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School News

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Covering the Capistrano Unified School District



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SUPERINTENDENT

Giving Thanks



**Kirsten M.
Vital**

This is the time of year when I believe we are most easily reminded about all for which we can be thankful. The Holiday spirit builds from Halloween to Thanksgiving and then all the way through Winter Break and the New Year. For me, I made it a daily habit in November to name at least one thing I was thankful for with my four-year-old daughter Ivy. Being intentionally thankful is a great habit

and it helps all of us build a growth mindset, which is exactly what we want in all of our students. Gratitude and optimism are so important for all of us as we confront challenges and obstacles in our lives and it's so important for each of us to not only feel thankful or grateful, but to express these feelings towards others. As we all prepare for the Holiday and Winter Break and 2018, I am thankful for our over 47,000 students and families and the opportunity for us to educate and build up these young people for future success. I am thankful for our extraordinary teachers who daily commit to giving only the best to our students that, come graduation day, gives each of them incredible opportunities for life after high school. I'm also thankful for all of our staff, who daily ensures that we feed, bus, Band-Aid, budget and provide safe, well-lighted places for our students...among the million other daily acts of service of our teachers, staff and families. May each of you enjoy this special time of year.

School News

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Covering the
CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

As this year is coming to a close I'd like to thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. We publish the CUSD *School News* Feb, April, June, September and November. In addition to the 37,000 hardcopies, we post the current and archived issues on our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com for our online readers, along with a podcast.

Superintendent Vital's message above is such a positive way to begin this issue. Gratitude and optimism are so important in our daily lives and often it is easy to think about what we need or don't have rather than focus on what we do have. As she says, expressing the gratefulness is



Netragrednik

important. I am always mindful of our men and women in our armed services and grateful for their service.

This issue brings you into the classroom focused on STEM, Visual and Performing Arts, CGI, Guide Dogs, Aquaponics, the Importance of Doing for Others, Parent/Student Book Club, and so much more. Enjoy!

Our next issue is February 14, 2018. In the meantime, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



Aliso Niguel High School

28000 Wolverine Way, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/831-5590 • anhs-capousd-ca.schoolloop.com



Deni Christensen
Principal

New STEM Building

The Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees recently approved moving forward with the design phase for a new STEM building on the Aliso Niguel High School campus. Aliso Niguel is currently celebrating its 25th silver anniversary; the proposed new building represents the first new permanent construction added to the school site since its opening in 1993.

The ANHS STEM building will consist of two floors and include a total of eight new classroom/laboratories, lab-preparation space, additional staff and student restrooms, and an outdoor learning area. Classrooms will be used to provide instruction and study related to courses and curriculum in the areas of science,

technology, engineering and applied math (STEM).

The new building will be located on an open portion of the main campus near the front of the school, immediately adjacent to the administrative parking lot. The budget for the project is estimated at \$10.9 million, and the timeline for design, planning, approval and construction is approximately 25 to 27 months total. Finances for construction will come from funds remaining in the existing CFD #87-1 (Community Facilities District/Mello Roos).

Over the past 25 years, Aliso Niguel High School has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, a California Distinguished School and a New American High School. In addition, *U.S. News & World Report* regularly names Aliso Niguel as one of the top public high schools in the United States.

Aliso Viejo Middle School

111 Park Avenue, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/831-2622 • avms-capousd-ca.schoolloop.com



Cynthia Steinert
Principal

Career Technical Education

Aliso Viejo Middle School joins the other middle schools in the district to offer a Career Technical Investigation class. This course lets students investigate a variety of Career Technical Education (CTE) subjects that are taught in the high schools. Students

work in pairs on an assortment of career technical modules, such as CNC Mill, Engineering Robotics, and Biotech and Genetics. Each module lasts approximately 12 days and the students will rotate through up to 16 different module. The goals of the



technical skills include learning industry-specific skills, understanding the appropriate use of industry specific terminology, and understanding emerging technologies. The goals for career development skills include understanding how personal traits affect

career advancement and applying academic standards to succeed in careers. We are fortunate to have this level technical rigor as an option for our AVMS students.

Arroyo Vista K-8

23371 Arroyo Vista, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/234-5951 • avk8.capousd-ca.schoolloop.com



Joe McGann
Principal

Meet the Front Office

Elise Butler, Academic Advisor, is the newest member to the front office team, although she has been a CUSD parent for over 16 years. Her three children have all attended Arroyo Vista. In her spare time she loves teaching yoga, going to the beach, movies and waterskiing.

Jennifer Fojas, Elementary School Clerk, is originally from Overland Park, KS. She moved to Los Angeles to attend UCLA (Go Bruins!) but remains an avid Kansas City sports' fan! Jennifer has two children in CUSD and is in her 13th year with CUSD as a parent and 3rd as an employee.

Kerri Maxwell, School Secretary II, has worked for CUSD for 10 years, the last 8 years at Arroyo Vista K-8. Her daughter attended Arroyo Vista K-8 and Kerri was the PTA President for 2 years. Kerri follows Indy Car Racing and is a regular at the Long Beach Grand Prix.

Sherri Reesing, Office Manager, has worked for CUSD and Arroyo Vista K-8 for four years. She spent her first year as the attendance clerk before moving to Office Manager. She moved back to her native Orange County after spending 20 years in Ohio. She loves being back and getting able to cheer on her alma mater, UCLA!

The front office team is a big reason why Arroyo Vista K-8 is one of the best schools in the district!

Harold Ambuehl *Elementary*

28001 San Juan Creek Rd., San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/661-0400 • abes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Anthony Bogle
Principal

Building Club Comes to Ambuehl

Under the supervision of the site's Speech Pathologist, Terry Antonius, Ambuehl Eagles can now spend recess and lunch building creations! The Building Club offers students respite from what can be a rather hectic recess. Working

individually or in groups young Eagles manipulate donated materials and construct imaginative fabrications. Mr. Antonius states, "Our goal is to build a safe space for students to come and use their imagination to create whatever their hearts and minds desire, while fostering appropriate social communication skills, teamwork, scientific thinking, and motivation." The club also offers students an imaginative outlet. Fifth grade student, Tosh Johnson, agrees, "I want to be an architect someday and this helps me build my creativity." With

the Building Club, our school is addressing the needs of all students and building a community that values diversity in student learning.



Young Eagles with their Lego creation.

Don Juan Avila *Elementary*

26278 Wood Canyon, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/349-9452 • djaes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Krystal Allan
Principal

Say NO to Drugs!

Don Juan Avila Elementary had the opportunity to celebrate and inform students, parents, and our community during Red Ribbon Week! This year's national theme was "Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free." The students of DJAES displayed their school spirit throughout the week. They wore red in support of "Red Ribbon" and "Put a Cap on Drugs" by wearing their favorite cap to school. In addition, they wore crazy socks to "Sock it to Drugs!" DJAES students and their families filled up barrels of donated food items to show that they "Can say NO to Drugs."



The week was topped off with "Walk to School" on Friday morning where hundreds of DJAES students and their families walked to school in support of saying NO to Drugs. We welcomed our community law enforcement who greeted our students and passed out stickers. It was a terrific, educational week full of fun and safety awareness!



Don Juan Avila *Middle School*

26278 Wood Canyon, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/362-0348 • djams.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Manoj Mahindrakar
Principal

Healthy Super Heroes

September and October were exceptionally educational, spirited, and busy months at Don Juan Avila Middle School (DJAMS)! While many great events have taken place since the start of the school year, Red Ribbon Week was particularly impactful. The student leaders in Peer Assisted Leadership (PAL) organized a memorable week to encourage students to commit to healthy and drug-free lifestyles. Students were able to participate in a special dress-up theme each day of the week, along with a fun lunchtime activity.

An activity that was a particular hit was the homeroom door-decorating contest. Each homeroom class dedicated time to creating a creative and meaningful door cover that sent a clear message: DJAMS Broncos are Healthy and Drug Free. The week also included grade-level appropriate lessons on how students can take active and realistic steps to live healthy and drug free lives.

