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School News

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Covering the Districts of: Centralia, Cypress, & Savanna

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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

STEM and Arts for All!

From the Cypress School District

The Cypress School District celebrated the grand opening of its newly constructed STEM labs and arts classrooms during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at Frank Vessels Elementary School on August 12. The STEM facilities are furnished to support hands-on, project-based learning experiences for students, while the arts classrooms are acoustically designed for music and performing arts instruction.

A number of local leaders and community members were in attendance to show their support for these new programs, which will be provided for all District students beginning this school year. Honored guests included Cypress Mayor Mariellen Yarc, Cypress City Council Member Stacy Berry, Cypress Police Department Commander Steven Ramsey, and State Assemblywoman Young Kim.

In her welcoming remarks, Superintendent Anne Silavs stated, "It is important to acknowledge that all this was made possible through the vision and steadfast commitment of past and present School Board Members, whose dedicated service turned this dream into a reality."



Cypress School District Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Cutting-Edge Programs

These new facilities will support the District's ongoing efforts to

- Deliver cutting-edge instruction for student success in college and career,
- Inspire student innovation, creativity, and appreciation for the arts,
- Prepare students for the jobs of the future, and
- Provide students in the community with a competitive advantage at the university level and in the job market.

During the ceremony, Cypress School District Board of Trustees Vice President Brian Nakamura accepted certificates of recognition from Assemblywoman Kim and Jeremy Tran, a representative from Orange County Supervisor Michelle Steel's office.

"We are excited about what these new programs will mean for our students. We look forward to the many amazing things we know our students will accomplish as a result of this investment in their education," said Trustee Nakamura.

Following the presentation, guests enjoyed refreshments and toured the new facilities with district staff, who demonstrated various types of technology and provided information regarding the unique features of each classroom.

"It's hard to believe that just three short months ago we were breaking ground on this important project. Yet here we are today, on the third day of school, opening these brand new facilities for our students and staff," observed Tim McLellan, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services. "We are so grateful to our team for all their hard work to get these classrooms ready in time for the new school year."

Superintendent Silavs remarked, "Some school districts offer these types of programs at just one or two schools or just for certain grade levels. I am proud that the Cypress School District will be providing these valuable learning experiences for all our kids."

Multi-Tiered System of Supports



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
Orange County
Dept. of Ed.

A new state initiative has the potential to have a transformative impact on education in California — and the Orange County Department of Education has been tapped to lead the way.

OCDE was recently awarded \$30 million to help schools and districts across the state implement a proven framework of supports to address students' academic and behavioral needs. That framework is called MTSS, short for Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

If you haven't heard of MTSS, you're not alone. Yet it is becoming increasingly popular among schools and districts looking to identify students who need academic or social support, initiate a response plan, track progress and make improvements over time.

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Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. New beginnings are always exciting and particularly for students. It is a time of anticipation of seeing old friends, making new friends, meeting teachers, learning where the classrooms are and getting used to a schedule after summer break. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

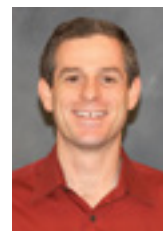
In this issue we ask the administrators to write their bios. It is always fun to learn about their college choices, families, pets, hobbies, etc.

Our next issue is November 2.

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

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Healthy Eating On the Go



Barry Steinmetz, M.D.

Associate Medical Director, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition Center, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Getting your child to eat healthy can be a challenge, especially with busy schedules. Avoiding junk food can sometimes seem impossible. However, a well-balanced diet along with plenty of rest and exercise will help your child's immune system continue to function properly – reducing the risk of illness.

A healthy diet also is necessary for brain growth and development. In the first five years of life, 90 percent of a child's brain develops.

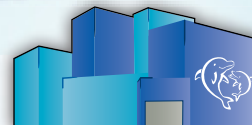
Here are some easy meal and snack ideas that are both delicious and healthy:

- Peel a banana and dip it in low-fat yogurt. Roll in crushed cereal and freeze.
- Spread celery sticks with peanut butter or low-fat cream cheese. Top with raisins. Enjoy your "ants on a log."
- Mix together ready-to-eat cereal, dried fruit and nuts in a sandwich bag for an on-the-go snack.
- Smear a scoop of frozen yogurt on two graham crackers and add sliced banana to make a sandwich.
- Top low-fat vanilla yogurt with crunchy granola and sprinkle with blueberries.
- Make snack kabobs; put cubes of low-fat cheese and grapes on pretzel sticks.
- Toast a whole grain waffle and top with low-fat yogurt and sliced peaches.
- Spread peanut butter on apple slices.
- Blend low-fat milk, frozen strawberries and a banana for 30 seconds for a delicious smoothie.
- Mix together peanut butter and cornflakes in a bowl. Shape into balls and roll in crushed graham crackers.

