

FREE

School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

Example of Excellence

*By Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent*

As we begin the new year, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified continues to strengthen its culture of excellence for our students, teachers, administrators and staff.

The District is dedicated to providing high-quality teaching and learning to our students, while involving our teachers and administrators in professional learning communities. We believe in building everyone's skills and abilities at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified to reach their educational and professional goals. I take great pride in the dedication everyone brings every day to our schools and I am always inspired by the hard work of each student, teacher and staff member.

See **EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE** • Page 11



Los Coyotes Middle School received a Golden Bell Award for fostering student inclusiveness through their Where Everybody Belongs program.

La Escuela Intermedia Los Coyotes recibió un Premio de la Campana de Oro "Golden Bell Award" por fomentar la inclusión estudiantil a través de su programa Donde Todos Pertenecen "Where Everybody Belongs".

Ejemplo de Excelencia

*By Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent*

Al comenzar el año nuevo, Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado continúa fortaleciendo su cultura de excelencia para nuestros estudiantes, maestros, administradores y personal.

El Distrito esta dedicado a proporcionar enseñanza y aprendizaje de alta calidad a nuestros estudiantes, al mismo tiempo que involucramos a nuestros maestros y administradores en comunidades de aprendizaje profesional. Creemos en la construcción de las habilidades y destrezas de todos en Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado para que alcancen sus metas educativas y profesionales. Me siento muy orgullosa de la dedicación que cada uno trae cada día a nuestras escuelas y siempre estoy inspirada con el arduo trabajo

See **EJEMPLO DE EXCELENCIA** • Page 11

Technology Integration

By Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has distributed 6,748 technology devices, including iPads, Chromebooks and iMacs, in the first phase of a five-year technology integration plan, the 2020 Learning Initiative, that will increase the District's device-to-student ratio to 1:1 for grades four through 12 and 1:2 for transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and grades one through three.



A La Mirada High School student receives training on laptop care and responsibilities during a laptop distribution orientation.

This school year, second-grade classrooms are equipped with technology carts containing 20 devices, while each fourth-grader received a personal mobile learning device for use in his or her classroom. Sixth- and ninth-grade students received devices that they can take home.

Each year up to 2020, additional grade levels will receive their respective technology upgrades. Transitional kindergarten to third-grade classrooms will be provided with technology carts stocked with 20 devices. All tablets and laptops

See **TECHNOLOGY** • Page 10

College and Career

By Sean Reagan, President Board of Education

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified focuses on preparing our students for their college and career journeys, offering a multitude of opportunities for students to explore their passions and chart pathways to their future.

The District provides a rigorous science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum, which equips our students with the skills necessary for current and emerging careers. At an early age, students are immersed in STEM courses and build on their skills to advance into high school pathways for computer science, engineering, medicine and more. Students apply their knowledge to real-world projects.

Students can take expansive courses in visual and performing arts, developing skills in music, drama, photography, art, graphic design and more. Students create

See **COLLEGE AND CAREER** • Page 11 • **COLEGIO Y CARRERAS**

Colegio y Carreras

Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado se enfoca en preparar a nuestros estudiantes para sus trayectorias en la universidad y carreras, ofreciendo una multitud de oportunidades para que los estudiantes exploren sus pasiones y diseñen los caminos hacia su futuro.

El Distrito provee un currículo riguroso de ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas (STEM, por sus siglas en inglés), que equipa a nuestros estudiantes con las habilidades necesarias para carreras actuales y emergentes. A una edad temprana, los estudiantes están inmersos en los cursos STEM y construyen sobre sus habilidades para avanzar en los caminos hacia la escuela secundaria para informática, ingeniería, medicina y más. Los estudiantes aplican su conocimiento a proyectos del mundo real.

Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



Laurel Parker
Director

News from the Preschool Program:

On December 8, the NLMUSD Preschool Program hosted "Daddy, Read Me a Story," our annual event for

children and their fathers/father figures. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and brothers came with their preschoolers to create, play, and read together. Children attended in their pajamas and at the end, every child went home with a book.

The program provides this event to bring awareness to the critical role fathers play in the development of their children. Preschool children with involved fathers tend to start school with higher levels of academic readiness, are more likely to be emotionally secure, and have better social connections with peers.



Father and daughter enjoy *Curious George* together



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!
Students are already focused on their year end goals (and perhaps thinking about Spring Break).

In this issue you will read about the importance of mentoring, volunteering, the Dual Language Program, STEM, electives including music and the arts, and so much more...enjoy!

As always, thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is April 5.

School News

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

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Ramona School Office

14616 Dinard Avenue

Norwalk, CA 90650

(562) 210-4205



Head Start, Early Head Start and State Preschool are offered across multiple sites. Home base or center base options are offered to 0-5 year olds beginning in July and August. Classes are currently being filled.

