

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Districts of: Centralia, Cypress, & Savanna**

**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 40**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**MARCH / APRIL 2017**

## Autographed with Excellence

*By Norma Martinez, Superintendent Centralia School District*

**Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence.**  
—Author Unknown

We at Centralia School District take tremendous pride in knowing that our programs are robust and ever evolving, keeping up with the trends in education but also ensuring strong foundations for our almost 4500 students. It takes a team of close to 550 employees to ensure that every facet of each program is shaped in a manner that allows us to say with pride and with earnestness that we “autograph our work with excellence!”

We take pride in every aspect of our profession, from the teaching of reading in the classroom to the delivery of our meals and the appearance of our schools. This work is facilitated through staff members who are dedicated and focused on improving the learning experience for our students. Following are some examples of how we autograph our work with excellence!



### Early Childhood Education

Centralia School District offers free weekly Parent Learning Link experiences for parents and children as young as two years old. Learning Link classes include visits to the Buena Park Library and the development of language through nursery rhymes and storytelling.

Additionally, we are proud of our expanded state preschool program for three- and four-year-old students. These five-day-a-week classes are taught at Danbrook, Centralia, and San Marino Schools. Our state preschool programs have earned the highest rating of success from the Quality Start Organization who rated ours a five-star program!

### Health and Nutrition

Each day, our Food Services Department serves over 800 breakfasts and 4,000 lunches to Centralia School District students. We are a collaborating partner of the Center for Ecoliteracy California Thursday meal program. This partnership is evidence that we are reaffirming our commitment to incorporate healthy, California-grown products in our Thursday menu options. We are one of 71 districts in the state and two in Orange County that are participating in this effort.

During our kickoff program in January, it was a joy to observe children enjoying tomatoes and carrots in the same manner that they would eat apples! Parents, students, and community members attended this event, where they enjoyed fresh fruits and vegetables, participated in menu tasting and judging, and enjoyed culinary demonstrations.

What is next? We are offering opportunities for healthy nutrition and cooking lessons in class, parent nutrition lessons, and more!

### Facilities Improvements

A huge thanks to our community for your overwhelming positive support of Measure N! We have already begun part of the work, including the replacement of outdated kindergarten playgrounds at Centralia, Buena Terra and Los Coyotes Schools. Next up are Miller and Dysinger Schools.

We are also in the process of making improvements to the air conditioning systems in the multipurpose rooms at Miller, Danbrook, and Raymond Temple Schools. Of course, this is just the beginning as we continue to make improvements to each of our eight schools as we transition into true 21st-century learning environments.

### Academic Excellence

At this point in the year, staff and students are focused on “the next big thing,” state testing. Our testing window for third- through sixth-grade students is April 10–May 5, 2017. Of course, students are not testing all of these days! Rather, we use this schedule to allow for make-up sessions for students who are absent on the regular testing days.

Our third- through sixth-grade students continue to use our new language arts curriculum, Benchmark and our new math curriculum, My Math. We supplement these programs through the addition of software tools, including MIND Math, Accelerated Reader, Ticket to Read, and PBS Discovery. To enhance critical-thinking skills, we incorporate a 20-hour computer-programming curriculum through CODE.org. Our district continues to purchase technology devices. In short, there is a lot of “good stuff” happening in each of our classrooms!

Education is in an exciting phase of change and evolution. We cannot do this alone. For this reason, I, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank each member of the Centralia Learning Community for your support and involvement in our schools. CESD: In Pursuit of Excellence!



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from the Treasurer about the Scholar Dollars grant program.**



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the  
CENTRALIA, CYPRESS, & SAVANNA  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



As we are preparing to go to print the skys are cloudy and another rain storm is predicted. Hopefully, during this long rainy period you have enjoyed some board and card games with your family and turned off some of the electronic devices. On page 4 the Cypress Library offers lots of choices for all ages.

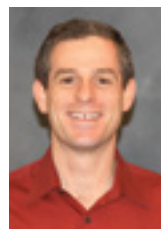
On page 5 you will find our Word Search Contest and the winner of the last contest.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is May 3.

## Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

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

### Identifying When a Stomachache is Serious



**Barry Steinmetz, M.D.**

associate medical  
director, Pediatric  
Gastroenterology,  
Hepatology &  
Nutrition Center,  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach



When a child experiences a stomachache, it's important for parents to be able to distinguish normal abdominal pain from a serious problem.

There are several reasons kids may experience stomachaches:

**Constipation:** Stool may be hard and difficult to pass leading to stomach pains. Poor diet and insufficient water intake are frequent causes.

**Diarrhea:** Diarrhea is runny, loose bowel movements. It's often caused by food that upset the stomach, but if diarrhea persists it may be a sign of an infection.

**Stomach Flu:** The "stomach flu" is not actually a type of flu but inflammation in the lining of the intestines usually caused by a virus, called gastroenteritis. Symptoms can include diarrhea, stomach pains, vomiting, headache, fever and chills. Most people recover without treatment.

**GERD:** A common childhood condition is gastroesophageal reflux disease, which is a chronic disease that occurs when stomach acid or contents flows back into the food pipe. Symptoms include a burning sensation in the chest, chest pain, difficulty swallowing and dry cough.

Unless your child has a serious infection or condition, stomachaches will usually go away with time. However, if your child experiences frequent abdominal pains, bloating, diarrhea or constipation, talk to your child's pediatrician about an improved diet or consultation with a gastroenterologist.

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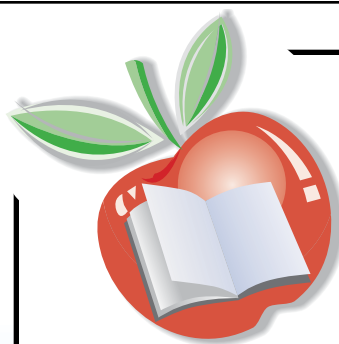
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# Savanna School District

## Full Day Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Programs 2017-2018 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**



## Cypress Library

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

### Lots of Choices

**Kids Yoga**—5:00pm Thursdays, Feb. 16~Mar. 16—Ages 8-12, 15 spots. Sign-up early. Preparing students for a future of mindfulness.

**Baby Lapsit Storytime**—10:00am Wednesdays—Ages 0-2. 20-minute program for babies and their caregivers, followed by independent playtime.

**Toddler Storytime**—9:30am Mondays—Ages 18-35 months. Join us for stories, songs, and fun! (Enter through the north parking lot door.)

**Preschool Storytime**—10:30am Mondays—Ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, and fun!

**Read to a Dog**—6:00pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays—Kids & Families. Read to or pet a trained, gentle therapy dog... our favorite, furry friends!

**Family Storytime**—10:30am Saturdays: Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 13—Enjoy a unique storytime with crafts.

**Homework Help**—3:30-5:00pm Mondays & Wednesdays—Grades K-8. Free help with daily homework, led by high school volunteers. Bring all supplies and materials. Subject to cancellations and library holidays. Ends April 26.

**Rookie Readers**—5:30pm Wednesdays—Grades K-5. Beginning readers pair with teen volunteers for one-on-one 20- or 30-minute reading practice. Subject to cancellations and library holidays. Ends April 26.

**Kids Puppet Show**—3:00pm Thursday, April 27—Jack & the Beanstalk puppet show.

**Tabletop Games**—2-6pm Monday, March 13 & 2-4pm Sunday, April 2—Nominate your March Madness games and play the top picks and championship winner. Ages 9+

**Teen Candy Sushi**—3:30pm Tuesday, March 21—April Fools! It's not real sushi. Make and eat sweet sushi creations.

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB)**—3:30-5:00pm First Thursdays—Grades 8-12. Want to learn more about the library? Earn volunteer hours? Be a leader in your community? Join TAB and help plan activities.

**Teen Volunteer Opportunities**—Grades 9-12. Rookie Readers, Homework Help, and Tech Tutors.

## Teachers See the Possibilities

In Jennifer Swanson's high school English class, seniors master material that prepares them for college and careers, gaining writing and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



Arroyo High School, Expository English Class, Teacher: Jennifer Swanson '96, M.A.Ed. '99

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## 6 locations throughout Southern California

Attend an information meeting on March 23 at 6 p.m. at the Orange County Regional Campus. Register today at [apu.edu/education/meetings/](http://apu.edu/education/meetings/).

