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School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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MAY 2016

'Legends of Cannery Row'

By Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent

For one day the cafeteria at Chavez Elementary School in Norwalk was transformed into an opera house, with dozens of Chavez fourth- and fifth-grade music students joining professionals from the Los Angeles Opera to tell a story of immigrants struggling to overcome discrimination in a new world, with two performances of "Legends of Cannery Row," earlier this year.

The 30-minute opera, inspired by Puccini's "Turandot," concludes a five-week residency program in which world class L.A. Opera teaching artists instructed Chavez students in the intricacies of performing opera, while Chavez fourth- and fifth-grade teachers Sandra Montoya, Gina Townsend and music coordinator Penelope Barron integrated the opera into studies of

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'Leyendas de Cannery Row'

By Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendente

A principios de este año, por un día la cafetería de la Escuela Primaria Chavez en Norwalk fue transformada en un teatro de ópera, con docenas de estudiantes de música de Chávez de cuarto y quinto grado que se unieron a los profesionales de la Ópera de Los Ángeles para contar una historia de inmigrantes que luchan por superar la discriminación en un mundo nuevo, con dos actuaciones de "Leyendas de Cannery Row,".

La ópera de 30 minutos, inspirada por Puccini "Turandot", concluye un programa de residencia de cinco semanas en el cual artistas de enseñanza de clase mundial de la Ópera de Los Ángeles instruyeron a estudiantes de la Chávez en las complejidades de la interpretación de ópera, mientras que las maestras de Chávez de cuarto y quinto grado

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L.A. Opera performers with Chavez Elementary 5th graders perform in "Cannery Row."

los artistas de La Ópera de L. A. en conjunto con los estudiantes de 5º grado de la Primaria Chavez presentaron "Cannery Row."

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

Here at the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, we are engaged in conversation every day about how we can continue to improve education for all students. And on a regular basis, we take the time to take a close look at how we are going about it and ask ourselves if it's working.

Taking into account all the variables that go into making schools great for every child, there is a lot to look at. That's where our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) comes in. The LCAP is ...

Here's how it works: We define our priorities for student success each year, put identified strategies into action and then measure our progress. Then we use information about how things are — or aren't — working to update the next year's plan.

The LCAP is not created a handful of District administrators. Norwalk-La Mirada is in the midst of an extensive outreach plan to ensure our plan reflects the input gathered through many conversations with parents, staff and students. We will examine the most current research about how to best address our most pressing challenges, and all of our work will support our District's

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BOARD OF EDUCATION



Karen Morrison
President

It is hard to believe that planning is already underway for our Class of 2016 Graduation Day events! Our students and staff have worked hard, and we are proud of their many achievements. That hard work brought high honor to two Norwalk-La Mirada middle schools designated this spring as California Gold Ribbon Schools – the state's highest award for academic excellence – for achieving "model program" status in visual and performing arts, and science, technology engineering and math.

Meanwhile, our high school students have brought home gold medals in career tech competitions and state athletic championships.

Our goal here in Norwalk-La Mirada Unified is to prepare our students for college and exciting careers. The California Standards require our students become critical and creative thinkers, competent writers and discerning consumers of information in this digital age where the world is at their fingertips – all skills that will be needed for success.

Our Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian, is a strong academic leader for our District – ensuring the rigorous standards-based curriculum being taught in our schools is supported by continuous professional development of our teaching staff to best prepare students for college-level courses. In addition, our District is strongly committed to providing a variety of pathways to exciting and in-demand careers for our students. Our middle school magnet programs are designed to engage and inspire young people as they discover their passions. Our high schools students provide a rich array of career-tech opportunities to explore.

We are proud of our District's collaborative spirit, and believe it's a critical ingredient in producing the best possible education for our children.

Southeast Academy

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



MSgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Proud Cadets

At Southeast Academy there are so many highlights and accomplishments we all can be proud of. We continue to have 100% Graduation, 60% of our student on the honor roll, 96% attendance rate. Cadets competing in local and national drill competitions earning over twenty 1st and 3rd place trophies. College Acceptance letter and Scholarships have been awarded to many of our Seniors. I want to take this opportunity to thank our amazing Cadets, Teachers, Staff, Parents and Community Members for your commitment and dedication to excellence. We

are truly an outstanding school for the simple reason we all get involved, at every level, and are always looking for others to join us. If you are interested in attending or want to get involved at Southeast Academy reach out to us.



Varsity Unarmed Drill Team During Fontana Drill Competition.
Cadets are inspected by Marine Corps Drill Instructors.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As another school year comes to a close we congratulate the Class of 2016 and wish them the best as they venture out into the work force or on to higher learning.

