

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012

Congratulations! YOU deserve an A!

As Superintendent, I have the privilege of visiting a few schools on a weekly basis. After completing my visits, as I walk to my car, my heart is full of excitement and pride after watching students engaged in learning, reading, presenting, singing, or playing an instrument. I constantly leave thinking, "I wish everyone could see what I just saw!" It is these experiences and observations in our schools and classrooms that keep me believing in public education, especially in Norwalk-La Mirada Unified. In spite of the challenges we face with diminishing funds and resources, at NLMUSD, we are offering our students MORE opportunities to demonstrate excellence, in

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 11



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

¡Felicitaciones! ¡USTED merece una A!

Como Superintendente, tengo el privilegio de visitar algunas escuelas semanalmente. Después de terminar mis visitas, camino a mi coche, mi corazón está lleno de emoción y orgullo después de ver a los estudiantes enfocados en el aprendizaje, leyendo, presentando, cantando o tocando un instrumento. Constantemente me voy pensando, ¡"Desearía que todo el mundo pudiese ver lo que yo acabo de ver"! Son estas experiencias y observaciones en nuestras escuelas y salones de clase que me mantienen creyente en la educación pública, especialmente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk La Mirada. ¡A pesar de los desafíos que enfrentamos con la disminución

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Rise of the Mariachi

By Karen Calhoun, Teacher On Special Assignment
Visual and Performing Arts

This year, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has created a lot of excitement by adding new mariachi classes at both Sanchez Elementary School and John Glenn High School. Students are studying and learning to perform on traditional mariachi instruments, which include violins, vihuelas, guitars, guitarrons, and trumpets.

Students are also learning to sing traditional mariachi and Mexican folk songs in Spanish. Approximately 80 second-through fifth-grade students at Sanchez Elementary were lined up during recess just to audition for the newly formed class. Sanchez students selected to study mariachi music and instruments will be taking Friday classes on the various instruments. "We want to create more diverse cultural experiences in the arts for our students, so adding mariachi classes just made sense," said Karen Calhoun, Visual and Performing Arts Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA). Students in the John Glenn High School mariachi class, most of whom have never played an instrument before, are working hard to learn to play new instruments and develop their singing voices. You can see the excitement in their faces when they are playing. John Glenn High School Director of Music Frank Hinojosa grew up listening to mariachi music. His father is a very well-known professional mariachi musician in Southern California. This made mariachi a perfect class to add to the schedule at John Glenn.

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is truly looking forward to the rise of the mariachi in our young musicians.



Board of Education – Junta de Educación

David T. Kearns once said, "In the race for quality, there is no finish line" - In light of the economic and social times that we live in now, what stands above us and what we seek each and every day is a better life for our children. Just as we held them during the first few moments of their birth, we dreamt of greatness, tremendous possibilities and that our children would conquer all and we would protect them from any pain.

For our children to achieve what we envisioned for them, the schools need constant parental communication and support. This can be in the form of an email, phone call, parent-teacher conference and asking your children what ways you can assist them. This is something that we, as parents and providers can do for free,

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 11



Darryl R. Adams
Member

Como dijo David T. Kearns, "En la carrera a la calidad, no hay una meta final" - A la luz de los tiempos económicos y sociales que vivimos ahora, lo que está por encima de nosotros y lo que buscamos cada día es una vida mejor para nuestros hijos. Así como los cargamos durante los primeros momentos de su nacimiento, soñamos con grandeza, enormes posibilidades y que nuestros hijos conquisten todo y nosotros protegerlos de cualquier dolor.

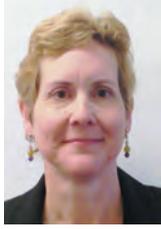
Para que nuestros hijos logren la visión que tenemos para ellos, las escuelas necesitan el apoyo y la comunicación constante de los padres. Esto puede ser en forma de un correo electrónico, llamada telefónica, conferencia de padres y maestros y preguntando a sus hijos de qué manera puede apoyarlos. Esto es algo que

SEE JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN PAGE 11



Ana Valencia, Ed Hengler, Darryl Adams, Karen Morrison, Board President Lorraine Neal, and Margarita Rios

Head Start *Pre-School*



Laurel Parker
Director

Another Great Year Underway!

