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School News

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Covering the Districts of: Centralia, Cypress, & Savanna

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Reach the Reader: A Celebration of Reading!

*By Dr. Pauline Tressler
Assistant Superintendent
Savanna School District*

For over 20 years, the Savanna School District has fostered the joy of reading at our annual Reach the Reader Family Reading Night at Hansen School. The evening is an opportunity for our parents, community members, students, and staff to come together to celebrate reading as they take part in a variety of exciting activities!

There is something for everyone at Reach the Reader Family Night. The evening begins with an opportunity for families to make connections with other families, staff members, and community members as they enjoy a pizza dinner. Clifford, the Big Red Dog, sometimes makes an appearance, moving through the crowd and posing for pictures with excited children.

Community members have the opportunity to share programs and services with interested families. This year, representatives from Stanton Gang Reduction Intervention Program (GRIP), the Stanton



Savanna School District board members, Mrs. Tina Karanick, Mrs. Chris Brown, and Mrs. Linda Weinstock, celebrate Reach the Reader with Clifford the Big Red Dog.

Sheriff's Office, and the Stanton Library were on hand to meet the community and to share valuable resources.

Each year, parents hear a presentation about strategies they can use at home as their children continue to learn reading skills at school. This year, the presentation focused on the role of technology in reading instruction. Savanna teachers and administrators presented information about the use of technology in classroom instruction, Internet safety measures, and ideas for the use of technology to help children at home. Presenters included: Carmen Garcia, a

teacher at Holder School; Phoenix Pineda, a teacher at Reid School; Briana Schnitzer, the coordinator of 21st-century teaching and learning; and Teresa Lennox, the management information. The presentation was translated for our Spanish- and Vietnamese-speaking parents. At the end of the evening, parents had an opportunity to win a raffle prize!

In addition, school-aged children attended two fun-filled sessions with our teaching staff, where they completed a reading activity. The activities included storytelling, dramatic plays, read-alouds, and a visit from Clifford, the Big Red Dog! Every child who attended received a free book as well as a packet of materials, including certificates and reading awards.

Reach the Reader is an opportunity for the whole family to have fun as they reflect upon the joy of reading! It is a cherished Savanna tradition that gives everyone an opportunity to showcase the importance of reading. In Savanna School District, reading is celebrated every day!

Police Interaction With Youth Program



Det. Julian Gonzales
Badge #257

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as Detective Julian L. Gonzales of the La Palma Police Department.

Starting November 17th 2015, I began visiting each of the sixth grade classes for eight weeks to introduce a new student-safety education program called Police Interaction with Youth (PIY) at Los Coyotes Elementary (Centralia School District), Luther Elementary (Cypress School District) and Miller Elementary (Centralia School District). PIY was designed by the La Palma Police Department as a decision making program to educate sixth graders about those laws that are relevant to

their age (bicycle helmets, riding scooters, truancy, internet predator, etc.) and providing them with the ability and motivation to make proper choices when faced with peer group pressure. PIY will also inform sixth grade students about playground and gang violence and provide the students with conflict resolution skills and generally safety information. I will discuss how to develop positive self-esteem and the negative consequences associated with controlled substance and alcohol abuse.



In the classroom at Luther School.

See **POLICE INTERACTION WITH YOUTH PROGRAM** • Page 11



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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



By now your new year is well underway and the students are focused on their end of the year goals. This issue brings you up to date on the classroom activities. We have many guest columnists to encourage celebrating National Reading Awareness Month. And speaking of reading...thank you for reading School News. We had record contest entries last issue and I appreciate all of the comments you include in your emails. The contests are open to all ages so enjoy!

Our next issue is May 4.

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL • MillerChildrens.org/sleep

Prevent Your Child from Sleep Loss



Gary Feldman, M.D.
Medical Director,
Pediatric Division
Long Beach
Adult & Pediatric
Sleep Center
and Stramski
Children's
Developmental
Center

Spring is an exciting time when we receive an additional hour of sunlight. While the annual "spring forward" offers more sunlight in the evening, it also means that we lose an hour of sleep. This time change can disrupt normal sleep patterns for children.



Tips to ease the time change transition and promote healthy sleep:

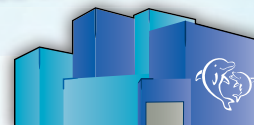
- Routine is key – maintain your child's regular bedtime routine and naps
- Don't try to wear your child out to get them to fall asleep earlier
- Move bedtime earlier in 20 minute increments each night starting three days before the time change
- Ensure your child's room is dark
- If your child is not falling asleep as quickly after bedtime, don't give in to excuses they may make to get out of bed. Keep them calm, but preserve the bedtime routine
- Don't compensate for the lost hour of sleep in the morning. Wake your child up for the day based on current clock time
- Expose your child to light at morning wake up time
- Be patient if your child is sleepy for a few days. Try not to let them nap if this is not their usual practice

Teenagers may take longer to adjust to the new time change.

This year's daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to mark your calendar to set your clocks forward one hour. Here's wishing you and your family healthy sleep.



We Are Your Children's Hospital



We are the only OC health system to have a full-service children's hospital.

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Centralia School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Norma Martinez

21st-Century Technology

Have you visited our schools lately? Recently, a prospective parent walked into a kindergarten classroom, hoping to make a decision about selecting a school for her child. This parent was expecting to see a classroom like the one that she was familiar with as a child. Instead, the parent was welcomed into a 21st-century learning environment. We don't have chalkboards in our classrooms. Each classroom is equipped with digital interactive boards that project multimedia presentations for the entire classroom. Document cameras that photograph student tests and automatically scan and score the tests are also available in each classroom. Students in third through sixth grades each share access to netbook computers on a mobile netbook cart. Many schools have augmented the device list and purchased additional carts for more students to use. Our bandwidth allows us to grow and add devices in the coming years to meet the needs of our students.

While it is easy to speak of the many devices across our schools, it is even more important to note that student learning continues to be the driving force that helps our district determine how we use the technology and what we ultimately decide to do with it. I am excited about the growth mindset that is developing in our schools and the many creative ways in which teachers are using technology tools!

