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School News

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Covering the Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach City, Ocean View, and Westminster School Districts

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Building A Solid Foundation In Kindergarten

*By Beverlee Mathenia,
Executive Director of Early Education
& Expanded Learning
and Darcy Spicer,
School Readiness Teacher*

The Westminster School District (WSD) wastes no time getting students college and career ready. Beginning in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten, we work to build a solid foundation for learning that sets our students up for long-term success.

We ensure that students are provided with plenty of opportunities to become well rounded and to hone their skills in a variety of areas.

All school sites utilize transformative practices like active student-centered learning, peer-to-peer collaboration and engagement through experiences that start in the TK and Kindergarten classrooms. The learning spaces are flexible and agile with soft seating and interactive displays to accommodate the different learning needs of students. Technology devices are also used in the district's instructional program to encourage a student's choice of expression, and to increase their digital learning skills.

Equally important in our TK and Kindergarten programs is the social-emotional development of our students. Understanding the long-term benefit of a strong foundation in emotional maturity, our teachers seek to prepare these young students for a lifetime of collaborative teamwork and resiliency. The TK program consists of a balanced approach between teacher-directed and child-directed learning, employing the High Scope curriculum. TK students are encouraged to work through conflict resolution and peer interactions with the facilitation of the teacher. TK teachers have specialized early education training and experience to move their students to the next level in collaborative communication.



Kindergarten students continue working on social-emotional development through the Wonders curriculum, which highlights empathy, self-regulation, and overall social competence.

As a language-diverse community of learners, teachers utilize strategies to help build vocabulary and comprehension for English Learners and English-only speakers through visual strategies with Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) and Thinking Maps. These strategies help students organize their comprehension of concepts and move toward literacy mastery. Additionally, in striving to meet the needs of various types and levels of learners, teachers use the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) methods to ensure all students are being challenged and are maximizing their potential.

The Westminster School District is always looking for ways to give our students a competitive advantage and we have an impressive history of being ahead of the curve. For instance, we were the first district in California to

implement a Vietnamese Dual Immersion Program at DeMille Elementary and we were the first in Orange County to open a Computer Science Magnet School at Finley Elementary. In addition, we have a Language Academy that includes a Spanish Dual Immersion program coupled with computer coding at Willmore Elementary, and a GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Academy at Sequoia Elementary that are sought out by families because of their emphasis on 21st century skills.

Both the TK and Kindergarten programs benefit from a full-day schedule, allowing teachers to work with their students toward mastery of their social-emotional and academic abilities. Kindergarten is an important milestone in a child's life and it can play an important role in shaping their perception of school. Our teachers want our kindergarteners to be excited about coming to school each day and to enjoy themselves while they are here.

Every year, we hold a comprehensive Kindergarten Information Night at each school site to provide parents with helpful information on the features and benefits of our programs, grade levels, registration and more. This year, Kindergarten Information Night will be held on Wednesday, January 30, from 6:30pm – 7:30pm at all of our elementary schools.

Fountain Valley



Dr. Mark Johnson
Superintendent
pages 6–9

Huntington Beach City



Gregory Haulk
Superintendent
pages 10–12

Ocean View



Dr. Carol Hansen
Superintendent
pages 13–18

Westminster



Dr. Gary Rutherford
Interim
Superintendent
pages 19–24

**Also
Inside:**

**Fountain Valley Regional Hosp. & Medical Center page 3 • Miller Children's & Women's Hosp. Long Beach page 4 • Ortho Matters page 5
Mayors of Fountain Valley & Huntington Beach page 5 • Huntington Beach & Westminster Libraries pages 26 • Common Sense page 25**

A close-up photograph of two young girls with light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. The girl on the right is wearing a pink and orange striped shirt. The image is framed by a light blue curved border.

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Dr. Andrew Harner DDS, MS

President, California Association of Orthodontists



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

Beginning a new year is always fun and refreshing to make resolutions or set goals. According to statistics among the most common resolutions are healthier choices and to spend more time with family. In this issue both of our hospital articles are on heart disease, Dr. Harner writes about dental health, and the Common Sense topic on page 25 is tips for a Happy Kid in the Digital Age. Maybe these will help with your resolutions.

This issue is full of information of how the districts are doing their part for your children. Enjoy!

Our next issue is March 13.

Heart Disease in Women

Although many people associate heart disease with men, it's the leading cause of death for women in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly two-thirds of women who die suddenly of heart disease had no previous symptoms. Women are more likely to describe this chest pain as sharp or burning, and are more prone to pains in the neck, jaw, throat, upper abdomen or back.

In some cases, heart disease in women is not diagnosed until one or more of the following conditions occur:

- Heart Attack
- Heart Failure
- Arrhythmia
- Stroke

Although the traditional risk factors for heart disease – such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure and obesity – affect women and men equally, other factors may play a bigger role for women, such as:

Mental stress and depression affect women's hearts more than men's.

Smoking is a greater risk factor for heart disease in women than in men.

Low levels of estrogen after menopause pose a significant risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease in the smaller blood vessels.

While heart disease can occur in anyone, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking are considered key risk factors. Other medical conditions and lifestyle factors including diabetes, overweight/obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity, and excessive alcohol use put people at even higher risk.

Fortunately, you can reduce your likelihood of developing heart disease by:

- Exercising
- Making healthy food choices
- Lowering your stress level
- Not smoking
- Working with your doctor to treat existing conditions and monitor your overall health

#HeartHealth

Your heart works hard for you every single day. It's time to return the favor.

February is American Heart Month, which means this is a great time to focus on the engine that keeps your body running. Despite the many advancements in modern healthcare, heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of men and women in the U.S. Do you know your heart? Do you know your risk?

Take our cardiac health risk assessment at FountainValleyHospital.com/heartcare



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Have a Heart Healthy New Year



Saar Danon, M.D.
*medical director,
Pediatric
cardiology and
congenital
cardiac
catheterization,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach*

Busy schedules can make it easier to eat out rather than preparing a healthy dinner for your family, especially around the holidays. But with each New Year comes a new opportunity to start your family on the path to a heart healthy lifestyle.

In the past three decades, childhood obesity has more than tripled. More young children are being diagnosed with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and Type 2 diabetes – conditions that were previously mostly seen in adults. Living a healthy lifestyle takes commitment, but if you work together as a family, you can decrease everyone's risk for heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

Here are some simple steps you can take to improve your child's health and lower their risk for heart disease, diabetes and obesity:

Be a Role Model

- Eat and snack healthy
- Try new activities, like hiking, biking or swimming
- Exercise

Enjoy Family Meals

- Turn off electronic devices during dinner
- Cook together
- Limit fat intake
- Don't completely ban sweets, but save them for special occasions

Get Physical

- Be active together
- Limit screen time
- Plan active weekends
- Add activity into routines, like parking further away at the store
- Do physical activities around the house like jumping rope, doing jumping jacks or even having a dance party



Prepare Healthy After-School Snacks

- Research and plan snacks together
- Make healthy snacks readily available
- Create fun snacks as a family
- Limit sugary beverages

With the holidays behind you, take this opportunity to have a heart healthy 2019!

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Erik Peterson
Mayor

Happy New Year!

For the past four years, it has been my honor to serve on City Council representing the residents of Huntington Beach. This year I am proud to serve as your Mayor.

As many of you know, I have lived my life in Huntington Beach. My wife Brandy is a teacher. She and I are both graduates of local area public schools. We have raised our family here and are proud of our two sons who graduated from Marina High. Not only are both my sons Eagle Scouts, but my oldest son obtained an internship at JPL while attending Cal State Long Beach Engineering program.

Needless to say, education is very important to our family. I firmly believe the city's health is measured by quality education that contributes to the quality of life of our residents.

As Mayor, I will work for you at City Hall to preserve our quality of life, suburban beach community and promote quality education for our children. I will continue to focus on government transparency providing residents with a window into what's going on at City Hall.

I am privileged to have served my country as a Marine, your City Councilmember and now as your Mayor.

Let's make 2019 one of the best years yet!

City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

10200 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/593-4400 • www.fountainvalley.org



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor

New Year's Resolutions

Returning to school after the Holidays! What a challenge? After being off for the last two weeks. But think! What an opportunity to start with a clean slate with an energized attitude. We are all drawn by the promise of a fresh start the New Year seems to offer. Goals motivate us, provide structure, and lend meaning and purpose to our life. Many people may make a promise to themselves or others to make changes to begin exercising, starting a diet, or maybe saving more money, or paying off your credit card bills. While many people do attempt to change, nearly one third of the population don't even bother with making a new year's resolution. So what will you do? I wish you good luck! Have A Happy New Year!



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Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

#Smiles

As an orthodontist, I love perfect smiles! So I am not at all surprised by the results of a study that reported the first thing people notice when they meet someone is their smile. In fact, 47% of respondents notice people's smile first, followed by their eyes (31%), their smell (11%), their clothes (7%) and finally their hair (4%). For this reason alone, I say show off those pearly whites! And if you want to improve your smile, there are so many great reasons to do so.

The perception of being successful: Based on a survey done in 2012, when Americans were asked about having crooked teeth, an overwhelming 78% of them associated crooked teeth with unsuccessful people.

It's easier to clean aligned teeth and maintain overall health: Studies have shown that straight teeth are easier to clean than crooked teeth. When teeth are difficult to keep clean, gum disease can develop which has been shown to be a risk factor for coronary artery disease.

Less likely to be bullied as a child: A recent study found that children with severely protruded upper front teeth, often called "buck teeth," were more likely to be bullied and teased.

Prevention of trauma and adverse tooth wear: Children with 'buck teeth' are at an increased risk of chipping these teeth and can benefit from early orthodontic treatment.

Breathing issues: There is a growing body of evidence that the size and position of the jaws can influence the ability to breath efficiently and is linked to sleep disordered breathing.