We had a fabulous Fall Family Fun Night on October 27th, with pajama day on October 28th. Preschooler, Jacob Avila shows the Preschool Administrators, Loretta Gallegos, Laurel Parker, and Marisol Martinez, his pajamas in the picture below.

We are so pleased to be in a new classroom at Nuffer Elementary, serving 24 children in a morning and an afternoon class. We are grateful to the Facilities Department for getting this project done for us last year.

In other good news, the First 5 program extended the funding for the Parent and Me and Home Base programs for an additional six months, through June 2012.

We are looking forward to many other program events for children and their families, with "Daddy, Read Me a Story," in November and another Family Fun Night in December.



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Optometry



Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

—Marian Wright Edelman

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Adult School



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

You Need 21st Century Skills!

The world is changing at an ever-increasing pace. Many jobs that were common when we were kids no longer exist, and not surprisingly, critical job skills have changed a lot as well. At the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School, we are focused on providing our students with the 21st century skills that are needed to participate in the workforce today. These skills include the general areas of digital-age literacy, inventive thinking, effective communication, and high productivity. Basic math and language skills will always provide the foundation for success, but in today's world, effective use of "real-world tools" like computers, software, and networking are also necessary to get ahead. If you are in need of updating your skills, we can help. The adult school provides pathways for your success from English language acquisition, high school diploma or GEDs, to software programs, certification preparation, and career classes.



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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

A Celebration of Talent

At Benton Middle School, we take advantage of the creative talent that electrifies our campus atmosphere. Last month, we premiered Friday Showcase, a school-wide lunch event in our quad, where various performing groups sign up to perform before a live audience! Our first showcase featured our dance classes, taught by Mr. Su, whose choreography includes ballet, jazz, and hip-hop moves set to popular tunes. A big hit with our students, these monthly events may highlight formal Benton performing groups, such as our acclaimed Benton Choir, campus clubs, such as Gospel Choir, or student-designed shows, including Poetry Café, Spoken Word, Talent Show, or Open Mic.

Our First Annual Fall Showcase in November was a colossal success! Student exhibits included visual art, photography, technology, video production, and media arts. Visitors enjoyed productions by our dance and drama students.



Plan to attend our Annual Holiday Concert on December 8, featuring our Music Department, including the band, orchestra, guitar, piano, world percussion, and steel pan classes, as well as the Benton Choir! December shows sell out fast, so reserve your tickets today!

Chavez *Elementary School*

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



Robert Rayburn
Principal

Work Together and Play Together

Today we know that highly successful citizens must be academically prepared, work well in teams, and be highly creative. At Cesar Chavez School, we are preparing our students for the future. We universally adhere to our district-wide, Academic Units of Study, which guarantee all students high quality instruction in all the state standards.

In addition to our Units of Study, we continue to expand our vibrant arts programs that now include an association with The L.A. Opera Company. Through this program, our 5th grade students engaged in, and performed a professionally produced Opera!



Students using technology to and the Language Arts Standards to create projects in Social Studies.

To help students learn to work well with others, we have begun relationships with Playworks.org and Helpline Youth Counseling. These organizations help children learn to work well together, as well as play well together! Our goal is to guarantee all our students have the skills they need to thrive through their lives!

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

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



Bob Easton
Principal

Learning Emphasizes the New world!

At Corvallis, as students prepare for future careers, they engage in learning in which technology, problem solving and real life applications are emphasized. Students use iPads to research and explore historical events to gain a deeper understanding of the people, places and events that shaped our country. They also use technologies, including individual “responders,” which provide real-time feedback to teachers and students; laptop and desktop computers; Flip video cameras; and digital cameras as they create projects to demonstrate their learning.

Students also engage in problem solving. For example, in science, students learn about changes in physical and chemical properties by making ice cream



Students use SMART Responders in Mathematics

during a lab activity. Learning extends beyond the classroom. All of our sixth-grade students visited the La Brea Tar Pits, where they explored early human history, and our AVID students visited Biola University to learn about college life and to begin thinking about preparing for college.

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Classrooms Alive With Learning

Every year, our fifth grade students take the California Grade 5 Science Standards Test as part of the No Child Left Behind mandate to measure achievement in science. At Dolland, we are proud to say that in the past five years our students have been able to increase their level of achievement by almost 40%. We owe this increase to the commitment our school has made in ensuring that we make science “come to life” in our classrooms.

