

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 49

NOVEMBER 2016–JANUARY 2017

## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Benjamin Churchill

### CUSD Goes Green

This fall Carlsbad Unified is launching a new green initiative at every elementary school.

In 2012 the California Legislature passed a law requiring that 75% of waste

be diverted from landfills by 2020. Currently, Carlsbad schools recycle only about 15 to 20% of waste, and the rest ends up in landfills. We are pleased to report, however, that our new recycling program will dramatically improve these numbers, and set us on a path to reduce, reuse, recycle, and act responsibly.

With the support of our Board of Trustees, the CUSD Sustainability Committee, working with the Carlsbad Educational Foundation's (CEF) Grant Writing Collaborative, submitted a grant application and received \$30,000 from the Carlsbad Charitable Foundation. These funds made it possible to roll out new recycling programs in all elementary schools located within the City of Carlsbad, including three elementary schools in Encinitas Union School District.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 4

## A Shift in Mathematics Instruction



Gina Fogarty's second graders at Pacific Rim Elementary learning math with manipulatives

By Beverly de Nicola, Communications, CUSD

### Something new is taking shape in Carlsbad Unified classrooms.

In 2010 California adopted new state standards in Mathematics. The standards are designed to present math as more relevant to the real world and to prepare students with the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in college and in their careers.

Carlsbad Unified always has had exceptional mathematics teachers. But now we are undertaking a shift in math instruction as the district works to put the standards into effect in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

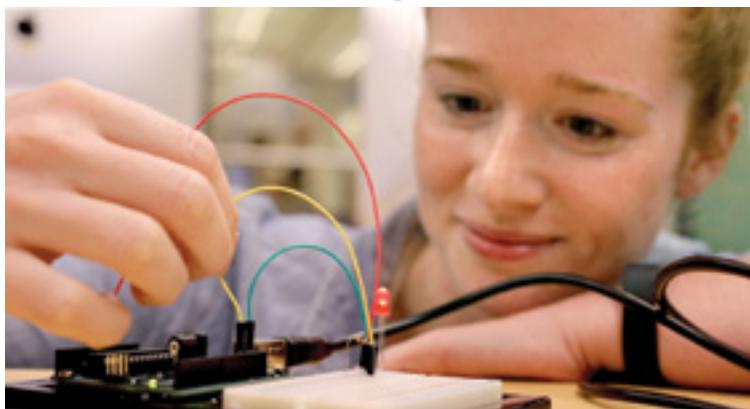
A key element is adopting and integrating new instructional methods and materials for teaching math most effectively. Last year, Carlsbad Unified began the process of "math adoption" — selecting new instructional approaches and materials — for its elementary schools.

### Math Adoption

This process involves more than just collecting old tattered textbooks and putting a thick new book on each student's desk, or placing a glossy state report on a shelf to collect dust. Instead, the "math adoption" will have an impact on every CUSD student, not just on what they are taught but how they are taught. Every elementary and secondary math teacher — 228 teachers in all — is part

See A SHIFT IN MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION • Page 12

## New Library Tech Lab



Teens can tinker with the new Arduino open-source microcontroller-based kits for building digital devices and interactive objects. (Please see page 2)

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## New Library Tech Lab is Your Hub for Exploration



**Kristina Ray**  
Communications  
Manager

Our recently renovated Carlsbad City Library on Dove Lane (“the one in south Carlsbad”) has a new supercharged technology center called the “Exploration HUB,” complete with Apple Mac computers, 3D printing and gadgets galore. This high tech sanctuary brings Carlsbad’s libraries into the future with a collaborative and creative environment tapping into the latest innovations in technology. Featured equipment includes:

- Ten Mac Minis with a variety of software, including Photoshop Elements 14, Logic Pro, Garage Band, iMovie, Final Cut Pro, SketchUp and more
- Two iMacs with gleaming 27-inch displays, the full Adobe Creative Suite and professional audio and video editing software
- Zeus 3D Printer for creating 3-dimensional objects by scanning an existing object or printing from a design of your making
- Arduino kits for exploring the world of electronics and coding
- Silhouette Cameo 2 Cutter to make intricate designs cut out of paper, cardstock, vinyl and fabric
- Photo archiving center where you can scan old photos into a digital format
- Video conversion tools for transferring those old VHS tapes to a DVD

Never heard of half this stuff? That’s okay. We’ll be hosting workshops and have staff on hand to help. For hours and more information, visit the city library website, [www.carlsbadlibrary.org](http://www.carlsbadlibrary.org).



**See your designs take shape, literally, with the Exploration HUB’s 3D printer.**



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This school year is gone by quickly and the excitement continues in the classroom. Dr. Churchill’s article on the front page informs about the new green initiative at every elementary school. In this issue you will read about the Cardboard Challenge, STEM, making connections to curriculum and much more.

Our next issue is February 15... in the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We are always mindful and grateful to our men and women in the armed services.

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** Jackie Brann  
310/367-9491

[jackie@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:jackie@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Tim DeLacy

**COPY EDITORS:**

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:**

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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## A Favorite Option for Students



**Dr. Sunny Cooke**  
Superintendent/  
President

One in three.