Nowadays its so much easier for adults and children to improve their smiles. Clear aligners (Invisalign) and braces/wires have made treatment faster, easier, and more esthetic than ever. So, get the smile you deserve.

Dr. Andrew Harner is the President of the California Association of Orthodontists. He is an orthodontic specialist and maintains a private practice in Huntington Beach. He has served on the Board of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists, and is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists. (714) 842-9933.



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Dr. Mark Johnson

Measure O Work Continues to Move Along at an Impressive Pace in FVSD

Since the passing of Measure O in November 2016, we have made tremendous progress in modernizing our schools! We are pleased to report that Phase II of modernization at Masuda Middle School is complete! The A Core boasts new flooring, paint, ceilings and most importantly, air conditioning! Teachers moved back into their rooms over the Thanksgiving Recess, and greeted students to their new classrooms in late November. This is in addition to the updates brought with the completion of Phase I, including modernization of their administrative offices, library, media center and stage.

In addition, Phase IA and IB are complete at Courreges School, which included modernized classrooms in their kindergarten core, and updates to their administrative offices, staff lounge and restrooms. We are also thrilled to report that Phase II is set to finish in the coming weeks. Phase II involves newly modernized classrooms for many of their upper grade teachers on the northeast side of campus. Work at both Courreges and Masuda continues to move along at an impressive pace!!



A completed classroom at Masuda Middle School boasts new paint, flooring, ceiling, and most importantly, air conditioning!

Moreover, the next three schools to undergo modernization, Cox Elementary, Tamura Elementary and Fulton Middle School are currently being reviewed by the Division of State Architects (DSA), and we hope to have approved plans by February. A big thank you goes out to the staff, students and families at both Courreges and Masuda for their understanding and flexibility during modernization. And, a tremendous thank you goes out to our community for its generous support of Measure O!! Lastly, I want to personally thank our Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mrs. Christine Fullerton, and our Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations, Mr. Joe Hastie, for their ongoing efforts to lead our Measure O projects with great passion and expertise.

Moreover, the next three schools to undergo modernization, Cox Elementary, Tamura Elementary and Fulton Middle School are currently being reviewed by the Division of State Architects (DSA), and we hope to have approved plans by February. A big thank you goes out to the staff, students and families at both Courreges and Masuda for their understanding and flexibility during modernization. And, a tremendous thank you goes out to our community for its generous support of Measure O!! Lastly, I want to personally thank our Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mrs. Christine Fullerton, and our Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations, Mr. Joe Hastie, for their ongoing efforts to lead our Measure O projects with great passion and expertise.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ian Collins
President

FVSD Convenes Safe Schools Task Force

In Fountain Valley School District, student and staff safety continue to be our number one priority! It is something that our Board of Trustees takes very seriously as we know that students who feel safe, connected, nurtured and cared for at school are able to learn and perform at higher levels. To ensure that we continue to evolve, grow and improve in the area of school safety, I am thrilled to report that FVSD has convened a Safe Schools Task Force (SSTF) to study all aspects of school safety.

Before sharing more on our SSTF, I would like to capture some of our most recent enhancements or improvements related to school safety. This fall, we purchased new backpacks and resource guides for every classroom. We also implemented a new visitor management system that requires visitors to scan a government issued ID, which is run through the Megan's Law background check. This system also allows our site administrators to know exactly who is on campus during an emergency. In addition, all staff members wear an ID badge at all times, clearly indicating who is allowed to be on our campuses. One of my favorite changes is the addition of counseling services at each of our seven elementary schools, as we know that many mental health issues begin at these ages. And, we have increased our level of training for all staff members throughout the District.



Members of Safe Schools Task Force meet to study, research and discuss key facets of school safety at all FVSD schools.

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We regard to our SSTF, the group has already met two times this fall and is made up of a variety of stakeholders, including: teachers, classified staff, administrators, parents, community members, various public safety officers (FVPD, HBPD, FVFD), as well as School Board Trustees. Our Superintendent, Dr. Mark Johnson, is leading our efforts and has helped us clearly define the elements of school safety. These elements are School Climate/Mental Health, Emergency Preparedness, Communication, Partnerships with Outside Organizations, and Physical Environments. Each of these very important topics is being led by a subcommittee that is studying, analyzing and discussing our strengths and possible next steps in each area.

In light of the recent tragedies involving schools, it is critical that we consider all aspects of school safety. Student safety is our primary concern, but we must consider employees, both our teachers and classified staff, as well.

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.courreges.fvdsd.us



Geo Bee

Courreges students squared off in the annual Geography Bee on December 6, 2018. 30 students competed in a thrilling contest of “geo wits” as students were asked a variety of questions about our world’s geography. Congratulations to 1st place winner Niko Kvesic (left) and Mason Conit (right) who made it to the championship round. Niko now qualifies for a chance to compete at the state level later this year.

Chris Christensen
Principal



Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6-8)*

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • www.fulton.fvdsd.us



Inspiring Falcon Pride

Student Council elections are held each spring for the upcoming school year at Fulton Middle School.

Our Executive Board, under the guidance of Fulton Activities Director Jennifer Rose, works with the homeroom representatives to plan activities throughout the school year. Around campus, school spirit is promoted through classroom competitions and spirit days.

Additionally, our Student Council plans our school dances, the philanthropic drives, and helps out around campus during special events.

This school year has already proven to be incredibly busy on campus. The ASB has sponsored monthly Spirit Wars and The Great Pumpkin Competition, immediately followed by the holiday door-decorating contest and multiple “Falcon Friday” spirit days. Our students are looking forward to the spring dance, but in the meantime, everyone is enjoying the once-a-month “Rockin’ Lunch” hosted by the ASB.

The Fulton student body is looking forward to a fun and exciting spring with the many activities that our Council has planned!



Back: Activities Director Mrs. Rose, Secretary Donovan Doan, Vice President Jeanine Dang, Sports Commissioners An Nguyen, Publicity Commissioner Cara Nguyen, President Kenzo Osmena
Front: Activities Commissioners Lauren Do and Caleb Pham, Treasurer Ashley Do

James H. Cox *Elementary (K-5)*

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.cox.fvdsd.us



Congratulations, Ms. Buck!

In November, the 2019 Orange County Teachers of the Year ceremony was held at a resort hotel in Anaheim. James H. Cox Elementary School’s very own Niki Buck, a third-grade teacher, was recognized at the county level as 2019 Orange County Teacher of the Year, representing the entire Fountain Valley School District.

The event, filled with glitz and glamour, reflected the theme “I Am a Teacher.” County superintendent Al Mijares took time to recognize Ms. Buck for her excellence in education. Even Mickey and Minnie Mouse took time out of their busy schedules to congratulate our very own Niki Buck!

Congratulations! Thank you for your instructional excellence in the classroom and your professionalism and kindness outside.



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.gisler.fvdsd.us



Giving Back

Every year our Gisler Student Council gives back to local charities. This year our Student Council wanted to help those affected by recent wildfires and donate to The Red Cross. The group organized a “Dime Drive” by giving each classroom a water bottle with the hopes that each class would fill one bottle of dimes which is approximately \$50. Executive board members and class representatives decorated classroom bottles, designed a poster for the window box, and collected money each day. The goal was to raise \$500 for the Red Cross. Our Gisler Gators outdid themselves and we raised a little over \$1,800!! Thank you to everyone that donated



Gisler Executive Board in front of the Dime Drive poster to raise money for the Red Cross.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masuda.fvgsd.us



Jay Adams
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Modernization’s Well Underway!

Masuda is well into our construction/modernization project, and we are reaping the benefits!! Two of our five phases have been completed now, and we are currently moving into the third! Our new classrooms have new ceilings, freshly painted walls, new carpet and best of all—air conditioning! The students are greatly enjoying the cooler environments in which to learn, as are their hardworking teachers!

In addition, Masuda is receiving a new roof/façade and an overhaul in our media center, and will eventually be receiving a dedicated music room and four science/lab classrooms.

The excitement around school is palpable, and the Masuda family is extremely grateful to our Fountain Valley community for the passage of Measure O, whose funding is making all of this possible. We also thank all students and staff for their patience as we complete our projects.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.oka.fvgsd.us



Erik Miller
Principal

Family First

Oka Elementary School is an amazing school, but we’re really a collective family that is focused on providing special memories as part of the education for our students.

During the month of November, Oka’s PTO hosted a Silent Auction and Family Movie Night under the stars on the Oka lawn. Families were able to have dinner, hang out, and enjoy the great weather before enjoying a movie together! Less than two weeks later, we filled our lunch area with hundreds of students and families again, this time for an evening of illusions hosted by magician Brock Edwards.

Oka recognizes these times we get to spend together as special moments, and we cherish them as much as we enjoy teaching students how to solve problems, read, and write. The school that spends time together stays together and is all the better for it...because the strength of the pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the pack.



William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvgsd.us



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Professional Learning Communities

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) help to shift teachers from a focus on teaching to a focus on learning. Teachers at Newland Elementary School recognize that they must work together to achieve their collective purpose of learning for all. Therefore, they create structures to promote a collaborative culture.

The powerful collaboration that characterizes PLCs is a systematic process in which teachers work together to analyze and improve their classroom practices. Teachers work in teams, engaging in an ongoing cycle of questions that promote deep team learning. This process, in turn, leads to higher levels of student achievement.



Newland has made a commitment to collaboration. When educators do the hard work necessary to implement these principles, their collective ability to help all students learn will rise.

Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School (6–8)*

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbert.fvgsd.us



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Molly Kuykendall
Assistant Principal

The Arts are Alive at Talbert

With the support of the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation, the arts have really been growing here at Talbert during the last few years.

While Talbert is a proud STEAM Middle School, our new music teacher, Mr. Sean Adamiak, and the Talbert music program have been exceptional in showing off the “A” in STEAM. Performing at such events as our winter concert, a choral concert at Bella Tera, and the district soccer tournament, our students have really been showing off their talents!