Every week, our teachers create opportunities for our students to collaborate in small groups and establish their own predictions and hypothesis. Students are excited to carry out hands on experiments and enjoy having discussions, sharing and writing about their findings. At Dolland, we want to spark the mind of every student and provide them with the opportunity to realize they are the future scientists and engineers of our world.



Dulles *Elementary School*

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



Susan Shanks
Principal

Learning with Technology

At Dulles Elementary School, we believe that all children can learn. In wanting our children to be 21st-century thinkers and learners, we have infused technology into the daily academic lives of our children.

Our students have access to iPass and Study Island, which offers interactive computer learning, in the areas of English language arts, mathematics and science. Students are able to access standards-based grade level study materials at school and at home to extend their learning opportunities.

Dulles is a recipient of the Model Integrated Technology (MIT) Grant. Our teachers are highly trained in the use of iMacs and Apple iPads for use in the

classroom. Students will be able to use these resources to create “keynote presentations,” iMovies, PowerPoint presentations and more. We are excited that we are able to offer 21st-century technology to all in an ongoing effort to prepare our students for the real world.



Students using Study Island and iPass.

Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Scholars Soar Over 900

Eastwood Elementary School is extremely proud of our 900-plus API score for the 2010–11 California Achievement Test (CST). The scores reflect the growth of students in every subgroup, including our English-language learners and students with disabilities.

The students worked extremely hard to increase their academic knowledge. Students were able to participate in Eastwood’s extended-learning intervention courses. First- and second-grade students in need were part of weekly math or early-reading-skill intervention time. Fourth- and fifth-grade intervention focused on math skills and concept development. The iPass Web-based math intervention provided 100 hours of engaging instructional support for our upper-grade classes. All students

have access to Study Island, which offers reinforcement of the CST format and standards-based instruction. Eastwood is extremely fortunate to have teachers and staff members offer additional hours of quality intervention during the instructional day and after school.



Fourth graders work on Study Island in the computer lab.

Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Leaders in Action

Leaders are built here! Edmondson Eagles pride themselves on building successful leaders for our future, and we are proud to say that we have fully installed our 2011–12 Edmondson Elementary School Student Council (see picture).

Mrs. Mayorga, fourth-grade teacher extraordinaire, took charge of holding nominations and elections this fall, and they were a huge success!

Now what? you ask. Well, Student Council will meet with their coordinator, Mrs. Mayorga, on a regular basis throughout the school year to plan fund-raisers, special assemblies and possible improvements to the school. Also, they lead our weekly Eagle Pride assemblies where we celebrate

Edmondson’s Eagles of the Week as well as conduct the flag salute in English and Spanish—we are a Dual-Immersion school, after all—and make important announcements.

If you would like to see leaders in action, pay us a visit! You will not be disappointed.



El Camino *High School*

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



Darryl Brown
Principal

College Field Trip

On October 14th, Ms. Mejia and the El Camino students took a field trip to Everest College in the City of Industry. It turned out to be a rewarding, informative and educational experience for everyone.

Everest College High School Outreach Counselor Morris Sinanturi hosted the trip. Students attended an information seminar, met various campus representatives and also met Everest College alumni. They took a tour of the campus, saw active classes in session and spoke to current students.

Everest College offers a wide range of instructional programs such as health care, business administration, information technology and trade skills. El Camino students were able to meet instructors who offer real-world experience in their fields. They were also given information regarding practical hands-on career training as well as programs that are designed for short-term career training. Everest also assists its graduates in finding employment after graduation.

It was a rewarding experience for our El Camino Students. We hope that they received enough information to make Everest College an option!



Escalona *Elementary School*

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



Bonita Lytle
Principal

Artists Among Us!

Escalona's artists are at it again! Through the generous support of parents and the PTA, Escalona's students will again experience a multi-media, interactive arts program "Meet the Masters." This year, students in grades K-5 will learn about four master artists: Edgar Degas, Katsushika Hokusai, Faith Ringgold, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

Not only will students learn about the lives of these artists, teachers will guide students through creating their own masterpieces, using the same techniques that the featured artist used in creating the original works. These wonderful works of student art adorn classroom walls throughout our campus and can also be seen on our office bulletin board; providing a warm welcome to visitors and sending the message that art education is alive at Escalona!



Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Test Scores Soar

Gardenhill Elementary School is so proud of the work that staff, students, and parents did to achieve an API score of 910! We moved 56 more students into the proficient band in 2011, 28 in Reading and 28 in Math. Another awesome statistic is that 22 of our students grew more than 100 points overall. Because of "No Child Left Behind," we were also responsible for making sure all students, including our three significant subgroups (low socio-economic students, Hispanic students, and White students) had at least 67.6% proficient in Language Arts and 68.5% proficient in Math.



We have our work cut out for next year, with the goal targets moving up to 78.4% and 79% in 2012, but we are up for the challenge. We have already been studying our data, getting to know our students, and making strategic plans to help us achieve these federal goals.

Foster Road *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Learning Comes Alive

Foster Road is helping to expand the world for our students and open doors for their learning and achievement. Our students are creating their own dreams as they set their goals in motion to help build a better future. So come and inspire them; their smiling faces will definitely brighten up your day!

We were very fortunate to have the Mobile Dairy Classroom come to school and share everything about Holly and Little Milkdud. For the students to be able to experience and touch this real live cow and her baby calf was amazing. It was marvelous to see their faces light up during real-life learning.

Our fourth- and fifth-grade students experienced some "Water Wanderings" from the S.E.A. Lab, an action-based program of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. This is a hands-on activity where students can touch live marine animals and plants, learn about the food chain and food-web activities, and even play a multimedia game.

The students especially enjoyed the traveling tide pool. All of the Water Wanderings activities are correlated to the California State Content Standards in social science and science.

The visual and performing arts are alive and blossoming at Foster Road. It is wonderful to see our kindergarten and first-graders painting with Mr. Marlin! The artwork they produce will astound you.

Our students are also drumming in grades three to five. Come and listen to their beat and see the music they are writing. We even started an after-school choir with a talented musician from Biola University for the fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Glazier *Elementary School*

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



Kristine Cvar
Principal

Student Achievement and Technology Integration

Congratulations are in order for our Gladiators for attaining an API of 823, a 21-point increase from the previous school year. This year, Glazier Elementary School is participating in the Modeled Integrated Technology (MIT) program. Four teachers from Glazier were selected to implement the MIT program in their classrooms. The MIT classrooms will be participating in technology-infused instruction and project-based learning through the use of interactive SMART Boards, individual response clickers, iMac computers, iPads, and software that includes but is not limited to iPages, PowerPoint and iMovie.

Our teachers were trained in understanding how technology is continually changing and how students learn differently in today's world. The National



Educational Technology Standards (NETS) are incorporated into the daily lessons. Students will be engaged in learning authentic integrated technology strategies to solve problems, complete projects and expand their technical abilities. Go Gladiators!

Glenn High School

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



Dr. Ligia Hallstrom
Principal

Ray Fernandez Selected for Premiere Honor Band

In October, Ray Fernandez, a senior at John Glenn High School, competed against students from all over California for a select spot in the prestigious Honor Band. Every year this group performs

during the Rose Parade. This year the event will be taking place on January 2nd.

Ray will also perform in Herald Snare with seven other students. His distinction, however, goes well beyond this special group. Out of the eight students in the Herald Snare, Ray was the only one to be selected to play for the Queen in another distinctive group known as the Herald Trumpets.

His band teacher, Mr. Frank Hinojzo, quite sincerely said that, "Watching Ray's growth develop over the past four years has been substantial, as a musician and individual."

Our entire community at John Glenn High School congratulates Ray on this major accomplishment, and we wish him the very best! Ray is a prime example of our motto that John Glenn High School is a place "Where even the sky is no limit!"



Hutchinson

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

*MS Math, Science,
Technology Magnet*



Sara Siemens
Principal

Got STEM?

Hutchinson students are fully immersed in the engineering design process within our Math, Science, and Technology Magnet. Students are involved in researching an idea, planning and designing a solution, testing a prototype, improving and redesigning the prototype, and the development of a multi-media presentation. Currently our sixth graders are studying alternative energy sources within their Environmental Engineering class. Students have researched, designed and tested solar heaters and

are currently developing model solar cars. Seventh graders in the Structural Engineering class have designed and tested wooden bridges and are currently exploring and constructing Ferris Wheels. Eighth graders are nearing the end of their aeronautics unit after designing balsa wood gliders and then rockets within their Engineering Principals course. Upcoming STEM competitions, field trips, and guest speakers continue to expose our students to college and career opportunities within the field of engineering.



