

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Districts of: Centralia, Cypress, & Savanna

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## Centralia is Flourishing and Transforming

By Norma E. Martinez,  
Superintendent  
Centralia School District

We at Centralia Elementary School District (ESD) take great pride in our history of transformation and innovation.

We are honored to note that Centralia ESD was the first district in California to provide free textbooks to students back in 1904, and we can fast forward to today and take pride in the fact that we continue to offer more than what the state expects of us. While California mandates compulsory education for all children ages 6–18, we provide quality all-day kindergarten and transitional kindergarten programs to our students as a way of preparing them for the rigors of future studies. As we look into the future, we know that simply teaching children to memorize facts must be balanced with the skills of critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration—the Four Cs.

On August 8, scholars across all eight schools eagerly arrived at the gates for the first day of school. Thanks to the support of our community’s passage of Measure N, we continue our transformation as a district through the modernization of classrooms designed with the



purpose of fostering the skills of the future today. Fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms were upgraded with new carpeting, paint, window coverings, and brand-new furniture for students, including flexible seating options and furniture on wheels for ease of collaboration. Each classroom has an enhanced audio system to permit students to hear a teacher’s voice clearly and to improve communication and a two-screen display unit, which allows the teacher or a student to “cast” the image from a personal device onto the large screens. Third- through sixth-grade classrooms have one-to-one device usage for our scholars.

What is next in our transformation? This year, we will turn our attention to modernizing our third- and fourth-grade grade classrooms. Most exciting of all is that we have a teaching force equipped and excited to engage in meaningful teaching and learning that prepares our students for a “the future is now” society.

### Academics

Soon, California will release the student test scores for the California Assessment of Student Progress and Performance (CAASPP) test. We have a proven history of demonstrating higher proficiency rates than the county and state, and we do not expect this year to be any different. We are very proud that our schools enjoy tremendous support for strong academic programs from our

families and that we are providing positive outcomes for our scholars. These strong programs are bolstered by a rigorous instructional program and strong intervention supports for our scholars.

We provide a five-star quality state preschool program for all eligible children in our district, located at Danbrook, Centralia and San Marino Schools. We offer a weekly Learning Link program, free of charge, to all families of young children (birth to age four) at Walter Knott Education Center. Each of our schools is funded through our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to provide afterschool interventions for students who need additional support. Additionally, we ensure that schools that have demonstrated needs also receive additional staff to support students during the school day. And, because we know that our best tool to improve instruction is quality, great first instruction, conducted in the classroom by a well-trained teacher, we invest in teacher training and are so pleased with the high number of teachers who are selecting Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) as instructional strategies for their classes.

See **CENTRALIA** • Page 5

## Back to School!





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**Covering the  
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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher

Welcome back to another school year. This is our 12th year publishing the excellence from Cypress/Centralia/Savanna School Districts and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is November 7th.

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Healthy Media Habits for Young Kids

By Caroline Knorr

Despite pediatricians’ ongoing recommendations to curb kids’ screen use, the *Common Sense Census: Media Use by Kids Age Zero to Eight 2017* found that families with young kids are buying up mobile devices, using screens before bed, and streaming tons of video. But plenty of parents think their own kids’ media use is perfectly fine, and most believe that on the whole, it’s good for kids. It’s time for new rules.

Not *no* rules, just different ones — you may be OK for now, but studies show that media use steadily increases as kids get older, and there are risks to overexposure. Changing your approach to screen management before the tween and teen years will increase the chances that the stuff they’re interacting with is (mostly) good for them. It also allows you to think more deeply about how, when, and why you want your family to be using technology, so it enhances and enriches your lives.

Interestingly, the census found that even with all the new things kids are doing, their total daily amount of screen time hasn’t changed that much in six years. That’s good news because as long as you have basic limits, you can focus on choosing quality media and tech to make screen time really count. And with many parents reporting that media use benefits their kids’ learning and creativity, the new rules call for co-viewing and co-playing to boost those positive benefits (rather than screaming at your kids to turn off the computer).

Some parents ask: Why restrict media at all? Because honestly, nothing takes the place of the things that are proven to be best for little kids’ bodies and minds, like talking, playing, growing bored, and learning how to do stuff -- especially in the crucial early years of a kid’s life. At the end of the day, it’s not your doctor you have to answer to -- it’s your kids. Media and tech are and will continue to be huge in their lives. Start now to create a balanced approach that keeps everyone healthy.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)



Monkey In My Chair Program



**Anna Baumgartner**  
*Psy.D., Psychologist and School Reintegration Coordinator, Jonathan Jaques Children’s Cancer Institute, Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach*

The Jonathan Jaques Children’s Cancer Institute at MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach provides a School Reintegration Program, with help from Monkey In My Chair — a free program partnered with the Cure Starts Now Foundation, that helps ease the transition of both school separation and school re-entry for children with cancer. The Monkey In My Chair program helps young cancer patients stay connected with their school and, in turn, helps classmates better understand the challenges of fighting cancer.

Monkey In My Chair helps to fill a void for classmates while their fellow student needs to be absent due to medical reasons by sitting in the student’s desk while they’re gone. Monkey In My Chair provides a big plush monkey that can be given a name, wear a school uniform and even participate in the day’s activities.

Classroom visits and interactive presentations, conducted by care team members of the Jonathan Jaques Children’s Cancer Institute, help inform students and confront anxieties about their classmate’s diagnosis, including misconceptions like whether

cancer is contagious. Students learn to welcome their classmate back to school post-cancer.

The Jonathan Jaques Children’s Cancer Institute works with patients, parents, teachers and other members of the school to help present the Monkey In My Chair Program to classmates and to help everyone learn about cancer and the impact it can have.

For patients affected by cancer, this collaboration between the Jonathan Jaques Children’s Cancer Institute, families and schools is crucial for their successful transition back to school.



Melanie Hackett, 4-years-old, acute lymphoblastic leukemia patient

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A trip to a South Bay emergency room confirmed 4-year-old Melanie, a lover of dancing and unicorns, needed pediatric specialty care. Her parents chose to transport her to the children’s hospital closest to them, MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach. There, Melanie was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the Jonathan Jaques Children’s Cancer Institute. Our care team fought by Melanie’s side throughout her journey, helping her spirit sparkle so that she’d never lose her groove.

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# Centralia School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Norma E. Martinez**

Ms. Norma E. Martinez’ work in education extends to 29 years of service, beginning as a bilingual instructional assistant, teacher, resource teacher, master teacher, vice principal, principal, executive director, assistant superintendent, and is now the four-year proud Superintendent of the very successful Centralia Elementary School District.

A consummate leader, Ms. Martinez leads by example encouraging all personnel to focus their energies on sustaining a safe, nurturing learning community that works positively to promote success for all students. Under her leadership, Centralia ESD continues to flourish, with growth in student proficiency demonstrated by State testing, improved student attendance, implementation of 21st Century skills and learning practices, and increased opportunities for early childhood education. Award-winning Centralia ESD schools include Gold Ribbon Schools, Distinguished Schools, Title I Academic Achieving Schools, California PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) awards, CBEE Star Schools, Scholar Schools, STEM Schools, and the coveted CSBA Golden Bell Award for our Neighborhood Resource Center providing support to families in need.

