

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

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



Volume 11, Issue 39


October 2021–April 2022

## Welcome Back to School Bienvenidos de Nuevo a la Escuela



**Superintendent John Lopez speaks to a class at La Mirada High School**

**El superintendente John Lopez habla ante una clase en la escuela secundaria La Mirada**

A graphic at the top of the page shows two hands, one in yellow and one in teal, holding a white heart shape. The hands are positioned as if they are gently cradling the heart.

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## SUPERINTENDENT

### Social Emotional Learning as a Lever for Equity and Academic Rigor: Our Pillars for Success

Seeing the faces of our students as we welcomed them back to our schools was a compelling reminder of our collective WHY and our vision for academic success in Norwalk-La Mirada: leading our community into the future by developing students who are open-minded and curious, skilled in critical thinking, working collaboratively, and using current and emerging technologies. We strive to meet the needs of all students by tapping into their motivations and strengths to ensure that every student graduates prepared to succeed in college and careers, and participate positively in our community's civic life.

To accomplish this effort, we have engaged stakeholder groups in constructive dialogue to address and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, and to ensure a plan for learning recovery. Our first and most important priority has been student and staff safety. It was recently noted by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that some of our sites “should be used as an ‘example’ of how each school should be moving forward” as it relates to the implementation of safety protocols at our schools.

This year we are continuing with our work on a coherence framework to guide our vision, as well as additional supports to achieve our goals. Part of this work is rooted in our collective understanding of what constitutes a solid foundation for College and Career Readiness: Social Emotional Learning and Academic Rigor and Relevance. Our emphasis on Equity, targeted professional development opportunities, intervention and enrichment supports, mental health and wellness, visual and performing arts, professional learning communities, early literacy, and a laser-like focus on learning recovery will ensure that we will live up to our promise, Every Student — Future Ready.

Norwalk-La Mirada continues to excel, receiving a California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award in 2020 and 2021, California Distinguished Schools, California Schools to Watch, California Exemplary Arts Education Award, recognized ASCA (American School Counselor Association) model programs, Top Public Schools, UCLA Center X Reciprocal Learning Partnership Framework recognition, Skills-USA awards, Harbor Freight award, and much more. At NLMUSD students are prepared for the future: college, career, and life ready!



**John M. Lopez**  
Superintendent

### El Aprendizaje Socioemocional Como Palanca Para la Equidad y el Rigor Académico: Nuestros Pilares Para el Éxito

Ver los rostros de nuestros estudiantes cuando les dimos la bienvenida a nuestras escuelas fue un recordatorio convincente de nuestro PORQUÉ colectivo y nuestra visión para el éxito académico en Norwalk-La Mirada: orientando a nuestra comunidad hacia el futuro al desarrollar estudiantes de mente abierta y curiosos, hábiles en pensamiento crítico, trabajando en colaboración y utilizando tecnologías actuales y emergentes. Nos esforzamos por satisfacer las necesidades de todos los estudiantes destacar sus motivaciones y fortalezas para asegurar que cada estudiante se gradúe preparado para tener éxito en la universidad y carreras, y que participen positivamente en la vida cívica de nuestra comunidad.

Para lograr este esfuerzo, hemos involucrado a los grupos de partes interesadas en un diálogo constructivo para abordar y mitigar los efectos de la pandemia y garantizar un plan para la recuperación del aprendizaje. Nuestra primera y más importante prioridad ha sido la seguridad de los estudiantes y el personal. Recientemente, el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Los Ángeles señaló que algunos de nuestros sitios “deberían usarse como un ‘ejemplo’ de cómo cada escuela debe avanzar” en lo que se refiere a la implementación de protocolos de seguridad en nuestras escuelas.

Este año continuamos con nuestro trabajo en un marco de coherencia para orientar nuestra visión, así como apoyos adicionales para lograr nuestras metas. Parte de este trabajo tiene sus raíces en nuestra comprensión colectiva de lo que constituye una base sólida para la preparación universitaria y de carreras: aprendizaje socioemocional y rigor y relevancia académico. Nuestro énfasis en la equidad, las oportunidades de desarrollo profesional de enfoque, los apoyos de intervención y enriquecimiento, la salud mental y bienestar, las artes visuales y escénicas,

las comunidades de aprendizaje profesional, la alfabetización temprana, y un enfoque similar al láser en la recuperación del aprendizaje asegurarán que estaremos a la altura de nuestra promesa, Cada Estudiantes- Preparados para el Futuro.

Norwalk-La Mirada continúa sobresaliendo, recibiendo un premio Campana de Oro de la Asociación de Juntas Escolares de California en 2020 y 2021 “California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award in 2020 and 2021”, Escuelas Distinguidas de California “California Distinguished Schools”, Escuelas



## Board of Education



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*By Karen Morrison  
President, NLMUSD Board of Education*

We are very happy to have our students and teachers back in the classroom and they are excited to be back at school in a more optimal learning setting and to be participating in various school activities. As we navigate through the safety measure guidelines due to the COVID – 19 pandemic, we will continue to provide support to our students, teachers, classified staff, school administrators and families in the safest environment possible.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is dedicated to maintaining high quality instruction for all students. We have a dedicated team of educators devoted to serving our students and meeting their individual needs. Under the leadership of Superintendent John Lopez, our dedicated employees are committed to our motto:

Every Student. Future Ready. Our PROMISE!

On behalf of the Board of Education, we thank you, the parents, for your continued support and cooperation during these unprecedented times. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure our students are safe and that we meet their academic, social, and emotional needs. Please be safe and stay well as we enter into the holiday season and we welcome in 2022.