Seventh grade students in Structural Engineering course test the strength of their wooden bridges.

Johnston Elementary School

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



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

Building Great Character One Pillar at a Time

The Johnston community is committed to building great character. Every month, teachers integrate the pillar of the month into the curriculum. We believe that character should not be taught in isolation, rather pointed out throughout the day, so that students can see the relevance in stories, in articles they read, and in their writing, etc. Students also attend monthly assemblies with their principal where they have in-depth conversations about character. The teachers also attend trainings in order to stay informed of the latest research. Over the summer, Johnston staff members worked

alongside Michael Josephson, founder of Character Counts, and gained strategies to better enhance our Character Educational Program.



Johnston staff members with Michael Josephson at a Character Counts training.

La Mirada High School

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



Bill Seals
Principal

Something for Everyone

La Mirada High School has an excellent educational program taught by a talented and dedicated faculty. Our high school is committed to providing each student with an education in which essential information and skills are learned, knowledge is explored, and ideas are critically analyzed and evaluated. One of our goals at La Mirada High School is to serve and nurture all of our students. The high school experience of today is filled with much more pressure, competition, and higher expectations than ever before. To support our students in reaching their goals La Mirada High School offers many valuable programs.

A wide range of academic course offerings, including Advanced Placement and Honors courses, foreign languages, and a variety of college preparatory electives, are available to our students. Four partnership academies—the Academy of Commerce and Economics (ACE), the Academy for Preparing Prospective Leaders in Education (APPLE), the Solar Energy Academy, and the Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VAPA)—all provide unique opportunities for our students.

A broad range of extracurricular activities, including athletics, student-directed clubs, band, drama, and a strong Associated Student Body, help students achieve a well rounded education.

A counseling program consisting of five full-time counselors provides guidance and academic support for all students. The College and Career Center allows all students to explore college, career, and other post-secondary options. The center offers information about job listings, career surveys, testing registration, community service opportunities, scholarships and financial aid, internship programs, and enrollment and course offerings for a wide range of colleges and universities.

With the strong educational program and the student supports available at La Mirada High School, our students will be well prepared for the future.

Go, Matadores!

La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Terry Pace
Principal

Building a Brighter Future!

2011–12 is off to a great start! Our students are focused on learning, and we remain committed to providing a well-balanced curriculum for our future leaders.

Our students participate in various opportunities during the instructional day and beyond. Choir, lead by Mrs. Wheatley, has welcomed over 73 members! Mr. Marlin, our art teacher, leads our K–5th grade students through art expression. Ms. Cho, our music teacher, meets with our 101 fifth-graders weekly to teach music theory and expression with recorders. IPass and Thinkfast, math interventions headed by Mr. Kaupang, are up and running for math-skill support.

By keeping our vision focused on student achievement, our Academic Performance Index (API) grew this past school year to 830, making us one of the many NLMUSD schools with an 800-plus API! We continue to walk in partnership with our PTA partnership to make each day a little brighter for our students!



Students engaged in art class.

Los Alisos

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

*MS Math, Science,
Technology Magnet*



Dr. Gloria Jimenez
Principal

A World of Imagination, Innovation and Learning

We are proud of our students, their achievements, our academic programs and the education we offer. This includes our latest API score of 786, which was up 19 points from last year!

Los Alisos is committed to educational excellence through a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum that is based upon college preparation programs. We challenge our students to aspire to lives of character, imagination and innovation, while also pursuing their own individual quest towards excellence.

Full “STEM” ahead! Our science and technology magnet program offers the kind of leading-edge technologies that allows students to sample such disciplines as robotics, aeronautics, computer design as well as various small-group learning environments.

Our instructors are all professionally trained and certified to teach these courses and nurture our students’ many passions for technology, creativity and learning. No pocket protector is required. And yes, it actually is rocket science!

It is our desire to partner with parents in the education, growth and development of all of the students who attend LAMS.



Lampton *Elementary School*

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



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Echoes of West Africa

The fourth- and fifth-grade students at Lampton Elementary School have been participating in a series of African drumming and dance lessons funded in part by an “Arts for All” grant. Local artists Francis and Omowale Awe work with each of seven classes on traditional movements, lyrics and rhythms of West African culture.