Ofrecemos una variedad de programas y escuelas. Home Base, clases para niños de 0 a 5 años, las clases empiezan en julio y agosto. Las clases se llenan rapido.



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We offer services to expectant women!
¡Ofrecemos servicios a las mujeres embarazadas!

www.nlmusd.org/preschool
Applications available online (website)

License#1915708262, 191595830, 198009691, 1980096931, 198013724, 191500784, 198015222, 198015619, 198013856

Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/868-9858
15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/670-9279 • www.nlmas.org

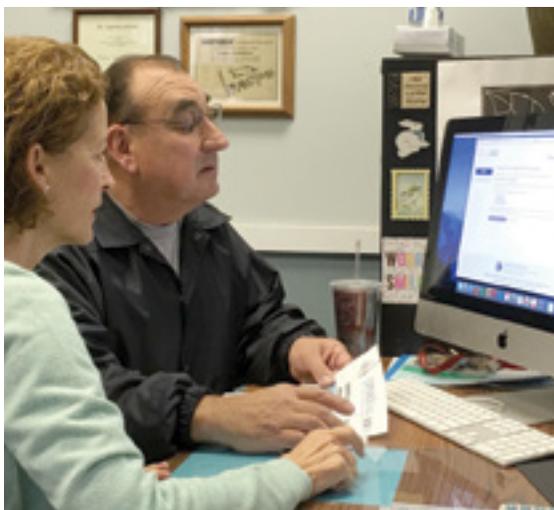


Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

Building Bridges to Cerritos College

Through our strong partnership with Cerritos College, more and more Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School students are accessing higher education. Representatives from Cerritos College now come to our campus on a regular basis to meet with students to discuss financial aid, provide placement test preparation and testing, and assist with college registration. Students are also invited to a full-day college campus orientation and tour, where they see outstanding academic and career technical education programs that can prepare them for strong employment.

This program provides an immediate college support system for our students and removes common barriers. An online tool, My Mentor, provides additional support, as students can register online, track courses and progress, and access a wide range of support programs to increase their success. Through this collaboration, students feel as though they are part of the college system before they graduate and have greater confidence moving forward.



Adult School counselor works with student in My Mentor program.

Chavez *Elementary School*

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



Gabriela Galvez-Reyna
Principal

Marvelous Mentors

Marvelous Mentors spread positivity at Chavez Elementary School. A few of our fifth-graders have applied for and received “jobs” as mentors. They check in with younger mentees three times a day to provide support with friendship skills, lesson focus, and other specific goals, with guidance from the Second Step curriculum. Once a week they meet with the Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) to have lunch and share how things are going. The mentors also plan special events, including a surprise You Are

Special party, with 10 balloon volleyball and handmade cards to let mentees know they are special.

Over the past three years, we’ve seen very important relationships develop, and the mentors benefit as much as the mentees. Students are learning the importance of making strong connections and building trust. This program has evolved into an essential part of our positive culture!



5th grade student is checking in with his Mentee in 3rd grade in the morning. He checks to see how he is feeling and encourages him to make good choices.

Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

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



Dr. Michael Gotto
Principal

Students Shine on Stage

Benton’s Annual Holiday Concert was held over two nights on Thursday, December 8 and Friday, December 9. Under the direction of Mr. Geoffrey Summers, the students in our band, orchestra, and piano classes played a variety of beautiful holiday classics and displayed their true talents on stage.

Under the direction of Mr. Nicolas Montalvo, our guitar students owned the stage with their renditions of holiday songs. Benton’s very first rock band also debuted their first cover of Coldplay’s Yellow. Under the direction of Ms. Anabel Martinez, Benton’s choir students harmonized holiday songs and left audiences wanting more. In all, almost 900 people attended the concerts.

Benton continues to offer a wide variety of electives in the visual and performing arts on a block schedule. This schedule allows students to select three different electives in addition to their core classes (language arts, mathematics, science, social science, and physical education). For more information, please visit www.bentonms.org.



Mr. Summers, Benton Band Director, leads the Orchestra in one of the holiday classics.

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 10?



Optometry

Man is here for the sake of other men – above all for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends.

-Albert Einstein

John Larcabal, O.D.
Sandra Stevens, O.D.
Diane Almanza, O.D.



(562) 868-8233 • drjohnlarcabal.com

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

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



Bob Easton
Principal

Outstanding Performances!

The first semester at Corvallis was filled with outstanding student performances! Under the direction of dance instructor Rufina Perez- Gutierrez, our students performed dance, musical, and vocal numbers at our Fall Talent Show.

One act featured Zhanine Arenas on ukulele, which was reminiscent of the winner of America's Got Talent. The guitar and dance ensembles also entertained parents and guests at the AVID Parent Night. These guitar students come for a zero-period class every morning at 7:30 a.m. with teacher Marcus Gerakos.



