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School News

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Covering the Districts of: Centralia, Cypress, & Savanna

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Savanna School District Students Connect the Digital & Physical World with STEM Activities



Valerie Nguyen shares her roller coaster design with her eighth grade brother at the Savanna School District Summer "STEM" Academy Family Day.



CaAnthony Ramirez contemplates his next steps as he designs code for his robot.

By Dr. Pauline Tressler, Assistant Superintendent

This past summer, second grade student, Anthony Ramirez became a city planner and designed the best possible route to the school office for his smart toy robot as part of the Savanna Summer STEM Academy. His assignment was to write computer code to move his robot through a map of the school from his classroom to the office. As he developed his plan and completed coding, he also learned valuable map skills and discovered how to apply engineering principles as part of the Summer Academy STEM curriculum.

Summer Academy students also used block sets to design and build bridges that would hold large textbooks without crumbling. They worked together to design and build roller coasters that could safely transport a marble from the top of their structure to the bottom, without falling, as quickly as possible. These are just a few of the examples of STEM activities (a mix of science, technology, engineering and math) that empower students to connect the digital and physical world. These activities facilitate higher level thinking, collaboration, and creativity and enable our students to link with 21st century learning. STEM is becoming an integral part of our day to day curriculum during the school year in the Savanna School District. During the summer, the classrooms are facilitated by Student Teachers from California Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly), under the direction of experienced classroom teachers.

In the 15th year of implementation, the Savanna Summer Academy Program brings together Student Teachers from Cal Poly Pomona with Savanna teachers and students. The resulting program gives the student teachers an opportunity

to apply their teaching skills under the guidance of experienced Savanna Master Teachers and University supervisors while the students take part in a variety of differentiated English Language Arts and STEM activities.

The Student Teachers arrive a week before the students and take part in a variety of professional development opportunities. This year, they attended workshops about student engagement, direct instruction, differentiation and classroom management techniques along with STEM and curricular information. Student Teachers work together with Master Teachers who help them to prepare for their students who attend classes Monday through Thursday. On Friday, Student Teachers attend professional development and develop lesson plans for the following week. They get one on one feedback from experienced teachers while they are teaching a class of students, preparing for their future careers.

The Savanna Board of Trustees are committed to providing an exemplary educational program to meet the needs of all of our students! This includes providing the tools needed to assure that our students acquire 21st century learning skills to help prepare them for college and career! The Summer Academy Program is a unique blend of academic opportunities for both students and Student Teachers – helping to prepare the teachers of tomorrow!

Our teachers and students are embracing new technologies every day! This unique program is just one way that we are preparing our students and the teachers of tomorrow for the technological world that lies ahead! The best is truly yet to come!

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John Hajaliloo, M.D.
pediatric
orthopedic surgeon,
Pediatric
Orthopedic Center,
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
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Year Round Sports Can Lead to Overuse Injuries in Kids

Between club and travel teams, youth sports are more competitive than ever. In order to take their skill to the next level, young athletes are often driven to play and train year round. While organized sports are a great way to stay active, too much physical stress on a child's growing body can put them at risk for overuse injuries.

Overuse injuries occur over time in the bone, muscle, ligament or tendon when stress happens to the same part of the body repetitively. Overuse injuries are different from acute injuries, such as a broken bone caused by a fall, since the damage is not done immediately.

Overuse injuries are common in young athletes who focus on one sport for multiple seasons or year round.

Signs of Overuse Injuries

- Pain not caused by an acute injury
- Pain that increases with activity
- Swelling • Changes in form or technique



Strategies to Prevent Overuse Injuries

- **Children should be encouraged to play a variety of sports.**

Different sports require different body movements. Rotating sports by season will give the specific muscles and joints used in that sport time to heal and rest.

- **Plan for adequate rest time.** Once a full season is finished, the child should take about a month off. It's also important to schedule rest days each week to prevent over training.