*By Karen Morrison,  
Presidenta de la Junta de Educación del NLMUSD*

Estamos muy contentos de tener a nuestros estudiantes y maestros de regreso en el salón de clases y ellos están emocionados de estar de regreso en la escuela en un entorno de aprendizaje más óptimo y de participar en varias actividades escolares. Mientras navegamos por las pautas de medidas de seguridad debido a la pandemia Covid-19, continuaremos brindando apoyo a nuestros estudiantes, maestros, personal clasificado, administradores escolares, y familias en el entorno más seguro posible.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada está dedicado en mantener una instrucción de alta calidad para todos los estudiantes. Contamos con un equipo dedicado de educadores comprometidos a servir a nuestros estudiantes y satisfacer sus necesidades individuales. Bajo el liderazgo del Superintendente John Lopez, nuestros empleados dedicados están entregados con nuestro lema:

Cada estudiante. Preparado para el futuro. ¡Nuestra promesa!

En nombre de la Junta de Educación, les agradecemos a ustedes, los padres, por su continuo apoyo y cooperación durante estos tiempos sin precedentes. Continuaremos haciendo todo lo posible para asegurar que nuestros estudiantes estén seguros y que satisfagamos sus necesidades académicas, sociales, y emocionales. Por favor, manténganse seguros y en bienestar mientras entramos en la temporada de festividades y damos la bienvenida al 2022.

### SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED • From Page 3



**John M. Lopez**  
Superintendent

de California para Observar “California Schools to Watch, Premio de Educación Artística Ejemplar de California, programas modelo reconocidos de ASCA (Asociación Estadounidense de Consejeros Escolares) “California Exemplary Arts Education Award, recognized ASCA (American School Counselor Association) model programs”, Las Mejores Escuelas Públicas “Top Public

Schools”, reconocimiento del Sistema de Calificación de Asociación de Aprendizaje Recíproco del Centro X de UCLA “UCLA Center X Reciprocal Learning Partnership Framework recognition”, premios Habilidades-USA “Skills-USA awards”, premio Harbor Freight “Harbor Freight award”, y mucho más. En el NLMUSD, los estudiantes están preparados para el futuro: ¡Listos para la universidad, una carrera, y la vida!

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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 UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Kay Coop**  
 Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

This is our 11th year publishing the NLMUSD School News. Each year is exciting, but this year is especially exciting for students being back in the classrooms.

Superintendent Lopez begins this issue with is message on page 3.

In this issue you will read about the Performing Arts, Writing Workshops, a daily Walk & Talk, the Six Pillars of Character, and much more...

On pages 22 & 23 we have included several student book reviews to help with your child's book selections. Don't forget to enter our Word Search Contest on page 23 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is May 18, 2022. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**2021 – 2022**



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# Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/210-3990 / 15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3170 • [www.nlmas.org](http://www.nlmas.org)



**Sharon Todd**  
Director

## Students Return to Campus!

We are celebrating students' return to campus! All classes at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School are back to in-person learning, and students are happy to be with their friends

and teachers again. Some of our students have recently arrived in the United States and are taking advantage of the opportunity to learn skills that will help them thrive in their new environment. Others have returned to complete high school diplomas and move into college or build job skills for employment. Students in our medical

training career programs are finishing up internships, and employers are eager to hire them! We celebrate the many reasons adults have to return to school and the opportunity we have to help them achieve their goals.



**Mrs. Barajas (above) is engaged with a group of students who are learning to read, write, and speak in English for the first time.**

## Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/210-4205 • [www.nlmusdpreschool.org](http://www.nlmusdpreschool.org)



**Laurel Parker**  
Director

## Down Syndrome Awareness Month

In October, we celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness Month. On Fridays this month, we promoted and encouraged our staff, families, and students to wear blue and yellow in support of our youngest learners with Down Syndrome. This year we have four students enrolled in our Head Start Program with Down Syndrome. These students can do anything anyone else can do. They have the same abilities but it may take them longer to do them, but that is okay! Most people have 46 chromosomes in each of their cells and people with Down Syndrome have 47. We are more alike than we are different and we love celebrating our students!



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## Identifying Prediabetes in Children Prevents Lifelong Issues



**Rebecca A. Hicks, M.D.,**  
medical director,  
Endocrine and  
Diabetes Center,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Diabetes is a chronic medical condition in which sugar or glucose levels build up in the bloodstream. The hormone insulin helps move glucose from blood into cells, where it's used for energy.

With Type 2 diabetes, cells don't respond well to insulin, and in later stages of the disease, the body may not produce enough insulin. According to the American Diabetes Association, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated risk factors for diabetes in children due to limited physical activity and sedentary behaviors.

Most children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes have prediabetes first. Prediabetes means that blood sugar is higher than it should be, but not high enough to be diabetes. Most of the time, the child will not have any symptoms. Prediabetes is a warning sign that a child is at risk for Type 2 diabetes.

Warning signs of prediabetes may include:

- Increased thirst
- Increased hunger
- Low energy levels
- Frequent urination
- Rapid weight loss
- Blurry vision

If a child has these warning signs, they should be evaluated by a doctor right away. If a child is diagnosed with prediabetes, it's important that the whole family makes healthy lifestyle changes to help support and prevent their child from getting Type 2 diabetes.

The Endocrine & Diabetes Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach offers programs designed to diagnose, treat and manage childhood conditions, such as diabetes. The team works with families to get a child's blood sugar levels back to a safe range and help them stay at a healthy weight. Learn more at [millerchildrens.org/Diabetes](http://millerchildrens.org/Diabetes).



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806  
800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • [millerchildrens.org/Diabetes](http://millerchildrens.org/Diabetes)



## Our physicians train longer so Erin's recovery is quicker.

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800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) | [millerchildrens.org/Elite](http://millerchildrens.org/Elite)



# Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2500 • [www.bentonms.org](http://www.bentonms.org)



**Benjamin Webster**  
*Principal*

## Outdoor Concert

Music to Our Ears! On Friday, October 8, Benton hosted our first outdoor concert in nearly two years. Under the direction of Mr. Geoffrey Summers and Ms. Naomi Gamez, Benton's Symphonic Band, Intermediate Guitar, Orchestra, and Intermediate

Choir performed several pieces of music for friends and family in our quad area. For most of these students, this was their first live concert...ever! We were delighted to see the smiling eyes (because everyone wore a mask) of family and friends as the students showed how all of their hard work paid off.