Now enrolling! Contact us today.

**Orange County Regional Campus**  
1915 Orangewood Ave., Ste. 100, Orange, CA 92868  
[orangecounty@apu.edu](mailto:orangecounty@apu.edu) | (714) 935-0260

### School of Education programs offered:

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#### Credentials

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Multiple Subject Teaching  
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Preliminary Administrative Services  
Clear Administrative Services

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# Centralia School District

6625 La Palma Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3100 • [www.cesd.us](http://www.cesd.us)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Norma Martinez**

### America On Track Physical Education Program Grant

Centralia School District is a partner in the America on Track Physical Education Program (PEP) grant. America on Track is a community-based, nonprofit organization that was awarded the Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant. Through this grant, we will have physical education specialists participate in physical education with our students and teachers as we learn the new physical education curriculum.

Kindergarten through sixth-grade students in all eight schools will participate in this comprehensive physical activity, health, and nutrition program. Schools will receive new physical education equipment, and students will track their steps with pedometers. In addition, all schools are eligible to win a \$10,000 annual prize designed to be used to strengthen our physical programs!

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## Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put CCS in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2017  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

|            |             |         |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| BALALAIKA  | GUITAR      | SITAR   |
| BANJO      | HARPSICHORD | UKULELE |
| BASS VIOL  | LUTE        | VIOLA   |
| CELLO      | LYRE        | VIOLIN  |
| CLAVICHORD | MANDOLIN    | ZITHER  |
| CONTRABASS | ORGAN       |         |
| DULCIMER   | PIANO       |         |

**Congratulations to Emily Mellon  
Winner of the November Contest!**





# Buena Terra *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Dominic Nguyen**  
*Principal*

## Getting Involved

At Buena Terra Elementary School, we provide multiple avenues for our parents and community to get involved. Opportunities to serve on the School Site Council, Safety Committee, and English Language Advisory Committee allow parents to provide input and make decisions on how to best serve our students by discussing, monitoring, and evaluating all of the instructional programs in our school-based plans. Input is also provided by the community through parent surveys, Principal's Coffee Chats, and PTA meetings.

The PTA provides our community with great opportunities to be involved in school events. PTA organizes family nights, including our trunk or treat event, movie nights, the jog-a-thon, father/son and mother/daughter

events, and the carnival, to name just a few. Such events allow the community and students to build stronger connections to our school, which has an impact on student attendance. Our attendance rate for the 2015–2016 school year increased to 97.13 percent.



# Danbrook *Elementary*

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



**Erasmo Garcia**  
*Principal*

## Forming Strong Relationships

Our collaboration with the Anaheim Police Department through the Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership (GRIP) continues to be a source of pride for our school. GRIP aims at providing direct services to students and parents in order to promote strong families and communities.

The impact to our school has been profound. This partnership has resulted in the virtual elimination of suspensions, and attendance rates in the high 90's. Hundreds of parents have attended our Coffee with an Officer meetings, and the students have also had an opportunity to form positive relationships with law enforcement. Thousands of parent volunteer hours have been logged.

GRIP mentoring has brought together caring teachers and at-risk students.

The program could not have been implemented by a more supportive team, consisting of GRIP case manager Johanna Gonzales and police officer William Martinez. Their commitment to our school transcends the GRIP program's objectives, since both of these individuals once attended Danbrook and feel an obligation to give back to their school and community.



# Centralia *Elementary*

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



**Tia Belt-Brown**  
*Principal*

## Partnerships Build Involvement and Achievement

Students grow through collective effort. Parental involvement and community partnerships are integral to students' achievement and our school's overall efficacy.

Centralia's first trimester was no exception. Parental involvement has been cited by educational researchers as one of the most influential factors affecting student achievement. Parent involvement in ongoing curriculum-based parent meetings to support learning at home is just one example. Events also included Red Ribbon Week activities and pledging to be drug free. Understanding the importance of literacy by fostering a love of reading was achieved by building home libraries with book giveaways to third through sixth-graders, thanks to Reading Is Fundamental (RIF).