Maintaining a well-balanced diet early in development will help promote a life-long habit of healthy eating for your child.



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SUPERINTENDENT



Norma Martinez

Ms. Norma E. Martinez' work in education extends to 28 years of service, beginning as a bilingual instructional assistant, teacher, resource teacher, master teacher, vice principal, principal, executive director, assistant superintendent, and now, proud superintendent of the very successful Centralia Elementary School District.

Entering her second year as the superintendent, Ms. Martinez is proud that CESD 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. Among the recent accomplishments are: California Gold Ribbon awards for San Marino & Los Coyotes Schools; Campaign for Business & Education Excellence Star School honors to San Marino, Dysinger, Buena Terra, Los Coyotes and Miller Schools, a 2016 Los Coyotes Elementary Silver Award for PBIS Implementation; a top 5-star rating of our State Preschools; 2016 OC STEM Initiative membership; and improved test scores in ELA & Math under the new accountability system, SBAC.

Ms. Martinez is a graduate of Anaheim High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in child development from Cal State, Fullerton and 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.

Ms. Martinez is committed to helping school systems improve the instructional program for students to reach new levels of achievement. She seeks ways to cultivate relationships, create opportunities, and celebrate successes with staff, families and students.

Ms. Martinez is honored to represent the Board of Trustees and proud to lead a district whose staff sign their work with excellence as evidenced by the many district, school and individual awards and recognitions!

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Buena Terra *Elementary*

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Dr. Dominic Nguyen
Principal

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

Dr. Nguyen believes in providing students with a comprehensive education that prepares them with 21st Century skills. Buena Terra's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) focus has integrated skills such as computer science coding into the curriculum. Last year, students participated in the first STEAM boat challenge where students built air propelled boats. This year we are exploring different resources to create an

Innovation Lab that will continue sharpen students' critical thinking skills.

Dr. Nguyen is entering his 15th year in the field of education with the first nine years devoted to teaching at one of the highest performing elementary schools in Southern California. He then served as an administrator at a California Distinguished school nationally recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community and Leader and Me School. He has always found the most rewarding aspect of his career to be the connections he has fostered with students, families, and the educational community.

Dr. Nguyen earned his bachelor's degree in liberal studies from the UC, Riverside, his teaching credential from Cal State, Fullerton, and his Masters of Education from the University of La Verne. In May of 2013 he fulfilled one of his lifelong dreams by receiving his Doctorate of Education from USC. Fight On!

When not at school, Dr. Nguyen enjoys spending time with family and friends. He enjoys road trips to new places and trying out the local cuisine in true foodie fashion. Last summer's trip took them across America's heartland to visit Iowa. He always enjoys coming home to the sunshine of southern California.

Centralia *Elementary*

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



Tia Brown
Principal

Mrs. Tia Brown is honored to begin her third year as principal of Centralia Elementary School. Her pledge is to be a strong advocate of innovative student learning and an enthused herald of accomplishments. Her dedication will continue to be unreserved and ever-present, as she works to serve the community, staff, and most importantly, the students. She believes in the importance of cultivating relationships, maintaining communication, and doing what is right for students.

Mrs. Brown will be entering her twentieth year in the field of education. She has served as an elementary teacher, resource specialist teacher, program coordinator, and assistant principal at the elementary and middle school level and for the past five years, as an elementary school principal. Throughout her educational tenure, she fundamentally believes that knowledge is the most powerful tool, and that education is the greatest equalizer.

Mrs. Brown is a passionate educator 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 and will learn and, that with hard work and perseverance, we can touch each child in a special way.

Furthermore, maintaining a positive atmosphere is a key to success, as well sustaining open lines of communication among staff, students, and parents. Mrs. Brown feels that teamwork and collaboration are the most responsive channels in which a school can successfully help 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 Cal State, Northridge and a Master of Arts in Education from Pepperdine University. She is currently completing a lifelong dream of earning a doctorate in education. When not at work, Mrs. Brown enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her husband and adorable twin boys.

