

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



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

**VOLUME 9, ISSUE 34**

**www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com**

**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015**

## Centralia School District Looks Forward to An Exciting Year!

*By Norma E. Martinez,  
Superintendent*

It is often said that change is the only constant in life. This is very true for the dynamic Centralia School District! On behalf of our dedicated Board of Trustees; Board President Steve Harris, Clerk Dennis Salts, Clerk Pro Tem Connor Traut, and members Henry Charoen and Art Montez, I welcome families and staff to the 2015-16 school year. I am thrilled and honored to begin serving as the Superintendent of the Centralia School District, effective July 1, 2015. I join our Board in holding a high interest in seeing Centralia continue its tradition of academic achievement and school safety. Further, we will use the 2015-16 school year to deepen our outreach efforts with our community and strengthen parent engagement and will seek to innovate and infuse digital learning into every day instruction. Our staff; certificated, classified and administrative teams are ready for a year of cultivating relationships with each other and our community, creating opportunities for learning, and celebrating success along the way!



We join all Districts in California in the implementation of the new funding process for school districts known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Within this process, districts are asked to engage stakeholders, review data, and establish a spending plan that addresses the needs of the community, with a particular emphasis on providing services to students who have, on a statewide level, demonstrated underperformance: English Learners, Low Socio-Economic Status, and Foster Youth. This process of stakeholder engagement involves members of the community, employee associations, teachers, administrators, classified staff, parents, and our Board of Trustees. The result of this dialogue and data analysis is the creation of a master plan known as the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The Centralia School District Board of Trustees approved our LCAP in June of 2015 and the Orange County Department of Education approved the plan on August 19, 2015. There is much to celebrate as this document outlines an exciting plan of learning and support for our students.

- We have adjusted our calendar to better match Anaheim Union High School District. Our first day of school was August 12, 2015 and the last day of school will be May 26, 2016. Please log on to [www.cesd.us](http://www.cesd.us) and review the District Calendar. Families are asked to schedule trips during non-instructional time. Student absences result in a loss of learning for the student and a loss of income for the school/District. What is in store for our students, staff and parents this year through our LCAP?

- Every Kindergarten/ Transitional Kindergarten classroom in the District is now on an all day schedule! Class size in kindergarten is averaged at 24:1 so that teachers have the opportunity to reach every student in class every day. Already, many teachers have commented on the benefits of all-day kindergarten. We anticipate that this focus on our youngest learners will result in young scholars who are ready for rigorous learning in later years.

*See FRONT PAGE • Page 4*

## JPL Internship



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent  
Orange County  
Dept. of Education*

Students often associate summer vacation with beaches, shopping malls and family getaways. But if you ask eight young men and women from Santa Ana how they spent their break, they're more likely to talk about mechanical engineering, aerospace or computer programming.

That's because these students — all from Century, Godinez, Saddleback and Segerstrom high schools in the Santa Ana Unified School District — secured highly exclusive paid summer internships at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

This was not merely a job-shadowing exercise. Over an eight-week stretch that concluded on Aug. 14, Paula Casian, Minh Anh Chau, Denise Garcia, An Ho, Troyce Morales, Luis Terrones, Michelle Tran and Rosa Yanes worked directly with science and engineering mentors, performing highly technical work to advance real JPL projects.

This opportunity was made possible thanks to community partners

including OpTerra Energy Services and, of course, JPL. And it's precisely the type of experience that was envisioned when the state Department of Education awarded our own OC Pathways initiative a \$15 million grant to expand career pathways for students from kindergarten through college.

Led by the Orange County Department of Education and Saddleback College, OC Pathways comprises more than a dozen school districts, nine community colleges, two major universities, four regional occupational programs, three workforce investment boards, numerous community partners and more than 100 businesses — all focused on carving out clear pathways that will lead students of all backgrounds and academic levels to rewarding careers.

OC Pathways is one example of how OCDE is working to fulfill its vision that Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. I would be remiss in not adding that it aligns nicely with our state's recent efforts to promote critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration.

*See OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION • Page 8*





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Covering the  
CENTRALIA, CYPRESS, & SAVANNA  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 9th year publishing the excellence from the Centralia/Cypress and Savanna School Districts. Thank you for your loyal readership of *School News*.

In this issue, we asked the principal's to share with you their bios. It is fun to know where they went to college, about their families, pets, and hobbies. We appreciate their dedication to educating our youth.

Our next issue is Nov. 4. In the meantime, have a Happy Halloween and we'll be back in time for the holidays!

