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# School News



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**Covering the following school districts:**

**Fountain Valley School District • Ocean View School District  
Westminster School District • Huntington Beach Union High School District**

**VOLUME 7, ISSUE 44**

**www.schoolnewsrollcall.com**

**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2011**

## Westminster High School Receives New Building from Eagle Scout



**Eagle Scout Kyle Sweet and volunteers raising a wall for the new Tack Box at Westminster High School.**

*By Trees Hill, Community  
Resource Coordinator*

**Student Kyle Sweet completed his Eagle Scout project when he built a new and improved 600-square-foot Tack Box for the Westminster High School Agriculture Sciences Department!**

Kyle planned the details for over a year. This included soliciting donations totaling over \$20,000. His successful fund-raising efforts were truly amazing: he sent over 750 donation requests and visited over 20 different companies.

Additionally, Kyle recruited 62 volunteers who donated 927 hours to help build the project. After the construction was completed, an outside

*SEE NEW BUILDING • PAGE 30*

## A Very Special Remembrance Quilt

**Samantha Marion is like many boys and girls who dream of having a dog of their own. However, Samantha doesn't want just any dog—she wants a Danish Swedish Farmdog (DSF).**

Samantha's grandmother said, "In November 2010, we went to the DSFCA 5th National Breed Specialty Show and Seminar. We had gone to the show for two reasons: Sam was researching the genealogy of the Danish Swedish Farmdogs (DSF), who live in the United States, for her fifth grade independent study report and because she wants to own a Farmdog in the future. At this show, Sam met many DSF owners and their dogs including a lady named Brita and her Farmdog, Vago. Vago was very handsome and did quite well at the show. Sam enjoyed watching Brita take Vago around the ring with his leash held high."

Sam and her grandmother stayed in touch with Brita. They were saddened to learn that on April 5, 2011, while hiking with Brita in the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, Vago was bitten by a rattlesnake. Sam wrote, "Vago was rushed to the vet and although he fought bravely through the night, he was not strong enough. Vago died the next morning after living eleven happy years."

*SEE A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE • PAGE 18*



**Samantha with Vindaloo and Brita holding special quilt.**



**Page, School News mascot, loves visitors! Andrew was Tamara's Student of the Year and now a 6th grade student at Fulton Middle School. If you are in Seal Beach stop by and say hi to Page, we're at 225 Main Street.**

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## Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
714/966-4000 www.ocde.us

### Dr. Marc Lerner is New Medical Officer



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent

The research is clear; healthy children are more likely to have positive outcomes in school. Until now, financial restraints have made it difficult to expand health related services in our schools. The scale of this challenge was understood by our partners who have stepped up to make a new investment on behalf of our youth. It is with this generous support that we are pleased to announce that Orange County children and families have a new health champion, Dr. Marc Lerner.

As Medical Officer (M.O.) with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), Dr. Lerner joins a proactive education community that is focusing on student well-being as a critical feature that leads to academic success. Dr. Lerner is an esteemed professional, an Orange County resident, and an active leader in the medical community. As a Board Certified General, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician, and a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and the Chief of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics for the University of California Irvine, Medical School, Dr. Lerner has addressed important clinical issues and research for Orange County children and their families. A recipient of the Halo Award from the Orange County School Nurse Association in 2007, Dr. Lerner is well respected in the community as a leader in the field of pediatrics.

Dr. Lerner's will offer consultation services on youth related medical and health issues for the education community. He will join with members of the existing OCDE health and wellness team to support the physical health and mental well-being of children from preschool through high school. A comprehensive

SEE OC DEPT. OF ED. • PAGE 28



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



Summer is officially over and students are back in school. As the Mayor of Fountain Valley says in his article on page 4, please be safety-conscious motorists. On that same page the Mayor of Huntington Beach offers events events for the dogs in the family and the Westminster Mayor writes about their commitment to conservation.

This issue each of the districts have focused on their plans for the new school year and bring you up to date on the challenges being faced in this continuing difficult economy. Everyone is a stakeholder in the educating of our youth.

Thanks for reading *School News!*

## School News

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## The City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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# Be Safety-Conscious Motorists



**Steve A. Nagel**  
Mayor

It's hard to believe, but school will be in session again soon! That means one of our most precious resources, our children, will be making their way to and from school at the same time many of us are traveling to and from work. Let's be extra alert and conscientious when driving near schools. The most important school crossing times are from 7 a.m. to 8:35 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

When schools open, the Fountain Valley Police Department will again focus its traffic enforcement efforts to monitor motorists' speed and enforce crosswalk and Crossing Guard violations near school-related intersections. Pedestrian safety in crosswalks depends on recognizing the authority and assigned responsibility of Crossing Guards. According to California Vehicle Code Section 21100.3 Local Regulation of Traffic, "It is unlawful for any person to disobey the traffic directions of a person appointed or authorized by a local authority to regulate traffic pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 21100 when such appointee is wearing an official insignia issued by the local authority and is acting in the course of his appointed duties." Ignoring the presence and direction of a Crossing Guard is illegal and dangerous to our school children and Crossing Guards.

To all safety-conscious motorists, I express my thanks for making our community's kids your top priority. Also, let me compliment and thank all Crossing Guards for the great job they do. Pedestrian safety is not only a Crossing Guard's responsibility, it is also ours! Have a great school year, Fountain Valley!

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11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

## The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311 • www.ci.westminster.ca.us

# Committed to Conservation



**Margie Rice**  
Mayor

I appreciate this opportunity to provide information about how the City of Westminster remains committed to promoting conservation. We continue to offer our community important information on ways to save water, energy and money.

In August, the City hosted its third annual Green Expo in partnership with Southern California Edison and The Gas Company. Many products were displayed including electric cars, and information was provided on energy audit rebate programs and other ways to reduce costs and energy use.

Upon acquiring land for use as a water treatment site, the City decided to develop part of the lot with a conservation garden for education purposes. Located at 6312 California Avenue, the garden displays drought tolerant California native plants and descriptions of their cost and availability. With materials donated by local companies, parkways display alternative methods of low maintenance hardscape including synthetic turf, stamped concrete, flagstone and pavers. I encourage everyone to visit the garden to see how attractive conservation can be.



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## The City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • www.surfcity-hb.org

# Time for Dogs and Dog Lovers



**Joe Carchio**  
Mayor

Once again, it's time for students and teachers to go back to school. Teachers have prepared their classrooms and students have bought all their new notebooks and other school supplies and everyone is prepared to go back to school.

Hopefully, all those purchases were made in the City of Huntington Beach supporting local businesses and contributing to the overall health of our local economy.

So now that the kids are taken care of, it's time to take care of the dogs in the family. There are many events this fall for dog owners and dog lovers alike. If you have never checked out the Dachshund Races at Old World Village –it is time you did. There is nothing like the roar of the crowd as those Weiner dogs are heading for the finish line to get you in the mood for Oktoberfest. Just check out [www.oldworldvillage.ws](http://www.oldworldvillage.ws) for a complete schedule.

On September 23 to 25, the Third Annual Surf City Surf Dog festival and surf competition takes place. Check out the website for the complete schedule of events – [www.surfcitysurfdog.com](http://www.surfcitysurfdog.com)

And on September 25th, the Orange County SPCA will be holding the annual Walk for the Animals from 9 am to noon in Central Park. The website [www.orangecountyspca.org](http://www.orangecountyspca.org) has the details.

Enjoy the fall and all the activities in Huntington Beach!



# Back to School Nutrition

By Nancy Wikes, MS, RD

Is good nutrition important for good learning? In a word, YES! Even though breakfast is the most important meal of the day many students skip it. Start your student off with a healthy breakfast. What is a healthy breakfast? Try a slice of whole grain toast with peanut butter, piece of fruit, glass of 1% milk, an egg or last night's leftovers. Avoid high sugar cereals as they may leave them hungry and tired half way through the morning. If your child gets hungry mid morning, send an apple, whole grain crackers, nuts or cheese rather than sugary cookies or white-flour crackers.

Secondly, encourage your student to eat lunch. Meals served at school contribute significantly to kids overall nutrient and energy needs. You can help your child by keeping the school lunch menu in your kitchen, go over it with them, and talk about making good choices in the cafeteria. If your child prefers to brown bag it, let them help plan and prepare their lunch. When they're involved, chances are they will resist trading their carrots for cookies. Examples to include are sandwiches, raw veggies, crackers, whole fruit and yogurt or pudding.

Finally, don't forget to stock up on fruits, vegetables, popcorn and cereal for those quick after school snacks. We know that children who eat healthy foods will be more likely to make better food choices as adults. If you would like to learn more about upcoming nutrition activities, contact HBUHSD Food and Nutrition Services at (714) 894-1698.

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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



### Difficult But Necessary

There are many very difficult but necessary tasks undertaken by a Board of Trustees in overseeing the effective and efficient operations of a school district. Certainly reducing and eliminating vital programs and services is one of them. However, most experienced educators cite the consideration and decision to close one or more schools as probably the most painful. The Fountain Valley School District is going through this process now.

**Dr. Marc Ecker**

I make mention of this fact because out of this burdensome process have emerged some noted individuals. I want to first and foremost acknowledge the fine work of an exceptional school closure and boundary revision study committee. Differences in opinion have definitely spiced up the work of the committee, for no representative from any particular school wants to see their school closed. However, what is emerging is a commitment to drive the recommendations with data. It is the school district as a whole that is first and foremost on the committee's mind, and it is the goal of the committee to be fair, open, accessible and effective.

I want also to thank Steve McMahon, Assistant Superintendent, Business and the facilitator of the study. He has been nothing short of incredible as he has planned for the meetings, provided data and analysis and set into place a meaningful and productive process.

Lastly, I want to herald credit to our own Board of Trustees. As I made mention earlier, this is one of, if not the most, difficult decision to be made by a local educational governance team, and their direction in this regard was not only the right thing to do but courageous, to say the least. It is their ultimate love for the Fountain Valley School District that drives them in this regard. Difficult but tough decision making breeds excellence.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

### Welcome Back to School!

Back to School. This is a term that always brings a smile to my face. As a child, it was memories of a new teacher, new friends, and new things to learn. As an educator, it was the expectation of a new year with new changes, new students, and new things to learn. Now, as a School Board trustee, it is the thrill of meeting new challenges that we must face from the state and federal governments and, as always, something new to learn.

This year the Fountain Valley School District meets these challenges with a strong new team to meet the back-to-school challenge. Anne Silavs joins us as Assistant Superintendent, Instruction. Cathie Abdel is the team's new Executive Director, Personnel. Julianne Hoefer left her principalship to become Director, Assessment and Accountability, and Abby Bickford is the new Director, Support Services. We also welcome Frank Pitoniak as the new Supervisor, Technology. In addition to these management positions, the district and the Board of Trustees are thrilled to add two new principals, Patrick Ham and Erik Miller. We are also pleased to have two new assistant principals, Heather Harrison and Jennifer Kajdasz, join the team. Welcome aboard!

While there are still challenges to be faced as we go back to school, we know that we have a strong team to help meet these challenges. We will be establishing the goals and interests for the 2011-2012 and in the near future will deal with the recommendations of the School Boundaries and Closure Committee. There is also the very real possibility that we will have to deal with mid-year cuts from Sacramento.

The Fountain Valley School District has a great team in place, and I am confident that we will meet all the challenges that come. I, for one, say, "Welcome back to school!"

## Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

## Bringing Balance to Education



The first day of school is here, and with it comes that big pile of paperwork—the homework for Mom and Dad. As a parent, I know that dreaded feeling of having to fill out first-day packages. I get to do five of them and always plan on sitting at my own desk that first day back.

**Nicola Weiss**  
*President*

In that stack are invitations to join the PTA—a no brainer because they do a lot for our students. What if you want to support the music programs, too? We've all heard the studies saying music may boost our students' IQ and grades. And we know how important science is today as well. We want to ensure for our students enjoy

a broad education. All of that means this is also the day to join the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation (FVEF)! But why the FVEF? Well, you know that smile on your student's face when he or she raises butterflies or builds a miniature room with power? Studies those snails and worms? How about the pride you feel when you see your son or daughter performing in the band concert, the orchestra night or that special vocal music performance—the one that grandma and grandpa come to see? All these science and music programs are supported by the FVEF. We're always quick to join our PTA, but take a moment look further at one organization in our district that supports many programs we take for granted. To support the FVEF, visit our Web site at [www.fvef.org](http://www.fvef.org).

## Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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# Please Drive Safely — Students are Back in School

# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • [www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courregs.html](http://www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courregs.html)



**Chris Christensen**  
*Principal*

## *From the School* **New Faces**

Courreges School welcomes a new principal and two teachers for the 2011–2012 school year.

Chris Christensen, the new principal, is thrilled to join the Courreges family! Having served as Fulton School's principal for the past five years, "Mr. C" is fortunate to already know many of the Courreges families and looks forward to meeting the entire Courreges community in the coming months. He recently finished his 10<sup>th</sup> year as an administrator in the Fountain Valley School District (FVSD). He was the assistant principal at Masuda Middle School from 2001–2003, the principal at Moiola K–8 from 2003–2006, and the principal at Fulton Middle School from 2006–2011. Mr. C is also the proud father of three children: Brittany, 15; Miranda, 10; and Conner, 8.