Corvallis Student Shows Her Talent

In October, more than 50 dancers performed in the City of Norwalk's Halloween Parade. This year, our band, orchestra, and choir performed two concerts, one in October and another in December. It was exciting to see the growth fostered by Mr. Yamamoto. These concerts were amazing, as usual.

If you have never been to a performance at Corvallis, you are encouraged to attend and are sure to be impressed.

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Dual Language Program

One of the most powerful programs at Dolland Elementary is our Dual Language Program. This program provides our students with the gift of being fluent and literate in two languages. This past year, we updated and extended our program to serve a cohort of students K-5. Students begin to participate in the program at the start of kindergarten where they receive the majority of their instruction in Spanish and then, gradually, transition towards receiving more of their instruction in English. At the end of fifth grade, students who pass the California Spanish Test and essay exam receive the California Ribbon of Bi-literacy. This award recognizes the attainment of age-appropriate bi-literacy skills. We are proud of our dual language team of teachers and their commitment to creating bilingual students who will have a more enriching life and future. Go Huskies!



Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Shanti Gallegos
Principal

Student Leaders Show They Care

Our K-Kids Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of La Mirada, is a student-leadership program focused on service. Fourth and fifth-graders learn how to be service minded through service learning projects, fundraisers and community outreach. The group's amazing leader, parent-volunteer April Gijon, says, "This group has heart! My hope is that students will learn the value of service and continue to give back to society."

This school year, they've set and attained many goals. They raised over \$825 for the Pennies for Patients program benefitting

the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They partnered with the La Mirada Fire Department for the Spark of Love Toy Drive during the holiday season. They wrote and hand delivered personal holiday greeting cards for seniors at the local senior center and sang them Christmas carols. They write and act out skits to model positive behavior for other students at our school.

The K-Kids are motivated to make a difference and show they care.



Mrs. Scheibel, Mrs. Scheible (sisters), Mrs. Gallegos, Dr. Danielian, Mr. Trujillo, Olivia Lopez, Matthew Miyake, Floyd Winters, Natalie Flores, Elizabeth Henning, Yreland Perez, Eddie James Castro, Rebecca Guzman, Alyssa Munoz, Ronnie Martinez, Christian Gijon, and Dylan Bruce

Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Parents as Partners

Eastwood Elementary School is proud of the partnership we have created with parents and value our long-standing tradition of strong parent involvement. During the year, parents and staff come together for information forums, family learning nights, and parent education sessions.

For the past three years, Eastwood School and the PTA have teamed together to create ongoing, quality parent education nights. Each year we present a series of parent education sessions that support the transition to the new Common Core State Standards in reading, writing, and math. These meetings are designed to inform parents of practical teaching strategies, which they have an opportunity to try with their children during the session.

We also have ongoing parent training on the topic of positive social and emotional growth of young children, which has proven to be very popular. In addition to these formal meetings, we hold monthly Coffee with Ms. Cantu forums, which provide an opportunity for community members to participate in open conversation with the principal.

We are extremely lucky to host the Eastwood parent volunteers, who commit weekly hours to helping in the classroom and volunteering during school-wide events. It is exciting to see parents supporting the instructional program by working with small groups of students during center activities or intervention time. We are more than thankful to parents who offer to prepare materials for lessons on campus or at home. We are also grateful to the parents and community members who attend the fun learning celebrations and PTA family night activities.

Teachers and staff members work to create a welcoming climate and greatly appreciate the countless hours that our families devote to being active participants of the Eastwood learning community. Our community has that Together Eastwood Achieves More (TEAM) spirit!

Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



Sharon Stewart
Principal

Maturing Mathematicians

Our 3rd grade Math Demo Teacher, Mrs. Erguera, has been attending district training and implementing all that has been learned. Our students' confidence in their ability to "do math" has increased as a direct result of new strategies that are being taught throughout the Math Campaign. Students who may have shut down when faced with difficult math problems in the past, are now persevering through it! We are so proud of our Edmondson Eagle Mathematicians!

Our parents are also benefiting from the Math Campaign efforts. On Thursday, Dec. 8th, we had the honor of having our District Math Consultant, Mr. Guillermo Mendieta, host a Parent Math Night in our MPR. We had a FULL house and a great night of learning!



Mrs. Erguera and our District Instructional Coach, Mrs. Silebi, co-teaching and engaging students in math routines, encouraging students to articulate their thinking, and expanding students' use of multiple math strategies.

Escalona *Elementary School*

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



Bonnie Lytle
Principal

Strong Relationships and Learning, One Student at a Time

To learn at their best, students must be engaged and motivated. One factor that strengthens student engagement at Escalona Elementary is relationships. At Escalona, students, staff and parents have a sense of belonging. Teachers and parents collaborate to support an inclusive learning environment where students feel supported by caring adults.