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

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

### Preparing Your Child for Surgery



**Rita Goshert**  
Manager,  
Child Life Program,  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

The thought of surgery can be worrisome for children and their parents. Preparing your child for any surgical procedure can make your child less anxious and help them tolerate surgery and anesthesia better.

#### Tips to Help Prepare Yourself and Your Child

- Participate with your child in a pre-surgical tour and discuss what happened on the tour later.
- Ask questions of your child's surgeon, anesthesiologist and nursing team in order to better understand what your child will experience. This will give you confidence and enable you to talk calmly to your child.
- Speak honestly with your child about what will happen.

- Listen to your child's concerns about surgery.
- Encourage your child to participate in medical play (Child Life Specialists are prepared to help young patients through this experience).
- Use a play medical kit at home to familiarize your child with tools the care team may use, such as a stethoscope.
- Include siblings in preparation and encourage them to ask questions too.
- Remind your child that they will return home soon.
- Read books about children being hospitalized.

Children can often relate better to characters.

The more you help prepare your child for surgery, the more they will understand what is going to happen and reduce their anxiety about surgery.

To give you an idea of what to expect and help lessen any fears you and your family may have about surgery, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach has a virtual tour of its Pediatric Surgical Center. Take the tour at [MillerChildrens.org/SurgeryTour](http://MillerChildrens.org/SurgeryTour).



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

On a hectic afternoon, the Ramirez family was fixing a clogged sink when Perla's mother heard her then 3-year-old scream out in pain. A curious Perla had swallowed drain clog remover. She was rushed to Miller Children's with severe burns from mouth to stomach. After initial treatment, Perla was unable to eat or drink due to scar tissue buildup, so Perla underwent state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgery to remove her esophagus. Today, nothing can hold Perla back as she soars for the sky!

*From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.*

Follow the leader to Miller Children's.

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Our specialty:  
**Minimally Invasive Surgery**

Perla's specialty:  
**Thrill Seeker**

**Perla, 5-years-old,**  
Miller Children's  
Minimally Invasive  
Surgery Patient





# Centralia School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Norma Martinez**

Ms. Norma E. Martinez is proud to lead the Centralia School District as its new superintendent. Education is her passion, and she is proud that her career has focused on helping school systems improve the instructional program for students and reach new levels of achievement. She is starting her 27th year in education; three as an instructional assistant and 24 in various teaching and administrative capacities in three different school districts. In 2010, Ms. Martinez began working for Centralia School District as the principal of Centralia Elementary School.

During her tenure as principal, she celebrated with staff the accomplishments of significant student academic growth, resulting in designation as a California Title I Achieving School and an Orange County Human Relations Commission Distinguished School.

Ms. Martinez is a graduate of Anaheim High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in child development from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a master's degree in school administration from National University. She also holds a bilingual, multiple-subject teaching credential and a credential in school administration. Ms. Martinez is a lifelong learner and has attended various Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Academies, including the Superintendents' Academy.

## Centralia School District Board of Trustees



**Steve Harris**  
*President*



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*Clerk*



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*Clerk Pro Tem*



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*Member*



**Art Montez**  
*Member*

Ms. Martinez is honored to represent the Board of Trustees in a collective manner to seek the best ways to cultivate relationships, create opportunities, and celebrate success with staff, families and students. She is excited to celebrate the successful start of an exciting year and is looking forward to fully implementing 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning that prepares students for college and career readiness. She is proud that the Centralia School District has an amazing team made up of certificated, classified and administrative personnel who focus their energies on sustaining a safe, nurturing learning community that works positively to promote success for all students.

### FRONT PAGE • From Page 1

- Every classroom in the Centralia School District is equipped with Smartboard and projector technology to facilitate dynamic lesson delivery from our teachers. We have also added 864 new chrome books for student use, resulting in one Chromebook cart per grade level starting in Grades 3-6, minimally.



The arrival of this technology has opened the door for an innovative year of learning for our entire staff. Our teachers will soon begin to engage students in exciting collaborative projects aligned to the tenets of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning. Centralia has hired a Digital Coach, Mrs. Jennifer Faulhaber, who is helping to shape the training for our teachers with the support of our principals, our District Office staff, our Technology Leads and our Technology Assistants. There will be opportunities for parents to join in and learn about our digital world through parent workshops hosted at each school site.

- Starting September 14th, Centralia's 4th through 6th grade students will begin to have lessons in physical education and art education delivered through Collaboration Teachers on Special Assignment. Our LCAP process has allowed us to hire three itinerant teachers to visit schools on a weekly basis to deliver these lesson and allow our classroom teachers an hour of release time for collaboration. This collaboration time will be utilized by teachers to review technology training, to plan units of study, and to immerse themselves in the new State Standards and instructional methodology that supports new learning.
- The District has also hired two Information Access Coordinators to help schools with the organization of Accelerated Reader, the appropriate labeling of reading books and to provide organizational support at site libraries. Accelerated Reading is a reading incentive program for students to read independently at their instructional level.