Through beginning- and advanced-level classes in band and orchestra, as well as choir, our students have many opportunities to learn the world of music. Additionally, Talbert drama, run by Mrs. Brooke James, was bursting with holiday spirit by spreading kindness and joy in their performance of The Last Stop Till Christmas.

The arts provide opportunities for students to shine as well as develop skills in the world of music and performance. For the last two years we have been blessed with having Ms. Elena MacDonald support our productions in music and drama. We are preparing our students for their futures in the high school arts programs, and are seeing a lot of talent in our developing T-Bird performers!

Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K-5)*

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.plavan.fvdsd.us



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Second-Grade STEM Challenge

Plavan Elementary School's second-grade scholars have accepted the challenge of completing a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activity each month. Mrs. Madden and dedicated parent volunteer Jamie Yeung create the STEM projects with an interdisciplinary approach that resembles knowledge used in real life. The children have shown amazing growth in their ability to work collaboratively as they challenge their thinking in the STEM areas.

This month, students were placed in small groups and given the challenge of creating a candy cane maze using a shoe box, candy canes, tape, glue and scissors. The goal was to get the marble to run through the maze from start to finish. Each child is required to develop a plan individually, and then teams share their ideas and develop a new plan collaboratively.



Each group is responsible for explaining the plan, listing materials, and recording observations of their results.

It is inspiring to watch our scholars build skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvdsd.us



Kathy Davis
Principal

Toys that Teach

For some children, hands-on kinesthetic learning is the only way. For all children, it's the fun way.

Through generous donations from the Assistance League, the Tamura PTO, and a classroom parent, our school has acquired more than 3,000 Keva Planks. These specially created maple blocks use only gravity and imagination to build incredible structures and towers.

Each plank is accurately cut to be exactly the same size: 6.35mm x 19.05mm x 114.3 mm. The world record is over 50 feet

high, but here at Tamura we usually max out at the ceiling of our multipurpose room, which is 15 feet high.

"They are a great way to build and have fun, the structures sometimes end up completely different than what you had planned but are still very cool," stated one fifth-grade student during a recent building day.

In a room full of children and Keva Planks, attention spans lengthen, concentration intensifies, creativity is focused, voices are muted, teamwork happens, excitement builds, projects flow, and children yearn to learn. The planks appeal to all levels, abilities, and grade levels.



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Huntington Beach City School District

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Carolyn Wertheim
*Director
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Turning Pages

Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) Early Learning programs—including the Preschool Academy, California State Preschool Program, Learning Link, Transitional Kindergarten, Preppy Kindergarten, and kindergarten programs—participated in the national Read for the Record campaign, which promotes reading and the importance of high-quality early childhood education. The 2018 book, *Maybe Something Beautiful*, celebrates people coming together to make something beautiful happen in their community. Of the 70,950 Orange County participants, nearly 1,000 were children from HBCSD. Together, they made Read for the Record the largest shared reading experience to date!



Our California State Preschool program partners with Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) to inspire a passion for reading among children, provide quality content to make an impact, and engage communities in the solution to give every child the fundamentals for success. Every child has an opportunity to select a new book and bookmark three times a year as part of this program. At HBCSD, we love to read with children!

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • dms.schoolloop.com



Christa Glembocki
Principal

A Lot More Than Science

This fall, 67 seventh- and eighth-graders attended a three-day camp on Catalina Island as part of their environmental science elective. Between daily labs, snorkeling, and team-building activities, the students were busy from sun up until sundown. Students experienced hands-on learning in the shark lab, the invertebrate lab, and the squid dissection lab, and they used digital microscopes in the algae and plankton labs. There is a lot of touching and even some tasting! Students had the opportunity to snorkel three different times during the trip, including at night. Students conquered their fears to see bioluminescent plankton in complete darkness. It is an experience they will never forget!



Students suited up for one of the snorkels in Toyon Bay, Catalina Island

In addition, these students bonded in teams, kept their own dorm spaces, and spent time away from mom and dad for a few nights. Seeing teams cheer each other on and boost each other up creates memories that will last a lifetime!

John H. Eader *Elementary*

9291 Banning Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-2451 • www.eader-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Focus on STEM

In November, Josh St. Vaughn, the deputy spacecraft manager for the Europa Clipper Project at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, came to Eader to do a presentation on the Mars InSight. He spoke to second-graders about the latest mission to the planet Mars, the Mars InSight. He shared how the InSight will land on Mars and spoke about the data that will be collected. He showed real pictures of the planets and shared a video on the entry, descent and landing of the InSight.



Students asked many questions and were excited to learn that the InSight was supposed to land on Mars on November 26. Students in Mrs. Padilla's second-grade class built their own model of the Mars InSight. They had to build it with three legs and include solar panels and an arm. Students were able to watch the successful landing on the NASA Channel.

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

8800 Burlcrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • www.moffettschool.com



Forest Holbrook
Principal

A Focus on Kindness

At Moffett Elementary, we believe that as important as the attainment of academic success is for our students, the same can be said for their social and emotional development.

This year our teachers and staff members are excited to be utilizing a teacher-led curriculum called "Second Step." This program provides a holistic approach to helping students express emotions, develop empathy, encourage positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Along with this curriculum, our students have been meeting in grade levels with our principal, Mr.

Forest Holbrook, to discuss what kindness is, what it looks like

on campus, and how we as a community can make sure that we are kind to one another every day.



This focus on kindness, and the social and emotional development of our students, is just another reason why Moffett Elementary is known for being the safe and friendly school it is today.

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

9682 Yellowstone Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8302 • www.hes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Julie Jennings
Principal

Class Act School

For the fifth consecutive year, Hawes Elementary School is a Class Act School! Through the Frieda Belinfante Class Act Partnership and the support of our PTA, our students will participate in Pacific Symphony's flagship youth education program. This year, Ian McKinnell, cello player and our resident musician, will share the life and music of a Composer of the Year through standards-based music curriculum. Our students will be learning about Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky through symphonic storytelling.

Presented by the experts from Pacific Symphony, our teachers spent an afternoon learning about this composer and learning classroom activities to teach students. In January, our students will experience a Prelude Assembly, during which they will learn about Tchaikovsky and how the symphony can tell a story through music. Then, each of our classes will experience an in-depth lesson with our resident musician.

This year of learning will culminate with Hawes first- through fifth-grade students will travel to the symphony to hear a concert about Tchaikovsky. Our kindergarten students will have a hands-on symphony experience at school. Additionally, all of our students will share their learning at the end of the year through our very own Bravo Assembly, where students will share what they have learned through the year.

Participation in this partnership provides our students with opportunities to discover performing arts in an exciting and engaging way.

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

6701 Garfield Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/841-7081 • www.seacliff-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Leadership and Stewardship

Each year, Seacliff School selects five students to serve as officers on its Student Council. Following the presentation of a prepared speech by each individual who wishes to run, and a review of student leadership traits, the students in grades four and five elect a representative for each office. These are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and public relations.

One representative is elected from each classroom. The officers then lead our Student Council. The Council leads a variety of projects for our school, including sharing important school-wide information with our classes, coordinating school celebrations, and determining school-wide community service projects.

These young leaders provide valuable services to our school while learning the importance of leadership and stewardship. As a conclusion to the year, the Student Council hosts a school-wide talent show to display the many gifts and abilities of our Seacliff student body.



Treasurer - Amelia Shiwota, President - Elizabeth Nicoloff, Public Relations - Kennedy Kim, Secretary - Alicia Katter, VP - Brayden Wood



Dr. Renee Polk Johnson
Principal

Recognizing Students

At the end of each trimester we like to invite our families and community members to come together and celebrate student achievement, and showcase the vocal music work that our students have accomplished every week with their vocal music teacher.

Our Perry trimester awards and music performances are held in four different assemblies arranged by grade-level clusters: preppy K/TK, kindergarten and first grade, second and third grade, and fourth and fifth grade. For the awards component, teachers recognize students for outstanding character/citizenship, outstanding participation in JiJi Mathematics and Accelerated Reader, greatest academic improvement, perfect attendance, and Honor Roll (for our fourth- and fifth-grade students).

After the awards have been presented, the students assemble on stage to perform the songs that they have been working on all trimester with Ms. Newton, their vocal teacher. It is always wonderful when we are able to come together as a Perry community and celebrate all of the accomplishments of our students, and to hear them sing!



Kindergarten and First Grade Trimester Awards and Music Performances

Our first trimester awards and music performances were held in the beginning of December. The music had a holiday theme, which was a wonderful way to kick off and celebrate the holiday season.



Dr. John Ashby
Principal

Vikings Giving Back

Sowers Middle School is fortunate to have an amazing school community that values opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of others in need. Our compassionate students, staff and families understand the importance of giving back and have taken on some great projects and causes since the last *School News Roll Call* edition was released.

A grassroots donation drive was kick-started by Mrs. Spehar, a fantastic sixth-grade CORE teacher, only a few days after the devastating fires erupted in early November. Her sixth-grade CORE colleagues and numerous teachers immediately joined the effort as new socks, gift cards and handwritten student notes were collected over a three-day period before fall break. It organically morphed into a districtwide opportunity as students and teachers from numerous HBCSD schools gave their support to the cause. All in all, more than 350 handwritten

cards, more than 600 pairs of socks and \$400 in gift cards were collected and hand-delivered to 805Help.org. They were then distributed to those affected. Our HBCSD school community's efforts even garnered network news attention, and some of the handwritten notes were even read live on the air! We are so proud of all of our students and staff that participated.

Please check out our Instagram (@SowersVikingsHB) for more pics and info about our Vikings Giving Back! Go Vikings!