Lara Epling comes to Courreges this year from Newland Elementary School. This is Lara's 14th year of teaching and her fourth in FVSD. Lara teaches the K–2 Explorer program. According to the Newland principal, Kathy Davis, "Lara is a superstar educator and will be truly missed by everyone at Newland Elementary." Mrs. Epling is currently pursuing a master's degree in curriculum and instruction. She lives in Huntington Beach with her husband, Joe, and her two children, Hannah, 6, and Jack, 4.

Peny McMahon is FVSD's newest addition. She will be teaching fifth grade at Courreges. Peny received her bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach and recently completed her teaching credential and master's degree in education at the University of LaVerne. Peny and her husband, Sean, are the proud parents of a two-year-old boy, Conor.

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

17615 Los Jardines East, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • [www.coxelementary.org](http://www.coxelementary.org)



**Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

## **The Greatest Profession**

Welcome to the 2011–2012 school year. We are very excited about the opportunities that a new school year can bring, and are proud of the solid foundation that was established by both our staff members and a previous administrator, Ms. Julianne Hoefer.

It is with great privilege that I am able to serve as the new principal of Cox Elementary School. I humbly look forward to leading our school. I will also strive to continue its tradition of providing the kind of education that can open the minds of our students and allow them to dream big when facing the many opportunities in their futures.

By embracing new initiatives, such as DIBELS, ST Math, CGI, the Reader and Writers' workshop, Thinking Maps, and Smartboards in every classroom, Cox Elementary School sets the standard. We offer a high quality education and creative and innovative teaching methods in a caring and supporting environment.

Cox students arrived on the first day of school very excited and ready to learn. With this sense of excitement, and a little dash of nervousness and fear, their arrival served as a good reminder of how we are in the greatest and most rewarding profession in the world.

Every decision and goal we make as a staff is driven by an ultimate purpose: to benefit our students and allow them the chance to grow and achieve their fullest potential.

As this first stage of the school session comes to a close, we are looking forward to a wonderful 2011–2012 school year. It will be one in which our Cox eagles will undoubtedly "Soar to Excellence."

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

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • <http://fultonms.fvsd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Jennifer Perkins**  
*Principal*



**Paul Andre White**  
*Assistant Principal*

## **New Faces**

The 2011–2012 school year is underway at Fulton Middle School, and we have several new faces around campus. I am excited to introduce myself as the new principal of Fulton. I had the pleasure of growing up in the Fountain Valley School District, attending both Gisler Elementary school and Masuda Middle School, and I am thrilled to be back at Fulton! For the past four years, I have had the honor of being the principal at Gisler School

and worked as the assistant principal at Talbert Middle School prior to that. I began my career in education in the Fountain Valley School District, teaching first at Masuda and later was the activities director at Fulton. It is a wonderful school with an outstanding staff, and I feel privileged to once again be part of this school community.

We are fortunate to have four new teachers joining us this year: Mrs. Francis; Mr. Nguyen; Miss Katz; and Ms. Hogrebe. Shereen Francis joins us from Moiola K–8 School and will be teaching sixth- and seventh-grade science. Also joining our science and physical education departments will be Viet Nguyen, who will be working with both sixth- and eighth-grade students. Jessica Katz will be working with our math department this year teaching sixth- through eighth-grade classes. And lastly, we welcome Elizabeth Hogrebe, who will be teaching sixth-grade math and seventh-grade social studies. We welcome these fantastic additions to our staff and cannot wait for you to meet them as well!

We look forward to a great year at Fulton. Go, Falcons!

# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4210 • [www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/Gisler/gisler.html](http://www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/Gisler/gisler.html)



**Joyce Buehler**  
*Principal*

## **Great Beginnings!**

Gisler Elementary School welcomed new and returning students to our wonderful campus on Wednesday, Sept. 7. Our staff and students were eager to begin the new school year. As Gisler's new principal, I am thrilled and honored to begin this year at such an outstanding school, and I am looking forward to meeting all of our students, their parents and our community members. As you know, Principal Perkins has been reassigned to Fulton Middle School. She, too, is excited to begin her school year and sends her very best wishes to everyone at Gisler.

Our Gators welcomed Lindsey Blackett as one of our fourth-grade teachers this year. She has taught fifth grade at Cox Elementary School and is beyond excited to be teaching fourth grade at our school. I know that all of our Gators will extend a warm welcome to Ms. Blackett.

Gisler will continue to have an amazing community of support! This year, our PTO Board presidents are Wendy Rincon and Amy Dechene. It's our goal to help our families feel connected to our school. Please don't hesitate to join our PTO and lend a helping hand whenever possible.

I look forward to meeting you at our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Sept. 15. See you then!

Are you looking  
for me for the  
contest on page 17?





# Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6-8)*

17415 Las Jardines West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • [www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/Masuda/masuda.html](http://www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/Masuda/masuda.html)



**Chris Mullin**  
*Principal*

## A Unique And Exciting Time

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at Masuda Middle School. We are ready to learn and grow together, and are thrilled to think about the great prospects that this new school year will bring to everyone in the Monarch family.

Our staff and administrators send their best regards and wishes to the Class of 2010-2011 as it transitions into high school. We are confident that its members are all well prepared for the next step in their educational journeys.

We are also very excited to welcome our new sixth-grade students and their families from Plavan, Gisler and Cox Elementary Schools. We know that middle school is a unique and exciting time, and that Masuda is a unique and exciting community. There is no better place to be a middle school student!

The start of the new school year brings some new roles for a few familiar faces. We say goodbye to Assistant Principal Patrick Ham, who has been named the new principal of Cox. Masuda's new assistant principal is none other than our outstanding activities director and history teacher, Mrs. Heather Harrison.

In addition, nine new teachers have joined our staff. We are truly blessed to have each of them with us, and know that together we can make this a great and successful time!

Once again, welcome to the start of an exciting new school year. We look forward to meeting our wonderful community at the Back to School Night event on September 22. Go, Monarchs!

# Fred Moiola *Elementary (K-8)*

9790 Finch St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4270 • [www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/Moiola/moiola.html](http://www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/Moiola/moiola.html)



**Erin Bains**  
*Principal*

## Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

I feel so fortunate to be the principal of Fountain Valley's only K-8 school. If you are a continuing family I'm sure you have experienced the family atmosphere and the focus on

learning that Moiola fosters. If you are new, I am sure you will enjoy this wonderful new experience.

Moiola students participate in so many rewarding field trips, assemblies, and long standing traditions.

Everything is orchestrated with a team approach which includes students, parents, teachers, community and administration. Moiola has a very productive mix of new teachers and teachers that have been here to teach the children of former students. In June we said an emotional goodbye to a group of eighth graders that had been here for nine years. They formed strong bonds and gained a quiet confidence that forebears success in high school. We are looking forward to another successful year.



# William T. Newland *Elementary (K-5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • [www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/newland/newland.html](http://www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/newland/newland.html)



**Kathy Davis**  
*Principal*

## Another Summer Has Come and Gone

We return refreshed, rejuvenated and eager to find new ways to support student learning.

As a staff, our emphasis will consist of collaborative teams whose members work interdependently toward common student learning goals. As members of collaborative teams, adult stakeholders increase their own capacity to learn and to be driven by the collegial collective energy necessary for the incredible tasks of meeting the diverse learning needs of our student population.

As parents, your participation is valued. Educational research shows that school effectiveness is positively impacted by parental participation.

Here are some ways parents can support our students. Join the PTA or the School Site Council. Attend all parent conferences and Back-to-School Night. Volunteer to help in the classroom and for activities, such as field trips, the jog-a-thon and book fairs.

Together Everyone Achieves More, and as a TEAM, we can make Newland Elementary School a wonderful place for our students to grow emotionally, socially, physically and, most importantly, academically!

I am thrilled to introduce four new staff members who come to us with a range of wonderful talents, energy and enthusiasm. Please welcome Mrs. Patricia Prieto, who comes to us from Gisler School. Patricia is teaching our new third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Special Day Class. Mr. James Tilka has joined our staff as fifth-grade teacher. Mrs. Kelly Blanchard will be joining the kindergarten team. Mrs. Nicole Roquemore will be teaching our new transitional kindergarten class.

# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • [www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/oka/oka.html](http://www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/oka/oka.html)



**Erik Miller**  
*Principal*

## Continuing the Excellence

Isojiro Oka Elementary is proud to welcome a number of new staff members to our campus this year. Joining our team are three outstanding teachers: Mrs. Teri Emerson, Ms. Alyssa Gaebel and Ms. Vanessa Angeles. All three of them will be bringing a unique blend of expertise and passion to help enrich the lives of our students.

Teri Emerson will be teaching kindergarten, having previously taught at both the elementary and middle school level. Alyssa Gaebel and Vanessa Angeles will comprise our third-grade team.

Alyssa is a recent graduate of both Concordia University and San Diego State, and she comes from a family of educators. Vanessa arrives from Elk Grove in Northern California, where she has taught in a variety of grade levels in the elementary school.

All three of our new teachers are ecstatic about joining the Oka community, and will be quite successful in their new roles.

This is also the first article in a number of years that was not written by Mrs. Brandi Lloyd. After four decades in the Fountain Valley School District she is thrilled to begin her new retirement!

So Mr. Erik Miller is honored to take the reins of Oka as its new principal. He looks forward to beginning a new era that will blend the excellence of the past with the enthusiasm and accomplishments of our current students and staff members. They will keep Oka at the front of the pack!

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 17?





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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/Plavan/Plavan.html



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## Welcoming a Trilogy of Teachers

The 2011-12 school year is underway at Plavan Elementary School, and we have several new faces around campus. We are awfortunate to have three new teachers joining our Plavan family this year: Marianne Owen, Tara Erb and Kim Kha.

Mrs. Owen will begin her career as a first-grade teacher. She has served as a long-term substitute in the Fountain Valley School District and is thrilled to continue her journey here at Plavan. Mrs. Erb is also a proud product of Fountain Valley School District. She was a kindergarten teacher at Tamura Elementary and joins us to teach fifth grade. She is excited to take on this new challenge. And finally, Mrs. Kha will be teaching first grade. Mrs. Kha joins us from Cox Elementary, where she also taught first grade. All three of these women are going to be a positive addition to our staff. Their excitement and love of children show every day.

I am excited to begin a new year with a fresh start. Plavan is a wonderful school with outstanding students, staff and families. I feel privileged to be part of this school community.

We look forward to a wonderful year at Plavan. Go Panthers!

# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/tamura/tamura.html



**Jay Adams**  
*Principal*

## Welcome New Tigers

Tamura is excited to introduce our new staff members this year...we'll have a few familiar, but technically "new" faces floating around here! Joining us after her student teaching and then long-term subbing is Mrs. Kristin Monsoor, whom we were so lucky to snatch up for our team! And joining us after substituting all over our campus is Ms. Katie Daniels, who will now be a permanent fixture around here! Both of them will be teaching Kindergarten, joining Mrs. Heather Lopez and Mrs. Martha Anderson. Welcome, new Tigers!

2011-12 promises to be an outstanding school year. We are welcoming in around 110 new Transitional-K's and Kindergarteners as they begin their illustrious school careers. They'll be the graduating classes of 2024/25. Can you believe it?! And we're proud of our returning students, too. We've missed you over the summer and are so eager to get back into the swing of things! Hooray for school! We're glad you're part of our Tamura family.

# Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School (6-8)*

9101 Brabham Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.fvsd.us/p\_home.asp?tid=5



**Cara Robinson**  
*Principal*

## Welcome to Another School Year

I am pleased to welcome to the Talbert family Mrs. Jennifer Kajdasz, who is our new assistant principal. Jennifer takes over for Erik Miller, who is now the principal at Oka Elementary. Jennifer has been teaching for nine years. She started her career in Colorado and has been teaching at Courreges Elementary for the past seven years, where she has taken on many leadership roles.

The most significant new role she has assumed is motherhood. Jennifer and her husband, Mike, recently welcomed their first child to the world, Tyler, just eleven weeks ago. She is a die-hard New Orleans Saints fan who resides in Costa Mesa with her budding family, along with Deuce, her favorite dog! On behalf of Jennifer, and the entire Talbert staff, I wish you all a terrific start to school!

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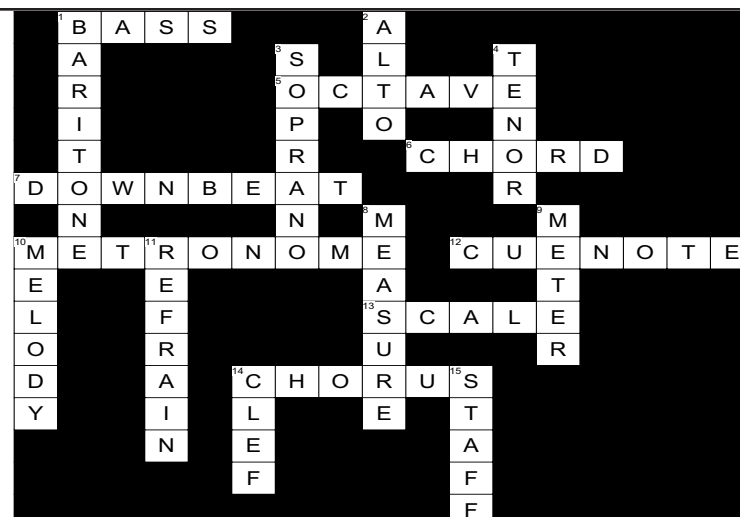
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on pages 26 & 27





# Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. William V. Loose**

### Continuing to Put Students First

Riding the Wave of Academic Excellence is a continuing theme of the Ocean View School District, which proudly serves the communities of Huntington Beach, Westminster, Fountain Valley, and Midway City from preschool to eighth grade.

