and his preteen daughter. The instrumental backup features horns from tuba to trumpet, great percussion, and strings, including an appearance by indie-folk cellist Ben Sollee. The songs, all penned by Skidoo, concern the issues that preadolescents encounter as they prepare to face the world. They are written as much for parental enlightenment as for a motive force for young people.

"Gotta Be You" deals with issues of popularity. The song, scatted by Skidoo's daughter, Sati, takes the cliché out of "Be your own best friend." The doo wop-infused "Nightmares Disappear" lifts the fear from the night, leaving only its beauty and the security of a safe adult. "Snowforts and Sandcastles," a gorgeous and radio-hit-worthy number, can best be described as a double monologue of melody and hip hop. "High Five for the High Dive" not only sends the guys off into summer but also revels in the bravery "from the wading pool to the high dive, so high that it looks like a sky dive." And the trip back to school will come up before they rinse the last drop of chlorine from their swimsuits—"Back Home" traces the first day in a new school as related by a nervous student to his best friend, the dog.

Adolescence can be a difficult period and one during which children and parents may find communication difficult. To this purpose, and in another play on words, *Make Believers* works as a musical bridge. Available on Underground Playground Records.

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

The Dream Begins



Susan D. Marshall

"Dad while we are here in Hawaii, can we visit the university?"
"Why?"

"When I go to college, I can surf—it will be awesome!"

Tyler, age eight, jumps out the car door and runs to the beach.

"Honey, there is no way he will get into the University of Hawaii. Besides, college is a long way off."

Mom shrugs.

"Tyler obviously doesn't know college is optional but since we expect him to go, we can just see the campus while we are here."

Needless to say, the child's first campus visit fuels his dream.

What Tyler's parents did right was allow him to dream, explore his hobbies, and plant the seed that someday he would go to college. They encouraged him to get good grades and were an active part of his education. They let him know how education opens doors and gives him choices in life.

What they failed to realize is how quickly the time passes. College seemed like a long way off, so saving for college was not in their financial plan. Tyler's dream may drown in the surf.

Today more than ever saving for college can be an overwhelming task.

What can you do today that will make a difference?

Start Early

The greatest benefit to starting early is being able to take advantage of the time value of money; the benefit of interest compounded over time. Even a small amount regularly can make a huge difference in future costs. There are many different types of accounts available to help families face the challenges of saving for college.

Speak with a trusted advisor

Be informed. There are many different types of accounts available to help parents put money away. Some of the most common are the 529 and the Coverdell Education Savings Accounts. Other options may include savings bonds, trusts, life insurance, annuities, IRAs, and stocks. Make sure the advisor you choose understands how each of these accounts can positively or negatively impact your ability to qualify for financial aid and the tax advantages of each.

Most Important

Let your children know how education opens doors, provides opportunities, and gives them options.

Begin saving now! No matter how small the amount. The message it sends to your child is huge.

Your child will know that you value education and college is something you see in their future.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article e-mail her at Susan@College4Less.com.

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Homework



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

I was listening to a popular talk-radio show host and a person called in on Friday about a kid who has “no passion” for school. The child is ten. She dislikes reading and is completely unmotivated about homework. I think she described her as feeling “dead” and bored about it. They determined that the child wasn’t depressed and it was only a schoolwork thing.

Dear Dr. Shari,

The “radio show host” said that “some people develop later” and to just demand that she get at least C’s and let her figure it out. Is it true we should let kids who hate school “fend for themselves?” I am in a similar situation (but mine is only six) and really need to know this answer early. I am uncomfortable with saying a “C” is okay. —Gretchen, California

Dear Gretchen,

I strongly disagree with that advice. Though being unmotivated to do homework is not uncommon, parents can do a great deal to shift that mindset. Please do not give up on your child. Take the extra steps necessary to create powerful experiences for your child. Those experiences will be a part of them forever.

Homework? Special memories? Can you possibly bridge the two? Absolutely. It doesn’t have to be a week long trip to DC that enhances the lesson... Your connection to your child through conversation, interest, exploration and support changes how they experience their homework... and even how they study.

Lessons as simple as learning “spelling” can be done while curled up in blankets by the fireplace. Make up funny stories to study vocabulary. Help your child develop ways of studying, ask your child to read aloud to you or go find a story related to a lesson your child is studying, and read to them.

Make Learning Fun

Make studying fun by using memory tricks. Develop acronyms, songs and rhymes to help your child memorize. Be a part of the action. At six years old, you are helping create study habits. Take this seriously and have fun with it. It will have an enormous effect on their future habits.

Assist your child by teaching them how to use study tricks, testing them and engaging them but also step back and allow space for accountability. At times you should be working together and the child should have “alone time” as well.