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Danbrook *Elementary*

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Erasmo Garcia
Principal

Mr. Garcia has 15 years of experience as an administrator and five years of experience teaching elementary and middle school children in the classroom and in after-school programs. Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Garcia earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from University of California, San Diego. While still an undergraduate, he was recognized as a McNair Scholar for his research in behavioral and cognitive psychology. Continuing his lifelong love of learning, Mr. Garcia completed his graduate coursework in teaching, counseling, and administration at Chapman and Azusa Pacific Universities. Since then he has held various leadership positions, including middle school assistant principal, high school assistant principal, middle school principal and this fall kicks off his 7th year as Danbrook School's 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.

G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

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Shawn Stuht
Principal

Ms. Shawn Stuht is beginning her 26th year in education. She takes great pride in having made the Centralia School District her home for her entire educational career, beginning in the Centralia School District in 1991. Since this time, she has served the Centralia School District as an elementary school teacher in Grades K-6, 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 currently Principal at Glen H. Dysinger Sr. Elementary School, a California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll school.

Ms. Stuht is honored to have been chosen as an OC STEM Initiative Collaborative team member for the 2016-17 school year, working in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education and Tiger Woods Learning Center to assist in the integration of 21st Century S.T.E.A.M. Education throughout schools in the Centralia School District. She also has the privilege of piloting a 21st century model classroom and Innovation Lab at Dysinger Elementary School, working closely with teachers and district personnel to integrate 21st Century Instructional Technology to better prepare our students to be college and career ready.

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.

When not working, Ms. Stuht enjoys spending time with her daughter and doing D.I.Y. home renovation. Ms. Stuht's daughter is a Junior 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 started as a classroom teacher in the Centralia School District in 1998, and worked as a Teacher on Special Assignment and Community Liaison 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 Gold Ribbon School award, a PBIS Silver medal for 2016, California Distinguished School in 2014 and a CBEE (California Business for Education Excellence) Award for 2011-2015.

Mrs. Yarbrough earned her bachelor's degree in communications and master's degree in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fullerton and plans to return to CSUF to become a Titan for the third time to obtain her doctorate.

The philosophy that permeates her decisions and actions is that a high quality education is a fundamental right for every child, and a critical component in raising citizens who can actively and effectively engage in a challenging society. To that end, it is the school's mission to provide the foundational learning upon which our students will build. This year we look forward to continuing the successful implementation of Benchmark Advance, our new ELA/ELD program, enhancing technology innovations in the classroom, and refining instruction to improve learning.

Ms. Yarbrough lives in Buena Park with her husband of 30 years. They enjoy traveling, and are very devoted Seahawks fans, making annual pilgrimages to Seattle for home games. Feel free to ask her why 12 is her favorite number! She has two sons; a computer software engineer and a freelance writer. Both sons graduated from CSUF as Titans. They share their home with assorted lost and found animals.

G.B. Miller *Elementary*

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



Dr. Stacy Chang
Principal

Dr. Stacy Chang is honored to be the principal of Miller Elementary School, a 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 a principal. With experiences as a classroom teacher, state teacher trainer and coordinator, and Education Director, Dr. Chang has had the opportunity to work with learners from the preschool level to the graduate level in diverse cultural and socio-economic areas. She has also trained and coordinated numerous educational workshops and conferences for hundreds of teachers, parents, and community members 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 summer, she had the pleasure of serving as a Team Leader for the ACSA New & Aspiring Principals Institute at UCLA.

As a passionate and enthusiastic leader, Dr. Chang plans to work with all stakeholders to advance an educational program and culture that is conducive to high-quality 21st century instruction. Her goal is to provide the leadership that will facilitate a school environment that offers the best possible academic instruction to meet the needs of each student and to strive for greater excellence. You can follow Dr. Chang on Miller's twitter account @mi_roadrunners.

San Marino *Elementary*

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



Dr. Omaira Lee
Principal

Dr. Omaira Lee is elated about the opportunity to be serving as principal of San Marino Elementary School, a California Distinguished School, Title I Academic Achievement School, and a 2015 California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll School. This is Dr. Lee's 11th year in administration. She has a vast amount of experience having served as an elementary classroom teacher, resource teacher, Reading First literacy coach, assistant principal, principal and her work at Riverside County of Education as a Coordinator.



Dr. Estela Salas-Sarmiento
Principal

Dr. Salas is honored to be serving as the principal of Raymond Temple Elementary and excited to begin her first year in Centralia School District with such an amazing group of caring educators.