Our well-rounded curriculum goes beyond the core subjects of reading, math, social studies and science. Interwoven throughout these subjects are the arts, health and wellness, and character building.

A few examples of these interwoven and integrated programs include the participation of all students in the Meet the Masters Art Program, in weekly music lessons, in our district PE program and in Playworks Class Game Time. All students participate in social-skills development lessons through our Second Step Curriculum.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students take on leadership roles through Student Council and the Playworks Jr. Coach program. Field trips, assemblies and other special events such as Jog-A-Thon, Jump Rope for Heart and Red Ribbon Week combine to make learning experiences memorable. Several after-school programs such as piano class, Chess Masters, Comic Creations and the Good News Club extend student learning at Escalona.

Through the dedication of our highly qualified staff, our caring PTA volunteers and our steadfastly supportive community, Escalona Eagles are engaged and motivated for a life of learning.

El Camino *High School*

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



Ryan Cummins
*Director
Alt. Education*

Showcasing Our Excellence

Students at El Camino High School (ELCO) continued to make great strides in academic progress as we approached the end of the first semester of the school year. Students who earned the maximum number of credits through the first semester were honored with a luncheon to celebrate their accomplishments. ELCO staff provided and served the lunch to the students, who enjoyed the time with some words of motivation from a guest speaker.

On the athletics side of things, students recently participated in a series of softball and flag football games, pitting the juniors against the seniors. To date, the juniors hold the upper hand in the win column.

Additionally, a number of ELCO students took part in a school-wide talent show in which students showcased their talents outside of the classroom. Finally, students from the art classes displayed their Dia de los Muertos projects, which were on exhibition for the entire school community to enjoy.

Foster Road *Elementary School*

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



Salvador Villagomez
Principal

Joyful Experiences

The end of the calendar year is filled with opportunities to pay it forward and to recognize those who bring excitement and joy to our school.

Our librarian/media clerk, Mrs. Provencio, has been a positive influence throughout the year, but her recent efforts have really sparked enthusiasm in our students. In December, she implemented a book club, a reading contest, and a Santa letter drive. Over 100 students achieved the reading contest goal and were treated to a snowman ice-cream party. Mrs. Provencio made sure to forward all the submitted letters to the North Pole, and the students magically received responses from Santa himself! Mrs. Provencio's efforts to provide our students with joyful and exhilarating experiences is and will continue to be much appreciated.

Foster Road Elementary School was also able to give our young students a very special treat. With donations from the Matador Scholar Association of La Mirada High School and others, we were able to give each of our kindergarten students a gift to close out the calendar year. Mr. Sanchez, a local business employee, was particularly generous in providing our students with toys and several bicycles. The smiles on the faces of children and their parents were priceless.

We at Foster Road recognize the impact of these experiences. We want to thank everyone for their contributions. Foster Road is looking forward to the new year, and we will continue to strive to make an impact on the hearts and minds of our students.

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Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Sarah Gilbert
Principal

Growing Character

Gardenhill uses the Second Steps program to support its students in building character. Units are based on five themes: Skills for Learning; Empathy; Emotion Management; Problem Solving; and Friendship.

Mrs. Wright, our third-grade teacher, shares her thoughts on the program:

“Second Steps has made an immediate, positive change in my classroom environment and student behavior. The biggest positive comes from the aspect of Self-Talk. We spend a lot of time every day discussing Self-Talk, especially when it comes to dealing with new tasks, challenging tasks, and increasing their ability to be independent workers. At the beginning of a lesson, I always ask my students to think of what types of Self-Talk they will need to do in order to do their best with the learning target, and the task of the lesson.

“Some examples are: “Keep trying, you can do it!” and, “Look at the chart for help.” Or, “I will take a break if I get frustrated” and, “You can do it if you try!” The list goes on and on. Students recognized that they have Self-Talk phrases they use every day, and I praise them for using a Growth Mindset.

“When a student comes to me and says, “I can’t” or “I don’t know,” I ask them what Self-Talk they used and it helps to calm them down. It also requires them to learn how to problem solve. It really has made the children speak and treat each other with more respect. They are learning to read body language and know when someone is upset.

“This program has been awesome! I have seen so many examples of children acting with empathy towards one another because they can sense when another child is upset. This program goes hand-in-hand with character building. The children love it and so do I!”

Glazier *Elementary School*

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



Adriana Nakano
Principal

School Dance a Success!

This year's father/daughter dance was a huge success! Over one hundred couples participated in an evening of fun and laughter. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and guardians had the pleasure of accompanying their special young lady to the event. The girls stood proudly by their companion while having a photo taken and it didn't end there! Once the music started the atmosphere kicked into high gear! The positive energy and school spirit was felt by all in attendance. Glazier Elementary's PTA did an amazing job from start to finish!