That's the ratio of high school students from our area who enroll at MiraCosta College. And they're opting for MiraCosta for good reason. Professors who are second to none in putting students first. Beautiful campuses where students are seen as our future, not as a number. Ample opportunities to serve the community while earning college credit. And a lengthy list of support services that are setting the pace in ensuring success.

"I call it MiraCozy College," said Fa'tatauva'a Wong, a former MiraCosta College scholar who is now enrolled at Cal State San Marcos. "The professors, the faculty, the staff, they all care about

their students' lives and they want to make sure students are well accommodated. The services to help you succeed are there. It is a very supportive atmosphere."

El Camino High School graduate Taylor Barry shared similar sentiments.

"When you're in high school, community college can have something of stigma among certain students," said Taylor, who found her passion at MiraCosta, worked as a student ambassador, and later transferred to UC San Diego, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. "Going to a community college and going to MiraCosta College was the best decision I could have made. When I transferred to UC San Diego, the transition was easy, and because of the cost savings involved with going to a community college I was able to graduate with a bachelor's degree debt free."

In fact, more and more secondary students aren't waiting for their high school diploma before enrolling in MiraCosta College courses. After we eliminated fees for high schoolers concurrently enrolled in college classes just two years ago, the number of students taking part in our dual enrollment

See **MIRACOSTA COLLEGE** • Page 14

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# Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • www.aes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Jimmy Hines**  
Principal

## Safety and Support

All too often, in sharing information from our school sites, we neglect to mention the many unsung heroes who do great work for the benefit of all of our students, specifically our noon-duty supervisors. This terrific group of individuals makes the effort to come to school during the middle of their day to provide concrete supervision and safety during a span of two hours during our first-through-fifth-grade lunch/recess periods. Our six noon-duty staff members are essentially the frontline caretakers for our students during a good portion of their day.

The contents of a supervisor's vest pockets describes it best: a Band-Aid, a nurse-office pass, a whistle and an Eagle Code of Conduct card—all elements of keeping students safe and offering positive supports during a busy time of the school day. More importantly, our noon-duty staff looks to lend a needed ear when students need clarification and support on points of cooperation and interacting in a positive manner during their 40-minute lunch period. They go above and beyond to ensure that our students have had a purposeful, active and healthy break in order to return to their studies in their classroom.

In short, our noon-duty staff members are essential support personnel who offer a safe and secure environment for all of our students.



**Noon duties Mrs. Price, Mrs. Gardner, and Ms. Heidi.**



**Three of our fabulous noon duties: Mrs. Aurora, Ms. Kelly, and Ms. Belinda**

# Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • www.aoms.schoolloop.com



**Dr. Bryan Brockett**  
Principal

## Cross-Curricular Connections

The year is off to a great start at Aviara Oaks Middle School, as we welcomed approximately 340 new sixth-graders and a total student population of over 1,100 back to school. Our team is continuing to build upon our vision to be a place where students are critical, global thinkers invested in their own learning. To achieve that vision, one of our areas of focus is on deeper learning that creates connections with and across the curriculum.

What does that mean? For us, the focus is on student inquiry and cross-curricular learning. We want students to be thinkers who, in addition to building fundamental skills, are encouraged to consider their own avenues of inquiry and are given the tools, support, and time to pursue those avenues. We believe that one way to do that is to build connections between the areas of study so that students better see the interrelatedness of the topics they study in school.

While on the surface this sounds easy, it is a shift for both students and teachers with regard to how we think about the work we do. Even among a highly collaborative and collegial staff like ours, there are challenges with aligning curriculum and coordinating the efforts of teachers and students to produce meaningful cross-curricular connections. Nonetheless, our eighth-grade team jumped in right out of the gate, bringing together the four core content areas of English, math, social studies, and science to encourage students to think about innovation and implications and to place them in the roles of inventors to plan, build, and test prototypes of their ideas.

In this eighth-grade project, English students read science fiction, debated ethical concerns related to technological innovation, and wrote project proposals. Science teachers helped students plan, build, and test prototypes. In social studies, students focused on exploration, innovation, and the patent process. In math, students developed scaled drawings of their prototype inventions. Everything was presented at the Invention Convention on October 14.

All of our students will have similar opportunities to engage in cross-curricular projects over the course of the year, which will help them to deepen their learning and make connections to the curriculum.

## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

This grant will support our schools in:

### • Inaugurating innovative educational programs.

Students and staff will learn about the importance of reducing waste and the impact that personal behavior can have on the larger community. The education components will include interactive assemblies from the Solana Center for Innovation at each of the elementary schools, and ongoing training throughout the year. The Solana Center will also provide lunchtime monitoring to support the development of better recycling habits.

### • Implementing a lunch waste sorting initiative.

Rather than throw styrofoam lunch trays into the trash, we will “tap and stack” them, and they will be picked up to be “upcycled,” or reused, to make new products. This new habit alone will lower our landfill waste and increase our recycling. Paper, glass, and aluminum will also be sorted and recycled.