The recently received 2011 Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing results validate our students' achievement. In all grade levels tested, Ocean View students scored above the Orange County average on all tests!

At Ocean View, we pride ourselves on addressing the needs of the whole child. As we prepare our students for the challenges and demands of the global society in which we live, our students receive a rigorous but comprehensive course of study, including exposure to the arts and technology. Ocean View students are readers, writers, mathematicians, thinkers, and problem-solvers.

Like all school districts in California, we have been faced with budgetary challenges. However, Ocean View continues to put students first. Elementary class sizes in kindergarten through third grade remain at 24 or below. Music is offered in fourth through eighth grades. Our classrooms are equipped with interactive technology, such as SMART Boards and iPads. Our most valuable resource in Ocean View is the people—our dedicated and well-trained teachers, staff, and administrators. They continue to foster creativity, collaboration, and innovation at all levels.

**To catch the wave in action, our 2011 Back-to-School nights are being held on the evenings indicated below:**

### Elementary Schools (K-5)

#### Circle View

K-5 September 21

#### Harbour View

K-2 September 15  
3-5 September 22

#### Golden View

K-1 September 15  
2-3 September 26  
4-5 September 22

#### Hope View

K October 3  
1-5 October 5

#### Oak View

K-2 October 3  
October 5

### All other Elementary Schools

College View, Lake View, 3-5  
Star View, Sun View, Village View and Westmont  
October 5

### All Middle Schools

Marine View, Mesa View, Spring View and Vista View  
October 6

For additional information, please visit us at [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org) or (714) 847-2551.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Debbie Cotton**  
*President*

### A Warm Welcome

On behalf of the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, I extend a warm welcome back for the 2011–2012 school year. Despite severe state and federal funding reductions, Ocean View is holding strong. Times are truly tough, but thanks to our dedicated students, parents and staff, our children are learning and growing.

Ocean View has continued class-size reduction in kindergarten through third grade, holding maximum class sizes at a 24:1 student/teacher ratio. We maintained our after-school sports program in the four middle schools, kept art in all grade levels, and continued music in grades four through eight. Last year our district piloted a third-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program that was very successful and continues this year. We still have kindergarten of choice, which ranges from Preppie K to extended-day kindergarten.

We look forward to a year that expands our existing arts program and brings more technology to our students' education. We are excited to expand the differentiated instruction to more classrooms in order to meet the needs of all students. Most importantly we look forward to each and every student attending each and every day so that we can continue to make a difference in each student's life.

We wish you a wonderful 2011–2012 school year and thank you for your support.



**Debbie Cotton**  
*President*



**Tracy Pellman**  
*Clerk*



**John Briscoe**  
*Member*



**John Ortiz**  
*Member*



**Norm Westwell**  
*Member*

### Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



**It's fun to be back in school!**



# Circle View *Elementary*

6261 Hooker Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5035 • www.ovsd.org



**Karen Sanders**  
*Principal*

## Our Eagles are Ready to Soar!

I wish to welcome all of the returning students and their families, and say hello to our new additions. It's really hard to believe that summer is over and we are starting another school year!

I am so excited to be Circle View's new principal, and feel privileged to be part of a community with such supportive parents and hard-working, caring staff members. And don't forget our incredible students, too, who put forth tremendous amounts of time and effort to make our school wonderful.

Our teachers, staff and parents worked all summer to get ready for the new year. The PTO has also been hard at work planning exciting educational activities under the direction of President Ginny Bates.

The teachers have put in countless hours to get their classrooms ready. They have created inviting learning environments and attended many staff developments in order to prepare lesson plans that will be sure to motivate our students.

Our wonderful custodial staff has also worked hard to see that we can start the year in a clean and attractive environment.

I would like to welcome a few new faces to our school. Barri Williams will be joining the kindergarten team; Karin Peters will be job sharing with Ashley Chang; and Laryn Ball will be joining the special education team. We are also very fortunate to have Ann O'Brien as our new office manager.

This year promises to be filled with learning, excitement and success. I look forward to watching our Circle View Eagles soar to new heights.

# College View *Elementary*

6582 Lennox Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3503 • www.ovsd.org



**Kathy Smith**  
*Principal*

## Working the "Magic" at College View

College View teachers are working their "magic" in the classrooms each and every day by delivering solid standards based instruction. At College View, teachers utilize Differentiated Instruction to address our diverse student's needs. As a result of a strong effort and focus on Differentiated Instruction, we are seeing significant gains in our student achievement as measured by our AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) and API (Academic Performance Index).

Student disparity in skills and knowledge can be a difficult challenge to overcome, but our talented and dedicated staff has risen to the challenge. Three of our staff members Caryn Keller, Mandy Mitchell and Kristy Munoz have worked tirelessly as College View's Student Focused Coaches (SFC). In addition to their classroom responsibilities, our Student Focused Coaches will provide support for our classroom teachers by facilitating teacher professional development, workshops and/or demonstrations. In tandem with our talented staff of professionals, we look forward to celebrating another successful year by "magically" (Through Hard Work and Dedication) improving student achievement and making the most of the instructional day for each and every child.

# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

## The Golden View Family

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! It is such a privilege to be part of a school that is on a steady course of academic achievement due to the incredible community, students, parents and staff that make up Golden View Elementary School. At Golden View, we will continue to build on our momentum of providing excellence for every child every day. The staff has worked hard to get ready for the new year, and we are excited to see our returning families and meet Golden View's newest family members.

We would like to welcome some of Ocean View's finest, who will be joining the Golden View family. Kindra Chen will join the second-grade team, and Joannah Labrador will join the fourth-grade team. Kristen Henry will be our new school psychologist. We are also fortunate to have a new student environmental learning facility facilitator for our farm, Dana Prante. Dana has worked closely on the farm for many years, we welcome her experience and new ideas. All of these new staff members will bring their assets to an already incredible group of teachers and support staff.

The Golden View staff looks forward to working with every child and fine tuning programs to ensure every student's needs are met. Closing the achievement gap between our variety of learners in reading, writing and mathematics is our focus, and our commitment is to provide all Golden View students with the academic and pro-social behaviors that will be the foundation of their present and future success.

# Harbour View *Elementary*

4343 Pickwick Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

## Meet the New Staff!

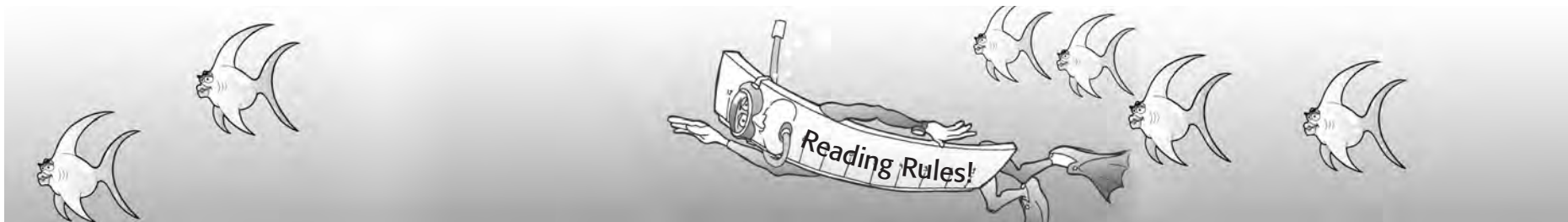
The school year is off to an exciting start, with happy children and energetic teachers working their magic! Speaking of teachers, Harbour View is very fortunate to have added four new staff members this year. Introducing:

Annie Brinnon, first grade, taught for one year at Circle View. Mrs. Brinnon loves baking, watching the Lakers and going to the beach with her husband. Mrs. Brinnon said, "The best thing about being a teacher is the impact I have on my students' lives, in and out of the classroom."

Roxanne Lozano, second grade, taught for six years at Oak View. She enjoys shopping, music, traveling and cooking. Ms. Lozano loves "seeing the academic growth of my students at the end of the year and knowing that I have made an impact on their lives, as they have on mine."

Shannon Dominelli, Preppie Kindergarten, has been in the Ocean View School District for 10 years. Mrs. Dominelli enjoys shopping and attending sporting events. She said, "The best thing about being a teacher is that I am provided with the opportunity to make a difference, academically and socially, in the lives of the children I teach."

Lori Ferguson, kindergarten, taught at Village View for the past four years. She enjoys sports, shopping and attending Angels games. Ms. Ferguson said, "The best thing about being a teacher is helping my students become excited about learning and the rewarding feeling of seeing their progress and achievement throughout the year."





# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! It is with great enthusiasm that I join the Hope View team.

My name is Carrie Haskin and I am the new principal of Hope View



Elementary School. As the new principal, I am committed to working closely with parents in partnership to maintain, support and enhance the successful academic programs unique to Hope View. I look forward to working with such a talented staff, committed PTO and active community.

Also new to the Hope View staff are Cindy Vanesse, who will be our new RSP teacher, Lori Frohn, job sharing in teaching 2nd grade and Brandi Thompson our new health aide. We are very lucky to have them join our team. We warmly welcome our new staff and new families as we ride, "The New Wave" back into the school year and wish everyone a productive, positive school year. The entire staff is looking forward to a great school year!

# Marine View *Middle School*

5682 Tilburg Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org



**Roni Ellis**  
*Principal*

## The Writing is on the Wall....literally!

The Marine View staff believes in the concept that "As much is caught as is taught!" We know that modeling what we teach and how we want our students to treat one another and their school starts at the top. The staff, including a committed custodial team, makes certain that we send the message that pride, and opportunities to think, can be displayed everywhere...even on our walls! Marine View hallways shine and are filled with inspirational quotes by accomplished individuals such as Coach John Wooden, Albert Einstein, and Mark Twain. In addition, intersecting hallways are labeled with street signs depicting characteristics we have adopted in our positive school-wide behavioral program. Students will stroll along RESPECT ROAD or meet at the corner of INTEGRITY COUNTS LANE and FUTURE LEADERS PLACE. It reinforces to our students that learning takes place inside as well as outside the walls of a classroom.



# Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

## We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

Lake View School has always been a very spirited school and community, but it's getting even more enthusiastic! We are in the process of painting a mural in our multi-purpose room and will christen it "The Lions Den." We have a new spirit chant that we recite every week. We are especially excited about the monthly school-wide spirit assemblies that will start this year.

Lake View students have so much to be proud of and we now have more ways to share that pride. Of course, we will continue wearing our spirit shirts every Friday and display our blue and gold every chance we get!

### Lion Pride Chant:

Lake View School is number one. A place to learn and have some fun.

We follow rules that help us grow. There are three that we all know.

Respect, responsibility, And safety are the great big three.

We work hard and show we've tried. That's how we prove our Lion Pride!

Sound off, Lake View! Sound off, Lions! Lake View Lions, Show Pride!

# Mesa View *Middle School*

17601 Avilla Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org



**Leona Olson**  
*Principal*

## Welcome, New Staff!

The excitement of another school year is here! Our successes over the past year, including receiving another CalSTAT Leadership Site Award, motivates and energizes the staff to continue to work with students and their families to provide an exceptional instructional program for all students.

As we begin the year, we welcome talented teachers to the team. Language arts and social science teacher Erin Helenihi joins us from Lake View, where she taught fifth grade. To the eighth-grade GATE team we welcome Leticia Shaver from Circle View.

Ms. Shaver has experience at many grade levels, including middle school in a previous district. Physical education teacher Andrea Letcher, a former Mesa View student, joins the staff. Lindsay Barrett, a resource specialist who joined Mesa View late last year, will continue with us full time, teaching literacy and mathematics. To complete the resource team, Hayley Sheetz is joining us. Ms. Sheetz has been working in the district over the past year. We are fortunate to have such experienced and enthusiastic educators join us.

It is with great enthusiasm that we usher in the 2011-12 school year! The new year promises to be a great one, filled with many opportunities for our students to thrive and excel.

# Pleasant View *Preparatory Preschool*

16692 Landau Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

## Summer Success!

Welcome to Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool. Ocean View School District is committed to providing high quality educational programs to support student development and academic achievement. During the summer we were very proud of the many ongoing programs that we provided for our students. Some of our students were involved in our five week Extended Summer Year Maintenance Program and others participated in our two week August Program. We also continued our summer program for Ocean View Preparatory Preschool. This 10 week session called

CAMP OVPP was a huge success for our students, preparing them for the upcoming fall school year while having fun and focusing on a developmentally-appropriate academic curriculum. As we start our third year at Pleasant View our outstanding team of gifted, talented, and dedicated teachers is committed to providing the foundations and nurturing needed to help our students achieve their "personal best."



# Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Laura Dale-Pash**  
*Principal*

## Well-Read and Ready To Go!

It is with great honor that I join the Oak View family as principal of Oak View Elementary School. I come from the Westminster School District with experience in English-learner programs, interventions and curriculum. The focus of my work has been in the area of student achievement at a large Title I school primarily composed of English learners. In addition, I have worked closely with the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) consortium as a mentor, leader, adviser and trainer.