Glenn *High School*

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



Greg Puccia
Principal

8th Grade Open House

Teachers, students and administration hosted the 8th Grade Open House on January 17th to provide local families an opportunity to explore JGHS. The evening's events, showcased our award winning programs, academic offerings and extracurricular activities.

Programs highlighted included: Advanced Placement Classes; Core Academic Programs; California Partnership Academies: TCAP and ACE; Career Pathways: Film and TV, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Multi-media Arts; Project Lead the Way STEM Program; JGHS Music and Band; JGHS Drama ; Link Crew; AVID; Athletics; and Associated Student Body (ASB).

The entire JGHS family celebrated our programs and successes with prospective students. You are invited to visit at any time if you are interested in being an Eagle. Please visit our website at www.jghs.org for more information.

Johnston *Elementary School*

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



Angela Togia
Principal

Professional Learning Communities Grow Stronger

Our district focus areas of high-quality teaching and learning, research-based best practices and college and career readiness are growing strong at Johnston. Professional learning communities comprises the process our magnificent Johnston teachers use to work collaboratively to address what is it we expect students to learn, how we will know students have learned, and how we will respond when students do or don't learn.

Johnston teachers meet on a continual basis to focus on our district's math campaign by creating math common formative assessments, analyzing student work, and implementing best teaching practices. This process and hard work has shown to pay off on the achievement levels of our Johnston Roadrunners. Almost 70 percent of our students have either met grade-level targets or grew 20 points or more in reading or math, comparing the first i-Ready Diagnostic to the second Diagnostic.

Our “Journey to Greatness” is going strong!



Johnston Roadrunners celebrate their achievement by decorating festive snowman and reindeer made from donut holes

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 10?



Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Robin Padgett
Principal

Engineering the Next Generation's Success

Hutchinson showcased our STEM magnet program at the NLMUSD Magnet Expo! Parents and students learned about our sequence of engineering and PLTW courses: Environmental Engineering for sixth grade, Automation and Robotics for seventh grade, and Design and Modeling for our eighth-graders.

At Hutchinson, our students design and build mousetrap cars and also model survival shelters, rockets, gliders, robots and drones. They work in collaborative teams in the design and building processes, and develop interactive presentations to explain their reasoning and data, all while utilizing technology with advanced applications and Project Lead the Way software.



Our engineering teachers, Mike Clay and Catherine Black, explained and promoted our program with our sixth-grade engineering students, who impressively described their enthusiasm for this program—inspiring our incoming class!

Hutch's magnet courses align with La Mirada High's Engineering and Technology Pathway, which is a great partnership.

La Mirada *High School*

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



Lisa Reed
Principal

Pathway to An Engineering Career!

Our school's Project Lead the Way Engineering Pathway is in its fourth successful year. In Digital Electronics, a new course offering, students will learn about digital circuits, which can be found anywhere from cell phones to household appliances. Students may also take Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering and Aerospace.

Last year, we adopted an articulation agreement with Cerritos College. Students passing any of our engineering classes with a grade of at least a B will earn college credit from Cerritos at no cost.

The eighth-grade orientation in December welcomed next year's incoming freshman. Our engineering students did a great job presenting work such as puzzle cubes, robots and computer design. La Mirada is home to three 3-D



printers, showcased at the orientation, for students to build whatever their imagination allows.

We're happy to announce that in May, several seniors who have taken engineering all through high school will graduate and pursue postsecondary education to become engineers.

La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Seryna Huynh
Principal

Inspiring Our Students Toward Excellence

La Mirada High has provided twice-weekly tutoring services to our students for the past 17 years. The Matador Scholar Association (MSA) tutors math after school, while the Academy for Preparing Prospective Leaders (APPLE) provides ELA and classroom support. The program also trains the tutors in the Words Their Way program and tracking student progress, inspiring them to become teachers, social workers, speech pathologists and psychologists.

One group helps second-graders with spelling and reading skills; the other supports teachers in the classrooms. The teacher provides support and guidance when needed. Our iTOSA, Frank Galvan, and APPLE teachers Andrea Wood and Lori Fisher collaborated on preparing tutoring sessions.

Our second-grade teachers are grateful for the progress they've seen and for the support and positive relationship between the tutors and students. We appreciate the dedication of the APPLE Tutors, Matador Scholars and their teachers. Their services continually make a difference in our students' academic success.



A.P.P.L.E. Tutor providing one-to-one ELA support to our second grade students.

Lampton *Elementary School*

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



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Counting On Math Practices

The Common Core Math Standards cite eight crucial mathematical practices that students must develop to successfully solve problems. Lampton Elementary School students have been immersed in the application of several of these practices during their mathematics instruction. Specifically, Lampton teachers have been focusing students on making sense of problems and persevering in solving them, constructing viable mathematical arguments, modeling with mathematics, and using mathematical tools strategically to solve problems.