**CENTRALIA IS FLOURISHING • From Page 1**

### Course Options

It would be one thing if we boasted only about our test scores; however, we are so proud of the total instructional program offered in our schools. We take pride in being responsive to our community, and we know they value an arts program in our schools. Therefore, we are again embarking on a strings program for all students in fourth through sixth grades who seek to participate in this opt-in program. With the support of our local parent groups, PTAs and PTSOs, schools also provide special programs to promote creativity in our schools. We are in the founding years of this initiative and look forward to continuing our efforts to provide stronger systems of support to our schools. I look forward to seeing the evolution of each of our schools in this area.

### School Attendance

Each school is focused on ensuring that children feel safe and confident at school. We ask our families to support us in the effort to improve student attendance. Beside the fact that we cannot teach our children if they miss out on school, the resulting loss of revenue would hinder our efforts to continue to provide a strong instructional program for all. I ask all families to visit our Web site and ensure that your vacations fit the school calendar.

### School Safety

School safety continues to be a priority for our district. I am very proud to share that seven of our schools are Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) honor schools, earning either bronze, silver, gold, or platinum recognition as a result of their focused efforts on providing strong systems of support for students. We enjoy very strong partnerships with our local law enforcement; the Anaheim, Buena Park, and La Palma Police Departments. These partnerships permit us to collaborate with these agencies and address issues as they arise. It is not uncommon to see officers from these departments participating in school events as a way of connecting with our scholars.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our employees, I welcome one and all to the Centralia Elementary School District. I am proud that we continue the tradition of innovation and am so pleased that you have chosen Centralia ESD as the place to educate your children. This is a huge honor for us—and one that we do not take lightly.

This year, I encourage all of us to Be Well, Flourish and Transform. Stay connected to your child’s school and reach out to meet your school principal. Let’s have the best year yet!

## Centralia School District Board of Trustees



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Ms. Martinez grew up in Anaheim, graduating from Anaheim High School and earning a bachelor’s degree in sociology/child development from Cal State Fullerton. She holds a master’s degree in school administration from National University, bilingual multiple-subject teaching credential, and credential in school administration. A lifelong learner, she has attended various Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Academies, including the Superintendents’ Academy.

A dynamic and inspirational speaker, she has been the keynote speaker for the Annual State CSEA conference and Para-Educator Conference, a guest panelist at the ACSA Superintendent’s Academy, and presenter at the CALSA Summer Institute.

Giving back to community is a passion for Ms. Martinez serving on the Police Chief’s Advisory Boards for Anaheim and Buena Park, the Rotary Club, Centralia Education Foundation, Centralia Community Collaborative, CSUF College of Education Advisory Committee and Buena Park Education Committee. She was awarded the *Rotarian Leadership Award*, *Paul Harris Fellow Award*, *Leaders in Oral Heath Community Award*, and *Buena Park Soroptimists Integrity of Profession Award*.

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# Buena Terra *Elementary*

8299 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3220 • www.cesd.us



**Dr. Dominic Nguyen**  
*Principal*

Dr. Dominic Nguyen is honored to begin his fifth year serving as the principal of Buena Terra Elementary. He and his dedicated staff look forward to working collaboratively with the community to provide a well-rounded education to its students.

Dr. Nguyen believes in providing students with a comprehensive education that prepares them with 21st Century skills. Buena Terra's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) focus has integrated skills such as computer science coding into the curriculum. Last year Buena Terra opened its innovation lab, "The Launch Pad." The Launch Pad is a place where students explore and engineer solutions that will

enhance society. Students learn and apply the engineering design process to solve real world problems. The Launch Pad also serve as a Makerspace, a space for students to explore and discover new ideas. A space for students to enhance their creativity. Our Makerspace will provide students with a place where they can create something that aligns with their passion, a place where students can unleash the genius within them.

Dr. Nguyen is entering his 17th year in the field of education with the first nine years devoted to teaching at one of the highest performing elementary schools in Southern California. He then served as an administrator at a California Distinguished school nationally recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community and Leader and Me School. He has always found the most rewarding aspect of his career to be the connections he has fostered with students, families, and the educational community.

When not at school, Dr. Nguyen enjoys spending time with family and friends. He enjoys road trips to new places and trying out the local cuisine in true foodie fashion. He always enjoys coming home to the sunshine of southern California.

# Centralia *Elementary*

195 N. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/228-3210 • www.cesd.us



**Tia Belt-Brown**  
*Principal*

Dr. Tia Belt Brown is the proud principal of Centralia Elementary, a California Title I Achieving School, a CBEE Honor Roll School, and PBIS Silver Medal school. Her pledge continues to be an advocate of innovative student learning which prepares scholars for college and career readiness. Her dedication continues to be unreserved and ever-present, as she works to serve the community, staff, and most importantly, the students.

Dr. Brown believes that teamwork, collaboration, and empathy are the most responsive channels in which a school can successfully help a child attain his or her full potential.

She celebrates the comprehensive learning opportunities offered that prepare scholars with 21st Century skills and the professional development opportunities allowing staff to expand our school wide implementation of Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) strategies. These strategies promotes innovation, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration through language acquisition and visible learning research.

Dr. Brown has served as a steward in education for over twenty years working as an elementary teacher, special education teacher, coordinator of special programs, assistant principal at the elementary and middle school level, and as an elementary school principal. She also serves as a team leader for the ACSA New & Aspiring Principals Institute at UCLA. Throughout her educational tenure, she fundamentally believes that knowledge is the most powerful tool and education is the greatest equalizer.

Dr. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in Deaf Studies and a Masters of Arts in Educational Administration from Cal State, Northridge, a Master of Arts in Education from Pepperdine University, and her Doctorate from Argosy University.

When not at school, Dr. Brown enjoys traveling, reading, outdoor activities, and spending time with her husband, parents, and twin boys Desmond and Dillon.

# Danbrook *Elementary*

320 Danbrook St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/228-3230 • www.cesd.us



**Erasmo Garcia**  
*Principal*

Mr. Garcia has 17 years of experience as an administrator and five years of experience teaching elementary and middle school children in the classroom and in after-school programs. Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Garcia earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from University of California, San Diego. While still an undergraduate, he was recognized as a McNair Scholar for his research in behavioral and cognitive psychology. Continuing his lifelong love of learning, Mr. Garcia completed his graduate coursework in teaching, counseling, and administration at Chapman and Azusa Pacific University. Since then he has held

various leadership positions, including middle school assistant principal, high school assistant principal, and middle school principal. This fall Mr. Garcia kicks off his 9th year as Danbrook School's principal.

Last school year Danbrook launched it Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VAPA). Students were able to choose among a diverse selection of fine arts. Sculpture, Fashion Design, and Tap Dance were just a few of the offering. This school year brings new energy and refinement to Danbrook's VAPA while continuing to provide a nurturing culture and rigorous academic standards. Danbrook focuses heavily on the use of technology and teacher preparation to ensure that students have a strong fundamental understanding of 21st Century skills. In order to build citizenship and a sense of civic duty, the school provides students opportunities to practice the C.A.R.E. (Courteous, Aware, Responsible, and Eager to Learn) attributes. Parent, students, and educators, together as a community of learners, make Danbrook a great place to learn.