- This year, our District is updating curriculum materials for mathematics and pro-social learning. We are in the midst of a math pilot adoption program that includes 85 teachers. The results of this pilot will be shared with the Math Adoption Committee, comprised of teachers, administrators, and parents. The final outcome will be the selection of new material that is aligned to our New State Standards! As a matter of assisting students with social-emotional health, we are updating our Second Step pro-social skills program. This program assists students to determine best and better choices for solving conflict with peers.

As our community can see, Centralia is ready for a year that offers opportunity, celebration, and forward motion for the entire Centralia School District learning community. I invite members of our community to partner up with our schools through PTA/PTSO and to support the exciting changes happening in our District! Again, on behalf of our Board of Trustees, our staff, and myself, I wish us all much success this year and invite our community to come see us in action. Centralia School District is a District of choice for innovative learning and community pride!

# Buena Terra *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Dominic Nguyen**  
*Principal*

Dr. Dominic Nguyen is honored to be serving as principal of Buena Terra Elementary School. He will begin his second year as principal of this terrific school, where along with dedicated staff, he looks forward to working collaboratively with the community to provide a well-rounded education to their students.

Dr. Nguyen will be entering his 14th year in the field of education. The first nine years of his career were devoted to teaching 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades at one of the highest performing elementary schools in Southern California. After that, he served as an administrator at a California Distinguished school that was nationally recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community as well as a *Leader and Me School*, an innovative school-wide model that prepares students to be leaders in the 21st Century. Throughout his service, he has found the most rewarding aspect of his career to be the connections he has fostered with the students, families, and staff members of the educational community.

Prior to becoming a teacher, Dr. Nguyen earned his bachelor's degree in liberal studies from the University of California, Riverside. He then received his teaching credential from California State University, Fullerton and later graduated from the University of La Verne with his Masters of Education in Educational Management. In May of 2013 he fulfilled one of his lifelong dreams by receiving his Doctorate of Education from University of Southern California. Fight On!

When not at school, Dr. Nguyen enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He and his wife are fond of taking road trips with their dog, Toffee, to new places and trying out the local cuisine in true foodie fashion. However, they always enjoy coming home and going for long walks in their neighborhood.

# Danbrook *Elementary*

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



**Erasmo Garcia**  
*Principal*

Mr. Garcia has 14 years of experience working with innovative school systems as an administrator and five years of experience teaching elementary and middle school children in the classroom and in after-school programs. Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Garcia earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from University of California, San Diego. While still an undergraduate, he was recognized as a McNair Scholar for his research in behavioral and cognitive psychology. Continuing his lifelong love of learning, Mr. Garcia completed his graduate coursework in teaching, counseling, and administration at Chapman and Azusa Pacific Universities. Since then he has held various leadership positions, including middle school assistant principal, high school assistant principal, middle school principal, and most recently, elementary school principal. Among his many recognitions, he is most proud his Teacher of the Year Awards at both primary and secondary grade levels and Riverside County's Bilingual Educators Succeeding Together (BEST) Administrator Award.

Mr. Garcia is a proud graduate of Monrovia High School and is an avid fan of the Wildcat football team. Mr. Garcia is excited to combine his unique academic, administrative, and personal life experiences to create a model school dedicated to bringing out the best in every child.

At Danbrook we believe that by providing a nurturing culture and rigorous academic standards every student can be successful. We focus heavily on the use of technology and teacher preparation to ensure that our students have a strong fundamental understanding of 21st Century skills. We also believe that in order to build citizenship and a sense of civic duty, we must provide students with opportunities to practice the C.A.R.E. (Courteous, Aware, Responsible, Eager to Learn) attributes. Parent, students, and educators, together as a community of learners, make Danbrook a great place to learn.

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# Centralia *Elementary*

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



**Tia Brown**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Tia Brown has 18 years of experience in education. She has served as a 1st-5th grade teacher, Resource Specialist (RSP) teacher, program coordinator, and assistant principal at the elementary and middle school level. The past four years, she has proudly served as an elementary school principal.

