

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



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

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**NOVEMBER 2017–JANUARY 2018**

## The Future is Now for CESD!

*By Norma E. Martinez, Superintendent  
Centralia School District*

**It is often said that a teacher touches the future. In the Centralia Elementary School District (CESD), we find this to be especially true.**

Though as an elementary school district we work with young students, we take great pride in being a learning organization that is establishing a strong foundation of literacy and numeracy in a complex and changing learning environment. We know that the great work that we do to develop our students' academic foundation and strengthen their character and proactive social behavior will, in the future, impact the life of each of our students and their families. Thus, we are dedicated to ensuring that our students develop the strong foundation necessary as they transition to junior and senior high schools and on to college and career opportunities.

Centralia Elementary School District is thrilled to be focused on helping students thrive in the 21st century. Our Board of Trustees recognizes that this success is due to a strong partnership between the schools and the home, which is evident in each of our schools. This partnership gives our schools the opportunity to focus on amazing learning opportunities for our students.

Thanks to the support from our community, students in our schools are enjoying improved facilities for play and for learning. Our kindergarten play spaces continue to be improved with new playgrounds. Some schools have chosen to add outdoor exploration spaces, such as outdoor gardens and sand play areas. We continue to ensure that all of our schools have outdoor shade structures for lunch time. Most exciting, five of our schools now have Innovation Labs. In these spaces, students work on projects that employ the latest technology, including netbooks, programmable robots, green-screen technology, and other features, allowing them to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills in a setting that permits more choice and autonomy.

Something that is further emerging as a result of these Innovation Labs is strong creative energy invigorating each school's focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) learning. While some schools may develop a keen interest in video production, other schools are



**Centralia School Districtwide Strings Program for 4th – 6th Graders**

moving in the direction of arts integration with keyboarding and still others are moving forward into the makerspace movement. This year, the district, through its Local Control Action Plan, moved forward with a program to provide strings musical instruction to students in fourth through sixth grades who demonstrate an interest in music. This program has been a compliment to each school's commitment to STEAM.

Our teachers have recently implemented two completely new programs designed to support our English language arts and math core curriculum programs. Along with these new curriculum programs, approximately 70 of our teachers participated in a rigorous training introducing a teaching strategy known as Project-Based Learning (PBL). Through PBL, our teachers encourage students to move beyond isolated standards mastery and use critical-thinking skills, collaboration, communication skills (reading, writing, speaking), and creativity to solve real-life problems. This speaks to the high caliber of commitment by our teachers to ensure that we are equipped to provide the best instructional programs to our students.

As we continue to move forward with our instructional practices, it is important to remember that great learning happens in GREAT schools!

Each of our CESD schools received recognition from the California Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Coalition for their successful implementation of positive behavior supports at each school! We have one platinum winner, one gold winner, five silver winners and one copper winner! In reality, our students are the real winners, because this means that we are focused on providing safe, orderly learning environments that are focused on proactively teaching positive behavioral expectations to our students!

The future is now in the Centralia School! Centralia is grateful for the strong support and collaboration of all of our stakeholders, including our classified, certificated and administrative staff, our trustees, our parents, and the larger communities that we serve. Together, we are ensuring that all 4,319 students of our district find success today and in the future!

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Fall seems to have suddenly appeared on the calendar! This school year is already going way too fast. In this issue you will read about topics that are far beyond the traditional 3R's. The common thread throughout this issue is preparing for "the future" with focus on college and career, STEAM, STEM, coding, Saturday School, character and creativity and much more...the future is bright!

Our next issue is February 28. Until then...have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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Covering the  
**CENTRALIA, CYPRESS, & SAVANNA  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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# Strong Leaders Transform Schools

At the growing Eastvale STEM Academy, high school students build knowledge in medical science and engineering within an innovative learning community guided by Kim Lu Lawe's leadership and vision.



Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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Pediatric Gastrointestinal (GI) Conditions



Barry Steinmetz,  
M.D.  
pediatric  
gastroenterologist,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Pediatric gastrointestinal (GI) conditions affect a child's gastrointestinal tract, or organs of the digestive system, which include the esophagus, stomach, large and small bowel, liver, gallbladder and pancreas.

Millions of children are living with pediatric digestive and nutritional disorders. Some of the most common conditions, include:

- **Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)** is a chronic disease which occurs when stomach acid or stomach contents flow back into the food pipe. More than 7 million people in the U.S. have some symptoms of GERD.
- **Crohn's Disease** is a type of inflammatory bowel disease. It causes inflammation of the digestive tract lining. The rate of which Crohn's disease is occurring in children has nearly doubled over the last decade.

