

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 53

FEBRUARY–APRIL 2018

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Carlsbad Unified Named to AP District Honor Roll

Carlsbad Unified started off the New Year with the notification that we were again named to the annual AP (Advanced Placement)

Honor Roll, the third time we were awarded that designation in the last five years. Only 447 school districts in the nation, and 34 in California, received this honor, and we were the only district in San Diego County selected for it.

The AP District Honor Roll “recognizes school districts committed to increasing access to AP for underrepresented students while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. AP District Honor Roll recipients are committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.” (AP Central, The College Board)

We are proud to have been selected. The award reflects the commitment of our Board, administrators, teachers, counselors, and students to academic excellence for all.

Carlsbad Unified has continued to expand its Advanced Placement program because we believe that all students will achieve.

One of our primary LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) goals is “to ensure that students demonstrate academic growth and proficiencies so they leave K-12 ready for college/career”; and one of CUSD’s key success indicators is “to increase the number of high school students enrolled in at least

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## Exemplary Music and Performing Arts in Carlsbad Unified

*From the District*

Every day at Aviara Oaks Middle School (AOMS), nearly half of its 1,100 students are practicing their craft in music and performing arts classes. Students, 248 of them, are playing wind instruments and percussion in Band; and 128 are studying strings, winds, and percussion in Orchestra. Another 120 Drama students are rehearsing for their next musical theater production. These students present outstanding concerts and performances on campus and in the community throughout the year. If you include the students enrolled in art, dance, and photography classes, over 70% of all AOMS students are involved in the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) each day.

Last spring, when AOMS was named a California Gold Ribbon School, it also was recognized as a California Exemplary Arts Education School for its programs in Band, Orchestra, and Drama, as well as Dance, Art, Broadcasting, and Photography.

In the words of Principal Bryan Brockett, “The level of excellence that our students and teachers produce in the arts here at AOMS is remarkable. These programs play a central role in connecting students to their school and the community. It’s cool to be in the band at AOMS. For many, their experience ignites a passion that carries them through high school and beyond.”

Music education begins early in Carlsbad Unified. Through a unique partnership with the Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF), every elementary school student has a 45-minute weekly music class taught by a credentialed teacher. Students are exposed to a variety of musical genres, learn to read music, and experience making music through hands-on activities.



So, when they arrive in middle school, these students have a foundation that prepares them for the transition into beginning band, orchestra, chorus, drama, and musical theater programs. In addition to the AOMS programs described above, both Calavera Hills and Valley Middle Schools have highly regarded music and performing arts programs. Valley Middle School offers orchestra, band, choir and drama classes, including the Showstoppers show choir. Calavera Hills Middle School offers drama, choir, and band. CHMS has a long tradition of Coyote Cavern Productions involving both elementary and middle school students, supported by PTA and CEF, such as this year’s production of Oklahoma!

A host of exciting programs — often leading to Visual and Performing Arts career pathways — await students at Carlsbad and Sage Creek High Schools. Here’s just a sampling:

Sound Express — Carlsbad High School’s award-winning Advanced Mixed Show Choir — was chosen to perform for the “Salute to Teachers: The San Diego County Teacher of the Year Awards” program on Cox. They also met and sang for the band Cheap Trick, and were picked to sing on stage at a Foreigner concert. Sound Express won many awards last year, including first place at both the “San Diego Sings” competition and the Burbank Blast Competition. Choir director Jesse Bullock says, “The students in the Vocal Music Program at Carlsbad High School have a tradition of excellence in music. They understand that hard work is the key to excellent performance. Every year the students and the program continue to push themselves to the next step.”

The Marching Lancers, Carlsbad High School’s marching band, are consistent finalists in the SCSBOA championship circuit and regularly win Class Champions, Best Drumline, and Best Guard at regional competitions.

The Wind Ensemble, Carlsbad High School’s flagship ensemble, traveled to Chicago last April and were named Grand Champions of the Festival of Music competition.

See **EXEMPLARY MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS** • Page 9

## Academic Challenges

For Students Who Experience Significant Learning Challenges

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Learning problems are caused when underlying processes are slow or are not working to optimum potential.