Mrs. Brown is a passionate educator, who is devoted to educating the whole child in a safe and enriching environment that will allow them to flourish and grow. She believes that all children can learn and that each learns in a different way and at a different rate. She believes that with hard work and perseverance we can touch each child in a special way. Keeping the atmosphere positive is one of the keys to success as well as keeping the line of communication open among staff, students, and parents. Mrs. Brown feels that teamwork and collaboration is the ultimate way a school can be successful in reaching the goal of helping a child attain his or her full potential.

Mrs. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Deaf Studies and a Masters of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, Northridge and a Master of Arts in Education from Pepperdine University. She is currently completing a doctorate in education. Mrs. Brown enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her husband and adorable twin boys.

# G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

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



**Shawn Stuht**  
*Principal*

Ms. Shawn Stuht is beginning her 25th year in education. She began her career in the Centralia School District in 1991. Since this time, she has served the Centralia School District as an elementary school teacher, Teacher on Special Assignment, District Intervention Coordinator, Teacher in Charge, Administrative Designee, Student Study Team Coordinator, Assistant Principal Intern at both Centralia and Danbrook Elementary Schools, and now Principal at Dysinger Elementary School, a California Business for Education Excellence S.T.E.M. Honor Roll school.

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

Ms. Stuht's education and many years as a classroom teacher gives her with the background to provide Dysinger with strong leadership in instruction to continue excellent progress in further implementation of Common Core Curriculum and enhancement of 21st century skills. She feels extremely fortunate to be able to provide leadership to the Dysinger Community where she had spent many years teaching. Ms. Stuht believes that having been part of the culture and climate of the school community is an incredible benefit and feels it is an honor to work collaboratively with the exceptional Dysinger staff, parents, and students to achieve high results.

Ms. Stuht has one daughter who is a sophomore at California State University, Fullerton, where she majors in Radio, TV, and Film Communications.





# Los Coyotes *Elementary*

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



**Robyn Yarbrough**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Robyn Yarbrough has been the principal of Los Coyotes Elementary School since August 2011. She was hired as a classroom teacher in Centralia School District in 1998 and has also worked as an Instructional Teacher on Special Assignment and Community Liaison working at Danbrook and Walter Knott Schools. Under her leadership, Los Coyotes continues to thrive as one of the most outstanding public elementary schools in Orange County, last year garnering the California Distinguished School award.

Robyn earned her bachelor's degree in Communications from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and her master's degree in Educational Leadership from the same institution. She plans to return to CSUF within the next two years, becoming a Titan for the third time, and obtain her doctorate.

The philosophy that permeates her decisions and actions is that a high quality education is a fundamental right for all children and a critical component in raising citizens who can actively and effectively engage in a challenging society. To that end, it is the school's mission to provide the foundational learning upon which our students will build. This year we look forward to continuing the successful implementation of the new State Standards, and refining instruction to enhance our program and improve learning.

Robyn lives in Buena Park with her husband of 29 years. They enjoy traveling, and are devoted Seahawks fans, making an annual pilgrimages to Seattle for home games. Feel free to ask her why 12 is her favorite number! Her eldest son is a computer software engineer, earning his bachelor's degree last year. Her youngest son graduated with a bachelor's degree in English last year and is currently working as a freelance writer. Both sons are CSUF Titans. They share their home with assorted lost and found animals.

# San Marino *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Stacy Chang**  
*Principal*

Dr. Stacy Chang is the proud principal of San Marino Elementary, a 2014 California Distinguished School and a California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll School. She has had the privilege of holding various leadership roles in schools, districts, and communities for over fifteen years prior to becoming the principal of San Marino. With experiences as a classroom teacher, Education Specialist/Training Coordinator, and Education Director, Dr. Chang has had the opportunity to work with learners from the preschool level to the graduate level in diverse cultural and socio-economic areas. She has also

trained and coordinated numerous educational workshops and conferences for hundreds of teachers, parents, and community members in suburban, urban, and inner-city areas.

Dr. Chang earned her undergraduate degree in Educational Studies from Vanderbilt University, M.A.Ed. from Biola University, and Doctorate of Education from University of Southern California. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher, a former Teacher of the Year, and recipient of the Governor's Educator Award in Alabama. During the 2014-15 school year, Dr. Chang received the Outstanding Administrator Award from PTA. As a passionate and enthusiastic leader, Dr. Chang plans to continue her work with all stakeholders to advance an educational program and culture that is conducive to high-quality, 21st century instruction. Her goal is to work collaboratively with her San Marino team to prepare students for college and careers and to strive for greater excellence.

Born in South Korea, Dr. Chang immigrated to the United States with her family when she was in first grade and has lived in New York, Tennessee, and Alabama. She is married with two wonderful boys and enjoys spending time with them.