- **Celiac Disease** is an autoimmune condition brought on by ingesting gluten, which is a protein in wheat and many other grains. It is estimated that approximately 1 in 500 people in the U.S. have celiac disease.

GI conditions make themselves known in different ways, but there are five common signs that your child could have a gastrointestinal condition:

- Vomiting
- Recurrent abdominal pain
- Burping and heartburn
- Alternation of routine bowel patterns, such as constipation or diarrhea
- Abdominal distention (belly swelling)

If you recognize these signs in your child, they may need a referral to a pediatric gastroenterologist.

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach has hospital-based outpatient specialty centers from the South Bay to South Orange County, allowing a child with a gastrointestinal condition – from common to complex – to be treated by a specialist close to home.

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Our specialty: **Gastroenterology** Parker's specialty: **Tummy Time**

Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

As an infant, Parker struggled to gain weight. He was referred to pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr. Robert Tran, at the Children's Specialty Center in Irvine. Dr. Tran diagnosed Parker with cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system – and was the culprit of Parker's failure to thrive. In the first week under Dr. Tran's care, Parker gained 1 lb. – a significant accomplishment. Now, he's growing strong and mastering the art of tummy time.



Parker, 7-months-old,  
Miller Children's  
Gastrointestinal Patient

  
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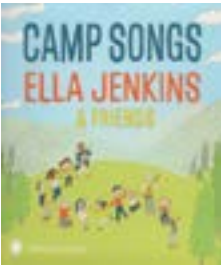


Camp Songs



Kate Karp

Camp songs are very dear to Ella Jenkins, the national children’s-singalong treasure who at 93 is still performing. She cherished songs that her brother brought home from Boy Scouts and had always wanted to record a camp-song CD.



For this project, Jenkins assembled a literal band of brothers and sisters who have veritable campground DNA: Kate and Tony Seeger, nephew and niece of the legendary Pete Seeger, and Judy Seeger, the late folk singer’s

wife. A team of musicians, children, parents and teachers rounds out the rounds, spirituals, campfire singalongs, protest songs and just plain silliness.

*Camp Songs* opens with Jenkins’s harmonica and the round of all rounds, “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Following are 24 more familiar and yet-unheard numbers: “This Little Light of Mine,” “Down in the Valley”; “Sipping Cider Through a Straw,” and the hilarious but complicated round “One Bottle of Pop.” On “The Hill Was Steep and Tall,” Jenkins relates how she reluctantly signed up for a hike with some campers and then got hopelessly lost.

You may know that Woody Guthrie had written “This Land Is Your Land” as a protest song and might have wondered about it. One of the two sociopolitical verses not sung at school is included here—good fodder for a social studies lesson.

Our school districts provide numerous school-year camping opportunities and field trips, and there are scout gatherings and youth groups who are going to love these songs. Sing out!

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

Cypress Library

5331 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/826-0350 • www.ocpl.cypress@occr.ocgov.com

Lots of Choices

**Meteor Talk & Moon Viewing**—5:00-6:00pm Tuesday, Nov. 28  
Learn about meteors and check out the night sky through a special telescope.

**Star Wars Crafts & Stories**—1:00-2:00pm Saturday, Dec. 9  
Use the force and get creative.

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

**Toddler Storytime**—9:30am Mondays—Ages 18-35 months.

Stories, songs, and fun! (Enter through the north parking lot door.)

**Preschool Storytime**—10:30am Mondays—Ages 3-5. Stories, songs, and fun!  
*No Storytimes 11/20-11/22, 12/18-1/17*

**Read to a Dog**—6:00pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays—Kids & Families.  
Read to or pet our furry friends.

**Homework Help**—3:30-5:00pm Mondays & Wednesdays—Grades K-8.  
Free help with homework. Bring all supplies and materials.

**Rookie Readers**—5:30pm Wednesdays—Grades K-5.  
Practice reading skills with a friendly teen.

*No HH, RR 11/20-11/22, 12/18-1/3*  
**Chess Club**—4:00pm 3rd Thursdays: Nov. 16—Grades 3-8.  
Drop in to learn how to play chess and improve your game.

**Tabletop Games**—1:00-4:00pm Saturday, Nov. 4 & Sunday, Dec. 10  
Adults, teens, kids ages 9+. Get together to play our plethora of games!