### • Instituting new recycling programs.

A tan trash container and a blue recycle container will be placed in each CUSD classroom. We will have a “single stream recycling” process with our waste hauler, Republic, so there will be no need to sort bottles, aluminum cans, or paper anymore. New signage will clearly define what can be recycled and what is trash.

The CEF Grantwriting Collaborative's Chair, Rosemary Eshelman, says, “The Carlsbad Charitable Foundation grant targets elementary schools, but its efforts will have an impact districtwide. It will promote environmental stewardship and significantly reduce the amount of refuse sent to the landfill from our schools.”

Green Teams made up of students and staff will be established at each school. The ongoing education necessary for maintaining recycling programs at each site will be supported by staff, students and parents. Once established, we expect to save money by reducing waste hauling expenses and increasing recycling. More importantly, our students will learn how to act responsibly to protect our environment.

# Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • www.buenavista.schoolloop.com



**Tina Howard**  
Principal

## Having an Earthitude!

Before this school year, most of our Buena Vista Elementary School teachers utilized classroom reward tickets. The tickets were used to earn little trinkets as a reward for good classroom behavior and for following the “BV 3,” which are Safety, Respect, and Effort.

This year, our staff made a commitment to a more earth-friendly change. Rather than rewarding students with “stuff” made from plastics and other environmentally damaging items, our new “Privileges, not Prizes” program provides students with environmental impact-free privileges.

In Ms. Taunt’s fourth-grade classroom, students are able to pay five of their earned Dolphin Dollars to gain privileges such as a “Decorate your Desk.” Adalay and Gian in Ms. Taunt’s class chose to buy the privilege to decorate their desks. When asked why, Adalay responded, “It is nice to have my desk area full of things I love.” In Adalay’s case that was cats; in Gian’s case it was Zombie items.



**Cat desk.**



**Zombie desk.**

Some other privileges available to students include taking off their shoes in class, going to the front of the line at lunchtime, swapping seats with another student for the day, and reading to one of our preschool classes.

We are proud that our Privileges not Prizes program is reducing our school’s contribution to landfills! And, as Adalay shared, “I like it because I am not filling my room up with stuff, but instead have a choice of fun things to do.”

Watch for more earth-friendly activities going on at BV, because this year our students, staff, and families have an Earthitude!

## Teachers See the Possibilities

In Jennifer Swanson’s high school English class, seniors master material that prepares them for college and careers, gaining writing and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



Arroyo High School, Expository English Class, Teacher: Jennifer Swanson '96, M.A.Ed. '99

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# Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • www.ches.schoolloop.com



**Dr. Amy Bryant**  
Principal

## STEM Focused

Remember when you were in elementary school and your teacher had apple-themed activities to do, such as making apple-stamped pictures, tasting apples, and making apple crisp? Well, at Calavera Hills Elementary School (CHES), our kindergarten through fifth-grade students engage in unique versions of this traditional thematic study.

Using a Project-Based Learning (PBL) model, which relies on the engineering design process to structure student problem-solving, teachers instruct students every day in this model as a part of the school's mission to specialize in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Using the shared Calavera Hills Elementary and Middle School K-8 MakerSpace, students engineer and solve all types of problems in an environment that has a variety of tools, materials, structures, and flexible furniture to create open space.



One such activity involved a simple problem: How many apples of the same size and type can be stacked using different types of foundations? Foundations could include anything from tables, floors, hands, hats, and even heads. Later, students had to figure out how to maintain the stacks after the foundation was removed. They engineered a solution using different types of materials, including wood dowels, boxes, glue, and tape.



No matter what grade, kindergarten through fifth-grade students were able to predict, explore, test, fail, retry, and solve problems while explaining and justifying their choices. So, the next question to answer is "How do you like them apples?" Our students would say, "At CHES, them apples are sweet!"

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

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6400 • www.calavera.schoolloop.com



**Michael Ecker**  
Principal

## Inspired Curriculum

Carlsbad Unified is currently engaged in what we call a middle-school refresh—an audit of the status quo with strong support for relevant, authentic curriculum.

Some years back, the Design Team, a group made up of parents and staff at Calavera Hills Middle School, started looking around for schools that might share the vision. The team visited nearby schools that did things a bit different from how our traditional school does them. By the end of a year of multiple visits and multiple debrief sessions, we all knew that we wanted it—it comprising the excited students and parents, design thinking, quality STEM curriculum and high-quality Project-Based Learning (PBL).



Students engaged in a Design Challenge



Student designed virus container.



Students designed foot orthotic prototypes.

What we created here last year and what we continue to pursue this year is curriculum that matters and does its best to encourage students to design for the human experience. Passion projects were born at CHMS, and design challenges have joined PBL to unite standards and subjects in ways they always have been united. These human-centered projects, in the words of students, "encouraged me to change the world," "inspire me to pursue my passion," and "allowed me to practice something that I love doing at school and to share my passion with peers." This inspired curriculum has helped students design for the human experience and cut down on worksheet copies.

This year, students are designing orthotics for students with cerebral palsy, developing mechanisms for the safe transferring of viruses, and rethinking current civilization.