Along with preparing our students for 21st-century learning, we must also prepare our adults to be early adopters of our new technology tools. In the Centralia School District, we dedicate one Thursday each month to professional development. Realizing that our teachers are all in different places along the learning continuum, we have modified our Technology Thursday professional development days and have embraced technology to help us differentiate learning for our teachers. Each month, teachers have an opportunity to sign up via an online scheduling program for professional development courses of their choice. This ensures that our teachers get personalized learning to complement their own professional growth. Some of the courses offered in the recent past include: computer programming for children; online storytelling; collaborative writing through Microsoft 365, and Illuminate Gradebook.

Just recently, the Centralia School District Board of Trustees adopted a new math program, My Math by McGraw Hill. One of its key components is the robust technology tools that are embedded into this program. On January 29, 2016, we held a district-wide professional development session to train staff in this new comprehensive program. The use of this technologically advanced program will allow our students to use digital manipulatives, watch lessons, and have direct access to resources at home via the Internet. We are in the process of planning parent training for this new math adoption program.



The Hour of Code started strong in the Centralia School District. Over 2,650 students participated in the Hour of Code, a national movement that celebrates a week of computer programming across our schools. Students from kindergarten to sixth grade had the opportunity to log on to code.org and participate in computer programming activities. The activities on this Website allowed our students to practice 21st-century skills such as creativity, critical problem solving and collaboration! This new initiative was made possible by the desire of our staff to create dynamic learning opportunities for our students.

This year, our students were provided with a unique password that allows them to access a variety of online programs from home. Our district Web site, www.cesd.us, includes a tab titled Parents and Community. This tab has a drop-down menu that displays the links to online programs that are available for student use to practice coding, math, typing, reading, and more!

The writing process has forever been changed by those teachers who are incorporating the Web-based Word program from Microsoft 365. Whereas in the past students would have input only from teachers after they handed in their written drafts, students can now collaborate with peers and with the classroom teacher in "real time." It is not unusual for students to see teacher comments on their writing as they are in the middle of their drafts, with input to improve their writing.

Technology integration into our everyday learning practices is but one way in which the Centralia School District demonstrates a growth mindset that fosters innovation and a passion for learning. I encourage prospective parents to visit our schools or meet the principal for a coffee chat and learn about our innovative instructional programs. We are here to help all of our students develop a passion for learning and demonstrate mastery of standards. We gladly do this with the support of our Board of Trustees, our dedicated staff, and a supportive community of parents and partners!

We are expanding technology to all state preschool sites as well, in order to be able to provide additional opportunities for students to acquire and develop 21st-century digital learning skills. We are excited to announce that we have added interactive white boards and electronic tablets in the classrooms. This allows preschool students to have technology incorporated into their school day and allows them to interact with lesson material using the touch-sensitive interactive whiteboard. This board allows teachers to deliver engaging and interactive lessons. Through the expansion of technology within the district, students will have multiple opportunities to attain the digital learning skills needed to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Preschool enrollment will begin on March 1 and is open to children who will be turning three or four year olds by September 1. We will give first priority to those children who are turning four years of age, second priority to children three years of age, and third priority to children who reside outside of Centralia School District. Packets will be will be available at Walter Knott Educational Center 7300 La Palma Ave, Buena Park, CA 90620. Please call (714) 228-3153 for more information.

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Buena Terra *Elementary*

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Dr. Dominic Nguyen
Principal

Mystery Skype

On Friday, January 22, the second-grade students from Mrs. Barron's class participated in an activity called "Mystery Skype." They were joined by students from Ms. Young's third-grade class in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The students had teamed up to generate and ask yes/no questions which would provide clues for both classrooms to hypothesize on where on the globe each class was located.

Mystery Skype is an educational activity that aims to build skills in cultural awareness, critical thinking, and geography.

This activity is one example of how technology enriches our students' learning experience. Teachers throughout the United States and beyond can now collaborate with each other to provide an opportunity for their students to connect together in a shared learning experience.



Activities such as Mystery Skype not only increase student engagement, they also teach our students 21st-century skills like critical thinking, collaboration, teamwork, cultural awareness, deductive reasoning, and digital literacy.

Danbrook *Elementary*

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



Erasmo Garcia
Principal

Becoming Active Participants

We are preparing students for a connected world that has no boundaries. The 21st-century workplace stretches across continents, and group meetings are now being set up to take place in an instant through video conferencing. Collaboration on documents is also live, with multiple users creating, editing, and commenting at the same time.

Keeping the end result in mind, Danbrook has been investing heavily in technology to give its community of learners the skills and experiences they need to become successful communicators and collaborators.

In a typical Danbrook classroom the students can share and collaborate on a live Sway project. The same technology allows them to collaborate with students in Brazil. In an adjacent classroom, students are completing online assignments that have been shared by their teacher. The teacher is then able

to monitor progress and give live feedback.

Technology has definitely enhanced our instruction. It has inspired students to become active participants in their own learning.



Centralia *Elementary*

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Tia Brown
Principal

Preparing for Tomorrow

If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow. — John Dewey (1859–1952)

At Centralia Elementary, we believe that it is vital to have technology integrated into our curriculum as we prepare students for tomorrow. To ensure that our students acquire the digital skills necessary to be college and career ready, we offer several teacher-led technology workshops that provide opportunities for parents and students to learn together. Our technology workshops strengthen our home-school connection because topics of interest are created from parents' interest.

Throughout the year, collaborative topics range from how to surf the web to the use of various typing programs. Our technology workshops better equip parents to support their children in demonstrating their ability to use technology to support critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration,

creativity and innovation.

We are excited about our community collaborative and the expanding opportunities for 21st century learning for parents and students!



G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

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



Shawn Stuht
Principal

Technology

Dysinger takes great pride in our progress in instructional technology and is working diligently to master 21st century skills. ELA and math standards are being mastered, study skills are being taught, and assessments are being administered through a multitude of websites such as Ticket to Read, Study Island, Brain Pop, Illuminate and Scholastic.com, where students utilize close-reading strategies in digital format.