- **Don't play through the pain.**

Pushing through the pain can cause more damage to their growing bones. Pain that doesn't go away with normal pain management techniques may be a sign of something serious.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year. You can almost hear the excitement of the students as they reconnect with their friends, make new friends, meet their teachers and learn the layout of their schools. It is an exciting time to be a student!

This is our 11th year publishing the excellence from the Centralia, Cypress and Savanna School Districts. Thank you for including School News among your reading choices.

Our next issue is November 1st. Have a Happy Halloween!

School News

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

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Our specialty: **Orthopedics** Zachary's specialty: **Volleyball Ace**

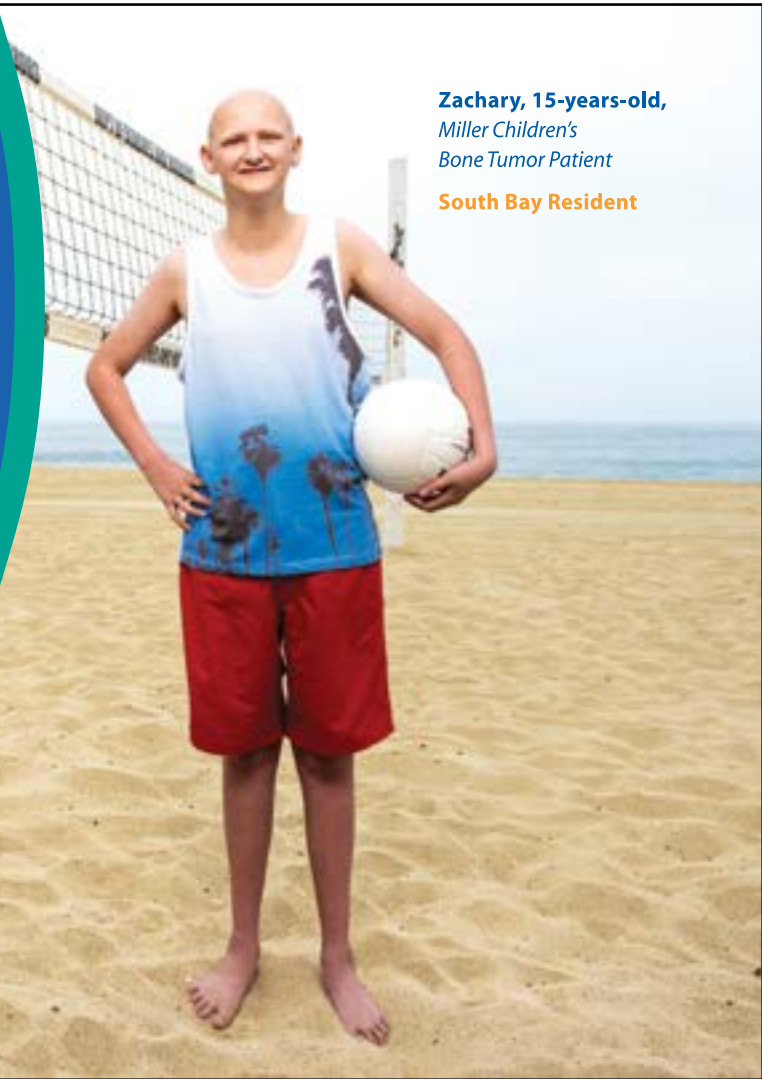
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For months, Zachary was experiencing hip pain. An x-ray revealed a bone tumor and Zachary was referred to Dr. Amy Williams at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, who diagnosed him with Ewing's sarcoma. Dr. Williams is one of the only doctors in California who specializes in both pediatric orthopedics and bone tumors. Dr. Williams performed a limb salvage surgery to completely remove the cancerous tumor while preserving Zachary's leg. After chemotherapy, radiation and rehabilitation guided by Miller Children's, today, Zachary is standing tall.