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**Kay Coop**  
 Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

The new year is well underway with students focused on their academic goals.

In this issue you will read about topics ranging from Reading, Visual and Performing Arts, Kindness Challenge, Student Led Conferences, Community Connections, The Butterfly Project and much more! Students have so many academic choices it is an exciting time to be a student.

Thank you for reading *School News*. Our next issue is May 16.

## School News

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Covering the CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Contest

This student's picture is in this issue. When you find him, email the page number to: kay@SchoolNewsRollCall.com

You will be entered to win a GAZUMP dice/card game. Fun for all ages!

Deadline: March 30, 2018  
 Please put Carlsbad in the subject line.

## City of Carlsbad

1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/434-2830 • [www.carlsbadca.gov](http://www.carlsbadca.gov)

### Teen Leaders Wanted



**Kristina Ray**  
Communications  
Manager

Do you know teens who want to grow their leadership skills? The city has three programs worth checking out. The Carlsbad Student Leader Academy is a partnership with the City of Carlsbad, the YouSchool and Servant Leadership Institute. The 10 week program helps high school students explore how they can best contribute to building a better Carlsbad. Leadership in Training & Education is an afterschool program for middle and high school students interested in leadership, communication and volunteerism. Participants attend the program at least three days a week and take part in two community service projects a month.



Finally, we reserve spots in our popular Citizens Academy program just for high school students interested in getting a behind the scenes look at city operations. Information about all of these programs is available on the city website.

# Citizens Academy

**This free seven-week course held twice a year gives residents an up close look at how the city functions.**

**The academy is for Carlsbad residents 15 years and older. Class size is limited, and spaces fill up quickly.**

**Reserve your spot!**  
**760-434-2800**

City of Carlsbad

## Counselors Unlock True Potential

Tony Morrow has one goal for the students of Fallbrook High School—graduate ready for what comes next. With his guidance, young scholars and families put their plans for the future into action.



Fallbrook High School, College and Career Counselor: Tony Morrow '11, M.A.Ed. '12

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# Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • [www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com)



**Jimmy Hines**  
Principal

## Everyone is A Reader!

Research shows that reading proficiency by the third grade may be the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. At Aviara Oaks Elementary, we are making sure that our first-, second-, and third-grade students are proficient, fluent, and confident readers through our “Reading Friends” program, sponsored by our own AOE Parent community and supportive teaching staff.

Reading Friends matches trained tutors with students who have been chosen by their teachers to receive extra one-on-one reading practice. Trained volunteers use research-informed instructional methods to help these students reach proficiency at their specific grade level in reading. The students gain confidence, fluency, and comprehension, all while having fun with their Reading Friends.

The Reading Friends program has a long history at AOE. With the ongoing support of Mrs. Melanie Siegel (our program organizer) and staff members, various volunteers have been working with our students in this program for more than 10 years! Our wonderful group of volunteers for this school year includes AOE parents, grandparents, and other neighborhood community members who are committed to reading with the students for one hour per week. In short, we at AOE appreciate the unending support from everyone involved in this meaningful instructional program.



**AOE parent and Reading Friends volunteer, Mrs. Jennifer Price, working with a second grade student**

# Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • [www.ches.schoolloop.com](http://www.ches.schoolloop.com)



**Kimberly Fuentes**  
Principal

## Kindness Matters

Being the founding city of the Great Kindness Challenge and watching this movement spread across the nation makes it ever more impactful for the Carlsbad community. At Calavera Hills Elementary School, we focused our theme this year on the unique power of each individual and the profound ability we possess to make a difference. Using the mentor text, *Only One You* by Linda Kranz, we challenged students to look inwardly at what makes them special and in turn how they can take that “specialness” to make a difference on campus or to somebody.

The book beautifully states, “There is only one you in this great big world. Make it a better place.”