Oak View teachers and staff return to school with great anticipation of the results of our Maintain or Gain Reading Contest. In June, Oak View students were challenged to maintain or increase their reading levels over the summer. The Huntington Beach Public Library, particularly the Oak View branch, has been an instrumental partner in this program. Students have joined the summer reading program titled "One World, Many Stories." Children check in weekly for incentives based on the pages, books or minutes read. Following fall assessments, students who have maintained or gained will be honored in a Green Carpet Awards ceremony. We know that students have been busy reading and enjoying lots of great books!

I look forward to a great school year and many years with the Oak View community. Thank you to the district, school staff, parents and students for making me feel so welcome. Oak View is an amazing community of hardworking students, families and teachers. Go Owls! I believe in you!

# Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
*Principal*

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2011–2012 school year. At Spring View Middle School we will continue to build on our goal of providing an excellent learning environment for every child every day.

Through community, staff, parent and student cooperation our school continues to be the best it can be. By being prepared, exhibiting respect, taking safety in all situations, and then taking responsibility for our actions, Spring View will continue to flourish.

I would like to welcome two new additions to our staff, Mrs. Jade Dowbachuk and Mr. Randy Lempert. Mrs. Dowbachuk has been working in the Ocean View School District for the past four years at Mesa View Middle School. Her enthusiasm and expertise makes her a welcome addition.

Mr. Lempert is our new assistant principal. He comes to us from the Huntington Beach City School District, where he was a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA). He has a wealth of experience as both a middle school teacher and an administrator. Both Mrs. Dowbachuk and Mr. Lempert are fantastic additions to the Spring View team.

Our staff looks forward to working with every child. This summer they have been fine tuning their programs to make sure that every student's needs are being met, and that they will always be able to exhibit their "best" qualities.

Continued growth both academically and socially is our constant focus. Our main commitment is to give each Spring View student the academic and pro-social support they need to help build a strong foundation for current and future success.

# Oak View

*Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
*Principal*

## Preschool Makes A Difference!

As a former school readiness coordinator, elementary school principal and now Oak View Preschool's principal, I have a rare perspective on how preschool programs affect children's future. Our STAR test results show these impacts.

Our school was established in September 2001. The first group of 4-year-olds was tested five years later. Oak View Elementary's API score increased from 593 in 2001 to 696 in 2005—a 103-point growth!

Approximately half of OVP children go on to Oak View Elementary; the other half attends schools throughout the district. Ocean View's API scores have steadily increased each year—88 points from 2002–10. English learners' scores increased 133 points. We can only speculate that our preschoolers contributed to the improved scores.

In 2001, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County and the state of California provided funds to transform a neglected community park into a school site that provides education to 240 students annually. Oak View Preschool is an NAEYC accredited award-winning program free to qualifying families. The vision of school administrators Dr. James Tarwater, Karen Colby, Donna Stapleton and Beverly Hempstead provided the Ocean View community with a standards-based program that has made a positive difference in the lives of many children and their families.

Thank you to Dr. Loose and the Board of Trustees for their continued support of our program. As the state struggles with budget deficits, the future of all educational programs is tenuous. We can only hope that the value of early intervention and the improvement in test scores are considered when making decisions about continuing programs that make a difference.

# Star View *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Pauline Tressler**  
*Principal*

## Every Child Asked to Be a STAR

Everyone at Star View is excited about the beginning of a new school year. We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, excitement, and a lot of fun! I am happy to report that our students are continuing to grow academically. We are proud of their successes!

We believe that our students will continue to thrive within a positive, caring environment. To that end, every child is asked to be a STAR (Safe, Team Player, Achiever, Respectful and Responsible). We use our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support System) program which includes a matrix of appropriate behaviors across the school environment. We take the time to teach each behavior and we like to catch kids doing it right. There are a variety of rewards for our students, but, in the end, the true reward is a happy, productive campus.

Working together, our parents, teachers and staff provide our students with excellent role models, strategies and guidelines to keep our school positive and productive. Together, we make a difference!

Attention: School Recycling Coordinators:

## FREE Recycling Resource Event

LEARN TO RECYCLE BETTER! GIVE YOUR TRASH A SECOND CHANCE!



**For more information  
see page 31.**



# Sun View *Elementary*

7721 Juliette Low Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-9643 • www.ovsd.org



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## Sun View's Big Catch

At the end of each year, students in Mrs. Mc Laughlin's and Miss Jamie's classes go on a fishing expedition to Carr Park. This event is sponsored by the city of Huntington Beach and assisted by the Huntington Beach Police, Fire Department and Rotary Club. Students are provided with fishing poles, a lake full of fish, a barbeque, warm smiles and helping hands.

June was extra special, as fifth-graders Jacob Loomer and Christian Huerta Flores, along with fourth-grade student Linc Toner, were the lucky fishermen, reeling in one fish each. The biggest catch of the day and grand prize trophy went to Linc Toner for catching a two-and-three-quarter-pound fish! It was a nice culmination to a wonderful year.

Fishing poles and summer aside, September greeted students favorably with backpacks full of school supplies, compliments of the very generous Huntington Beach Rotary Club! Adding to a successful start of a new school year is the addition of new staff members. We welcome new second-grade teacher, Sarah Boggess, who filled the spot left by Francesca Ligman's departure to the district as a Guided Language Acquisition Development (GLAD) mentor and coach. Title 1 teacher Julie Franz from Oak View School replaced former Title 1 teacher Ronda Wong. Our new school psychologist, Michelle Howard from Westmont, replaced Kristen Henry, who was promoted to the district office. We also welcome a new health tech, Debra Rosenlof, who replaced Brandi Thompson after her transfer to Hope View School.

We look forward to a wonderful school year working closely with our parent community, students, staff and community partners to increase student achievement and enjoy continued success!

# Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Robert Miller**  
*Principal*

## Success for All

As the principal of Vista View Middle School, it is my pleasure to be leading our distinguished school staff into the 2011-2012 school year. As we eagerly await our students' return and that first school bell on September 7, we are reminded of our responsibility to educate and support our students with both excellence and care. As a school team, the Vista View staff is committed to doing whatever it takes to help all our students reach their full potential. As principal, I am proud of our many successes last year and hope to build upon them in order to help all students achieve at even

higher levels this year. Our continued success requires that we continue to focus on providing outstanding classroom instruction, an innovative network of student supports, positive personal connections between our staff and students, a rich and diverse standards-based curriculum, and a school climate that is safe, structured, and positive. I look forward to the continued collaboration between our staff, students, and parents as we work together this year to ensure "Success for All!"

Vista View Middle School is pleased to welcome Mr. Tony Castruita to our team. Tony successfully completed a year-long substitute position last year and will teach sixth-grade math and science. We're very pleased to have him join our distinguished school!

Are you looking for me  
for the contest on page 17?



# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Jodi Novy**  
*Principal*

## Welcome Back

Village View students, staff and community! It has been a very active summer around Village View Elementary School preparing for an "education packed" new school year. Village View has much to celebrate. Our API State scores continue to show growth and we are looking forward to another year of academic success. As we move into the 2011-2012 school year, we will continue with our stellar, research-based curriculum and will also be focusing on our RtI and GATE programs.

In addition to our curriculum, Village View is turning 50! In November, we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a community event and student performances. This will truly be a milestone month.

Village View has a great deal to celebrate this year. We look forward to the opportunity to create an environment of educational excellence. With the support of staff, students and community, Village View Dolphins will be the best they can be.



# Westmont *Elementary*

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



**Carol Furman**  
*Principal*

## We've Rolled Out the Carpet!

Westmont is an exemplary school that is driven by a dedicated and talented staff of teachers, an incredibly supportive community and enthusiastic students who are themselves driven by their own academic and social success! Teachers have been working hard since their return in August to evaluate our schoolwide test data and implement new strategies to ensure student success.

Achievement binders and goal setting with students and their parents are just a few of the new structures we have put into place to support increased academic achievement. With the continued implementation of differentiated instruction, we look forward to even more gains in achievement this year.

The 2011-12 school year started with a *bang* as we celebrated with our "green carpet" ceremony those students who scored in the Proficient and Advanced ranges on the spring 2011 California Standards Tests! Students reveled in their success as their peers and teachers cheered them on! All the students at Westmont also participated in our second-annual kickoff assembly to reintroduce the Westmont Way—our schoolwide positive-behavior support program. What a positive start to the school year!

Throughout this year, the students of Westmont can look forward to "bragging" to the principal on Fridays, monthly awards ceremonies to honor exemplary character and academic success, incentives for excellent attendance and receiving Westmont Way raffle tickets! It is going to be a fantastic year at Westmont! Go Eagles!



# Aha! FOR KIDS™

This section features  
enrichment opportunities  
for children to  
find their passion!

## Note-ables

### Jungle Gym



Kate Karp

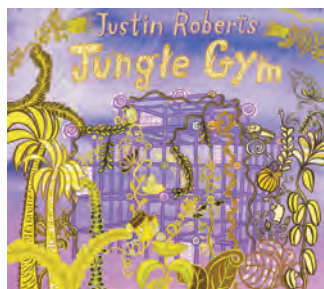
*Jungle Gym* by award-winning singer-songwriter Justin Roberts's could be a musical soundtrack for *Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing* or *Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No-Good Very Bad Day*. For every instance of childhood angst and glee, Roberts, who's a former preschool teacher, has created clever lyrics that children will relate to.

"I write stuff that makes me feel something, and then I hope kids will like it, too," Roberts said. Children will not only like them but will also easily relate to songs about a truck-obsessed younger sibling, sleepovers and homesickness, and getting lost in the mall.

Each song is a vignette of a child's life. There are fun and games—"We Go Duck" expresses delight at a rainy day that brings indoor recess and Duck Duck Goose to kindergarten; in "Gym Class Parachute," a child who admittedly isn't the athletic type sees his teacher dragging out the giant parachute and knows that they'll all be playing games in which there's no winner or loser. "Sign My Cast" has the temporarily dethroned self-anointed King of the Jungle Gym telling his friends, with the swagger of youth, to choose a "color with a good contrast" and "form a line while there's still time" to sign his cast. And there's "Snow Day," which of course we don't have in Southern California, but your child may nag you to move to Minnesota after hearing it.

You can pick a favorite jelly bean out of the *Jungle Gym* bag for a classroom lesson or a family situation. You can also just play it through and enjoy Roberts's songs backed by the Not Ready for Naptime Players, a group of talented musicians who play flutes and French horns, Wurlitzers and Moog synthesizers, ashtrays and hair clippers. And ducks. Of course.

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



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## Westminster Library

8180 13th St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-5057 • www.ocpl.org

## 'Book' Your Calendar!



**Mary Ann Hutton**  
Branch Manager

Start the school year off right by visiting the Westminster Library! The Children's Book Club meets Wednesdays, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12, at 3:30 p.m.; we'll discuss the monthly selection and have fun book-related activities. Call the library for more information. Children of all ages are invited to join us for our Craft Afternoons on Thursdays, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Teens and their parents are invited to learn about some of our online resources at our Getting the Edge on Homework! two-part program. Part one takes place Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m., and part two on Tues., Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. Visit the library during Banned Books Week, Sept. 24–Oct. 1, and check out some of your favorite banned books.

Celebrate Teen Read Week, October 16–22, with special events! The theme this year, Picture It!@your library, encourages teens to read a variety of materials: graphic novels, movies, books about photography—anything! Contact the library for more event information. Join the new Teen Book Club starting on Sept. 15 and continuing on the third Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. for a discussion and activities based on teen books. Contact the library for the monthly selection.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets Wednesdays, Sept. 7 and Oct. 5, at 4 p.m. Teens who are interested in contributing their ideas for library programs and materials should come! VolunTEEN orientations take place Tuesdays, Sept. 13 and Oct. 19, at 3:30 p.m.; new volunteers should pick up an application at the information desk before the orientation.



## PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIP NOW FOR FREE ADMISSIONS AND CLASSES!



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## Homework Help



**Barbara Richardson**  
Acting Senior  
Librarian  
Programming  
and Youth Services

Starting on September 12, children can register for our Homework Club at either the Central Library or Oak View Branch. All children needing help will be paired with volunteer tutors. They will also need to bring their homework assignments and textbooks with them, and their parents must sign a permission slip.

The Central Library's Homework Club will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30–5 p.m. Oak View's Club will meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2–5 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 12:30–4:30 p.m.

The Homework Club is held only during the school year, and is not offered during the winter or spring breaks. Any high school seniors, college students or adults who wish to volunteer to be tutors or coordinators can contact Barbara Richardson at richardb@hbpl.org.

Oak View is always looking for bilingual homework coordinators.

Besides the Homework Club, the library also offers online homework help with HelpNow. Students can connect online with live tutors every day from 1–10 p.m. They need to have a Huntington Beach Library card to access this database from home, or they can access HelpNow in the library.

Students can access our Mango database to learn different languages. They can also perform research with our Kids Search and Student Research Center databases at www.hbpl.org.

Our fall reading program for children age 4 to 12 years starts on October 8. Children can earn up to three hamburgers or cheeseburgers by reading library books. Please visit www.hbpl.org in October for more information about this and other programs at the library.

## Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication **8 times.**

When you find it, email all **8 page numbers** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com  
(Please put FHOW  
in the subject line)



Your entry must be received by October 15, 2011. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations to the June winners!**  
**Dung Dong and Kaitlyn Vu**



### Do the words "math homework" strike fear in your child...or you?

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Our website will be launched this fall  
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Are you  
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for the contest  
on page 17?



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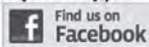
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LBSN



### A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE • FROM PAGE 1

It was at that time Sam had the idea for the visual portion of her report—she would draw Vago on fabric and make a small quilt and give it to Brita as a remembrance of her beloved pet.

In August Sam had the pleasure of presenting the quilt to Brita at Brita's Old Town Garden on Main Street in Seal Beach. Sam's Grandmother said, "I was very happy that Sam had the chance to meet with Brita and talk about these special dogs and about life in general. A nice part of the day was when we went to lunch and Vago's daughter, Vindaloo, sat in Sam's lap!"

### Samantha's Independent Study Report About the DSF

The origins of a DSF according to Marianne Furst-Danielsson, who knows a lot about the breed, were probably a dog from the Schnauzer, British white terrier and Pinscher breeds. A Farmdog gets its short agile body from the Schnauzer breed. The Pincher gives a Farmdog its key looks and has made the Farmdog a herding and guardian breed. The British White Terrier makes a Farmdog a ratter.

The function of a DSF is just what it says—a Farmdog. A Farmdog is a versatile breed that guards its family, protects & herds its children and animals on the farm, hunts & keeps after the rodents. What make the Farmdog great are its small compact body, great speed and almost endless energy. All in all, the Farmdog was bred for nothing but to be a great Farmdog.

In 1997 Melody Farquar-Chang wanted a big dog, but the rest of her family wanted a smaller dog. They all researched and found with the Danish Chicken Dog that they can have a BIG dog in a small package. So Melody called the Danish Kennel Club and Swedish Kennel Club to find a breeder, but it ended up she was talking about a Dansk-Svensk Gårdhund (DSF). She was given a list of breeders and found Lisbeth Staunshot-Nielson of Kennel Agerhoenen. They began writing messages, Lisbeth was the Danish representative of the breed at the time, Melody asked for her

to help her find a female dog that would be a potential breeding dog. So Lisbeth decided to make a special line of her prize winning male, Stump. That litter contained two of tri-color pups and three two-color pups, one of those two-color pups being Flora. Thus, Flora was the first DSF brought to the U.S.

The rules of owning a Farmdog can be very strict. You have to use positive reinforcement to train them and the time it might take to own one is quite long."

Publisher's note: I look forward to publishing the story someday when Samantha gets her very own Farmdog.



Samantha holding Vago's daughter Vindaloo

Minds are like parachutes.  
They only function when  
they are open.

—Sir James Dewar, Scientist



# Westminster School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



### New Leaders/New Roles

What makes Westminster School District great? Without a question, it is our staff. The quality people that are employed here are nothing short of amazing. It is because of this quality and depth that we were able to promote from within when we had administrative openings this year. I would like to welcome our new administrators into their new assignments and some returning administrators into their new roles. I am so pleased to have these talented professionals on our team. I have no doubt that their skills, knowledge, experience and enthusiasm will combine to make for an exciting and successful 2011-2012 school year!

**Richard Tauer**

### New Administrators/New Roles

Tricia Urbaniec has been promoted to the position of Administrator of Categorical Programs and Assessment. She has been with the district for 14 years; 8 years as an administrator and 6 years as a teacher. Immediately before her promotion she was the Principal of Meairs Elementary.

Shane Vinagupta has been promoted to the position of Principal of Johnson Middle School. He had been the Assistant Principal at Johnson for the past two years and has been with the district for 4 years. Prior to coming to WSD, he was a teacher in the Montebello Unified School District.

Shay Reardon has been hired as the new Assistant Principal at Stacey Middle School. She has been a teacher for five years in WSD and was a teacher for four years in the Corona Norco Unified School District.

Jennifer Roehling has been hired as the new Assistant Principal at Warner Middle School. She has been a teacher in WSD for three years and was a teacher in the Garden Grove Unified School District for two years.

Heidi DeBritton will be the Principal at Stacey Middle School. Previously she was the Principal at Johnson Middle School. She has been with WSD for 20 years; 12 years as a Principal and eight years as a teacher.

Kathy Kane will be the Principal of Meairs Elementary School. Previously she was the Principal at Stacey Middle School. She has been with WSD for 14 years; 10 years as a Principal and 4 years as a teacher.

Kristin Campbell will be the Assistant Principal of Johnson Middle School. Previously she was the Assistant Principal at Warner Middle School and has been with WSD for five years and was a teacher for four years in the Chino Unified School District.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Jo-Ann Purcell**  
*President*

### Measure O Construction Begins this Fall

Major construction is scheduled to begin this fall at our three middle schools: Johnson, Stacey and Warner. Voters passed Measure O, a \$130-million-dollar bond measure for school facilities improvement, in November 2008, and we have been working diligently on plans to maximize the use of those funds and to benefit all of our students. This fall our community will see those plans start to become a reality. Here are some of the highlights of what the major middle school transformations will include:

**New Science and Exploration Classroom Building**—The new Science and Exploration Classroom Building will be a two-story, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient building designed for flexible use. The top floor will have four large science classrooms that include an adjoining research area where various experiments can be conducted. The bottom floor will include three large classrooms. Each classroom will include large, medium and small spaces, where teachers will work with students on collaborative, exploration-based learning. The three large classrooms will also include the ability to open the partitions between each room so students can move easily between classrooms.

**New Gymnasium and Multi-Use Facility**—In addition to a full-sized gymnasium, this new facility will include a fitness classroom, dedicated music classroom, drama classroom, and stage for performances and presentations. The new facility will have enough space to accommodate up to 1,500 people.

**Outdoor Learning Spaces**—The concept, “everywhere a student goes on campus should be an opportunity to learn,” is exemplified in the new Outdoor Learning Spaces. In addition to new outdoor spaces where classrooms, small groups of students, or individual students can go to work on projects, the spaces themselves will provide learning opportunities. For example, the pathways between buildings and the hardscape around buildings will include words and phrases stamped into the concrete relating to the primary focus of the particular learning space. There will be music scales and concepts relating to music and composition outside the music classroom. There will be science terms outside the new science classroom building. Long pathways will show the relationship between feet and meters. The roof of the annex science classroom will be a “green roof” that also includes collaboration space for learning and studying. All the outdoor space will also have wireless internet (Wi-Fi) access available to staff, students and guests on the school’s local, secure network. Teachers and students will have a wide variety of spaces for collaboration and learning.

**Resource Center**—The existing multi-purpose room will be converted into a full-service Resource Center. The new Resource Center will include a library, reading room, media center, computer workstations, and office space for staff to work with individual or small groups of students. The Resource Centers will also include space for after-school programs and materials.

**Sustainable Designs**—The new buildings and outdoor learning spaces will incorporate sustainable design and green building strategies, using standards and characteristics from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The goal is to create a learning environment that saves the district operating funds and provides an opportunity for students to learn about sustainable design and related careers. The district will also continue to evaluate solar panels as another way to save energy and operating funds.

**Watching it Happen**—Each middle school construction site will include a time lapse camera so the community and staff may view construction progress at each middle school from the district Web site. This will also provide opportunities for the elementary schools to show their students what is happening at the middle schools they will be attending. An added benefit is that the new construction may be an opportunity for students to learn about design, construction and other related jobs. The construction manager and architects will be providing time to meet with elementary classrooms to show students what they do and provide examples through the actual work being performed for the Westminster School District.

### Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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**Dr. Lori Rogers**  
Principal

## Kicking Off With Positive Behavior

After a year of attending special training sessions and developing lessons, the Anderson School staff has kicked off its new behavior plan.

This year's focus is on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). In keeping with our Tiger mascot, the first week's lessons follow Anderson's ROARS acronym. This stands for one of our core values of respect, organization, attentiveness, responsibility and safety.

Our classrooms have these core values on display, and a set of large banners reminds our staff and students that they should always uphold them.

The PBIS lessons will continue throughout the year during the various school assemblies and classroom instruction periods. Our students will also be rewarded for their positive choices with verbal praise and small token recognitions such as prizes, certificates and monthly assembly awards. Parents will be notified, too, if their child receives an award for positive behavior.

Our staff members and teachers all know that maintaining a positive-behavior intervention program can help promote greater personal success in both academics and real life. Negative behavior is addressed through consequences, and it is regularly documented and communicated to the parents.

Maintaining a safe school environment, and always striving towards increased academic achievement, is top priority here at Anderson Elementary School. So please come by and pick up a brochure, and be sure to see our new banners! An Anderson Tiger ROARS!



**John Staggs**  
Principal

## Great Progress

It has been a great summer, and we are excited about the 2011-2012 school year here at Clegg Elementary School. We have been looking at the testing data this summer for last school year, and the results are very encouraging. The data shows that all of the hard work our staff and students have been putting in is paying off. Our students are making great progress!

We are excited about a new addition to our staff this coming school year. Michelle Manley will be teaching a first- and second-grade combination class this year. Mrs. Manley comes to us from Eastwood Elementary School, where she taught for the last seven years. She has taught second and fifth grades and was named Eastwood Teacher of the Year for the 2010-2011 school year! We are very excited to welcome Michelle to our staff.

We are very thankful for all of the parent participation on our campus last year and hope to continue working closely with each of you throughout the coming school year. It is important that school staff and parents work closely together to ensure that each of your students continues to grow and be successful in school. Joining the PTA and/or working with your classroom teachers are great ways to get involved.

Welcome back.



**Shannon Villanueva**  
Principal

## S.M.A.R.T. Dolphins Eat Their Fruits and Vegetables

Before bidding DeMille fond farewell last June, our sixth graders left a lovely gift. The sixth grade class worked with artist, Kim Jordan, to create a lovely mural entitled "S.M.A.R.T. Dolphins Eat Their Fruits and Vegetables". This project was provided in partnership with the Network for a Healthy California. Ms. Jordan met with the sixth graders to generate ideas for what should be included in the school mural. She then took those ideas and sketched them on the wall. Under Ms. Jordan's guidance, the sixth grade students helped bring their own ideas to life. Each student

helped paint the mural on the wall. It was thrilling for everyone on campus to see a plain old brick wall be transformed into a beautiful piece of art right before our eyes. Thank you Ms. Jordan and sixth graders. DeMille will enjoy your masterpiece for years to come.



Mural in progress and completed



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# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227



**Donna Brush**  
Principal

## Our Focus: Intervention and Support

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! Eastwood staff members are excited and energized about the upcoming school year. We've analyzed, refined and improved our academic program to ensure alignment between our instructional goals and our vision of high academic success for all Eastwood students.

Our focus is to provide an educational program that allows all children to reach their maximum academic potential. We endeavor to provide students with a program that places emphasis on basic academic skills and subject matter and promotes a personal sense of responsibility, good citizenship, pride and self-worth. Eastwood's program is consistent with research and best practices and focuses on student learning; we emphasize student-teacher interaction, student-centered learning, a positive learning environment, order and purpose, and high expectations.

To enhance our program, we will be implementing SWPBIS (Schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). PBIS is not a curriculum, intervention or practice; it is a decision-making framework that guides selection, integration and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving outcomes for all students. Through PBIS, we are looking forward to a teaching and learning environment that is less reactive, aversive and exclusionary while being more engaging, responsive and productive. Additionally, PBIS will help in addressing classroom management and disciplinary issues (e.g., attendance, tardiness and antisocial behavior) and improve supports for students whose behaviors require more specialized assistance. But most importantly, PBIS will assist us in maximizing academic engagement and achievement for all students—our focus for the 2011-12 school year.

# Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764



**Maria Gutierrez-Garcia**  
Principal

## A Busy Summer

Finley School has been a hub of activity during the summer! The traditional Summer Reading library run by fifth grade Teacher, Joy Chaney, opened on June 22 with ninety eager readers with moms and

babies in tow! Finley students were eager to check out as many as four or five books for a week at a time, every Wednesday in the summer. In addition, to help our students prepare for the September administration of the California English Language Development test From August 15-26, a team of seven Finley teachers provided a "Jumpstart English Language Development" intervention program for approximately sixty students in grades kindergarten through fifth.

Finally, the School Leadership Team and the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) coaches met to plan out Finley's Master calendar for the 2011-12 academic year with a focus on PBIS, Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD), and Thinking Maps.

The continued focus on PBIS at Finley School was celebrated with a school-wide launch on September 30th at the annual Parent Power Launch where Student Council members led everyone in a chorus of the 3A Eagle Way (Act Respectfully, Act Responsibly, Act Safely) to the tune of Three Blind Mice.

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# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Drive, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237



**Hiacynth  
Martinez**  
*Principal*

## Positive About Learning

Welcome back to yet another promising school year at Fryberger Elementary School! I trust you had a fun-filled, adventurous summer break reconnecting with family and friends. Summer vacations are a great time to do a few things you enjoy, such as reading a good book, visiting museums, or exploring the beauty of nature.

The 2011–2012 school year is expected to be filled with new enriched learning for both students and staff. As we continue to invest our time and efforts into achieving academic success for all students, we are equally focused on providing a nurturing school environment where students are taught to make responsible and respectful choices. Consequently, the Fryberger staff will kick off the year by implementing Positive Behavior Interventions Support (PBIS) school-wide. PBIS is an approach comprised of intervention strategies designed to reinforce healthy a social culture, learning and teaching environment, and student-centered behavior supports necessary to furthering the academic and social success for all students.