Star Reading and Accelerated Reader allow students to track reading levels and increase decoding, fluency and comprehension skills. Students use the Bing search engine to research presentation topics and cite sources. Students also use One Note along with PowerPoint and Sway presentation programs to compile research and present projects. Typing.com

is used to enhance keyboarding skills and build fluency. All Dysinger students are introduced to computer programing with code.org and have participated in the Hour of Code in December.

Instruction is greatly enhanced through the use of interactive websites to bring learning to life.



Teacher Ms. Ocampo instructs sixth grade students as they watch an interactive simulation about tectonic plates.

Los Coyotes *Elementary*

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



Robyn Yarbrough
Principal

Technology

The technology our students use regularly in classrooms today would have seemed unbelievable to most of us just 20 years ago. We have made huge strides in providing access to learning enhanced by technology. Interactive white boards provide better clarity and interaction with learning materials, and netbooks allow students to access subject matter from across the Internet to enrich their research and knowledge.

The process of creating collaborative writing and multi-media projects has been become more closely aligned to the Common Core State Standards with the advent of Web-based technology. It has also allowed students to refine their presentation skills, a valuable ability students should master in order to maintain their academic success. Technology has

allowed us to streamline the processes of material distribution and assessment, creating more time for instruction. As we move toward a greater use of technology, students are more and more viewing “their devices” as indispensable tools to enhance their learning.



San Marino *Elementary*

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



Dr. Stacy Chang
Principal

Building a Foundation

San Marino is building the foundation for a 21st-century career path for students – through collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking via integrated technology instruction.

Through the district’s Technology Initiative, and PTA support, beginning in kindergarten and preschool our students now have access to Chromebook Carts and a Media Center. They work on various online programs to create their own products with Story Jumper, PowerPoint, Microsoft 365 Apps, and more.

Over 300 San Marino students in grades K–6 recently participated in the Hour of Code event, a global movement of millions of students in 180+ countries who are learning about computer science and problem-solving skills such as logic and creativity.



Ms. Betsy Cruz’s Kindergartners participated in the Hour of Code.

San Marino School will continue to provide its students with the opportunity to apply science and technology in an engaging way to benefit their future college and career prospects.

G.B. Miller *Elementary*

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



Gerald Shaw
Principal

Technology in the Classroom

Technology is in full bloom at George B. Miller, as our student scholars become masters in using the new ChromeBook laptop computers. The reality of creating a technology-rich learning environment with Chromebooks enables our students to actively work on different skills simultaneously.

For example, while students are completing a research assignment and typing an essay, they are:

- Studying how to effectively navigate the Internet
- Engaged in new discoveries about the topic being researched
- Becoming skilled at their typing skills
- Gaining greater understanding on how to use web-based software programs.



As you can imagine, Chromebooks at Miller help us to develop more well-rounded students. Miller scholars are diverse in the skills that they acquire while using these laptops, and more importantly, they will be better-prepared to enter into a much more technologically advanced working world.

Raymond Temple *Elementary*

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



Sara Pelly
Principal

New Technology

Technology is everywhere at Raymond Temple. Our Transitional Kindergarten students (TK) are using SmartBoards to learn letter sounds. The third-graders are utilizing new Chromebooks to complete a writing performance task, and the other classes use Chromebooks every day for reading practice, math, writing, and research.

One fourth-grade class is using “green screen” technology to record their book report for *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl. They drew their own version of the book cover, which



appears as the background for their video.

Teachers are now able to participate in BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) for instructional purposes. New and innovative technology is found in 21st-century classrooms everywhere, but is no longer used just for “standalone” activities or instruction.

Future classrooms at Raymond Temple will have technology integrated throughout the curriculum for discovery, exploration, creation, and design, and will allow for our students to have an audience of many.

Cypress School District

9470 Moody St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6900 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Anne Silavs

Ground-Breaking Developments!

March is an exciting time in the Cypress School District! This month, we will begin breaking ground for the construction of dedicated classroom space to support our new arts and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) academies. Last December, our Board of Trustees approved revisions to the district's Facilities Master Plan, which includes construction of new modular classrooms on each of our six school campuses.

It is important for the community to note that the district is not adding classroom space to house more students on each campus. Rather, these state-of-the-art facilities will enable the district to provide robust educational opportunities for the students we currently serve. New classrooms will support an enriched instructional program, which will effectively prepare children of the Cypress School District for jobs of the future, thus giving our students the competitive edge in college and career.

In planning for these innovative programs, we have engaged our school stakeholders to help us design the physical classroom space and develop the curriculum. Beginning this fall, all Cypress students in kindergarten through sixth grade will experience STEM-based instructional modules, which include engineering, coding, and environmental science. Students across the district will also be provided with weekly music instruction as part of our budding arts academy.

All of this is made possible through Board vision, staff leadership, and community support. Working together, everything is possible!



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Arnold *Elementary*

9281 Denni St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6965 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us



Denine Kelly
Principal

Engineers at Work

Cypress School District is currently participating in the Orange County Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Initiative. As part of the initiative, team members were charged with developing project-based learning activities for students across all grade levels.

Recently, Arnold kindergarten teacher Jean Wu helped her students learn about the Engineering Design Process through an activity based on the story of The Three Little Pigs. Students



Kindergarten students construct a house for the Three Little Pigs.

worked collaboratively to create houses that could withstand the "huffing and puffing" of the Big Bad Wolf. They designed, built, tested, redesigned, and retested their houses until they were strong enough to survive. Students then decided to make a "town" with their houses and created code to help their robot, Dash, navigate the town.

This project allowed students to collaborate, use their creativity, and apply math, science, technology and language skills—just like real-life engineers!

Landell *Elementary*

9739 Denni St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6960 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Rena Gibbs
Principal

Dishing the Dirt

Landell's "Dishing the Dirt Club" meets weekly to positively impact our school.

The Club is comprised of two squads: the recycling squad and the cooking squad. Members spend time on each squad. The recycling squad goes to each classroom to collect the week's recycling. It also manages the school-wide recycling program which captures the recyclables from lunches and recess snacks.

The cooking squad works to create a dish that was selected



Sixth graders working in our seasonal garden.

during the previous week's meeting. The cooking squad learns about the food, its nutritional value, and how to prepare the dish. The goal is to eventually cook dishes that only use items grown in our school garden.