Community partnerships afford students real-world experiences through

collaboration and effective communication utilizing critical thinking skills. Our K–6 scholars' interaction with seniors from a neighboring center helps students further develop communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and a sense of purpose and community service. This intergenerational program involves all stakeholders and society as a whole.



**The happiest class on Earth.**

# G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

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



**Shawn Stuht**  
*Principal*

## Community Partners and Parent Involvement

Mrs. McGlasson's fine-arts club introduces fine arts elements with an emphasis on individuality of expression, gaining self-confidence, exploring various techniques, and developing the ability to produce and analyze a finished work. Young Rembrandts develops increased attention to detail, improved fine motor skills, discipline, persistence and patience.

The arts play an important role in development as they enhance the growth of cognitive, emotional and psychomotor pathways. This year, 125 Dysinger students have benefited from the experience of these two after-school programs that build these essential skills that enhance learning development across the curriculum.

At the start of the school year, 40 parents created a culture of reading with their children to help build a lifelong love of reading and learning. These families attended a seven-week once-per-week summer program that developed better understanding and increased ability to support their children with our yearlong schoolwide Accelerated Reading program, which boosts reading comprehension.





# Los Coyotes *Elementary*

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



**Robyn Yarbrough**  
*Principal*

## Parent Involvement – A Los Coyotes Tradition

Los Coyotes is proud to have a long-standing tradition of strong parent involvement and a meaningful partnership with our families to support students in both their academic achievement and emotional wellbeing. The impact of continual on-campus parent presence makes our school a hub of the community.

Our PTSO provides funding for a school-wide art program, assemblies and study trips, positive behavior incentives, and opportunities to become involved in community philanthropies. The enhancement to the educational experience these wonderful



**Los Coyotes parent volunteers make Santa Shop happen!**

“extras” brings is beyond measure.

This year they provided Chromebooks for kindergarten, Bee-bot Programmable Robots for second grade, and an amazing outdoor assembly for Red Ribbon Week. Our wonderful parent volunteers make possible Scholastic Book Fairs, Family Nights, a Talent Show, Santa Shop, and a year-end Carnival.

# Raymond Temple *Elementary*

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



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

## A Little Time?

Research supporting the positive effect that parent involvement at school has on students is plentiful. Experts agree that being involved in your children’s learning will have a greater impact than income or social status on achievement and a better predictor of your children being successful.

I know firsthand that school involvement may sound as if it would be time consuming. Like me, you may not have the time or ability to serve as PTA president or be at your children’s school during school hours; however, you can still be an involved parent in ways that don’t demand a lot of time but still reap the positive effects.

There are several ways to become an engaged parent. One is by maintaining regular communication with your children’s teachers via education-communication apps, for example, Classroom Dojo, Remind Me and Teacher Website. You can join important decision-making groups that meet only a few times a year, such as School Site Council and English Language Learner Advisory Committee.

You can participate in Raymond Temple’s social activities, such as the school’s carnival, family movie night, Loved Ones dance and Family Picnic. We also have Collaborating in Community meetings; here at Raymond Temple, we call these meetings Doughnuts with Dr. S.

So far this year, Raymond Temple has hosted two parent nights and recently launched a free American Sign Language (ASL) class open to all community members that have a desire to learn ASL.

Parent involvement should not be a daunting task. Raymond Temple strives to provide its parents with a plethora of demanding opportunities to get involved, with little demand. We welcome all levels of parent engagement because we believe that the ones who benefit most are the most important people in education—your children.

# G.B. Miller *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Stacy Chang**  
*Principal*

## STEAMing Ahead

At G. B. Miller Elementary School, we are working with our parents and the community to continue our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) transformation to increase student achievement and student engagement.

Through the efforts of our parents, PTA, community, and staff, we were able to provide our first Family STEAM Night, which gave the opportunity for hundreds of Miller Roadrunners to be engaged in STEAM challenges with their families. Students and their families actively participated in the engineering design process as they constructed straw bridges and foil boats, experienced physical and chemical changes firsthand, and engaged in robotics and coding.