In each class, a group of students must maintain three different rhythms on traditional drums in order to accompany their classmates’ dance. The remaining students perform a series of complex dance movements to create a class dance production. Each class has its own dance and rhythm to learn. Amidst the giggles and smiles, these students exhibit



tremendous focus and physical energy. It’s a workout to be sure, but our students are having a great time and learning too! A culminating performance is being held on Dec. 13. We hope you can join us as our students rock the Lampton stage with Nigerian rhythm.

Los Coyotes

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

*MS Centurian
Honors Magnet*



Dr. Sylvia Begtrup
Principal

Centurions Recycle for Technology

Student Jacob Alatorre suggested recycling juice and chips wrappers. The students have embraced our recycling efforts, and the money collected will fund our new technology club. We are recycling juice containers and chips bags as well as cans and bottles. The club is interested in building robots and plans to compete in robot competitions during the year. They hope to earn enough money to purchase the parts to complete five robots.



Students counting and packing for recycling.

Students Get Involved

Multiple clubs and classes produce well-rounded students at LCMS. In addition to our new technology club, students are involved in campus beautification, chess, Tall Flags, cheer, athletics, Medieval Arts and fencing. Courses include music classes with an award-winning band, Spanish, photography, guitar, Project Citizen, AVID, leadership class and drama. We also offer high school APEX courses in Spanish, biology and social science for our eighth-graders enrolled in the Centurian Honors Magnet.



New club goes “buggy” for technology.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Maureen Bixby
Principal

Success Driven

Moffitt Elementary School is striving to succeed! We are continually working to improve our instructional and enrichment programs for our students. We have developed an intervention program that is providing additional academic assistance for students in kindergarten through third grade. Our Max Time intervention is helping to build the foundational skills needed for our struggling students to succeed academically. The students eagerly look forward to Max Time each day.

Moffitt's after-school Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program also provides additional academic opportunities for our high-achieving students to explore math and science enrichment activities each month. We are also proud that our student council is providing our students with opportunities to become school leaders. They are encouraging the student body to show pride in their school, in their community, and in themselves. They will lead the way as we raise funds for charity this year and take an active role in making our school a better place to learn and grow.

Success begins with us! We are very proud of the opportunities provided to our students and the caring learning environment that is found on our campus. At Moffitt, we are always looking for ways to maximize our time and efforts by focusing on success. We believe the combination of a strong instructional program supported by intervention and enrichment will provide our students with a strong foundation for successful lives.

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Parent Involvement

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

To this end, we have developed partnerships with outside organizations to offer parent education classes including: Cerritos College, Planned Parenthood, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Community Family Guidance Center. A variety of opportunities are offered, including: nutrition; communication skills; English for non-English speakers; computer skills; and exercise classes. We have more than 150 parents on our campus in any given week, but we are always looking for more to join us. We would like to extend an invitation to any parents in our learning community to be a part of our success by partnering with us.



New River *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Centeno
Principal

New and Innovative Programs

Our school year is off to a great start! We have been busy implementing a number of important programs for our students.

Reading Intervention for first- through third-grade students occurs daily for a one-hour block. Parents were invited to our first Reading Night in September. Monthly meetings will continue to teach parents how to help develop and support their child's reading at home.

Third- through fifth-grade students who need additional support in math are participating in iPass Intervention. Students come to the computer lab for a one-hour block per day. Parents were invited to our first Family Math Night in September to learn about the iPass program.

Our recess coach is outside for morning and lunch recess providing structured games and activities to get our kindergarten through fifth-grade students involved and moving. Coach Ortega will also be working with individual classes throughout the year on character-building skills.

Our new Attendance Station, run by our attendance clerk, is a hit. She is located by our main entrance from 8 to 8:25 a.m. to assist parents with absence notes, distribute tardy slips, and handle other attendance matters. Also, check out our Web site, and you will find our online absence slip, which parents can fill out and send directly to our attendance clerk.

The arts are alive at New River School! Our Art Studio, where teachers will teach using the Meet the Masters curriculum, is coming soon. We are also looking forward to our after-school string orchestra, where students have the opportunity to play violin, viola, and cello. The after-school dance and musical theater will be available for second- through fifth-grade students in January.

Norwalk *High School*

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



Dina Wilson
Principal

New Cycling Club Provides a Service

This fall, Norwalk High School students formed a new cycling club sponsored by teachers Jesus Ramirez and Antonio Luis. For the first long-distance trip in the club's history, the participating students and faculty members rode down the river bed from Whittier to Seal Beach and then back!

