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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 8, ISSUE 51**

**www.schoolnewsrollcall.com**

**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2012**

## Every Student Matters



**Fountain Valley High School students show school spirit.**

*By Don Austin*

*Asst. Superintendent – Student Services*

*Huntington Beach Union High School District*

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) is committed to meeting the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of our 16,400 students. High school students all have risks factors due to the very nature of being between the ages of 14 to 18 years old. Consider the angst of any parent faced with handing over the keys to a car for the first time or sitting up late awaiting the return of a child from his or her first dance. For a smaller percentage of students, drugs and alcohol can lead to potentially serious or long-lasting personal problems. Schools, like communities, must make every attempt to serve all students in numerous aspects of their lives. The safety of our students is one of our most important responsibilities.

HBUHSD has placed a great deal of effort in the area of educating students regarding the dangers of participating in unsafe or unhealthy behaviors. Some of these behaviors include drugs and alcohol, distracted driving, bullying, and stress. We have

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## Mayor's Messages



**John J. Collins**  
*Mayor  
City of  
Fountain Valley*

Service clubs play a critical role in our community. The following volunteer organizations give their time and energy promoting service projects and fundraisers that benefit organizations and individuals in our City.

**Fountain Valley Woman's Club:** This club meets at 11am at on the second Tuesday of each month. Among its projects is a scholarship program for high school seniors. If you are interested in joining, call Carol Hedenberg at (714) 531-3424.

**Friends of the Fountain Valley Library:** The goal of this organization is to provide financial support to the library with the goal of providing the library with needed items & special programs. Volunteers are always needed & welcomed. For information, call Cathy Whitney at (714) 962-5280.

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**Don Hansen**  
*Mayor  
City of  
Huntington Beach*

There's a lot happening this winter and holiday season in Surf City. While this time of the year is very busy at school and preparing for the holidays, take some time to enjoy some of these events with your children and your family.

The holiday season will kick off with our traditional Main Street Holiday Celebration and Pier Lighting Ceremony on December 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. Join the festivities at

Light a Light of Love, a holiday pier-lighting and Main Street snowflake-lighting and parade in downtown Huntington Beach. This children's holiday parade will feature a number of entries, including Surf City Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. For more information, call (714) 842-6600.

*SEE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH • PAGE 28*



**Margie Rice**  
*Mayor  
City of  
Westminster*

Since this will be my final article as Westminster's mayor, I want to thank *School News Roll Call* for giving me this opportunity to communicate with our community. Hopefully, the information I've been able to provide over the years has proven helpful.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Westminster City Council for 18 years and as mayor since 2000. Looking back, it is amazing to see all we accomplished in the last 12 years.

For example, the city developed more than 480 affordable housing units for low-income senior citizens and families and provided grant funding to rehabilitate more than 500 mobile homes. In addition, the Rose Center, with its beautiful theater and banquet facility, opened in 2006 with the adjacent Coast Community College building. A new state-of-

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# School News

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HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
OCEAN VIEW  
WESTMINSTER



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

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063  
**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:** Neta Madison

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Laura Brune



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**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



Neta Madison

Fall is here and with it comes holidays. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family from our *School News* staff. The leadership of these fine school district's reminds us we have much to be thankful for. With the Common Core State Standards being implemented students will be even better prepared for college and careers. As we consider our thankfulness, we are ever mindful of the brave service men and women serving in our armed services, who will not be with their families this holiday season.

Thank you for reading *School News* and supporting education.

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# Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/843-3200 • www.fvds.k12.ca.us

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marc Ecker**

### Hyundai Motor America Steps Up Again

Last year, Hyundai Motor America provided the Fountain Valley School District with a \$50,000 donation to fund an S.T. Math Lab at one of our schools that at the time did not have the program. ST Math is a product of the Mind Institute which has developed spacial and temporal math programs as part of their STEM educational research. The program is intended for K-5th grade students and is combined with the regular math core curriculum taught by the teachers. What makes this program so effective is that it is web based and students can practice their lessons not only in the lab but also at home. Parents have been thrilled with how excited their children are to learn not only concrete, but abstract math principles in algebraic, geometric and problem solving paradigms.

Mr. Zafar Brooks, Hyundai Director of Community Outreach once again contacted my office to inform us that based upon the statistical results from last year's Math Lab at Plavan Elementary School; Hyundai intends to once again provide a 2013 grant for the funding of the ST Program at yet another of our elementary schools in the district. The program evaluation includes not only the statistical student completion records of the program provided by the Mind Institute but also a comparison of STAR test scores from 2011 to 2012. Plavan's scores increased significantly and credit to the technological support provided by ST Math certainly deserves credit.