# Carlsbad *High School (9-12)*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com



**Dr. Joshua Porter**  
Principal

## Fall Activities

*By Jillian Della Penna and Lucy Zheng, CHS Publications Editors*

The annual Lancer Day Parade was a community wide success. Our students turned out in record numbers to join the Loud Crowd ready to cheer on the varsity football team at the recent Homecoming Game in October.

The Homecoming King and Queen were awarded to seniors Siddharth Bhatia and Melissa Kay for their genuine displays of Lancer pride, and their significant contributions to the Lancer community. Queen Melissa is an active member of our award-winning band and speech and debate team, and King Sid is a Loud Crowd leader, as well as actively involved in Best Buddies and the Associated Student Body. After a hard-fought battle on the field, the Oceanside Pirates left victorious 21-16, but the tough loss could not crush the crowd's spirit.

The PSAT was held on campus on October 19 to help students prepare for this year's SAT. Freshman students also attended presentations about four-year plans and learned about high school success skills. The programs were offered free to students so that they can continue to achieve our goal that all CHS graduates will be college and career ready.

Seven CHS teachers are participating with a consortium of other CUSD educators to learn about Project Based Learning, and are investigating new ways to incorporate student-focused learning strategies into their classrooms. They look forward to finding new ways to engage our students and tap into their problem-solving and 21st-century-skill building.



**2016 Alum Jake Stevens and Natalie Hendricks crown senior Sid Bhatia at the Homecoming assembly on Oct. 7 while the rest of the court cheers for the ASB member and Loud Crowd leader. Senior Melissa Kay was also selected to reign as Homecoming Queen.**

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# Carlsbad Village & Seaside Academies

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www.cva.schoolloop.com



**Jorge Espinoza**  
Principal

## Alternatives On the Path to Success

One size does not fit all. This is definitely the case when it comes to high school students. Carlsbad Unified School District (CUSD) has two fantastic high schools, but some students need something different than a traditional, comprehensive high school. That is where the two alternative high school programs, Carlsbad Village Academy and Carlsbad Seaside Academy, fill the void.

Carlsbad Village Academy provides a smaller environment for students who are at least 16 years old and have fallen behind in earning the necessary credits towards graduation. The school has smaller class sizes, a later start time, and earlier dismissal than the traditional programs. Students receive more one-on-one attention and are held accountable for their progress.

Many students take advantage of the shorter schedule and get part-time jobs or attend classes at Mira Costa Community College. It is challenging to motivate students who have struggled to succeed in school, but the staff offers just the right amount of encouragement to help the students overcome their challenges, make up their credits, and work towards earning their high school diplomas.

The other alternative option is Carlsbad Seaside Academy, a ninth - through 12th-grade independent study program. Students choose this program for a variety of reasons. Some are participating in sports at higher levels, and others feel that they learn better on their own. Students can take a full high school schedule, and they meet with their teachers at least once a week to go over assignments and check for understanding. This gives students ample time to pursue other interests or responsibilities. It also gives them strong ownership over their own learning.

High school students within the CUSD boundaries who would like to choose this program should contact Mr. Espinoza, the principal, to set up an appointment. He can be reached via e-mail at [jespinoza@carlsbadusd.net](mailto:jespinoza@carlsbadusd.net) or via phone at (760) 331-5299.

## Hope Elementary (K-6)

3010 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5900 • www.hope.schoolloop.com



**Richard Tubbs**  
Principal

## Second Annual Cardboard Challenge

When nine-year-old Caine Monroy spent his summer a few years ago using cardboard boxes to build arcade-type games in his dad's auto parts store, he never imagined he would spark a worldwide movement to promote creativity. Inspired by this story, which is now documented in a movie, "Caine's Arcade," Hope Elementary School parent Mrs. Kaskovich and teacher Mrs. Flores wanted to encourage this same type of creativity. So they started the Cardboard Challenge.

Hundreds of boxes and supplies were collected to provide three days of building fun for the students during recess. Students enjoyed recreating a seven-foot-tall clock tower, a six-foot-long boat, a robot, and several spaceships and games. Families joined in the fun during our weekend Day of Play to experience the cardboard creations.

We appreciate all the community members who donated supplies. We are also grateful to our parents who participated in making this a great event. And a special thank you to Mrs. Kaskovich and Mrs. Flores for coordinating this creative and constructive event!



Cardboard Challenge coordinators, Mrs. Kaskovich and Mrs. Flores

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • www.jefferson.schoolloop.com



**Chad Lund**  
Principal

## Perpetual Motion!

One of the keys to success at Jefferson has been consistent focus on physical fitness, which leads to improved focus, produces many health benefits, and pumps the brain full of good stuff. According to author Katherine Ellison, neuroscientists have found that exercise increases blood flow and the release of beneficial chemicals including dopamine, norepinephrine and serotonin, plus a substance known as BDNF (brain-derived neurotrophic factor), which essentially fertilizes new neurons, or brain cells.