**Adult Book Chat**—10:00am 3rd Thursdays: Nov. 16—Contact us for titles.

**LA Opera Talk**—2:30pm 3rd Saturdays: Nov. 18 & Jan. 20  
Watch captivating multimedia presentations of the season’s operas.

**Record Club**—6:00-6:45pm 3rd Mondays: Nov. 20 & Dec. 18  
Chill out with us. Bring two favorite tunes on any format to play and discuss.

**Talk About TED**—2:00pm Sundays: Nov. 5 & Dec. 3—  
Watch pre-recorded TED talks and discuss.

Camping 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 December 15, 2017  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

MAP	KNIFE	MATCHES
BOOTS	TENT	FLASHLIGHT
JACKETS	BLANKET	FLARES
COMPASS	WATER	CELLPHONE
GPS	FOOD	CAMERA
BACKPACK	SNACK	BUG SPRAY
THERMOS	BEDROLL	COT



Congratulations to **Ashwin Manickam**  
Winner of the September Word Search Contest!

# Centralia School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Norma Martinez**

### Saturday School

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways that schools and families can prepare children for success. Why is this? By developing the habit of daily, regular attendance, we reinforce concepts of responsibility to our children and we give value to the act of attending school. At Centralia School District, regular attendance is valued. Our Local Control Accountability Plan gives our schools authority and direction to implement systems to track attendance, reinforce positive attendance habits and support families who are struggling with regular attendance. One way that we help students “erase” an absence mark is to encourage their participation in Saturday School. Saturday School is a great opportunity for students to capture lost instructional time. Throughout the school year, select Saturdays are identified and students are invited to attend. Students who attend Saturday School are given an academically rich day of instruction and are also given the opportunity to clear their absence! Even excused absences can have a negative impact on learning. Each school holds special programs to encourage strong attendance habits.



**Miller School students enjoy working on a project at Saturday School.**

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# Buena Terra *Elementary*

8299 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3220 • [www.cesd.us](http://www.cesd.us)



**Dr. Dominic Nguyen**  
*Principal*

### The Genius Within

At Buena Terra, we believe that the future is now!

By providing students with a comprehensive education that prepares them with 21st-century skills, we are preparing them to be college and career ready. Our science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) focus provides an opportunity for our students to refine their communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills. This year, Buena Terra has opened its innovation lab called “The Launch Pad.” The Launch Pad is a place where students can explore and engineer solutions that will enhance society. Our students will learn and apply the engineering design process to solve real-world problems.



The Launch Pad will also serve as a Makerspace for students to explore and discover new ideas. Our Makerspace will provide students with a place where they can create something that aligns with their passion, and where they can unleash the genius within them.

# Centralia *Elementary*

195 N. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/228-3210 • [www.cesd.us](http://www.cesd.us)



**Tia Belt-Brown**  
*Principal*

### Our Future Remains Bright

Centralia Elementary School is enthusiastic about our burgeoning Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) curriculum. Our staff teaches the STEAM tenet not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for students’ college and career readiness but also because these fields are deeply entwined in real-world application. We are excited to welcome renovations to our science lab; however, our current science lab is being utilized to cultivate learning skills that are essential now. Our science lab provides zones for students to conduct research, collaborate, and develop innovation. Visits to the lab provide opportunities for students to develop their critical-thinking skills as they collaborate to solve problems, create, engineer, and design.



Parents and students had the opportunity to observe and code robots at Back-to-School Night. The family activity sparked curiosity in our community, which has fueled our scholars’ interests in coding.



# Danbrook *Elementary*

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



**Erasmo Garcia**  
*Principal*

## Creating the Future

This year, parents and students came back to a transformation. The space that was formerly Danbrook Elementary School's library is not an innovation lab. Students and teachers are preparing together for a future that would seem a distant reality but is within the grasp of our students. Our kindergarten students will graduate from high school in the year 2030. Technological advances will require them to create, collaborate, and innovate.

We have created a space where the future is now. Audiovisual technology is applied at our broadcast center. Coding is put into practice with our programmable robots, which can be trained to dance. Other programming software allows our students to train robots to interact with the world around them.



Our piano classes are also part of our preparation for the future. We have made a commitment that every Dolphin will read and play music.

At Danbrook, we are not only preparing for the future; we are creating the future!