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Lots of Choices

- Dinosaur Experience:** 3:30-4:30pm Thursday, Sep. 14—Ages 5+.
Meet a big T-Rex!
- Spooky Drawing:** 3:30-4:30pm Tuesday, Oct. 24—First 50 kids, ages 6-12.
Draw spooky cartoons!
- Halloween Craft:** 2:00-3:00pm Saturday, Oct. 28—Kids ages 5+.
- Chess Club:** 4:00pm Third Thursdays, Sep. 21 & Oct. 19—Grades 3-8.
Learn how to play chess and improve your game.
- Baby Lapsit Storytime:** 10:00am Wednesdays*—Ages 0-2.
20-minute program for babies and caregivers, followed by independent playtime.
- Toddler Storytime:** 9:30am Mondays*—Ages 18-35 months.
Stories, songs, and fun! (Enter through north parking lot door.)
- Preschool Storytime:** 10:30am Mondays*—Ages 3-5. Stories, songs, and fun!
- Read to a Dog:** 6:00pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays—Kids & Families.
Read to or pet our furry friends.
- Family Storytime:** 10:30am Saturdays, Sep. 9 & Oct. 21.
Bilingual Spanish storytime and crafts.
- Homework Help:** 3:30-5:00pm Mon. & Wed.*—Grades K-8.
Free homework assistance. Bring all supplies and materials.
- Rookie Readers:** 5:30pm Wednesdays*—Grades K-5. Individual reading practice with a teen.*No Storytimes/HH/RR Sep. 4 & 6, Oct. 9 & 11.
- Kindess Rocks Project:** 3:30pm Tuesday, Sep. 26—Teens.
Decorate inspirational designs onto river rocks for others to find.
- Día de los Muertos:** 3:30pm Tuesday, Oct. 17—Teens. Sugar skulls!
- Teen Volunteer Opportunities:** Grades 8-12 in Fall 2017. Regular and flexible programs available! Applications available from the front Service Desk.
- Tabletop Games:** 1:00-4:00pm Sundays, Sep. 17 & Oct. 29
Adults, Teens, Kids ages 9+. Play games!
- TED Talks:** 2:00pm Sundays, Sep. 10 & Oct. 22—Adults, Teens.
- Opera Talk:** 2:30pm Third Saturdays, Sep. 16 & Oct. 21—Adults, Teens.





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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.

Ms. Martinez is proud that Centralia ESD 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 for the schools: Recognition of all eight school campuses as California PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Award winners (Centralia School, Bronze; Buena Terra, Danbrook, Dysinger, San Marino & Raymond Temple Schools, Silver; Los Coyotes, Gold, and Miller, Platinum); California Gold Ribbon awards for San Marino & Los Coyotes Schools; Educational Results Partnership California Honor Roll distinction for Buena Terra, Dysinger, Los Coyotes, Miller, San Marino & Raymond Temple Schools, with a STEM School honor to Buena Terra Elementary.

Ms. Martinez grew up in Anaheim and graduated from 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.

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She was selected as the CSEA keynote speaker for the Annual California State Employees Association conference in August 2016. Additionally, in the 2016-17 school year, Ms. Martinez was awarded the Rotarian Leadership Award by Rotary District 5320 for "Service above Self" and the Leaders in Oral Heath Community Award by the Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County organization. She also received the Buena Park Soroptimist Integrity of Profession Award in 2017. Ms. Martinez is committed to helping school systems improve the instructional program for students to reach new levels of achievement.

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!

Strong Leaders Transform Schools

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



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

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Buena Terra *Elementary*

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Dr. Dominic Nguyen
Principal

Dr. Dominic Nguyen is honored to begin his fourth 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. The Future is Now at Buena Terra School with an Innovation Lab called “The Launchpad” that allows students to develop critical thinking skills using ozobots, experience productions using a green screen and future 3-D printing capabilities. The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) focus has integrated skills such as computer science coding into the curriculum.

Dr. Nguyen is entering his 16th 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. Dr. Nguyen, his wife and their now older son welcomed a new addition to their family on August 15th Congratulations Dr. Nguyen!

Centralia *Elementary*

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



Tia Belt-Brown
Principal

Dr. Tia Brown is honored to return as principal of Centralia Elementary School. Her pledge continues to be a strong advocate of innovative student learning and an enthused herald of all 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.