In our classrooms, primary-grade students are now leading daily math routines for their peers that involve counting on, adding or subtracting 10, creating equations and using math vocabulary. Many of Lampton's students are now conducting "math talks" for their peers to model how they use

mathematical tools, strategies and patterns to solve problems. Our photo shows a pair of students using their iPad technology to record their math talks. Once recorded, the students can critique one another's solutions, and these short films can be used to assess student progress with these important mathematical practices.



Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Mike Garcia
Principal

We Are Accepting Magnet Applications!

On December 11th, the Los Alisos music program was on display. Our students played to a packed house at the Excelsior Auditorium. Our band, orchestra, choir and guitar students entertained the audience with their wonderful performances. I would like to congratulate 26 of our parents for completing a five week computer training class. These classes will help them in assisting their students with their assignments.

We are currently accepting applications for our magnet program. Applications are due by March 3rd. You can download an application on our website losalisosmiddle.org or pick one up in our front office. We are holding an incoming 6th grade parent information night on January 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the MPR. Please come by and learn about the amazing opportunities at Los Alisos.



Los Coyotes *MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet*

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



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

Lots of Possibilities

Los Coyotes Middle School is very proud of their new College and Career Center. The Grand Opening was held on December 21st. Staff

collaborated with AVID (college prep) students to create a rigorous, yet supportive, area on campus for students to utilize in order to explore and prepare for college. We are excited at the possibilities. The only limit? A student's imagination.

LCMS's other goings-on included: Guitar performed for students in the quad; Band put on a fabulous Winter concert; and Math parent night in January. We continue to be very proud of our staff, students, and school community and all of its accomplishments thus far.



Board member Jesse Urquidi and Board Vice President Chris Pflanzler assist a Los Coyotes student to cut the ribbon signifying the grand opening of LCMS's College and Career center.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Rachel Garcia
Principal

Great Partnership

Moffitt Elementary School and John Glenn High School (JGHS) have partnered up once again through the Academy for Careers in

Education (ACE). JGHS seniors interested in pursuing careers in education complete an internship at Moffitt Elementary through the ACE program. ACE students come to Moffitt two times a week and receive hands on experience working with students and small groups, observing lessons, and volunteering during special events such as Trunk or Treat and Read Across America. Ninth grade ACE students also work with third grade Moffitt students to turn third grade stories into plays through the Cross Age Play Production course. It is a great partnership and Moffitt students love working with their JGHS buddies!



JGHS ACE students working with Moffitt third graders

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Celebrating the Arts

Music has always been a part of Morrison's curriculum, and this year we are building upon our existing model to further enhance learning in the classroom. Our students will be singing and learning to read music as well as studying a variety of instruments that include world percussion, recorders, bells, and xylophones.

With the support of music teacher Bryan Ramirez, all of our kindergarten students, including the transitional kindergarteners, recently held a holiday performance for their families. Our third-grade classes also performed a winter celebration that included singing, dancing, and playing the bells. We are very proud that all of our fifth-grade students will continue to learn string instruments, including violins, violas, and cellos.

At Morrison, we continue to be committed to our goal of providing a positive learning environment, where each student is exposed to music and the arts in order to help develop the whole child.



Morrison Kindergarten students stole everyone's hearts

New River *Elementary School*

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



David Hoffman
Principal

Knights of the Round Table

In line with teaching students about civic responsibility and helping address the district's emphasis on the need for our children to develop "soft skills" that will be essential to their success in the future, New River Elementary has reestablished a student council here on-site.

Under the leadership of fourth-grade teacher Jennifer Amador, New River's Knights of the Roundtable have been established and are serving as voice of the students here on campus. The Roundtable consists of two elected representatives from each of our third, fourth and fifth-grade classrooms. A democratic campaign and election process was undertaken to elect officers and was conducted in November in line with our national presidential election. It served as an incredible opportunity for our students to learn about the process.

The Knights serve in several different capacities. They are now organizing and leading our weekly "town meetings" each Monday morning, where the entire school gathers to recite the Pledge and the school motto, hear important announcements, and celebrate student accomplishments. The Knights help host schoolwide events, and they meet regularly to discuss ideas on how to improve our campus.

Working together, the Knights of the Roundtable are doing wonderful things at New River!

Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



Makara Sar
Principal

Setting a New Tradition

This year our fifth graders had a chance to be pioneers and be the first group to head off to Science Camp at Thousand Pines Outdoor School in Crestline, CA. On their week-long visit, they learned about ecology, botany, astronomy, geology, meteorology and biology. They also participated activities to build perseverance like rock climbing and team-building activities like survival skill training where the students built shelters using the resources they were able to find in nature. They even had a chance to work on their archery skills and study the stars as

they could actually see them without all the city lights. Our fourth graders are excited and have already begun fundraising for their trip next year.