# Los Coyotes *Elementary*

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



**Robyn Yarbrough**  
*Principal*

## Engaged with the Future

Over the summer, our school was most fortunate to have new playground equipment installed. This equipment is highly interactive and visually appealing, and the students absolutely love it! Because of its size, a large number of students can use it at the same time. They took ownership right away by helping to create our new guidelines for its use.

The recent additions have given our school an inviting appearance that makes our students, staff and community feel welcome. To further enhance our school's atmosphere, our Maintenance and Operations Department recently renovated our planters in front of the school and in our parking lots with new, colorful foliage and ground cover.



Our school's innovative technology will soon have a temporary home, as we plan to convert a smaller, underutilized classroom into an interim Innovation Lab. Technologies to be added include a green screen, robotics, engineering, and chemistry.

# G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

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



**Shawn Stuht**  
*Principal*

## New Technology Opportunities

Dysinger Elementary School took top honors in the Centralia School District Innovation Lab Challenge at our Back to School Night in late August. The STEAM Club students showcased their leadership and presentation skills demonstrating the innovative technology that is being used throughout our school with students across grade levels.

Student demonstrations included Lego customizables, programmable Robotics, and the iPad compatible Osmo. Hands-on learning system activities included number concepts, tangrams, coding, and commerce. The Do Ink application on iPads for Green Screen technology also allowed students to express understanding of content standards in creative ways.

Other demonstrations included color coding and OzoBlockly programming with Evo Ozobots; Catapult construction designed for the Science Olympiad competition; Microsight Explorer Science Scope; and a Pro-Wise Interactive Panel which will soon be integrated into the Dysinger Innovation Lab.

Dysinger also has an after-school STEAM Club, which enrolls up to 50 students who will participate in the Fall Lego Robotics Competition and the Spring Science Olympiad.



**Innovation Lab Champions!**



# G.B. Miller *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Stacy Chang**  
*Principal*

## Engineering is Elementary

With Centralia School District’s focus of “The Future Is Now,” GB Miller Elementary is continuing to STEAM ahead, preparing students for the future *now*. We are excited about continuing our hands-on learning experiences with robotics, coding and various STEAM challenges in our newly transformed Innovation Lab.

This year, we launched Engineering is Elementary for all our K–6 scholars. This provides a hands-on, inquiry-based engineering program that aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards. Through this program, students are faced with real-world engineering challenges and have the opportunities to create and design solutions for the problems.

We are thankful for our amazing PTA that fund-raised for our STEAM programs. Our goal is to provide innovative instruction to our scholars that will stimulate the passion, problem-solving skills and creativity to prepare our students for college and career.



**Students in Ms. Eaton’s K-1 class STEAM ahead coding with Bee-Bot Robotics.**

# San Marino *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Omaira Lee**  
*Principal*

## The Future is Now!

“The Future Is Now” as we embark on a schoolwide program to close the achievement gap and prepare scholars for college and career. AVID, or Advancement via Individual Determination, is a national program that strives to prepare scholars for college and career. All third-through-sixth-grade teachers are using the AVID Elementary systematic approach, using Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading strategies (WICOR) incorporated into daily instruction.

I am proud of our teachers and scholars because they know that The Future Is Now and that this will not only prepare them but will also help them meet the challenges of the 21st century. We know they will be successful. We don’t know what jobs will be available 10 or 20 years from now, but we do know if they can write, inquire, collaborate, and organize themselves and also read, then they will be victorious.

The Future Is Now for San Marino students, and we are AVID minded!



# Raymond Temple *Elementary*

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



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

## Learning for the Future

When you think about the future, images of robots, computer coding, and flying cars might come to mind. However, alongside the unknown, the future will also continue to include fundamental human needs.

At Raymond Temple Elementary School, we are embracing the possibilities of the future and learning what is fundamental to life. In education, we approach the future and the present through an interdisciplinary model. For example, we are learning how Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) learning helps us to solve real-life problems. We learn through a future-focused pedagogy called Project-Based Learning (PBL), which helps us to research, explore, and problem solve.

Across our campus, you will hear and see intersections of traditional Common Core State Standards curriculum and future-focused pedagogy through real-life experiences. In the first 30 days of school, we have involved the students in the following STEAM and PBL experiences: planning and creating three gardens throughout campus; organizing and creating an art gallery for our Deaf Awareness Week; implementing Genius Hour in our upper grades; introducing PBL to our youngest scholars through our Blocks program; and using technology to show students how to research and produce products, including storytelling projects, discovery boards, and PowerPoint presentations.