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

MIND Music

At Peterson, music is taught through the MIND Music program. Developed by the MIND Institute, this curriculum first teaches students piano through a spatial-temporal approach, which involves “thinking in pictures.” Students learn note names, fingerings, simple patterns and songs on the piano keyboard. Later, students learn rudimentary music and the physical skills necessary for playing the piano while providing a basic level of music proficiency. More importantly, the curriculum fosters an understanding of the relationship between math and music. Group activities, solo performances and fun, challenging musical games are just part of the program.

Upper-grade students also have a special opportunity to delve further into music by joining a drumline class twice a week during lunch recess. Students



use the skills they have learned in MIND Music and apply these same principles to reading drum music and performing drum patterns and songs on various actual drums. Peterson drummers focus on working together and playing as a group in unison, which can be a challenging yet rewarding experience.



Debbi Randall
Principal

Kindergarteners Learning Code

Mrs. Miner's tech-savvy kindergarten class has hopped right into 21st century learning this school year, in many respects. They use their iPads and Chromebooks for reading, math and fun, and they also participate in programs teaching computer-literacy standards and learn how computer-programming basics work.

Using different symbol arrows such as a yellow arrow, a green pointer or a red square, students plot out a coding sequence



Mrs. Miner follows the coding path her students formed.

on a large area rug for all to see. They then become living symbols that represent the code or formula language for computer programming. Students are each given a different symbol and have to work together to plot the code or path to reach an object. They collaborate to remember to stop with the red square and then change direction with the green pointer before proceeding forward in the path with a yellow arrow. They even taught the principal to follow a coding path to reach a predetermined set destination!

Great job, Smith Surfers! Way to continue to ride the wave of success!

Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • www.ovsd.org

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

It's "Tool Time" in OVSD as Construction Projects Progress

This year, the Ocean View School District (OVSD) initiated several major construction projects that are progressing on schedule for 2019. The majority of these projects, including our Interim Campus (formerly Sun View Elementary School) and Westmont Elementary School modernization, are funded by OVSD's Measure R school facilities bond. A separate construction project, the Oak View Elementary School gymnasium/multi-purpose room (MPR), is on track to be completed in mid-2019. It is exciting to watch our long-awaited facilities projects become a reality for our students, staff, and families.

We look forward to these and several other construction projects in 2019, including the installation of new safety fencing at seven campuses and modernization of College View Elementary School. Preparations have been under way, and OVSD is just about ready to begin the visible, physical work. We will be sharing more information with College View families as we move forward in the first half of 2019.

Here's the latest information on each project as of publication:

Oak View Gym/MPR: If you stand in front of Oak View Elementary School, you will see the top of a tall concrete structure behind the main building. This is the new Oak View gym/MPR, which will provide the Oak View school and community with an indoor sports gym and performance stage, as well as restrooms and an outdoor patio area. The anticipated completion date of the gym/MPR is May 2019.

Westmont Elementary School: Students are currently attending school through June 2019 on OVSD's Interim Campus, located in Huntington Beach. When students and staff return to the Westmont campus for the start of the 2019–2020 school year, they will be greeted by a new front exterior entrance and bus area, updated classrooms and infrastructure, a modern performing arts space with improved theater lighting, a redesigned library and front office, improved parking, and safety fencing around the perimeter of the school.

College View Elementary School: Plans for a modernized College View Elementary School have been under way since passage of Measure R. In the summer of 2019, construction will begin. Plans include infrastructure improvements (air conditioning, heating and lighting), modern classrooms, a new bus area, an expanded and updated library, perimeter safety fencing and gates to the park, and a redesigned front office. The anticipated completion date will be summer 2020.

Safety Fencing on Our Campuses: With safety as its top priority, the OVSD Board of Trustees voted to adopt a Modernization Fencing Plan. It includes exterior fencing at all schools, using a tubular steel panel system at a height of 8 feet, supplemented by interior fencing. Seven schools (Westmont, Village View, Harbour View, Circle View, Hope View, Golden View, and Lake View Elementary Schools) are scheduled for the first phase of the fencing project, with completion anticipated prior to the start of the 2019–2020 school year. The second phase includes exterior fencing installed at the remaining schools prior to the start of the 2020–2021 school year.

With all of this construction underway, our OVSD Board of Trustees, Administrative Services Division, and Facilities crews are proceeding diligently, with safety, efficiency and timeliness as top priorities.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jack C. Souders
Outgoing President

In Service of Education

As we begin a new calendar year, I want to express my gratitude to my fellow Board members and to the Ocean View School District community for supporting me in my ongoing service to our students, OVSD and public education. We made important decisions that will continue to build on our students' academic successes, to provide fiscal efficiency and stability, and to create modern, safe public schools in which our students can learn, achieve and thrive. It is our responsibility as school board members to set direction, establish effective and efficient structure, provide support, ensure accountability, and provide community leadership as advocates for children, the district and public schools. Along with Superintendent Carol Hansen, we will work together to best serve our students.

I recently passed the president's gavel to Trustee John Briscoe as I entered my second four-year term on the OVSD Board. I am grateful for my leadership experience over the past year. In my professional life, I continue to work full time as a teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District at Tincher Preparatory. My wife and I are incredibly proud of our three children, who are a continual source of joy and encouragement for us.

I congratulate trustees Briscoe and Patricia Singer for their recent reelection and election to the OVSD Board. Trustee Briscoe, who now begins his fourth term on the board, is a marketing instructor at California State University, Long Beach, and is also a management expert. A husband and father, he plays an active role in the community, serving over the years as a volunteer with the PTA, AYSO Soccer, Little League, School Site Council and his church. He is an Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout Troop leader and a member of a service-club chapter.

Trustee Singer begins her first full four-year term as a trustee in OVSD. She has stated that quality education is always a priority, as are fiscal responsibility, efficiency, and transparency with the families and community members we serve. She began her local real estate career in 2000 as a transaction coordinator, and she progressed into the REO industry. Trustee Singer and her husband, both longtime Huntington Beach residents, are the parents of two school-age girls in OVSD.

OVSD superintendent Carol Hansen asked us what we are most proud of as newly elected Board members. Personally, I am proud of the progress we make and the results we continue to achieve in OVSD on behalf of our students and families.

"Ocean View will continue with its current Board leadership to grow student achievement and test scores," Trustee Briscoe said. "I look forward to expanding initiatives like our groundbreaking Writing Continuum, focused middle-school physical-education programs, and magnet programs such as OVSD's all-inclusive GATE schools, Lake View STEAM School and Golden View's farm-based environmental science studies.

"I am most proud of having the opportunity to support safety enhancements so that all of our students are safe," Trustee Singer said. "OVSD is installing fencing on all of our school sites, and we recently implemented the Raptor System. Raptor enhances school security and ensures that all visitors and volunteers on our campuses are instantly screened against registered sex-offender databases in all 50 states. I am proud that our students are thriving with rigorous, innovative programs and supports. OVSD has some of the best staff, teachers and administrators leading the charge in moving us to become a destination district."

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



John Briscoe
President



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
Vice-President



Jack C. Souders
Clerk



Patricia Singer
Member



Norm Westwell
Member

Happy New Year!

Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org/circle



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Ring the Year Out!

The end of the year is always a festive hub of activity at Circle View! It includes our kindergarten “Search for the Gingerbread Man,” the primary grades’ winter music program, the fourth-grade performance of “Geology Rocks!,” the annual Elf Shop, Space Day, a service project for the OC Animal Shelter, Student Council Holiday Grams, Trimester Awards and more.

A special thanks goes to Mrs. Greer’s fourth-and-fifth-grade choir students, who provided caroling during the annual Family Night at a local bookstore. Mrs. Justice’s K-5 student readers were outstanding. They included Eleanor Kraus, Charley Hignite, Ilana Bonilla, Abella Poletiek, Luke Mathy, Madolyn Nelson, Angel Nguyen, Kyla Toor, Amelia Alberts, Lucien Hall and Emily Hoang.

Congratulations to all Circle View Eagles for an amazing end of 2018!



Eagle Pride! Eagle Accomplishment! Eagles SoarEagles Unite!

Golden View *Elementary (K-5)*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • www.ovsd.org/golden



Lori Florgan
Principal

Local Scouts are Joining in at the Farm

Golden View Elementary School has built strong relationships with our local Scouts around Huntington Beach!

We are excited to share that Scout Sean Lopez from Boy Scout Troop 558 recently designed and constructed a beautiful shed for our garden area. We are now placing individual student tubs in the shed to hold gardening gloves, tools, and books that the students will use when they come out to the garden. The shed has been a great place to store shovels, hoes, rakes, aerators, and other farm tools.



Golden View Principal Lori Florgan with Scout Sean Lopez from Boy Scout Troop 558, who designed and constructed this shed for the school’s garden area.

Over the years our troops have helped out around the farm in a variety of ways. We love the partnership that we have built with them, and are proud to be a part of their Scouting journey. We will also continue to work collaboratively as we grow our environmental science program here at Golden View Elementary School. A big thank-you goes to Boy Scout Troop 558!

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org/college



Elaine Burney
Principal

Honoring our Veterans

On November 7th our College View students and staff members were honored to have one of our very own parents, Lieutenant Colonel Schilleci, speak as a special guest at our Veterans Day assembly.

The day began with our Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students and their teacher, Mr. Saporito, leading the children and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Students representing all grade levels listened attentively as

various questions were asked of the guest. They were excited to learn about the wide range of job opportunities available in the service.

When asked about why he joined the service, Lieutenant Colonel Schilleci explained that it was important for him to be a part of something bigger. Above all, he inspired and reminded our students that whatever career paths they may take, with hard work, dedication, and perseverance they will be able to accomplish their goals.

To all of our families who have served, or who are currently serving in the military, we appreciate your dedication and sacrifice.



Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org/hope



Paul Kraft
Principal

Students Explore and Learn

Hope View Elementary School celebrated fall with gratitude, food and adventure. Our November school-wide flag assembly honored military veterans and active members for their service to our country. At the assembly, Principal Paul Kraft spoke about Veterans Day, the student body sang, Cub Scouts led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and our military family members were treated to breakfast by our PTO. Veterans from American Legion Post 133 shared personal experiences with our fourth and fifth graders about serving our country.