Dr. Salas is new to us but not to the field of education. With over 20 years of experience, she comes to us with a wealth of knowledge. She began her career in education teaching grades 1st through 5th for Downey USD, piloting the first Sheltered English Immersion class for the district and was the first in her district to have a BCLAD credential making her highly qualified to teach in two languages.

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

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

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

Dr. Salas earned her bachelor's degree from Cal State, Dominguez Hills, with a concentration in Spanish. A K-9 teaching credential and Masters in Multicultural Education. She earned her Doctorate Degree from California State University, Fullerton.

When not at school, Dr. Salas enjoys spending time with her children; Sara, Esteban and twin boys, Mateo and Emilio. She also enjoys practicing traditional karate with self-improvement through meditation, stretching, and finding your inner strength.



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Cypress School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Anne Silavs

Anne Silavs is enjoying her 26th year in the field of public education. During the first ten years of her career, Ms. Silavs served students in the San Bernardino City Unified School District as a middle school English/language arts teacher. Driven to make a greater impact, she eventually transitioned into school administration and served that community as a middle school vice principal. In 2004, Ms. Silavs moved to Orange County to accept a position in the Ocean View School District, where she enjoyed working with students, parents, and teachers as a middle school principal. She was later promoted to Director of Curriculum and Instruction, which enabled her to support teaching and learning on an even larger scale. In 2011, Ms. Silavs was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Instruction in the Fountain Valley School District, where she served four years before being selected as Superintendent of the Cypress School District in 2015.

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

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

Ms. Silavs is a proud member of the Cypress School District team. She is committed to working side by side with district stakeholders to provide a world-class education for all students.

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Arnold *Elementary*

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Carol Erbe
Principal

Carol Erbe is principal at Arnold School this year, and is starting her 14th year as a principal in Cypress. Prior to Arnold, she was also principal at Cawthon, Damron, and King Schools in the Cypress School District.

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. The sound educational program and atmosphere of inclusiveness in each of the Cypress schools was impressive. All three of her daughters attended school in the 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, and later as the vice principal at a K–8 school. She attended California State University, Long Beach and Pepperdine University and holds credentials in elementary teaching, educational technology, and administration.

When asked about curriculum additions for the upcoming school year, she stated, “The installation of STEM and music classrooms on all school campuses is a positive move toward 21st century education. Expansion of STEM and music education, paired with our continued advancements into the Common Core State Standards, present many exciting opportunities. We are enthusiastic about incorporating various instructional strategies to empower students, adding STEM and music education into the school day, and expanding enrichment activities for all students. These enhancements to our educational program will help our students to become college and career ready.”

King *Elementary*

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



Jacki Teschke
Principal

Jacki Teschke is beginning her eighth year as principal in the Cypress School District. She has extensive training and expertise in curriculum and instruction. She is passionate about teaching, learning, effective instruction, and providing students with the best possible educational program to ensure that they achieve their maximal potential. 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.

Mrs. Teschke strongly believes that her primary job is to be an advocate for all students. She believes that all staff members must take responsibility for the education of all students; thus, fostering an educational community in which all adults are committed to the education and development of all students.

Prior to becoming a principal, Mrs. Teschke served Cypress School District in many roles, including classroom teacher, Title I resource teacher, site program coordinator, Cotsen Foundation teacher-mentor, district BTSA coordinator, and district teacher on special assignment responsible for GATE, staff development, and technology support.

Mrs. Teschke's three grown children attended Cypress schools, and she served as a 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.



Please Drive Safely
Students are Back in School

Landell *Elementary*

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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.

Though she enjoyed having a little time away this summer to travel, enjoy the beach, and snorkel, Dr. Gibbs is thrilled to begin her fourth year as principal at Landell. She is thankful to be part of such an amazing community, and loves how all stakeholders consistently work together to create an amazing educational experience for all the students at Landell. This dedication is so evident when looking at the school calendar. In just the first month, the community will be coming together for Back to School Night, the Kids Caring for Kids Drive, Camp Landell, and Out of the Park Pizza Night. It's these opportunities to build relationships and support student learning that make Dr. Gibbs so thankful to be a Landell Leopard!

Luther *Elementary*

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



Denine Kelly
Principal

Mrs. Kelly has been a principal in the Cypress School district for over 18 years. She has served as the principal at Vessels, Swain, and Arnold Schools, and now at Luther School. Previously, she taught at the elementary and middle school levels in the Long Beach Unified School District. She is married with three daughters, two of them in college and one in middle school.