Red Ribbon Week was capped off with the most anticipated dress-up day, Superhero Day! Students dressed and staff dressed up like their favorite super heroes to send the message that being healthy and drug free is as

important as having a super power!

The school year is off to an amazing start, and our students continue to accomplish great things!



Truman Benedict *Elementary*

1251 Calle Sarmentoso, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/498-6617 • tbes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Heidi Harvey
Principal

The Artists Shine

Truman Benedict has enjoyed many talented and creative students over the years. This year is no exception! PTA sponsored a Reflections campaign where students can submit original artwork, from all disciplines including visual arts, literature and performance arts surrounding the theme "Within Reach." The pieces were displayed in our multipurpose room for all to enjoy. The culminating event was a Reflections Night where all participating students were recognized, shared about their inspiration and gave personal insight about their interpretation of the "Within Reach" theme. We are so proud of our Bobcats and their hard work, dedication and creativity.



Bernice Ayer *Middle School*

1271 Calle Sarmentoso, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/366-9607 • bams.schoolloop.com



Nicholas Stever
Principal

PLC Year Two

By Lisa Waizinger, Secondary Teaching Assistant Principal

The first step in becoming an effective Professional Learning Community (PLC) is to acknowledge that no single teacher working alone is as effective in meeting the needs of our students as we are when we work together. This past year at Bernice Ayer Middle School (BAMS), as we began the journey of becoming a PLC, we created our mission statement so that we had a single common goal that all students learn at high levels.

This commitment to all students brought us face to face with our achievement gap. We had to face a difficult reality: most students at BAMS were achieving academic success, but not all. Now in the second year of our journey, we have

begun the gritty work of data analysis.

In the first year, we prioritized the standards and answered some important questions: what is it we expect students to learn and how do we know when they have learned it? This year we are committed to creating Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) for each of our essential standards. In teams, we review our data from these assessments, analyzing successes and obstacles.

Data discussions are not easy; they require transparency and a willingness to respond to student needs by re-teaching and reassessing. We are learning to put ourselves aside and truly focus on our students...together.

As our second year builds momentum, we are beginning to see the power of our collaborative efforts. We leave our data discussions with new insight, committed to a plan of action that will help all our students learn at high levels.

Bathgate *Elementary*

27642 Napoli Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 • 949/348-0451 • bges.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Shelly Kurtz
Principal

Blazing a Path into Engineering

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific 21st-century disciplines. The Bathgate Elementary School Blazers are excited to be engaging in STEM activities throughout the curriculum!

Frances Mackay, our second- and third-grade teacher, had her students design planetary pasta rovers that replicated the capabilities of the Mars rover. Students defined what a successful drive would look like and limiting factors they may face on their

drive. Using only pasta and glues, students designed rovers that traveled down a ramp and then onto a smooth, flat surface.

Students used the same design process that engineers use. Before designing their own rovers, students examined rover images and identified the main parts of a rover. They worked in groups of two to build their rovers and came up with creative names for them as well.

After all the teams ran their rovers, students engaged in conversations about the various designs and functionalities that were displayed by each. So excited to be "blazing" a path into the world of engineering!



Marian Bergeson *Elementary*

25302 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/643-1540 • bgnes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Greg Hauser
Principal

Kindness Campaign

Our Community Advisory Committee (CAC) representative, Linsy Devouassoux, led the charge for Blue Ribbon

Week at Bergeson Elementary School. We had a full week focusing on treating others with kindness. It was a week of

celebrating differences, reinforced by a speaker who shared the importance of celebrating each person's unique qualities.

My favorite aspect of the week was our kindness tree. Our tree grew leaves every day as our students reminded us of the qualities required to be supportive and kind to everyone. It was heartwarming to see students come together around the kindness tree. They often stopped on their way in or out of school to see what people had written on their heart-shaped leaves.

The most enjoyable part of my job is watching the parents, staff, students, and community work together to foster an environment where students do not just come to learn—they want to come to learn.



California Preparatory *Academy (9-12)*

32972 Calle Perfecto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/234-5317 • www.calprepacademy.org



Jolene Dougherty
Principal

Math—a New Way!

Are you in high school? Have you thought about taking a math class online? Are you hesitant to sign up because the thought of completing an online course conjures up images of working by yourself on a computer with no one to answer your questions?

Students who enroll in virtual algebra, geometry, precalculus and calculus classes at California Preparatory Academy are not on their own. Suzanne Hetos, a credentialed Capistrano Unified math teacher, provides individualized assistance to ensure that her students are learning. A continually adaptive virtual curriculum coupled with in-person meetings are just a few of the tools in Ms. Hetos's educational toolbox.

"Teaching in the online environment provides me with the opportunity to customize my instruction and truly help students to understand mathematical concepts," Ms. Hetos said. "It's a fantastic way to learn math!"

For more information, visit our website.



Canyon Vista *Elementary*

27800 Oak View Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/234-5941 • cves.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jeana Dagley
Principal

A Walking School

Canyon Vista Elementary School is nestled in the hilltop community of Aliso Viejo, adjacent to Soka University. With a breathtaking view of Wood Canyon and the hilltops of Laguna Beach, the school opened its doors in August of 2002.

As a walking school, all of the families live within the local community and walk in neighborhood groups to the beautiful, new school. The facility is comprised of thirty classrooms, a multi-purpose room, a TV studio and computer lab

featuring the latest in state of the art technology including internet access in every classroom and an emphasis on multimedia and integration of technology into the curriculum. The school has an interactive Science Lab and STEAM Lab, in addition to organic gardens that are harvested two times a year.

In partnership with Soka University, Soka students volunteer to assist teachers in classrooms. Staff members serve as mentors and trainers for teacher trainees. Soka also hosts walking field-trips where Canyon Vista students are exposed to multi-cultural performing arts.

Capistrano *Home/Virtual School (K-8)*

32972 Calle Perfecto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/234-9374 • virtual-capousd-ca.schoolloop.com



Jolene Dougherty
Administrator

Teaching with a Global Mindset

Invested in understanding today's changing educational world Kelly Ricks, an experienced CUSD elementary teacher at Capistrano Virtual and Homeschool, works in partnership with families to create authentic learning experiences for all students.

Ricks prepares her homeschool and virtual learners

for the future by integrating engaging and digitally minded lessons throughout each grade level. While her scholars work from the comfort of their homes, Ricks sets her students up for success by continually assessing to make sure the curriculum meets and challenges their needs. Ricks also conducts weekly workshops designed to offer empowering, constructive, and collaborative learning experiences. With a focus

on STEAM projects students learn to create, adapt, and problem solve together.

To learn more about our school, including our dual enrollment option with CUSD middle schools call (949) 234-9374 or visit @CapoVirtual on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter.



Capistrano Valley *High School*

26301 Via Escolar, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 • 949/364-6100 • www.cvhs.com



John Misustin
Principal

No Place like Homecoming!

By Kit Yellin, Student

In October, Capistrano Valley High School officially celebrated its 40th homecoming by welcoming back its alumni and celebrating the schools rich and storied history. The 40th birthday of Capo came hand in hand with celebration. To start off the day, cheerleaders brought back cheers from the original squad during the Homecoming pep rally. The evening of the Homecoming game started off with a tailgate that all alumni were invited to, which led to the “parade of decades.” Then, the alumni were able to see the Homecoming football game and watch current Capo students experience what they once did.

Many things have changed over the years at CVHS, yet there have also been constants. The traditions from the 70s have been adapted to the present day, allowing current students to connect with a piece of history. The talent that Capo students have has been carried on for the past 40 years, except the original class is given credit for starting all of these things. It’s something that makes students proud to be a part of, which the alumni all agree on.

Above all, the alumni of 1978 were collectively proud to have contributed to the making of what Capo Valley is today.