# G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

7770 Camellia Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3240 • www.cesd.us



**Shawn Stuht**  
*Principal*

Principal Stuht takes great pride in Glen H. Dysinger Sr. Elementary School achieving the California Distinguished School Award in 2018. Ms. Stuht is beginning her 28th year with the Centralia School District. She has made the Centralia School District her home for her entire educational career, beginning in the Centralia School District in 1991. During her career, she has served the Centralia School District as an elementary school teacher in Grades K-6 for 24 years, Teacher on Special Assignment, District Intervention Coordinator, Teacher in Charge, Administrative Designee, Student Study Team

Coordinator, Assistant Principal Intern, and is beginning her fourth year as Principal at Glen H. Dysinger Sr. Elementary School, a California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll and PBIS Gold Medal school.

Ms. Stuht is passionate about Dysinger's focus on educating the whole child, providing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), inclusive of Response to Intervention (RTI), and Positive Behavioral and Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Furthermore, Dysinger provides students the opportunity to experience a range of enrichment activities in visual and performing arts, and S.T.E.A.M. through our Strings, Dance, Choir, and STEAM Club.

Ms. Stuht earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Fullerton College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development and a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration at California State University, Fullerton. She holds both a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential and an Administrative Services Credential. She is completing her Administrative Clear Credential in Educational Administration at UCI in Fall, 2018.

Ms. Stuht enjoys spending time with her loved ones relaxing at the beach, in the desert, and doing D.I.Y. home renovation. Ms. Stuht's daughter is completing her Bachelor Degree at CSUF, where she majors in Cinema and Television Arts.



# Los Coyotes *Elementary*

8122 Moody St., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/228-3260 • www.cesd.us



**Robyn Yarbrough**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Robyn Yarbrough has been the principal of Los Coyotes Elementary School since August 2011. She started as a classroom teacher in the Centralia School District in 1998, and worked as a Teacher on Special Assignment and Community Liaison at Walter Knott and Danbrook Schools. Under her leadership, Los Coyotes continues to thrive as one of the most outstanding public elementary schools in Orange County. Most recently in 2018, the school garnering another California Distinguished School Award, a second PBIS Gold Medal, and the CBEE (California Business for Education Excellence) Award. Previously Los Coyotes has earned the California Gold Ribbon School in 2016, California Distinguished School in 2014, and the CBEE for 2011 through 2017.

Mrs. Yarbrough earned her bachelor's degree in communications and master's degree in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fullerton. The philosophy that permeates her decisions and actions is that a high quality education is a fundamental right for every child, and a critical component in raising citizens who can actively and effectively engage in a challenging society. To that end, it is the school's mission to provide the foundational learning upon which our students will build. This year we look forward to enhancing our Visual and Performing Arts program, implementing the Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), and augmenting Project Based Learning (PBL).

Ms. Yarbrough lives in Buena Park with her husband of 32 years. They enjoy traveling, and are very devoted Seahawks fans, making an annual pilgrimage (or two, depending on whether or not they make the playoffs) to Seattle for home games. She has two sons, a computer software engineer and a freelance writer. Both sons graduated from CSUF as Titans. They share their home with assorted lost and found animals, the current count being one very large rescue dog, and five cats.

# San Marino *Elementary*

6215 San Rolando Way, Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3280 • www.cesd.us



**Dr. Omaira Lee**  
*Principal*

Dr. Omaira Lee is honored to serve as principal of San Marino Elementary School where all scholars are Ramtastic. San Marino has received several accolades - California Distinguished School, Title I Academic Achievement School, 2017 California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll and 2017 PBIS Coalition Silver Award winner.

San Marino staff strives to encourage, inspire and support ALL scholars as they develop skills to be self-directed, life-long learners and contributing members of the community using a variety of strategies. Scholars are engaged, held to high expectations, and set goals for academic success. As a result, we cultivate and create opportunities for our Ramtastic Scholars to be consumers of technology, creative problem solvers, effective communicators, and productive citizens. While also setting high expectations for them to display the R.A.M.S. motto (Respectful, Act Kindly, Make Responsible Choices, and Safety Minded).

Dr. Lee's goal for 2018-19 school year is to continue celebrating San Marino School becoming an AVID academic community where scholars, staff, and parents work together to create continuous improvement and provide learning opportunities conducive to 21st Century learning including STEAM, Project Based Learning, and pathways to College, Career, and life in a safe, secure cooperative school community.

This is Dr. Lee's 13th year in administration and 25th year in education. She has a vast amount of experience having served as an elementary classroom teacher, resource teacher/reading specialist, Reading First literacy coach, assistant principal, principal and Coordinator at Riverside County Office of Education. Dr. Lee is committed to supporting scholars, teachers, and the community as we look forward to another outstanding school year.

Finally, when not working Dr. Lee enjoys hanging out with her two older daughters Rachel and Jasmine.

# G.B. Miller *Elementary*

7751 Furman Rd., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/228-3270 • www.cesd.us



**Dr. Stacy Chang**  
*Principal*

Dr. Stacy Chang is the proud principal of GB Miller School and is excited to be entering her sixth year as a school principal. GB Miller is a California Distinguished School, Honor Roll School of Educational Results Partnership, and a PBIS Platinum Award-winning school. Dr. Chang believes such success is a direct result of the dedicated and talented staff, students, and supportive school community, and considers it a privilege to serve GB Miller as principal.

Dr. Chang earned her undergraduate degree in Educational Studies from Vanderbilt University, M.A.Ed. from Biola University, and Doctorate of Education from University of Southern California. She is a National Board Certified Teacher, a former Teacher of the Year, and recipient of the Governor's Educator Award in Alabama. Dr. Chang is also the recipient of PTA's Outstanding Administrator Award and Honorary Service Award.

With experiences as a classroom teacher, state teacher trainer and coordinator, and Education Director, Dr. Chang has had the opportunity to work with learners from the preschool level to the graduate level in diverse cultural and socio-economic areas. She has also trained and coordinated numerous educational workshops and conferences for hundreds of teachers, parents, and community members including OC CUE Tech Fest and ACSA Conference.

As a passionate and enthusiastic leader, Dr. Chang plans to work with all stakeholders to advance an educational program and culture that is conducive to high-quality 21st century instruction. Her goal is to provide the leadership that will facilitate a school environment that offers the best possible academic instruction to meet the needs of each student.

Dr. Chang continually strives for greater excellence for her school and community. She is married and has three boys. Follow Dr. Chang on twitter @mi\_roadrunners.

# Raymond Temple *Elementary*

7800 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3290 • www.cesd.us



**Dr. Estela Salas-Sarmiento**  
*Principal*

Dr. Salas is honored to be serving as the principal of Raymond Temple Elementary beginning her third year in Centralia School District with an amazing group of caring educators.

With over 20 years of experience, she comes to Centralia School District with a wealth of knowledge. She began her career in education teaching grades 1st through 5th for Downey USD, piloting the first Sheltered English Immersion class for the district and was the first in her district to have a BCLAD credential making her highly qualified to teach in two languages.