While we aim to demonstrate kind words and actions every day, the week of the Great Kindness Challenge in January helps us to focus and reinforce our efforts. The Calavera community chose to commemorate this week with a school-beautification project. Families joined together to redesign an existing planter along the main walkway of campus. In the planter, they formed a stream. Each Calavera student and staff member then painted a fish on a smooth stone to represent himself or herself—unique, special and beautiful. Each class took turns placing their fish in the stream, thus composing a one-of-a-kind rock garden and adding to the beauty of the school—but more importantly, creating a daily reminder that we all mean something on this campus and have the power to make it a better place!



# Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6–8)*

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • [www.aoms.schoolloop.com](http://www.aoms.schoolloop.com)



**Julie Steitz**  
Interim Principal

## Middle School: The Most Positive Years

The title of a popular book by James Patterson says it all about the perception of our grade span: *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*. The book was so popular that it spawned a movie. And those of us who work with middle school students are often greeted with “How do you do it?” by well-meaning, if somewhat misguided, friends. But the truth for those of us who have worked with middle school students is that there are all kinds of great experiences and great opportunities at the middle school level, for both students and staff. It was in that spirit that our leadership team set a goal this year to increase student and staff connectedness at Aviara Oaks Middle School (AOMS).

Our work in that area taken several forms. In early January, we hosted renowned inspirational speaker and AOMS parent Devin Hughes, who spoke to staff about the tenets of positive psychology and the value of intentionally bringing positivity to the workplace. The end of January brought the Great

Kindness Challenge, the annual international event started right here in Carlsbad. School spirit and connectedness are at the forefront of this week-long event, and our Associated Student Body (ASB) students elected to do more to bring that message home to students and families at AOMS. ASB hosted an extraordinary talk by Tyler Durman, who used humor and storytelling to send a message of hope and connectedness for the school community. Both the student assembly and parent night were well received.

As an ongoing effort this year, the AOMS staff also instituted a positive office referral program. We felt as though going to the office shouldn't always be a bad thing, and the positive office referral has helped change the perception of a visit to the office. Teachers and staff give positive referrals to students for doing good things on campus. The referrals highlight the Falcon Four: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Work Together. When students come to the office, they are greeted with appreciation for their deeds and a positive phone call home to share the recognition.

Each of these efforts is helping us reach our school vision of building a positive and respectful environment at AOMS.

# Buena Vista *Elementary (K–6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • [www.buenavista.schoolloop.com](http://www.buenavista.schoolloop.com)



**Tina Howard**  
Principal

## Maximizing Resources!

Buena Vista has a wonderful leveled-reading intervention program called “Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Reading Intervention.” This program was purchased through Title I funding, and is being taught by our amazing staff of credentialed teachers, not hourly instructional or part-time instructors.

Our highly qualified staff members work together to ensure accurate grouping based upon the current assessment data provided by our “Assessment Coach.” In the primary grades, teachers provide support to struggling readers during their regular reading group rotations. But new this year in the upper grades is that all of our at or above grade-level readers join Principal Howard and a noon duty supervisor in the auditorium for silent independent pleasure reading. The classroom teachers then support those readers who can still benefit from targeted intervention. Sometimes though the silent reading students prefer the warm blacktop for their reading!

By utilizing our existing staff members instead of hiring an additional hourly credentialed teacher to provide for the upper-grade intervention, we save over \$40 daily! This new program is definitely saving money and making an impact. Great job, Dolphin staff!

Kate Battenfeld, our music educator, was also awarded a “Little Kids Rock” grant, making it possible to start our Modern Band program in the fifth grade. Little Kids Rock is an organization that provides instruments, curriculum, and professional development to K–12 and collegiate educators.

Ms. Battenfeld was awarded professional training, musical instruments, and other music equipment to use for this program, one where students are taught to perform and compose popular music by using guitar, bass, percussion, piano, and vocals.

She is thrilled to be bringing this to Buena Vista, and our students are equally excited. “I think it's really cool that people care about kids and their music learning experiences,” says one student. Another chimed in: “Plus, it's really fun to hang out with your friends and play songs together!” Our students will have their first school performance during the “Music in Our Schools Month” event in March.