“At this point in your lives, appreciate everything you have as a student and an athlete,” alum David Marohnic advised.

Capo has always given students opportunities that others don’t have. To take advantage of them and to take part in creating the school’s history are what truly matter in being a Cougar.



Castille *Elementary*

24042 Via La Coruna, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/234-5976 • ctes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Laura Lyon
Principal

Lab in Full Swing!

With the support of our PTA, CUSD and amazing staff, we were proud to repurpose our school’s science lab and create an Innovation Lab, or makerspace, where students are afforded regular opportunities to participate in engineering and problem-solving challenges. As a STEM-focus school, we have been very intentional about providing our students with hands-on learning experiences that include the more rigorous Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

We have utilized the district’s NGSS instructional coach to help our teachers build lessons to use in the lab, and we have partnered with a digital-content company to provide our teachers with the tools necessary to implement these tougher standards. Our students have been busy coding using coding toys, making green-screen videos, and doing mystery-bag challenges to solve common problems. We are now looking forward to opening our Robotics Lab in January!



1st grade students exploring coding with the Code-a-Pillars

Concordia *Elementary*

3120 Avenida Del Presidente, San Clemente, CA 92672 • 949/492-3060 cces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Rob McKane
Principal

Showing Support

At a recent Friday Flag Salute, our students paid tribute to the injured members of the First Battalion of the Marines at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. These Marines were training and seriously injured in an accident, with some still undergoing treatment.

Staff Sargent Marco Alires in particular has a connection to one of our families. He was flown to Texas for specialized treatment. When this was brought to our attention, we thought a great way to try and lift their spirits would be to send them all giant “Get Well Soon” cards with pictures of our students holding up banners of support.

Our students also had a chance to sign the cards with personalized messages. Concordia serves a number of military families, and so our neighbors just south of us are important. We thought this would be a great way to show them some support!



Chaparral *Elementary*

29001 Sienna Parkway, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 • 949/234-5349 • chpes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



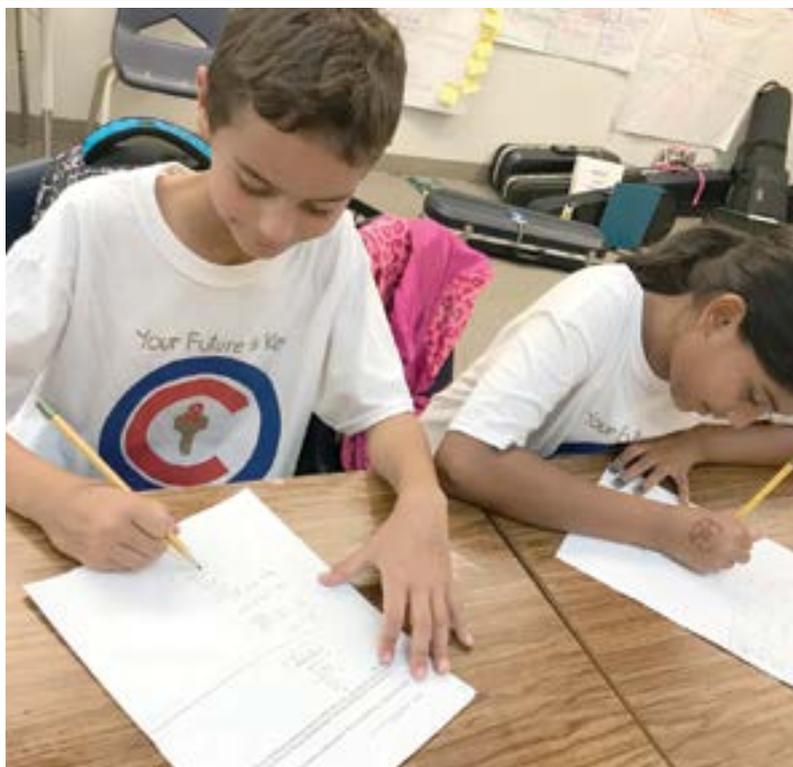
Melissa Schaefer
Principal

CGI in Action!

Chaparral Elementary School is continuing to focus on developing a deeper understanding of math concepts across all grade levels. To that end, teachers have been trained in Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), a professional-development program.

CGI is not a curriculum but a way to guide math instruction when teaching problem solving. The process begins when students are presented with a word problem and given the opportunity to solve it using their mathematical thinking. The students become the teacher when they explain their thinking to the class. Teachers examine the solutions to determine the level of understanding of the math concept by individual students and plan future instruction. Our instructional-math coach is used as a resource to continue to expand teachers' knowledge of CGI.

It is exciting to see students apply their math knowledge and be open to learning from one another.



R.H. Dana *Elementary*

24242 La Cresta Dr., Dana Point, CA 92629 • 949/496-5784 • rhdana.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. Christina Portillo
Principal

Proactive Healthy Choices

Marie Ketelsleger, counselor at RH Dana for the past two years, led a campaign during the month of October that focused on bullying prevention and students making healthy choices. In honor of National Bullying Prevention month, Mrs. K, as she is so dearly known by her students, taught the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit in classrooms. These lessons assist students to learn specific skills to help stop bullying. They

include recognizing when bullying is happening, reporting bullying to a caring adult, refusing to let bullying happen to themselves or others, and being a bystander who stands up and is part of the solution to bullying.

Parents are also provided with links to videos to watch

at home about the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit and get information about what their children are learning.

RH Dana also celebrated the choice of living a healthy life free of drugs and violence in October. Our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) students and Mrs. K organized several events during Red Ribbon Week, including a morning assembly to take a pledge to be drug free and wear red bracelets, and hosted fun lunch awareness activities such as an I'd Rather Eat Bugs than Do Drugs pie-eating contest and a Don't Get Wrapped Up in Drugs mummy contest.

The week culminated with students showing that they pledge to be drug free by wearing red to school and taking a schoolwide photo. Undoubtedly with Mrs. Ketelsleger's guidance, RH Dana's students are acquiring tools that will lead to their successful academic, social and emotional growth.

Del Obispo *Elementary*

25591 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/234-5905 • does.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Suzanne Heck
Principal

Watch Out for Our Dragons

Del Obispo is not your average Capistrano Unified School District Elementary School. At Del Obispo's Next Generation Learning Academy — one of the districts seven CapoForward STEM schools — our third-, fourth, and fifth-grade students are getting ready for college NOW!

How can that be you say? Aren't they too young, you might wonder? Not at Del Obispo, when your teachers are AVID trained!

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an organization that provides teachers with training on how to best increase student success, engagement, and scholarly thinking. It has been found that students who

have systematic ways to learn and recall information have a far better chance at attending and graduating from college.

Our teachers at Del Obispo now use specific teaching strategies called WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading). These new strategies help our students thrive! The children are now expected to both think more deeply and engage in problem-solving more frequently in order to help increase their academic fortitude and resiliency.

Nationally, of the 69 percent of 2015 high school seniors who applied for college, at least 72 percent were AVID students. From organizing materials to learning about Costa's levels of questioning, our Del Obispo students are getting prepared for their future NOW! So watch out world, the Del Obispo Dragons are on their way!

Kinoshita *Elementary*

2 Via Positiva, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/489-2131 • kses.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



José Luis Pedraza
Principal

Character Trait of the Month

This month's character trait of the month is "Be Respectful." Our students will have the opportunity to demonstrate how they can show respect through the various activities planned for Red Ribbon Week. They are also able to participate in our pizza challenge.

Any student who is "caught" showing respect on our campus will be entered to win a pizza party with other students who have shown respect.

Teachers from Del Obispo and Kinoshita also participated in AVID training this month. The training focused on WICOR from a K-5 perspective (Writing,

Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading). The teachers learned to "WICORize" instruction across all elementary classes while building a scholarly school environment. The teachers in grades two to five were able to participate in two days of professional development.