# G.B. Miller *Elementary*

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



**Gerald Shaw**  
*Principal*

Gerald Shaw is entering his second year as principal of George B. Miller Elementary School and in the Centralia Elementary School District. Gerald Shaw has served in the capacity of educational leadership for 12 years. Mr. Shaw is excited about all that the Miller School team has accomplished last year, as well as invigorated about the work still to come.

Mr. Shaw says that the greatest joy of a career in education is making connections with students and providing them with the necessary tools in order for them to be productive citizens.

He believes that the best part about being at Miller is the opportunity to work alongside many incredible teachers, staff, students and parents in building a strong foundation for success while upholding a tradition of excellence.

Mr. Shaw earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Stanford University, his teaching credential from California State University Dominguez Hills and his Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University Los Angeles.

Mr. Shaw is married to Michelle. They have one daughter who is a budding actress and a son, daughter-in-love and two granddaughters that live in Australia. They enjoy spending time with friends and family, traveling, and cruising to places together.

# Raymond Temple *Elementary*

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



**Sara Pelly**  
*Principal*

Sara Pelly has worked in Centralia School District for 17 years. She began her teaching career in Orange Unified at Crescent Primary School then moved to Centralia where she taught Gifted and Talented 1st and 2nd graders at Walter Knott School for 9 years. After being involved in leadership, curriculum and technology in both districts, Sara decided to make a change to administration and became a Student Support/Community Liaison at Danbrook School. She served as principal at Buena Terra and Danbrook Schools, and is currently the principal at Raymond Temple School.

A native Coloradoan, Sara left her beloved Rocky Mountains to attend college at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. After her first day in a general education class, she knew she wanted to be a teacher, and went on to receive a B.S. in Elementary Education, as well as hands on experience in tornado survival! After working as a college Admission Counselor for 2 years she traveled to California for a job interview, and fell instantly in love with the beautiful city of Orange. In spite of the earthquakes, she decided to stay in California and earn her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction, and eventually her Administrative Services Credential at Chapman University.

Creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for students, staff and parents is Sara's main focus as a principal. She believes that optimum learning happens when there is a partnership between families and the school, and when students are the center of that focus they succeed in all aspects of life.

Sara spends her free time running, playing the piano, playing with their chocolate lab named Orvis, and traveling back to Colorado to visit family. She and her husband Mike also enjoy fly-fishing, and are involved in the Men's and Women's Lacrosse Parent Booster programs at Chapman.

**Please Drive Safely Students are Back in 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**

Anne Silavs is embarking upon her 25th year of service in the field of public education. She began her teaching career when she moved to California from the Midwest in 1991. For 10 years, Ms. Silavs enjoyed working with students and parents as a middle school English language arts teacher in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. During her tenure there, she transitioned into school administration, serving as a middle school vice principal. In 2004, Ms. Silavs moved to Orange County to accept a position in the Ocean View School District, where she served as principal at Vista View Middle School. While working in Ocean View, Ms. Silavs was promoted to the position of director of curriculum and instruction, which enabled her to support teaching and learning across the district. In 2011, Ms. Silavs was appointed as the assistant superintendent of instruction in the Fountain Valley School District, serving there for four years before being selected as the superintendent of the Cypress School District in 2015.

Ms. Silavs earned a bachelor's degree in communication from Michigan State University, a master's degree in Teaching from Wayne State University, and an administrative credential from Azusa Pacific University.

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

Ms. Silavs is honored to be joining the Cypress School District team and looks forward to collaborating with district stakeholders to provide a world-class education for all students.

## Arnold *Elementary*

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



**Denine Kelly**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Kelly has been an educator for over 29 years. She taught at the elementary and middle school levels. She spent the first part of her career as a teacher and administrator in the Long Beach Unified School District before coming to Cypress. This will be her 18th year as a principal in Cypress School District. She has served as the principal at Vessels, Swain, and now Arnold School. She is married with three daughters, two of them in college and one in middle school.

Mrs. Kelly is excited about the 2015-16 school year and all that is happening at Arnold School. There is much to look forward to this year. First of all, Arnold will implement the newly adopted math curriculum in grades K-5. Arnold is also looking forward to increased student access to technology, thanks to a generous donation from the school's PTA. Mrs. Kelly is currently participating in the Orange County STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) grant and looks forward to increased opportunities for Arnold students to engage in activities such as coding, robotics, and implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Mrs. Kelly is looking forward to another exciting year at Arnold, working with the incredible students, staff, and community!

## King *Elementary*

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



**Carol Erbe**  
*Principal*

Carol Erbe has been principal at King School for the past six years, and is starting her thirteenth year as a principal in the Cypress School District. Prior to King, she was also principal at Cawthon and Damron Schools in Cypress.