In this issue you will read about the digital age, a College and Career Fair, a HoeDown, Critical Thinking in Math, and so much more...

Our next issue is October 12 in time to bring you the excellence directly from the classroom. Until then, have a wonderful summer and remember to include the library in your activities.

School News Roll Call

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Covering the
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SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

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



Laurel Parker
Director

Giving Back a Head Start

Recently, the Ramona Preschool auditorium was festooned with colorful paintings of trees and children's handprints created by the preschoolers in honor of the program's 50th anniversary, celebrated in late February. Among the highlights of the program were three Head Start alumni who shared some of their earliest childhood memories of learning to speak English and making new friends. One alumna, Odelia Peña, is now a teacher in the program.

"I wanted to teach Head Start once I graduated so I could inspire children to strive for everything, as my teachers did for me," she said. "It has been an honor serving parents and students for the past 25 years and

seeing my students graduate, go to college, and become productive members of society."

The Los Angeles County Office of Education and NLMUSD officials along with representatives from the state Senate, state Assembly, and the county Board of Supervisors congratulated district staff for the high-quality program.



Preschool Program Director, Laurel Parker, Superintendent Dr. Danielian, and Board President Karen Morrison at the celebration.

Adult School

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



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

Our Students Meet An Author

The students who come to the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School to improve their English language skills also form strong friendships in a community of learners much like themselves. Most of them are new to American culture, but they all have similar goals and dreams.

These students were recently given a real treat when former ESL student (and now author) Paula Pereira came to our campus to share her personal journey. From a 19-year-old teenager who left Brazil to pursue a dream in the United States, to her completion of a master's degree, this renowned librarian is a champion of adult

learners. And she has a message that encourages other immigrants to commit to a rigorous study of language.

Our students have been greatly inspired by Ms. Pereira's poignant story, and they are eager to write their own accounts by using the writing skills they have learned at our school. As an added bonus, they will also be able to self-publish their works by using the classrooms' iPads.



An ESL student gets to meet author Paula Pereira.

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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.

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www.nlmusd.org/preschool

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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

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



Dr. Michael Gotto
Principal

Benton Shines

Benton Middle School is an award-winning visual and performing arts magnet.

As a recent recipient of the California Gold Ribbon Award, Benton continues to cultivate a culture of creativity to help fulfill its mission of inspiring and empowering students to achieve academic excellence in a strong, creative, visual, and performing arts environment.

To this end we have entered countless competitions and have produced spectacular productions. For many years Benton has also participated in the annual Norwalk Artastic event. This year students from our visual arts classes entered the competition and earned

several accolades, including five first-place awards, four second-place awards, and four third-place awards.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the passion and expertise of our talented staff. They work hard to elevate student achievement both inside and outside the classroom. We are proud to embed the arts into our core program as we continue to implement the Common Core State Standards.



Benton 8th Graders Dianna Marquez and Alyna Valdivia win 1st place for their fashion piece and a \$50 scholarship each.

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

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



Bob Easton
Principal

Exploring New Interests

“Discover your passion, Create your future” is the motto at Corvallis Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Magnet. Throughout the year, students have many opportunities to discover areas of interest and engage in activities to develop those interests.

Recently, all students attended career presentations from professionals in a variety of fields, including engineering, visual and performing arts, sports, military, and law enforcement.

Bobby Gene, a Hollywood acting school instructor, worked with students to get involved in commercials and television. The Career Center continues to provide a place for students to explore all types of jobs and

personal interests while learning more about colleges and schools that offer preparation programs and relevant majors.

All year, students take elective classes, which help them to discover and experience new skills and interests. Middle school is a great time to try out and learn about many different things, and Corvallis is the place where it happens!



Student Martin Peru learns about special effects make-up from Make-up Artist, Denice Paxton.

Chavez *Elementary School*

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



Gabriela Galvez-Reyna
Principal

ASES 'Making the World a Better Place' Fair

Chavez Elementary is very proud of the work our students are doing in the after-school program. Using project-based learning, each first- through sixth-grade class presented on a real-world topic that integrated Common Core writing skills and the character traits of humanity, respect and responsibility. They researched topics on endangered animals, how to make communities safer, segregation, animal cruelty and natural disasters.

However, the focus is teaching their classmates how to make a difference rather than focusing on the negative aspects. The projects are also intended to help each student become a critical thinker, creative, collaborative and a builder of communication skills. At Chavez Elementary, we are noticing how the students involved with the program are transferring some of those skills to their daily classroom environment.



Students had the opportunity to work in small groups and present their projects to their parents and community.