Each week both squads come together to maintain Landell's hanging garden. They also work in our school garden to remove weeds and provide irrigation. Currently the Club is growing pumpkins, celery, green onions, tomatoes, beans, rosemary, and California wild flowers.

King *Elementary*

8710 Moody St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6980 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us



Carol Erbe
Principal

Hour of Code

King Elementary School students were treated to a dynamic assembly presented by local computer scientist Wendy Lam, who conveyed to our students the importance of learning how to code. This kickoff event got our students excited about participating in the worldwide Hour of Code program, designed to demystify computer coding and show that anyone can write a program.

Our students enjoyed the challenge of learning simple computer programming and moving on to more complex levels.

Our youngest students programmed Bee-Bots to follow a path, which became more complex as they learned more advanced directions and commands. Students in other grades used tablets, laptops, and desktop computers to learn simple directional commands, repeat loops, and if/else statements using code.org. Our general education classroom teachers led these lessons and, in many cases, learned programming along with their students.

One fifth-grade student said, “Computer programming is easy—if you concentrate and really think about what you want to have happen on the screen.” A group of kindergarten students observed, “It is really hard to make the Bee-Bots do what you want. You have to get it wrong a lot of times before it is right.”

Many students have joined our lunchtime Coding Club based on their interest in the Hour of Code, and many teachers have set up code.org class accounts so their students can complete a 20-hour course.

Luther *Elementary*

5851 Newman St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6918 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us

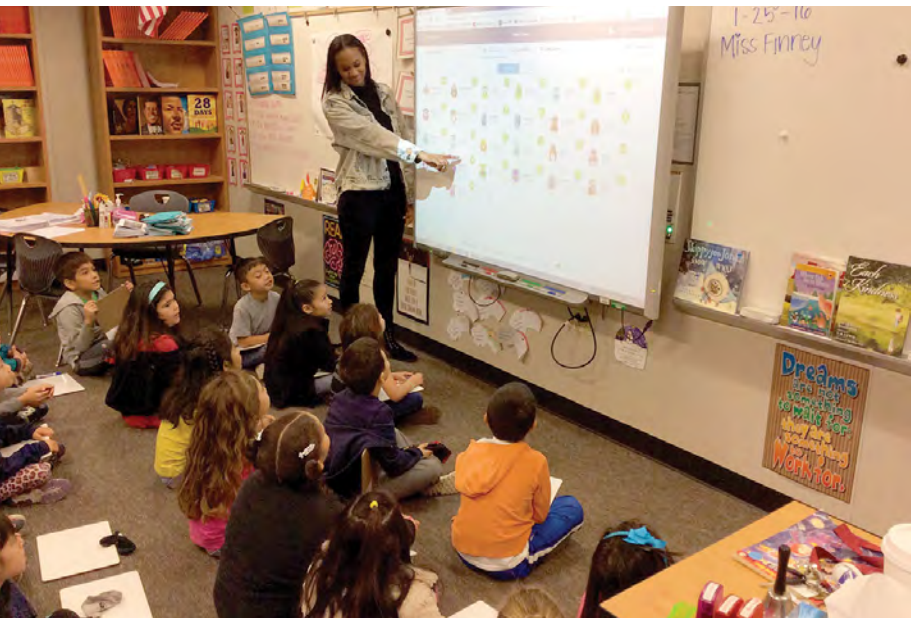


Jacki Teschke
Principal

A Positive Classroom Environment

Teachers at Luther Elementary School believe strongly in the effectiveness of positive reinforcement to emphasize and build desired behavior among students. One program many teachers use, ClassDojo, operates on the principle that constant positive reinforcement encourages students to build positive behavior traits. Students are acknowledged with an audible “click” when they demonstrate positive behavior attributes, such as persevering through a difficult word problem or respectfully collaborating with peers. Clicks are recorded by the program, and students can monitor their progress.

First-grade teacher Miss Finney uses ClassDojo to share these moments with parents. An application notifies parents when their children receive positive clicks. Additionally, parents can see pictures of what is happening in the classroom throughout the school day. “ClassDojo is an excellent tool that helps me connect to my students’ parents,” she said.



Miss Finney's first grade classroom.

Morris *Elementary*

9952 Graham St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6995 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us



Lori Hernandez
Principal

Making An IMPACT

Morris Elementary IMPACT, our student service club, sponsored a pasta and sauce drive for the Caterina's Club Feeding the Kids in America program. This program, started by a local restaurant, serves 5,000 meals a week to children in Orange County. Their mission is to end childhood hunger for local children living in motels or homes without enough food.

Over one million meals have been served since the program began about 10 years ago. The restaurant accepts donations of pasta and sauce, which provide meals year-round. Morris

Elementary students donated more than 1,400 units of pasta and sauce. Students who made the delivery were lucky enough to meet Bruno Serato, the famous chef who started it all. He talked with them about the program and led them on a tour through the facility where the pasta and sauce are stored. It was a great experience for these student leaders.



Morris students met Chef Bruno at the Anaheim White House Restaurant while dropping off donations of food items for his Feeding the Kids in America program.

Vessels *Elementary*

5900 Cathy Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6990 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us



Helen Lu
Principal

The Benefits of Philanthropy

In December, the students of Vessels Elementary School checked off their third fall philanthropic project. For the past three years the Vessels Student Council has been collaborating with the student body to choose a fall project that can benefit others.

Previous projects included collecting pasta and red sauce for Caterina's Club, and collecting food for the Cypress Food Shelter. This year, the students chose to donate goods to the SPCA LA Pitchford Companion Animal Village and Education Center in Long Beach. Over a three-week period they collected gently used blankets, toys for cats and dogs, and food.

The response from the Vessels Bulldogs was enormous! By the last day of instruction in December our students had collected enough donations to fill a van to the brim!

The response and gratitude from the animal shelter was overwhelming. The Student Council is looking forward to future fall philanthropic projects. With the words of Albert Einstein in mind, “It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what they take out of it.”

Go, Vessels Bulldogs!