You can help your child a great deal by setting the parameters for that time. “After you have studied your spelling words alone, let’s go for a walk and I will test you” or “Once you finish writing your paragraph, you can read it to me.”

Most parents will acknowledge having experienced frustration with homework. However, always remember that you set the emotional tone for every experience. Don’t yell at your child if you are having difficulty getting them to follow through. Like anything else, give the clear directive and the clear consequence. Stay calm and cool and keep it simple.

Standards are necessary for children. Doing the bare minimum to get by should never be acceptable. If a child is capable of getting A’s (and if you are not sure...open up that conversation with their teacher) then you should set high grades as the expectation. If they struggle with academics, evaluate their effort. Expecting a child to “do their best” sets that habitual flow as they move into higher grades.

Children who are not held to standards early on have much greater frustration as time goes on and life gets more difficult.

Challenge yourself Gretchen. Motivate your child, inspire your child...it is really what parenting is all about. Enjoy this special time in life and write back. I would love to hear about it.

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*. 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. For a schedule of radio and television appearances see www.doctorshari.com.

Keeping Your Kids Safe During Halloween!



Jodie Lynn

Parents are always concerned with issues that can crop up on the eve of Halloween. From toddlers to teens, something always seems to go astray. Here’s a few safety tips that might ease a parents’ mind.

There are few holidays that conjure up as much excitement in kids as Halloween. Along with it comes great anticipation of trick-or-treat activities...more treats than tricks!

Needless to say, there are some real threats to the safety of our kids during this high profiled experience. To make this vastly projected event run smoothly and to keep everyone safe, here are a few tips that parents need to consider and talk about beforehand with their kids.

Have your children dressed in aged appropriate costumes. Make it large enough to wear one layer of normal clothing underneath for warmth, but if it’s too big or long, they can easily trip and hurt themselves. Make sure all materials are fire-retardant.

Be sure that it has a retro reflective strip placed between the shoulders and knees to alert drivers on the street and other kids, especially large groups. Should the costume not have these types of panels woven into the material, retro reflective tape can be bought just for this purpose.

No running. Tell your children there will be no running allowed. Falling down is one of the number one injuries of children during trick-or-treating. Have them stay on sidewalks and/or walk facing traffic if there are none.

Do not allow them to cross yards. Even though many people keep their lights on during the evening, most of the time, they do not shine over the entire yard. There could be something in the yard that could trip or hurt your child. In fact, sometimes, there are holes or low points in the lawn that cannot be avoided.

Stay with children under the age of 12. If your child is younger than 12, stay with them. If you are allowing them to go with another adult other than yourself, be sure that your child knows the name of that person and vice versa. It’s always a good idea to have the name of your child, address and phone number written on a piece of paper and tucked away in a pocket or pinned to their costume on the inside of the waist. Remember, when a child is excited, frightened or hurt, they forget facts. Tell them what the piece of paper is, what it says, why it is there and when to use it.

Monitor toddlers and young children for putting things in their mouth. Keep an eye on toddlers and young children as they try to begin eating their candy right away. As a rule of thumb, it is best for none of the kids to eat any treat until someone has gone through it. However, with little ones, they will instantly put goodies into their mouths, wrapper and all, possibly provoking a choking hazard.

Establish a safe route and return time. Draw up a simple map of your neighborhood and mark approved houses with a red marker. These should be people that you know and trust. Give them a time of when to return home and have a “no room for discussion” rule.

Use face paint instead of masks. Face paint is now preferred by most safety agencies as the safest way to dress up the face for Halloween. Be sure the paint meets the Federal Standards of Cosmetics in order to prevent possible rashes or use a homemade recipe where you know which ingredients have been used. If you do go with a mask, be sure that the holes for the eyes, mouth and nose are open enough to avoid safety challenges in seeing, talking and breathing.

It’s a special night so monitor your children closely by supervising the younger ones or as a sidewalk supervisor by “hanging out” with the older ones from a distance. Stay safe and have fun.

Jodie Lynn is an award-winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best-selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having, Doing, and Surviving It All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

However, the economic uncertainty in the State continues to concern us as we strive to provide our deserving students with a quality education. Severe cutbacks are impacting every district and unfortunately, every classroom. The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has suffered over \$30 million in budget reductions over the last 4 years. The majority of the cuts have been teachers and staff members.

In November, two major tax initiatives will address the budget deficit in education.