The mystery of what the future holds for our students is the reason Raymond Temple emphasizes our practices. We can teach students how to communicate, collaborate, create, and critically think. We feel confident that the future will need students who know how to embrace the future and all its unknown opportunities.

# School News

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# Cypress School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Anne Silavs**

### Cultivating Student Curiosity and Ingenuity through STEM

In 2016, the Cypress School District built dedicated classroom facilities on each school campus to support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. Our STEM labs provide space for students to explore the impact of science, technology, engineering, and math on the world around them. These flexible learning environments promote project-based learning, hands-on instruction, and applied knowledge.

During the first year of our new program, we focused on teaching students the principles of the engineering design process. For example, our kindergarten students designed and constructed shade structures to shield them from the sun's harmful rays. First-graders studied the protective structure of animals and applied that knowledge to solve a human problem. Fifth-graders created an alternative fuel source to power a "car" for a specified distance.



In year two, our STEM program includes environmental science and computer coding units of study, too. Second-graders will investigate ways to minimize land changes that occur from exposure to wind and water. Fourth-graders will design and test their own renewable energy devices. Sixth-graders will investigate and monitor their impact on an environmental problem of their own choosing. We

look forward to seeing all of the creative solutions our students come up with this year!

The STEM program in the Cypress School District is designed to make learning meaningful by providing students with authentic, real-life experiences. Case in point, when the moon passed between the earth and the sun this fall for the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse since 1918, our students had front-row seats. Supplied with NASA-approved safety glasses, they experienced firsthand the dynamics of motion and its impact on the moon, the sun, and the earth. It is precisely these kinds of experiences that bring learning to life for our students!

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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 Class Act School

Arnold School is fortunate to now be a Class Act School! Class Act is a partnership with the Pacific Symphony that incorporates student hands-on activities, music and movement, listening activities, storytelling, a family concert, a special field trip, and a schoolwide student performance.

As a part of this program, the Pacific Symphony provides our school with a professional musician, who teaches and coordinates all of our Class Act activities for the school year. Instructional activities begin with a Prelude Assembly. This assembly is presented to small groups of students at adjacent grade levels and includes storytelling, lectures, drama, audience participation, visuals, and musical performances to introduce the composer and theme for the year. This year, our lesson focus is Beethoven. Next, our professional musician visits each classroom to teach individualized lessons adapted to each grade level, from kindergarten through sixth grade.

In the spring, Arnold School and the Pacific Symphony will host a family concert featuring a chamber group of professional musicians led by our own Class Act musician. By the time of the concert, our students will have learned "concert manners" as well as information about the composer and theme. Late in the school year, our first- through sixth-grade students will be invited to a Pacific Symphony concert at Segerstrom Center for the Arts as a school field trip. Our younger students will participate in a special Interactive Musical Experience as an alternate activity. The grand finale will be our Bravo Assembly, where every student in every grade level performs for the Arnold community.

We are excited about these upcoming musical experiences and appreciate this new partnership with the Pacific Symphony.

# 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

### Students Work at Play

A goal at King School is for students to feel safe and included during recess and lunchtime by understanding and following universal procedures for games and transitions, successfully solving conflicts, and carrying this positive culture into the classroom and beyond.

To facilitate this goal, King School has partnered with a company, which provides a coach to support outdoor activities throughout the school day. With the leadership of Coach Fred, King students are learning how to conduct themselves in:

- Meaningful play
- Effective transitions from recess to the classroom
- Sportsmanlike behaviors while playing games
- Appropriate ways to handle disappointment
- Appropriate ways to handle conflict



**Students learning a new game from Coach Fred.**

The staff at King School believes that an investment in a high-quality program that explicitly teaches students to play appropriately with others, develop problem-solving skills, and build confidence in outdoor activity is something that most students will greatly benefit from at school and beyond.



# Landell *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Rena Gibbs**  
*Principal*

## Showing Heart!

When kindergarten teacher Mrs. Spain learned of an opportunity to adopt a classroom affected by Hurricane Harvey, she immediately reached out to her colleagues to begin a fund-raising campaign to impact the lives of kindergarteners in a classroom in Houston. All of our kindergarten classrooms banded together to raise funds to purchase the essentials lost to the hurricane.

Thanks to the generosity of our youngest Leopards and their families, the kindergarten classes were able to raise \$900 and get all of the items on the teacher’s wish list. The money was used to buy books for the classroom library, whiteboards, pencils, erasers and the basic necessities for teaching and learning.