Savanna School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



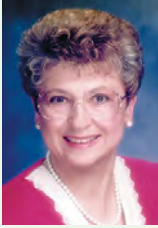
Dr. Sue Johnson

Exceeding Our Great Expectations

What an exciting, eventful school year this continues to be for students and staff in the Savanna School District with our philosophy of “Great Expectations...The Best Is Yet To Come!” Because we hold Great Expectations and believe that the best opportunities are yet to unfold, wonderful things are happening throughout the district that support and enhance learning for our students. We can’t help but let our pride show with the selection of ALL four schools in the Savanna School District as finalists for the Gold Ribbon Award, once again demonstrating that “The Best Is Yet To Come!” Congratulations to the staff at Cerritos, Hansen, Holder, and Reid Schools for their ongoing commitment to ensuring our students receive nothing less than the best. Final announcements of Gold Ribbon Schools will be made in late April; we’re so proud of all of our schools for this accomplishment. The combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, a highly qualified and caring staff, and a long-standing commitment to excellence is continuing to provide our students with the opportunity to be prepared and successful 21st-century citizens. This is what Savanna has been and what we strive to be for every child every day. Parents, students, and staff take great pride in the Savanna School District’s Great Expectations. They have high expectations that the children who attend our schools will be challenged to learn and grow to their full potential and achieve to the highest standards. This commitment to having Great Expectations for our students and the community’s ongoing support of and belief in our students has resulted in incredible success, as just one example of “The Best Is Yet To Come!”

Another indication of “Great Expectations...The Best Is Yet To Come!” has been our shift to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in math and English language arts; as we continue to implement the CCSS, it’s important to know that 70 to 80 percent of the standards remain the same. The real difference is in the cognitive rigor of what we are asking students to do. For example, students will be reading more complex and varied texts. This shift has infused a systemic change in California’s educational system, with a focus on ensuring students are college and career ready upon high school graduation. Built upon not only what students need to know but also on how they arrive at solving complex problems, the CCSS help students learn the unique skills they need to be successful in a rapidly changing global economy. CCSS is not a federal mandate imposed upon us; the standards were driven by several states’ need to agree on common standards measuring college readiness. This set of shared national standards will help to ensure that students in every state are held to the same level of expectations that students in the world’s highest-performing countries are and that they gain the knowledge and skills to prepare them for success in postsecondary education and in the global arena.

In addition to infusing rigor to the curriculum at all grade levels, the CCSS requires a new system of assessment. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has created expanded assessments for use across the country. Similar to the shift to CCSS, students will participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment in spring 2016, aligned to the Common Core. The SBAC assessments require online testing and will include an expanded testing program utilizing the Smarter Balanced Assessment. To prepare our students, we have established Technology Learning Centers and Assessment Centers on each campus and provided students with daily access to computers, electronic tablets, and other digital media. As a result, technology has been infused into the curriculum, providing students with the necessary skills to demonstrate their knowledge in an online environment. Our Great Expectations for our students to be technologically literate can be evidenced in our technology curriculum, which identifies what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, beginning in transitional kindergarten, as use of technological tools is immersed into the curriculum.



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Our Great Expectation that we must continue to partner with parents to support students both at school and at home was evidenced during our 24th annual Reach the Reader family reading night. Throughout this fun-filled evening, parents and children were involved in activities that focused on literacy. Parents participated in keynote sessions led by our team of technology experts in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese. Parents learned strategies they could use at home to help support their children in using technology to support reading instruction at home, while children were involved in a variety of reading-related activities. With nearly 1,000 parents and children in attendance, it was apparent to us that our school community is eager to learn how they can help children become better readers, how to motivate children to read for fun, and how to instill a lifelong love of learning in children! This annual event would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the entire Savanna School District staff, with over 100 volunteers who generously donated their time to present student sessions, provide infant care, assist with parking and serving dinner, and much, much more, demonstrating once again that through “Great Expectations...The Best Is Yet To Come!”

The difference between a good school district and a GREAT school district is people: people like the Savanna School District staff, who are committed to doing everything they can daily to demonstrate that “The Best Is Yet To Come!”; people like our parents, who provide the home support for our students so that they can meet our Great Expectations; and people like all those in our community, who contribute to our successes in so many ways. Our successes are YOUR successes. We’re excited to be well on the path toward demonstrating Great Expectations...The Best Is Still Yet To Come!

Cerritos *School*

3731 Cerritos St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3830 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/schools/Cerritos/cerrhome.html



Shannon Wyatt
Principal

Cheetah Fun Run!

Take a walk out to the playground at Cerritos School, and you might just encounter a fifth-grade class doing burpees or a second-grade class doing inchworms. In a classroom, it's possible that you'll see kindergarten students doing tricep dips. "What's going on here?" you might ask yourself.

The answer is that all students at Cerritos School are training for our first annual Cheetah Fun Run! This year, instead of the traditional Jog-A-Thon, students at Cerritos will be competing in a CrossFit-type fund-raiser. Students will run through a course that has been set up throughout the campus as they lunge down one hall and karaoke down another. They will be doing sit-ups, push-ups, crab walks and army crawls under a net.

Physical fitness is an integral part of the educational day. According to the American Heart Association, physical fitness is associated with academic performance in young people. In a study of fifth-graders, researchers focused more on the students' fitness levels than their weight. They found that students who maintained or improved their fitness levels achieved the highest academically. At Cerritos School, our goal is to develop the whole child into an educationally strong and physically healthy person. Incorporating the Cheetah Fun Run into our academic program is a step toward attaining that goal.

Tiger Woods Learning Center

Our fifth-grade students will participate in a weeklong education program at the Tiger Woods Learning Center. This year's program will provide students with the opportunity to learn about forensic science as a career, immersing them in a variety of hands-on activities such as fingerprinting, DNA analysis, microscope use and chromatography. The center also provides the fifth-grade teachers with professional-development opportunities while their students are learning. Cerritos fifth-grade students are excited about their upcoming weeklong field trip to the Tiger Woods Learning Center!