Students reading in the Auditorium

# Calavera Hills *Middle School (6-8)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6400 • [www.calavera.schoolloop.com](http://www.calavera.schoolloop.com)



**Michael Ecker**  
*Principal*

## Student-Led Conferences

Last month, Calavera Hills Middle School (CHMS) piloted its very first optional Magnificent Me Student-Led Conferences. For the first time in Carlsbad, students had the opportunity to reflect publicly on their learning so far and share their goals for the rest of the year. The turnout for this event was amazing, and the students' reflection of growth and learning was even better! This pilot focused on sixth-grade students, who shared their growth learning through a process of self-reflection and the presentation of their digital portfolios.



learned, where they excelled, and the challenges they faced throughout the first semester. Students also shared their goals and the ways in which their parents and teachers could help them.

The evening ended with food and an art exhibition centered on the theme of reflection. Parents, teachers, and students were able to connect, give feedback

The conferences were held in our school gym, where parents and students played an active role in the approximately 20-minute conference sessions. During the sessions, students spoke about what they had



**Students running a conference for a public audience.**

on the event, and brainstorm ways we can continue making learning relevant in our schools. We were so pleased with how these conferences turned out! We now know that it is not only possible, but also imperative for our schools to offer opportunities like this to our students.

Stay tuned for information on our next round of Magnificent Me Student-Led Conferences, which will be held in spring 2018!

At CHMS, we focus on student empowerment. Join the movement!

# Carlsbad *High School (9-12)*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • [www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com](http://www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com)



**Dr. Bryan Brockett**  
*Principal*

## Changes

*By Alex Brown, "Lancer Link" Editor-in-Chief*

The end of first semester brought many changes to Carlsbad High. Julie Redfield was the interim principal for the entirety of first semester and enjoyed her duties and responsibilities serving CHS staff and students. At the beginning of second semester, Ms. Redfield returned to her position as CHS assistant principal as Dr. Bryan Brockett was welcomed to CHS as the new principal.

Dr. Brockett comes to CHS from Aviara Oaks Middle, where he served as principal, and Valley Middle, where he served as the assistant principal. Dr. Brockett is looking forward to attending events and getting out on campus and visiting classrooms in order to get to know the CHS community.

More changes in administration will come as interim assistant principal and social science teacher Christopher Robertson will move to Valley Middle, taking the position of interim assistant principal there until the end of the school year. Though we will miss him at CHS, we know he will serve Valley Middle well during his time there.

In December, Officer Meroniuk was deployed to Afghanistan, leaving after a nearly two-year position as CHS school resource officer. To show respect and gratitude for Officer Meroniuk's service, a special send-off assembly was



**Julie Redfield has been serving as the interim principal at Carlsbad High School since the beginning of the school year. Beginning Jan. 29, Dr. Bryan Brockett (left) will step in to take over as the permanent principal for CHS.**



**After working at CHS for nearly two years, Officer Meroniuk (right) was deployed and had to leave his CHS school resource officer position. Officer Maud (left) will take over Meroniuk's duties until he returns from deployment next school year.**

held at lunch on his last day. Officer Meroniuk was a pivotal member of the CHS community and will continue to have our school's support as he serves our country. Officer John Maud has since stepped into the position and will fulfill multiple vital duties involving monitoring student safety and behavior throughout the school year.

# Carlsbad Village & Seaside *Academies*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • [www.cva.schoolloop.com](http://www.cva.schoolloop.com) & [www.csa.schoolloop.com](http://www.csa.schoolloop.com)



**Jorge Espinoza**  
*Principal*

## On Your Own Time

Many young people in this generation have a difficult time fitting into the current school model where daily attendance is mandatory. A great opportunity for students like this is the independent study at Carlsbad Seaside Academy. This program is open for those in the 9th through 12th grades who reside within Carlsbad Unified School District. The students are able to take classes in the core subjects and various elective classes. Students can also take classes at Sage Creek or Carlsbad High School to take advantage of their course offerings. This is a great option

for those students that have outside passions and would like some greater autonomy when it comes to their own education.