Mrs. Erbe first became interested in working for the Cypress School District over 20 years ago, when her eldest daughter began as a student at Morris School in Cypress. The sound educational program and atmosphere of inclusiveness in each of the Cypress schools was impressive. All three of her daughters attended school in this district, and all three thrived in their educational environment.

Mrs. Erbe began her teaching career in the Long Beach Unified School District, first as a classroom teacher, then as a technology specialist teacher, and later as the vice principal at a K-8 school. She attended CSULB and Pepperdine Universities, and holds credentials in elementary teaching, educational technology, and administration.

When asked about the anticipated challenges for this school year, she said, "The continued transition into Common Core State Standards presents many exciting opportunities for our teachers to help students move toward higher education and college and career readiness. The King teachers are enthusiastic about incorporating various instructional strategies to empower students, incorporate STEM into classroom lessons, increase student achievement, and enhance student learning."

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# 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*

Dr. Rena Gibbs began her career in education locally in 1993. She came to Cypress from the Centralia School District, where she worked for 15 years as a classroom teacher. She later served as a teacher on special assignment and professional development coordinator. In 2011 she earned her doctorate in educational leadership at California State University, Fullerton, after receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Chapman University.

Dr. Gibbs anticipates another great year at Margaret Landell School. She states, "My first two years at Landell have been an amazing experience. I keep waiting for the energy and enthusiasm to wane, but it seems to increase with each passing month. Parents are excited about the project based learning occurring around campus, as well as the inquiry approach to learning that the students experience. Teachers continue to be energized by the emphasis on STEAM. Teachers are writing grants to bring a wide array of technology to the campus, as well as procuring equipment and materials that allow them to offer more hands-on experiences to our students. The synergy that is created by motivated teachers and parents is quite a sight to behold! These past two years have been a wonderful adventure, and it is with eager anticipation that I look toward year three."

# 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*

Helen Lu will be starting her third year at Vessels Elementary School. She has over 19 years of experience working in the field of education. She has formerly served as an elementary teacher, high school boys' varsity coach, assistant principal, elementary principal, and SWING (Senior with Interest in New Generation).

Ms. Lu was born in Hong Kong and relocated to California when she was 10 years old. She speaks fluent Mandarin and Cantonese. She received her Bachelor of Science in child development from California State University, Fullerton, and a master's degree in education from Claremont Graduate University. When away from being a principal, Ms. Lu enjoys spending time with her children, playing tennis on the USTA, and traveling with her whole family.

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

# Luther *Elementary*

5851 Newman St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6918 • [www.cypsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.cypsd.k12.ca.us)



**Jacki Teschke**  
*Principal*

Jacki Teschke is beginning her seventh year as principal in the Cypress School District (sixth year at Luther School). She has extensive training and expertise in curriculum and instruction, and she has a passion for learning about teaching and effective instruction and providing students with the best-possible educational program to ensure that they learn to their maximal level of ability. Her primary goal is to support teachers to ensure that strategies that research finds are most effective are used in every classroom with every student, especially as full implementation of the Common Core State Standards is begun.

Mrs. Teschke strongly believes that her primary job is to be the advocate for all students. She believes in the concept that all Luther staff members must take responsibility for the education of all Luther students; thus, Luther has become an educational community in which all adults feel an obligation for the education and development of all students. Mrs. Teschke exemplifies this by personally knowing every student in the school and virtually every parent.

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

# 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*

Lori Hernandez, Principal of Juliet Morris Elementary, is excited to begin her third year as their educational leader. This school year, Morris will be continuing with some of the initiatives and programs started over the past two years, including Thinking Maps, school-wide positive behavior management, and the integration of technology into all curricular areas. In addition, professional development for Morris teachers will focus on both writing and math as they continue to fully implement the California Common Core Standards.

Before joining the Cypress team in 2013, Mrs. Hernandez taught in both the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Magnolia School District. She was awarded Orange County Teacher of the Year in 2010. Mrs. Hernandez is a National Board Certified Teacher in Language Arts, and earned both her BA and MA at the University of California, Los Angeles.



## OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION • *From Page 1*

Building capacity in these areas is critical for success in a world that has become far more complex and connected than at any time in our history. Suffice to say, the technological revolution that began a decade or so ago isn't pausing for us to catch our breath, and our global competitors have no interest in waiting for the U.S. to lead the way.

The good news is California is reinvesting in our schools and, for the first time, channeling more resources to the students with the greatest needs. Moreover, our state has put standards in place that take learning to a substantially deeper level.