During her eight years in elementary education, she was nominated as Teacher of the Year for her school and received two PTA Honorary Service Awards. Dr. Salas transferred to a secondary setting and began teaching middle school, she was once again honored as Teacher of the Year, but this time for her district.

Throughout her service, the most rewarding aspect of her career are the connections she has fostered with struggling students who feel that education is not for them. She has worked closely with adult education services to provide ESL Classes to adults and parenting classes for parents of troubled teens.

Five years ago, Dr. Salas became an Assistant Principal for Bellflower USD beginning her journey in administration and was honored as Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Salas earned her bachelor's degree at Cal State, Dominguez Hills, with a concentration in Spanish, a kindergarten – 9th grade teaching credential and Masters in Multicultural Education. She earned her Doctorate Degree from California State University, Fullerton. Recently Dr. Salas became LEC trained last year, Leading Edge Certification (LEC) is a national certification program in educational technology and curriculum innovation.

When not at school, Dr. Salas enjoys spending time with her children.

# Cypress School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Anne Silavs**

Anne Silavs is enjoying her 28th year in the field of public education. During the first 10 years of her career, Ms. Silavs served students in the San Bernardino City Unified School District as a middle school English/language arts teacher. Driven to make a greater impact, she eventually transitioned into school administration and served that community as a middle school vice principal. In 2004, Ms. Silavs moved to Orange County to accept a position in the Ocean View School District, where she enjoyed working with students, parents, and teachers as a middle school principal. She was later promoted to Director of Curriculum and Instruction, which enabled her to support teaching and learning on an even larger scale. In 2011, Ms. Silavs was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Instruction in the Fountain Valley School District, where she served four years before being selected as Superintendent of the Cypress School District in 2015.

Ms. Silavs earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Michigan State University, a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Wayne State University, and an administrative credential from Azusa Pacific University.

Promoting school success and high levels of academic achievement for all students is the heart of Ms. Silavs' professional work. Over the years, these efforts have been highlighted in The Special EDge newsletter and have earned state recognition. Ms. Silavs was also a contributing author on Administrative Roles for Differentiating Teaching and Learning in Middle and High Schools and has presented at a number of state and national conferences on the topics of response to intervention and differentiated instruction.

Ms. Silavs is a proud member of the Cypress School District team. She is committed to working side by side with district stakeholders to inspire and empower every student and to provide a world-class education that effectively prepares students for success in a dynamic and rapidly changing world.

## Cypress School District Board of Trustees



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## Arnold *Elementary*

9281 Denni St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6965 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Rena Gibbs**  
*Principal*

Rena Gibbs began her career in education locally in 1993. She spent 15 years as a classroom teacher. She later served as a teacher on special assignment and professional development coordinator. In 2011 she earned her doctorate in educational leadership at California State University, Fullerton, after receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from Chapman University.

Rena is in her sixth year as principal in the Cypress School District, and is enjoying her first year as principal at Arnold Elementary School. She is excited to be working with this amazing community of educators who consistently go above and beyond to meet the needs of their students. In the short time she has been at Arnold, she has already been awed by the extreme dedication of the parent community and the way everyone works together to ensure every student feels successful and loved. The energy on campus, enthusiasm for learning, and passion for making things happen all serve to make Arnold a wonderful place to be.

Though Rena's passion is making a difference in the lives of students, she does have the good fortune of spending the rest of her time with her husband of 24 years, Greg. They love cooking together, riding their bikes, and traveling to tropical destinations whenever the opportunity arises!

## Landell *Elementary*

9739 Denni St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6960 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Kim Benaraw**  
*Principal*

Kimberly Benaraw is eager to start her first year with the Cypress School District as principal of Landell Elementary School. She has worked in both public and charter schools for the last 16 years in various capacities. Prior to coming to Cypress, Mrs. Benaraw worked for Aspire Public Schools as a teacher, principal, and associate superintendent of curriculum and instruction. As a school leader, her school received various awards and recognitions like the California Distinguished School and Title 1 Achievement Award.

Mrs. Benaraw is excited to join the Cypress team because of their innovative teaching practices, dedicated staff, and supportive parent community. She hopes to facilitate a positive school environment that empowers students to be thoughtful citizens committed to making a difference in their world. She is passionate about social justice and creating equitable outcomes for all students. It is her belief that all students deserve an excellent educational experience that prepares them for a bright future.

Mrs. Benaraw received a bachelor's degree in Asian American Studies from the University of California, Irvine, and two master's degrees, one in education from Pepperdine University and another in administration from San Jose State. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in education from California State University, Fullerton.

Besides being a principal, Mrs. Benaraw is a proud mother to Bradley (6), Oliver (3), and Elise (1 month). She and her husband love taking their kids on adventures and exposing them to new experiences.

## King *Elementary*

8710 Moody St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6980 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Jacki Teschke**  
*Principal*

Jacki Teschke is beginning her tenth year as principal in the Cypress School District and third year as principal at King Elementary School. She has extensive training and expertise in curriculum and instruction and is passionate about providing the best possible educational program to ensure that all students achieve their maximal potential.

Mrs. Teschke strongly believes that her primary mission is to be an advocate for all students. She believes in the concept that each staff member must take responsibility for the education of all students in the school, thus fostering an educational community in which all adults feel an obligation for the education and development of all students. One of her primary objectives is to support teachers in this endeavor and to ensure the most effective research-based instructional strategies are used in every classroom.

Prior to becoming a principal, Mrs. Teschke served the Cypress School District in many ways: classroom teacher; Title I resource teacher; site program coordinator; Cotsen Foundation mentor of teachers; district BTSA coordinator, directing the new teacher program; and district teacher on special assignment responsible for GATE, staff development, and technology support. Her three grown children attended Cypress schools, and she served as a parent volunteer and PTA board member, including president, for five years prior to beginning her teaching career. She lives in Cypress and enjoys spending time with her family and dogs when she is away from school.



# Luther *Elementary*

4631 La Palma Ave., Cypress, CA 90623 • 714/220-6918 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Denine Kelly**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Kelly is excited to begin her third year at Luther school. Prior to becoming a principal, Mrs. Kelly taught at both the elementary and middle school levels. She has been a principal in Cypress School District for the past 20 years, serving at Vessels, Swain, Arnold, and now Luther. She considers herself very fortunate to continue serving the students and families of this wonderful community!

During the 2017/18 school year, Luther continued to refine implementation of the Learning Center Model, increasing overall inclusion for students with special needs. Additionally, the Luther staff participated in multiple professional development opportunities in the areas of writing, differentiated instruction, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM.) Luther staff also worked collaboratively to identify students who need additional support, and provided additional, targeted instruction in order to help close the achievement gap.

This year, Luther teachers will implement the district's new English/ language arts curriculum, Benchmark Advance. This program will provide tools to better support classroom instruction in the areas of reading, writing, and English language development. Ongoing professional development will be provided so teachers can take full advantage of the program and the features that help to differentiate instruction for all students.

Mrs. Kelly is looking forward to another successful school year and the opportunity to continue working with enthusiastic students, a dedicated staff, and a supportive parent community.