Therefore, it was a no brainer—pun intended—to begin our MOTION program, a fitness-based approach to exercise versus a sports-based one. With sports, there may be periods of inaction, such as waiting for a turn to play, whereas with exercise, students are engaged the entire time. As long as children are moving, they're working on their fitness. After several years doing this, we're seeing children who are more fit and focused, and we're hitting our goal.



This year, we're aiming to expand our focus, adding new ideas and concepts. First we were able to obtain two sets of an obstacle course that creates a structure to encourage natural motion while participants have fun leaping, jumping, crawling and vaulting over and under the structure. Thanks to the many donors who made this happen for us!

We also obtained 30 large exercise balls, for which students in various classes swapped out their chairs! Now, instead of slouching in seats, they're actively moving their bodies and becoming more engaged.

Students are learning lifetime skills that will help keep them fit and focused at school and beyond.

# Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

4885 Kelly Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • www.kelly.schoolloop.com



**Tressie Armstrong**  
Principal

## Art! Music! Science! It's NGSS Arts Fusion!

This is an exciting time in education, when students are asked to own their own learning, work together and learn together, untangle the "web," think deep, think different, and create solutions. That's 21<sup>st</sup> century learning! What that requires is a shift in thinking for all of us. We must help children understand the interconnectedness of all things, including relationships with one another. With that in mind, Kelly School has developed a program called NGSS Arts Fusion—or simply Fusion! Our science teachers, art teacher, and music teacher have developed units using the Next Generation Science Standards, supported with activities and lessons in our design space and music center.

Thanks to the generosity and skills of our grade-level science teachers, Carlsbad Education Foundation and PTA, all our students receive Mystery Science, classroom hands-on science in our lab, design/art and music. And the best part is that it all fuses together!

One example is our fourth-grade students and their study of the human machine. In the classroom and hands-on science lab, they learned all the components of the human body and how they work. In the design space, they created body organs using clay and then worked collaboratively to place everything



**Brain**



**Collaboration**

where it belongs on a body outline. In music, the students learned how their bodies work kinesthetically and structurally.

In October, our parents also participated in our Fusion Program during our NGSS Arts Fusion Parent Night and saw what their children are learning—they know that a whole lot of thinking is going on!

# Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5600 • www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Aaron Nelson**  
*Principal*

## Challenge Inspires Creative Solutions

Magnolia Elementary strives to make learning relevant and meaningful for students. Research and experience indicate that student engagement increases when they're challenged with questions and problems that require them to think critically, work collaboratively, and build complex solutions. The process of exploring problems allows students to creatively bring together multiple strategies and disciplines in ways that mirror real life.

Therefore, teachers at Magnolia have begun exploring driving questions to guide student learning. In kindergarten, teachers and students tackled the problem of designing tools to measure weather. As part of their project, students learned about different elements of weather, explored tools with their second-grade buddies, and discussed weather tracking and measurement with members of a television news team.

Allison MacBeth, Diana Sturiale and Lisa Clark have been working with their students to explore creative solutions for developing an outdoor learning space. Students are designing spaces and exploring the building process, materials, code requirements and associated costs related to their designs. Students will then be pitching their proposals for developing the space to representatives from the district office, the CUSD board and the local business community.

"Students are engaged and excited," Ms. MacBeth said. "We are seeing creativity that we have never seen before."

This excitement and enthusiasm are also opening new doors for teachers and students to rethink content delivery, and it's inspiring greater levels of engagement across the board.

"Students ask for time to work on their projects," Ms. Sturiale said. "The buy-in for the students has been incredible!"



**Fox5 San Diego visits kindergarten weather unit.**

# Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com



**Robert Devich**  
*Principal*

## Creating an Online Community

Pacific Rim has jumped into the social media world this year. We are committed to expanding communication to our families and the community by using Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, as well as our school website.

We have begun by sharing what's happening on campus. Check out a recent post on our newly elected student council members! We love showcasing student work to offer our parents insight into what their children are doing in the classroom.

We also feel that building an online community is a great way for everyone to keep up to date with school activities and feel a part of our busy campus. You can follow Mr. Devich and Pacific Rim on Twitter and Instagram at @robertdevich, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pacificrimelem>.

Our students are continuing to use new technologies in the classroom, and our teachers are finding creative ways to utilize our Chromebooks. In our third-grade classrooms, teachers have started using Google Cast, which allows students to showcase great work by projecting their screen wirelessly from anywhere in the room.

The fifth-graders have started to work with our new technology teacher, Mrs. Tokunaga. They are learning a presentation program called Prezi. Soon they will be able to create fun and exciting presentations for their upcoming chemistry unit. Our kindergartners are also learning to use Seesaw to create online portfolios of their work.

Our students are engaged in their learning, and have enjoyed expressing themselves through technology.



# Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Marjorie Giordani**  
*Principal*

## Recycling

This has been a great start to a new school year! Poinsettia Elementary School's students are recycling! After years of recycling at home and in the classroom, students are now sorting their snack and lunch waste.

The Solana Center provided two school assemblies to teach students and staff about sustainable practices for reducing waste at our school. We now have color-coded trash cans for students to use to sort their waste at lunch and to stack their foam lunch trays for upcycling.