- Prop 30 Governor Brown's Tax Initiative was prepared to prevent further cuts to schools and colleges. Prop 30 would also help police and fire, and other programs. (www.smartvoter.org)
- Prop 38 is another Tax Initiative proposed by Molly Munger that pledges to increase revenues to K-12 schools and early childhood programs. (www.smartvoter.org)

Please be advised, we are going to experience cuts next year anyway. However, if Prop 30 and/or 38 fail, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District will experience greater cuts. Public schools and colleges in the State will be faced with more budget reductions of another \$6 billion this year. In the District, we may experience further cuts to teachers, staff, and programs and possibly have to close some schools. It is imperative that our parents and community members understand the implications of the education budget deficit to students' education and future.

I am hoping that by providing this information you can make an informed decision on Proposition 30 and 38 as the outcome will affect the quality of education that your children will receive in the future.

Thank you for your continued support. We pledge to continue to work hard for our deserving students.

Sincerely,
Ruth Pérez, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Norwalk Unified School District
12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 868-0431



Dr. Ruth Pérez

reconocimiento nacional. Este año, iniciamos un programa de Kinder Transicional en tres escuelas primarias, Morrison, Chávez y Foster Road.

Sin embargo, la incertidumbre económica en el Estado sigue preocupándonos en lo que nos esforzamos para ofrecer a nuestros merecedores estudiantes una educación de calidad. Recortes severos están impactando todos los distritos y por desgracia, todos los salones de clase. El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada ha sufrido más de \$30 millones en reducciones presupuestales en los últimos 4 años. La mayoría de los recortes han sido maestros y miembros del personal.

En noviembre, dos iniciativas de impuestos importantes se enfocaron en el déficit presupuestario en la educación.

- Proposición 30 Iniciativa de Impuesto del Gobernador Brown fue preparada para evitar más recortes a las escuelas y colegios. La Proposición 30 también ayudaría a la policía y bomberos, y otros programas. (www.smartvoter.org)
- Proposición 38 es otra iniciativa de Impuestos propuesta por Molly Munger que se compromete a aumentar los ingresos para las escuelas de K-12 y los programas para la primera etapa de la infancia. (www.smartvoter.org)

Por favor tenga en cuenta, de todos modos vamos a experimentar recortes el próximo año. Sin embargo, si la Proposición 30 y/o 38, fallan, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada experimentará mayores reducciones. Las escuelas públicas y colegios en el Estado se enfrentaran con más reducciones al presupuesto de más de otros \$6 billones de dólares este año. En el Distrito, podemos experimentar más recortes de profesores, personal y programas, y posiblemente tengamos que cerrar algunas escuelas. Es imperativo que nuestros padres y miembros de la comunidad comprendan las implicaciones del déficit del presupuesto de educación a la educación y el futuro de los estudiantes.

Espero que al proporcionar esta información usted pueda hacer una decisión informada sobre la proposición 30 y 38 ya que el resultado afectara la calidad de la educación que sus hijos recibirán en el futuro.

Gracias por su apoyo continuo. Nos comprometemos a continuar trabajando arduo para nuestros merecedores estudiantes.

Atentamente,
Ruth Pérez, Ed.D.
Superintendente

DIGITAL LEARNERS • FROM PAGE 1

come loaded with software "apps," allowing students to take notes, conduct research, create reports, and collaborate with other students on class projects. Students will also use applications such as Khan Academy and iTunesU to accelerate their learning in topics they are interested in, even if the whole class is not studying it. Our students use Google and know that they can get whatever information they need at a moment's notice. Our digital learners now expect to receive personalized instruction, and these portable learning devices allow students to research what they are interested in.

These powerful portable learning devices have already had a strong effect. "The learning in my classroom is growing exponentially, because these iPads give the teacher the opportunity to provide each student with immediate feedback and engage learners through their digital world," said Jose Manzo, a teacher at Los Alisos Middle School. Teachers participated in intensive training this summer to use the portable devices as learning tools. Middle school teachers and curriculum coaches created units of study and researched the learning habits of today's digital learners. Sara Siemens, the principal of Hutchinson Middle School, said, "Today's students know how to use technology, but not always as a learning tool. They use the Internet for social networking and playing games. We must show our students how to learn with technology."

Board of Education



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Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College

"I am the mother of 3 children and my oldest son was having reading problems. The Tutoring Club helped my son and myself to learn new reading strategies. With Tutoring Club's help my 6 year old son was able to sound out words and read. He is very proud of himself and I am so happy and proud of him as well. He couldn't have made the growth without the Tutoring Club. Thank you Tutoring Club for giving my son the help he needed."

Mother of 1st grader – SES Student
Norwalk-La Mirada School District

"My son always fought me to do homework, and this would be an all night thing. I tried everything, and then found the Tutoring Club. Putting him in the Tutoring Club's the best thing I could have done for him. His 2011 California Standards Test was proficient in everything!!!!"

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