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Living in a Digital Age

We live in an ever-changing world, and technology plays a key role in all of our lives. As a result, it is becoming increasingly more important to begin exposing our students to technology early in their education. At Dolland Elementary School, we are working toward developing our students computer skills.

Leading this charge is Mr. Aaron Parral, who is teaching coding to our kindergarten and first-grade students. Coding enables students to “speak” computer language, which allows them to program computers by telling them what to do. The

most remarkable thing is that this is done through play, which makes it engaging to our students! With Dash and Dot, two buddy robots, students learn the fundamentals of coding. The complexity builds as students gain experience. We look forward to seeing these skills grow in our students.



Dolland students meet Dash.

Go, Huskies!

Dulles *Elementary School*

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



Robin Padgett
Principal

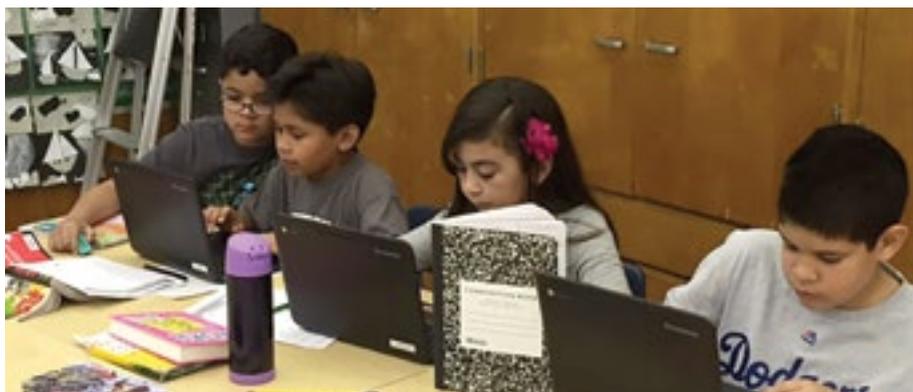
A Wealth of Technology

Dulles Elementary School offers a wealth of technology for our students to enhance and extend their learning!

All of our students have the opportunity to work in our computer lab every day! Our teachers use technology on a daily basis in their instruction. Each classroom has multiple computers as well as 10 to 15 electronic tablets. This year, we added a cart of 60 netbooks to our campus, which are used for interactive writing, social studies, science, and math lessons! We also teach keyboarding skills in first through fifth grades to support the use of technology. Our fifth-graders have developed admirable typing skills!

Our teachers integrate technology into their daily lessons to move our instruction into the 21st century, preparing our students for college and careers in the future. These devices support active engagement, participation in groups, frequent interaction, and immediate feedback.

It's an exciting time at Dulles!



Mr. Craddock's third graders revise their writing on Google Docs using Chromebooks!

Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

A Magnificent Program

The visual and performing arts are alive, well, and thriving at Edmondson Elementary School!

Music is the vehicle, and all of our students are buckled up and on the road learning how to read and play, courtesy of our illustrious teacher, Mr. Bryan Ramirez.

In fact, our musical instruction is standards-based, hands-on, and grade-level appropriate. Each grade span is also learning how to play a different instrument, and loving it! As we all know,

music does wonders for the brain, and Edmondson students are no exception. Even the principal got in on the action!

Thanks to Ms. Karen Calhoun, our VAPA Coordinator, the Edmondson Eagles are truly blessed to have a magnificent program. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, it did. We recently received word that we will be the proud recipients of more percussion instruments for the 2016–2017 school year!



Eagles fly high with music by their side.

Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Exceptional Learning Experiences

Eastwood staff is working hard to go beyond the basics and provide each student with exceptional learning experiences throughout the school year. We are committed to quality professional development that includes grade-level-team curriculum planning, research-based instructional practices, coaching sessions and collaborative response to student-intervention needs. Teachers routinely monitor student progress and use data to inform daily instruction and intervention sessions.

Students identified as English learners receive 30 minutes of daily small-group instruction using research-based curriculum for developing English. There are many opportunities for students to experience hands-on learning activities. Math, social studies and science curricula are brought to life through gardening projects, the hatching of chicks, and observing the life cycle of trout and butterflies. There are field trips to the theater, zoo, tide pools, city hall and the mission, along with attending weeklong fifth-grade science camp. Creating school traditions such as writing celebrations, Student of the Month awards, Spirit Sticks, Golden Eagle raffle in honor of building strong character, Academic Trimester Awards and High Five class recognition all help to create the positive learning atmosphere necessary for the success of all Eastwood students.

El Camino *High School*

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



Bill Seals
Principal

College and Career Fair

On Wednesday, March 16, El Camino High School hosted its annual College and Career Fair. We had over 25 representatives attend this event, and it was a huge success for our students. Various careers were represented, ranging from dentistry and public safety to diesel engine repair and fashion design.