Holder *School*

9550 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/236-3840 • www.savsd.org/Schools/Holder/holdhome.html



Dr. Jerry Friedman
Principal

Campus Security

After winter break, students and families returned to new safety procedures at Holder School. The Savanna School District believes student safety and security are a top priority, and all campuses are now truly closed campuses. In the mornings before school, students can only enter the school grounds through one gate. A staff member supervises the entry gate, and any adults wishing to enter the campus are directed to sign in at the office. To assist our kindergarten students, there are student volunteers in blue vests to escort them to class. We are truly appreciative of the positive and supportive response we have received from our Holder families!

STAR Cards

The Holder Hawks are Honorable, Accountable, Welcoming, Kind, and Scholarly (HAWKS). That is the foundation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program at Holder. When students demonstrate these characteristics, they receive STAR cards. Each time a student acquires 20 STAR cards, he or she receives a prize, selecting from a menu of items, including making announcements over the loudspeaker, leading the Pledge of Allegiance at a flag ceremony, playing handball against the principal, and choosing music to play during lunchtime. When a student collects 100 STAR cards, he or she receives a Holder Hundred T-shirt.

Organized Games

Lunchtime is an exciting time for the upper-grade students at Holder! Many fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders compete in organized games. Students who want to participate are randomly placed on teams at the beginning of each trimester. Teams have daily matches in sports such as soccer, dodge ball, and softball. Willing sixth-grade students are trained to be the referees, and awards are presented to the winning teams upon completion of each "season." Holder is fortunate to have Mr. Clinton and Ms. Garcia in charge of this engaging program!

Hansen *School*

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3835 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Schools/Hansen/hanhome.html



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

Enjoying the Outdoors!

This winter our Hansen sixth-grade students were given an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. We sent over 100 students to the Outdoor Science School to experience all that nature affords us in Southern California.

As the day began on one bright Monday morning, we loaded our sixth-graders onto buses and off they went for a week of immersion in science! The students quickly got settled with their introductions, but the fun really began at the evening campfire.

Throughout the week they got to experience several half-day hikes and one all-day one. The students were able to eat lunch in the field and complete a nature study just like real scientists do. They even worked their way through the woods geocaching.

Students were able to experience hands-on science activities that tied into our Next Generation Science Standards, and were able to document their hard work in a journal. Some of the physical activities that they were able to enjoy included archery, rock climbing, and repelling.

Throughout the week, our students shared their Outdoor Science School experience with over 300 students from other schools who all learned to work together. They also participated in special team-building exercises. They used their critical thinking skills as a team to help complete different tasks, and everyone worked quite well together!

At the end of the week, the students participated in a talent show where they were also able to sign autograph books. It was wonderful to see the buses pull up on that last Friday afternoon with over 100 smiling faces inside.

Our students will forever remember this special week, one that was filled with fun, friendship building, and learning about science. It was an experience that has changed all of their lives.

Twila Reid *School*

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3840 • www.savsd.org/Schools/Reid/reidhome.html



Hipolito Murillo
Principal

Students as Musicians!

Reid School students in the fourth through sixth grades have the opportunity to learn to play a string instrument. Julie Metz, a concert violinist, has taught for the Music Masters program at Reid for over 20 years.

Our students can learn to play the violin, viola, cello, bass or piano. Each spring, the string players from the four schools of the Savanna School District—Hansen, Cerritos, Holder and Reid—along with the Orangeview Junior High and Western High School students perform a concert for our families, teachers and interested community members.

If you would like to hear how well our students have progressed in their ability to play their instruments, I encourage you to attend our spring concert on Monday, April 25.

Music Concerts

Each year, a county philharmonic society sends professional musicians to our school to perform, free of charge, a special music program for students, called "Meet the Musicians." The purpose of this program is to introduce children to professional musicians. Each year, our students have the opportunity to hear musicians from one of the four sections of the orchestra: strings, brass, woodwind and percussion.

Opportunities for students to attend concerts away from the school site are also provided. This year, our second-graders attended an American band show sponsored by a local entertainment complex, and our fifth-graders attended a concert featuring the Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra and dancers from a local ballet company. These events are always a special treat for our students.

Through these concerts, our students are exposed to the different genres of music. They also learn about concert etiquette. We are grateful that music education continues for our students!



Briana Schnitzer
Coordinator

Preparing for State Assessments

The shift to online state assessments has created the need for more technology in our schools. With our annual state assessment timeframe rapidly approaching, the Savanna School District is beginning to prepare by constructing assessment centers at each of our four school sites. These assessments centers will complement our technology learning centers, which are presently located on each school campus. The addition of the assessment centers will allow each school site to have two designated rooms for student testing. This will also allow teachers and students to utilize the technology in these rooms

when they are not being used for the administration of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing.

Currently, each technology learning center is equipped with student computers, a teacher presentation station, a voice-enhancement system, a document camera, and a wall-mounted, 60-inch television screen. The configuration of equipment provides optimal teaching and learning opportunities for staff and students. The assessment centers will be similarly arranged. This will provide our staff and students with a comfortable and familiar setting for the duration of our six-week assessment window.

In addition, our teachers have been focusing on teaching and preparing our students with the necessary 21st-century skills to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom. SBAC testing requires students to apply much more than just the content knowledge they have learned throughout the school year. Students are required to demonstrate their 21st-century technology abilities by applying specific skills, including selecting responses, typing short text sections, highlighting text, clicking and dragging, editing text, graphing, dragging and dropping, selecting and reordering text, filling in tables, and matching. In order to prepare our students for these online assessments, all students in second through sixth grades will continue to take their District Benchmark Assessments online. This process familiarizes students with reading and answering questions digitally in a setting comparable to an assessment center.

By providing students with the technology and skills needed to succeed, we are certain "The Best Is Yet to Come!"

POLICE INTERACTION WITH YOUTH PROGRAM • From Page 1

La Palma Police Officers serve as positive role models for the children and are obviously well versed on the subject matter to be taught. Moreover, relating to students in a classroom setting helps to develop a rapport that promotes positive attitudes toward the police and a greater respect for authority in general. Attached to this e-mail is a brief Power Point presentation describing the courses being provided to the students.

This year, each school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) agreed to fund the PIY Program due to the City of La Palma budgetary cuts. The PIY funding includes the Police Officer's salary, the purchase of PIY T-Shirts, and PIY graduation certificates, and medals.