Kindergarteners Logan O’Toole and Colin Cooper in Mrs. Hanoian’s class building a STEM project.

Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten students hosted a fall musical performance for parents, followed by a feast in their classrooms. Kindergarteners created structures from cranberries and toothpicks as part of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) project, in which the students designed, created, and tested their creations for strength. First-graders enjoyed the Fall Feast as a culminating activity designed to celebrate their unit on traditions. Our second-grade students visited the Aquarium of the Pacific, and our third-graders visited the Shipley Nature Center on a walking field trip. Finally, fifth grade visited the Santa Ana Planetarium as part of earth science instruction.

Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org/harbour



Dr. Joy Harris
Principal

Going Strong with Activities!

Harbour View students, staff and parents have been busy with lessons and other activities! Our annual fall Spooktacular event raised tens of thousands of dollars to fund enrichment programs like Meet the Masters, a science center, and so many more interactive-learning programs. With this funding, our fifth-grade students participated in “Walk through the Revolution,” with lively reenactments of our nation’s humble beginnings.

In the classroom, our teachers’ passion for project-based learning (PBL) reinforced our districtwide focus on depth of knowledge (DOK) through inquiry and exploration activities based on the Civil War era. Our Grandparents and Special Persons Day was a unique tribute to our loved ones who joined us for the day. The holiday season brought a theme of unity, as we adopted the #youbelong movement to support OVSD’s emphasis on social-emotional health for students and adults.

We are grateful for the hard work of our dedicated community members!



Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org/lake



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Innovation to Impact our Environment

At Lake View Elementary School, our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) school focus includes Project Based Learning (PBL). According to the Buck Institute for Education, PBL is “a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.”

Our first-grade students focused on the essential question “How do animals adapt to changes in their environment?”

They learned and explored the human effects on a local endangered bird, the least tern. Throughout the learning process, our students researched the environmental impact on multiple types of animals, read about the least tern, listened to environmental experts, and completed visual art assignments to create a mural in the hallway.



First grader Dereck is explaining his Least Tern Shelter and showing his presentation.

The culmination of the unit was designing and constructing a protective shelter for the least tern to ward off enemies, which included a slide show of facts and images depicting the least tern’s current environment and sanctuary.

In our November issue the incorrect text was printed. We apologize for the error and have included the correct text below.

New Parent-Teacher Organization Leadership

The beginning of the school year has been a blast for students, families and staff, thanks to the amazing leadership of Lake View’s new Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) President, Amanda Mink. Amanda and her team - Jennifer Flores, Vice President; Jackie Bidnick, Treasurer; and Holly Gustafson, Secretary – have planned fun activities each month through June 2019.

Every year, the events get bigger, better and more exciting. For example, the theme for this year’s book fair was “Enchanted Forest.” The PTO book fair committee transformed the Lake View multi-purpose room into a purple, pink, and blue glittering forest of fantasy dreams, complete with giant trees, twinkling lights, gnomes, and fairies. The book fair was a wonderful escape for our students and a place where they wanted to buy books.



PTO is gearing up for Lake View’s Second Annual Color Run, and as you can imagine, it is going to be a rainbow of fun and joy.

Marine View *Middle School (6–8)*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

First-Ever Performers!

In November, our Marine View Jazz Ensemble had the distinct pleasure of being featured as this year's entertainment for the Orange County Department of Education Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet. This was an especially great honor,

as they are the first middle school to ever receive this prestigious invitation. Our students acted as musical ambassadors, performing for over 300 Teacher of the Year finalists, their friends and family, district personnel and Department of Education representatives.

The excitement continued with our Change of Seasons Concert. Our Marine View Performing Arts Program reached new heights as the hard work and talent of students were highlighted. Performances included Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Sixth-Grade Chorus, Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble and Dance Team. All of our students are enthusiastic to continue their dedication as our spring musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr.*, gets underway.



School News

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Mesa View *Middle School (6–8)*

17601 Avila Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org/mesa



Randy Lempert
Principal

Coding for Real World

Computer science and coding power the technology we use each day. Think of the daily life of our middle school students and how computer science plays a significant role, whether it's using Google Classroom, responding to questions during English language arts lessons on Study Sync, or checking grades in our Aeries system during the school day. Outside school, students are checking out Instagram or gaming online. A skilled computer-science professional creates these apps. At Mesa View, we want to help students develop skills that will serve their futures in

understanding how these applications work and having a perspective into their world.

This year, we introduced a new elective class, the Exploratory Wheel. In this class, students in grades six through eight have the opportunity to rotate through this coding elective. This year, a total of 300 Mesa View students will rotate into the coding elective that gives them early exposure to computer science and hands-on coding experience. Our goal is to have all current sixth-graders introduced and exposed to coding before they leave middle school.

Using the TechSmart curriculum and Python coding platform, three teachers—Mr. Hardy, Ms. Andrusky and Ms. Kleuger—guide students through the coding curriculum. Using Chromebooks, students are engaged in concepts that build onto one another. By the time students leave the coding elective, they will have been exposed to writing coding statements, assigning statements to variables, concatenating numbers, and much more.

Our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Mesa View's Parent-Teacher-Student Organization financially support our commitment to putting this coding program into the hands of our students. The PTSO continues as a significant support to our teachers and giving our students new opportunities. We are excited that Mesa View's learners will be engaged in authentic and real-world learning in their elective classes!

Oak View *Elementary (K-5)*

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org/oak



Jenna Landero
Principal

Aiming for Infinity

Oak View launched its robotics program in the spring of 2015. Through generous donations we received Legos NXT Robots. Volunteers also came each Friday afternoon to work with our team during school hours. This helped launch our elective wheel for all fifth-graders (robotics, art, computer science, and engineering). Starting with basic programming, our staff learned with the students!

Over the past three years other donations have brought us two Legos EV3 kits to supplement the six we purchased. We now have seven missions, from basic programming to more advanced programs using sensors (touch and light) and obstacles. Last June our robotics teams participated in the OVSD Robotics Competition and placed first in the Space Challenge for elementary schools!

Today our focus remains the same: to develop problem-solving skills, perseverance, team-building, communication, and fun. We have 17 EV3 Robots, four platforms, a custom charging station, and powerful young minds enjoying coding and robotics.



Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

6692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000 • www.ovsd.org/pleasant



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Director of Child Development Programs

Taking Simple Lessons and Making Them Extraordinary

Pleasant View teacher Marie Schools recently held a Teddy Bear Day in her classroom. She used this opportunity to enhance a lesson about hibernation with her students. Alongside daily lessons that support our youngest learners are opportunities for the children to express themselves, learn self-regulation, and build peer interactions.

Pictured is Liam with his bear-buddy in the "cave." The students were able to explore a "cave" with their teddy bear friends. Later at snack, Liam independently decided to share his cookies with a couple of our guest bears. The students demonstrated social skills of sharing, and math skills of one-to-one correspondence.



In December, our students took photos with Santa in a calm and non-invasive environment. They also decorated scenes with handmade artwork. Each art activity was planned to build fine motor skills and explore creative expression.

Oak View *Preschool & Pre-K*

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/843-6938 • www.ovsd.org/oakpre



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Director of Child Development Programs

A Giving Tradition Continues

These senior elves spend all year building, painting, and distributing toys for young children across Orange County, including Oak View Preschool. For the sixth year in a row, the talented craftsmen and women from the Huntington Landmark workshop have generously donated over 200 wooden toys to the children of Oak View Preschool.

Each year, the volunteers at the Huntington Landmark senior community in Huntington Beach will make over 3,000 handcrafted toys. Some cut wood, others paint, and some crochet or sew. Most of the wood they use is donated. The entire community recycles, and the funds are used to purchase paint and other materials to complete the toys.



Oak View Preschool assistant principal Cindy Pedroso and custodian Jose Gonzalez happily turned their vehicles into sleighs full of toys. Doll cradles, trains, boats and trucks are just a few of the amazing toys that have been donated. These gifts make a difference in the lives of the 3- and 4 year-old children attending our preschool.

Spring View *Middle School (6-8)*

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org/spring



Jason Blade
Principal

Pinball Wizardry

It is not always easy to be a middle schooler. Years ago our Spring View staff members, working with the school counselors, created an indoor space as a lunch option. As today's contributor, in addition to teaching sixth-grade math and science, Spring View teacher Pete Cooley enjoys restoring vintage electro-mechanical arcade games, carpentry, and woodworking at our school.

This fall he recently put his arcade skills to work and created an amped-up version of our game room. He added pinball machines from his personal collection, along with others from various donations and a few from Craigslist. He brought in donated pool tables and a foosball table. He also added flat screens and Nintendo Switches. Old-school card and board games fill a cabinet. And finally, he made the room over with black fabric, signs, and lighting. What's next, Skee-ball?



The game room is now a place where our students can go as another option during lunch, but it also demonstrates our commitment to them. Mr. Cooley has even added a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) component. He opens up the pinball machines to show the students how they work, and teaches them about the logic of pinball and simple circuits. Spring View aims to redefine the middle school lunch vibe and provide its students with many creative options.

Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

8411 Worthy Ln., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org/star



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Thank You for Your Service

The dedicated service of our United States veterans impacts all of us in so many ways, including those of us at Star View Elementary. It was thus a true honor to have the opportunity to thank for their service not only our own 13 Star View families whose family members are veterans, but also representatives from the American Legion of Huntington Beach, Post 133.

During Star View's Veterans Day ceremony, members of the American Legion shared with our students about why we celebrate Veterans Day. Our students and staff members were able to observe the folding of the flag, learn flag etiquette, and hear some of the unique experiences of the Veteran. Mrs. Flores' class also sang God Bless the USA as each member of the school waved a small American flag.