Fryberger teachers, support staff, after-school partners and the principal are very excited about bringing PBIS to our campus! We spent all of last year learning, studying, researching, and laying the ground work to unveil PBIS to our students and parent community.

At Fryberger we believe in rolling up our sleeves and doing important work for our students; they are worth it!

# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261



**Linda Reed**  
*Principal*

## Ready to Soar

Hayden was fortunate this past summer to introduce a program called Jump Start. For two weeks in August our teachers worked with over 100 selected students to get them prepared for the upcoming school year. The staff to student ratio was very low so teachers were able to work in small groups to help improve our students' fluency, reading comprehension, writing, oral language and math facts.

Other areas that Hayden will be focused on this year will be the continued application of Thinking Maps in all of the grade levels along with Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS). PBIS provides an organizational approach for improving social behavior climate at our school and increasing proactive positive management. Hayden will continue to thrive in the area of technology. Our staff now have access to SMARTboards, airliners, hand held responders, doc cameras and scanners to help deliver engaging lessons.

I am also very pleased to announce three new teachers to the Hayden staff: Marcia May, Catherine Fitzpatrick, and Melodee Ho. These three outstanding teachers have been serving the students in the Westminster School District for years and are going to be a great asset for our students.

# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7344 Special Ed. / 714/898-8389 Child Dev.

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244



**Shane Vinagupta**  
*Principal*

## Change Comes Bearing Gifts

Change can be a scary thing. Johnson Middle School is entering the 2011–12 school year on the precipice of change. First, Heidi DeBritton, who served as principal for the past six years, has been given new opportunities at Stacey Middle School. Here at Johnson, we would like to thank her for her countless hours of service to our students and community. Shane Vinagupta has been moved into the principal position after serving two years as assistant principal under tutelage of Mrs. DeBritton and is poised to continue the momentum she created and the positive growth she has helped the staff and students make over the years.

We also welcome Kristin Campbell as the new assistant principal. Ms. Campbell comes with a wealth of administrative experience and is sure to make a wonderful addition. Secondly, you will notice that Johnson will begin breaking ground on the construction of our new state-of-the-art learning facilities that will give our students a learning environment designed to provide access to the tools, resources and knowledge base necessary to compete in the global economy. It will be a challenging two years as the project moves forward, but the results will be worth the wait as our entire community stands to benefit from the fruits of this labor.

Change can be a scary thing, but not if it is in the right direction. Here's to change and another successful school year for Johnson Middle School where Respect, Effort, and Pride shine. Go Warriors!



**Beverlee Mathenia**  
*Director, Child  
Development  
Programs*



**Leisa Winston**  
*Administrator,  
Student Services*

## Land School Rules!

Land School is preparing to implement something called Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) this year. This school-wide initiative is about improving student success and behavior. As part of our PBIS process, Land School teachers and other staff members use evidence-based strategies to increase children's learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To help children see school rules in a positive manner, we have developed the following school-wide behavior expectations: Be Safe, Be Kind,

and Be Attentive. Reinforced by the use of a bumblebee character, we constantly teach, or define expected behaviors for children. Children are also given positive, immediate, and explicit feedback about their behavior. Consequently, teachers have noticed an increase in the attention spans of children, and an increase in instructional time and quality. This positive approach for guiding children's behavior can also be used at home. For more information, please call Land School at (714) 898-8389.



Are you looking for me for the contest on page 17?





# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800



**Kathy Kane**  
Principal

## Be Your B.E.S.T.!

We are very excited at Meairs to introduce the School Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBS) framework this year. The OSEP technical center for SWPBS states:

Effective classroom management and preventive school discipline are essential for supporting teaching and learning. SWPBS refers to a systems change process for an entire school or district. The underlying theme is teaching behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject.

During the 2010-2011 school year, a Meairs team attended several days of intense training to prepare for our schoolwide launch. Teachers, staff members, parents, and community partners will all be working together to develop a school culture that respects community, individual needs and promotes tolerance.

For the past three years, we have used the Pyramid of Success concept developed by Coach John Wooden as a framework for personal success. The top of the pyramid is "Personal Best" and so our SWPBS team has adopted our school theme to "Be Your B.E.S.T.- "Be REsponsible, Safe, RespecTful. Our school statement is:

We, the Meairs Learning Community, will do our BEST at all times and make positive choices for success. BE YOUR B.E.S.T.!



# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268



**Kim Breckenridge**  
Principal

## Welcome to the New School Year

All of us at Schroeder Elementary School want to make this a successful year for the Mustangs. Your active support and cooperation combined with our best professional efforts will lead to academic success.

The goal of our school is to provide each student with a challenging and rigorous curriculum. Our mission is to do this in a child centered environment which promotes self esteem. We believe that every child can achieve academic success. To this end, every child will be provided with quality instructional experiences which recognize, support, and accept high expectations for all students.

When the family and school work together towards high expectations for student achievement and conduct, students demonstrate greater success as positive, confident learners. Your positive attitude and support make a significant difference. We look forward to a wonderful school year, working in partnership with parents to achieve the best for our children.



# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jerry Gargus**  
Principal

## Preparing for Another Exciting Year

It is my privilege to be entering my fifth year as the principal of Schmitt Elementary School. The staff, students, and community continue to ride a wave of success as our Academic Performance Index (API) continues to grow due to the hard work taking place in the classrooms and around the dinner tables as teachers and families unite to support student achievement. The 2011-2012 school year promises to be a banner year, with many opportunities for families to participate in activities on campus. As we welcome back students in September, our Back-to-School Nights for primary and upper grades are scheduled for September 20 and September 22 respectively. These events represent a great opportunity to visit your child's classroom, meet his or her teacher, and learn more about the countless activities for parents and students to participate in throughout the school year.

We will also be hosting our Second Annual Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) Achievement Celebration on September 27, where we will recognize over 120 students for earning composite scores of 800 or higher on the 2010-2011 California Standards Test (CST). We will be joined by the Westminster School District superintendent as we induct eight new members to our Wall of Honor for achieving scores of 1,000 or above. Schmitt recorded the largest API growth since the implementation of No Child Left Behind and the largest increase in Westminster School District for the second consecutive year. My personal thanks goes out to the hardest working teachers, students, and parents that a principal could ever hope to work alongside.

# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Road, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271



**Tammy Steel**  
Principal

## Welcome to the 2011 - 2012 school year!

I am looking forward to another fabulous year of learning. Our teachers are prepared to provide quality, innovative instruction that will help our students prepare to be successful members of society.

Your support of the PTA is extremely important in order to continue providing field trips, assemblies, and other fun activities for the students. Please join and support the activities such as fundraisers and family fun events.

Join us for Back to School Night, Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. You won't want to miss this special evening, learning about the school programs and curriculum along with the expectations for your child and opportunities for you to participate in their success.

Thank you in advance for the support of our staff and students. We will have a fabulous year as we work together! I look forward to seeing you soon!

SOAR HIGH WITH EAGLE PRIDE!



**We believe in Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) for all students. We have PRIDE at Sequoia!**



# Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## Coming Home!

Welcome to the 2011–12 school year! There are many new faces and changes at Stacey as we begin the new school year. I have been assigned as the new principal, although I am not new to the Stacey campus. I attended Stacey as a student and also taught eighth-grade language arts and history for eight years at Stacey before moving on to administration. I also served as the principal of Schroeder for six years before moving to Johnson Middle School, where I have been principal for the past five years. I look forward to working with the Stacey staff and community to build a distinguished school.

Joining me as the new assistant principal this year is Shay Reardon. Mrs. Reardon comes to this position after having served as a student achievement teacher and reading specialist in the Westminster School District. She is excited to join the Stacey family as well.

The Stacey staff is continuing its Positive Behavior Intervention Support this year with Cougar Cash, student recognitions, and schoolwide positive discipline. Be on the lookout for other positive programs to build student motivation and achievement.

I am thrilled to return to my own middle school campus and feel as if I were coming home. Parents are welcome to come and meet me at our annual Back to School night on September 21.

# Warner *Middle (6–8)*

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



**Matthew Skoll**  
*Principal*

## Looking Forward

Warner rocks! By this we mean that Warner students are respectful, organized, good citizens, knowledgeable, and safe!

This will be our big theme for the year, and it corresponds to our current implementation of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). By providing students with additional incentives for good behavior, we can look forward to more measurable success during the school year.

Of course, we know that some students will be having difficulties, and for them there is a tiered support system at the ready. Our PBIS team will be meeting to discuss these students and help find ways of supporting them on campus or with additional resources. We are looking forward to fully implementing PBIS this school year.

In other exciting news, we are also looking forward to working with our new assistant principal. Warner is very proud to welcome Jennifer Roehling to this position. Jennifer has been an algebra teacher at Warner for three years. Prior to that she worked in the Garden Grove Unified School District as both a teacher and counselor.

Our staff and students are happy to see Ms. Roehling move into the office. She has always been well liked by everyone, and this will continue into her new position.

Finally, we are very proud of our teachers and students for their excellent performance on the recent state testing. Warner continues to shine, and the school's excellent test results and strong growth only proves how hard working and dedicated we are. Warner rocks!

# Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/WebberWebpage/index.html](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/WebberWebpage/index.html)



## Welcome!

Welcome to the 2011–12 school year! Every new school year is exciting for many of us here in Westminster. We come back refreshed and re-inspired with new ideas and strategies that will support the overall achievement of our students. I know that our parents also look forward to guiding and supporting our children's education and health with new strategies.

During the 2011–12 school year, Webber will offer a Nutrition Parent Workshop series that will provide some fun cooking as well as promote healthy eating habits for all. Webber will also continue our very successful "Partners in Parenting" program. This is a six-week interactive series that includes support in the area of discipline, homework, self-esteem and more! I highly encourage your participation in any of our parent workshops. You will acquire easy, helpful tips that can be incorporated in the home, and you will also have the opportunity to meet new people from your community.

There are many other parent-involvement opportunities such as membership in the School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Committee, PTA and kindergarten classroom volunteer. As you can see, there is a variety of ways in which you can get involved at your child's school.

I look forward to our continued teamwork in promoting the well-being and academic success of all our children.

# Willmore *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Rob McKane**  
*Principal*

## Centering on Success

The summer has flown by, and we are geared up for another productive school year at Willmore. Although many of us have been busy recharging our batteries for the upcoming school year, the campus has been busy with its ongoing upgrades. More than 20 brand-new computers have come in to help us get more student computers in the classrooms. This will allow for more student access to programs like ST Math and Accelerated Reader online during center time. Working in small groups, students rotate from instructional center to instructional center in the classroom to allow for small-group collaborative work, independent practice and direct small-group instruction with the teacher. Having more resources to facilitate this process allows teachers to spend more time focusing on individual student needs and differentiating instruction to meet those needs.

Our campus grounds continue being upgraded as well with new paint, artwork and instructional tools on the playground. Examples of this are number lines with decimals juxtaposed with fractions and a giant map of the United States that is color-coded and labeled with the states' abbreviations. Students use these tools with their teachers occasionally during instructional time, but the best part is when you see them playing on them at recess!

All members of the Willmore team are ready to make this another great year for our Thunderbird community.

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 17?





# Huntington Beach Union High School District

5832 Bolsa Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/903-7000 • www.hbusd.org

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Learning from Our History

Welcome to the 2011–2012 school year! I want to begin by thanking so many wonderful people in our community for the very warm and thoughtful welcome. I am both humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as superintendent of the Huntington Beach Union High School District. With that district name comes a storied tradition that extends beyond the borders of Orange County. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Trustees and each of you as we continue to serve our students and our communities.

Over the course of the past months, I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people who make the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) an exceptional place for kids to build the skills for their future. The commitment, dedication and genuine appreciation for HBUHSD from each individual I've met have been both exciting and impressive. Teachers, classified staff, administrative staff, parents, community members and the Board of Trustees have all demonstrated a "Student First" spirit, which is essential for a successful district.

One of the aspects I have enjoyed most is the willingness of so many people to take the time to share the special stories that describe the fabric of our district. Whether the story began with "Just last week..." or "Remember back when..." there was a passion that matched the excellence of the district. Author Max De Pree in his book *Leadership is an Art* gives an illustration of the importance of what he calls "tribal storytelling."

De Pree wrote: "Dr. Carl Frost, a good friend and adviser to our company, tells a story of his experience in Nigeria during the late sixties:

"Electricity had just been brought into the village where he and his family were living. Each family got a single light in its hut. A real sign of progress. The trouble was that at night, though they had nothing to read and many of them did not know how to read, the families would sit in their huts in awe of this wonderful symbol of technology.

"The light-bulb watching began to replace the customary nighttime gatherings by the tribal fire, where the tribal storytellers, the elders, would pass along the history of the tribe. The tribe was losing its history in the light of a few electric bulbs.

"This story helps to illustrate the difference between scientific management and tribal leadership. Every family, every college, every corporation, every institution needs tribal storytellers. The penalty for failing to listen is to lose one's history, one's historical context, one's binding values. Like the Nigerian tribe, without the continuity brought by custom, any group of people will begin to forget who they are."