I feel that schools, law enforcement, and the community are important components of the partnership needed to help the PIY program achieve its goals. The other and most important component is the child's parents and guardians involvement in the program.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this program, please me at (714) 690-3375.

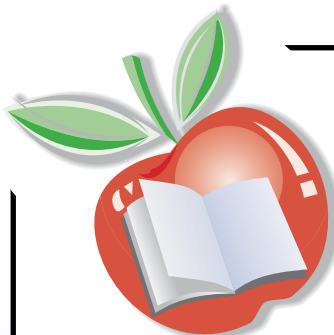


Savanna School District Community Health Fair

Saturday, April 16, 2016 • 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
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Anaheim, CA 92804

Supported by the Children & Families Commission of Orange County
and the Buena Park Noon Lions Club

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- **Free Dental Screenings**
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- **Prizes!**
- **Activities for Children**
- **Much, Much More!**



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Holder School
9550 Holder St.
Buena Park, CA 90620

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

Register online at
www.savsd.org



Owl Singalong



Kate Karp

Adult Beluga Grads whose younger lives were enriched by Raffi's music will be very happy, particularly if they're parents, teachers or involved in any way with children. The beloved artist and children's advocate emerged from a 12-year hiatus in 2014 with his collection *Love Bug*, and he's following up with another planet- and child-centered theme in *Owl Singalong*.



A Page-Turner



Isabella A.

Flexible Wings is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often. When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breath because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!

I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!



Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

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

Ships 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 March 30, 2016.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BATTLESHIP	FRIGATE	SUBTENDER
CARGO	GUNBOAT	SUPERLINER
CARRIERS	ICEBREAKER	SUPERTANKER
CONTAINER	LANDING SHIP	TANKERS
CRUISER	MINE SWEEPER	TRANSPORT
DESTROYER	OILERS	TUGBOAT
FERRY	REPAIR	YACHT
FREIGHTER	SUBMARINES	

Congratulations to **Rosabel Rivera**
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

T	L	N	T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T	B	R	V
A	A	S	U	B	T	E	N	D	E	R	A	E	W	E
O	N	U	H	H	V	Q	R	P	Y	T	P	E	R	Q
B	D	B	B	S	U	P	E	R	T	A	N	K	E	R
G	I	M	S	U	P	E	R	L	I	N	E	R	Y	C
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O	I	L	E	R	S	R	E	I	R	R	A	C	D	K
U	R	E	S	I	U	R	C	H	O	F	K	V	F	T
G	U	N	B	O	A	T	I	W	M	J	B	S	W	B

National Reading Awareness Month



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Whether you're an educator, a parent, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle or even an older sibling, there is something special about reading to a child.

With each turn of the page, horizons expand, and new shades of the world emerge. With each line of a story, you can practically see the neural connections forming within a young mind.

I bring this up because March is designated as National Reading Awareness Month, and it's a good time to reflect on not just the importance of literacy, but the benefits of reading aloud to children at an early age.

Research shows that literacy begins long before our kids even enter school—and in fact, critical developmental steps are taken shortly after birth. This is not to suggest the teaching of reading prematurely. But from their earliest months, children gain tremendously when we talk to them, share stories, introduce them to culture and expose them to books with simple pictures and bright colors.

First 5 California, an organization dedicated to supporting children during their developmental years, says reading aloud to babies strengthens their vocabulary skills and stimulates the growth and development of brain cells. Their research further indicates that children who are regularly read to as babies know more words by age 2 than those who do not have this benefit.

Studies also show early literacy is a key indicator of future success.

Among students who don't read proficiently by the end of grade three, about 16 percent fail to graduate from high school on time — a rate that is four times greater than that associated with proficient readers. And the percentage spikes even higher when you factor in levels of poverty.

Here at the Orange County Department of Education, we are promoting a vision that Orange County students can and will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. But that vision begins with our youngest learners as they take their first developmental steps toward literacy.

Reading to a child doesn't just establish a foundation for learning; it paves the path to a better life. And it can be pretty rewarding for us grown-ups too.

Keira's Book Nook

True Friends Stick Together



Keira

I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906

By Lauren Tarshis

The I Survived books are a *New York Times* best seller series. I loved this book about Leo, Morris and Wilkie, the main characters who lived through a disastrous earthquake in San Francisco. Wilkie and Fletch are two bullies who torment Leo, but when Wilkie gets buried under a pile of bricks, Leo and his friend Morris realize nobody deserves to die, and they save the bully Wilkie. When Wilkie finds out his supposed "friend" Fletch leaves him to die, he becomes friends with Leo and Morris who saved him.

This book is about how true friends always stick together no matter what. In difficult times is when you find out who your friends really are. I found this book to be really interesting.

I give it 5 out of 5 apples!



Keira Fukuwa is a fourth grader. Besides reading, she enjoys soccer, jazz dance, crafts and cooking. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 the best.

Cypress Library

5331 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/826-0350 • www.ocpl.org

Lots of Options



Helen Richardson
Branch Manager

By Stephanie Anson, Children's Librarian

Homework Help: For kids grades K-8.

Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm. Teens assist with homework.

Rookie Reader: For kids grades K-5.

Mondays from 5-6pm. Teens read one-on-one with kids.

ACME Drawing Board: Chuck Jones Center offers drawing lessons Saturday, March 5 and April 2 from 12:30-1:30.

Prescriptive Pets Story Dogs: Come read to therapy dogs. Offered the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6-7pm.

Celebrating Dr. Seuss: Duffy Hudson performs a variety of Dr. Seuss stories on March 10th at 3:30pm.

Kids Craft Program: Kids can create a variety of spring crafts, March 16th at 3:30pm.

Mom & Dad Day: Do parents go to school to be parents? Kids, bring your parents and find out what parents learn when you're at school! May 18th at 3:30pm.

Please call the Cypress Library for more information.

Lucy's Book Review

Interesting!



Lucy Davis

Finally

Author: Wendy Mass

Rory begins getting rid of the things that remind her of being a kid. She throws out her stuffed bear, Throckmorton, tears down Snoopy posters from her walls, and other things all because she can't wait until

she's twelve. She has a list of exactly what she wants to do when she is twelve. Ride an upside down roller coaster, wear makeup, get a cell phone, and the list goes on and on. But everything changes when she is saved from a drain pipe.