Ji Ji, the penguin who stars in the ST computer based lessons has become a popular figure among the students. The children love him because he supports their efforts to succeed and presents the challenging math concepts in ways students can and do master. Technology is certainly the wave to academic success for all students. As our school district continues to seek support from our community and from local businesses to meet the ever growing need of educational technology in our classrooms, ST Math and Hyundai Motor America are indeed important to our success.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Christine Allcorn**  
*President Pro Tem*

### Reach Higher and Go Further

Eight years ago, you elected me to this Board to serve the students, parents, and tax payers of this district. I hope I have served you well. It was always my intention to place teaching and learning at the forefront of all the decisions we have made as a Board during my two terms. I never could have imagined that I would serve during a time when the Fountain Valley School District would endure an unprecedented 25-percent cut to our budget and drastic changes in the educational environment. This Board has overseen the reduction of staff, school days, school sites, educational support programs, and extracurricular activities. None of the decisions to reduce or eliminate those programs were easy, but they were made because we felt it was the best way to ensure the overall success of the district.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to work as a Board member. I have learned how to be a better listener and to consider many different perspectives before making a decision. I have learned that issues rarely have just two sides—our most important decisions have a variety of solutions, and leaders help find a way to bring the best ideas together for a positive resolution. I have grown personally and professionally through my work with fellow Board members, senior staff, teachers, support staff, parents, community leaders, and students. I have seen the best our district has to offer, and I am confident that our new Board will continue to guide the district to reach higher and go further than we have before.

Fountain Valley School District is one of the best districts in California, and we can all take tremendous pride in that. Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of that success.

## Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • www.fvef.org

## Our Students, Our Future, Our Concern!



**Nicola Weiss**  
*President*

Fountain Valley Elementary School District performed well academically once again. How do we keep it going with all of the repeated budgets cuts? Unfortunately, we are forced to find the funding from other places. Teachers are applying for grants, parents support their teachers, and the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation steps in and helps support programs like science, music, art and technology, among others. But even for nonprofits like us, the times are getting harder to fund-raise for these programs.

But we cannot give up, for this is our future we are talking about—our students, our community, our concern. So we at FVEF keep working to raise the money required to provide our students with these programs. They need hands-on science to succeed in a medical or research education. When we allow them to learn to play an instrument, sing in a choir or be a part of a marching band, we give them stepping-stones to future success. We give them access to technology, we help prepare them for tomorrow.

How can you help? Any donation to the FVEF will go directly to supporting these programs. Any donation, big or small, can make a difference. Can we count on your support? To donate, please go to our website or contact me anytime at our office or at [cn.weiss@verizon.net](mailto:cn.weiss@verizon.net) Thank you for your support!

## Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Chris Christensen**  
Principal

## A Visit from Mr. Courreges

Mr. Ron Courreges, great grandson of Roch Courreges, visited our school on September 24, 2012 to tell our 3rd graders about his family's history, as well as give each 3rd grader their own special dictionary. We would like to thank Ron Courreges and HB Elk's Lodge for their presentation, kindness, and generosity.



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

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



**Jennifer Perkins**  
Principal



**Inger Kent**  
Assistant Principal

## School Involvement

Every year our PTA supports Fulton Middle School by organizing a fantastic fall fund-raiser. This year was no exception, as our PTA organized a magazine and cookie dough fund-raiser to support our school. The funds from this sale support our school in so many ways, including clubs, after-school sports, spirit activities, classroom materials, technology, student recognition, assemblies, and the school library. We appreciate all of the support that our families showed in participating in this fund-raiser.

Fulton families also showed their support for our school by participating in Family Science Night on November 5. We had all sorts of hands-on activities for students and their families to participate in while learning about science. Many of our teachers hosted activities on campus and the Orange County Astronomers brought out their telescopes so we could take in the wonders of the night sky. The PTA organized a book fair on campus, which featured many interesting books about science as well.

Fulton encourages students to get involved, too, so we have a variety of leadership opportunities to help foster this idea, including: student council, Peer Assistance Leadership, Helping Hands, National Junior Honor Society, and our leadership elective for eighth-graders. Our leadership class works with our student council to plan and organize school-wide activities all year long. They promote school spirit through classroom competitions and spirit days. We are excited to announce our Student Council Executive Board for the 2012-2013 school year: Andrew Brummett, President; Sam Kemper, Vice President; Albert Ton, Secretary; Taylor Golden, Treasurer; Hope Nguyen and Monet Favreau, Members at Large; Adam Grigus, Sports Program Director; and Caroline Murdock, Madeline Domingo and Alyssa Weinberger, School Site Council Members.

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

17615 Los Jardines East, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • [www.jhces-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.jhces-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Patrick Ham**  
Principal

## Preparing for the Future

The teachers at Cox Elementary understand that our students will be working in a world very different from the one we know today. Every year, technology and bioscience are creating new jobs that we didn't imagine would exist a few years ago.

Exposure to technology in the classroom helps prepare our students for their futures. It also helps tremendously with student engagement. Currently, Cox is the only school in the FVSD where SMARTboard technology is utilized everyday in the classroom.

In addition, Cox students work on key mathematics, phonics and literacy skills with the Web and research-based technology curriculums Ticket to Read and ST MATH.