Dr. Brown has been in the field of education for over twenty years. She has served as an elementary teacher, special education teacher, program coordinator, assistant principal at the elementary and middle school level and for the past six years, as an elementary school principal. Throughout her educational tenure, she fundamentally believes that knowledge is the most powerful tool and education is the greatest equalizer.

Dr. 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. Dr. Brown feels that teamwork, collaboration, and trust are the most responsive channels in which a school can successfully help a child attain his or her full potential.

Dr. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts 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 recently fulfilled a lifelong dream of earning a Doctorate in Education Leadership.

When not at work, Dr. Brown enjoys traveling, reading, outdoor activities, and spending time with her husband, parents, and twin boys Desmond and Dillon.

Danbrook *Elementary*

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



Erasmo Garcia
Principal

Mr. Garcia has 16 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 8th 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. Parents, students, and educators, together as a community of learners, make Danbrook a great place to learn.

**Children back in school
and you have time on
your hands?**

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G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

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Shawn Stucht
Principal

Ms. Shawn Stucht is beginning her 27th 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. During her career, she has served the Centralia School District as an elementary school teacher in Grades K-6 for 24 years, 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 and PBIS Silver Medal school.

Ms. Stucht is passionate about preparing students for their futures in college and career by enhancing 21st Century S.T.E.A.M. Education at Dysinger, through Inquiry based Project Based Learning (PBL). Professional

Development opportunities have allowed Dysinger's teachers to expand their implementation of STEAM and PBL at Dysinger. Dysinger is seeking to collaborate with community partners to correlate career exploration in STEAM fields and to work along side our teachers and students.

Ms. Stucht earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Fullerton College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development 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. She currently attends UCI to further her leadership skills and education in Educational Administration.

Ms. Stucht enjoys spending time with her daughter and loved ones relaxing at the beach, in the desert, and doing D.I.Y. home renovation. Ms. Stucht's daughter Tori is a Senior at California State University, Fullerton, where she majors in Cinema and Television Arts.

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 2011. She began her career as a classroom teacher in the Centralia School District at Walter Knott School in 1998, and worked as a Teacher on Special Assignment and Community Liaison at Danbrook. Under her leadership, Los Coyotes continues to thrive as one of the most outstanding public elementary schools in Orange County, garnering California Distinguished School in 2014, the California Gold Ribbon School award in 2015, a PBIS Silver medal for 2016, and CBEE (California Business for Education Excellence) Awards for 2011-2016.

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. She is a current member of the CSUF Educational Administration Advisory Board. In addition, she currently serves as the

District's PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) coach.

The philosophy that permeates her decisions and actions is that a high quality education is a fundamental right for every child, and is 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 implementing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the continued success of using Benchmark Advance, enhancing technology innovations in the classroom, and refining instruction to improve learning.

Ms. Yarbrough lives in Buena Park with her husband of 31 years. They enjoy traveling, and are exceptionally 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; the eldest is a computer software engineer, and the youngest, a freelance writer. Both graduated as CSUF 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 the proud principal of GB Miller Elementary, a California Distinguished School and a California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll School. 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 including OC CUE Tech Fest.

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 a National Board Certified Teacher, a former Teacher of the Year, and recipient of the

Governor's Educator Award in Alabama. Dr. Chang is also the recipient of PTA's Outstanding Administrator Award and Honorary Service Award. She serves as a team leader for the ACSA New & Aspiring Principals Institute at UCLA and is a current member of the CSU-Fullerton Educational Administration Advisory Board. In addition, she will serve as the President of Centralia Management Association this year.

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.

Dr. Chang continually strives for greater excellence for her school and community. She is married and has two boys in middle school. Follow Dr. Chang on twitter @mi_roadrunners.t



Raymond Temple *Elementary*

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



Dr. Estela Salas-Sarmiento
Principal

Dr. Salas is honored to be serving as the principal of Raymond Temple Elementary beginning her second year in Centralia School District with an amazing group of caring educators.