Our work is far from done, but the Orange County Department of Education and the school districts we serve are highly motivated and, indeed, well positioned to ensure students receive the training and preparation they'll need to thrive in their lives and careers.

Eight students from Santa Ana are just the beginning.

Orange County Department of Education  
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us)



# 'Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!'



Kate Karp

This collection arrives just in time for the beginning of the school year, when teachers are scoping out their annual plans and parents are looking for some good, entertaining stuff to enhance their children's knowledge base. *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!* is a real find—a brass-and-woodwind-heavy hail to the Civil War era.

The collection is a compilation of traditional songs, some familiar and others obscure, as well as tunes written by artist Lloyd H. Miller in the sense of the era and what came out of it for better or worse. In the CD, Miller tells the traditional story and sings the well-known tune of radical abolitionist John Brown and adds his own lyrics and music to flesh out the hero's activism and bravery. "Follow the Drinking Gourd," the hymn to Harriet Tubman's night-sky navigation to the land of freedom, is given a celebratory treatment. Another lesser-known Brown—Henry Box Brown—reached the North in another singular way: he shipped himself in a box to Philadelphia, and Miller thought he'd make a great subject for a song. He was right. Equally obscure and of note is the story of Weeksville, one of the first free black enclaves. Weeksville was established in Brooklyn in the 1830s by a former slave, and Miller graced it with a song, too.

A sequenced narration of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address squares the corners of this enlightening collection. And best of all, an online curriculum guide is in development to further link this rich era to our present.



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

# Contest!!



Our office tortoise Cheeseball is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

**Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com**  
Please put CCS in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by September 30, 2015.  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

# Cypress Library

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

# Fall Events



Helen Richardson  
Branch Manager

By Stephanie Anson, Children's Librarian

**Homework Help Program:** Children kindergarten through eighth grade can drop in for free homework help on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The Homework Help program is made possible by local high school volunteers. Students can receive help with their homework on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Toddler and Preschool Story Time Schedules:** The first story time of the fall will be September 14 in the Community Room. Toddler Story time for ages 18 to 35 months begins at 9:30 a.m., and preschool story time for ages 3 to 5 years begins at 10:30 a.m. Story times include stories, music and rhymes.

**Read to a Doggie:** Dogs like stories, too! We have fun-loving pups that love being read to. Won't you come read to them? On the first and third Wednesdays of every month, starting Sept. 2 from 6 to 7p.m. in the children's area, children can read to a therapy dog.

**Masks of the World:** Come learn about masks on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 3:30 p.m.

**Talk like a Pirate Day:** Arrggh, mateys! Make an eye patch, walk the plank, learn to talk like a real pirate, plus a few other fun things on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**In-N-Out Reading Program:** Children ages 4 through 12 can pick up a reading log, read five books, and get awarded a certificate for an In-N-Out burger! You can do this three times!

**Kid Craft Program:** Get ready for fall holidays with our craft program to be held on Oct 21 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Call the library for more information!

# Lucy's Book Review

# A Page Turner!



Lucy Davis

*The Mysterious Benedict Society*

Author: Trenton Lee Stewart

Mr. Curtain has created a machine to brainwash the world. This story follows four kids that are sent on a secret mission to stop him. Danger is everywhere, and each child has personality traits that help him or her during their adventures. Constance is my favorite character because she is funny, spunky, and fiercely independent! There are lots of twists and turns so readers must pay close attention to keep up with the story line.

This is a young adult book that I feel both boys and girls will enjoy. If you enjoy science fiction and mysteries, this is a great book for you!

I would give this book five bookworms out of five, because I really enjoyed the suspense in the story. I'm really looking forward to reading the next book in this series!



Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student at Beryl Elementary in Redondo Beach. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar.



# Savanna School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Sue Johnson**

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

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

Dr. Johnson has been married to her husband Keith for 31 years and is extremely proud of both of her daughters. After living abroad for more than four years, her oldest daughter received her Masters Degree at the University of Strasbourg, France and is currently working as an International Student Advisor at the University of California, Riverside. Her youngest daughter will begin her third year of teaching in the fall where she will teach kindergarten, thus influencing the next generation. Her advice to others is embodied in the quote by [Confucius](#): ‘Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.’