This year, our goal is to have all of our students working with interactive response systems in the classroom. Cox is truly blessed to be the only school in the FVSD to have access to some of these technological advantages. Technology connected to the state curriculum also helps with student achievement (which is indicated by our API growth of 26 points from 2011 to 2012).

Technology at Cox still has a way to go before we catch up to the neighboring districts, but our students and staff members are moving in the right direction.

# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4210 • [www.rges-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.rges-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Erin Bains**  
Principal

## Student Council

The 2012-13 Student Council elections were held in October. We had a tremendous group of students run for office this year, and they should all be very proud of themselves! Each student made a campaign poster and delivered a speech to the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders during an election assembly. Our new Student Council is made up of the following students: Mateo Lopez, president; Gianni Tello, vice president; Kaylee King, secretary; and executive board members Anna Simurda, Sean Collins and Shane Dzwilewski.

In addition to our new Student Council officers, each class in third grade, fourth grade and fifth grade has a room representative that attends all Student Council meetings. The Student Council has gotten right to work planning theme days for Red Ribbon Week and organizing a canned-food drive for the holidays. Student Council is off to a great start, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year!



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

17415 Las Jardines West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250  
www.masudams.fvscd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Chris Mullin**  
Principal



**Heather Harrison**  
Assistant Principal

## Great, But Still Looking to Improve

Masuda is happy to announce that we have achieved an API score of 903 for the 2011-12 California Standardized Tests! This score is a gain of 17 points from the 2010-11 school year. Even better, Masuda showed gains in every statistical category. Still, Masuda is analyzing how all of our remediation and intervention programs are working for our students. We have expanded our offerings, yet we are keeping focused on making sure students who are struggling are not allowed to fall through the cracks or are left behind.

One of our largest changes is the addition of ST Math for our math intervention students. Furthermore, with the addition of Tara Wilson, our new reading intervention teacher, we are able to offer researched-based reading interventions that focus specifically on middle school students. We at Masuda are proud of our accomplishments but are focused on the future.



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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.uhpes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Julie Ballesteros**  
Principal

## Panthers Celebrate the Fall Season

In mid-October, the Plavan Panthers celebrated the fall season with their second annual Plavan Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch. Our Plavan families came together to play carnival games such as the Pumpkin Ring Toss and Bean Bag Tic-Tac-Toe. Families also had the opportunity to purchase their Halloween pumpkin from the Plavan Pumpkin Patch while enjoying a yummy lunch and treats from the snack shack. The children and families had a fantastic time interacting with one another and their teachers, too!

On Halloween day, our students dressed in fun costumes and traveled down the street to the Carmel Village Retirement home. The students performed songs celebrating the season and delivered handmade cards to the residents. This was a very special opportunity to interact with another generation. The children filled the room with smiles and joy. It was a touching experience for everyone involved. We look forward to seeing our new friends again soon.



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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.wtnes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Kathy Davis**  
Principal

## Keys to Success

As we begin the 2012-13 school year, the Newland staff wants to remind parents of the vital part they play in the education of their children. Research indicates that children whose parents are involved in their schooling in meaningful ways perform better than those with uninvolved parents do. However, please keep in mind that involvement does not necessarily mean volunteering in the classroom, although we certainly do appreciate our parent volunteers! Nonetheless, parents' involvement in their child's education begins before the child ever shows up to school.

We will continue with our routines at school, and it is important for you to continue to stress routines at home that include a quiet place for homework, reading for enjoyment at least 20 minutes a night, getting ready for school the night before so the morning is not rushed, and finally getting a good night's sleep. A reasonable bedtime—children 11 or younger require at least 10 hours of sleep.

Work with your child to develop routines so they are performed independently, foster self-sufficiency, and are effective in providing them control over appropriate aspects of their lives. This is also developmentally appropriate for elementary-aged children.

# Isojiro Oka *Elementary* (K-5)

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.ioes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Erik Miller**  
Principal

## A Visit From Mister Lemur

Oka kicked off October with three incredible student assemblies hosted by author Jennifer Hartvickson. Most folks have not heard of Jennifer, but are more familiar with the books she has authored under the pen name "Mister Lemur."

The students were captivated from the moment they entered the assembly room, as they listened to different parts of Mister Lemur's stories come to life, especially those from Train of Thought, one of her most famous books. The children were also challenged by being given the opportunity to write stories and poems that can be published by Mister Lemur on her Web site.

Our Oka students got the chance to see stories come to life in both words and pictures, as Mister Lemur shared some of the tales that were crafted from her personal experience of spending time in Madagascar with many ringtail real-life lemurs. The greatest part of the day was hearing our students walk out of the assembly excited about writing their own stories!



Author Mister Lemur surrounded by Oka students and their newly autographed books.