With over 20 years of experience, she comes to Centralia School District 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 her

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 at Cal State, Dominguez Hills, with a concentration in Spanish, a kindergarten – 9th grade 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 inner strength.

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 honored to serve as principal of San Marino Elementary School where all scholars are Ramtastic. Because of this San Marino beams with pride and has received several accolades - California Distinguished School, Title I Academic Achievement School, 2016 California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll and 2017 PBIS Coalition Silver Award winner. This is Dr. Lee's 12th year in administration. She has a vast amount of experience having served as an elementary classroom teacher, resource teacher/reading specialist, Reading First literacy coach, assistant principal, principal and Coordinator at Riverside County Office of Education.

San Marino staff strives to encourage, inspire and support ALL scholars as they develop skills to be self-directed, life-long learners and contributing members of the community using a variety of strategies; whole group instruction, small group instruction, and Kagan strategies to promote

cooperation and communication. Scholars are engaged, held to high expectations, and set goals for academic success. As a result, we cultivate and create opportunities for our Ramtastic Scholars to be consumers of technology, creative problem solvers, effective communicators, and productive citizens.

We recognize this is an audacious goal predicated on teamwork from teachers, scholars and parents. Thus, we ask for parent partnership in working together to provide the best education possible. Parent involvement is crucial in reaching the goal of academic success.

Dr. Lee celebrates San Marino School becoming an AVID academic community where scholars, staff, and parents work together to create continuous improvement and provide learning opportunities to 21st Century learning and pathways to College and Career in a safe, secure cooperative school community.

Dr. Lee is committed to supporting scholars, teachers, and the community as we look forward to another outstanding school year.

Novelist – 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, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
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SUPERINTENDENT



Anne Silavs

Anne Silavs is enjoying her 27th 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.

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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 that effectively prepares them for success in a dynamic and rapidly changing world.

Arnold *Elementary*

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



Carol Erbe
Principal

Carol Erbe is principal at Arnold School and is starting her 15th 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 the current educational environment, Mrs. Erbe responded, “The installation of STEM and music classrooms on all school campuses was a positive move toward 21st century education. Expansion of STEM and music education, paired with our continued advancements in effectively teaching state standards, present many exciting opportunities in the upcoming school year. We are enthusiastic about incorporating various instructional strategies to empower students, continuing with STEM and music education throughout the school day, and expanding enrichment activities for all students. These enhancements to our educational program are helping 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 ninth year as principal in the Cypress School District. She has extensive training and expertise in curriculum and instruction, and she has a passion for teaching and learning and providing students with the very best educational program to ensure they realize their maximal potential. Her primary goal is to support teachers to ensure research-proven instructional strategies are used in every classroom with every student.

Mrs. Teschke strongly believes that her primary role 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 development of all students.

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 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.

Landell *Elementary*

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



Dr. Rena Gibbs
Principal

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.

Rena is beginning her fifth year as principal at Landell Elementary School. She continues to be amazed by what a motivated school community can accomplish. The STEM and

Arts rooms at Landell are constantly in use, work on the outdoor classroom continues to move forward (supported solely by donations of time and money from community partners), procurement and utilization of coding devices continues to increase, and our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in the upper grades has been a wonderful addition to the Chromebook carts we have on campus. Our leopards richly benefit from the partnerships we have with families, community members, and outside organizations!

When Rena is not working to help make things happen at Landell, she can be found enjoying life with Greg, her husband of 23 years. They love cooking together, riding their bikes, and traveling to tropical destinations whenever the opportunity arises!

Luther *Elementary*

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



Denine Kelly
Principal

Mrs. Kelly has been a principal in the Cypress School district for over 19 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 also served as a program facilitator and assistant principal in Long Beach. She is married with three daughters, ages 22, 20, and 14.

Mrs. Kelly is excited to return to Luther School this year. During her first year as principal at here, Mrs. Kelly was impressed with the support she received from the staff, students, and parents.