Benton's Beginning Band, Beginning Choir, and Beginning Guitar classes will be performing in our traditional Beginners Take Flight Concert on Wednesday, October 27. This concert will be held out doors and will showcase our newest Wolverines.



A special thanks to Fabio Kayama for providing a music "shell" for our concerts. And thanks to the District's Warehouse Department for transporting needed supplies to our concert area.

# Corvallis *MS STEAM Magnet*

11032 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4125 • [www.corvallisms.org](http://www.corvallisms.org)



**Dr. Nancy Ruvalcaba**  
*Principal*

## You Matter

We are all excited to have our Bulldogs back to in-person instruction. That excitement, however, is also coupled with the challenges of addressing almost a year and a half of distance learning instruction. Our teachers, staff, and counseling team are doing everything in their power to

reinforce themes of connectedness, kindness, and the importance of mental health through monthly campaigns, parent workshops, and classroom lessons. So far our counseling team has engaged parents and students in workshops focusing on Suicide Prevention with our "You Matter" campaign in September. The month of October was an opportunity to highlight a message of unity and kindness with month-long activities that brought

awareness to anti-bullying and prevention. In just 12 weeks of in person instruction since being back from the school closures of 20-21, the Corvallis Family has hit the ground running in an effort to connect all our students to our school community!



# Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2560 • [www.dollandes.org](http://www.dollandes.org)



**Dr. Lorena Sierra**  
*Principal*

## Writing Workshop

Our students are beaming with joy and so enthusiastic to be back at school! Although school looks a little different, Dolland students have shown us how resilient we all can be as we navigate social distancing

and learning. This year, as an extension to academic discourse, we have decided to take a concerted focus on making every student a confident writing apprentice. We have partnered with Momentum in Teaching to help us establish a clear overview and shared understanding of writing workshop. Now that we have started our journey, we are celebrating our students as they share their voices through writing. Students are excited and

thinking more critically about how writing serves as a tool to communicate and convey meaningful messages. This is only the beginning. Go Huskies!



**Students sharing personal narratives.**

# Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2610 • [www.dulleselementary.org](http://www.dulleselementary.org)



**Shanti Gallegos**  
*Principal*

## Dulles Walk and Talk

To ensure student safety and the development of social-emotional skills we are implementing the Dulles Walk and Talk before school each day. Students enter the campus and walk directly to the blacktop,

set their backpacks on a number, and join us in the Walk and Talk. There is a track, calm music, and yard signs with growth mindset messages that line the path. Students are encouraged to talk with peers. Optional discussion topics are announced, jokes are shared, and students are greeted each morning by adults that care about them. This new structured morning routine has helped students safely start their day, connect with someone that cares about them daily, and calmly come into the classroom ready to learn.



**Dolphins on the daily Walk & Talk.**

# Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2560 • [www.eastwoodelem.org](http://www.eastwoodelem.org)



**Darryll Ramsey Jr.**  
*Principal*

## Excitement at Eastwood

Another year has begun and there is a lot of positive buzz around the campus of Eastwood. Students and families are excited to have the campus open and staff are excited to have students physically in the classrooms for learning once again. Classrooms

may be structured differently, but that is not holding teachers back from using their creativity to incorporate innovative instructional strategies, essential SEL activities, and reintroduce best practices that support student growth and development. If you were to tour the school, you would see kindergarteners participating daily in Reader's Workshop with flexible seating. Teachers are using Zoom to conduct guided reading groups and holding

morning emotional check-ins with students using mood meters. Some classes are even in full swing with CGI activities, providing students with opportunities to share their thinking and learn from each other. Excitement for learning is all around the Eagle's Nest of Eastwood.



**Ms. Vela's Kinder Reader's Workshop with flexible seating.**

# Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4440 • [www.edmondson elementary.org](http://www.edmondson elementary.org)



**Sharon Stewart**  
*Principal*

## An Inspiring Author/Illustrator

On September 28th, the NLMUSD community had a special treat when we were able to hear the story, Super Torta, read aloud by author and illustrator Mr. Eric Ramos, at a district-wide event celebrating

LatinX Heritage month. Mr. Ramos is an alumni of Edmondson Elementary and Waite Middle School. After he read his story aloud in Zoom, students, parents, and teachers were able to ask Mr. Ramos lots of questions about how he became an author/illustrator and about the process that it took to create his book Super Torta. The beginning stages of his story started as a writing

assignment in middle school. He had encouraging words about perseverance and hard work. Mr. Ramos is an inspiration to all of our Mighty Eagle scholars and writers at Edmondson Elementary!



# El Camino *High School*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3595 • [www.elcaminocarousel.org](http://www.elcaminocarousel.org)



**Mark Hunter**  
*Principal*

## **Making a Move**

El Camino High School switched locations over the Summer. The site had been at 14625 Keese Drive in Whittier and is now at 14640 Mercado Ave in La Mirada. The new venue has been rebranded as the Alternative Education Center.

The new scene houses not only El Camino, but also key programs such as Independent Study, Home-Hospital, School Aged Child Care, and the Wellness Team's offices. Students and staff love the new place. The added room has allowed for El Camino to provide a classroom to it's Cerritos College liaison and to the National College Resource Foundation for tutoring/mentoring. The Wellness team has three offices on the campus

as well and meets with El Camino students on a daily basis. The quad area has become a favorite spot for students to hang out before and after school. El Camino looks forward to spending many years to come at the new locale.



**El Camino students enjoying their Nutrition Break in the quad area of the newly branded Alternative Education Center.**

# Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2745 • [www.escalonaelem.org](http://www.escalonaelem.org)



**Bonnie Lytle**  
*Principal*

## **Active Learning at Escalona Elementary**

Active engagement, academic discourse and amazing programs lead to academic success at Escalona Elementary School. Escalona Eagles are excited to be back to "in-person" learning for the 2021-2022 school year! Staff is equally excited to support our students and fulfill our district promise of "Every Student. Future Ready."