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

9101 Brabham Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbertms.fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Cara Robinson**  
Principal



**Jennifer Kadjas**  
Assistant Principal

## An Ocean of Improvement!

Talbert Middle School had the opportunity to showcase one student as Rotary's Most Improved Eighth-Grader. The task of having to choose a student so soon after the start of school usually makes it difficult, but not this year.

When the question was posed as to who is making a noticeable improvement, the name repeated continually was Aldo O'Campo. Aldo has attended Talbert all three years and had never



A new year, a new attitude.

earned a GPA higher than 2.0, but this year, something is different. His attitude adjustment is making him strive to accomplish a 3.0 with the hopes this new outlook takes him all the way to his final destination of becoming a marine biologist. He loves the ocean, which is evident when he is out there with his peers at Surf Club bright and early before school starts. Aldo has already shown that his new, simple motto, "I care," makes all the difference.

# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.htes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Jay Adams**  
Principal

## The 600 Club

Each year Tamura School eagerly anticipates the release of our prior year's Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) scores from the state of California. We then tear through those records, looking for members of our illustrious 600 Club. These are students who have scored a perfect 600 on one or more areas of the STAR testing, getting every single question right. We are always amazed that we have any, but we were particularly pleased with these current third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders, who have demonstrated outstanding knowledge above and beyond what is normally expected.

In the area of math, Shefali Bhakta, Jack Falkenstien, Kaia Fister, Joaquin Harsh, Anne Johnson, Brian Johnson, Diane Le, Emily Nguyen, Hillary Nguyen, Newlyn Nguyen, Nicholas Nguyen, Wilson Nguyen, Alex Osborne, Eric Pham, Ryan Rodriguez, Kayla Saros, and Paul Semaan received scores of 600! We even had one amazing student score a perfect 600 in the area of English/language arts: Kayla Miller! We're so proud of you! Way to go!



# Ocean View School District

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

## INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gary Smutz**

The Ocean View School District welcomes Dr. Gary Smuts as its Interim Superintendent. Dr. Smuts comes to Ocean View after a fantastic 40 year career in the ABC Unified School District. Dr. Smuts began his career in education in ABC Unified as a History teacher at Cerritos High. His desire to lead others landed him an assistant principal then principal position at the high school level. Dr. Smuts served as the Director of Curriculum, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance and, in 2005, was selected to be the Superintendent of ABC where he served until his retirement this past June. Dr. Smuts is passionate about education and is excited to share his knowledge and experiences with the Ocean View family. When asked about his new position, Dr. Smuts stated enthusiastically, "I am excited to be here in Ocean View at this time of transition. It's important that we look to the future to do everything we can to serve the community and make a good district even better." Dr. Smuts will see the Ocean View School District through the transition of its permanent Superintendent who should be appointed in the next few weeks.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Tracy Pellman**  
*President*

### A Positive Focus in a Bleak Financial Climate

School districts have prepared their 2012–2013 budgets based upon the passage and the failure of Governor Brown's November tax initiative, Proposition 30. Although districts have made it a priority to keep cuts away from the classroom, five years of severe cuts have taken their toll. Moving forward, the Ocean View School District maintains its strong commitment to student achievement and to providing students with the best opportunities for a successful education. Keeping a positive focus on our students, teachers, and our award-winning schools are key to the success of our district as we work through these tough economic times.

We look forward to the passage of Ocean View School District (OVSD) Measure P, approved by our Board of Trustees to place on the November 6 ballot. This measure, the first OVSD bond measure ever presented to voters, would provide the needed funding to make the necessary repairs and improvements to our aging schools. Additionally, the passage of this measure will bring another \$22 million to Ocean View in state modernization funding which the district has qualified for.

We recognize that in the November election, voters are faced with some very controversial measures during a time filled with economic uncertainty. On the positive side, lower interest rates offered today minimize the overall cost for a school bond measure to taxpayers. Also, the decline in the construction industry creates a very competitive bidding process for school projects, and local construction contracts will enable the creation of jobs in our community. We are encouraged by the many community members who support the Board of Trustee's decision to present this bond measure to voters and by the hard work and dedication of the campaign volunteers who worked tirelessly on behalf of our teachers and our students.

## Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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## Circle View *Elementary*

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



**Karen Sandors**  
*Principal*

### Our Space Shuttle Picnic

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's the space shuttle? On Friday, September 21, Circle View Elementary School students and staff brought their blankets, towels, books, cameras, and lunches out to the playground to anxiously await the arrival of the space shuttle Endeavor.

Mounted on the back of a Boeing 747, the space shuttle made its final journey over Southern California. Flying at an altitude of 1,500 feet, Endeavor flew over Boeing as a tribute to the location

where many of the parts were constructed. Circle View friends had a perfect view of history as the shuttle made its final voyage over clear blue skies. The afternoon led to many fun writing activities and history lessons.

And what did the students think of this once-in-a-lifetime experience? As one student put it, "That was the coolest thing I've ever seen!" The Circle View Space Shuttle Picnic was a big success!