The cities of La Mirada, Whittier, Downey, and Norwalk were also active participants. They provided information about the careers that are available in our surrounding communities.

Several local colleges were also on site to assist students with the process of enrollment at Cerritos College, Santa Ana College, Fullerton College, Spartan College, and Stanbridge College.

At the conclusion of the event, the presenters and students had the opportunity to eat lunch together and engage in informal conversations about their career opportunities. The El Camino Staff would like to thank our counseling department, especially Ms. Valarie Mejia, for taking on this huge task. It was truly a great event!



El Camino students exploring their postsecondary options!

Escalona *Elementary School*

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



Bonnie Lytle
Principal

Healthy Hoedown

Students at Escalona Elementary School receive a high-quality educational program that includes physical education and instruction in the visual and performing arts. At Escalona, we encourage the development healthy patterns of physical activity and art appreciation, which provide our students with physical, emotional, and social benefits. Recently, our third-grade teachers combined visual and performing arts with physical education to engage our students and their parents in a good, old-fashioned hoedown!

As third-grade physical education standards require, students learned about various folk dances, line dances, circle dances, and square dances. They practiced these dances and then, in accordance with the visual and performing arts standards, danced at our first Escalona Hoedown. Parents even got into the swing of things when they were invited to join the students in the final line dance of the day.

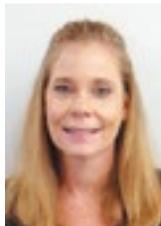
This enjoyable, fun-filled, and beneficial event is likely to become an annual tradition!



Escalona students are ready to square dance.

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Students Shine With Character

Students who demonstrate outstanding character get the opportunity to “Write with the Principal” each month. Students are served a cookie by Principal Burkholder and write to various people and organizations. This year, students have written to people and places such as a cancer patient, the military, staff members, and a convalescent home. They write genuine messages of hope and encouragement. Gardenhill students really show their true character through their writing!



Writing with principal.

Foster Road *Elementary School*

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



Salvador Villagomez
Principal

1st Annual Egg Hunt

The collaborative spirit was on display as Foster Road teachers, coaches, students, and PTA teamed up to host our first “Eggstravaganza Community Egg Hunt.” Our cooperative play program under the leadership of Coach Little coordinated the effort. Information was provided to attendees on how we are developing our own students as Junior Coaches. They serve as playground leaders encouraging active participation and modeling positive interactions. During our event, our Junior Coaches helped set up and man multiple games and activities. Our PTA provided raffle items and food. The event was open to the public.



Our Foster Road Junior Coaches help build a culture of inclusiveness and enthusiasm at recess and lunch.

The attendance of over 500 was a reflection of our growing community enthusiasm and involvement. Kids walked away with prizes and smiles. This event offered one example of our continued team building efforts at bringing all stakeholders together to create a more enriching educational experience.

Glazier *Elementary School*

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



Jean Grabowski
Principal

Critical Thinking in Mathematics

Glazier Elementary School believes in arming our community of learners with knowledge to empower life-long skills. This year, our phenomenal teaching staff has participated in professional development and learned Pictorial Math strategies lead by author, Guillermo Mendieta. Teachers and students have been enthusiastically applying engaging strategies to challenging mathematical problems ever since. Our Gladiators LOVE math! Glazier hosted an unparalleled Family Math Night to a packed house of parents, students, teachers, and instructional coaches to involve our community and share these diverse strategies. Parents, students, and teachers used math boards to demonstrate pictorial and numeric representations of mathematical equations.



Parents and students collaborate and share critical thinking strategies.

Glenn *High School*

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



Greg Puccia
Principal

Highlighting Our Talents

John Glenn High School is having an excellent second semester. Our students and teachers are showing what they know on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests and Advanced Placement (AP) tests, and our seniors are looking forward to graduation. Teachers, counselors and students have visited the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District middle schools to help eighth-graders choose courses and extracurricular programs for their freshman year.

Counselors have worked with the ninth- through 11th-grade students to develop schedules for the 2016–2017 school year. The counselors are also helping seniors finalize their college plans, financial aid packets, and other post-secondary plans. Eagle seniors are receiving acceptance letters from all the University of California and California State University campuses as well as private schools all over the country.

Spring extracurricular activities are in full swing. Baseball, softball, track, tennis, and volleyball are all off to winning starts. Each program has seen great success during the pre-season, and all are expected to make solid runs at CIF playoff spots. The Music Department has showcased their talents at a number of competitions and continues to be a force in the Southern California music circuit.

If your child is interested in becoming an Eagle, please contact the school directly to arrange a visit. We look forward to serving the students of Norwalk and providing excellent opportunities for all students.