This year, we have new staff, including wonderful support staff, to provide for the academic and social-emotional needs of students. Our new Intervention TOSA, Mrs. Jauregui, primarily works with students in first and second grade supporting phonics, reading fluency and reading comprehension. Mr. Brown, our Math Mentor, works with all teachers to support our continued commitment to Cognitively Guided Instruction in Mathematics, and our Elementary Student Support Specialist, Mrs. Sifuentes, supports students with social and emotional well-being and behavior.

Escalona staff continue to stress the 6 pillars of character (Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Caring, Citizenship and Fairness) and we recognize those students who demonstrate these virtues throughout the days, weeks and entire year.



# Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2790 • [www.fosterstars.org](http://www.fosterstars.org)



**Salvador Villagomez**  
*Principal*

## PLCs Drive Progress

Given the 2020–21 distance learning and hybrid school year, we are well aware of the needs our students bring to this calendar school year. In response, Foster Road has made professional learning communities (PLCs) central to allowing teachers to collaborate weekly as they strive to document student needs and respond with effective first teaching. Teachers are collaborating to brainstorm on how to best ensure maximum student progress. Meeting regularly has also allowed our teachers to touch base on the various instructional strategies that we are implementing in the classroom.

A few of the key strategies include opportunities for student discourse with NLM Talks, social-emotional learning (SEL), Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in math, embedded technology integration, implementation of daily learning targets, and Reader by 9 phonemic-awareness strategies. At Foster Road, we are on the right track toward making the learning experience at Foster Road a positive one. All efforts are geared toward educating the whole child with both social and academic targets. Foster Road Elementary aims to ensure a bright future for all of our STARS!

Be a STAR: strive for Safety, Take responsibility, Achieve your best, and have Respect.

# Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2840 • [www.gardenhill.org](http://www.gardenhill.org)



**Sarah Gilbert**  
*Principal*

## Leadership Grows at Gardenhill

Gardenhill started its third year with the Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program. PAL is built on the philosophy of students helping students. Peer leaders, also known as PALs, build a positive school climate through our “Gardenhill Greeters,” who greet students entering the campus, plan awareness events such as Unity Day which raises awareness against bullying, and lead “Playground Buddies,” who help younger

students learn how to play the playground games. The PAL program supports the development of 21st century skills in the areas of communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and character. Peer leaders are also led through leadership lessons in cooperation, healthy living, communication, and goal setting.

PAL is led by Ms. Swoboda, our ESSS, Elementary Student Support Specialist. Ms. Swoboda was recognized last year with the PAL Perseverance Award through the Orange County Department of Education for her continued dedication of the PAL Program.



**5th grade PAL students at Gardenhill!**

# Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2890 • [www.glazierelementary.org](http://www.glazierelementary.org)



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
*Principal*

## Leading with 3 Rs: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready!

What a wonderful feeling to be back together on campus! We kicked off the year with classroom assemblies in every classroom for our 465 students, featuring the 3 Rs: This is one of our proactive steps in our Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports (PBIS) structure which was award-winning in 2020. Thanks to the dedication of Glazier PTA, we have our Student Store open every Friday at lunch to give students a chance to shop with the Glazier dollars they earn. In academics, we have our iTOSA, Mr. Burgess, supporting small groups for intensive reading support for every grade level. Along with completing the iReady diagnostics helping assign “just right” support in Reading and Math for every student, our teachers are launching students off to a terrific start. Lastly, a huge Shout Out to our Playworks-trained Supervision Team and Junior Coaches: It’s been a great start to the 2021-22 school year!



**Our Gladiators are thrilled to have access to our updated school library selections!**

# John Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3000 • [www.jghs.org](http://www.jghs.org)



**Dr. Jennifer Padilla**  
*Principal*

## Reconnect, Reflect, Relaunch!

John Glenn High School has embraced this year’s theme in everything we do for our students and community. In a time where the need to reconnect to school and to each other is more important than ever, we have been focusing on building relationships with one another and providing support where it is needed the most.

Our school groups and programs have been hard at work engaging with the students. This includes ASB events such as Homecoming, Student Recognition, and Spirit Weeks; to awareness events such as the CSF and Eagles Care highlights for Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and all the way to our pathway and teacher PLC teams that recognize and celebrate student achievement.

So, as we embark on our 60th year as John H. Glenn High School Eagles, we are reconnecting and reflecting upon what our students need and how we can best serve them. We are relaunching into a school rich with rigorous and relevant academics, challenging and competitive athletics, and engaging and meaningful activities for everyone.



**Glenn Student of the Month, 11th grader Andrea Urena.**

# Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2945 • [www.hutchinsonhawks.org](http://www.hutchinsonhawks.org)



**Jenny Bae**  
*Principal*

## 2021 Golden Bell Award

We are honored to share that Hutchinson Middle School's STEM Magnet Program is officially a 2021 Golden Bell Award Winner! The CSBA Golden Bell Awards promote

excellence in education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices of school boards in school districts and county offices of education throughout California. Our STEM Magnet Program utilizes research-based curriculums including PLTW and White Box that promote opportunities for students to think critically and creatively



as well as address real-world problems with STEM-focused strategies. This has led to high student achievement and numerous recognitions for our school, including National



**In PLTW Magic of Electrons with Mrs. Kelly Garcia, our 8th grade students learn how to construct a basic DC motor.**

Forum Schools to Watch, California Distinguished School, California Gold Ribbon, CBEE Honor Roll, Project Lead The Way Distinguished School, and now Golden Bell. We are excited to celebrate with our school community and recognize the efforts of our amazing staff and students. Go Hawks!

# Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3120 • [www.ddjohnstonelementary.org](http://www.ddjohnstonelementary.org)



**Dr. Krystal Jones**  
*Principal*

## Starting the year strong!

Our D.D. Johnston staff were all excited to welcome our students back to campus. Our Roadrunners have enjoyed seeing their friends and teachers in person again. They are also having a great time during music and P.E. Our teachers and staff are going above and beyond to support students academically and in social/emotional learning.

Our focus this year is student safety and social/emotional well-being. We know that our families have been through difficult times during the past year and a half, so we want to support our students in this transition back to campus. We have established many safety protocols, such as classroom setups that promote social distancing and assigned seating in the cafeteria. We are very proud of our students for being so resilient!



**Mr. Acosta's 4th grade Roadrunners on the first day of school.**

# La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3205 • [www.laplumaelementary.org](http://www.laplumaelementary.org)



**Terry Pace**  
Principal

## We are Back Together Again... We Can't Wait to Hear Our Panthers' Roar!

To our staff, our students, and our families, we welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! It was a great opening, and for the first time in over 16 months, we were ALL able to embrace new and old friendships, as well as meeting our classmates, teachers, and other staff in person. It was great to capture the smiles through the eyes of our students and staff!

Our P.T.A. theme this year embraces the idea that we are all an important piece of the Panther puzzle, with each member fitting together to ensure that our Panthers' Roar. Our focus will continue to be on addressing the needs of the whole child; providing social/emotional support as well as addressing our students' academic needs. Thank you for being an important piece of our learning community! Together we will Roar!



**Our Panthers were excited to give our first day a "Thumbs up!"**



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# La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3315 • [www.lamiradahs.org](http://www.lamiradahs.org)



**Lisa Reed**  
Principal

## Find Your Stride

Academics, Athletics and the Arts are in full swing here at La Mirada!



Our theme

this year is "Find Your Stride" in hopes

to communicate to our students and staff that we are all in a time of transition, one step at a time. 2021 has started off strong with academics offering a multitude of tutoring opportunities on campus as well as the district offered tutor.com which has been a great support to many students. We completed the 1st quarter and students are working hard in their classes. Culture and community is being revived on campus with weekly spirit rallies at lunch led by our ASB. All of our clubs and pathways are active in planning activities to support students in their transition back to school. We continue to celebrate being back on campus for in person learning!



# Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3255 • [www.lamptonschool.org](http://www.lamptonschool.org)



**Cindy Rayburn**  
Principal

## Log In to Learning!

Lampton Elementary School has made a great start to the new school year. New friends and old pals have been united in classroom lessons and outdoor play. Every classroom has completed a rotation of lessons to reinforce our schoolwide behavior expectations to “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe.” Classroom teachers are providing social-emotional learning opportunities for students through the use of our social-emotional curriculum called Second Steps. Additional classroom supports are occurring through activities like journaling and morning meetings.

On the academic front, Lampton students have already completed their i-Ready computer-based assessments, using individual and classroom iPad devices. These assessments provide teachers with specific information about the strengths and needs of each individual student. Grade levels are using the data to create interventions and extensions for students. Now that the assessment is complete, each student has i-Ready computer lessons prescribed for their specific learning needs. These lessons can also be accessed from home so that students can do extra practice or extend their learning right from their home computer.

It’s going to be a great year for our Lampton Dolphins, so log-on and learn on!

# Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3495 • [www.losalisosmiddle.org](http://www.losalisosmiddle.org)



**Tania Magana**  
Principal

## Community, Collaboration and Equity

After a year of distance learning we were excited to welcome back our Lobos for the new school year 2021-2022. As the new Principal am honored to serve our Norwalk community. Los Alisos priority is to foster collaborative relationships with parents, teachers, staff and our community.

We work hard in creating a culture where everybody feels they belong to our Lobo family.

Los Alisos team will continue to work hard to assure we provide students with rigorous and engaging instruction by committing to an environment that is full of enriching academic activities and equitable access.

# Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3650 • [www.moffittmax.org](http://www.moffittmax.org)



**Gabriela Galvez-Reyna**  
Principal

## Readers are Leaders!

At Moffitt Elementary, we are committed to ensuring that all our students are prepared to develop the skills they need. Therefore, our intervention support is in full swing.

Our intervention team analyzed the i-Ready reading data from last year and started screening upper-grade students as soon as possible. Students were screened with the CORE phonics assessment

and the phonemic-awareness assessment. Our upper grades have many students with significant learning gaps, so they were put into groups with like needs. But the groups are large! So, when our paraeducators were given the opportunity for more hours, many took it! We will be able to train our paraeducators and make our intervention groups smaller. In addition to phonics groups, we have a newcomer group, too, so that the needs of all our upper-grade students are getting addressed.

We have even more layers of support in our primary grades. First- and second-grade teachers have made gap filling a priority by teaching Sound Partners to their entire classes. Two groups of high school students, JGHS students and ACE students come a total of three times a week to read one on one with struggling students to provide extra practice and a one-on-one mentoring support.

We are already seeing growth and excitement for learning from our students! We are definitely all hands on deck for Moffitt Mustangs!