Our 5th Grade Nuffer Bobcats taking a break from hiking for a quick picture.

Norwalk *High School*

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



Dr. Christina Stanley
Principal

Our School Gives Back!

Norwalk High School students celebrated the month of December by giving back to their community! In December, the Lancers came together to "Stuff a Bus" with toys for children in need during the holiday season. In conjunction with the Angel Tree project that provides clothing for children in the Norwalk community, the Norwalk High students decided on a goal of 600 toys. To help everyone get into the giving spirit, lunch was extended, Santa was on campus, and everyone enjoyed performances by Cheer, the Lancer Dancers and Choir. At the end of the event, the bus was *stuffed* with over 650 toys!

Later in December, the Norwalk High senior class held a special pep rally to recognize, honor, and present funds raised to the nine charities chosen by the class. In each of the 12th grade social studies classes, students researched and presented charities to support. After the presentations, the senior class voted on the charities to select. The entire class sold granola bars to raise funds to be given to each charity. The charities that were selected were the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Make a Wish Foundation, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, the Alliance for Children's Rights, the American Lung Association, the UCLA Rape Treatment Center, St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton, Breast Cancer Angels and the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids.

After the students shared their stories about the impacts these charities have had on them, the representatives from each charity shared inspirational messages with the seniors and were each presented with a check for over \$1,500.

Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Volunteer Play Day

Sanchez Elementary School students were excited to have various adults join in their active play during the first Volunteer Play Day on December 2. As one of their goals, the playground supervisors, Mary Vazquez, Alejandra Rodriguez, Leticia Barron, Martha Mora, and Milton Ceron, recruited almost every staff member to come out and play with students during recesses and lunch.

Our amazing staff, including teachers, tutors, office staff, the custodian, and parents, gave of their time to join in the fun. As has become customary on our playground, all participants were able to choose from different stations, including soccer, tetherball, handball, basketball, four square, dodgeball, hula hoops, and dancing. At the end of the day, it was hard to tell who had more fun, the adults or the students.

We can't wait until next month's Volunteer Play Day!



Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Umeda join students in soccer.

Southeast Academy *High School*

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



MSgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Character

In addition to managing academics, our Southeast Academy cadets are expected to be leaders on campus and in our communities. Southeast Academy emphasizes character as the basis upon which all leaders depend. We value service before self. By using our adopted leadership traits and principles, our cadets are equipped with the information and experience they need to be successful.

At Southeast Academy, all cadets internalize leadership traits and principles every day. This integration develops their character, which is an important feature that distinguishes our school from others.

Southeast Academy High School also provides a strong academic foundation in a college- and career-centered environment. The results are successful future leaders of character. Our Academy parents, distinguished faculty, and valued staff members view this process of building character as their mission.

Southeast Academy attracts top students from our surrounding communities, and so any interested students, parents, and educators are encouraged to visit us. Please stop by if you are in the area.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Dr. Susan Newcomb
Principal

First-Semester Triumphs

The Waite Middle School staff and students celebrated many great accomplishments during the first half of the year. Waite's sports teams showed great ability through individual results and team accomplishments. Academically, 71 percent of Waite's students finished the first semester with a grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher. Smooth and successful completion of high school involves a 2.0 GPA minimum, so we are thrilled to see so many students meeting, and many surpassing, this target. In fact, several students in our Honors Pathway achieved 4.67 GPAs.

Hundreds of semester awards were earned for attendance, citizenship, and academics. We look forward to even more academic success during the second semester, especially in partnership with the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) Math Ambassadors program, with the support of the Biola University vocabulary study, and as a Project Read designated school. Also, 30 percent of our students are benefitting from our 21st-Century After-School Program, which provides extended-day enrichment on campus.

We invite families to call for tours so we can show you our programs in action—Project Lead The Way (PLTW) for science, technology, and engineering and our visual and performing arts elective options are part of the well-rounded environment that supports our goal of college and career readiness. And, as a highly certified Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) school site, we are preparing our students well for the future.

Please go to waitemiddle.org for further details about upcoming events or to take a virtual tour of Waite.

It's great at Waite!

Contest!!

This Mr. Ruler is hidden
two places in this publication.
When you find him,
email the
page numbers to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put NLM in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by March 15, 2017
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a
\$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations Pauline Perea
Winner of our last contest!

TECHNOLOGY • From Page 1

will stay in the classrooms. Fourth- through 12th-grade students will receive personal mobile learning devices. Beginning in fourth grade, lesson plans will emphasize a 1:1 environment focused on personalized learning based on each student's specific needs.