All of our Kinoshita teachers and administrators also received STEM professional development earlier in the month. Here we reviewed the five Essential Elements of STEM instruction, including the California State Standards, the "4 C's" (creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration), Real World Connections, STEM Career Connections, and Inter/Transdisciplinary Inquiry. Based on these elements, our teachers will be incorporating the STEM lessons in their classrooms.

R.H. Dana *Exceptional Needs Facility*

24242 La Cresta Dr., Dana Point, CA 92629 • 949/234-5505 • rhdenf.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Judy Doré
Principal

Fun Fall Events

At R.H. Dana Exceptional Needs Facility (ENF), we are very proud of the part that our students' "teams" play in furthering their development. A part of this is parent involvement, to the extent that they are able, in school-wide activities throughout the year.

During the month of October, parents joined their children at two events. Our jog-a-thon was on October 13, and we held a Fall Fest on October 24. A record number of parents were able to join us at both of these events.

All the teachers, led by Mrs. Gina Fedena (also known as Penelope the Pelican) and Ms. Jenn Sundell, worked hard to make these two days a success for our students. The events were enhanced by the support we received from parents and our PTA group. The joy on our students' faces was evidence of their excitement and a reminder of why we do what we do for our students and parents at ENF.



Dana Hills *High School*

33333 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, CA 92629 • 949/496-6666 • www.dhhs.net



Dr. Josh Porter
Principal

Honor the Valor

A very special event was proudly held on Friday, October 13th at Dana Hills High School – Honor the Valor. This event was held for the sixth consecutive year, recognizing veterans and all they have done for

our country. In total, 52 players and over 75 volunteers and staff joined in on this wonderful celebration to recognize 51 veterans. Among our veteran visitors, one Gold Star Family, five WWII veterans, sixteen Marine Ambassadors, four Color Guard, a Lieutenant Colonel, and about 125 family members of our guest also attended. Many veterans shared with us how truly touching this event had been for them. This was my first year hosting this

event and I was nothing but impressed. Not just with our students, but with the community's commitment to make this a special evening for those who deserve it most. We look forward to continuing this incredible tradition.



Carl Hankey (K-8)

27252 Nubles, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 • 949/234-5315 • chhawks.schoolloop.com



Dana Aguilera
Principal

An Academic Journey

As the only public International Baccalaureate World School in the county, we are often asked: “What is different about an IB school?”

The number one thing that sets Hankey apart is that we strive to fulfill the IB Mission statement to: “...develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring youth who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” Hankey’s K–8 curriculum embraces inquiry and promotes critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, and action-taking. Traditional subjects are integrated, rather than compartmentalized into prescribed time slots. Where ever possible, our teachers develop connections that can deepen student understanding and push them to ask about the “why” and the “how.”

Students in the Primary Year Program (PYP grades

K–5) embark on an academic journey founded upon six trans-disciplinary themes: Who We Are, Where We are in Place and Time, How We Express Ourselves, How the World Works, How We Organize Ourselves, and Sharing the Planet. Each theme spans five to six weeks, and concludes with a performance-based assessment that requires the students to demonstrate learning through the lens of the theme. Additional enrichment integrated into the PYP includes Spanish instruction and Art Masters aligned to the IB units.

Students in the Middle Year Program (MYP grades 6–8) also learn through broad thematic categories. All middle-schoolers take eight subject areas. These include Language Acquisition (Spanish), PE, Arts (fine arts, drama, instrumental music or music appreciation), Design (a problem-based learning curriculum teaching application of the design cycle), and the traditional core subject areas of Language and Literature (English). There is also math, science, and Individuals and Societies (social studies).

Hidden Hills *Elementary*

25142 Hidden Hills Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/495-0050 • hhes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Pamela Allen-Sawyer
Principal

Creation Station Grand Opening!

It’s official! Hidden Hills now has a brand new makerspace called the Creation Station. This is a shared space where our scholars plan, create, and share innovative projects that solve a problem or promote critical thinking and creativity. Students visit the Creation Station with their classroom and have already made windmills, catapults, musical instruments and replicas of animal and plant cells. After visiting this makerspace, Luka Rios, a fifth-grader in Mrs. Borg’s class, exclaimed, “The Creation Station is cool!”

We are preparing students for future careers such as engineers, scientists, computer programmers and inventors. Our scholars will be ready for these careers that require them to work in teams and problem-solve. The skills they will develop in the Creation Station will help them to be competitive in an ever-changing 21st century.

Many families participated in the grand opening of the Creation Station, where they competed in an engineering design challenge, enjoyed all of the creations on display, and had fun playing with the Code-a-pillars.

At Hidden Hills Elementary School—Academy of Technology, we’re empowering students to become super-scholars!



Ladera Ranch *Elementary*

29551 Sienna Parkway, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 • 949/234-5915 • lres.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Sandra Miller
Principal

Lots Going On!

Our Ladera Ranch Elementary School (LRES) Lions have gotten off to a great start this school year. We recognized approximately 112 students for earning Reading Counts points.

Two of these students earned 1,000 Reading Counts points, receiving their “doctorates” in reading.

In addition, we have launched two new programs this year, giving students more opportunities to be involved. The first is *The LRES Gazette*, our very first school newspaper. *The LRES Gazette* staff will produce seven publications this year and highlight all the wonderful things happening at Ladera Ranch Elementary.



The second program new to LRES this year is our robotics team. We are looking forward to seeing what the students learn and accomplish this year.

We were thrilled to see so many students get involved in the PTA Reflections program. We had 75 students turn in entries!

On October 26, we enjoyed our Fun Run. Congratulations to Brandon Kaneria for creating the winning drawing, which we all proudly wore on our Fun Run T-shirts.

As you can see, we have a lot of wonderful things going on at LRES!

Ladera Ranch *Middle School*

29551 Sienna Parkway, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 • 949/234-5922 • lrms.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. George Duarte
Principal

Prepared for Success

In October, several administrators met at Oak Grove Elementary School to walk through classrooms and examine what instruction is most beneficial to students. Later in the year, we will be meeting again and doing the same activity at Marco Forster Middle School and then at San Clemente High School. Excellent instruction has more similarities from grade to grade than there are differences.

At Ladera Ranch Middle School (LRMS), our teachers carefully craft lessons that are engaging, interactive, interesting, and carefully supported. My experience has demonstrated that it is not just at LRMS where this is happening but all over Capistrano Unified School District.

I encourage you to talk to your children about what they are learning and what sorts of activities they take part in every day. You will find striking differences between how you and I were taught and how our teachers plan lessons today. I think you will be surprised to learn how much has changed and how we are preparing our students at each grade level for success.

Las Flores *Elementary*

25862 Antonio Pkwy., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-6935 • lfes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Holly Wiseman
Principal

Plan, Do, Study, Act

The 2017-2018 school year is off to an amazing start at Las Flores Elementary School! This year, our staff is continuing to focus on helping students develop as mathematicians and foster number sense. This deeper understanding will benefit them through their academic career and beyond. Working as a Professional Learning

Community (PLC) teachers participate in the Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle to develop mathematical tasks for students, scaffolding their learning as they work toward completing tasks at a Depth of Knowledge (DOK) 3 or above. With guidance and support from our Instruction Coach, Karen Gauthier, our teachers are participating in professional development and continuing to grow as educators in the implementation of CGI.

Laguna Niguel *Elementary*

27922 Niguel Heights Blvd., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/234-5308 • lnes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Michelle Moore
Principal

Aviators Learn, Grow, and Soar

By the LNES Student Council: Henley Packer, President; Ally Fausett, Vice President; Luke Fedena, Secretary; Activities Coordinators; Ellie Bowles, John D'Amelio, Jasmine Shaheen; Publicity Coordinators, Ava Jeter, Cameron Levine; and Ms. Billman and Mrs. Cuevas, Student Council Advisors

Laguna Niguel Elementary School is the best place to learn. Ever!

Our staff is really amazing and they help us. They all really want to know about us, our lives, and how to make things better so that we can be our very best.