The 2016/17 school year brought new state-of-the-art STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and arts facilities. Luther School also

expanded services for special education and general education students as it became home to the district's Preschool Special Day Class program and served as one of two Cypress schools to implement a Learning Center model. Mrs. Kelly expressed gratitude to everyone involved for their assistance in integrating these programs into the existing program at Luther School.

Mrs. Kelly notes that the implementation of Write From the Beginning, along with significant professional development for teachers, has resulted in noticeable improvement in student writing. She stated, "Luther teachers are very positive about the program and the impact it will have for our students over the next few years."

Mrs. Kelly is looking forward to her second year at Luther School and the opportunity to continue working with enthusiastic students, dedicated staff, and the supportive parent community.

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 fifth 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 in 2016 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

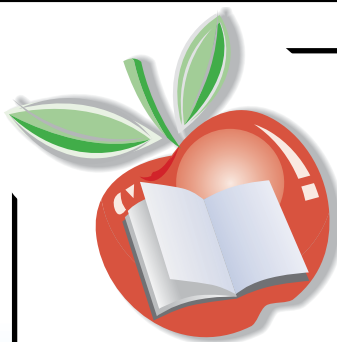
This will be Helen Lu's fifth year at Vessels Elementary School. She has over 20 years of experience working in the field of education. She formerly served as an elementary school teacher, high school boys' varsity tennis coach, assistant principal, elementary school principal, site administrator for 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 on the United States Tennis Association (USTA) leagues, 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 their highest potential as a learner!



Savanna School District

Full Day Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Programs 2017-2018 School Year

Cerritos School
3731 Cerritos Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92804

Hansen School
1300 S. Knott Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92804

Holder School
9550 Holder St.
Buena Park, CA 90620

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

Register online at
www.savsd.org



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 33 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 fifth 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.'

Savanna School District
Celebrates the opening of

STEM

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



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Ingenuity • Innovation • Inspiration
Involvement • Imagination

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

www.savsd.org

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



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Cerritos *School*

3731 Cerritos St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3830 • www.savsd.org/Schools/Cerritos/cerrhome.html



Briana Schnitzer
Principal

Mrs. Briana Schnitzer will serve her second year as the principal of Cerritos School for the 2017-2018 school year. Prior to her appointment to this position, she taught kindergarten, first, second and third grades at Cerritos School. In addition to teaching at Cerritos, she also served as the District's Summer Academy Principal for four years and as the Coordinator of 21st Century Teaching and Learning for two years. Mrs. Schnitzer is looking forward to another exciting year 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. They enjoy traveling together as well as participating in a variety of outdoor activities, including swimming, hiking and archery.

This year, students at Cerritos School will be exposed to a newly adopted English Language Arts curriculum, Benchmark Advance! Benchmark Advance 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 English Language Arts curriculum, teachers have attended a variety of professional development sessions focused on English Language Arts instruction. Cerritos School staff members are committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they will need to become 21st Century learners.

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 2017-2018 school year, this background will be integral; Holder School will continue to focus on providing support for all English Language Learners while implementing the new English Language Arts curriculum, Benchmark Advance.

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

Hansen *School*

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



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

Mrs. Tracy Goodspeed will serve her third year as the principal at Hansen School for the 2017-18 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.

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 in which Hansen won the Gold Ribbon Award for. 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 implementation of new curriculum aligned to Common Core State Standards.

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 20 years and has 17 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.

Twila Reid *School*

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3845 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Schools/Reid/reidhome.html



Erin Helenihi
Principal

Mrs. Erin Helenihi will continue as the principal of Twila Reid Elementary School. She has seventeen 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 just finished her first year as principal in the Savanna School District. Her goal is to take her years of experience in the classroom to support teachers and focus on academic skills and strategies to reach all learners.

Twila Reid Elementary will continue to enlist the support and cooperation of all members of the learning community to 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 an Intervention Coordinator will be an asset.

Mrs. Helenihi earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from California State University of 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 16 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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