We were able to share a small token of our appreciation, a handmade tile, which was crafted especially for this occasion by Star View students under the direction of Mrs. Tippy. It was truly a special day as we said the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked these special veterans for their service!



Veterans from the American Legion, Post 133, and family military members are recognized at Star View Elementary School.

Vista View *Middle School (6-8)*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org/vista



Scott Mooney
Principal

Holocaust Survivor Shares Personal Story

For the past several years, Vista View Middle School eighth-graders have participated in Chapman University's Holocaust Art and Writing Contest. As part of the contest, students are able to view a Holocaust survivor's video testimony.

This year, Vista View had the good fortune of having a Holocaust survivor come to school and share her story in person. Eva Brettler was a young child when her family was separated during World War II and placed into concentration camps. In one particularly poignant moment of her story, Eva's father asked a stranger to take her when he realized that he would be captured by Nazi officers.



Vista View eighth grader, Freddy Peña, gets a hug from Holocaust survivor Eva Brettler following her talk.

The compassion of many strangers, who cared for and hid Eva at great personal risk, is something we can only hope to emulate. Our students and staff were captivated by her story of fear, loss, compassion, and restoration. She encouraged our students to remember and learn from tragedies, fight against hatred, and make the world a better place.

Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org/village



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Enrichment Opportunities Expand

Village View has been offering exciting after-school classes for the last few years. Cooking, STEM Projects, Skate Dogs and Art Explorers—these are a few. This year, however, our talented staff has collaborated to provide upper-grade students an enrichment period within the school day.

Students selected their top three choices from eight classes offered by our teachers. Mrs. Greer conducts an advanced chorus and next term will teach ukulele. Mrs. Munoz teamed up with our instructional aide, Junita, to teach sign language. Our students are learning the patriotic songs of the month and then will perform at the final Friday Flag Ceremony each month. Radial symmetry, tessellations and origami set the stage for Mrs. Cramer's Art with Math. A home-improvement store donated kits so that students can start learning the art of sanding and hammering in Mrs. Clark's Woodshop. In the Robotics course, Mrs. Julianna facilitates students exploring robots. Mr. Simmons is giving students a strong background in coding. To raise mindful and environmentally sound students, Mrs. Atkinson took on a project called Eco Bricks with her class. Theater arts is always a draw, and Mrs. Alpert is providing a reader's-theater course. We even offer study skills for our students wanting extra time and assistance with classwork or homework. The course is offered by Mrs. McGregor.

At Village View, we believe education today prepares us for a changing tomorrow. We want our students to engage in a variety of skills to help each individual find his or her passion and run with it.

Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org/westmont



Susan Broderson
Principal

Westmont's VAPA Program to Expand

The Westmont Visual and Performing Arts Program (VAPA) continues to grow, with students now participating in a wide variety of musical opportunities.

Under the direction of teacher Kim Robles, all Westmont students receive weekly choral music and keyboarding instruction. Our upper-grade students are learning band instruments such as flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and percussion.

Students take band class twice a week during school hours, which sets our program apart from others. All instruments are provided free of charge to be used at school and brought home for practice. Our elementary band program provides a great benefit, as our students can later move on to the middle school band programs.

We are excited to announce that the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee recently awarded Westmont \$1,200 to buy additional musical equipment. This generous grant will allow us to expand our effective ST music keyboarding program. More students will systematically advance their keyboarding skills while having fun and supporting mathematical thinking.



Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7311 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gary Rutherford

Superlative Spellers

The top spellers from each school site recently competed in the Westminster School District annual, district-wide Spelling Bee. Two competitions took place - one for 4th and 5th graders, and the other for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The 4th and 5th graders were challenged with words such as “inadvertent,” “atrocious,” and “assailant.” The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders had to tackle words such as “ecology,” “promulgate,” and “crustaceans.” The top three winners of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade competition will compete in the Orange County Spelling Bee in February.



4th & 5th Grade Spelling Bee Winners
Taylor Son, 2nd place – Hayden Elementary School;
Pearly Huynh, 1st place - DeMille Elementary School;
and Hannah Doan, 3rd place – Eastwood Elementary School;
with Assistant Superintendent Myrlene Pierre

Congratulations to all of our superlative spellers! Here is a list of the school site champions that proudly represented their schools:

4th and 5th Grade Competition Participants

Amanda Doan, 5th, Anderson; Jaina Nguyen, 5th, Clegg;
Pearly Huynh, 5th, DeMille; Hannah Doan, 5th, Eastwood;
Tien Le, 5th, Finley; Amy Banh, 4th, Fryberger; Taylor Son, 5th, Hayden;
Donna Huynh, 4th, Meairs; Tyler Phan, 5th, Schmitt;
Michelle Shim, 4th, Schroeder; Elie Nguyen, 5th, Sequoia;
Tommy Cao, 5th, Webber; Theresa Le, 5th, Willmore

6th, 7th and 8th Competition Participants

Jamie Nguyen, 6th, Anderson; Kailey Huynh, 6th, DeMille;
Ethan Nguyen, 6th, Eastwood; Noah Elbettar, 6th, Schroeder;
Natassia Nguyen, 6th, Sequoia; Trinh Vo, 6th, Webber;
Joselyn Godinez, 7th, Johnson; Summer Boren, 7th, Stacey;
Kim-Sang La, 7th, Warner



6th, 7th & 8th Grade Spelling Bee Winners
Noah Elbettar, 2nd place – Schroeder Elementary School;
Ethan Nguyen, 1st place - Eastwood Elementary School;
and Joselyn Godinez, 3rd place - Johnson Middle School;
with Assistant Superintendent Myrlene Pierre

Anderson *Elementary (K–6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsd.k8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

An Anderson Escape Room

This fall, the Anderson 1st grade students were “trapped” in an escape room. Mrs. Milius, Ms. Paceley and Mrs. Robertson along with Instructional Support Specialist April Derr, set up four addition and subtraction challenges for students to solve in order to “unlock” the classroom door. Students had to work together and use



Lucia Lam, Elisa Orduno, Pete Nguyen and Cathy Diep “escaping” the classroom.

their critical thinking, collaboration and mathematical thinking skills to be successful. Excitement and anticipation filled the room, as students raced to be first ones to solve the riddles to uncover a 4-digit code to unlock the locks. In the end, every class was victorious and was able to “escape” the classroom!

Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsd.k8.us



John Staggs
Principal

A Great Tradition

Mrs. O'Reilly, a first-grade teacher at Clegg Elementary School, works with students every November to honor our military with an event we call “Operation Veterans Day.” This is a school-wide donation drive where our students can bring in items to help fill care packages in support of soldiers deployed overseas.

This year, Mrs. O'Reilly packed 21 large boxes that were sent to two platoons in Afghanistan. Once they make it to their destination, the boxes will be delivered to the troops before Christmas. Inside these boxes the soldiers will find yummy sweet and salty treats and many other food items, along with personal hygiene products, games, and Christmas decorations to help add a touch of home and holiday cheer.

We are told that the most-loved items are the handwritten letters from students thanking our soldiers for their bravery and sacrifice. The children have the opportunity to give during this drive, and it is great to see! They also get to practice some wonderful character traits such as caring, gratitude, patriotism, charity, selflessness, and compassion.

Clegg also erects a Veterans Wall of Honor during this time. The Wall is for anyone who has served or is currently serving in the military. Our students are given a star and then asked to have discussions at home about the veterans who have served in their family. Their names are then put on these stars and hung up on the Wall for the entire school to honor and admire.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meet Our Board Members



**Khanh
Nguyen**
President

Mr. Khanh Nguyen, Area 3, was first elected to the Westminster School Board in 2014 and was re-elected for a second term in 2018. He is a licensed professional engineer and recently retired as the Building Official for the city of Costa Mesa, where he oversaw all permitting and inspection of private development, such as South Coast Plaza. Mr. Nguyen has received numerous awards at the state and national level as a code official. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from San Diego State University and a master's degree in structural engineering from Cal State Los Angeles. Mr. Nguyen is also very active in the community. He recently served as the Westminster Planning Commission Chair and is currently the Vice Chairperson for the Westminster Community Services and Recreation Committee. In addition, the city council appointed Mr. Nguyen to the City traffic Commission in January of 2017. Mr. Nguyen is a resident of Westminster, where he lives with his wife Helen and son Bill, who is currently attending Hayden Elementary.



**Frances
Nguyen**
Vice President

Mrs. Frances Nguyen, Area 1, was elected to the Board in 2016. She has been a community activist for the past 35 years and is a proud business owner of the family-run Golden Trophy & Promotions, which is a past recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award in Westminster. Mrs. Nguyen was the first Vietnamese-American president of the Westminster Chamber of Commerce and was the first female president of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California. She has been a faculty member at Coast Colleges and has been on numerous committees and boards at Coastline Community College. Mrs. Nguyen holds a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Cal Poly Pomona and a MBA (specializing in international business) from Argosy University. She is a strong proponent of multilingualism and is fluent in English, Vietnamese and French. Mrs. Nguyen and her husband, Tony Hoai, have raised two well-rounded daughters, Caroline and Josephine. They have resided in Westminster for 12 years and enjoy teaching the younger generation about Vietnamese heritage and culture while instilling American values and way of life.



**Jeremy
Khalaf**
Clerk

Mr. Jeremy Khalaf, Area 5, was elected to the Westminster School District Board of Trustees in November 2018. He holds a Bachelor of Science from UC Berkeley and a Master of Science in Chemistry from UC Irvine. Mr. Khalaf has served the students of Garden Grove since 2011 as a credentialed science teacher at Santiago High School, where he teaches college preparatory and Advanced Placement courses. He was instrumental in interpreting the Next Generation Science Standards for the district's chemistry teachers, and he collaborated to develop a cross-curricular guide to scholarly writing at Santiago High School based on the Common Core Standards. Mr. Khalaf and his wife, Carly, have two young children with whom they enjoy spending time outdoors.