Mrs. Pearson is our terrific counselor, and she works with us on how to resolve conflicts. Our principal is our helpful coach who encourages us. At LNES, we are shown that learning is a process and that there isn't anything we can't do. We say our motto "We learn, we grow, we soar!" and commit to being in one of those spaces every day.

All of the supervisors, teachers, office, custodians, all the people who are older, like Mrs. Moore, are the people we look up to because they always make sure that everything is fair while they educate us. We like how they always treat us like they are our parents, they really care about us and will help you with anything.

The LNES staff wants us to get a really good education and keep us safe too. We feel safe at school because we all know each other and how important it is to care about each other. If there is a problem we can tell and talk to anyone.

At LNES, everyone always thinks about everyone, every grade, person, any background, really anyone. Everyone is included here and we just love how that feels. At LNES we look forward to including our new students so they learn quickly how awesome it is here.

Our Student Council is committed to doing the same for our students, while helping our school grow, keeping our school fun, and serving others in and outside of our school. Go Aviators!

Clarence Lobo *Elementary*

200 Avenida Vista Montana, San Clemente, CA 92672 • 949/366-6740 • cles.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Cheryl Sampson
Principal

An Academy of Innovation

Clarence Lobo Elementary School is going through an amazing transformation. As we are now an Academy of Innovation, every day gets better and better at Lobo. Our teachers are excited about learning

new ways to teach so that our students are exposed to the latest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. Lobo students are expected to be problem solvers and to be able to create, collaborate, communicate, and use critical thinking skills in all that they do. Lobo's two innovation labs allow students to think out of the box and build projects that solve current issues. Come by and see what we are up to!



Our teachers building a vehicle out of products supplied by a Mystery Bag.

Happy Holidays from the School News Staff!

Las Flores *Middle School*

25862 Antonio Pkwy., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-6543 • lfms.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Sean McNamara
Principal

Counseling Approaches

The counseling program at LFMS is a robust, data-driven comprehensive school program which advocates for students by focusing on their needs, strengths, interests, and issues related to the academic, career, social, emotional, and behavioral development of all children through a multi-tiered system of support.

Students in the sixth and eighth grades are provided with four district-wide school counseling core curriculum lessons. This year, while collaborating with the seventh-grade social science team, our counseling core curriculum has increased from the district-required four lessons to a total of fourteen, with 10 lessons delivered through social science classes. Twelve of the lessons are using the evidenced-based Second Step curriculum. Our school counselor and school counselor intern are in the classrooms every week conducting lessons for the

seventh-graders.

Our seventh-grade social science department is also reinforcing these lessons by integrating the language and skills the students learn from their counselor into the classroom activities and then linking them to the social science curriculum. The last two lessons are on academic skills (time management and learning styles), and signs of suicide (SOS).

Prior to the delivery of the SOS classroom lesson, our school counselor provides a parent awareness night, as well as training to all of the LFMS staff members to ensure many different levels of support. In addition, the LFMS counseling program is extended school-wide by using data to create targeted goals and interventions to meet our students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. The school counseling program creates tiered interventions, including individual and small-group counseling that is targeted to address student needs, and assist them in removing the obstacles to realizing their full potential.

Las Palmas *Elementary*

1101 Calle Puente, San Clemente, CA 92672 • 949/234-5333 • lpes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Kristen Nelson
Principal

Our Garden Grows—Literally!

Las Palmas Elementary School's Organic Garden is so well utilized throughout the day that the PTA has used funds from their annual Jog-A-Thon to expand it and nearly double its size! To complement the garden that grows fruits and vegetables throughout the year, the expanded garden now includes a native-California-plant area with an amphitheater of benches, a whiteboard, shade and more workstations, to be installed soon.

Just this past week, a member of the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano came over to teach students about composting in this new area while other students learned about the amazing world of worms in the original part of the garden. Two to three classrooms can be in the space now at the same time, with plenty of room to spare.

Outdoor learning is so exciting to the students and helps them know that there is a lot to learn both inside and outside.



John S. Malcom *Elementary*

32261 Charles Avenue, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/248-0542 • jmes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Peggy Baerst
Principal

Fantastic STEMtastic Saturday!

In October, Malcom Elementary held its inaugural official STEMtastic Saturday family event! Former Malcom Mariner Aline Tusan directed scholars through a variety of

campus destinations to collect stamps on their STEM Passports.

The Dana Hills High School Robotics Team introduced students to their robot and demonstrated the design process using SolidWorks software. OCSA students demonstrated their own animation creations. Mr. Stevenson from Saddleback College showed students his Auto CAD creations. And students created their own green-screen videos with Mrs. Hardos.



At classroom centers, Malcom teachers directed our scholars to build boats that float and carry weight, create the tallest aluminum-foil towers, build toy cars with paper and other household items, and learn about pollination and fungus. Next stop was Malcom's Gerhard garden for butterfly education and exploration. Students went on a scavenger hunt through the garden—one lucky family got to observe a monarch butterfly lay an egg!

Finally, Yarib from Inside the Outdoors shared his animals—native snakes, a walking stick, a tarantula, and a beautiful screech owl.

We had a STEMtastic time!

Marblehead *Elementary*

2410 Via Turqueza, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/234-5339 • jmes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. Faith Morris
Principal

Outdoor Learning is Fun!

Marblehead Elementary opened its Outdoor Learning Center this fall as a place for students to engage in a cross-curricular study of human interaction with the natural environment. Students develop an understanding that environmental challenges face every aspect of society. Through problem-based learning opportunities, students gain the skills needed to help solve

complex problems through cooperation and negotiation with different and often competing stakeholders. Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies are taught authentically through lessons and activities that focus on human interaction with the environment. The goal of our program is to help students develop 21st century skills that will translate not just into an introduction to careers such as Environmental Engineering, Geology or Environmental Law, but also to develop responsible citizenship.



Moulton *Elementary*

29851 Highlands, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/234-5980 • mnes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jacqueline Campbell
Principal

Kindness Rules!

This year we decided to have a laser-sharp focus on kindness to self and others by uniting Red Ribbon Week (kindness to self) and Blue Ribbon Week (kindness to others). During the week of October 2–6, the Moulton Elementary School Hawks experienced multiple opportunities to demonstrate kindness and learn about the importance of being kind to self and others.

Kicking off the week with a focus on gratitude, students wrote thank-you notes to students and staff. Then fourth-grade students rotated through five empathy-building stations, doing activities to understand what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. Fourth-grade students

also participated in an assembly presented by speaker Johnathan Cowley, who described his empowering experience with a prosthetic arm.

On Wednesday, students and staff demonstrated gratitude for our fabulous custodial staff. For Red Ribbon Day on Thursday, students wore red, received red wristbands, and participated in an all-school assembly featuring a magic show with the theme "Say No Way to Drugs." We culminated our week of kindness to self and others by celebrating kindness and communication with a lunchtime disc jockey and dinner without devices at home.

This week-long focus on kindness to self and others reinforced the pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These qualities guide our daily interactions as a Moulton school community. Three cheers for kindness!

Niguel Hills *Middle School*

29070 Paseo Escuela, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/234-5360 • niguelhills.schoolloop.com



Tim Reece
Principal

Visual and Performing Arts Shine

The NHMS Visual and Performing Arts program (VAPA) prepares students for the arts as well as careers. We are proud to have a wide range of courses at our school.

The students are

engaged in hands-on and project-based learning every day, whether it be in orchestra, art, band, choir, or drama. They can learn the kind of technical skills and creative approaches that employers are seeking. The students also learn to collaborate, problem solve, and become strong



leaders as they conduct or direct their peers.

The VAPA program has partnered with the City of Laguna Niguel through their grants program to help support our band and orchestra students, as well as sponsor our annual "Evening of the Arts" in April.

As the students go on to high school, their background in the arts will also

help them in the Dana Hills SOCSA program, and in meeting the UC a–g requirements for entrance.