Poinsettia's sorting station has one green can for food waste, one blue can for recycling of paper, plastics, and other recyclable materials, and one grey can for landfill and trash items. All cans are labeled with large and appropriate signage.

The goal is to create a simple system to encourage students to become environmental stewards and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill by 50 percent! Our students are quick to do their part to reduce waste.



# Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600 • www.sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Cesar Morales**  
*Principal*

## World of Work

On October 19, Sage Creek High School (SCHS) partnered with community leaders and professionals across the county to host the first ever Bobcat World Of Work (WOW) Day. The inspirational WOW event invited students to discover their personal passions and helped to develop post-secondary visions for careers and college. The event highlighted professionals from four of the fastest growing industries in San Diego, including healthcare, life sciences, information communication and technology, and clean energy.



SCHS students had the opportunity to attend a keynote address by Josh Williams, the president of a research firm. They also engaged in discussions about the relevant skills necessary to be successful and competitive in the world of work and learned firsthand from industry professionals. The Bobcat team was excited to bring this unique event to Sage Creek as they continue their mission of creating an interconnected learning community that prepares students to thrive as responsible citizens in an ever-changing world.

Whether discovering new cancer treatments or teaching healthy lifestyle choices to their communities, today's biomedical science professionals are tackling big challenges to make the world a better place. Under the guidance of teachers Juli Bachman and Valerie Park, Sage Creek's biomedical science students are taking on these same real-world challenges. Working with the same tools used by professionals in hospitals and labs, SCHS students engage in compelling, hands-on activities and work together to find solutions to problems.



# Valley Middle School (6-8)

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • www.vms.schoolloop.com



**Nicole Johnston**  
Principal

## Greeting from Our New Leader

As the new principal of Valley Middle School (VMS), I am finding Carlsbad to be a perfect environment for innovation and development. The parent/teacher community has been very supportive, and the students have been great. I may be new to the Carlsbad community, having recently moved from Northern California, but I bring over 20 years in education as a classroom teacher, an instructional coach, an elementary and middle school principal, and most recently as the director of assessment in the Cupertino Union School District.

My short time here at VMS has been a whirlwind of activity and excitement. I have been blessed to have the support of a great assistant principal, Julie Steitz, who brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and insight that has been invaluable these past few months. Together, we will continue to build upon the success and hard work of Valley Middle community while at the same time seek collaboration and creativity, and foster shared leadership with our teachers and parents to ensure that Valley Middle students are prepared to be 21st century learners.



Our sixth-grade students started the year off with getting used to a new campus, changing teachers, and settling into Viking culture. We were proud to send over 200 sixth-grade students to Camp Marston in Julian to spend a week at Science Camp in mid-September. What an incredible opportunity for our community to bond and learn what it means to be a Viking family!

We look forward to continuing in this growth and having a fantastic school year.

## A SHIFT IN MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION • From Page 1

of this new math movement, which will bring focus, coherence, and rigor to instruction districtwide.

The process began in Fall 2015 with the formation of an Elementary Math Pilot Committee, made up of K-5 teachers and specialists and headed up by Director of Elementary Education Kimberly Huesing. The team visited the San Diego County Office of Education to review all approved math instructional materials. It selected two programs for further investigation.

Starting in November, 2015, the two programs were employed as pilot projects in selected classrooms throughout the district -- at least one in each school and at least one at each grade level. In the end, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's "Go Math" series was chosen, by teachers and by the Committee, as the better program for its structured lesson plans, rigor, technology support, and its "math talk" component. Go Math was formally adopted by the school board in the Spring.

### Teaching Students to Talk Math

The new state standards require students to "use mathematics to solve problems and develop 'habits of mind' that foster mastery of mathematics content as well as mathematical understanding." (CA CCSSM, 2013.) In line with the standards, students in the Go Math series put math into practice; they learn not only to solve a math problem but also to explain in small groups how they came up with the answer. Students describe solutions to math problems in real-life, understandable terms. They might explain  $12 \times 3 = 36$  by likening it to carrying three dozen eggs: "You know there are 12 eggs in each carton, and there are 3 cartons, so there are 36 eggs altogether. Don't trip!" Emma Cobb, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), piloted Go Math in her classroom at Buena Vista Elementary School. "The biggest difference was the conceptual piece -- not just teaching how to do the problem, but helping students understand why, and training them to explain their solutions to the problem in their own words," said Ms. Cobb.

### Online Learning Tools

Go Math also incorporates extensive online technology tools to help teachers teach and students learn. It provides teachers with easy tools for identifying which skills their students have mastered and which ones need to be re-taught. Students, in turn, are offered access to videos to clarify a lesson or to help them make up a class they missed. Students also can take tests, do homework, or complete classroom assignments online. A Personal Math Trainer feature individualizes instruction for students, zeroing in on their particular needs. According to Mrs. Lindholm, first grade teacher at Magnolia, "These online features are user-friendly for students and their parents. They can log on at home and interact with the lessons."