# Morris *Elementary*

9952 Graham St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6995 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Helen Lu**  
*Principal*

This will be Helen Lu's sixth year with Cypress School District and her first year as principal at Morris Elementary School. She has over 20 years of experience working in the field of education. She formerly served as an elementary school teacher, high school boys' varsity tennis coach, assistant principal, elementary school principal, site administrator for a dual language immersion program, and SWING (Seniors with Interest in New Generations) district coordinator.

Ms. Lu was born in Hong Kong and speaks fluently in Mandarin and Cantonese. She received her bachelor's degree in child development from California State University, Fullerton and a master's degree in education from Claremont Graduate University.

When away from Morris, Ms. Lu enjoys spending time with her children, playing tennis on United States Tennis Association (USTA) leagues, and traveling with her whole family.

Ms. Lu is excited to continue the progress and high standards that are associated with Morris Elementary School. She looks forward to working with the stellar school staff to offer the very best to each child so that he or she can reach their highest potential as a learner!



# Vessels *Elementary*

5900 Cathy Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6990 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Mark Holman**  
*Principal*

Mr. Holman is honored to be part of the Frank Vessels team, serving his first year as principal of the school. He and his highly motivated and dedicated staff are thrilled with the prospects of a new year and are ready to work collaboratively with the Vessels community to provide a comprehensive, well-rounded, and dynamic instructional experience for all students. The theme this year at Vessels is, "We are all learners." This mindset will guide our work together, making it an amazing year of growth in all areas for students and teachers alike. Our ultimate goal is that 100% of our students are proficient in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and math. We at Vessels are devoted to this cause and will continue to work with passion and a collaborative spirit until our goals are met.

Mr. Holman is a passionate educator and, most importantly, a learner. He is continually searching for ways in which to improve the educational experience of every student, every day! He is devoted to the nurturing and development of the whole child in a safe and productive learning environment. This has been the focus of his entire career, and he is honored to continue this journey at Vessels Elementary School.

Prior to coming to Vessels, he served as a GATE teacher, beginning teacher lead mentor and BTSA site coordinator, assistant principal, and STEAM coordinator at a local Gold Ribbon and nationally recognized STEAM education campus. When not on campus, he loves and cherishes time with his family, Emily, Beatrice, and dog Max. Mr. Holman feels that it is a great privilege and honor to continue his service to students at Vessels. He and the amazing students, staff, and parent team are excited about the prospects of a new year! Welcome back Bulldogs!



## Raised on Rockview

Rockview Family Farms proudly serves schools throughout Southern California. Choosing local means fresh, delicious, and nutritious milk for your family! Available at a store near you.  
[www.RockviewFarms.com](http://www.RockviewFarms.com)

# Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3800 • [www.savsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.savsd.k12.ca.us)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Sue Johnson**

Dr. Johnson began her career as a teacher in Wrightwood, CA, where she taught third and fifth grades. She served in the position of elementary school assistant principal and lecturer for California State University, San Bernardino. Dr. Johnson began working in the Savanna School District in 1990 as Curriculum Coordinator, and has served in Savanna School District since that time in the positions of Director of Curriculum, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; a Master of Arts Degree in School Administration from California State University, San Bernardino; and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Southern California.

As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Johnson is passionate about providing opportunities for all students to succeed and be on the path toward college and career readiness. She states, “It’s very fulfilling to be able to give back to future generations, giving others the same opportunities I’ve been given. In my current position, I’ve been fortunate to ensure students have access to the best teachers, the best facilities, the most current technologies, and the best curricula possible, thus ensuring success for future generations.”

## Savanna School District Board of Trustees



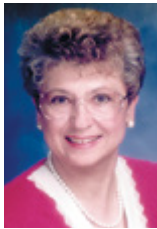
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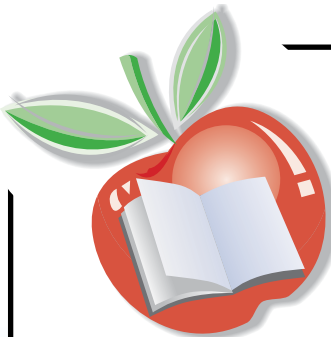


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*Member*



**Edward Erdtsieck**  
*Member*

Dr. Johnson has been married to her husband Keith for 34 years and is extremely proud of both of her daughters. After living abroad for more than four years, her oldest daughter received her Masters Degree at the University of Strasbourg, France and is currently working as an International Student Advisor at the University of California, Riverside. Her youngest daughter will begin her sixth year of teaching in the fall where she will teach first grade, thus influencing the next generation. This summer Dr. Johnson gained a son-in-law when her youngest daughter married. Together, they enjoy traveling as a family with the goal of visiting most of America’s National Parks. Her advice to others is embodied in the quote by Confucius: ‘Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.’



## Savanna School District

### Full Day Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Programs 2018-2019 School Year

**Cerritos School**  
3731 Cerritos Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92804

**Hansen School**  
1300 S. Knott Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92804

**Holder School**  
9550 Holder St.  
Buena Park, CA 90620

**Reid School**  
720 S. Western Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92804

Register online at  
**[www.savsd.org](http://www.savsd.org)**



## Savanna School District

Helping today’s learners become  
tomorrow’s leaders with

# STEM

(Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Mathematics)  
Centers on each campus



Student Success through  
**Ingenuity • Innovation • Inspiration**  
**Involvement • Imagination**

**STEM** is based on the idea of  
educating students in four specific disciplines  
— **science, technology, engineering and mathematics** —  
in an interdisciplinary and applied, cohesive approach  
based on real-world applications.

**[www.savsd.org](http://www.savsd.org)**  
**1330 S Knott Ave., Anaheim, 92804 • 714-236-3800**



# Cerritos *School*

3731 Cerritos St, Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3830 • [www.savsd.org/Schools/Cerritos/cerrhome.html](http://www.savsd.org/Schools/Cerritos/cerrhome.html)



**Heather Cash**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Heather Cash will serve as Cerritos School principal beginning in the 2018-19 school year. Mrs. Cash comes to Savanna with a wealth of elementary school experience including serving as a teacher at the second, third, fourth, and fifth grade levels, teaching in a SELPA summer school program with special needs students, providing independent study instruction to students in grades kindergarten through six, serving as a Curriculum & Instruction Teacher on Special Assignment, Summer School Principal, and Program Coordinator in the Goleta Union School District. Her diverse experiences will be true assets

to Cerritos School students, staff, and parents. Mrs. Cash is excited to support all students and teachers in developing critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills to prepare them to be 21st Century college and career ready.

Mrs. Cash earned her Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from Pepperdine University. She earned her teaching credential from Chapman University and went on to obtain her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from California Lutheran University. Mrs. Cash is currently completing her Doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California.

Mrs. Cash lives in Long Beach with her husband, David, her daughter, Ella and their two loving Labrador retrievers, Audrey and Gracie. They enjoy traveling as a family as well as outdoor activities such as biking, walking, boating and gardening.

This year, students at Cerritos School will continue to learn to R.O.A.R.! Students at Cerritos practice Responsibility, Organization, Accountability and Resilience through our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports system. Students at Cerritos receive rigorous, standards aligned instruction through Benchmark Advance English Language Arts and English Language Development curriculum and Go Math! Mathematics curriculum. Professional development for teachers for the upcoming year will focus on data-driven differentiation and integrating technology to maximize teaching and learning in the classroom.