We appreciate our school community for supporting these VAPA programs! VAPA allows them to thrive and benefit.

Oso Grande *Elementary*

30251 Sienna Parkway, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 • 949/234-5966 • ogres.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jayne Martin
Principal

Sailing to Success

This year's theme is "Sailing into a new year...with dreams as deep as the sea!" As a school, we've embarked on an exciting new school year! We've been showing our little "sailors" how much we value their education and elementary school experience by encouraging them to get involved in our school and school-wide events.

Our first event was our annual Welcome Back Picnic, where students got to watch a skateboarding show and enjoy music, balloon-making, and food trucks. Our second exciting event was the Boots and Beauties Hoedown, an event where our Grizzly Cowgirls and their favorite Cowboy dads were able to enjoy an evening of

dancing, desserts, and fun. This spring we look forward to holding a similar mother-son event!

Other events have included a restaurant night at a local diner and our Riding the Wave to Reading event at a local bookseller.

We've also enjoyed events during school! Last week we held our annual Fun Run, with our fifth-graders enjoying a unique Color Run experience. We also recently celebrated Red Ribbon Week, including a special flag ceremony with some community heroes, Crazy Sock Day, Wear Read Day, and Sports Dress-Up Day, to name a few.

As we continue the school year with exciting events during and after school, we are proud to provide a strong anchor for our students as we continue to "sail on smooth waters."

Oak Grove *Elementary*

22705 Sanborn, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/360-9001 • oges.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Jill
O'Connell-Bogle**
Principal

We Love the Guide Dogs!

The Guide Dogs bring smiles to everyone at Oak Grove. While at school, these dogs are practicing being in different situations. Having dogs on campus can also benefit the students, if a student is reluctant to go to school, the dogs can be an exciting reason to go. These dogs are part of the O.C Puppy Raisers, Guide Dogs of the Blind, in San Rafael, California. As part of their training, they need to learn to have good manners.



Here is what some people think about the dogs:

3rd grader, Ella D'lima says, "Friendly and don't bark when you pet them."

2nd grade teacher, Mr. Elliott says, "When the kids need a little love, and they see the Guide Dogs, they connect and make a friendship."

We all love the Guide Dogs and what they do for people.

Newhart *Middle School*

25001 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 • 949/855-0162 • newhart.schoolloop.com



Jeff Jones
Principal

Making a Positive Impact

On September 18, Associated Student Body (ASB) Director Ms. Baedeker, Eighth-Grade President Avery King, and Seventh-Grade President Olivia Henchel traveled to San Francisco to Twitter headquarters to attend a #digital4good day. Twitter, along with #icanhelp, united a broad range of students, educators, and industry people

to represent a student-centered, student-led approach to solving some of the complicated issues and social problems in social technology use. Twitter celebrated students as part of the solution, not the problem!

The goal of the event was to raise awareness and offer real-world best practices. Award-winning students presented ways they have used digital for good at their school sites. Then students broke into groups, where they learned about social media and the positive impact it can have at school sites.

Upon returning to Newhart Middle School, Avery, and Olivia presented some of the ideas to their ASB class, and they have since implemented Motivation Monday, Panther Positivity, and a Newhart Snapchat story. The goal is to help raise awareness for our students about the effects of being positive when using social media.

Go, Panthers!



Palisades *Elementary*

26462 Via Sacramento, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624 • 949/496-5942 • pses.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Curt Visca
Principal

Aquaponics

Palisades Elementary School students enjoy watching science “come to life” during the school year with aquaponics. Aquaponics is a system of aquaculture

in which the waste produced by fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for plants that are grown hydroponically (cultivating plants in water), which in turn purifies the water.



The Palisades PTA generously provided funds to purchase the aquaponics system. Teacher Ivonne Sims and her fifth-grade students were trained by marine biologist Nancy Caruso on how to monitor the aquaponics system during the school year. Each fall, fifth-grade students in Mrs. Sims’ class test the water daily before they plant kale and lettuce seeds and add fish.

The water chemistry is tested throughout the school year by students, who also feed the fish. Students record the water chemistry levels and the progress of the plants and fish in their aquaponics journals each week.

Philip Reilly *Elementary*

24171 Pavion, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 • 949/454-1590 • pres.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Sharla Pitzen
Principal

The Pyramid of Success

Reilly Elementary School’s Character Education program is based on John Wooden’s famous “Pyramid of Success.” The book *Inch and Miles: The Journey to Success*, by Coach John Wooden and Peanut Harper, has been instrumental in building a school of character here at Reilly.

Our Character Education Program utilizes the “Inch and Miles” storyline to teach children the specific character blocks on this journey to be their personal best. Our school campus also has murals that are painted to represent each of the blocks of Wooden’s Pyramid of Success.

On a monthly basis, each block of the Pyramid is spotlighted. The students can earn special awards for portraying the chosen character trait. They can also earn Eagle Feathers when they are “caught” demonstrating any of the 15 specific character traits. Our families also learn the purpose of the Pyramid, and can share how impactful it has been on their children.

The importance of partnering with our families to increase their students’ understanding of how to be their personal best is paramount to preparing them for the future.



Student Council delivering painted Kindness Rocks to the Ronald McDonald House from students at Reilly.



Team Spirit Character Block: A genuine consideration of others.

San Clemente *High School*

700 Avenida Pico, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/492-4165 • www.scritrons.com



Chris Carter
Principal

Tradition, Commitment, Excellence

San Clemente High School's Homecoming Week took place on October 23-27, and it always encapsulates tradition and community.

This year, each class was assigned a world nation to help celebrate our theme of "Tritons International." The students' enthusiasm and spirit was at an all-time high as they kicked off the week with displays that depicted their class theme.

Each day of Homecoming Week the ASB hosted special dress-up days to enhance school spirit. However, it was Friday that our Tritons looked forward to! That's when we celebrated our Triton tradition at the annual Homecoming Parade on Avenida Del Mar.

This tradition dates back over 50 years, and it is what makes SCHS so special. The Parade always provides us with a great opportunity for the entire city to come out and celebrate our "One Town-One Team" motto.

During the evening the stands were overflowing with excited fans as we all rooted on our football team. The halftime show and dance were also a huge success. What a proud time it is to be a Triton!



San Juan *Elementary*

31642 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/493-4533 • sjes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Silvia Mazzeo Pule
Principal

Growing Our Mindset!

*By Dr. Guadalupe Girard,
Assistant Principal*

Bilingual scholars at San Juan Elementary have been learning about and practicing growth-mindset strategies this school year. First, our school counselor has facilitated valuable discussions through age-appropriate lessons for scholars from kinder through fifth grade. These lessons have included videos, realia, read-alouds

and class discussions. Key growth-mindset concepts include learning from mistakes, never giving up, and practicing to become better.

Students were also encouraged to go home and teach their parents about growth mindset, building school-community knowledge of these important ideas. Students have also benefitted from having their teachers integrate growth mindset to science lessons related to brain structure and function. Students in the upper-grade levels are encouraged to use complete sentences with a prompt that includes "My brain thinks..." Students are able to implement these concepts throughout their school day while mastering new concepts.

Likewise during recess, students practice with

growth-mindset concepts when learning new games or resolving conflicts. It has been amazing to hear students and teachers talk about having a fixed mindset or a growth mindset in relation to a particular task or a game!



Serra High School

31422 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 • 949/489-7216 • serra.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Lunch & Learn

Serra High School is developing strong collaborations to benefit our students. In partnership with Saddleback College, we launched Lunch & Learn this fall. Each month, students visit a new program on the Saddleback College campus. The visit includes lunch, a tour and a presentation by the department. So far, we have visited Culinary Arts and Automotive Technology,

with more visits planned throughout the year.

In conjunction with CUSD College and Career

Advantage, we offer career pathways designed specifically for our students. In addition to our culinary-arts and dental-assistant pathways, we are excited to add an engineering pathway with a fully equipped STEM lab, coming soon. A local landscape architect has volunteered to help us transform an unused area of campus into a kitchen garden that will supply ingredients for our own culinary classes.