Go, Eagles!

Johnston *Elementary School*

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



Angela Togia
Principal

Sharing the Commitment

One of our district focus areas is college and career readiness. At D.D. Johnston, we want our Roadrunners to run a journey of academic success that will lead them to a brighter future.

During our recent district-wide College Week, our students started off by “adopting” a college, researching it, and then decorating their classroom doors. In honor of Dr. Seuss, our parents, district personnel, and community partners also read to various classrooms. Later that day we held our third annual

Roadrunners Read at Recess event, where parents could read to their children.

Our PTA also donated a brand new book to every student, and our students all received a wristband with the inscription “D.D. Johnston Roadrunners College Bound.” Our students wrapped up the week with Career Day, where they came dressed as what they would like to be when they grow up.

At Johnston, our events and activities demonstrate the kind of commitment we have to making our students college and career ready!



Johnston students dressed for their future careers.

Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Sara Siemens
Principal

Students Serve the Community

It is a core value of Hutchinson Middle School to develop community awareness in our students. Eighth-grade students are challenged at the beginning of every school year to complete service learning projects. Student presentations of these projects occur every spring.

Community volunteer service projects allow students to practice academic learning outside of the classroom, to develop critical-thinking skills while solving real-world problems, and to consider problems and social issues in new ways. Community



Hutchinson students present their Volunteer Community Service Projects to their classmates.

service projects also develop students’ teamwork and decision-making skills as well as their leadership abilities.

This year, Hutchinson students volunteered at local elementary and preschools, churches, and senior citizens’ facilities. Students worked with special needs children, city sports programs, and various environmental projects. As a school community, Hutchinson also participated in school-wide projects for families in need of clothing and food and raised funds for various other local charities.

La Mirada *High School*

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



Darryl Brown
Principal

The Future is Golden at La Mirada High School

On Wednesday, April 13, 2016 The Matador Scholar Association (honors club) of La Mirada High School hosted the second annual Junior Honor Guard Ceremony inside the gymnasium. School staff, families, and friends attended this unique ceremony that celebrated the top 50 academic students of the Class of 2017.

Each student was given a golden gown that they will wear during the June 17th commencement exercises for the Class of 2016. Many students are enrolled in multiple Advanced Placement courses while still participating in extra-curricular activities. Christie Tan, a member of La Mirada’s Junior Honor Guard, when asked about the ceremony’s value stated, “It is the culmination of talent, effort, perseverance, and validates the hard work that each of us in the top 50 have put in.”

La Mirada High School would like to thank teacher Melissa Naudin for coordinating a wonderful evening and for serving as the advisor for MSA.



La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Terry Pace
Principal

Together We Can!

At La Pluma Elementary School, our parent partnership is a vital part of our mission. On any given day, you will find parents sprinkled throughout classrooms supporting small groups, managing centers, preparing materials, assisting in our labs, and coordinating programs that benefit our staff, students, and community. During events such as our Harvest Carnival, Grandparents' Day, College Week, the Jog-a-thon, and numerous La Pluma Dines Out nights, our PTA works hard to support ongoing programs and create community outreach opportunities on behalf of our staff and students.

PTA has expanded their communication efforts this year. You can find La Pluma on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! Also, their fundraising efforts continue to soar as they work to exemplify our motto of "Hand in Hand, Together We Can!"

We salute our parent partnership and all that it brings to our staff, students, and community!



La Pluma P.T.A. Board working "Hand in Hand" on behalf of our students!

Lampton *Elementary School*

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



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Budding Builders

Lampton Elementary School's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program provides developmentally appropriate and challenging instruction that takes students beyond the traditional preschool program. Our TK students participate in lessons to promote the development of social skills, language usage, motor skills, and academics. By working on all these areas, we prepare "the whole child" for success in kindergarten and beyond.

One example of how multiple skills are blended into cohesive units is the students' recent age-appropriate glimpse into architecture. Students learned about historic and iconic buildings and practiced using different kinds of materials to construct things. They used giant blocks to construct their own designs, first discussing their plans and



Transitional Kindergarten students building a community with roads, tunnels, and bridges as part of a building unit.

then collaborating to construct them. They learned about balance and structural integrity through experimentation. Plans are in the works to create a designated building area on the kindergarten playground.

Lampton is currently accepting enrollment for TK through fifth grade for the 2016-2017 school year.

Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Mike Garcia
Principal

Life Learning and Great Honors

Our annual weeklong College and Career Week took place in April.

Professionals from many different careers came to educate our students about gaining entry into their specific fields and what their jobs entailed. It was a valuable experience.