Not only did the students enjoy the physical activity, for some it was even their first trip to the Coast. While of course the trip was a source of excitement for the students, they were also saddened at the same time to see just how dirty and trashed the river bed was in the area surrounding Norwalk.



In response to these concerns, the group immediately vowed to spend the next weekend cleaning up the river bed. So with the assistance of the City of Norwalk (who provided the trash bags and gloves), our students soon hauled away over 20 bags of garbage, leaving the trail open for future bike rides.

Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



LaTasha Buck
Principal

Busier than ever

The Nuffer Elementary School vision is that, "We are a school with an unrelenting focus on learning. All students are expected to succeed; no one is allowed to give up."

Keeping true to this spirit, our staff is now concentrating on examining the children's work assessments to see if they can improve instruction and increase student learning. The students have been rotating between teachers to receive intervention in reading and English language development, and the Bobcat Academy and iPass math tutoring programs have also been providing students with additional targeted assistance after school.

Nuffer Elementary also believes in providing its students with enrichment learning, so each week an art consultant helps the children create paintings. Literacy aides also bring stories to life through the Readers' Theatre.

Class study trips have included the La Mirada Symphony, the La Mirada Theatre and the Museum of Latin American Art. We even had college students from The Actor's Project perform an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Because there is so much happening, we always encourage our parents to stay informed and involved. Each month Ms. Buck, our principal, hosts a Coffee with the Principal event. This is an open forum where parents can ask questions or discuss concerns.

Parents are also welcome to attend our monthly PTA meetings, or any of the many advisory groups like the Shared Decision Making/School Site Council or the English Learners Advisory Committee.

As we wrap up 2011, Nuffer is thankful for such a great school year. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Southeast *Academy*

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



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

First Quarter

Our students and staff members have been working hard as this first quarter of school is slowly coming to an end.

With no bells and seven class periods, our cadets have learned how to exercise time management. Being responsible for getting to class on time and working hard is expected at Southeast Academy High School. With daily homework and uniform inspections as always, we have become very proud of our ninth-graders as they continue to meet academy expectations.

The teachers and staff have also adjusted to the new school year, and with this great start we have high expectations for 2011/2012.

On the second day of school, September 9th, the Southeast Academy hosted a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Here the community collectively remembered those who had lost their lives on September 11th, 2001 in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.



In October, 70 of our cadets took the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (the PSAT). Cadets take this test to determine their eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Our teachers and staff members have been doing a great job in encouraging the cadets to get deeply involved in their education.

Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



Maribel Galan
Principal

An Academic School with a Music and Sports Program!

Arturo Sanchez Elementary School continues to focus on the academic achievement of our young scholars. We are committed to providing our students

with a visual and performing arts program, as well as committed to their health and physical well-being. Providing students with opportunities to enhance their musical talents and also be part of a sports program allows them to enhance their focus, motivation, and effort, as well as provide them with the discipline to be part of a team. Sanchez offers a music program that includes a Mariachi group, a choir, recorders, and rhythm. We also offer our students the opportunity to be part of soccer and basketball teams, as well as cheerleading. Sanchez strives to promote a positive school environment in support of student achievement.



Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Willie Norman
Principal

Building Purposeful Opportunities

At Waite Middle School, we have seen amazing strides made by students through the development of our electives classes:

- Robotics is a huge success, with students ready to join local teams in competitions around Los Angeles.
- Stagecraft has created designs for school dances and upcoming drama productions, and it expands our inclusion approach through a mix of SDC and General Education students.
- Peer Mediation develops skills to serve fellow students, as well as build capabilities that will help in their personal lives.

Our development of creative writing classes at each grade level has expanded collaboration in classrooms to help generate a grade level newsletter each week (Halloween edition pictured here). It is an edited publication written by students for fellow students.

Student collaboration makes Waite a great place to learn and expand students' horizons.



Halloween Edition

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

mathematics, reading, acting, dancing, singing, playing sports, and playing instruments! As a result, our students continue to achieve. This past year:

- 81% of schools met or exceeded their API targets.
- 100% of the middle schools met or exceeded their API targets.
- 100% of the high schools met or exceeded their API targets.
- We now have 11 schools with API scores over 800 and two over 900 (Eastwood and Gardenhill).

Overall, our District API scores grew by 10 points.