Mrs. Kelly is excited to be at Luther School this year. She has heard many positive things about the students, staff, and families and looks forward to working with them. Mrs. Kelly is also thrilled about the opening of the new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and arts classrooms this year. Mrs. Kelly has been part of the Orange County STEM Initiative for the past two years and knows the new facilities will provide increased opportunities for Luther students to engage in activities such as coding, robotics, and engineering challenges. She is also looking forward to the return of a music program, which will provide students with greater access to the arts.

Mrs. Kelly is looking forward to the privilege of serving the Luther community this year!

Morris *Elementary*

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



Lori Hernandez
Principal

Lori Hernandez, Principal of Juliet Morris Elementary School, is excited to begin her fourth year as an educational leader in the Cypress School District. This school year, Morris will continue to build on effective signature practices, including STEM instruction and the integration of technology into all curricular areas. In 2015-16, Morris was named a California Green Ribbon School for efforts in sustainability, student health, and effective environmental education. In addition, Morris received a Gold Ribbon for technology integration.

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 B.A. and M.A. at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Vessels *Elementary*

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



Helen Lu
Principal

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

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

When away from Vessels, Ms. Lu enjoys spending time with her children, playing tennis with the United States Tennis Association (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 working with the stellar school staff to offer the very best to each child so that he or she can reach the highest potential as a learner!

MULTI-TIERED • From Page 1



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

MTSS isn't a single program or method. Think of it instead as a comprehensive toolkit of data-based instructional strategies and interventions, all aligned to help students succeed both academically and behaviorally. As such, it is being used by schools to boost attendance, prevent dropouts, lower disciplinary rates and improve school climates.

While several states have explored broader MTSS initiatives, California took it a step further in December 2015 by announcing it would accept applications from county offices of education to lead a new project aimed at aligning numerous academic, behavioral and social supports.

That's where OCDE came in. Our department, which has placed a premium on college and career readiness and success, produced the winning proposal after teaming up with the Butte County Office of Education and the SWIFT Center at the University of Kansas.

Then something remarkable happened: The state, which initially awarded OCDE \$10 million, invested an additional \$20 million to support the full scope of the work we proposed.

This extraordinary investment positions OCDE as the lead agency on what will be known as the California Scale-Up MTSS Statewide Initiative — or SUMS Initiative — which will establish tiers of trainers to help schools and districts scale up MTSS programs. Expect to hear more about our progress in the months ahead.

California has emerged as a trailblazer in the arena of 21st-century learning and addressing the needs of the whole child, and our county has considerable experience leading successful intervention and support strategies.

With the help of our partners, we are well-positioned to build a scalable and sustainable MTSS framework that coordinates fragmented support systems, creates a culture of collaboration among stakeholders and establishes educational environments in which all students succeed.

Orange County Department of Education
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us

Cypress Library

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

Fall Programs

By Stephanie Anson, Children’s Librarian

- Homework Help:** Begins August 29th for kids grades K-8. Kids are paired up with a teen to receive help with homework. Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm.
- Rookie Reader:** Begins September 7th for kids grades K-5. Kids are paired up with a teen to read one-on-one. K-2nd will be allowed a 20-minute slot, 3rd-5th grade will be given 30 minutes. Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm.
- S.T.E.A.M. at Cypress:** One aspect of STEAM will be featured each month and open to kids of all ages. All programs will be held on Thursdays at 3pm, Science=September 15th, Technology=October 13th, Engineering=November 17th.
- Family Storytime:** All families are welcome! Held on Saturdays at 10:30am: September 17th, October 15th, November 12th.
- Spooktacular Crafts:** Come make Halloween related crafts Saturday, October 29th at 1pm.
- Prescriptive Pets Story Dogs:** Come read to therapy dogs the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 6-7pm.
- ACME Drawing Board:** Chuck Jones Center offers drawing lessons Saturday, October 1st at 12:30pm.
Please call the Cypress Library for more.



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Going Green! Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by October 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card game fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Carpool | Future | Reduce |
| Compost | Garden | Renewable |
| Conservation | Healthier | Resources |
| Difference | Impact | Respect |
| Eco Friendly | Low Waste | Responsibility |
| Efficient | Planet | Reuse |
| Emissions | Process | Solar |
| Energy | Protect | |
| Environment | Recycle | |

Congratulations to Avi Jagdish
Winner of the May Word Search



Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3800 • 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 32 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 fourth year of teaching in the fall where she will teach kindergarten, thus influencing the next generation. Together, they enjoy traveling as a family with the goal of visiting most of America's National Parks. Her advice to others is embodied in the quote by Confucius: 'Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.'