A group of 63 eighth-graders had an amazing spring break during the American Heritage East Coast trip to New York and the District of Columbia. They learned a ton about U.S. government and history.

The Los Alisos seventh- and eighth-grade Pentathlon teams competed at Bolsa Grande in March. They did an outstanding job. Our students and teacher coaches worked hard to prepare for the competition, and we know their hard work paid off by the medals handed out at a mid-April assembly.

We are also very proud of the Los Alisos boys' and girls' basketball team for taking first place in the March sports tournament. Our soccer team placed third. Congratulations, and great job!



Our 8th graders visiting the nations capital!

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

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



Dr. Christina Stanley
Principal

Work Hard, Play Hard

Arthur Ashe said, “You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits, that is real joy.” At Los Coyotes Middle School, our students eagerly prepare for the middle school sports tournaments held several times each year. In March, our boys’ and girls’ basketball teams and our soccer team put their hours of practice, preparation, and “Work Hard, Play Hard” mentality to the test as they accepted the challenge from both the unseasonably warm day and their competitors from NLMUSD middle schools. Sportsmanship, character, and leadership were evident on every court and pitch. Rivalries were renewed, champions were celebrated, and new memories were created.



LCMS boys’ basketball drives down the court as the cheerleaders root them on!

Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Maureen Bixby
Principal

Flag Day Celebration

In February, hundreds of students, parents and staff celebrated Flag Day in collaboration with the Norwalk Lion’s Club. We were honored to have district, state and local dignitaries supporting our community. NLMUSD Board president Karen Morrison, Board member Chris Pfanzer, School Superintendent Dr. Danielian, Lion’s Club president Marcus Gomez—a former Moffitt student himself—and Lion’s Club members joined in the festivities.



Moffitt 3rd Grade students celebrating Flag Day.

The campus was a sea of waving flags and red, white and blue attire. Kindergarteners through fifth-graders performed patriotic songs directed by music teacher Desiree Quiles. We were joined by Southeast Academy cadets who presented the colors and student Janely Avalos leading the flag salute. John Glenn High School band and color guard led by Director Frank Hinojuz performed the National Anthem and several patriotic songs. The Lion’s Club generously donated flags to all students and shared the flag’s history and meaning. It was an exciting, educational and fun-filled day at Moffitt!

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Flag Day Celebration to Honor Our Nation

On March 10, 2016, over 1000 people filed onto Morrison Elementary School’s blacktop to celebrate Flag Day. Students from the Southeast Academy Color Guard presented the colors.

All Morrison students received flags that were generously donated by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Under the direction of Dave Yamamoto, students from Corvallis performed Thunder & Lightning Polka by Johann Strauss Jr., and Colors of the Wind from Disney’s Pocahontas. Conducted by music teacher Bryan Ramirez, our 4th graders sang the Star Spangled Banner, America, This Land is Your Land and the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Our 1st graders got on stage and sang We Are America.

This was a wonderful celebration and a community event that, with the help of our Morrison PTA, was a rousing success.



New River *Elementary School*

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

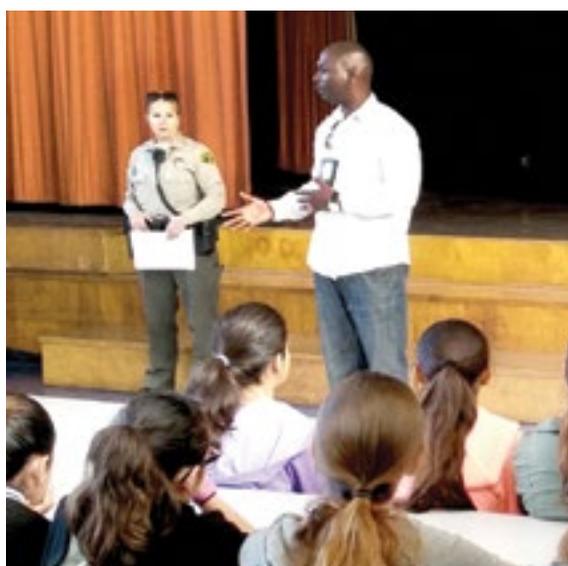


David Hoffman
Principal

Two Sides to Social Media

As technology increasingly becomes part of our daily lives, accompanying issues are also on the rise. Here at New River, we promote safe and responsible use of technology and social media.

In April, we hosted a fifth-grade assembly featuring guest speakers from the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department. Detective Kamer and Officer Mitchell spoke to students about the responsible use of cell phones, computers and social media, along with possible consequences of inappropriate usage. They shared stories of situations they’ve dealt with and how



Los Angeles Sheriffs share a safety message with New River 5th graders.

unforeseen consequences have impacted the lives of students and families. The officers also took questions from our students to help round out their cautionary message.