**Xavier
Nguyen**
Member

Mr. Xavier Nguyen, Area 2, was elected to the Westminster School District Board of Trustees, in November 2018. Mr. Nguyen is a credentialed special education teacher, working in the Long Beach Unified School District. He also serves as a special education advocate and adjunct college professor. Mr. Nguyen is a graduate of Orange County K-14 public schools, and as a former homeless youth and English Language Learner, he brings a unique perspective to the Board. As an active and lifelong resident of the Little Saigon community, Mr. Nguyen also serves on the City of Westminster's Community Service and Recreation Commission. Mr. Nguyen holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern California, a Master of Science in Education from Johns Hopkins University, and is currently completing his Doctor of Education at La Sierra University.



**Jamison
Power**
Member

Mr. Jamison Power, Area 4, was first elected to the Westminster School Board in 2012 and was re-elected in 2016. He received his B.A. from UC Irvine and his Juris Doctor from UCLA. In his professional life, Jamison Power serves as in-house counsel for Hyundai Motor America. He also provides free legal assistance to low income families, and has received multiple awards for his work. Mr. Power is very active in the community, and currently serves as a Westminster City Commissioner. Mr. Power previously served as a member of the Vietnamese-American Education Advisory Council, and he worked closely with the Superintendent and the Board to ensure that WSD became the first district in California to implement a Vietnamese-English dual immersion program. Mr. Power is a member of the Blessed Sacrament parish and is a proud homeowner in the City of Westminster, where he lives with his wife, My Lan, and their two children.



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Third-Graders Learn about the Environment

By Alexander Romo, Michelle Vuong, Kyla Donahue, Amy Santiago, Angelica Holguin, Erik Cordero, and Maylin Camarena, Students – 3rd Grade

The third-grade students at DeMille Elementary School went on a field trip to the Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach to learn about the Gabrielino Indians. We got to do six activities that taught us how the Gabrielinos lived and used natural resources to survive.

We learned how to make string, an important natural resource. String was made from animal sinew. String was used as glue to hold things together. Next, we learned about legends, which are stories told by Native Americans and passed on through the generations. The legend that we heard was how the chipmunk got its three stripes.

After we heard the legend, we got bear marks on our arms or faces. We also got to play musical instruments that were made from plants and animals. There even was a turtle shell with beads inside. The Gabrielinos never wasted any part of an animal that they hunted. So many animal parts were used as tools or instruments.

Gabrielino games teach chance or skill. We liked the ring toss game best. It is a game of skill. Next, we learned how to drill a hole into a shell using a pump drill. It takes a long time to make one small hole. They used string to hold the shells together to use when they traded. Finally, we went on a hike through the Nature Center. We learned about plants that were used for medicine, tools, dyes or food.

This field trip was a blast! We got to do so many hands-on activities. The Environmental Nature Center is open to the public but is also a great place for a field trip!



Raul Olivas
Principal

The Experts Visit Finley

It was another wonderful day at Finley Computer Science Magnet School! In celebration of Computer Science Education Week, which took place from Monday, December 3rd to Friday, December 7th, visitors from Code.org and a Hollywood entertainment company joined our fourth- and fifth-grade students to discuss their roles at the respective companies.

We were joined by software engineers and producers who spoke about their careers in gaming and computer science. The students got to ask tons of questions, and learned some great insights about their favorite games. After the experts in the field shared their professional experience, our students then took time to demonstrate the strong level of computer science work that they have been engaging in for the past three years.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with both companies for years to come.



Jan Sneathen
Interim Principal

United Nations Day

By Jan Sneathen, Interim Principal

Eastwood 6th grade students honored our variety of cultures and backgrounds by celebrating a United Nations Day on October 27, 2018. Students chose a country and researched its language, history, dress, music, and food. Many wore costumes and displayed flags and pictures during a presentation to an audience of parents and students. Many of the students shared information from the country of their own heritage.

Parents joined in the celebration with their children by sharing food of the country. Everyone sampled Chek Cheung Skor, Brazilian Chicken Empanadas, Pasta Marinara, Taquitos, Russian Draniki, Nanaimo Bars, O-ni-gi-ri, and more! The colorful costumes and delicious smells created a warm atmosphere that was enjoyed by all.



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Santa, and More!

In December, our PTA sponsored a Santa Night. The Fryberger staff, students and parents put together an amazing evening. Families were able to get their pictures taken with the one and only Mr. Claus, courtesy of one of our photographer parents.

In addition, families completed holiday crafts, shopped at our Holiday Shoppe, and enjoyed baked goods from our Bake Sale. This night not only brought together our families but also raised money for our PTA and supported our fifth-graders at



their upcoming science camp. The bake sale raised enough money to send two fifth-graders to camp!

It is an absolutely amazing feeling to see so many diverse families come together, celebrate the holidays, and support the Fryberger school community. We look forward to many more family events!



Mark Murphy
Principal

A Part of the Team

Hayden is more than just a local school; it is also a major part of the community. One of the ways in which we support our community is through our annual soup drive. The soup drive helps support a local interval house that works with nearby families in need. Hayden is very honored and proud of the partnership it has built with the interval house over the years, and we look forward to helping them in any way we can, especially around the holidays.



With guidance from Mr. Archer, Mrs. Luckey, and Mr. Luis, our most recent soup drive was another huge success. This year Hayden students helped to collect 1,343 cans of soup! At Hayden, we feel it is extremely important for us to teach our students about giving back to those who are less fortunate. The students and families of Hayden make us all very proud to be a part of the team.



Beverlee Mathenia
*Executive Director,
Early Education
& Expanded
Learning*



Reagan Lopez
*Executive Director,
Student Services*

A Vision of Teamwork

John F. Land School is comprised of three Special Day Classes, one Early Start Program, one blended preschool classroom, and 10 general education preschool classrooms. We also utilize Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to assist our students, with and without IEPs, and help them reach their full academic and social-emotional potential. Collaboration between general education and special education staff members occurs on a regular basis at our school.

We also have a Child Success Team comprised of Early Learning and RTI Specialists who have open lines of communication with our special education staff. Together, we develop SMART goals for at-risk students (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely), and collaborate on other effective Tier I and Tier II intervention strategies for those who are struggling academically, social-emotionally, and/or behaviorally within their classrooms.

The collaborative model that we use at John F. Land School is one which has taken much effort to establish. We are backed by an administration that values this vision of teamwork and believes in the validity of its practices.

Our staff members have personally committed themselves to contributing to this effort. They have established the trust and confidence needed to have open minds and open classrooms. By blurring the boundary lines between “your students” and “my students,” we have created a culture of collaboration at our school that has benefited all students.



Daniel Owens
Principal

Technology Is Key

Johnson Middle School (JMS) continues to look for new and innovative ways to allow students to showcase their skills and talents in a variety of ways. One such way JMS allows innovation is through our Multimedia Department. The goal of the Multimedia Department is to allow all JMS students access to the latest technology and allow them to communicate their ideas, goals and dreams in the modern world. Students are encouraged to develop the skills needed in a 21st century workforce. They



have opportunities in the fields of videography and film production, coding, website design, digital graphics, robotics, 3D printing and design, lighting and stage craft, and digital music and promotions. The skills needed for the future are ever changing, and by giving students the opportunity to explore and create, they are obtaining the tools necessary to tackle these changes.



Kathy Kane
Principal

Garden Expansion

The school garden at Meairs is alive with activity these days as students work in a new section of land that has been added to the garden. The garden is now three times its original size!

Students from grades kindergarten through fifth spend countless hours in the garden preparing the soil, planting, weeding, looking for bugs, and harvesting their crops. They have no problem getting their hands dirty and doing the hard work it takes to keep everything growing. It has become a favorite place for many of the students on campus—so much so that we ran out of space! With the help of the District Maintenance Department, the garden has been expanded to allow more classes the opportunity to have some space to plant.

Teachers use the garden as a source for lessons for science, math, language arts and art. The garden is a great place to learn!



Fourth graders preparing the soil for planting.

Happy New Year!

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Spelling Bee Champion

Tyler Phan did an amazing job practicing for both the Schmitt Spelling Bee (1st Place) and moving on to the District wide competition.

It was impressive to see his dedication and perseverance in memorizing all of these challenging words such as: rendezvous, turquoise, masquerade, pasteurize, and leprechaun. We had so much fun practicing for the oral and written competition. Tyler Phan is a studious young man that is also very social and fun to be around.



The Schmitt Family is very proud of Tyler Phan and his hard work, and we expect to see him competing again in the 2019-2020 Spelling Bee.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

PTA

We are blessed with a wonderful PTA! Our PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairs work very hard to ensure that every Schroeder student and family has the opportunity to have a very enriched school experience while they attend Schroeder. We have Family Nights (Family Movie Night, Bingo for Books), Birthday Book Club, Mom/Dad and Me Morning, Dining Nights, fundraisers, Student of the Month, Red Ribbon Week, Trunk or Treat, Lunch on the Lawn, Skate Night...the list goes on and on!

When parents join the PTA they can sign their child(ren) up for our Birthday Book Club. Students who join are invited to attend the club after school the month of their birthday. They make a fun craft, eat a yummy snack and get to choose a book to take home!



I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to our Executive Board, our committee chairs and all of our wonderful volunteers.

Schroeder School is a special place because of all their extra effort and support!

Sequoia *Academy*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



Michelle Watkins
Principal

Scholars Accomplish Goals

This quote, by Walt Disney, embodies our driving philosophy at Sequoia Academy, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Sequoia's goal is to motivate students to set goals and try new things with a growth mindset, while maintaining a balanced healthy lifestyle. Sequoia's priority is for our students to be well-rounded with endless opportunities to be successful.