We are so thankful for the compassionate nature of our kindergarteners and look forward to the difference they will make in the next seven years at Landell!



**Landell Kindergarteners showing their love for Houston.**

# Morris *Elementary*

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



**Lori Hernandez**  
*Principal*

## Coding for All

This year our Morris teachers, PTA, and the Friends of Morris Foundation made it possible for each student at our school to include coding as part of their educational program. The teachers wrote grants, and the parent groups also donated technology to our school.

In both transitional kindergarten and kindergarten, students are coding with BlueBots, which are small “Bees” that are coded first with the buttons on their backs and then with a device. Primary students use Dot and Dash with their iPads, and the upper-graders utilize Lego WeDo sets that are coded with their

Chromebooks or laptops.

The robots increase in complexity across each grade level. By the upper grades, our students are designing their own robots with Legos and then coding them to complete tasks.



**Ms. Armour’s class celebrated the arrival of their Dash robots..**

During the spring, all Morris teachers received coding training both at the site and from expert teachers across the district. With this continuum of coding, all Morris students will soon have a foundation for any future they choose in computer science!

# Luther *Elementary*

4631 La Palma Ave., Cypress, CA 90623 • 714/220-6918 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us



**Denine Kelly**  
*Principal*

## STEM

Students and staff at Luther Elementary School have been busily engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities. Teachers are attending professional development focused on the Next Generation Science Standards and how to integrate the standards into classroom instruction. Students participate in STEM modules and design challenges to help them apply their learning to real-world situations. STEM activities are also designed so students must communicate,



**Luther fourth graders learn how to design and build structures that can best withstand an earthquake.**

collaborate, be creative, and think critically. These learning activities help to ensure that students fully understand concepts, instead of memorizing facts in isolation. Teachers also see a higher level of student engagement and excitement around science through these activities.

# Vessels *Elementary*

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



**Helen Lu**  
*Principal*

## STEAM Stars Science and Art Mentors Program

Vessels has launched a new science and art mentors program, STEAM Stars. The program pairs general and special education students in groups for a monthly science or art activity to develop social skills, cooperative learning skills, and positive peer relationships. Activities take place the second Thursday of each month during a portion of lunch recess. Some of the activities include shape monster glyphs, snow globes, animal life cycle mobiles, and much more! To kick off the new program, students and teachers attended an assembly to find out all the details. Our first STEAM Stars activity took place in October.



**Third and fourth grade students attending an assembly to kick off the STEAM Stars program.**



# Savanna School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Sue Johnson**

### Great Resources for Students

What an exciting year 2017–2018 is shaping up 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 and will continue to happen for students throughout the school year as we strive to meet the needs of Every Child, Every Day. We’re very excited about the academic achievement of our students, thanks to the efforts of our wonderful staff in the Savanna School District. Student achievement can be evidenced in each and every classroom; from writing samples to PowerPoint projects, our students are proud of their learning and it shows. This is one example of our Great Expectations for student achievement.

As part of our Great Expectations for students, Savanna’s certificated staff members recently participated in professional development on the new English/language arts adoption. We’re excited about our first English/language arts adoption in many years; this new adoption is helping teachers address key shifts in curriculum and instruction to meet the demands of the new standards and address the needs of all students. In addition, an enthusiastic group of teachers recently participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) academy, hosted by Tiger Woods Learning Center, where they were involved in a variety of hands-on projects that brought science and engineering to life. Teachers were engaged in projects designed to build students’ understanding of scientific, technical, and design concepts for building bridges, roller coasters, mechanical hands, and more! Our students are as excited as the teachers were as they begin to apply the skills they learned through this

## Savanna School District Board of Trustees



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program; with these skills, our next generation will be ready to tackle the infrastructure for our rapidly changing needs, both in our community and beyond! Our students continue to excel because of the excellent staff we have in Savanna; it is because of their dedication and commitment that we know that “The Best Is Yet to Come” for our students! We’re excited about programs such as these that are helping our teachers meet the learning needs of “Every Child, Every Day!”