Our fifth-graders are now well informed about the responsible use and potential pitfalls of technology and social media. Our students greatly appreciated the visit, and everyone left the event with Sheriff’s Department bracelets and bookmarks adorned with inspirational messages about safe, responsible behavior.

Norwalk *High School*

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



Dr. Ryan Smith
Principal

A College-Going Culture

Spring is the best time of year at Norwalk High School! As we wind the year down, it is incredibly rewarding to hear where our seniors—the Class of 2016—will be continuing their education next year. Our students have been accepted to some of the best universities in the world, and our school community is so proud of them. Here are just some of the schools our seniors will be attending: University of California, Los Angeles; University of Southern California; University of California, Berkeley; Johns Hopkins University; Stanford University; University of California,

Santa Barbara; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Riverside; California State University, Long Beach; California State University, Fullerton; California Polytechnic University, Pomona; California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; and San Diego State University.

We are extremely proud of the fact that each year more and more of our graduates continue their education in college. We recently verified that 80 percent of the Class of 2015 enrolled in college, an all-time high! This is a clear sign that the efforts our staff has made to build a college-going culture are paying off. Our commitment to continuously improve our instructional program, increase and personalize student support, and provide equity and access to programs such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test and Advanced Placement programs is resulting in greater outcomes for all of our students.

As we move toward graduation, please join me in wishing the Class of 2016 nothing but the best in their future endeavors! Once a Lancer, always a Lancer!

Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Helping Others

Great job Sanchez students for pulling together to help others. Students in pre-K through 5th grade collected pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills to help children with blood cancers. A total of \$1,224.89 was collected during the two week collection drive. Students collected from families and friends, many of the staff donated as well. The money will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thank you to our amazing PTA board, who organized the event, collected the donations and is putting together a pasta party for the class who collected the most money. Mrs. McDonald's third grade class will be participating in the pasta party for collecting \$153.00, the largest classroom amount. Congratulations to all the students for working toward making a positive contribution in the lives of other.



Students are putting their coins into the donation book to help children with blood cancers.

Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



Makara Sar
Principal

The Power of Play

Nuffer Elementary School was proud to partner with an educational program to host a Dodgeball Jamboree for 10 schools.

One on Saturday in April, nine different NLMUSD elementary schools and one BUSD school came together to experience the power of play. The students had the chance to play four different types of dodgeball games, including Castle, Medic, Ultimate, and traditional dodgeball. Parents and families had the opportunity to cheer on each student as they participated. During halftime the parents also had a chance to play against the students.

Everyone had a great time playing together just for the joy of the game.

Our wonderful PTA was also on hand to sell breakfast goodies and raise money to help send our incoming fifth-grade students to Outdoor Science Camp in October. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please visit our office and ask about how you can become a PTA member.



Nuffer students are practicing their Medic Dodgeball with Coach Calvin.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Dr. Susan Newcomb
Principal

The Many Ways We Succeed

Attendance continues to be one highlight among many of Waite's successes. Waite's attendance has been number one among middle schools for almost half the school year: Our 8:55 a.m. start time has helped provide various academic and social supports and enrichments once campus opens at 8:00 a.m. Students have plenty of time to eat breakfast, play sports, and use the library or media center for assignments and enrichment. Having students in class on time, ready to learn, is crucial in creating our engaging learning environments.

Our weekly Saturday School Program has also helped increase attendance rates, deter inappropriate student behaviors as a disciplinary intervention tool, and create structured academic time for four hours of extended learning. One-on-one time with each student reinforces staff support and student connection to Waite.

Several students extend their school day through our after-school enrichment program on-site. Approximately 30 percent of our students stay after school up to 6:00 p.m. enjoying organized sports, elective rotations and supervised homework and academic time. iPads and time with our Cal State Fullerton Math and Science Ambassadors help maximize academic success and build firm foundations for various concepts.

These items and the continued dedication of our total staff have combined to drive GPAs and academic assessments to points at which students prove to be equipped for a smooth transition into high school success and beyond! It's a great time to be a Panther—we invite you to come by and experience it for yourself! Also follow our posts on Twitter @waitepanther, and check our website.

history, geography and human rights. Chavez is one of only 13 L.A.-area elementary schools to participate in this year's residency.

"The opera brilliantly blends creative expression with the actuality of the immigrant experience, which resonates greatly within our community," Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "We are extremely grateful to the L.A. Opera for providing our students with the opportunity to participate in such a joyous and significant production. Bravo!"