# Twila Reid *School*

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3845 • [www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Schools/Reid/reidhome.html](http://www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Schools/Reid/reidhome.html)



**Erin Helenihi**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Erin Helenihi will continue as the principal of Twila Reid Elementary School. She has eighteen years of experience in education. Her first six years of teaching were in the Placentia Yorba Linda School District. She then joined Ocean View School District as a teacher and continued to take on leadership roles until she became the Assistant Principal at Spring View Middle School. She just finished her second year as principal in the Savanna School District. Her goal is to take her years of experience in the classroom to support teachers and focus on academic skills and strategies to reach all learners.

Twila Reid Elementary will continue to enlist the support and cooperation of all members of the learning community to work together to overcome the obstacles that our students might face. Mrs. Helenihi's experience as an intervention teacher in a Title I school, as well as her time as a Title I Coordinator and an Intervention Coordinator will be an asset.

Mrs. Helenihi earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from California State University of Fullerton. She was able to study abroad and take a semester in Paris, gaining a new perspective on learning in a second language and was able to immerse herself in the beauty of the art, history and culture of France. She continued her education with a Master's Degree in educational leadership from Concordia University.

Mrs. Helenihi and her husband of 17 years have four children that keep them busy. Some of their favorite activities are visiting museums, playing sports, hiking, and fishing.

# Hansen *School*

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3835 • [www.savsd.org/Schools/Hansen/hanhome.html](http://www.savsd.org/Schools/Hansen/hanhome.html)



**Nicole Fischer**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Nicole Fischer will serve her first year as the principal at Hansen School for the 2018-2019 school year. Prior to her selection as principal, Mrs. Fischer enjoyed seventeen successful years in the Savanna School District where she's served in a variety of positions including teaching kindergarten, first, fifth, and sixth grades, serving as the Title I academic teacher, behavior support TOSA, and Summer Academy Principal. These experiences, as well as her dedication to the Hansen School community, have prepared her to continue her commitment to Hansen School as Principal.

Mrs. Fischer earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies, from California State University, Long Beach. During that time she worked as a server at Chili's Restaurant. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University. Growing up and watching her dad's passion for education inspired Mrs. Fischer to follow in his footsteps.

Mrs. Fischer has been happily married to her husband Tommy for 16 years and they live in Hunitngton Beach. They have three children, Emme, Chloe, and Grady. She enjoys visiting family out of state, attending her children's numerous sporting events, boating, going to the beach, and going to the river with her family.

Mrs. Fischer is looking forward to continuing the great programs that take place at Hansen, including the Husky Time program for which Hansen School was recognized with the Gold Ribbon Award. She looks forward to another successful year moving forward with the new Benchmark Advance ELA Program and will continue to support teachers with the implementation. She will continue to focus on 21st Century skills, fostering a nurturing safe environment for children, promoting the strong PBIS program already in place, using data to inform instruction, and providing exciting and challenging opportunities for all students.

# Holder *School*

9550 Holder St, Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/236-3840 • [www.savsd.org/Schools/Holder/holdhome.html](http://www.savsd.org/Schools/Holder/holdhome.html)



**Dr. Jerry Friedman**  
*Principal*

Dr. Jerry Friedman has served as a principal in the Savanna School District since 2002. After eleven successful years as principal at Cerritos School, he has been the principal of Holder School since August of 2013. Prior to his tenure in Savanna, Dr. Friedman taught a variety of grade levels and worked as an administrator in the ABC Unified School District for twelve years.

Dr. Friedman earned his Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from Cal State Long Beach. During that time he worked part-time as an instructional assistant in elementary schools and discovered his passion for education. He earned his Master's Degree from National University and went on to receive his Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California.

Prior to entering the teaching profession, Dr. Friedman's passion for travel and learning led him to year-long adventures in both Mexico and Japan, immersing himself in the cultures, customs, and languages. His dedication to meeting the needs of second language learners was strengthened through his experiences; he is committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment where all students can be successful.

For the 2018-2019 school year Holder School will continue to focus on providing a quality education by analyzing student achievement data and providing Differentiated Instruction to meet all student needs. Technology will remain a priority and will be used to deliver and enhance lessons; students will have access to classroom computers, iPads, as well as two Technology Centers to develop and practice the skills needed to be successful. Additionally, Holder students will continue to value and demonstrate what it means to be Honorable, Accountable, Welcoming, Kind, and Scholarly.

Dr. Friedman lives in Yorba Linda with his wife, Lisa, of seventeen years. They have a twelve-year old daughter, Skyler. They enjoy outdoor activities, traveling, and spending time together at home.

# Immersing Ourselves in the Natural Wonders



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

Outside the urban glare of Los Angeles, we found a night sky packed with stars and a still silence interrupted only by the wind's whisper and the chatter of crickets and frogs. It was different, yet familiar.

My father packed little more than a kerosene lamp, a small tent and some fishing gear for those family camping trips of my youth. But it was never about what we brought or left behind. It was about immersing ourselves in the natural wonders of Southern California's mountains, forests and beaches — and discovering that we were connected to something bigger.

Whether we were on a KOA Campground or Refugio Beach, every direction offered frontiers to explore, mysteries to be solved and scientific observations to be made, without textbooks, lab coats or microscopes. Allowed to chase our curiosities, my brothers and sisters and I were laying deep foundations for learning. But if you asked us, we were just having fun.

Today, technology has emerged as a primary frontier of childhood exploration. But while there are obvious benefits to raising tech-savvy children, I echo the sentiments of countless researchers who suggest we're missing out on opportunities to nurture brain development and strengthen mental health when we close ourselves off from nature.

Author Richard Louv, who has written extensively on this subject, points to an emerging body of evidence connecting nature to greater physical and emotional health. By contrast, disengagement from the natural environment results in what Louv terms "nature-deficit disorder," which, he says, correlates with attention difficulties, greater rates of physical and emotional illness, and reduced use of our senses.

Louv isn't alone. A number of writers, psychologists and academics have produced volumes quantifying the benefits of direct exposure to nature. At the same time, studies continue to show we're spending less time outdoors and more time with electronic screens, which do little to stoke happiness or well-being.

Access is part of our challenge. Census data shows that more than 80 percent of Americans live in urban areas, some of which lack parks or open space. And while more children are participating in organized sports, fewer kids are experiencing the outdoors through unstructured play, according to Louv, who blames a perceived lack of time, as well as concerns about safety.

In 2004, Rhonda L. Clements, professor of education at Manhattanville College in New York State, conducted a survey of 830 mothers nationwide. While 71 percent of them reported playing outdoors as children, only 26 percent said their kids did the same on a daily basis. Interestingly enough, the results showed little differences between rural and urban settings.

With supercharged academic standards and a greater focus on the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, some educators may

choose to ignore these trends. But we do so at a tremendous cost given such extensive evidence that nature — in addition to being intertwined with a number of scientific fields — not only sharpens minds but amplifies learning in other subjects.

Indeed, a recent study of children ages 9 and 10 revealed that hands-on lessons in nature produce students who are more engaged in their other academic studies. Moreover, a duo from UC Berkeley points to more than 100 studies that demonstrate how exposure to nature can have positive impacts on thought processes, as well as our physical and mental health.