This example is important to our individual families and the unique history that is shared from grandparents, fathers and mothers, and very own brothers and sisters. We must be the leaders who create and seize opportunities that encourage such "storytelling." As we focus on the future and what 21<sup>st</sup> century education will continue to bring, we must hold true to De Pree's example and provide the dynamic teamwork of a special school community that will foster a culture of continuous improvement and growth.

This year will bring a successful conclusion for the class of 2012...yes, 2012! As we begin school, I want to wish all of our students, families, and staff members the very best. Our team-based focus will provide our outstanding students with the opportunity to build academic and personal memories, which will surely add to our own "tribal history."

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Susan Henry**  
*President*

### Opportunities and Challenges

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) welcomes its new and returning students to another exciting school year. The fall semester begins with many activities and events on campus as students reacquaint themselves with each other and the work to be done. The year ahead holds many opportunities and challenges.

This year will mark a new period in the history of the HBUHSD under the leadership of a new superintendent. Dr. Greg Plutko joins us from the Corona Norco Unified School District and has been hard at work since July 1 familiarizing himself with the workings of the organization, school sites and personnel. On behalf of the Board, we look forward to working with him as we continue to provide excellent learning opportunities for all of our students. This year the district will be focusing on maintaining our new and renovated school buildings/sites, keeping a watchful eye on the state budget, and, most importantly, readying our students for success beyond high school.

The world today is a complex and competitive environment. Technology and the economy will continue to shape the educational landscape as we know it. As policymakers your Trustees are aware of the necessity to provide our students with the ability to compete in both the academic and workplace environments. Both arenas require similar strategies and knowledge to be successful, such as time management, study habits, and learning strategies. In order to prepare our students to be successful, we need to equip them with new skills and knowledge that will allow them to continue learning well beyond their high school years.



**Tuyen Dinh**  
*Student Representative*

### A Group of Fresh Faces

A new school year has just begun, and the returning sophomores are finding that they'll have to work a bit harder this year. The juniors also realize that play must be accompanied by hard work. As for the seniors, they know that high school is not over yet, and that their college applications are just starting to pile up!

Along with this group of returning students are the incoming freshmen. Being completely new to the high school environment they feel a mixture of anxiety and excitement. So, Ocean View High School puts these feelings to rest by hosting a little thing called "WOW." This is our "Week of Welcome."

WOW is in many ways an orientation of sorts. Here the incoming freshmen are exposed to the school environment well ahead of time, and can see what the school has to offer in its extracurricular activities and academics.

This year WOW was shortened from a week to just three days, but with the same amount of knowledge. It revolves around the themes of "Opportunity and Vision" and "Honor and Success." The students not only get to meet staff and ASB members, they are also able to hear from older students with first-hand experiences about what they are to go through.

These three days include fun activities such as a barbecue, snack breaks, Polynesian dancers, buddy activities, a mini pep rally hosted by ASB, and cheer and band. The orientation ends with an ASB dance just for the WOW students.

With these three days under their tool belt, the incoming freshmen are finally prepared for a whole new experience.

## Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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*President*



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*Alt. Clerk*



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# Coast *High School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-5160 • www.coasthighschool.com



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Greetings From Coast High School!

Welcome back students and parents. Did the summer just seem to fly by?

It sure did for the Coast High staff members who worked through it! We were all kept busy moving into our new home on Gothard Street just south of Ocean View High School.

Our new building has been two years in the making, and we are very excited to be opening its doors. Our students will not only be walking into brand new classrooms, they will also be sitting comfortably in new furniture and have new computers. I'm confident that they will like the "upgrade."

I am also excited to report that we're getting an increased number of requests to have children begin Coast in their freshmen year. This is a trend that we are very excited about, because it tells us that our community is beginning to hear of our great opportunities.

Traditionally, Coast students come to us only after the school year has started. That's because some students from the comprehensive high schools have begun to run into challenges that make attending school for five days a week and seven hours a day almost impossible.

Their reasons are many. Some are pursuing a professional career in sports or performing arts, and some are working full time. Others, unfortunately, are dealing with problems that are beyond their control, or which warrant an alternative learning path.

## Tradition and Challenge

But regardless of the reason, Coast is a fully accredited independent-study high school which can offer these students a standards-based curriculum in all subject areas. Our program can adapt to their needs by working around personal schedules to help manage workloads. Our instructors are highly qualified, too, and are experts in delivering individualized instruction.

Last June I was very honored to be part of the Coast High School graduating class of 2011. With over 40 students participating, and everyone being honored by teachers, parents, relatives and friends, it was one of the highlights of the year.

You could see the excitement on these student's faces as they walked onto the stage to receive their diplomas. I am sure that there will be many more accomplishments and ceremonies to come for these individuals. It was an awesome feeling to be a part of this class.

I am looking forward to next year's graduation, but for now I want to see everyone back from the summer break and meet all of the incoming freshmen!



**Coast High School graduating class of 2011**

# Community Day School

1022 Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/799-1414



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Supporting Student Success

My name is Steve Curiel, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new principal for Community Day School (CDS). Some of you might know me as the principal of Huntington Beach Adult School and Coast High School. This year, I will add to my responsibilities oversight of the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) Community Day School, and I am looking forward to it.

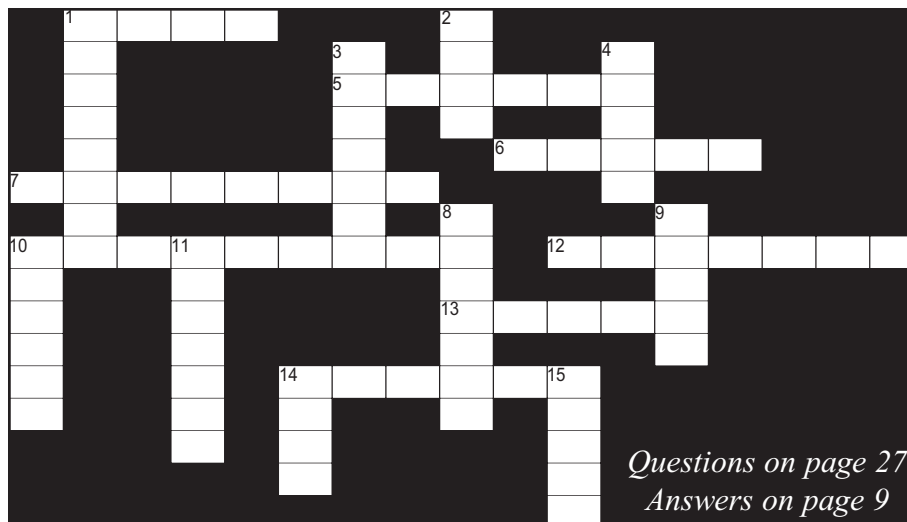
With that said, I'd like to just take a minute to review what a student can expect from a Community Day School. To be as clear and straightforward as possible, I am copying the description of services that the California Department of Education gives for a Community Day School:

"Students are expected to participate in academic programs that include high-level expectations from staff and students, and that are comparable to those available to students of similar age in the school district. The 360-minute minimum instructional day includes academic programs that provide challenging curriculum and individual attention to student learning modalities and abilities. CDS programs also focus on the development of pro-social skills and student self-esteem and resiliency. CDS is intended to have low student-teacher ratios. Students benefit from learning support services that include school counselors and psychologists, academic and vocational counselors, and student discipline personnel. Students also receive collaborative services from county offices of education, law enforcement, probation, and human services agency personnel who work with at-risk youth."

As you can see, a CDS program is designed to increase the chances of academic success for students through a concentrated structure of support services. Students participating in a CDS program are expected to meet all the graduation requirements of those attending a comprehensive high school program. And this



is exactly what happens at the HBUHSD Community Day School Program. Located at the Westminster Mall, the CDS program serves just over 40 students in a very supportive atmosphere. I am looking forward to working with the CDS students and their instructors and support staff this year.





# Edison *High School*

21400 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-1356 • www.edisonchargers.com



**Dr. D'liese Melendrez**  
*Principal*

## Shining a Spotlight

While other teenagers were just lounging on the beach all summer, many Edison High School students were seen attending community events, training for sports teams or preparing in other constructive ways for the new school year.

This summer also saw EHS host a number of youth sports camps. Our annual football team/special abilities cluster picnic took place and was enjoyed by many. And the ASB leadership class, yearbook team, cheer squad and other groups headed off to their various camps to get ready for another exciting year.

You could also hear the rat-ta-tat-tat from our drum line, as

well as jamming horn sections rehearsing their halftime shows for the upcoming football season. There were also students painting lots of posters, athletes running around campus, teachers carrying boxes to classrooms and excited new ninth-graders standing nervously in registration lines.



## Many Gains in Store

Yes, summer vacation is coming to a close, and we are so excited to be starting another big year at Edison High School.

When we return to school our Charger community will be celebrating many new accomplishments, too. For starters, we were named as one of America's best high schools. We recently scored No. 317 out of the top 500 schools in the country!

We also made some incredible gains on our Academic Performance Index (API) as a result of the 2011 testing. And after undergoing a four-day review period last spring, we are also proud to announce that we received a maximum six-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Finally, we at Edison have named our school's official "3-As": academics, arts and athletics. This means that our school community will be dedicated to achieving full excellence in all three of these important subject areas.

We hope to shine a spotlight on each one of them in the upcoming months, and hope that you will join us in celebrating our accomplishments as we begin another great school year!

# Fountain Valley *High School*

17816 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-3301 • www.fvhs.com



**Chris Herzfeld**  
*Principal*

## Growth Factors

Fountain View High School continues to be an academic leader in our community. In fact, our API score places us in the top-ten of comprehensive, open enrollment high schools in the County.

Since the HBUHSD has an open enrollment policy, many students and parents choose FVHS from outside its attendance area but within the district boundaries. FVHS also accepts out-of-district students who obtain permits from their home areas, provided they meet certain criteria.

From 2005-2009 our school underwent some extensive modernization. During the construction over 40 portable classrooms were brought in as temporary housing. At the end of the modernization period the district purchased 15 of those classrooms to help with our growing enrollment.

Because of its large size, our school has many program offerings that attract students. Our marching band and vocal music programs are nationally renowned. Our Consumer and Family Studies programs including environment design. Foods and Fashion are part of a county-wide professional learning community, too, and serve as models for other programs.

We also offer a full slate of highly competitive athletic teams in the prestigious Sunset League. We have more Advanced Placement classes than almost any similar school in the state, and students from our visual arts program and business courses actively participate in regional and national competitions.

Many community members automatically assume that our class sizes are large because of the size of our school, but this is not the case. District class sizes are the same regardless of enrollment, and are limited by contract. If FVHS had a smaller enrollment its class sizes would remain the same. We would just have fewer teachers instead.

One area where the students and parents do notice our size is in the length of our lines. They are long! But we do our best to anticipate them, and will open as many stations as we can to help process our "customers" as quickly as possible. We are sometimes limited by the number of computers, cash registers, equipment or staff available.

Another area of impact is in our drop-off and pick-up areas. Bushard Street and the FVHS parking lots become gridlocked at 7:45 until 8 a.m., or again when the school lets out. My suggestion is to drop your students off early and pick them up late if you can. Many parents also drop their children off a few blocks away and then let them walk the last little bit.

Congestion on campus was manageable when we went over 3,350 students, but we may experience some new pressure points as we go beyond 3,500. There are enough restrooms, though, and the hallways aren't too bad. And our students can easily get across campus in the eight minutes allowed.

Our district's food services department has also done a wonderful job in staffing the cafeteria to make sure that everyone gets fed in the 30-minute lunch period. It's a bit more crowded in September until the eligible juniors and seniors obtain their off-campus lunch permits.

But growth is a good problem to have, and we are looking forward to a successful new year.



## Musical Terms for crossword on page 26

### Across

1. The musical range of the lowest male voice
5. Eight musical notes
6. A combination of three or more tones played together in harmony
7. The first and strongest beat of each measure
10. A device that beats time at a specified tempo
12. Small note, means the note is optional
13. Series of tones arranged in a sequence of rising or falling pitches
14. The refrain of a song or hymn after each verse

### Down

1. The musical range of a male voice between tenor and bass
2. The musical range of the lowest female voice
3. The highest singing voice of women
4. The adult male voice higher than baritone
8. The smallest musical unit bordered by vertical lines
9. Rhythm in music
10. A sequence of single tones, the tune
11. Phrase or verse repeated at regular intervals throughout a song or poem
14. A symbol used to indicate the pitch of notes on the staff
15. The five lines and spaces between on which music is written

*Puzzle on page 26 • Answers on page 9*

# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4227 • www.hbadultschool.com



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Lots of Room to Move–Forward

Welcome back to another exciting year at Huntington Beach Adult School! We've been hard at work developing new classes, upgrading equipment and furniture, and moving into our brand-new facility located next to Ocean View High School on Gothard Street. This new building has been two years in the making, and we are excited to open its doors to the community.

The new facility is designed to be energy efficient while maintaining a comfortable learning environment. Speaking of comfortable, each room is filled with new furniture, and I'm being told that seating is very comfortable! The two computer labs are running new Dell computers with Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 as well as the very popular Photoshop Elements. There is also a new art room that will allow us to offer some fun arts classes, including a floral arrangement class. We are also excited about having a large multipurpose room to be used for—well, multiple things, including classes that require lots of space such as line dancing and fitness classes, large meetings such as our back-to-school meeting for staff, and testing for GED.