Serra High School will continue to develop collaborations that support our students' college and career goals.



A trip to Saddleback Culinary Arts Program

Shorecliffs Middle School

240 Via Socorro, San Clemente, CA 92672 • 949/498-1660 • shorecliffs.schoolloop.com



We Never Cease to Amaze!

Due to the hard work and dedication of the Shorecliffs Education Foundation (SEF), our Shorecliffs Seahawks will continue to soar. Thanks to the generosity of our Shorecliffs families, this is especially

the case with science.

Through the efforts of the SEF, over \$37,000 was raised in mid-October at the Shorecliffs Social! The Social was hosted by one of our Seahawk parents, and was a fun gathering of the community, Shorecliffs families, staff members, and local business owners.



During this fantastic evening, our community gathered itself together over amazing food, lighthearted fun conversation, and a very competitive silent auction. The generous contributions to the auction helped to raise funds that will go directly to the Shorecliffs Science Department in launching new technology, curriculum, hands-on labs, and more!

As always, it's about the students. But we couldn't be the educational institution we are without the support of our community, spearheaded of course by the constant drive of our Educational Foundation. Thank you!

Tesoro High School

1 Tesoro Creek Rd, Las Flores, CA 92688 • 949/234-5310 • www.tesorohighschool.com



Rich Bellante
Interim Principal

Tech Committee Onboard!

Our Tesoro culture embraces opportunities to boost school spirit and participation. Recently, I was made aware of a keen interest in revitalizing our school's technology plan and got to work on it. It began by seeking input and acknowledging our stakeholders. It seemed only reasonable that a committee that would help develop a cohesive short-term/long-term plan would

have as its members students, parents, teachers and staff. The word went out: "Seeking volunteers for Tesoro's Technology Committee." Wow—an incredible response! We have a committee composed of the stakeholders we were seeking.

Our first meeting was informative and included a schoolhouse field trip to see what we have in place now. Our guiding vision is for us to look at what will be used and useful for our students. Also of prime importance is how our technology plan can support instruction and be supported by our CUSD Technology Department.

As this committee begins to work, it is important to recognize the enthusiasm and the sense of contributing to community that is being observed. There are 21 people on this committee—it is a diverse group, and all were appreciative of having an opportunity to share knowledge and ideas so that Tesoro High School may have a robust educational community supported by meaningful technology.

Tijeras Creek Elementary

23072 Avenida Empresa, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/234-5300 • tces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Diann Buckingham
Principal

"Be A Buddy, Not A Bully" Week

In September, Tijeras Creek (TC) Elementary participated in, "Be A Buddy, Not A Bully" week. Each year, Tijeras Creek PTA sponsors this week to help extinguish bullying and unkind behaviors. TC staff members kicked it off with a dramatic reading of, *The Energy Bus* to the entire student body. Teachers introduced its five rules:

- You are the driver of your own bus. / Create a positive vision.

- Fuel your ride with positive energy.
- No Bullies allowed!
- Love your passengers!
- Enjoy the Ride.

The scholars watched attentively and took away a powerful message. The scholars were also given "Choose To Be Kind" wristbands, a journal with thought-provoking assignments for the week, and a "Be A Buddy, Not A Bully" pledge card to recite to their parents. TC scholars learned how to be an "Upstander," and what to do when someone is unkind or see what could be bullying. The week provided the scholars strategies to extinguish bullying at Tijeras Creek.



Vista Del Mar *Elementary*

1130 Avenida Talega, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/234-5950 • vdmes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



'Failure' Leads to Success

Vista del Mar (VDM) Elementary stays committed to excellence through perseverance. It is important to

provide learning environments that allow students to struggle through their learning process while communicating, collaborating, creating, and using critical-thinking skills.

Over the last few years, we have presented new



methodologies like Cognitive Guided Instruction in mathematics, a systematic writing process using Thinking Maps strategies, and most recently, various STEAM (science, technologies, engineering, arts, and mathematics) projects. As we continue to implement Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), VDM has begun the process to create learning environments where students may fail while inquiring to know more.

Whether it is a STEM project where students build windproof houses for the little pigs or build competition robots, students have learned by failing. It is hard to watch children struggle, but stepping in too quickly prevents the child to learn how to persevere.

Viejo *Elementary*

26782 Via Grande, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/582-2424 • vjes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Designated English Language Instruction

Viejo Elementary School has a mixed population of English learners and native English speakers. One of our school's goal is to help students to become proficient in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. One way to fulfill our goal is to implement our 30-minute Designated English Language Development (DELD) time. DELD is different from the traditional English Language Development (ELD) students already receive on a daily basis as a part of the Language Immersion model.

This month, Viejo students began DELD. Viejo teachers

use California English Language Development Standards to guide their instruction during this 30-minute block of time. English Learner students are grouped and placed with assigned teachers according to their proficiency levels. During DELD, Viejo educators focus their instruction on the listening, speaking, reading, and writing domains. These domains will support student literacy in English, while also aiding in the reclassification of students on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). This focus also helps students to develop comprehension, communication and writing skills.

While English Learner students are participating in DELD, native English speakers are receiving Spanish instruction, so all students are reaping the benefits of this designated instructional time.

School News

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Vista Del Mar *Middle School*

1130 Avenida Talega, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/234-5955 • vdm.schoolloop.com



Michelle Wrenn Benham
Principal

Parent/Student Book Club

Research indicates that students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge than those who do not. Fifteen years ago, our English Department began the Survivor Parent/Student Book Club, and we've seen innumerable benefits such as literacy promotion and family book discussions and enjoyment of literature.

When we started, the club had 100 to 250 participants. Now, participation has risen to 600 to 700! The club is held three times a year in the evening at school. If students' parents cannot attend, then teachers, administration and support staff step in as mentors. There are three titles for each event, with a similar theme or genre such as banned books, autobiographies, Native American stories and kindness. Students and parents choose one book from the three, which becomes their "tribe." English teachers read hundreds of books to find the perfect three per event,

taking into consideration grade levels, gender balance, Lexiles, genres and so on.

The November 29 event's three titles involve characters facing challenges and overcoming adversities. Students and parents read their chosen title before the night of the event. That night, everyone gathers in the MPR for a grounding movie or activity. Then, everyone heads to discussion rooms to discuss their book with other tribe members. In the discussion rooms, our Tribal Leaders—student volunteers trained by English teachers—lead the discussions. Students who attend the book club receive Homework Immunity for the evening.

Survivor was created to promote literacy and independent reading among students. It also provides an opportunity for parents and students to discuss literature. Over the years, it has inspired and supported thousands of students in reading independently, becoming broadly literate—the parents love the "excuse" to read as well—and reading widely and independently, which is essential to building proficiency in reading.

Wagon Wheel *Elementary*

30912 Bridle Path, Coto de Caza, CA 92679 • 949/589-1953 • wwes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jean Grabowski
Principal

Awarding Winning School

Wagon Wheel Elementary leads CUSD elementary schools in PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) receiving the 2017 silver award from The California PBIS Coalition! As one of only two CUSD elementary schools to be honored with this award, Wagon Wheel is a model of PBIS Implementation. School-wide P.R.I.D.E.

expectations are posted in every area on campus and are explicitly modeled by all staff. Our Mustangs know what it means to show Preparation, Respectfulness, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy on campus. Through the collaborative efforts of our PBIS leadership team, PTA, and parent volunteers, we

are proud to announce the grand opening of our Mustang Mercantile where students can use their PRIDE tickets to earn amazing prizes!



George White *Elementary*

25422 Chapparosa Park Dr., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/249-3875 • gwes.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Andrew Klinkenberg
Principal

Houston/Florida Strong

After learning about the devastation from hurricanes both in Texas and in Florida. George White students led by our 5th grade teacher Mr. Michael Young decided they would take some action to help support the victims of those natural disasters. Mr. Young's 5th grade class developed a wristband that are the state colors (blue and red) and that read, "GW Students Care- Houston/Florida Strong.