*Cindy Shaw, PT, OCS*

*Owner and Director*



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# College View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Smith**  
Principal

## Wildcats 'Sparkle'

Efren Barrera, head custodian, and Keith Wyman, night custodian, received the esteemed Ocean View School District Sparkle Award at the October Board of Education meeting. This prestigious award is given to the custodial team who exemplifies hard work and dedication for keeping their school site clean and in good repair.

Congratulations!



We are also proud of our association with A Network for a Healthy California. Through our partnership with this benevolent organization, we are able to provide all of our students with fresh fruits and vegetables on a monthly basis. This year, we have added healthy cooking classes for our College View parents. Pictured are curriculum specialist Janis Price and several of our parents who participated in the first session of a six-week course. By the way, the French toast and the smoothies were delicious!



# Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
Principal

## Welcoming New Talent!

The school year is off to an exciting start, with happy children and energetic teachers leading the way! Speaking of teachers, Harbour View is very fortunate to have added three new staff members this year. I am happy to introduce...

Kimberly Banovitz, first grade, arriving at Harbour View from Village View. Mrs. Banovitz earned her degree and credential from National University. Her favorite way to spend a Saturday is enjoying a cup of coffee and a good book at the beach! She thinks the best thing about being a teacher is experiencing children's enthusiasm for learning.

Julie Fortner, first grade, arriving at Harbour View after nine years at Hope View. Mrs. Fortner earned her degree in liberal studies at CSULB. Her hobbies are gardening and crafting. She thinks the best thing about teaching is watching a student get excited when he or she masters a skill—especially reading!

Evelyn Peasley, third grade, also arriving at Harbour View from Hope View. Mrs. Peasley actually shared a contract at Harbour View 15 years ago, and we are so very happy to have her back! She received her credential from CSULB and her master's degree from National University. She enjoys all sports, music and cooking. Mrs. Peasley thinks the best thing about being a teacher is "seeing the lightbulb go on when a student is successful!"

Harbour View is certainly lucky to have these three fabulous teachers share their talents with us!

# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
Principal

## Off to a Great Start

The goals for the Golden View PTO are simple, but the impacts they make are strong. School, family and community are embraced by all, and so we are off to a wonderful start.

Headed by Co-presidents Russ Ronchi and Lisa Peebles, and the support of a phenomenal PTO Board, these goals help to develop school connectedness, bring our families closer together, and build stronger connections with the community. In these economic times we are fortunate to have such giving families and close community ties.

Two events that help build connection with students, family and the community, and are something that we always look forward to at Golden View, are our Literacy Picnic and Cultural Night. At the Literacy Picnic, parents eagerly wait for that special time they can have with their children in reading their favorite books on the lawn. Having a field of families sharing quality reading time makes for great childhood memories.

We are also excited about our second-annual Cultural Night! The festivities begin with grade-level performances. Then, family members and students continue to celebrate their diversity by visiting booths which represent the different countries from around the world.

The booths have a variety of items that represent their family's heritage, ethnicity and/or culture. Not only do students and families enjoy visiting the different booths, but they end up learning a great deal, too!

Besides these wonderful events, the PTO also provides students with a variety of experiences that enhance their educational experience. Whether it be outside the classroom on field trips, or visiting programs, or supporting the school with upgraded technology, our school is a better place thanks to the amazing PTO!

# Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dreifus**  
Principal

## Stay Curious!

Lake View School has taken curiosity to new heights! Last year, we followed the Mars Curiosity Rover's flight with a countdown-to-landing bulletin board. Curiosity, also known as the Mars Science Laboratory, landed on August 6 and began a two-year mission to investigate whether conditions may have been favorable for microbial life. Fifth-grade teachers Lori Nash and Sandi Lewis attended NASA Camp over the summer and returned with lots of wonderful activities to bring the Curiosity Rover mission to life for our students. Now that it has landed, Lake View students are doing their own version of some of its experiments.

In October, NASA hosted a media teleconference to provide a status update on the Curiosity rover's mission to Mars's Gale Crater. Lake View students participated, taking notes in their science journals.

Our fifth-grade students will visit JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) in January to get an up-close-and-personal tour of the facility that is coordinating the Curiosity mission. What a wonderful way to blend science, engineering, technology and fun!



# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

## We're a Part of History!

In September, our Hope View Hawks were fortunate to witness the highly anticipated final flight of the retired space shuttle *Endeavour*. It was history in the making as the shuttle flew past Hope View on its journey en route to its last landing at LAX. Many ran along the field delighted with the once-in-a-lifetime moment of viewing the *Endeavour* in the sky on its final journey.

It was truly a thrill see how this special event inspired all the follow-up writing, ties to science and history, and the math and reading connections. Our Hope View educators love a teachable moment, a minute of history and the wonderful real-life connections. Hope View Hawks were in the middle of it all, giving one final wave to the space shuttle *Endeavour*!



# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Stephanie Henry**  
*Principal*

## Bringing Families Together

We are off to a strong start, with much to celebrate here at Mesa View Middle School! A focus for our school this year is building a connected school community to foster stronger relationships among our Mesa View families.