Early-morning start times can also be a major challenge for our youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, fewer than one in five middle and high schools in the U.S. begin the school day at

the recommended 8:30 a.m. start time or later. The website goes on to point out that a lack of sleep is associated with several health risks such as being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco and using drugs, along with poor academic performance. Carlsbad Village Academy has confronted this issue head on by moving the start time to 8:30 a.m. The start time is structural change that benefits the students. This along with the smaller class size can give students that struggle with high school a second chance to earn a high school diploma.

The mission of Carlsbad Village Academy is to empower students to take charge of their educational experiences in an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity and empowers students in the process of learning so that they may responsibly participate in a diverse society.

Parents or students that are interested in either of these alternative programs can contact the principal by phone at our office or through email.

## Hope *Elementary (K-6)*

3010 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5900 • [www.hope.schoolloop.com](http://www.hope.schoolloop.com)



**Richard Tubbs**  
*Principal*

## Community Connections

Our Hope Hawk Community Connection Campaign continues to host monthly events to provide opportunities for families to meet new people and reach out beyond our school to promote new connections and positive relationships in our community. This campaign

started formally through our PTA two years ago and was highlighted in our Gold Ribbon Award from the State of California.

Community Connections remain a priority at our school and can be found in our extended programs and activities. From our monthly Coffee Connections to extended events like our Veterans Day assembly complete with limousine service for our veterans, our parents enjoy creating ways for people to build new relationships



and reinforce partnerships within our community.

Our Kids for Peace chapter has a strong foundation in this effort as well by serving the local neighborhood under the guidance of Aimee Clark and Meg Jansen. Kids for Peace students are constantly encouraged to go out beyond our campus to serve others with kindness. Every month, students provide a community-service project or activity, and they are the first to step in to help support a cause when a crisis hits, such as the Water and Wipes Drive for firefighters battling the fires that affected southern California. The newly formed Kids for Peace choir delighted audiences during the holiday season as they performed at local retirement communities.

We are grateful to our Kids for Peace coordinators, students and parents for making it a priority to serve our community in such a positive and meaningful manner every month.



# Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • [www.jefferson.schoolloop.com](http://www.jefferson.schoolloop.com)



**Chad Lund**  
*Principal*

## Spanish Program

At Jefferson Elementary, a Primary Years Programme (PYP) within International Baccalaureate (IB), we have added another component to our already robust program of inquiry: all IB schools must teach a second language to students. In the PYP, we must

introduce and start the foundations of a second language. Additionally, as a school with a large number of English-language learners (ELs), we must also foster the mother tongue of these students. While not all of our ELs speak Spanish, the vast majority does, and therefore, our new program focuses on Spanish.

The program is broken into several parts, all aimed at developing the oral language and introducing the written language. First, all teachers spend a brief amount of time each day performing an existing lesson or activity, but in Spanish. First grade, for example, routinely reviews the calendar: days of the week, months of the year, weather and other repetitive items. This may only consist of five to 10 minutes a day; however, the time adds up over weeks, and much of the vocabulary will be repetitive, which will lead to a solid



understanding of the material. Second, all students in grades two through five will work on DuoLingo, a web-based program designed to learn languages. All classes complete two to three sessions per week in either the computer labs or on Chromebooks. Finally, we were very fortunate to hire a dedicated Spanish teacher. Amanda Epli, a credentialed elementary Spanish teacher, works directly with grades two through five, providing 30 minutes of direct instruction in Spanish each week. The lessons are based around the IB Programme of Inquiry and borrow themes from the

classroom. Altogether, students receive about an hour and a half of Spanish instruction over the course of the week, given in small chunks to be digested more easily. After several months of implementation, classes are utilizing more Spanish within the class, and as an added bonus, many of our EL students get to be superstars in the Spanish class!

# Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

4885 Kelly Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • [www.kelly.schoolloop.com](http://www.kelly.schoolloop.com)



**Tressie Armstrong**  
*Principal*

## Our Own Place to Be

Cinderella once sang, "In my own little corner in my own little chair. I can be whatever I want to be. On the wings of my fancy I can fly anywhere. And the world will open its arms to me!"