The idea of this was to sell these wristbands for \$2 a piece or accept any donation amount. All the proceeds would go to the Red Cross to help support the relief efforts. As of this date, George White has raised nearly \$400 in support of those in need. George White Knights making a difference to be change agents in our world today.



Wood Canyon *Elementary*

23431 Knollwood, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • 949/448-0012 • wces.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com



Paul Foucart
Principal

Building Confidence and Character

Honored as a California Distinguished School, Wood Canyon Elementary School hosts approximately 510 students in the heart of Aliso Viejo. We pull from a richly diverse ethnic and socio-economic population. We are honored to be one of seven schools designated as a CapoForward School for the Capistrano Unified School District.

Opened as a performing arts school in 1994, Wood Canyon has kept hold of its belief that students excel in a balanced educational program where they participate in enrichment opportunities that allow them to explore multiple intelligences. With the help of the Wood

Canyon PTA and the Wood Canyon Foundation, music and art lessons are funded for all grade levels.

Recently named the Academy of Arts and Communication, Wood Canyon helps student to build confidence and character by actively engaging in multimedia and the arts. Students are taught and nurtured through creativity and problem-solving. Our staff builds and incorporates media portfolios and inquiry-based projects. We have a weekly radio show and a quarterly television show. There are digital tablets at every grade level and netbooks in third through fifth grades. We truly are an arts and communication school, where 21st-century teaching is embedded throughout the daily curriculum.





Isabella's Book Review

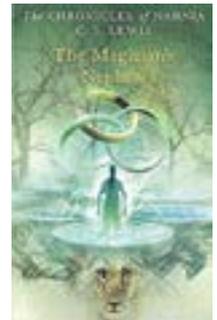


Isabella A.

A Magical Book

The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis

is about Polly, Digory and the witch. One afternoon they meet at Digory's uncle's room who gives Polly a ring. Polly grabs it and disappears. To save her, Digory touches a ring. Once with Polly they explore Charn. Digory rings a bell, awakening the queen of Charn. The two did not like her and try to escape, but the witch clings on them. She thinks she is the queen of England and gives orders. Polly and Digory use their rings to return to Charn; only it wasn't Charn anymore. It was a dark place with a lion that as he sang, created things. It was, Narnia. Would they ever get out of Narnia? What would happen to the witch? Read on to find out.



I rate this book 4 of 5 stars because it truly is captivating

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.



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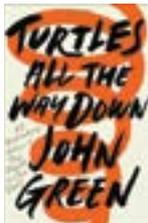
Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Turtles All the Way Down

Meet Aza Holmes. The sidekick, the best friend, the student. Every day, her thoughts condense and spin in what she refers to as 'thought spirals' - where one follows the other and then they don't stop.



Soon, she and her best friend, Daisy, go looking for a reward: \$100,000 to anyone who can provide information about Russell Pickett, a billionaire gone missing. With that much money on the line and the possibilities it could offer, their lives become a mess of night vision cameras, Applebee's, Star Wars fan fiction, and one very lucky tuatara.

Once again, John Green creates a story that makes you laugh, frown, and gets you to think in ways you never thought you could. I expected a lot from this book, and while it was wonderful and enjoyable, the things that I expected seemed to be its inefficiencies.

Four and a half bookworms that are very much deserved.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



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Toy Store Items—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 CAPO in the subject line.

Entries must be received by January 15, 2018
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

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- | | |
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| BUBBLES | TEA SET |
| CROQUET | BAT |
| BLOCKS | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES | |



Congratulations to **Laurie Woodruff**
Winner of our October Word Search Contest!

Christina's BookReview



A Dangerous Secret

Belly Up is a book by Stuart Gibbs.

It is the story of a boy named Theodore Fitzroy solving what happened to the popular zoo mascot Henry the hippopotamus. One sad day Henry died at the zoo.



Christina J.

Everyone seems convinced

that it was just a natural cause, but Theodore feels that something shady is going on. While investigating, Theodore found out somehow the only person willing to help and interested to find out the truth is Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of the FunJungle zoo. Unfortunately, after the hippo there are a few other deaths of animals – the jaguar, panther and a python. What the teenagers end up discovering is a very dangerous secret, which you will need to read about to find out. I like that this book was a light hearted mystery with interesting writing and a unique plot. I give this book out of 5 stars

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

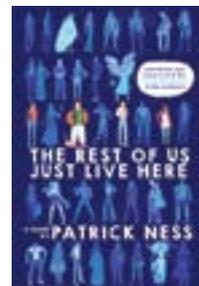
Book Review By Katrina



A Realistic Read

The Rest of Us Just

Live Here is about characters who aren't heroes or villains, simply side characters. Told from the perspective of Mikey,



Katrina D.

a senior who's struggling

with the threat of life after high school, we see there are two types of students in his town. There are the 'indie kids', with strange names like Satchel who end up saving the world from a zombie apocalypse or a vampire takeover. Then there are kids who observe, but never really take part. Kids like Mikey, his sister and friends who are going through difficult things without the supernatural factor. Patrick Ness explores the real life situations that teenagers face today, from eating disorders to having to leave all your friends for a different country and how these side characters still manage to deal with their problems in a heroic way. Though dusted with supernatural twists, this book is a realistic read for teenagers who are looking for a quirky book. I give this book 3 out of 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

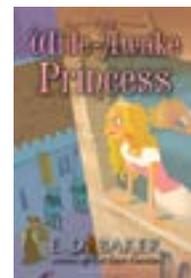
Alana's Book Review



The Wide-Awake Princess

By: E.D. Baker

Long ago, in the kingdom of Treecrest, a baby princess was born, and was given many magical gifts. This little girl is known as Sleeping Beauty. So- as the



Alana F.

stories say- when the evil fairy cast the famed curse on the newborn, her fairy godmother lessened it. However, the royal family was so traumatized that they decided that their second daughter, Princess Annie, should be immune to all magic. Hence, when the sleeping curse fell upon her older sister, Annie was unaffected, and set off to find the one who could save the kingdom. Traveling far and wide, she battles things scarier than magic, like evil, fear, and stereotypes. But without any magical gifts, will she triumph?

I'd give this book eight out of eight triforme shards for it's cleverly hidden messages. It's also downright hilarious, and has had me laughing for hours.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd". When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 triforme shards with 8 being the highest

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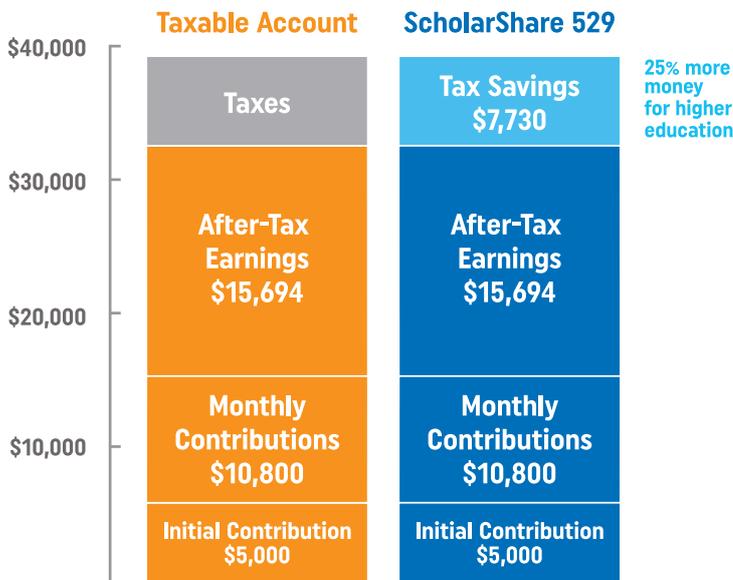
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