I am proud to share the news that the first event that we planned for this endeavor was a great success! We invited our entire parent population, along with their siblings and extended family members, to attend the first Mesa View Family Barbecue. Our OVSD Food Services team barbecued almost 900 hamburgers and hot dogs! We had over 500 guests come spend their lunch time with our students.



Academic achievement is the foundation of our success at Mesa View Middle School. We believe that by partnering with the Mesa View families we will be better able to serve our students. So thank you to our entire community for making this day such a great success. We are already making preparations to do it again in the spring!

# Marine View *Middle School*

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



**Shelley Morris**  
*Principal*

## Positively on Our Way!

We're off to a fantastic start! After spending the first several weeks getting to know everyone, I can officially state that Marine View Middle School is an extraordinary place to work, volunteer and learn.

In the first few days of school, we reviewed our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program with our students. Led by Mrs. Spencer, our OVSD Teacher of the Year, our teachers and ASB put on an entertaining assembly to show our students how to appropriately dress for school. A complete tour of the campus followed, with advisement teachers covering rules and guidelines. Our students are doing an amazing job displaying positive behavior, and we commend them at every opportunity.

I'm delighted to announce that our students and staff have begun a recycling program. It started small with collecting plastic bottles and cans at lunch and progressed to recycling pizza boxes. Our ASB, under the guidance of Mr. Becker and Ms. LeMense, sorts and bags the bottles and cans weekly. Teachers Mrs. Van Drimlen and Mrs. Munoz got wind of the efforts and extended recycling to include paper from classrooms and offices. Our diligent office manager, Mrs. Delgleize, collaborated with the refuse company, and bins were sent here in a matter of days!

These are just a few examples of the unparalleled dedication of our teachers and staff. They love their jobs and wholeheartedly commit to supporting one another as well as our students, both in and out of the classroom! Proud to be a Mariner!

# Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Laura Dale-Pash**  
*Principal*

## Multiple Goals Served through GOALS

Oak View School is proud to welcome Growth Opportunities through Athletics, Learning and Service (GOALS). This program began the first day of the 2012-13 school year and is funded by a state After-School Education and Safety (ASES) grant. Eighty-four fourth- and fifth-grade students participate in the program daily until 5:50 p.m. They receive homework support, expository reading practice in science, art, academic enrichment in the computer lab and recreational sports education.

GOALS for Oak View was made possible through the partnership of GOALS, Oak View School, the Ocean View School District and the Oak View Renewal Partnership. Based in Anaheim, GOALS is an established not-for-profit provider with a history of serving Orange County schools for over 18 years. Students receive services free of charge.

The school wishes to thank Iosefa Alofaituli for his efforts in bringing this amazing after-school program to Oak View School.





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# Oak View

Preschool & Education Resource Center

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
Principal

## Learning to Learn

The Learning Link is a parent-child program that is being offered to children from ages 2-3 who are not currently enrolled in a preschool program.

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County provides funds for the Learning Link teacher, Helen Peña. The two sessions last eight weeks, and will repeat several times throughout the year.

In the program, children listen to a story and then participate in a music and movement activity. Miss Helen also demonstrates how to complete a follow-up project with the child. The last part of the class is for “play” time (which is really the children’s work time) as they discover the learning centers throughout the classroom.

This program helps prepare children for the preschool experience. They get to know about circle time, following directions and the general structure of a day at school. This program opportunity is truly a Link to Learning!



# Spring View

Middle School

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



**Jason Blade**  
Principal

## Connecting the Dots

How do we get students to be their best? How do we get students to perform at their highest level and to demonstrate the character we look for in our current scholars and future leaders?

At Spring View, we believe in an approach that “connects the dots” between research-based instructional practices and developing positive connections with our students. Research shows that the more people with whom a student has a positive connection, the better that individual’s chances are of being successful at whatever it is that he or she chooses to do. It is our belief at Spring View

Middle School that only when feeling safe and valued can a student perform his

or her best. As principal, I am proud of the Spring View staff and their genuine concern for the well-being of all of our students, academically, socially and emotionally. This is one of the primary reasons that Spring View is an amazing place.



# Pleasant View

## Ocean View Preparatory Preschool

located at Pleasant View School, 16692 Landau Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000



**Paul James**  
Principal

## Back to School Night

In October, Pleasant View School/OVPP held our annual Back to School Night for our parents. Our staff of talented teachers led our parents in presentations about each of their classrooms. Topics included the California Preschool Foundations, curriculum and instruction, classroom environment, center time, classroom management and discipline, daily schedules and ABA topics. It was great to see so many of our parents attend and show their support of our programs at Pleasant View/OVPP.