Family and community engagement is an essential part of a truly successful school, not only for student success but for success in life. We are thankful for the #millerawesome partnerships we have with our parents, community, and local organizations, which are helping us to STEAM ahead to greater excellence!



**Families engaged in STEAM challenges during first Family STEAM Night.**

# San Marino *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Omaira Lee**  
*Principal*

## Staying Involved

Research has shown that parent Involvement is key to student success. At San Marino, we know how this affects our students, our programs, and our school. Joyce Epstein is a leader in parent involvement, and she focuses on six categories of concern: parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and community collaboration.

San Marino stresses all of these categories, as we know that it can only make our students achieve greater, our programs more meaningful, and our school more connected. We do this through a variety of avenues, such as Coffee with the Principal meetings, PTA, School Site Council, ELAC meetings, the Harvest Festival, Family Reading/Math Night, and a wealth of other opportunities.

We find that the key to every event is to make our parents feel so welcomed and appreciated that they want to come back for more! We pride ourselves on knowing that our parents want to be involved, and that their involvement makes a difference in student achievement, thus providing strong support to the teaching and learning at San Marino School.



# Cypress School District

9470 Moody St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6900 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Anne Silavs**

### Partnering with Parents to Support Student Success

In the Cypress School District, relationships matter! We strive to engage parents and families in meaningful ways to support the success of our students. In addition to traditional opportunities to get involved (including PTA, School Site Council, and the District English Learner Advisory Committee), we also offer parent education programs and activities at both the school and district levels to strengthen our partnership with parents.

The research on parent involvement reveals that, regardless of family income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to: adapt well to school; attend school regularly; show improved behavior; have better social skills; earn higher grades and test scores; be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits; enroll in higher-level programs; and graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

We have scheduled a number of workshops this spring to support families in our local community. We encourage parents to take advantage of every opportunity to actively participate in their children's education.

Understanding Smarter Balanced Assessments and Supporting Student Success—With new academic standards, our students are working harder, thinking more critically, and applying their learning in the real world. To measure their progress in mastering English/language arts and mathematics standards, students in grades three through six take the Smarter Balanced assessments each spring. This workshop provides parents with an overview of the assessments their children will take and how families can help support student success.

Using Effective Questioning Strategies to Foster Student Learning—Effective questioning strategies encourage students to think more critically, which is an essential skill for both school and life success. This program teaches simple techniques that can be used at home to promote critical-thinking skills.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Parents and Teachers as Allies—This workshop is designed to help families better understand the signs and symptoms of emotional and behavioral difficulties that may be early warning signs of mental illnesses in children and adolescents.

For further information, please visit our district website at [www.cypsd.org](http://www.cypsd.org).



**Brian Nakamura**  
*President*

### 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)



**Carol Erbe**  
*Principal*

### A Celebration of Writing

Arnold Elementary School students are working hard to become fantastic, descriptive, colorful writers. In all classrooms, our students are learning to write using various organizational tools and vivid vocabulary. Write from the Beginning helps them to set the stage and work through the writing process, from prewriting to publishing. The results of their efforts show in the finished products they create.

In January, many of our students were selected to celebrate their writing at our Authors' Tea. Parents of these selected students were invited to help recognize the efforts of these developing authors. After reading their poems, prose, descriptions, narratives, letters, and stories, the students joined their parents for tea. Students expressed excitement and

pride in their accomplishments. At the end of the tea, they proudly marched back to class carrying writer's notepads and wearing buttons that say, "I love to write."

We will have another Authors' Tea in late spring, and more of our star writers will be highlighted at that



**Third grade student Sara reading her story at Arnold's Author's Tea.**

# 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*

### Preparing for a Musical Production

Each year our school community looks forward to King's spring theater production.

This year, our talented students have already begun to rehearse for their performance of *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*, which will be presented on May 17 and 18. More than 70 students will participate in either speaking roles or song and dance numbers. The student performers are required to attend numerous after-school rehearsals and also practice their parts at home.

It shows a great deal of commitment to be a part of our annual school play. This is a tradition that our entire community looks forward to each year. Former students frequently return to the school to not only watch but also volunteer with the production. Many dedicated teachers also volunteer their time after our regular school hours to provide their students with this valuable experience. Being part of a comprehensive production from start to finish is a memory that will last a lifetime.