We could not achieve these accomplishments without the wonderful support of our School Board of Education, hard working teachers, administrators and staff, our PTA, community partners and YOU, our parents and families. The wealth of a community is measured by the success of its schools. Together, we are a successful TEAM providing our students with opportunities to achieve and demonstrate excellence.

Thank you, NLMUSD parents and families. YOU deserve an A!

562/868-0431

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
www5.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1

regardless of our hours we spend at work or home and regardless of our own education and availability. All the new technology provides teachers and administrators with more information about your child that they can share in a quick manner.

Please contact your school or the district to inform us on the best way for you to learn about what's going on at school with your child or how we, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, can best assist in their development. We hold your children as our most precious commodity and we want each and every one of them to accomplish what they have their sights on. Together, we can make a difference.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Ruth Pérez

de fondos y recursos, en NLMUSD, estamos ofreciendo a nuestros estudiantes más oportunidades para demostrar la excelencia, en matemáticas, lectura, actuación, baile, canto, deportes y tocando instrumentos! Como resultado, nuestros estudiantes continúan con logros. El año pasado:

- 81% de las escuelas lograron o sobrepasaron sus metas de API.
- 100% de las escuelas intermedias lograron o sobrepasaron sus metas de API.
- 100% de las escuelas secundarias lograron o sobrepasaron sus metas de API.
- Ahora tenemos 11 escuelas con una puntuación de API que sobrepasa los 800 y dos que sobrepasan los 900 (Eastwood y Gardenhill).

En su totalidad, la puntuación API de nuestro Distrito creció por 10 puntos.

No podríamos alcanzar estos logros sin el apoyo maravilloso de nuestro Junta de Educación Escolar, maestros trabajadores, administradores y personal, nuestra PTA, socios de la comunidad y USTED, nuestros padres y familias. La riqueza de una comunidad se mide por el éxito de sus escuelas. Juntos, somos un EQUIPO exitoso proporcionando a nuestros estudiantes oportunidades para lograr y demostrar excelencia.

Gracias, padres y familias del NLMUSD. ¡USTED se merece una A!

JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN • FROM PAGE 1



Darryl R. Adams
Member

nosotros como padres y proveedores podemos hacer sin gasto alguno independientemente de las horas que pasamos en el trabajo o en el hogar e independientemente de nuestra propia educación y disponibilidad. La nueva tecnología proporciona a maestros y administradores más información acerca de su hijo que pueden compartir rápidamente.

Por favor póngase en contacto con la escuela o el distrito para hacernos saber la mejor manera para que usted aprenda acerca de lo que está sucediendo en la escuela con su hijo o cómo nosotros, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk La Mirada, podemos mejor ayudar en el desarrollo de su hijo. Tenemos a sus niños como nuestro más preciado tesoro y queremos que todos y cada uno de ellos logre lo que se propone. Juntos, podemos hacer una diferencia.

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For more information contact Laura Harvey at lharvey@uclaextension.edu or (310) 825-4581.

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Building skills.

- All levels of
- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- and
- **Math**
- Algebra & Geometry**

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for the academic support you and your staff have provided to my son during the past year. I can attest to the significant impact the Tutoring Club experience has made in his life. As a result, he has earned A's and B's and is less frustrated when given difficult homework assignments. Beyond this, he has developed the academic self-confidence needed to be successful. I attribute a great deal of my son's academic success to the team at the Tutoring Club. Thank you for making a difference!!"

Paul R. de Dios
 Dean of Cypress College



Raising grades.

- **Homework Support**
- **Study Skills**

"My son always fought me to do homework, and this would be an all night thing. I tried everything, then I found Tutoring Club. Putting him in the Tutoring Club is the best thing I could have done for him. It has boosted his confidence and he is reading on his own."

Judy Karr-Mugica
 mom of a 9 year old
 Luther Elementary School, Cypress



Lifting spirits.

- **Positive Motivation**
- **Praise**

"Our goal was to get our son ready for Kindergarten, and the program exceeded our expectations. We are very pleased with choosing the Tutoring Club."

Tracy Blaylock
 mom of student at
 Landell Elementary School, Cypress

"Expert and caring teachers, an organized system, flexible hours, reasonable prices and a welcoming environment. That is what helps my grandsons and can help your child too!"

Cynthea Vanasse
 Grandmother of students at
 Miller Elementary School, Centralia

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