This is a story about a girl that wants to grow up too fast. Throughout the story she experiences things that help her realize that maybe being a kid a little longer isn't such a bad thing after all.

I give this book four bookworms out of five. It's a good book. However, I wasn't rushing home to read it every day.

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.





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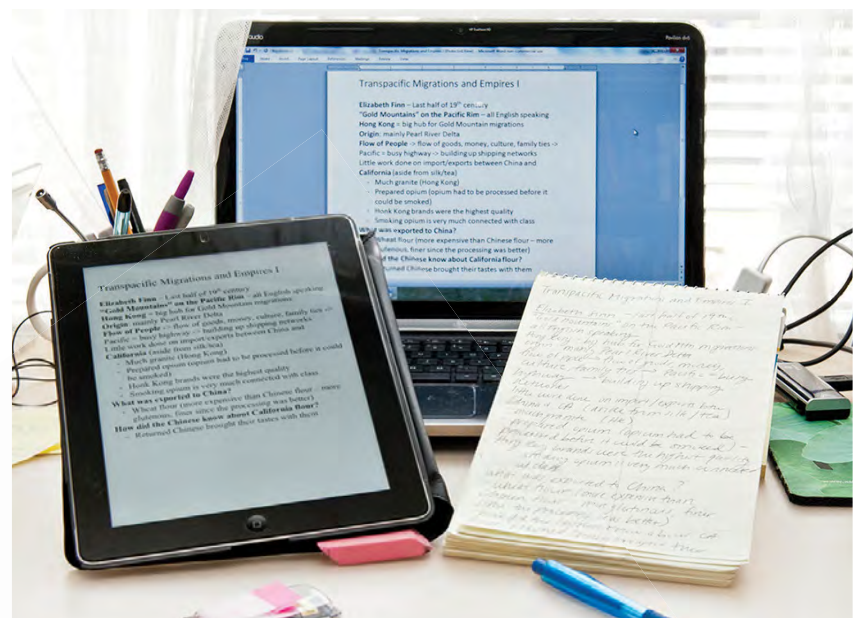
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New Tax Provisions and Extensions



Cathylyn Brooks

By the time you read this article an important tax legislation may be signed into effect. The bill contains the renewal of several expired tax regulations that aid homeowners, businesses, and real estate investments. It was strongly supported by the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

A significant feature of the work is the continuation of tax relief for those receiving mortgage debt forgiveness. This prevents “underwater” homeowners from incurring a large tax bill for income associated with a mortgage workout or a short-sale. The belief is that this tax relief has fortified both local regions and the overall economy since 2007 when homeowners were first granted this benefit. The bill gives an additional two years of shelter for sales in 2015 and 2016.

Also included is the permanent continuation of a 15-year cost recovery term for the depreciation of qualified leasehold improvements. This component ensures that a reasonable cost-recovery period remains in place for improvements made to non-residential commercial property.

Additionally the legislation renews certain incentives to promote energy efficient commercial and multifamily buildings. And an expired tax credit of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for energy efficient new homes is also continued for an additional two years.

The bill also permanently extends regulations allowing small and mid-sized businesses to expense business equipment in the year obtained, rather than being required to depreciate the equipment over an extended period of years.

The tax bill also includes revisions to the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA) that will ease limitations on investment in commercial real estate. Please see your tax advisor for specifics on how you can benefit from these recent changes.

Cathylyn Brooks, CRS, GRI is affiliated with Main Street Realtors. She has worked as a real estate broker since 1980, is a graduate of USC, the UCI paralegal program, and serves FINRA as a public arbitrator. Consumers should seek legal and tax advice pertaining to their transactions.

Kindergarten



Charlene Ashendorf

Do you remember kindergarten? Our children are grown. We have no grandkids, and there are no memories of kindergarten. Seriously, that was more than 50 years ago. But then something magical happened.

At the beginning of this school year I began a powerful journey that has taken me on two paths. On the first road, I have returned to the kindergarten classroom; this time as a volunteer. The second is an amazing walk that has opened the doors and windows into my first memories of school. I remember when pre-school was “nursery” school. As for kindergarten...

The adage, “the more things change, the more they stay the same” certainly applies to the kindergarten experience. Except the kindergarteners “these days” appear more self-assured, more confident, more experienced in their world. Certainly more so than I recall.

Kindergarten is still about the play, but transitioning that play from home into another environment where numbers and letters become manipulatives and are toys! Well, it’s more colorful, more interesting, more engaging than I recall.

It seems I have forgotten all those learning activities, however, after eight weeks in the classroom, my kindergarten memories begin to return. We are in a safe place. We are making friends. We are becoming comfortable with a new routine and look forward to knowing, “what comes next.” We are following directions, taking turns, sitting quietly and sharing.

“Dick and Jane” are nowhere to be found, but “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” is still around! Yes, surrounded by books, kindergarteners still enjoy music and movement. Why, last week we did the hokey pokey and struggled with finding that right arm and that left arm! But, I remember now, that kindergarten was fun, and fortunately it is even more so today, the second time around.

Please visit Charlene’s web site <http://about.me/cmash>



David Vannasdale, Ed.D. '16
Superintendent of Schools
Arcadia Unified High School District
Current Azusa Pacific Student

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

*Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College*

"My son always fought me to do homework, and this would be an all night thing. I tried everything, and then found the Tutoring Club. Putting him in the Tutoring Club's the best thing I could have done for him. His 2011 California Standards Test was proficient in everything!!!!"

*Mother of student at
Landell Elementary, Cypress*

"I am the mother of 3 children and my oldest son was having reading problems. The Tutoring Club helped my son and myself to learn new reading strategies. With Tutoring Club's help my 6 year old son was able to sound out words and read. He is very proud of himself and I am so happy and proud of him as well. He couldn't have made the growth without the Tutoring Club. Thank you Tutoring Club for giving my son the help he needed."

*Mother of 1st grader – SES Student
Norwalk-La Mirada School District*

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