**Students rehearsing Alice in Wonderland Jr.**



# Landell *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Rena Gibbs**  
*Principal*

## Day Tripping

Third-grade Leopards make learning a family affair with Day Tripping opportunities. Families join our third-grade teachers on weekends at destinations like Bolsa Chica Wetlands and historical and art museums. Families also participate in a beach cleanup day in Long Beach.

Day Tripping provides students with the opportunity to study animal habitats and the impact humans can have on our environment, both positive and negative. It also sets a foundation for solving the real-world problems our Leopards tackle as part of the grade level's partnership with a Long Beach engineering-consulting company. This year, students will address the dredging problem



**Third graders at Newport Back Bay**

in Newport Back Bay by collecting longitudinal data as to possible causes of the problem. Students then construct a model to solve the problem. The solution and estimated costs are evaluated by the firm, and students then make revisions based on engineers input.

These powerful partnerships make learning meaningful and fun!

# Morris *Elementary*

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



**Lori Hernandez**  
*Principal*

## Lessons from the Past

Fifth-graders at Juliet Morris read the novel Number the Stars by Lois Lowry and conducted in-depth research on the Holocaust and World War II. They learned about many brave people that desperately tried to escape and those that risked their lives to help others.

Students heard firsthand from two such heroes. Yetta Kane, a Holocaust survivor, told her story about life on the run from the Nazis. Her family left Poland and traveled by foot through



**Holocaust survivor, Mrs. Yetta Kane, speaking to Morris fifth graders about her experience.**

Russia for two years. Bob Chase, a U.S. Army and Air Force veteran, described his military service during World War II. He flew warplanes and conveyed the enormity of the carnage happening around the world.

Both speakers taught the students about the importance of studying hard and being good, kind citizens. Their knowledge and willingness to share their stories left a lasting impression on our students and helped to connect learning to real life.

# 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*

## There's Music in the Air

Luther's after-school choral music ensemble, the Luther Singers, recently performed on stage at Disney's California Adventure. These fourth through sixth grade students, under the direction of Mr. Brian Dennis, submitted an audition tape and were honored to be accepted this year. The invitation was a testament to their hard work and talent, as very few elementary schools are chosen to perform. The students rehearsed for months to prepare a series of holiday songs, which were performed at the Hollywood Backlot Stage on December 14.

The opportunity to perform in a professional setting was a valuable learning experience for our students!



**The Luther Singers perform at Disney's California Adventure.**

# Vessels *Elementary*

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



**Helen Lu**  
*Principal*

## Making a Difference

In the fall of 2016, the students at Vessels Elementary School successfully undertook their fourth Fall Philanthropic Project. The purpose of this project is to establish a life-long practice of charitable giving in order to leave our communities better than we found them.

This semester, our Student Council collaborated with the spcaLA P.D. Pitchford Companion Animal Village and Education Center. From the first announcement of the project in November, to the last day of school before the holiday break, our students collected and processed gently used blankets, animal toys, and food. When the volunteer from the Center arrived to pick up the donations, the car was very full!

This project reminds us of a famous quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Nice work, Bulldogs!

# School News

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# Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3800 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Sue Johnson**

### Fulfilling 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. The combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, a highly qualified and caring staff, and a longstanding 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, which is just one example of “The Best Is Yet To Come!”

Parents were more than impressed with the amount of technology used to produce work samples on display throughout Hansen School’s classrooms during their recent Open House! Kindergartners and first-graders were sharing their progress on iReady, and second-graders had typed reports, imported photos from various sources, and recorded themselves sharing their reports on iMovie. Fourth-grade students created thinking maps using the Popplet application on iPads. Third-grade archeologists imported photos of their hands-on projects into slideshows that played on classroom computers. PowerPoint state reports were on display, complete with imported photos, transitions, and unique backgrounds. Classrooms were filled with QR codes for parents to use to listen to reports, read more about a topic, or view PowerPoint presentations, and parents learned from their children about the applications, computer programs, and devices they use at school. Technology was showcased throughout the school.