All of our teachers worked extremely hard and dedicated many extra hours of time to make our Back to School Night a huge success. Pleasant View feels very lucky and fortunate to have such a great staff. Many thanks to our teachers Cynthia Atkinson, Michelle Wall, Elke Day, Kathie Favazza, Marie Schools, Katy Nachbaur, Christina Llata, Vanessa Croushorn, Kim Hunter and Genie Peterson as well as our support staff of Anne Fujiwara, Anh Mai, Vicki Kincaid, Anne Lang, Patty Mulcahy, Linda Still and Lynn Trittipio, who all help make each day a special journey for our students to learn.

# Star View

Elementary

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



**Jamie Kinder**  
Principal

## Building Leaders Among the Stars

Star View is doing its part in creating the leaders of tomorrow. We seek out every opportunity to allow the students to take on responsibility and become independent citizens. The teachers build leadership through the Student Council, service projects, mentoring and cooperative group activities within the classroom.

Student Council is just starting up, and the teacher leader, Mrs. Kakimoto, is enthusiastic about building the leadership capacity at Star View among our fourth- and fifth-grade students. Star View is also building leaders to care for the Earth. For example, our students coordinate the collection and maintenance of the recycle bins in the rooms on campus. In order to mold our students into academic leaders, our classes work together to allow older students to read with the younger students. Our teachers also enrich the learning experience by allowing the students to work in groups to solve problems and create meaningful projects.



# Sun View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## Working Together

September 11 often reminds us of the heroic efforts of our dignified fire-fighters, police officers, and medical personnel who deserve recognition.

This year Sun View commemorated 9/11 with corporate VIP volunteers, who gave their time, skill, and service to support our school and help our community of learners. We are delighted to say that our school garden is flourishing thanks to the efforts of our corporate friends who worked, side by side with students, teachers, and administration.

Research reminds us that the most successful students and schools are those where the families, schools, and community work together in partnership to support each other. A special thanks to Abby Edmunds and Jessi Kraai for leading the charge!



# Westmont *Elementary*

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



**Carol Furman**  
*Principal*

## Shining Brilliantly!

The Westmont community received some amazing news this week—our Academic Performance Index went up a whopping 17 points! Every year, schools in California are assigned an Academic Performance Index rating based on their performance on the STAR tests. We are proud at Westmont to announce our huge growth of 17 points!

Our teachers worked and continue to work diligently on differentiating instruction for every student based on his or her academic need. Westmont teachers are committed to providing excellent direct instruction in the classroom. We couple this direct instruction with fun and engaging schoolwide activities to get students motivated to perform their best on the standardized assessment.

Students at all grade levels attended a pep rally and received colored commemorative bracelets based on their individual achievement level on the test. Teachers and the principal met with every student in grades two through five to set goals for their desired growth on the test. Students also participated in a Spirit Day with the theme “809, We Will Shine,” which highlighted our goal of an 809 API.

With our 17-point growth, we shattered our goal—Westmont can now proudly boast about our 810 API score! We look forward to continuing this growth and continuing the great instruction that happens every day at Westmont School! Go Eagles!

# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Tryon**  
*Principal*

## The Dolphins Rock the Deep Blue Sea!

Village View students are continuing to focus on being kind, safe and responsible citizens each and every day. Our commitment to creating and maintaining a community of caring individuals who do well academically is first and foremost in our hearts and minds.

We are also a spirited school with a very supportive community. Our Spirit Kids, who are the school's current fifth-graders, lead the charge by helping out during our Friday Flag Ceremony.

Being a Spirit Kid is an honor. The students who serve in this capacity are representing the spirit of Village View. They help lead the flag salute, sing the patriotic song of the month, talk about the “Manner of the Month,” and even lead the Village View cheer. They also determine what kind of spirit days we host each month.

Our school staff is also supportive and kind, and they truly provide a positive role model for our students. I am honored to be at a school where staff, students and families all come together to do what is best for the children.

In the words of John Wooden, “Acquire peace of mind by making the effort to become the best of which you are capable.” We will continue to strive for our personal best at Village View Elementary.

# Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Amy Kernan**  
*Principal*

## A Touch of Jazz

Vista View Middle School's El Viento students are exposed to cultural experiences that may not be available otherwise. One of these amazing experiences occurred recently when our El Viento students were treated to a lesson and concert by Latin Grammy winner flutist

Nestor Torres. Nestor Torres has recorded 13 CDs to date. His fifth and seventh records, “Treasure of the Heart” and “My Latin Soul,” were nominated for Latin Grammy Awards, and his production “This Side of Paradise” won the Latin Grammy in the pop instrumental category.

The students learned about his style of Latin jazz music and made instruments out of everyday items that reflect a jazz flair. They were able to use these instruments to accompany him when he came to Vista View to play for them.





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## Art To Grow On

### Don't Forget to Enjoy the Holidays



How can it be the holiday season again? I made a mindful effort to not overbook fall activities for our two boys, a first-grader and fourth-grader. I have good news to report that our fall has been a good one! We had lots of park visits, scooter time, and friends over—and even some down time. Sports were still on the agenda, but we cut back a bit, and it made such a difference! My new “moderate” mode became easier and easier as the weeks progressed, especially as I heard more laughter, talked more at the dinner table, and saw more creative play, from painting and taking scooters apart (yes, I allowed this) to movie night.