This is why environmental education programs like OCDE's Inside the Outdoors are so vital.

Since 1974, Inside the Outdoors has been nurturing student knowledge and stewardship of the natural environment with highly qualified staff and 15 field trip locations throughout Orange County and Los Angeles counties. Lessons are aligned with the state's instructional standards, and for classes that can't venture out, the program dispatches Traveling Scientists to schools, often accompanied by wildlife.

Inside the Outdoors logs more than 150,000 hours of environmental STEM learning each year and has served some 3.5 million students to date. Suffice to say, many of these students might not otherwise have these experiences.

In April, about 100 teachers, school administrators and experts gathered in Orange County to discuss how outdoor and environmental learning experiences can be used to help develop a well-rounded curriculum. Jointly organized by OCDE, Inside the Outdoors and the state Department of Education, the symposium also offered educators a preview of how environmental literacy is being incorporated into the state's Next Generation Science Standards.

Richard Louv was also in attendance as the event's keynote speaker. The renowned author told the audience that "Every teacher who connects students to nature is doing sacred work."

It is that and more. Teaching students about nature and immersing them in the natural environment is both transformative and enduring, producing benefits to our bodies and minds that we are only beginning to understand. Even as we prepare young women and men for an increasingly digitized world, we must continue to create opportunities to recharge their minds and spirits in the great outdoors.

As a child, my family didn't take lavish vacations. But I am fortunate that we could occasionally escape the urbanized confines of Los Angeles to experience a larger world that asked as many questions as it answered, and today these trips are among my most cherished childhood memories.

Years later, I see how they prepared me for life as an educator, as well as for trips with my own sons, who similarly had moments to gaze up at the countless stars and wonder.





# Something for Everyone

By Yuka Kobayashi, Library Assistant

- Rainbow Bubble Art**—2pm Saturday, 9/15—Ages 6-12.  
Use science to make art, outside on front patio.
- Raising a High Achiever**—2pm Saturday, 10/13—Kids/guardians.  
Informational workshop with Dr. Nicole Ambe.
- Baby Lapsit Storytime**—10am Wednesdays—Ages 0-2.  
20-minute program plus independent playtime for babies and caregivers.
- Toddler Storytime**—9:30am Mondays—Ages 18-35 months  
Stories, songs, fun! (Enter through the north parking lot door.)
- Preschool Storytime**—10:30am Mondays—Ages 3-5. Stories, songs, fun!  
No Baby, Toddler, Preschool Storytimes 10/8-10/10. 9/10 guest Kindermusik.  
Read to a Dog—6pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays—Kids/Families. Read to or pet.
- Family Storytime**—10:30am Saturdays: 9/15, 10/20, 11/10—Unique stories, songs, crafts, including bilingual, sensory.
- Books & Bites**—5:30pm Second Wednesdays: 9/12, 10/10, 11/14—Grades 3-5. Activity-based book club with snacks. Didn't read the book? Come anyway!
- Homework Help**—3:30-4:30pm Mondays & Wednesdays—Grades K-8. Free homework assistance within focused time limits. Bring all supplies, materials.
- Rookie Readers**—3:30-4:30pm Tuesdays—Grades K-5. 1-on-1 reading practice with a teen.
- S.T.E.A.M.**—Second Thursdays: 9/13, 10/11, 11/8—First 30 kids: 3:30pm Grades K-2, 4:30pm Grades 3-5. Hands-on fun.
- Teen Volunteer Opportunities**—Grades 8-12. Regular and flexible programs available. Apply in person.
- Anime Club**—Twice monthly (see calendar)—Teens. Watch anime, win prizes, learn Japanese phrases, and EAT.
- Tabletop Games**—1-4pm: 9/16, 10/14, 11/3—Adults, teens, supervised kids ages 9+. Play games and check some out!
- ESL Class**—2-3:30pm Saturdays: 9/8, 10/20, 11/17—Adults/teens. Practice English conversation.



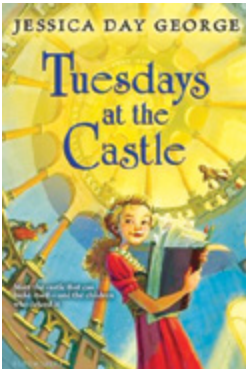
## Sophie's Choice

### Mystery, Danger...



Sophie O.

For my next book review, I chose the book *Tuesdays at the Castle*. This book is the start of an amazing story written by Jessica Day George. In this book, there is an adventure, a little bit of mystery, danger, and stealthiness. *Tuesdays at the Castle* is based on the Glower Family, who live in Castle Glower. Castle Glower is magical and every Tuesday a new room appears. Let me introduce you to the main characters, Lulath, Lilah, Rolf, Pogue, Celie, Bran, and Queen and King Glower. But, beware you might not want to put this book down. The King and Queen go to Bran's graduation, and on the way back they are thought to be killed! A funeral is taken place in which they meet some cruel and evil people, and find out that you can't trust everyone. This book definitely deserves a five-star review. Read this book and the whole series if you're curious to find out what will happen to the Glower Family.



Sophie O. is a 6th grader who loves to play soccer and bake. She's an avid reader and writer and is working on writing her first book. She hopes to be an architect one day

## Lucy's Book Review

### An Enjoyable Read



Lucy Davis

*Brooding YA Hero: How to Become a Main Character (Almost) as Awesome as Me*

Author: Carrie DiRisio

Broody McHottiepants had always been the protagonist — it was who he was.

So when an Author tells Broody that he can't be in anymore novels, something in him changes. That couldn't be right. He was Broody McHottiepants, the par excellence. Then, an idea hits: what if

he could write his own book, telling the world how to become main characters like him? Yes. That was what he would do. And nobody — not even his evil ex girlfriend — could stop him.

Reading this book was definitely an experience for me. At first, I disliked Broody's personality, because he was shallow and conceited. However, as the story progressed, his character arc was interesting to observe. Through his experiences, he realized that change can be good. Overall, it turned out to be a enjoyable read that left me with a new look on the young adult genre. Four out of five bookworms.



Lucy is a 7th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

## Richard's Book Review

### Perservance



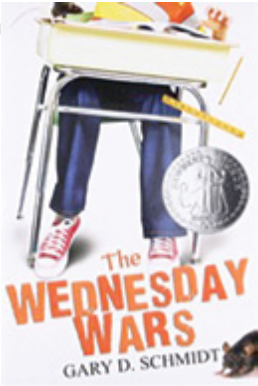
Richard J.

*The Wednesday Wars*

By Gary D. Schmidt

This book is about the boy named Holling Hoodhood in 1976. Throughout the year Holling deals with many difficult situations. He is the only kid in his middle school who isn't Jewish or Catholic, which means that during Religious Studies he has to stay in English Class, do classroom chores and study Shakespeare. It is 1976 and everybody is struggling with the fear of the Vietnam War. Holling had a rough year, which happens to all of us, but in the end he got through and won the respect of his teacher, family, and classmates.

I like that the story is set in a different time period. It's interesting to read about how people lived back then. The story is about perseverance and growing up under difficult circumstances. It's funny, but serious. I give it 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.



Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

I Am Your Food



Kate Karp

When you were young, you were probably told to not play with your food. Surely, however, no one told you not to talk to it.