In addition, slideshows played in classrooms across grade levels as the semester in review was shared in photos and videos for children and parents to view and remember. Parents, grandparents, and family members marveled at the proficiency of students using computers and iPads to showcase work. However, with all the technological tools our children have available to them, it was also nice to see such excitement about handwritten stories, art displays, and booklets that chronicled learning from the first day of school writing to present—and the progress was inspiring! Hansen School’s Open House allowed yet another opportunity to demonstrate that “The Best Is Yet To Come!” With the learning that is continuing to take place across all of our schools, we can’t help but show our pride by inviting the community to attend Reid School’s Open House on March 9, Cerritos School’s Open House on May 4, or Holder School’s Open House on May 11.

Another indication of “Great Expectations...The Best Is Yet To Come!” has been our commitment to providing comprehensive professional development for our staff. On our recent non-student day, teachers participated in a variety of workshops focusing on infusing the use of technological tools into the instructional program. Sessions included a student showcase, where teachers from throughout the district were able to view projects created by students at every grade level, and Hour of Code, where teachers were introduced to strategies they could teach to even the youngest students on the use of computer coding, design, and development. Teachers learned to use QR codes for both instructional purposes as well as display of student work; integration of a variety of programs available as part of the curriculum; and the use of Ozobots, which are small robots that students can program using computer coding skills.

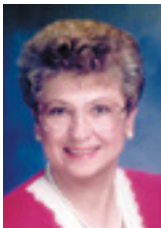
Teachers left the sessions with a renewed enthusiasm for infusing technology into the curriculum. Many classes have already begun using Hour of Code and Ozobots in our Technology Learning Centers and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Centers as they create even more student projects! The continued focus on technology in our classrooms will help to ensure that students are held to the same level of expectations as students in the world’s highest-performing countries and that they gain the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for success in postsecondary education and in the global arena.

Our Great Expectation that we must continue to partner with parents to support students both at school and at home was evidenced during our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Reach the Reader family reading night. Throughout this fun-filled evening, parents and children were involved in activities that focused on literacy, many with a STEM focus. Parents attended a session led by a local engineer, Mark Castruita, as he shared his personal story and asserted that we are all engineers because we all engage in problem solving. Parents can support their children in school by giving them opportunities to become problem solvers, helping to prepare them for jobs of the future. With nearly 700 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 problem solvers, how to motivate children, 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 members, 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!

## Savanna School District Board of Trustees



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# 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)



**Briana Schnitzer**  
*Principal*

## Cerritos Cheetahs ROAR!

At Cerritos School, our staff takes pride in creating a safe and nurturing environment where students feel included, respected, and valued. Through our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program (PBIS), our primary goal is to reinforce positive behavior and prevent discipline problems.

Our staff teaches, models, and expects students to R.O.A.R., which is to be Respectful, Organized, Accountable, and Resilient. Students who display these character traits throughout the day have the opportunity to earn R.O.A.R. Cards. These can be

redeemed for prizes at our R.O.A.R. Store at the end of each week. Some of our top prizes include getting your name displayed on the school marquee, leading a Flag Ceremony, becoming principal for the afternoon, and recording a phone message for parents.

We also hold our students to a high standard when it comes to daily attendance. Each day a classroom has perfect attendance, our teachers place a perfect attendance magnet outside their classroom door. Those classrooms with perfect attendance are recognized and celebrated at our weekly Flag Ceremony with a personalized letter from the superintendent. The classroom with the best attendance for the week wins a Fast Pass. A Fast Pass allows students to skip ahead to the front of the lunch line for an entire week.

Eager to finish the year strong with excellent attendance, we are currently offering our students an additional incentive. From January 30 through April 28, each student in grades K–3 with perfect attendance will receive a free admission ticket to an amusement park. Students in grades four to six with perfect attendance will be invited on a special field trip in May to a local pizza parlor! In order for a student to qualify for perfect attendance, they must not have any tardies or absences during the designated time frame.

# 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)



**Tracy Goodspeed**  
*Principal*

## Technology Abounds

Open House this year saw many wide-eyed parents immersed in the technological wonders their students have been working on this school year. As our parents made their way from classroom to classroom, they discovered some fascinating technology and programs which were new to them!