A packed house of students, parents, faculty and administrators delighted in the humorously thrilling tale of an elementary school class field trip to the famous Cannery Row in Monterey to learn the history of Chinese immigrants, where the sudden appearance of Princess Turandot begins a discussion – in song – bringing to life the plight of those who came from abroad to work in the mid-19th century Bay Area fishing trade.

"This is our fifth year presenting a student opera, which we have found is an excellent way to engage students in a collaborative educational experience, then present what they have learned to their schoolmates, parents and the community," Chavez principal Gabriela Galvez-Reyna said. "We truly value the tremendous work done by our exceptional teachers in preparing the students, especially our music coordinator Penelope Barron."

The L.A. Opera provides the "learning-by-doing" in-school opera program as a way to teach music and theater fundamentals to students who, in the process, learn self-discipline and cooperation while working as an ensemble. In addition, teachers receive an opportunity to support student exposure to the arts and integrate the themes of the opera into a comprehensive lesson plan.

"Norwalk-La Mirada is committed to providing every available academic resource to our students to ensure they grow up to be life-long learners," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. "Not all educational opportunities will come in conventional forms. By encouraging our kids to explore their creative sides, they gain confidence in their ability to challenge themselves in new ways."

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Hasmik Danielian
Superintendent

key focus areas of high-quality teaching and learning and college- and career-readiness for all students.

Some of our challenges:

In Norwalk-La Mirada, we have a significant number of students who are learning English, and meeting their unique needs is one of the priorities in our LCAP. Also, we are looking at ways to provide extra support to students who struggle in school by having programs and services in place that address the academic as well as social-emotional needs of our children.

How are we doing?

To show you how our current LCAP is shaping up, I invite you to attend our May 23 Board of Education meeting where we will hold a public hearing on the plan.

Not only will we look at how we're doing so far this year, we'll also talk about the strategies that make a difference and where we need to do more work.

We'll also discuss the programs we are evaluating, what our LCAP goals and priorities actually look like in our schools, and how we plan to meet those goals. Finally, we'll look at how our LCAP influences the budget planning currently underway.

Through the inclusive process of outreach and reviewing all stakeholders' input, Norwalk-La Mirada USD will develop a sound plan that takes into account our District's unique needs as well as its strengths.

Sandra Montoya, Gina Townsend y la coordinadora de musical Penélope Barron integraron la ópera en los estudios de historia, geografía y los derechos humanos. Chávez es una de tan solo 13 escuelas primarias del área de Los Ángeles que participan en la residencia de este año.

"La ópera brillantemente combina la expresión creativa con la realidad de la experiencia de los inmigrantes, con lo cual en una gran medida se relaciona dentro de nuestra comunidad", dijo la Superintendente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada la Dr. Hasmik Danielian. "Estamos muy agradecidos con la Ópera de L. A. por proporcionar a nuestros estudiantes la oportunidad de participar en una producción tan jubilosa y significativa. ¡Bravo!"

Una casa llena de estudiantes, padres, personal y administradores deleitados con la emocionante leyenda humorística de una excursión de escuela primaria a la famosa Cannery Row en Monterey para aprender la historia de los inmigrantes chinos, donde la aparición repentina de la princesa Turandot comienza una discusión – en la canción – dando vida al apuro de los que vinieron del extranjero para trabajar en la industria pesquera en el Área de la Bahía a mediados del siglo 19.

"Este es nuestro quinto año presentando una ópera de estudiantes, lo que hemos encontrado es una excelente manera de involucrar a los estudiantes en una experiencia educativa de colaboración, y después presentar lo que han aprendido a sus compañeros de escuela, padres y a la comunidad", dijo la directora de Chavez Gabriela Gálvez-Reyna. "Realmente valoramos el tremendo trabajo realizado por nuestros maestros excepcionales en la preparación de los estudiantes, especialmente a nuestra coordinadora musical Penélope Barron".

La Ópera de L. A. ofrece el programa de Ópera dentro de la escuela "aprender-haciendo", como una manera de enseñar los fundamentos de música y teatro a los estudiantes quienes, en el proceso, aprenden autodisciplina y la cooperación, mientras trabajan como un conjunto. Además, los maestros reciben una oportunidad para apoyar la exposición de las artes a los estudiantes e integrar los temas de la ópera en un plan de estudio integral.

"Norwalk-La Mirada esta comprometido a proporcionar todos los recursos académicos disponibles a nuestros estudiantes para asegurar que crezcan a ser aprendices de por vida", dijo la Presidente de la Junta de Educación de NLMUSD Karen Morrison. "No todas las oportunidades educativas vendrán en formas convencionales. Al alentar a nuestros hijos a explorar sus lados creativos, obtienen la confianza de su habilidad de retarse a sí mismos en nuevas maneras".

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