## Teacher Training

A successful "math adoption" requires consistent training, practice, and support for teachers. At Carlsbad Unified, all teachers attended a half-day training at the beginning of the year, and teachers at each grade level later received an additional half day of training. TOSA Emma Cobb attends school staff meetings, models instruction in classrooms, and is currently creating a video bank of demonstration lessons for teachers. A Math Strategies Committee, made up of at least one teacher from each school, meets once a month to write lesson plans. Committee members then share those lessons back at their schools.

Aaron Nelson, Magnolia Elementary's principal, believes that the new math adoption has many advantages. "This is new undertaking for all of us, and the most effective approaches to teaching and learning are when all are learning together -- it's powerful learning. The reliance we have on each other has beefed up our team dynamic even beyond math."

Students are experiencing math presented in a different way. There are more videos and manipulatives, which make learning math more tangible. "As we build capacity it will start to look a little different for students," says principal Nelson. "It will open opportunities to extend math into real-world interdisciplinary fields, such as coding. We already see a transition to project-based learning at our school, beginning with a project in which students will use math skills to design a flexible learning space for students on our campus."

## It's a big shift

As education turns its attention to the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, parents, politicians, and educators similarly are focusing on critical thinking skills and on preparation for the careers of the future. With Carlsbad Unified's mathematics shift, students will be delving into richer mathematical depth and spending more time on math's practical applications and real-world connections.

Two years ago, the middle and high school math team selected Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's "Go Math" series to guide math instruction at the secondary level. Now that the elementary schools have adopted it as well, math curriculum, instruction, professional learning, assessment, and accountability (including the SBAC) will be aligned K-12 to support student attainment of the state standards.

Gina Fogarty serves on the Elementary Math Committee and teaches second grade at Pacific Rim. "Go Math has a lot of components, so it takes some time to learn all of the pieces, but then it becomes manageable. We need time to build confidence in teaching this program. Change is scary, but important. The students will be better prepared to understand math concepts."

"There is a learning curve for all of us," said Elementary Director Kimberly Huesing. "Administrators, teachers, students, and parents. It is going to take communication, time, special training, practice and experimentation. This is a different way to teach -- a 'flipped design' that lets students challenge themselves in discovering math. Parents might want to watch some of the videos with their students. The kids? They will do great."

## The Playground Zone



**Kate Karp**

For some, particularly the younger some, hip-hop is a playlist staple. For others a generation or three older, it's at best an acquired taste. And the menu on this lively collection is sufficiently spicy and substantial to satisfy any listener. It was cooked up by teacher/artists, songwriters and performers Kaitlin

McGaw and Tommy Shepherd, along with the various other guest artists who comprise Alphabet Rockers.

As their website says, the songs were "fully kid tested" in Oakland-area schools and apparently pronounced delicious. The lyrics are a call to anyone who needs a hand up—or wants to put an elbow up, is different externally or internally, or just wants to move. "Players' Life" sings about each child's right to play in a safe area and his or her responsibility to create one. "That's Your Name, Wear It Out" tweaks and twiddles with children's own names and identities, inviting listeners to join in. "Gimme Some Skin" and "Oddball," to which a lot of us young and old surely can relate, wondrously segue into appreciation and acceptance, and "Change the World" sums up the collection.

And just for fun, there's "Wiggle Jiggle"—and why not? That's what hip-hop's about. No matter what your musical tastes are now, this collection guarantees that everyone's going to taste it, feel it and put those elbows up!



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

## A Twist On a Classic

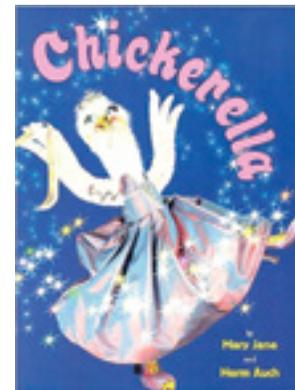


**Richard J.**

*Chickerella*

Written and Illustrated by Mary Jane Auch

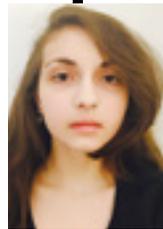
In the beginning it is like the usual Cinderella story about how chicken Cinderella, named Chickerella gets an Evil Stepmother, and starts living in a coop behind the house. Then, because of her poor diet, the eggs she lays become more and more transparent, until they are pure glass. When it's time for the Prince's ball, the Fairy Goosemother appears and helps Chickerella go to the ball, but warns her that she must be back by midnight. So, Chickerella goes to the ball, meets the Prince, and when the clock strikes midnight, Chickerella runs away and leaves behind a glass egg! The next day the prince sends his servants to look for the chicken who laid the glass egg. When they find Chickerella, the Prince tells her that instead of getting married, he wants to start a fashion line with her! When the Fairy Goosemother hears this, she appears and asks if she could help and design clothes for the line. In the end the three friends start a successful clothing line and live fashionably ever after! I liked that the book starts like the usual Cinderella story, but has a funny, unexpected twist, ending in a fashion show instead of a happy marriage.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