The majority of the classrooms at Hansen are using iPads to enrich student learning. Our primary students were thrilled to share all of their Popplets with their parents, while our upper-grade students shared their iMovies! Many parents had their smartphones out to capture QR codes so that they could enjoy their students' work.

Throughout the night, children of all ages were heard explaining about Kahoot, Epic!, Spark Videos, and Plickers to their parents. It was amazing to see the explanations from our children to their adult parents about the technological world in which we live.

The Hansen sixth-grade students were also recently given an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors this winter. On one rainy Monday morning, our sixth-graders boarded buses for a week of science immersion. Throughout the week the students experienced several hikes, and also made their way through the woods geocaching. They enjoyed both indoor and outdoor activities as the weather permitted. Some of the outdoor physical activities they enjoyed included archery, rock climbing, and rappelling.

Our Hansen students were also at camp with over 300 other students as they all learned how to work together in team-building exercises throughout the week. They used their critical thinking skills as a team to complete a variety of tasks, and they also made friends with students from each of the other Savanna schools! Our sixth-grade students enjoyed a fun-filled science-immersed week.

# 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*

## Enjoying School in Many Aspects!

The wonderful PTA at Holder School recently continued the tradition of Friday Night Movies! Students and families get to enjoy a Friday Night Movie every few months in the Holder MPR. Families bring their sleeping bags, pillows and comfy pajamas to spread out in the MPR, and the fabulous PTA volunteers work in the kitchen preparing delicious food, snacks and drinks for everyone to enjoy. Thank you, Holder PTA!

The sixth-grade students recently spent a week learning about and experiencing science and the outdoors at a camp in San Diego County. They learned about nature on both day and night hikes, performed skits at a campfire, and experienced independence as they spent a week away from their families and technological devices. Although it was rainy and muddy, the students enjoyed their once-in-a-lifetime experience!

The Holder staff believes in recognizing and rewarding students for jobs well done. At a recent Awards Assembly Day, more than one hundred students were acknowledged for their efforts and achievement. Each award winner received a nice certificate, a pencil and a free kids meal at a local restaurant. Parents had great photo opportunities while the award winners proudly posed on the stage—well done, Holder Hawks!

The Savanna School District has an outstanding partnership with the Ocean Institute in the Dana Point Harbor. The Holder fourth, fifth and sixth-graders recently took a field trip there where they got to board an oceanographic research vessel and participate in their Marine Science Education program. For the K–3 students, the Ocean Institute staff came to Holder School to conduct classroom assemblies at which students learned all about the ocean and sea life! Thank you, Ocean Institute!

# 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*

## The Perks of Being in School

It's no secret that students who attend school regularly will be successful later in life. Every day, our teachers present lessons on new skills and concepts, review previously taught information, and ensure students understand complex problems. Students have the opportunity to learn, explore, interact with friends, and expand their world each day they attend school.

In addition to the wonderful learning opportunities provided in classrooms on a daily basis, Twila Reid School staff members have partnered with community resources to ensure regular attendance for all students. The Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership (GRIP) chapters of both Stanton and Anaheim have helped support our focus on attendance by providing wonderful attendance incentives for classes and students with exemplary attendance. Classes with perfect attendance for the week are recognized by the Savanna School District superintendent with personally written Perfect Attendance Recognition Cards and Perfect Attendance pennants. Those classes achieving 10 weeks of perfect attendance throughout the year will be treated to a pizza party by the principal and superintendent.

A variety of attendance incentive programs are provided throughout the school year, including class recognition at flag ceremonies, Thanksgiving dinners for specific students meeting attendance goals in the fall, and trips to John's Incredible Pizza or tickets to Adventure City for meeting spring attendance goals.

Students also have the opportunity to make up absences by attending Saturday Academy. Saturday Academies, offered on a regular basis, are taught by credentialed teachers and provide enrichment opportunities for students.

We are proud of the system of support we have to ensure students attend school on a regular basis. We couldn't be more proud of the strong instructional program students are able to take advantage of by attending school each and every day!



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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!!!!"*

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