Our Great Expectation is that the infusion of technology will provide essential support for 21st-century teaching and learning in a digital era, meeting the needs of a rapidly changing student population. Our newest addition is a computer-based intervention program that provides specific, targeted intervention for students in both language arts and math. In addition to the classroom sets of updated Macintosh computers throughout the district, we expanded our use of iPads in the classrooms, as well as expanded Technology Learning Centers and STEM Centers on each campus, providing additional opportunities for students to be immersed in STEM-based lessons. These resources continue to ensure that students learn digital literacy skills through both large-group instruction and daily, small-group instruction. With a continued focus on using such resources to support the instructional program and core curriculum, students create presentations, movies, QR codes, tables, charts, and word-processed documents, which will continue to help prepare them as 21st-century learners. As we continue moving forward with our goal of meeting the needs of “Every Child, Every Day,” “The Best Is Yet to Come” as we ensure students have skills that will propel them forward toward college and career readiness in fields not yet even imagined.

Our Saturday Academy provides the opportunity for students to receive additional academic support; students may also make up absences by attending Saturday Academy, if necessary. With morning sessions held approximately twice a month, students are exposed to engaging lessons as well as opportunities to participate in interactive academic activities. Saturday Academy teachers integrate a variety of hands-on projects as well as technological tools into their lessons. Exact lessons vary from week to week, with a strong emphasis in the areas of reading, writing, science and technology. Throughout the 2016–2017 school year, we held 13 sessions of Saturday Academy, with a cumulative total of 1,061 students attending! Providing additional academic support for students as we work to meet the needs of “Every Child, Every Day” is just one more example of “The Best Is Yet to Come!” for our students.

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 partner with us to ensure students will 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 Celebrates the expansion of

# STEM

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



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

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

[www.savsd.org](http://www.savsd.org)

1330 S Knott Ave., Anaheim, 92804 • 714-236-3800



# Cerritos *School*

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



**Briana Schnitzer**  
*Principal*

## Harvest of Good

The 2017–18 school year is off to a great start, filled with adventure and excitement for our students! Thanks to our outstanding staff and our amazing PTA members, our students have already benefited from a variety of school activities and events.

The month of August started with our Kindergarten Round-Up as we welcomed our newest Cheetahs to Cerritos School. Incoming transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students had the opportunity to visit their classroom and meet their teacher the Friday before school started. Our upper-grade students had the opportunity to join our Music Masters program, which provides our students with the opportunity to learn how to play a string instrument of their choice, taught by a credentialed teacher.

At a flag ceremony, we honored those students and families affected by childhood cancer as part of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September. Also during September, students participated in a coin drive to raise money for a school that was devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Through our coin drive, students brought in a grand total of \$1,146.05! All of the money raised was sent to Bay Colony Elementary School in Texas. We are so proud of our students and families for coming together to help others in need!

During October, the PTA hosted our annual Book Fair. Once again, students were thrilled to receive a special appearance from our school mascot, Charlie the Cheetah, on the last day of our book fair. Another exciting event in October was our Fall Family Dance. Families were invited to mingle and dance the night away in their Halloween costumes.

November is a month to be thankful. At Cerritos School, we are thankful for the dedication and commitment from our staff, students, families and community volunteers who work together to make our school a better place!

# 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*

## Holder Hawks Have School Spirit!

A positive school climate and culture are essential components for a school to be successful. A great deal of research shows that student perceptions of school climate affect academic motivation and achievement. That is why we ask all of our Holder School staff and students to show their school spirit by wearing blue each Friday. The class that has the highest percentage of students wearing blue receives a cherished statue of a hawk, which is displayed in the classroom for the week.

## Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

This year Holder is implementing an increased focus on providing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) lessons and activities for our students. We have a classroom dedicated to STEM lessons as well as a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) who coordinates the scheduling and curriculum. This TOSA is also available to provide classroom support for technology upon teacher request. With six computers per classroom, iPads available for small-group instruction, and two technology learning centers, our TOSA stays busy helping to prepare our students with 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.

## Fall Festival Fun

Holder School's Fall Festival, held on October 20, was a tremendous success, thanks to our PTA, an active group of dedicated, committed parents. At the afterschool festival, students, parents, and family members enjoyed a wide variety of carnival-style games and delicious food, and they even participated in a talent show! The Holder School PTA is always looking for additional volunteers; whatever time you can donate would be appreciated. Please stop by the school office to find out more about how you can help. The Holder School PTA is an integral part of Holder School!