**John Glenn High School student offering a one-on-one opportunity to review phonics lesson with a Moffitt Mustang.**

# Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3710 • [www.morrisonigers.org](http://www.morrisonigers.org)



**Rudy Gonzalez**  
*Principal*

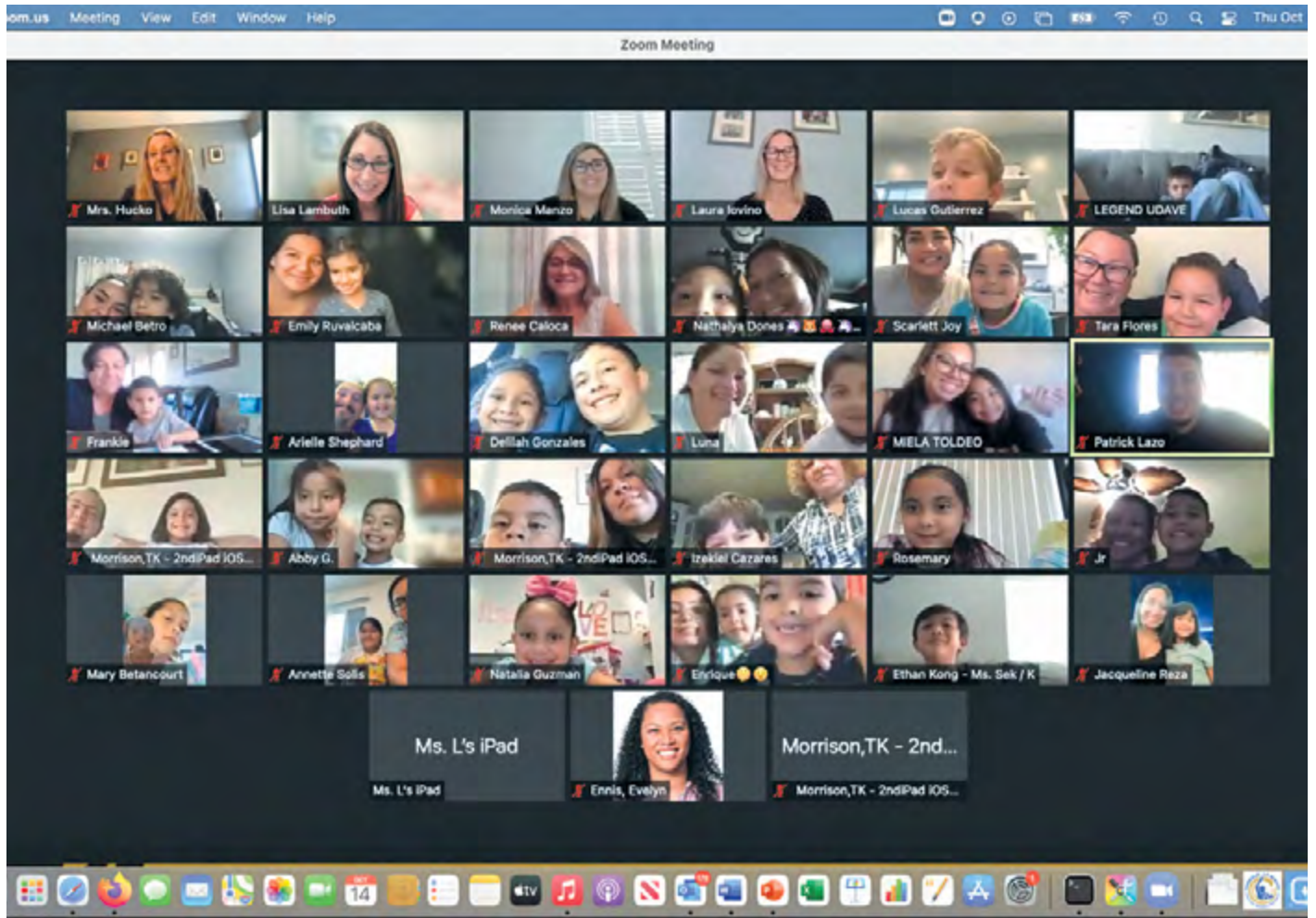
## Family Math Time

At Morrison Elementary, we have been focusing on improving the teaching and learning of mathematics. Part of this work is partnering with our parents and guardians by holding special math events.

On October 13th and 14th, we held our Virtual Family Math Adventure for the TK through second-grade students and families. We focused on the importance of counting, and an activity called “Counting Collections” that helps to develop our students’ understanding of numbers and quantities.

We are so pleased that 70 families with 79 students joined us for these engaging interactive events. Each student received a gift baggie of items to count, and many of them won prizes for participation, courtesy of a grant funded by the Cotsen Foundation for the Art of Teaching.

The children had fun counting with their family members and learning that math is everywhere in the world. One parent shared, “I enjoyed learning new ways to allow my daughter’s learning to expand with simple things such as asking her to count things in the home.” Others shared how they enjoyed “spending one-on-one time” and doing “a school activity” with their children. We look forward to holding other family math events!



“Math Nights at Morrison.”

# New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3770 • [www.newriverelementary.org](http://www.newriverelementary.org)



**Jody Gardner**  
*Principal*

## **Noble Knights Know Kindness**

We practice kindness with intention at New River Elementary! As part of our efforts to build a loving community on campus, our New River Knights have been receiving Shout Out raffle tickets for following one of three Knights behavioral expectations – being Respectful, Responsible and Safe during the school day. Typically the principal

randomly selects two winners per grade level from the Shout Out bin but, this week, student winners were encouraged to share the love. They were given one prize for themselves and one for any friend, student or staff, whom has demonstrated kindness to them. Teachers and students were surprised by the random act of kindness as well as a fun Halloween treat. Kindness is contagious and we encourage you to honor the Knights code and spread kindness!



**Shout Out winners and their kindness recipients show off their Halloween treats!**

# Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3830 • [www.norwalklancers.org](http://www.norwalklancers.org)



**Dr. David M. Olea**  
*Principal*

## **Stronger Than Ever**

As we returned to in-person learning during this pandemic, there was much anxiety and uncertainty in the hearts and minds of our students, staff, families and community members. Stepping into the role of principal of NHS, I have heard repeatedly that Norwalk High is a family and the culture is the heart of this school. This has proven to be true in my witnessing the dedication of our staff and the amount of community involvement taking place.

With the opening of our new athletic facilities, our football games have been packed with students, families, alumni and community members. We completed our WASC visitation the first week of October, and the members of the visiting committee were very impressed by our community's love of our campus. As for our staff, the committee emphasized that "there is a sense of trust in

each other's dedication and commitment to serving all students."

In October, we were excited to host our first pep rally/ assembly in our new stadium. The event incorporated all students into the culture of our campus while honoring our fall athletes.