On December 1st, we had over 60 Sequoia scholars accomplish an extraordinary goal. Students and families arrived bright and early to participate in the Run for a Claus for a Cause event at UCI. After 6 weeks of training with Mr. Nakano, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Schnaas, and Ms. O'Donoghue, scholars had the choice to run 1 mile or a 5k. Everyone successfully completed their race and earned medals of achievement, while indulging in delicious hot chocolate and the satisfaction of accomplishment! We are proud of our community and scholar's hard work and look forward to the next Kids Run the OC event in May.



Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

What was Fall Fest?

By Gwyndalynn Kent and Avalyn Walton, Eighth-Grade Journalism Students

Being one of Stacey’s most popular events, Fall Fest 2018 was a huge success. Once known as Dark Fest, Fall Fest is a gigantic event hosted by Stacey’s leadership class. It involves a movie on the field with the option to buy food and drinks. The Leadership students plan and work for weeks to get everything just right. For good reason, Fall Fest 2018 is something that our students look forward to each year.

Fall Fest occurred on November 7th this year, and it was one for the ages. Students thoroughly enjoyed watching the movie *The Addams Family*, which was projected onto a large screen out on Stacey’s grass field. They brought blankets and chairs to sit comfortably while they watched the movie. Before



Avery Taumoeolau serving pumpkin pie with a smile

entering the field, students had the opportunity to buy enticing snacks like pizza and pumpkin pie. While they watched, they filled their stomachs with the sweet and delicious snacks.

However, as lovely as it was to sit back and watch the movie with a piece of pizza in hand, many of the students at Fall Fest just used the time as an opportunity to hang out with friends. Out on the grass, students ran, played, talked, and laughed. That’s what most people credit to Fall Fest’s success; it gives students an opportunity to hang out after school in a comfortable, easygoing environment.

Overall, the night of Fall Fest was one of food, entertainment, and friends. Hopefully, our Fall Fest next year will be just as successful.

Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us



Vanessa DeSantis
Principal

Gift of a Garden

A Webber Elementary alumnus gave back to his community in a big way. Eric Bui of Westminster High School completed his Eagle Scout project this past November. As an Eagle Scout, Eric has learned about leadership, responsibility, managing projects and applying his Scout Oath to help other people.

The Eagle Scout Project is a crowning achievement that follows a year of fun, adventure and advancement. Eric stated that he chose to do his Eagle Scout project at Webber because he wanted to instill a love a nature for students in this technological age. He also stated that it will provide a scenic alternative rather than paving over the area and also serve as an educational outlet for students and teachers alike to learn more about the outdoors.



The students and staff at Webber are grateful for Eric and all his hard work. The garden came out so beautifully, and we have already seen monarch butterflies around our campus. Webber would like to thank Eric, his team and Mr. Tracy for the support and guidance on this project. Eric Bui will forever be a part of the Webber Wolfpack!

Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



Tiffany Harville
Principal

A Great New Year

As we began to enter this new year our Warner Wildcats chose not to focus on all of the missed opportunities, but rather, on all of the opportunities they plan to create! During the first part of the year our students were busy developing goals. Now it is time for them to self-reflect and see what needs to be done to make these goals a reality.

One of our goals at Warner is to focus on being good citizens. Our students realize that they are the future, and so they want to continue to make sure that their future, and the future of others, is bright. As part of this commitment, our Wildcats recently partnered with Westminster High School to collect canned food in an effort to support local families in need.



Wildcats participating in the canned food drive.

This has been a season of giving, and it has been incredible to see the overwhelming kindness and generosity being demonstrated by both our staff and students. The year is off to a great start, and we are looking forward to continuing to demonstrate why Warner ROCKS!

Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsdk8.us



Dr. Nicole Jacobson
Principal

First Annual Fall Festival

Willmore Elementary School held its first annual Fall festival! The school was transformed into a fall carnival scene, with pumpkins, haystacks, and decorations to create a festive environment. Students, teachers, families, and the community joined together to host this beautiful celebration, which was a great way to connect families and enjoy a fun-filled evening for all students.

Students were able to play games at various booths and engage in activities such as ring toss, lollipop tree toss, pie walk, and button making. Students had the opportunity to get their faces



Students having fun at our first annual Fall Festival

painted and took pictures in the photo booth. The festival also offered a variety of foods for visitors to enjoy, including cotton candy, popcorn, pizza, and other snacks.

Our Fall Festival was a great success, and we are thankful for our dedicated and hardworking PTA and staff, who worked together to provide all families with this amazing family night.

A Happy Kid in the Digital Age



Happiness is a warm puppy. If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. Don't worry, be happy! Rules for how to live happily are nothing new. But lately, our well-being -- and that of our kids -- seems to be in free fall. Depression, anxiety, and even youth suicide rates are increasing, as is cell phone and device use and the constant expectation to be "on."

Raising kids to be happy in today's world isn't impossible: Many generations of parents have managed to do so when the threats were way worse than FOMO. We just need to rewrite the rules for the digital age.

The quest to make sure our kids are happy may have led us in the wrong direction. While media and tech deserve some of the blame for our collective stress, no one really knows how much. However, we do know that turning everything off doesn't magically make us happier. In fact, studies show that some types of screen-based activities can be beneficial -- and we all know the warm, fuzzy feeling we get when we enjoy media together. As more research emerges on the impact of media and tech on kids' mental health, it confirms what we've always known about how to be happy: Supportive relationships, a feeling of self-worth, strong character, and other positive influences are what really matter. And while you can't mandate joy, supporting your kid -- both online and off -- creates an environment where happiness is there for the taking. These tips can help you raise a happy kid in the digital age:

Get gritty. Grit -- the combination of perseverance and resilience that helps you bounce back from disappointments -- plays an important role in well-being. At school, online, and even with friends, kids feel pressured to achieve something on the first try. Instead, instill what's called a "growth mindset," the process of trying, failing, and learning from mistakes. When they feel defeated, their inner voice will say, "You got this!"

Nourish their sense of self-worth. Likes, comments, and other indicators of online status are part of kids' social-media lives. But there's a tipping point when a kid's perfectly natural curiosity about what others think about them turns into a harmful fixation on peer validation that can cause depression. You can help inoculate your kid against this by fostering an internal sense of self-worth. Encourage activities and hobbies that give kids a sense of accomplishment on their own terms.

Be grateful. Being aware and thankful is a tried-and-true life hack that leads to a stronger sense of well-being. You can actually use media and tech to cultivate a sense of gratitude. Check out sites and apps that let kids help make the world a better place. Watch TV shows and movies that inspire gratitude. At home, create a culture of appreciation by discussing what you're grateful for.

Go outside. Seriously, that's all you need to do. Nature is scientifically proven to boost well-being. If you need inspiration, watch nature movies or download apps that encourage outdoor exploration. Or just put down your phone, close the laptop, turn off the TV, and go for a walk.

Foster connection. In the digital age, kids can make new friends and strengthen existing relationships online, whether it's in a rousing game of Fortnite, a few hearts on Instagram, or even a FaceTime session with the grandparents. But the happiest people are the ones who consistently find a balance between screens and the rest of life. And as the grown-ups, we're the ones who need to model healthy habits. So, carve out screen-free times at home. Unplug everything so you can make eye contact and really listen to family and friends without distractions. By all means, enjoy media together -- but set limits so it doesn't interfere with face-to-face interactions.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

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Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and Youth Services

Lots of Choices

Children age 12 and under can take part in the Children's Department Winter Reading Raffle Challenge starting Dec. 17 – Jan. 31. For every 7 books or 140 minutes children read during the program, they will be entered in a raffle for a chance to win a variety of prizes Those who read 45 books or 900 minutes will get to choose either a coupon for Rubio's or Bounce U. Children not yet reading, may be read to. Register online @ hbpl.beanstack.com or pick up a reading log at any HB library branch.

The Friends of the Children's Library Authors Festival is Tuesday, January 29. The group has arranged for a variety of local authors and illustrators of children books to speak at several nearby schools. Many of the authors will be returning to the Central Library from 2:30 to 5 p.m. to meet with the public. Books will be for sale (and author signing) during the event. The awards ceremonies for the winners of "The Unexpected Field Trip" writing and illustrating contest will be held during the library reception at 3:30 and 4:15 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. Winning works will be displayed in the Children's Department the month of February.

HB Reads One Book's annual Author Visit will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Theater. This is a free event and all are invited to hear author, Lu Cha Fa, speak about his inspiring autobiography, Double Luck: Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan. There will be special events leading up to his visit, including a Tea Tasting program on Feb. 2 at 2:00 p.m. in the library's Talbert Room and a children's storytime and craft on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. For more information, visit hbreads.org.

Westminster Library

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By Anna Dress, Children's Services Librarian

Toddler Time every Tuesday at 10:30am

Songs, stories & play for children 1-3 years old.

Book Babies every Thursday at 10:30am

Baby lapsit and playtime for children 0-1 year old (or until they are walking).

Preschool Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30am (children 3-4 years old)

Family Storytime every Saturday at 10:30am (for all ages)

Art Lab Wednesday, Jan. 9 & Feb. 6, 2:00-4:00pm

A monthly process art program where we use different materials and techniques to create whatever you can imagine! Open to all ages, but 4 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Future Makers Wednesday, Jan. 23 & Feb. 20, 2:00-4:00pm

A monthly makerspace event just for kids 6-12 years old. We will offer different STEAM-based projects that will give kids a chance to create and build, and learn about basic science, technology and engineering concepts.

Tet Celebration Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:30am-1:00pm

Join us for Vietnamese cultural performances, a lion dance, and other activities to celebrate the Year of the Pig. For all ages!

VolunTEENS: If you need volunteer hours for school, church, boy/girl scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the library! You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer.

Teen Advisory Board: The TAB is a group of teens who meet once a month to help plan programs and give valuable input about what books and magazines to order for the teen section. A fun way to have a say about what goes on at your library (and get volunteer hours)!



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