# 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*

## Character and Creativity

Hansen Elementary School started off the year with a renewed focus on the importance of strong character traits for this school year. To supplement our strong PBIS program, we decided to celebrate the wonderful character traits we see in our students on a daily basis. Staff members are on the lookout daily to find Hansen students who are displaying strong character traits such as determination, self-control, confidence, cooperation, team spirit and hard work. Each month, we hold an assembly and recognize one stellar student from each classroom who has displayed the character-trait focus of the month. To honor each student beyond the morning assembly, their photos are taken and placed on the Wall of Fame for all to see! The Wall of Fame photos will stay up for parents and staff members to recognize throughout the year. We couldn't be prouder of the transformation we have seen thus far in the year with all of the positive recognition for our students. Way to go, Hansen Huskies!

STEM is in full swing at Hansen Elementary School this year! We've implemented a STEM Center on-site with the support of a STEM TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment). Teachers and students alike are diving in with science, technology, engineering and math. Students are learning to solve problems and build real solutions while working and collaborating with others. *Engineering design process* is a commonly used term around here!

Each classroom has been in the STEM Center and will continue to collaborate with others with various STEM activities throughout the school year. It is exciting to see our young minds in action building a strong foundation for STEM.

# 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*

## Creating an Impact

Our Twila Reid Rams ROCK! Twila Reid School uses a Positive Behavior Intervention System that focuses on four important characteristics: Respect, Owning your Actions, Cooperation, and Kindness.

At the beginning of the school year our Twila Reid students had a chance to put all of these characteristics into motion. After the students and teachers saw the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and the damage it did to the schools in Texas, they decided to do something about it. One of our teacher-leaders matched us with a sister school in Texas, Arrendondo Elementary. They then led a school-wide campaign to gather together supplies and donations which could help them start the school year with support from their new friends in California.

Our teachers took the initiative to go the extra mile and show their students how to take action and make a difference. Everyone came together to make flyers and student-created posters. Our week-long coin drive called "Coins for Kindness" also resulted in an outpouring of generosity. Teachers and students made a cooperative effort to be kind, and our local credit union even helped with processing the coins!

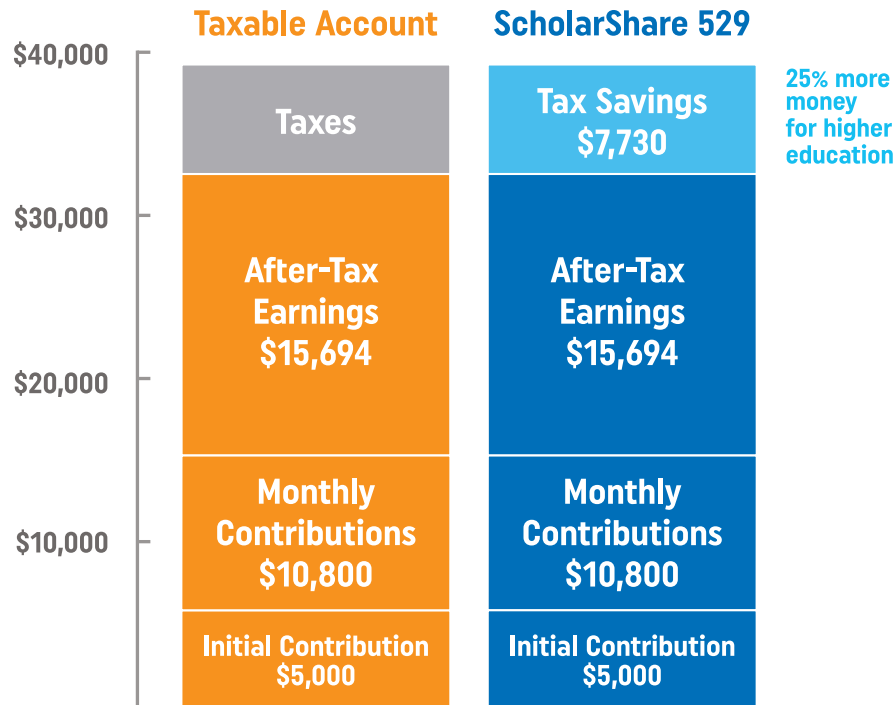
The teachers also brought in supplies and gift cards for their colleagues in Texas. Every student contributed in some way, whether it was gathering supplies they weren't using or bringing in a coin they'd found. They truly gave from their hearts to help others in need. Our school came together in a powerful way to raise over \$2,000 for our sister school!

We saw what a dynamic force we can have on our community when we work together. Through this project our Reid Rams demonstrated the qualities of Respect, Owning your Actions, Cooperation, and Kindness. We not only demonstrated how our students, staff, and community can ROCK, we were also able to have a powerful and positive impact on others in need.



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