Well, here's your chance! Gunnar Madsen, a Grammy-nominated artist and cofounder of the prolific, oddball acapella group The Bobs, has set out a surreal buffet of brain food. High schoolers, middle-schoolers and certainly adults, will chow down on *I Am Your Food*. Some of it may be too rich for young children, but they'll love the music and will likely run around the house yodeling "Diet of woooooorrrmmms!"

Everything's turned on its ear, and sometimes, it's an ear of corn. The CD starts, appropriately enough, with breakfast. The rollicking "10,000 Pancakes" is about finally getting enough to eat; conversely, it'll whet your appetite for the rest of the tunes. "Egg Salad in the Sun" is ripped from every overblown ballad by the psychedelic group The Doors and has a sense of droll menace—you *don't* want to eat that egg salad, nor do you want to consume the moldy crud in "Shelf Life." And do be aware that "Fast Food" has more than one connotation!

There's food for thought and emotion, too. "What If..." and "Lunch Is in a Paper Bag" are metaphors of love and friendship; the latter is about finding differences and similarities among us. Of course, we don't have to eat the same things to get along, but communication with edibles is practically mandatory. Just watch out for those worms.



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

Spoiled



Victoria L.

Shortly after sixteen-year-old Molly's mother dies from cancer, her life abruptly changes. Instead of living in the simple state of Indiana, she is thrown into the spotlight of Beverly Hills to live with her famous father and self-centered sister. Molly must adjust to life filled with iced coffee, yoga pants, and freshly pressed juice. She takes on new adventures in a world full of celebrities with constant paparazzi at her side. Molly tries to get a concept of what her sister's personality is like. After time, Molly realizes that her father is so caught up being famous that he forgets to spend time with she and Brooke.

How will Molly manage this new life? Will Molly's relationship grow stronger with her father and sister? Read *Spoiled* by authors Jessica Cocks and Heather Morgan to find out all of the details. I rate this book "5 out of 5 Smiles."



Victoria L. is an 8th grader at RH Dana Middle School. She loves school and her favorite subject is Science. Victoria enjoys books that have mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them with a "Smiles." Victoria has an affinity for singing, loves musical theatre and is a member of the South Bay Children's Choir.

Fruits & Veggies 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 (Please put CCS in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 15, 2018  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| LETTUCE  | LEMONS   | BERRIES  |
| APPLES   | LIME     | CHERRIES |
| CABBAGE  | CELERY   | CARROTS  |
| KOHLRABI | POTATOES | MANGO    |
| ONIONS   | TOMATOES | BANANAS  |
| PEPPERS  | KIWI     | PLUMS    |
| ORANGES  | GRAPES   | BROCCOLI |



Congratulations to **Tatiana Vargas** Winner of the May Word Search Contest!

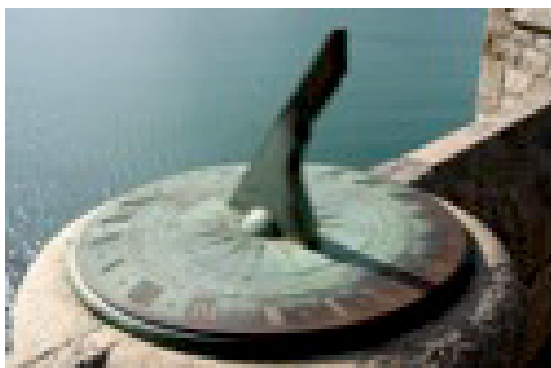


## Why Time?

By D.H. Coop

Why do we have time? Time is an arbitrary reference point that sets events going at a consistent rate. In the early period of history, the moon or sun set the time of the seasons for hunting and farming, and time was also used to measure the movement of nature. Then, as societies became more complex, time became more exact for the movement of people.

Here are some examples: Seasons determined hunting and farming; months specified farming, hunting and trade; weeks determined farming and hunting, and also trade. Days designated farming and commerce; hours and minutes specified commerce, farming and industry; and seconds regulated industry and commerce as well as service. Today, service is measured in nanoseconds or is simply instantaneous.



**Sundial**

Hunters' and gatherers' movements from place to place did not depend on exact times. Language reflected the nature of their movement. Early Native Americans referred to everyday movement by location, for example, *We ate at the Big Tree*. Europeans would refer to a particular time of day. As civilization became more complex, the need for a more exact time developed. But this new development was not consistent in all cultures, as can be observed in the development of calendars or when the day officially starts for each of them. In early Mesopotamia, the day started at sunrise, while the Roman day started at midnight and the Hebrew day started at sunset. The concept of weeks or months also had no set pattern. The Greeks had no week, and the Romans had an eight-day week. This made the ideas of *month* and *year* vary from culture to culture.

## A Page from the Calendar

The Egyptians 6,000 years ago used a 12-month calendar with 30-day months, with five days added at the end of each year. Plus, they had a separate religious calendar with 29-and-a-half-day months. Islam used a lunar calendar of 354 days, while the Christians used the Julian calendar based on solar movement with 29- to 31-day months, with an extra day every four years. Then, to correct the inherent problems of the Julian calendar, Pope Gregory introduced the Gregorian calendar; by 1582, most Catholic nations had adopted this calendar. The Protestant nations of Europe began to convert to this new calendar by 1752, followed by other nations of the world over time: Japan in 1873, Egypt in 1875; Russia in 1918, Greece in 1924, Turkey in 1926, and China in 1949.

The Old World commerce required more precise measurements of time. Religion played an important part in the move to a more regulated society-based time. A devout Christian was required to pray seven times a day, and a good Muslim was required to pray five times a day. The call to prayer in Islam is done by human voice, while in the Christian world, the church bells signaled the call to



**church bells**

prayer. Church bells became associated with time, so it is not surprising that the word *clock* comes from the word *bell* in different languages: Scottish Gaelic (*clag*) Dutch (*klok*), German (*Glocke*) or French (*cloche*). Then around the 14th century, communities began to add mechanical clocks to tell time to assist commerce. Water clocks, sundials and hourglasses became less important with the introduction of the 12-hour face clock. The City of Rouen built a city clock that was the first to strike on the quarter



**Clock at Rouen**



**Big Ben London**

hour. The City of London built Big Ben to announce the time.

## Time Marches On

In the Industrial Age, time became more important. Clockmakers developed the pendulum-and-spring control device that aided the development of measurement time. The 21-jewel pocket watch saw that trains ran on time in the 19th century, only to be replaced by the wristwatch in the 20th century. Today in the 21st century, the analog clock face is unreadable by many young students since the digital clock face clock is what they have been exposed to.



**mechanical clock**



**21 jewel pocket Analog face**

Time and knowledge go hand and hand with information. As hunters and gatherers, knowledge doubled every 10,000 years; as farmers, every 1,000 years; and as an industrial society, every 15 years. Today, knowledge doubles in some areas every three to six months. But to read all the books in the Library of Congress—if one read for eight hours a day for five days a week, it would take



**digital face clock**

close to 700 years!

Our daily life is filled with information from books, articles, and internet sources, making the management of time ever more important.

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. [www.HistoryDepot.com](http://www.HistoryDepot.com)



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