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Cerritos *School*

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Briana Schnitzer
Principal

Mrs. Briana Schnitzer is the newly appointed principal of Cerritos School. Although she is new to this position, she is a familiar face to the staff, students and families of Cerritos School. Mrs. Schnitzer started her career in the Savanna School District when she was hired as a teacher at Cerritos School in 2007. During her time as a teacher she taught kindergarten, first, second and third grades. In addition to teaching, she also served as the District's Summer Academy Principal for four years. Over the past two years, Mrs. Schnitzer has worked at the Savanna School District office as the Coordinator of 21st Century

Teaching and Learning. She has a passion for incorporating technology into daily classroom instruction and has played an important role with developing the District's iPad Program. Mrs. Schnitzer is looking forward to reconnecting and serving the students, families and staff members of Cerritos School.

Mrs. Schnitzer earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with a minor in History and Social Science, from Cal State University, Long Beach. She went on to obtain her Master's Degree in Teaching with a Specialization in Reading from National University.

Mrs. Schnitzer lives in Anaheim with her husband, Jason, of three years. They enjoy traveling together as well as participating in a variety of outdoor activities, including swimming, hiking and archery.

In addition to having a new principal this year, students at Cerritos School will also be exposed to a newly adopted math curriculum, Go Math! Go Math is completely aligned to the Common Core Standards and comes with a variety of tools and resources to assist students with mastery of skills. In preparation for the newly adopted math curriculum, teachers have attended a variety of professional development sessions focused on mathematical practices and strategies. Cerritos School staff members are committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they will need to become 21st Century learners.

Hansen *School*

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



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

Mrs. Tracy Goodspeed will serve her second year as the principal at Hansen School for the 2016-17 school year. Prior to her appointment with Savanna School District, Mrs. Goodspeed 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 is looking forward to continuing the great programs that take place at Hansen, including the unique Husky Time program developed at the site. She will keep the progressive movement of the positive behavioral program and build upon it to further strengthen the school culture. She is determined to build the school community involvement by continuing efforts to get parents involved with school functions and the Parent Teacher Association. Mrs. Goodspeed is supportive and encouraging of the staff in the further implementation of Common Core strategies.

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 Mrs. Goodspeed to follow her passion for education as well.

Mrs. Goodspeed has been happily married for 19 years and has 16 year-old twins. She enjoys traveling with her family every summer, looking for new places to discover and learn on their travels here in the United States and abroad. Her family continues to be life-long learners and gain as much knowledge as possible from all their adventures.

Holder School

9550 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/236-3840 • 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. For the 2016-2017 school year, this background will be integral; Holder School will increase the focus on providing support for all English Language Learners as well as review curriculum in preparation of adopting a new English Language Arts program.

Dr. Friedman lives in Yorba Linda with his wife, Lisa, of fifteen years. They have a ten-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



Erin Helenihi
Principal

Reid Rams welcome Mrs. Erin Helenihi as the newly appointed principal of Twila Reid Elementary School! She has sixteen years of experience in education. Her first six years of teaching were in the Placentia Yorba Linda School District. She then joined Ocean View School District as a teacher and continued to take on leadership roles until she became the Assistant Principal at Spring View Middle School. She will use her years of experience in the classroom to support teachers and focus on academic skills and strategies to reach all learners.

In the 2016-17 school year, as Twila Reid Elementary renews their Title I status, all members of the learning community will work together to overcome the obstacles that our students might face. Mrs. Helenihi's experience as an intervention teacher in a Title I school, as well as her time as a Title I Coordinator and Intervention Coordinator will be an asset in this planning.

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

Mrs. Helenihi and her husband of 15 years have four children that keep them busy. Some of their favorite activities are visiting museums, playing sports, hiking, and fishing.

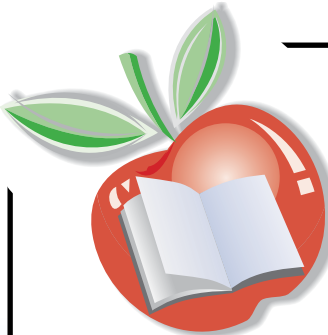
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Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College

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