The following is a breakdown of which grade levels will receive their respective technology devices:

- 2016-17: Grades two, four, six and nine
- 2017-18: Grades three, five, seven and 10
- 2018-19: Transitional kindergarten, Kindergarten, grades one, eight and 11
- 2019-20: Grade 12

Students will learn from an array of digital tools, including iMovie, Garage Band and blogging platforms, to conduct research and create projects. The 2020 Learning Initiative will incorporate regular use of digital tools in teaching and learning activities by 2019. Teachers will also use student performance data to personalize teaching and learning.

The District will provide cybersafety and digital literacy curriculum to teach students online safety and strategies for protecting their online identity. Network filters and other software will assist teachers and administrators in monitoring student use of computers to prevent cyber-bullying and unauthorized software from being downloaded. For cyber-safety reasons, all District-issued mobile devices will be programmed with District-approved software and applications.



A Los Alisos student uses an iPad to conduct research and create a presentation for his class.

I am especially proud of the mentorships our students are forming with their younger classmates. Junior and senior Link Crew leaders welcome freshman into high school by organizing social activities and providing guidance to ease their transition. Similarly, at the middle schools, Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) connects eighth-graders with new students, making them feel welcomed by creating a series of social and academic activities, including movie nights, Academic Saturday School and Homework Club.

These guidance programs provide opportunities for our students to strengthen their leadership skills while helping our younger learners develop confidence and form stronger connections to our school communities.

We all share a goal in strengthening the pathway to success for our students and providing them with the skills and knowledge that will lead them to become responsible leaders. Norwalk-La Mirada Unified is committed to our community, and will be an example of strength for our students, whom we so proudly represent.

I hope that we will use the momentum of achievements from 2016 to carry us even further in 2017.



Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

de cada estudiante, maestro y miembro del personal.

Estoy especialmente orgullosa de la orientación que nuestros estudiantes están formando con sus compañeros de clase más jóvenes. Líderes del onceavo y doceavo grado de "Link Crew" reciben a estudiantes de primer año en la secundaria organizando actividades sociales y brindando orientación para facilitar su transición. De manera similar, en las escuelas intermedias, Donde Todos Pertenecen (WEB, por sus siglas en inglés) conecta a los estudiantes de octavo grado con nuevos estudiantes, les hacen sentir bienvenidos creando una serie de actividades sociales y académicas, incluyendo noches de cine, Escuela Sabatina Académica y el Club de Tareas.

Estos programas de orientación brindan oportunidades a nuestros estudiantes para fortalecer sus habilidades de liderazgo mientras que ayudan a nuestros estudiantes más jóvenes a desarrollar confianza y formar conexiones más fuertes con nuestras comunidades escolares.

Todos compartimos la meta de fortalecer el camino hacia el éxito de nuestros estudiantes y proporcionarles las habilidades y conocimientos que les llevará a convertirse en líderes responsables. Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado está comprometido con nuestra comunidad y será un ejemplo de fortaleza para nuestros estudiantes, a quienes representamos con tanto orgullo.

Espero que utilicemos el impulso de los logros del 2016 para llevarnos aún más lejos en el 2017.

Board of Education



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their own works and may even display them on a national level. Most recently, eight of our high school students performed in the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade Honor Band with the support of our dedicated teachers.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified also offers a selection of pathways focused on trade skills, including welding and auto repair. Each of our high schools boasts a SkillsUSA team that allow students to compete in a showcase of career technical skills. Students consistently win gold medals on a regional and state level, and earn scholarships, recognitions and awards.

As this year's Board of Education President, I look forward to serving the community to help our students reach a higher level of success.



John Glenn High School Project Lead The Way students put together a solar canoe for state competition.

Los estudiantes del Proyecto Guía el Camino "Project Lead the Way" de la Escuela Secundaria John Glenn preparan una canoa solar para la competencia estatal.

Los estudiantes pueden tomar cursos expansivos en artes visuales y escénicas, desarrollar habilidades en música, drama, fotografía, arte, diseño gráfico y más. Los estudiantes crean sus propias obras e incluso pueden mostrarlas a nivel nacional. Recientemente, con el apoyo de nuestros maestros dedicados, ocho de nuestros estudiantes de la secundaria se presentaron en la Banda de Honores del Torneo del Desfile de las Rosas del 2017.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unificado también ofrece una selección de caminos con un enfoque en las habilidades comerciales, incluyendo soldadura y reparación de automóviles. Cada una de nuestras escuelas secundarias posee un equipo de "SkillsUSA" que permite a los estudiantes competir en una exposición de habilidades técnicas de carrera. Los estudiantes constantemente ganan medallas de oro a nivel regional y estatal, y obtienen becas, reconocimientos y premios.

Como presidente de la Junta de Educación de este año, anhelo poder servir a la comunidad para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a alcanzar un mayor nivel de éxito.

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