**Huntington Beach Adult School courtyard entrance**

## Growing Literate Adults

The Marina satellite classrooms will become the new Parent Smart Preschool and Toddler campus. The facility is currently being remodeled for the program and will have four classrooms, office space, playground areas and new equipment. The Marina High School campus is ideal because it is located near a number of elementary schools. The Parent Smart Preschool will operate in the mornings and will provide children with a nurturing and enriching preschool experience designed for maximum school readiness. Parents are provided with a strong background in effective parenting, child development and the learning process. Unlike in most preschools, all instructors are fully credentialed (pre-K–8 and Adult) and experienced teachers.

Although a new building is always nice, our greatest value lies in the classes we offer and the teachers who teach them. At this facility, you will be able to take a variety of classes designed just for our community. They are all taught by qualified and credentialed instructors with the sole goal of making sure that you get the education you're looking for.

Be sure to visit our redesigned website that makes it easier to find and enroll in our classes. If you're not receiving our newsletters that tell you about new classes and fee discounts, you'll want to sign up to receive them at the bottom of our website's home page.

We at HBAS look forward to serving you this year!

# Huntington Beach *High School*

1905 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-2514 • www.hboilers.com



**Janie Hoy**  
*Principal*

## By Land, By Air and By Internet!

The graduating class of 2011 made a lasting impression as they culminated their four years at HBHS on June 16 and celebrated commencement ceremonies with a “flash mob” finale! It truly was a creative surprise for parents and guests and constituted a fitting send-off for this exceptionally creative and talented group of Oiler graduates. By the evening of graduation, hundreds of views of this performance had already been seen on You Tube!

We no sooner said our goodbyes than Huntington talent began to gear up for the 2011–12 school year. The HB Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) dance students, under the direction of Marie Hoffman, headed off to Prague in July and took the grand prize award for “Barbaro” at the New Prague Dance Festival in the Czech Republic. Eleven countries from throughout the world participated in the 2011 festival. Congratulations, APA!

## Field Goals for This Year

Interviews for math, science, social science, world languages and special education positions were conducted over this past summer. As a result, Huntington Beach High School welcomes 10 outstanding teachers as new faculty members. The “talented 10” include Melanie Askin-Brundage and Heather Breyer, social science; Rachelle Bathan, science; Jeff Ruzieki, math; Jackie Colgate and Beri Harris, English; Jen Amstone and Amy Pacheco, special education; Erin Dorsey, school nurse; and Casey Harelson, Spanish. Huntington Beach High School is definitely looking forward to another phenomenal academic year with the addition of these highly accomplished educators.

The Huntington Beach High School campus has begun new construction over the summer, which includes the addition of a new synthetic turf field. The field is designed to accommodate field hockey, lacrosse and soccer. A girls' softball field is also included in this construction effort, which when completed will give our Oiler women a field of their own. Both are scheduled for completion in early winter.

Finally, this is the year of our formal WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation visit, which is the culminating focus of our 2011–12 academic efforts. Preparation for WASC review has been an ongoing process at the school over the past three years, during which time the staff has completed its own self-study and curricular review. Focus groups have been regularly meeting to address recommendations from our last WASC visit, and the entire school has proudly contributed to and celebrated significant gains in our Academic Performance Index (API) for each of the past four years.

## OC DEPT. OF ED. • FROM PAGE 2

approach to health, wellness, nutrition, physical education, the prevention of mental health problems, and emergency preparedness supports Orange County youth to develop the foundation they need to achieve excellence in their learning and to reach their full potential.

The vision and financial support for this inaugural position of Medical Officer reflects a shared mission along with a generous investment by the Orange County Health Care Agency, Hoag Hospital, and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County. Each agency has committed financial resources and will join a select group of health and community partners who have volunteered their expertise to serve on an advisory group for this effort. The goal is to advance student wellness and in doing so, support the OCDE goal of ensuring a world class education where every student succeeds.



# Marina *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/893-6571 • www.marinavikings.org



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
Principal

## Great Things are Happening at Marina

All of us at Marina are very excited about the new school year, and are looking forward to greeting our new students as well as the graduating class of 2012! Marina takes great pride in being one of the Huntington Beach Union High School District's California Distinguished Schools!

As we begin the year it is my pleasure to welcome some new employees to our campus. They include Kevin Fairman, our assistant principal of activities; Alex Spiegel, special education-pathways; Ashley Stewart, school psychologist; Elena Arrojo, community resource coordinator; Doreen Nogueira, attendance clerk; Daniel Gonzales, grounds maintenance worker; and Deborah Felten, guidance specialist.

As the 2011–2012 year begins, our staff and students will be focusing on student achievement and individual growth. We have a new artificial track surface and improved playing field, a campus-wide wireless computer network, and a new entrance to our school grounds at the corner of Springdale and Edinger.

Additionally, we hope to revamp our school's Web site, and have even started a special Twitter account to receive instant news updates. You can join it by visiting the Marina site at [www.marinavikings.org](http://www.marinavikings.org). To subscribe to our updates, simply click on the word "follow" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

## New Directions

Here at Marina we have instituted a number of supports and new directions that will help answer four important questions: what do we want students to learn? How do we know when they have learned the identified essential standards? What do we do for students when they do learn? And what can we do when our students do not learn?

The answers to these questions will help guide our school to even greater success as we develop a strong focus on student achievement.

As you will recall, last year was WASC accreditation time at Marina High School. Over the past few years we have been working to implement the specific recommendations from our last WASC review. We had a very successful and productive visit from WASC this time, and I am excited to share the news that we received a 6R accreditation score!

This is a six-year accreditation period, with another one-day visit in three years. We are very pleased with these results, and have gained some new directions to follow as we head into the school year.

All in all, Marina High School is set to have another great year. We take pride in our continued parent involvement, and are very excited about the many contributions from the Education Foundation, the PTSA, the School Site Council and our various booster groups.

So please drop by and help us out by volunteering. We invite you to be one of our Parents On Patrol, or assist during testing, registration and dances, or join our booster clubs, PTSA or Ed. Foundation. When a community pulls together for a common cause great things can happen! Welcome back to school!

Are you  
looking for me  
for the contest  
on page 17?



# Ocean View *High School*

17071 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-0656 • www.ovhs.info



**Dan Bryan**  
Principal

## New School Year, New School

Last year, our teachers wanted to create a school where students could have the best chance to get ready for college. They thought it was a good idea to turn Ocean View into a college prep academy. The new change for incoming freshmen was that they would be expected to take at least one Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Honors course in a subject before they graduated, and we would support every single student to achieve at least that goal. We are on our way!

Since that first meeting, we have added two upper-level UC approved electives—physiology and social psychology. Those classes are full now, and school hasn't even started! High-level academic electives help students meet college entry requirements.

Also since that first meeting, we put 90 more students into biology instead of life science in the freshmen year. They will perform there, and the thinking is that they will take more and better science classes because they will have started at a higher level to begin their high school career.

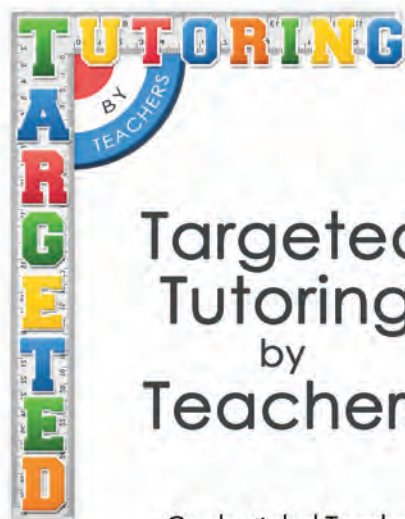
And, since that first meeting, we have rid our master schedule of the two-year Algebra A-B-C-D course. We now only offer one year of algebra at OV.

## Right Path, Right Goal

All of these things come with help, such as AVID support in those core classes student need help in, like biology. They will get more one-on-one attention with AVID instructional aides to help.

Ocean View cares about our processes infinitely more than our outcomes. We can't control student performance on tests. We *can* control how well we teach lessons, how we teach the essential things students must learn, and how to get students to show mastery of a concept. We will also use our professional development time—our "Sacred Wednesdays"—to refine our lessons, share best classroom practices and use student data to help us teach better lessons. These are not new ideas. If our processes are good and students learn, it doesn't matter what test they take—they'll be ready for anything after high school. We're excited to help them achieve and be ready for college!

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# Valley Vista *High School*

9600 Dolphin Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/964-7766 • www.vvhs.info



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

## Focus on Progress

Valley Vista High School (VVHS) conducted a self-study through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Focus on Learning process in spring of 2008. This review resulted in a six-year accreditation with a mid-term review. Our mid-term review was completed in April 2011. Like the Focus on Learning process, the mid-term review involves staff, students, parents and community members. Those involved in the process examine how well our Action Plan is working and whether revisions are needed.

The review process focuses on the answers to some very important questions. What do we want our students to learn? How will we know with certainty how well students are learning? How can we improve the learning process for those students who aren't adequately achieving academic goals? How can we enhance the learning environment for all students? Are we adequately preparing our students to meet the challenges of life after high school and enabling them to make meaningful contributions to the community in the 21st century?



The mid-term review identified significant developments in our at-risk student population, which have occurred since our full review in 2008: an increase in our enrollment; an increase in English language learners; and an increase in school-age parents. Other developments include completion of a campus modernization project and an update in classroom instructional technology, which included student computers, SMART Boards, and LCD projection systems.

The Action Plan developed as part of the WASC process is challenging: expanding staff development; incorporating writing across the curriculum; increasing student literacy; and analyzing data as a basis for evaluation of curriculum and instruction. A special emphasis on supporting English language learners involves effectively communicating with parents regarding school policies and their students' academic and attendance status. Our strategies to meet our goals include: reviewing data collection and information data bases to identify credit deficiencies in a timely manner; seeking no cost staff development opportunities to support student learning; promoting best practices with VVHS colleagues by visiting other Orange County continuation high schools; working closely with the community, campus and district support staff to address escalating drug and alcohol use among teens; completing the campus modernization project; and finding ways to encourage student attendance and academic progress.

The Focus on Learning process has provided the opportunity for meaningful discussions about student learning and has identified ways to implement a strong results-oriented evaluation program. The process has empowered our teachers and staff, and this has directly benefited our students. We are looking forward to updating our WASC Action Plan in the 2011-2012 academic year and to our next full review in spring of 2014.

# Westminster *High School*

14325 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-1381 • www.whslions.com



**Shirley Vaughn**  
*Principal*

**NEW BUILDING** • FROM PAGE 1  
contractor estimated that its regular cost would have been \$86,000!

Kyle is a senior student this fall, and Westminster High School is very appreciative for the time, effort, planning and tremendous dedication that it took to complete his Eagle Scout project.



**Kyle Sweet in front of Tack Box**



**Full view of Tack Box**

## Helping Out

The Westminster City Council recently presented our government "S" Club with a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of its being named the "School Organization of the Year 2010-2011." The "S" Club helps our students develop an understanding of civic-mindedness and community service. This includes voting, staying informed about civic issues, volunteering, and performing public service.

The Westminster High School Government Club, sponsored by Soroptimist International, is very active during the school year. Mrs. Sue Harmon is its advisor, and together the club takes tours of government offices. It also participates in community service projects with the help and support of Soroptimist International and Abrazar. In fact, its 140 members have put in over 500 hours this past year just in volunteering and training alone.

This year the Club's activities will include the North Justice Center-Fullerton Superior Court tour, Youth in Government Day, American Family Housing, Adopt-a-Family at Thanksgiving and Christmas, the AFH Thanksgiving Dinner, Toys for Tots at Abrazar, Save the Beach, celebrations of Black History Month, the Women's History Month, Constitution Day, Women's Tea at AFH, and the Scouting Jamboree.



**Robyn Sottile (Soroptimist), Sabrina Tabisola (Gov club treasurer), Tam Chau (Gov club president), Nancy Ngo (Gov club VP), and Sue Harmon (advisor)**



Attention: School Recycling Coordinators:

# Rick & Rachel Invite You to a FREE Recycling Resource Event

LEARN TO RECYCLE BETTER! GIVE YOUR TRASH A SECOND CHANCE!

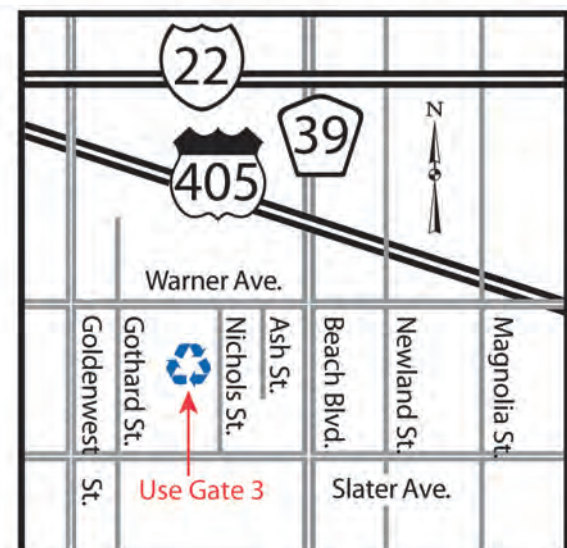
Join us on **Wednesday** or **Thursday**, **October 5** or **6**,  
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fun look at all the resources we can provide  
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-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &  
Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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