The work of our ASB, Link Crew, Pathways, athletics programs and clubs has generated a renewed energy that is radiating throughout the city of Norwalk and within our NHS community. Moving forward, we are excited to announce our first annual Thanksgiving Food Basket event. PTSA is partnering with a local house of worship, ASB, NHS Culinary and the Scouts of America troop 924 to provide 100 turkey food baskets to families within our city.

We can't wait to continue to share the great things happening at NHS. Moving forward, several of our pathways and clubs have dedicated their service to our NHS feeder schools to assure that "no Lancer is lost" on their path to NHS.

# Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4060 • [www.nufferelementary.org](http://www.nufferelementary.org)



**Makara Sar**  
*Principal*

## **Socialization of Children**

The pandemic has caused a lot of irregularities with our students, and one of the biggest is the socialization of children. Many of our students have to relearn how to play with one another as friends instead of siblings. To assist us in getting ahead of these issues, we have re-enlisted the help of a program to aid our students to again have fun together safely.

The most important piece of this approach is the Jr. Coach program. Here students can take on leadership roles at recess and learn to lead by example. They have monthly trainings in which they learn not only how to play new games, but also how to become a mentor to other children. This gives our students a chance to lead, increase academic achievement, and develop greater purpose and success at school.

This program offers many other benefits for our school, but the one that is making the quickest impact is on behavior. Our students know that play is fun but over with when the recess bell rings. They do not bring any frustrations back into the classrooms and they look forward to playing again at the next recess.



# Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4315 • [www.sanchezelementary.org](http://www.sanchezelementary.org)



**Alicia Rubio**  
*Principal*

## **Celebrating Latinx Heritage Month**

Our students were encouraged to celebrate their heritage and to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month in October. Students wrote poems, stories, created a newspaper, painted, colored, created collages and papier mached an alebrije (a brightly colored fantasy or mythical creature that originated

in Mexico). Our students who turn in a project were recognized at an assembly and all students were able to see the projects the students created. The projects were laid out for students to parade through and see them all. We were excited to see so many students participate and, especially, to take pride in where their families come from as well as to express what they learned about their families in creative ways.



**Various Sanchez Dragons with their Latinx Heritage Projects**

# Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4700 • [www.southeastacademy.org](http://www.southeastacademy.org)



**MSgt. Marty Schafer**  
*USMC, Director*

## **A Common Goal**

At Southeast Academy High School cadets are exposed to careers in public services in a rigorous and relevant academic environment. Our school-wide goal is to prepare cadets of high character and integrity for success in college and their future careers of their choice. We do this by balancing and intergrading our teaching, helping cadets

to build their confidence, leadership and moral character. Southeast Academy has a diverse population, cadets come from 25 different school districts, yet they all share a common goal to be scholars and leaders of character. Academy selects cadets who are driven by a strong willingness to contribute to a team. Different talents, skill sets are valued. Different backgrounds, perspectives and experiences are embraced. If you are willing to be challenged schedule your visit or interview. (562) 210-4700

# Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4370 • [www.waitemiddle.org](http://www.waitemiddle.org)



**Adriana Nakano**  
*Principal*

## **Developing Readers and Writers within Content Areas**

Our Panther team is working diligently on developing reading and writing skills for all students. We know how important it is to prepare our students for high school, college and future careers. This year, Waite's School Implementation Plan is focused on Literacies Within the Disciplines. Literacy is developed in all classes, not just language arts.

Teachers are immersing students in various text types and structures. Students will speak, think, read and write like scientist, mathematicians and historians! The emphasis around this work is to provide students with opportunities to experience literacy in different styles. The world around us is rich in literacy, so it's important to identify the information that surrounds us!

## Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

### Waffleomatics

Title: *Narwhal's School of Awesomeness*  
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to school. When they all



get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold. Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Waffleomatics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn't have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

## Yoona's Review



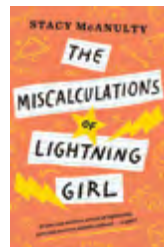
Yoona C.

### The Math Girl

Title: *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

Author: Stacy McAnulty

The main character's name is Lucy. Lucy was struck by lightning. She loves math, and is actually a genius with math! Lucy



most of all loves pi. If she doesn't sit, stand 3 times pi appears and keeps going in her head. Lucy is homeschooled and lives with her Grandmother. She is ready to go to college, but her grandmother insists and forces her to go to middle school for at least 1 year. Her grandmother says to make 1 friend, join one activity, and read one book. Later on, the school has a project where you have to help places, or people in need. Lucy and her friends plan to help a dog shelter. She later finds a dog named Cutie Pi and instantly falls in love. Lucy's Grandmother soon finds a school that is good for her intelligence, but she's not sure if she wants to go...Does Lucy decide to leave the school and friends? I like this book because there are a lot of changes in this book, which makes it more interesting.

Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

## Sean's Book Review



Sean

### The Tomb of a Dead Emperor

*The Tyrant's Tomb* is the fourth book in Rick Riordan's series, Trials of Apollo. Apollo (aka Lester Papadopoulos) was banished from Mount Olympus (home of the Greek Gods) by the



almighty Zeus. During his exile, he experienced many adventures and losses. Meg, his 12 year-old gifted assistant, travels with him to a Roman demi-god camp, where they are greeted by lots of old war friends. Apollo has a vision and tells the camp to prepare for a gruesome war caused by two evil Roman emperors, both with whom Apollo had treacherously fought recently. He then needs to go on a dangerous journey investigating a Roman ghost tomb for crucial information. The vivid details of the battle preparation and fighting scenes are riveting. Overall, this book is a solid 5/5 and I hope you eventually read this amazing series!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

## Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

### Hideout at the Museum

Title: *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Author: E. L. Konigsburg

What do you think that the museum is for? There is a girl who thinks a museum is good for hiding. Claudia



Kincaid has complaints about

her responsibilities at home and the things that make her uncomfortable. She decides to run away from home and makes a plan to go to the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York to hide so that nobody can find her. She leaves home and takes one of her brothers, Jamie, because he has some money that she needs to go there. Finally, Claudia and Jamie enter the museum and find a place to hide. Now, they start their adventure at the museum.