She knew that finding a quiet corner where she could let her imagination fly was very important! At Kelly Elementary School, this is not just a fairy tale. We have our own little corner called "The Library"! Run by our own Mrs. Sherri James, our Kelly students are treated to opportunities to find peace and quiet, to breathe, and to find time to search. In our library, students can

find a calm at the center of any storm. Our Kelly library is a wonderful corner of the school available to all.



Mrs. James has been a dedicated support to the students, teachers, and community of Kelly School since January of 2007. She has been an integral part of the success of our staff and students, and has weathered many storms. She has been the constant book finding, research supporting, textbook delivering, storytelling heart of this campus. Our students know that they can come to her during her free times to browse, read, sit, think, or just plain chat if need to.

Every community member benefits from Mrs. James and her love for providing our children with opportunities to read. Our teachers know that Mrs. James will drop everything to help them find at a moment's notice the perfect resources to complement their current needs. Even new students are gently loaded down with textbooks and planners and a welcoming smile!

Parents know that Mrs. James is there to help them find the perfect book to encourage their child to push on to the next level of their reading adventures. Mrs. James also makes sure that the two book fairs that we have had were first of all fun, and second of all a resounding success!

In a world that can be fast-paced with too much news and negativity, or too much to do and not enough time to think, or too much screen time and not enough book time, it is very important that we have quiet spaces and quiet corners in which to sit, think, dream, and, yes, read. In our own little corner, in our own little chair, our Kelly students have just such a space to be whatever they want to be.



# Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5600 • [www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com)



**Aaron Nelson**  
*Principal*

## Empathy by Design

Magnolia has been abuzz with students and teachers engaging in the design, prototyping and testing of unique solutions to real-world problems. From researching and designing a digital public-service announcement (PSA) video about spiders in first grade to designing and building innovative tools for greater self-reliance in a

fourth-and-fifth-grade combo class, Magnolia students have been honing skills in the 4 C's of 21st century learning: creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication.

As part of this process, Magnolia has welcomed a new member of our team in Valerie Madden. Ms. Madden, who serves as a design engineer, works with both students and teachers around the thoughtful implementation



**Kinder students prototyping a transportation tool.**

of the Design Thinking process, which was popularized by the Stanford Design School and IDEO. A critical element of the process is the development of empathy. As Ms. Madden notes, "Designing unique solutions is great, but students need to know who they are designing for. What are their needs? What do they value?"

This approach, in addition to providing relevant opportunities for creative learning, also helps students understand their role as part of a larger community. As students engage in the process of interviewing and understanding whom they are designing for, they develop a greater sense of the needs of those around them. This empathy allows students to begin to see ways in which they can "be the change" in their own community. In the end, there isn't a better lesson than that!



**Valerie Madden, Design Engineer.**

# Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • [www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com](http://www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com)



**Robert Devich**  
*Principal*

## New Waveriders

We are extremely delighted to ring in the New Year with some exciting news. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Erin Predmore, our newest staff member, and to our many new families to Pacific Rim Elementary School. We had a huge influx of new students beginning in

December, so we are fortunate to start 2018 with the addition of a highly qualified veteran teacher.

Mrs. Predmore has been assigned to teach kindergarten. She graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree in psychology and an elementary teaching credential, and she also has a master's degree in education. Mrs. Predmore taught kindergarten



through second grade in the Santa Monica Malibu School District for six years before moving to Carlsbad 20 years ago.

Mrs. Predmore is no stranger to Pacific Rim. She has worked as a kindergarten aide at Pacific Rim for the last three years, and she has also served as our third-grade science lab teacher. She is also a former Pacific Rim parent, as all three of her children attended our school. Mrs. Predmore has a daughter in college at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, a son who is a high school senior, and a son in middle school.

When asked what she appreciates most about teaching at Pacific Rim, Mrs. Predmore said, "I am so fortunate to teach at such an amazing school that gave my children such a strong foundation in their educational careers. The students, families, and staff make each day so enjoyable."

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Predmore and so many new Waverider families!