## Christina's Book Review

### Captivating to Read



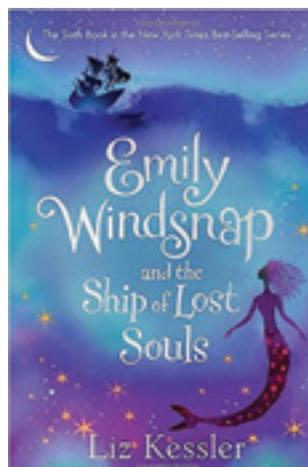
**Christina J.**

*Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Lost Souls*, written by Liz Kessler, is about the main character Emily, who keeps seeing a mysterious ship appearing and disappearing without a trace, only at certain hours each day, growing fainter each time. Emily and her

friends try to figure out the mystery behind it, and the closest they could get to solving it is that a similar looking ship had recently disappeared with all its passengers on board. Later Emily finds herself near the ship and bravely accepts the challenge to solve its mystery once and for all. She meets people having a good time, without any care in the world about their past. Emily comes to realize that these people are the missing passengers of the missing ship and that they had their memories of the past slowly erased, and now they are stuck on this ship that is temporarily suspended in between our world and Atlantis. Emily only has a few hours to save the doomed passengers before they are all trapped in another dimension forever. With quick thinking Emily manages to find a way to save everybody and reunite them with their families.

I liked this book a lot. The story unfolded smoothly and was very captivating to read, keeping me guessing and worrying along the way with the main character. The suspense is great and the story itself is mind-boggling.

I rate this book 5 out of 5, with five being the best.



Christina J. is a 7th grader. 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).

## Michael's Book Review

### The Hardy Boys - The Missing Mitt

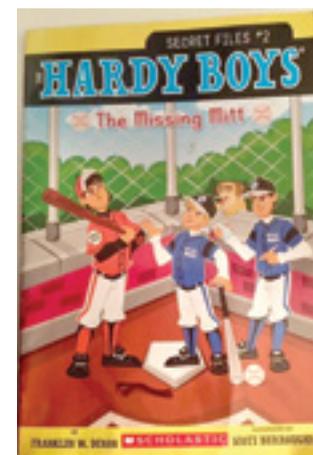


**Michael H.**

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their Team the Bayport Bandits were all ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad Winner Prime had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.

Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.



Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

# A Magical Box



Naomi

*The Secret Kingdom* by Rosie Banks

*The Secret Kingdom* is a book full of mystery, suspense, adventure, thrills and excitement.

This book is about three girls called Jasmine, Ellie and Summer who found a magical box that gave them a riddle. That the girls couldn't solve. Therefore the box

sent the three girls to another world where they saw fairies, kings, queens, and trolls. Where they also went through different stages in weather. After going through all that adventure the three girls solved the riddle. Then the box sent the three girls back home. Where they made sure to put the box in a safe place where no one could ever find it again.

I give this book 5 stars because it is interesting and has many different scenes that just make me want to keep reading it over and over again. This is why I recommend this book to everyone.



Naomi is a fourth grader that enjoys reading and writing. But aside from her joy of reading she loves to play the piano, drawing, coloring and be involved in any school event. She rates her book from 1-5 stars with 5 being the highest.

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE • From Page 3

program has expanded by almost 450 percent. In all, almost 2,100 high school students have benefitted from the program, with the total number of classes taken by concurrently enrolled students since the fall of 2013 reaching nearly 3,400. That growth will continue, as we expanded our selection of college courses to high school students this fall through a new program that offers several classes at Cathedral Catholic High School in Carmel Valley.

With the rising cost of a four-year college or university, attending a high-quality community college such as MiraCosta just makes sense. Nationally, seven in 10 seniors who graduated from public and nonprofit colleges and universities in 2014 left with student debt, according to a report from the nonprofit Institute for College Access & Success. And in California, the average debt exceeded \$21,000.

Some students don't even have to leave MiraCosta College to secure a bachelor's degree. A partnership between MiraCosta College and Point Loma Nazarene University enables our nursing graduates to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing from PLNU by taking their upper division courses at the Oceanside Campus and online. And beginning next fall, MiraCosta will offer a new baccalaureate program in the rapidly growing field of biomanufacturing.

All of these reasons and more are why so many of our high school students, who are among the brightest in the country, are choosing to attend your community college.

## We Love Our Dogs

## Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by December 15, 2016  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |            |                    |                |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Akita      | Dalmatian          | Puli           |
| Basenji    | Doberman           | Rottweiler     |
| Beagle     | Great Dane         | Saint Bernard  |
| Bloodhound | Labrador Retriever | Samoyed        |
| Boxer      | Malamute           | Shiba Inu      |
| Bulldog    | Mastiff            | Shih Tzu       |
| Chihuahua  | Pinscher           | Siberian Husky |
| Chow Chow  | Poodle             | Weimaraner     |
| Collie     | Pug                | Xoloitzcuintli |



**Congratulations to Ethan Miles**  
**Winner of the June Word Search Contest!**

2 Games in 1!

Kids!  
Teens!  
Adults!

G A Z U M P  
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Dicey Fun  
P W N Z G



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



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\*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com). Past performance does not predict future results. Source: [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com)



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit [ScholarShare.com](http://ScholarShare.com) for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.