## Cerritos *School*

3731 Cerritos St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3830 • <http://savsd.org/Schools/Cerritos/cerrhome.html>



**Shannon Wyatt**  
*Principal*

Ms. Shannon Wyatt is the newly appointed principal of Cerritos School. Before coming to Cerritos, she was the principal of Hansen School from January 2008 to June 2015. She has worked for the Savanna School District since 2004; however, she has been part of the Savanna family since she began as a kindergarten student at Cerritos School. Prior to her appointment as Hansen principal, Ms. Wyatt taught at Cerritos and Holder Schools, as well as in the Cypress and Desert Sands Unified School Districts. Under her leadership, Cerritos will continue to thrive and maintain strong relationships with students, families and teachers.

Ms. Wyatt earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Studies, minoring in military history, from California State University of San Bernardino and her Master’s Degree in educational leadership from California State University, Long Beach.

Ms. Wyatt and her family enjoy traveling as well as attending a variety of sporting events including football, hockey, and baseball. Her daughter recently graduated from the University of Iowa majoring in Anthropology and Global Health while her son is serving an internship with FEMA and is currently in Oklahoma City helping victims of the recent floods.

## Hansen *School*

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



**Tracy Goodspeed**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Tracy Goodspeed joined the Savanna School District this year as the new principal at Hansen Elementary School. Prior to her appointment with Savanna, Tracy enjoyed nineteen successful years working with Ocean View School District. She attended Ocean View School District as a child and worked in Ocean View as a teacher, a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), and as a principal at Village View Elementary.

Mrs. Goodspeed earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Studies, minoring in Sociology, from California State University, Long Beach. During that time she worked as an instructional assistant in elementary schools for both Ocean View School District and Los Alamitos School District during the day, and as a pharmacy technician in the evenings and weekends. She went on to earn her Master’s Degree in Education from National University. Growing up and watching her mother’s love of teaching inspired Tracy to follow her passion for education as well.

Tracy has been happily married for 18 years and has 15 year-old twins. She and her family enjoy traveling as much as possible, as well as following their passion for soccer. Her family continues to be lifelong learners and gain as much knowledge as possible from all of their travels and adventures.

## Holder *School*

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



**Dr. Jerry Friedman**  
*Principal*

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

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

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

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

## Twila Reid *School*

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3840 • [www.savsd.org/Schools/Reid/reidhome.html](http://www.savsd.org/Schools/Reid/reidhome.html)



**Hipolito Murillo**  
*Principal*

Mr. Murillo joined the Savanna School District in April 2014 as Director of Student Services/School Psychologist. Prior to his tenure in Savanna, Mr. Murillo worked as a teacher, School Psychologist, Mental Health Liaison, and school site and district level administrator in the El Rancho Unified School District for over eighteen years. In May of 2014, he was appointed principal of Twila Reid School.

Mr. Murillo earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, he earned a M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, a M.S. in Counseling designed for schools, and a M.A. in Educational Administration from California State University, Los Angeles. Additionally, he’s a Licensed Educational Psychologist and fluent in both English and Spanish.

An interesting sidelight to Mr. Murillo’s employment history is that for 12 years he was employed by the Los Angeles Dodgers – a batboy for two years and locker room attendant for ten. He says meeting players and being involved personally with the team’s day-to-day operations was, indeed, a young man’s dream job.

Mr. Murillo lives in Chino with his wife, Denise, of thirteen years. They have a nine-year old son, Benjamin, and eleven-year old daughter, Gabriela. They enjoy baseball and softball activities, traveling, and spending time together as a family.



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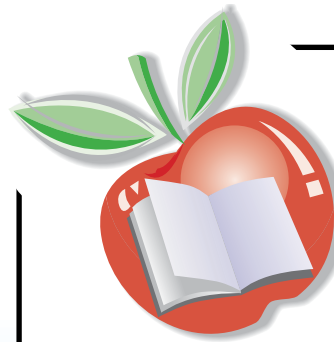


**Linda Weinstock**  
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## Savanna School District

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3731 Cerritos Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92804  
8:05 am – 2:35 pm

**Holder School**  
9550 Holder St.  
Buena Park, CA 90620  
7:40 am – 2:00 pm

**Hansen School**  
1300 S. Knott Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92804  
7:50 am – 2:20 pm

**Reid School**  
720 S. Western Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92804  
8:30 am – 2:55 pm

For registration information,  
call Savanna School District:

**714-236-3800**



## Curious George Goes to the Zoo—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 **October 15, 2015**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Amazing	Giraffe	Water
Animals	Headquarters	Wild
Climbed	Hippo	Wonderful
Curious	Leaves	Zoo
Danced	Park	Zookeeper
Fun	Party	
George	Rhino	

**Congratulations to Julian Antunez**  
**Winner of the May Contest!**

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



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

Paul R. de Dios  
Dean of Cypress College

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

Mother of student at  
Landell Elementary, Cypress

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

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

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