## EXEMPLARY MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS • From Page 1

Carlsbad High School's outstanding drama and musical theater program earned eight awards at the 2016-17 National Youth Arts Awards, including Outstanding Production for The Drowsy Chaperone, Lead Actor in a Musical, and Lead Actress in a Musical.

The CHS Varsity Lancer Dancer team brings national attention to Carlsbad by excelling in the Universal Dance Association's (UDA) National Dance Competition each year, holding eleven number one UDA National Titles in Jazz and Hip Hop, and receiving national television exposure on ESPN.

Sage Creek High School, now in its fifth year, boasts growing and thriving music and performing arts programs. There are three performance based classes: Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, and Concert Choir. All three of these ensembles are featured performers in concerts throughout the year.

A new lab-based music class at Sage Creek High School serves as an introduction to instrumental music. Students learn to play guitar, piano,

percussion, and wind instruments.

Other musical opportunities are provided by the Bobcat Beat (the school's Pep Band), the musical pit orchestra, the Jazz Club, the Music Theory Club, and other chamber ensembles.

The Jazz Club, new this year, was founded by Senior Band Member Tessa Witkofsky in conjunction with her Genius Project. Students in this club are taught the basics in Jazz Theory and Improvisation and learn to play different forms of jazz, with the goal of becoming a full-fledged big band.

Sage Creek High School's Theater program was honored last year with several National Youth Arts Awards for its production of Bye Bye Birdie, including four wins in the Lead Actor, Supporting Actor, and Supporting Actress categories. This year's musical will be Footloose.

In Carlsbad Unified, we take great pride in our traditional and innovative music and performing arts programs. And we appreciate CEF, PTA, and their many partners who help create these opportunities for our students.

# Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • [www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com)



**Marjorie Giordani**  
*Principal*

## Global Experts!

Poinsettia conducted its annual Geography Bee with fourth- and fifth-grade students. The National Geographic Society has had the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades. Over 10,000 schools across the United States participate in the bee, and Poinsettia is the only elementary school in Carlsbad.

The winner of this year's bee is Vienna Jones, a fifth-grade student. Runner-up was Jack Harrison. All fourth- and fifth-grade students were given a written pretest and the top 35 were invited to compete in the Geography Bee. The questions focus on U.S. geography, state birds, forces of nature, world history, cultural geography and the continents. Most of this information is not covered in the elementary curriculum, so these students have shown a passion for learning about the world around them.



**Jack Harrison Runner Up and Vienna Jones Champion Poinsettia Geography Bee**



If you want to test your own geography knowledge, go to [www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee).

Our fifth-grade girls and boys competed against the other Carlsbad Elementary schools in Copa de Carlsbad. This is an annual event that has been hosted by Sage Creek High School. Our girls brought home the runner-up trophy for the first time. Go Panthers!

We participated in Jump Rope for the Heart in January to raise money for the Heart Association, knowing the needs of the community and learning ways to help as a school comprise an awesome experience.



# Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600 • [www.sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Cesar Morales**  
*Principal*

## Visual and Performing Arts

The Sage Creek High School (SCHS) Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA) is thriving! While striving to support student development in the creative process, our fantastic VAPA team members are cultivating artistically literate students who will continue to advocate for and employ knowledge of the arts in our local and global communities.

VAPA has plenty to be proud of this year, including a fantastic November dance show, "Expect the Unexpected," featuring Bobcat dancers of all ability levels and styles. The music program showcased their talents during the holidays with their Winter Wonder Concert. Band, orchestra, and choir students were featured in the ensemble and brought musical joy to the Sage Creek community. Art students continue to produce exceptionally beautiful work, and finished products are often showcased throughout the SCHS campus. And this year, both students and staff are enjoying the addition of a new course within the department featuring three-dimensional design, where design concepts become reality.



**Sage Creek students beautify the campus with their artwork**



**Sage Creek Dancers perform on campus**

On the horizon, the Drama Department is looking forward to bringing back the glory of the 1980s with their presentation of "Footloose, the Musical" in late February. To top it off, construction on the new 350-seat Performing Arts Center is in the home stretch, with a June 4 ribbon-cutting ceremony planned.