Can they keep hiding at the museum? Or will they get caught by the guards? What will happen to them at the museum? This book will lead you into the mysteries and adventures. Let's dive into it.

Taegyong K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

## Tyson's Book Review



**Tyson**

### Monsters aren't real...are they?

Percy Jackson's *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It's also the start to the Percy Jackson series and what a



start it is! I've read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have heard of the series but if you haven't, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kick out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to take care and play with Chewie, his dog.

## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Lovable Shih-Tzu, Yum-Yum

*Say Good-Bye* by Laurie Halse Anderson is book 5 of 17 in the Vet Volunteers series. It is about Yum-Yum, a small Shih-Tzu therapy dog. Yum-Yum visits children with cancer at the hospital to cheer them up with his cuteness



and tricks. Kids LOVE him. Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is also found to have cancer. Jane (Yum-Yum's owner) and Zoe (Jane's friend, a volunteer at the animal clinic) try their best to help him get better. Can Yum-Yum make it through?

This book is very heartwarming. It is full of suspense with excitement and sadness. Reading it makes me happy and sad at the same time. I have been asking my parents for a puppy for a few years. This story makes me understand that having a puppy won't just be cute and fun. If the puppy gets very sick, I may have to make hard decisions. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves animals.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

## Football Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put NLMUSD in the subject line.)

Entries must be received by **December 15, 2021**

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



Clipping	Linebacker	Scrimmage
Coach	Loss of	Special
Conversion	Down	Teams
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Defense	Personal	Tackle
Field Goal	Foul	Tailback
Flanker	Possession	Touchdown
Goal Post	Quarterback	Yardage
Interference	Roughing	
Kicker	Safety	

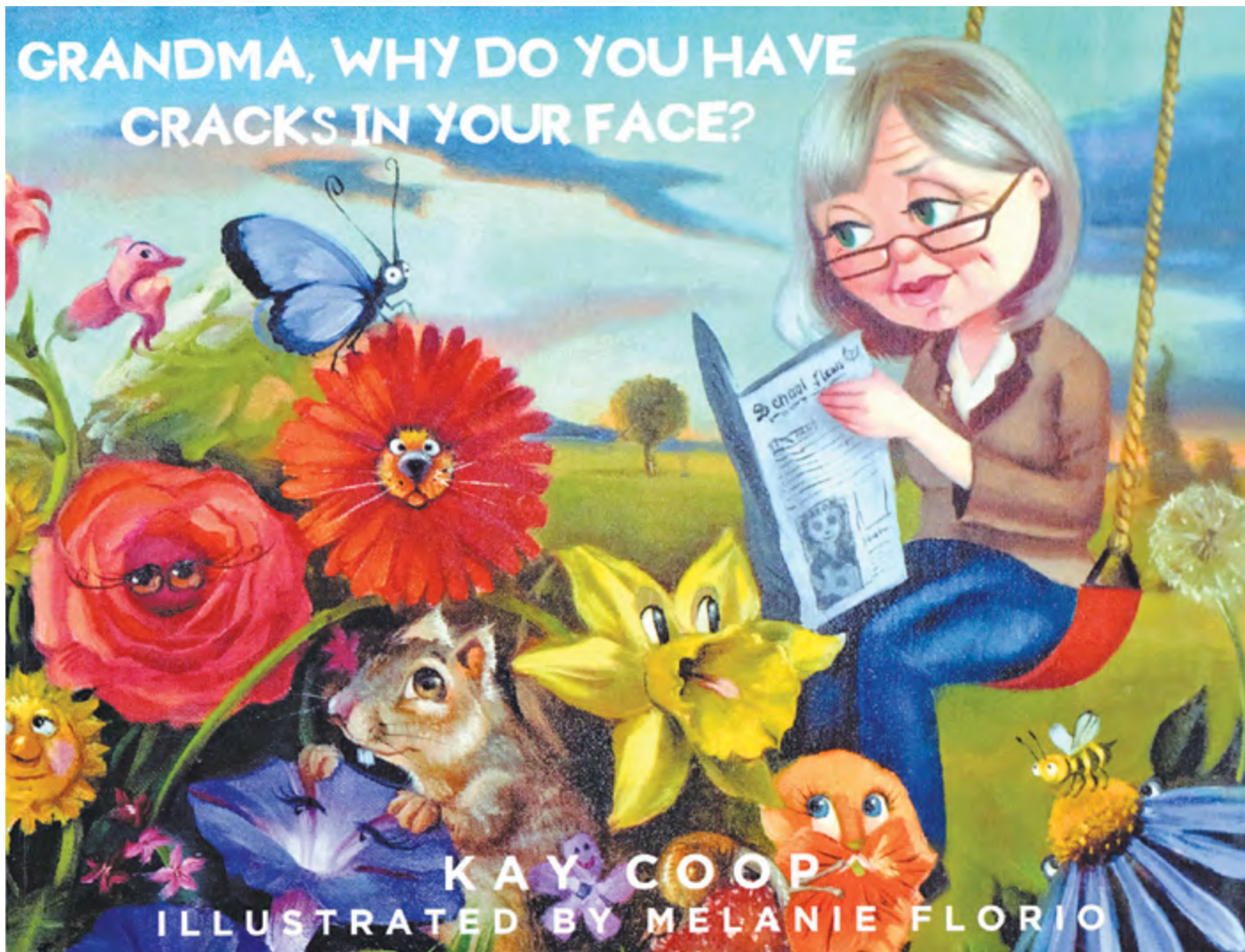
Congratulations to

**Peter Isaacson**

Winner of the May Word Search Contest!



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