Visual and Performing Arts are alive and well at Sage Creek, where our young emerging artists are thriving and our team continues to inspire a lifelong appreciation and passion for the arts.

# Valley Middle School (6-8)

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • [www.vms.schoolloop.com](http://www.vms.schoolloop.com)



**Nicole Johnston**  
Principal

## A Message of Remembrance

Valley Middle School serves over 1,000 students within our community. We strive to provide a rigorous and engaging educational environment for our students, and believe that they should participate in projects that will empower them to make a difference and develop empathy and compassion for others.

Valley Middle School's art students are creating ceramics with a purpose and a message. The art students are participating in The Butterfly Project. This Project is a call to action through the arts. It uses the lessons of the Holocaust to educate children about the dangers of hatred and bigotry through the creation and painting of ceramic butterflies. Our students and staff members will be painting over

1,000 butterflies to commemorate the over 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust.

Students from all over the world have also been painting butterflies and creating installations to commemorate these children. The advanced art students have been studying the Holocaust as well, and two Holocaust survivors recently shared their emotional and heartfelt stories with the students.



Remember the Past  
Act Responsibly in the Present  
and  
Create a More Peaceful  
Future



These survivors encouraged our children to stand up to bullying and never give up when things are at their worst. This message of resilience was understood by all.

Our art students are making the ceramic butterflies first, and then reaching out to other students, staff, and family members to help paint them. The 1,000 butterflies will be an installation on campus by the end of the year. It will also have a special plaque to share this message of remembrance and hope for the future.

## Board of Trustees



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## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page



**Dr. Benjamin Churchill**

one Honors, Advanced Placement, or Community College class by 2%." In 2016-17, an impressive 63% of Carlsbad Unified high school students were enrolled in at least one of these challenging classes.

Students at Carlsbad and Sage Creek High Schools currently can select from a full array of Advanced Placement classes, including Advanced Placement Biology, Calculus, English Composition, and United States History. Over 83% of students in 2016-17 who took an AP Exam scored 3 or higher. (The statewide average is 62%.) And, while our pass rates remain high, we continue to increase the number of students who take at least one Advanced Placement Course—930 students took AP exams in 2016-17 compared to 827 in 2015-16, an increase of 103 students. Students work hard in these college-level classes, while acquiring the skills they need to be successful in college and their careers. Besides exposing students to a rigorous curriculum, AP classes can improve students' chances of getting into their dream colleges; satisfy college prerequisites so they can take more interesting classes; and possibly even save thousands of dollars in tuition.

We congratulate our outstanding AP students and their talented teachers and administrators whose efforts earned CUSD the AP Honor Roll designation.

## Carlsbad Educational Foundation

5631 Palmer Way, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/929-1555 • [www.carlsbaded.org](http://www.carlsbaded.org)

## We Love Music!

This marks the ninth year of the Carlsbad Educational Foundation's continued support of music education. CEF provides weekly music instruction for every student in grades K-5. The cost of elementary music education is \$250,000-\$300,000 annually.

CEF's mission is to invest in our children's future through education for all students in the Carlsbad Unified School District by developing and funding impactful programs. The Elementary Music grant funding ensures that every K-5 student in Carlsbad Unified School District has access to high-quality music education as an essential component of their public education. This music program adheres to the K-12 music standards and a portion of the program's funding supports training and coordination of the program across the nine elementary schools.

"Researchers at the Boston Children's Hospital worked with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and found early musical training enhances the areas of the brain responsible for executive functioning" according to an article from the Community School of the Arts at Wheaton College. Positive impact of music at an early age is proven and needs to continue in our schools.

Brandon Blackmon, a 2017 CEF Student Scholarship recipient and 2017 Carlsbad High School graduate, is currently studying Music Technology because he had the opportunity to experience music funded by CEF. He said, "Without Elementary Music education and theatre, I would not be headed in the career path I am today."

Join us to support music education in Carlsbad schools. Visit our Web site to donate.





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