The holidays ahead are to be celebrated with friends and family, and we are looking forward to a great season! I know the demands triple at this time, but I feel much more confident that we will enjoy this holiday season without the level of stress we have had in the past. Work will be busy with art classes, gingerbread workshops, parties, and special events, along with the boys' schedules and our family schedule.

Enjoy the holidays and celebrate the time you have together! Wishing you happiness, joy, and lots of creative fun for the New Year!

Enjoy each and every day!

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc.  
[www.art2growon.com](http://www.art2growon.com) (310) 625-6028

## College-4-Less

### Things to Consider Before Saving for College



**Susan D. Marshall**

Saving for college can be an overwhelming thought for young families that are just starting out and are trying to buy a first home. If you are also saving for retirement, the cost of college can be paralyzing.

The changes in governmental rules also provide challenges. For example, 529 Plans originally were not considered in the financial aid calculation but now are. Here are four suggestions that can smooth your way.



1) Make sure you contribute to your retirement plan before you contribute to a college savings plan. Most advisors recommend contributing the largest affordable percentage that your employer will match. If you are a stay at home spouse, set up an IRA or a Roth IRA. Just be aware that these plans typically are invested in stocks, bonds and mutual funds that carry greater risk. The good news is that currently, retirement accounts are generally not considered in the financial aid calculation at most schools.

2) Buying your own home should be a top priority as soon as it makes financial and practical sense. It will serve as a future investment. You will build equity over time and it may provide you with collateral that may be used in the future to help pay for college.

3) Make sure your income is protected. What does that mean? Should you lose your job, become disabled or not make it home; will your family be able to have the resources to go on? Make sure you have the life and disability insurance to protect your family's future.

4) Have an accessible and safe emergency fund. The accounts that provide savings and liquidity are Long Term CD's, Fixed Annuities, Indexed Annuities and Cash Value Life Insurance. Many times working with a trusted advisor will help you find money you don't realize you have. By repositioning assets you may increase your cash flow and add to your savings. When you do begin saving for college, plan and save to maximize your funds and minimize any penalties.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article e-mail her at [Susan@College4Less.com](mailto:Susan@College4Less.com).

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## Unlock Your Imagination at the Library!



Barbara Richardson  
Senior Librarian  
Programming  
and Youth  
Services

Calling all young writers and illustrators! It's time again for the Friends of the Library's writing and illustrating contest.

This year's contest theme is called Unlock Your Imagination! Words have been sucked out of books, and one must use the magic key that will put them all back into a great story and/or drawing. Entry forms and complete rules are available at [www.FOTCL.org](http://www.FOTCL.org) and at all Huntington Beach library branches.

The contest is open for children in preschool through grade eight. All entries must be turned in to the Central Library Children's Desk by December 15. The winners will receive a Barnes and Noble gift card. There will be a special award ceremony held for the winners during the library's Authors Festival on January 31, 2013.

Bully Awareness Resistance Educations, Inc. is offering a "More Friends, Better Friends" leadership course for teens ages 13–19 every Tuesday at 3:30 to 5 p.m., from January 15 through March 5 in the Tabby Theater. These courses are free. Leadership, communication, social skills and the HB Reads selected book *Thirteen Reasons Why* will be discussed.

Interested teens may register online at [www.barethebully.org](http://www.barethebully.org), or at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org). Registration forms will also be available at the Children's Desk. Advance registration is preferred.

Skip Black Friday and the crowded malls. Your holiday shopping can be done here at the library. Tile painting certificates, personalized fish, and tickets for the 2013 Taste of Huntington Beach event make wonderful presents. Plus, you are helping to support the library. And don't forget the FOTL gift shop!



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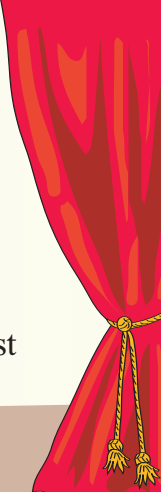
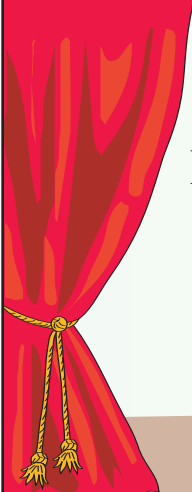
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Kent's Korner

# The Champion



**Kent Kawaguchi**  
*Guest Columnist*

Who is going to be the Champion? After months of practice, countless hours of competitive workouts, and scrimmages, it was finally time to fly from Orange County, California to Chicago to compete against some of the top Mid-West volleyball teams. After hours of plane rides and anticipation, we finally got to the gym called Adversity. It was a huge, clean, modern gym with multiple courts for teams to play on. Inside the gym was extremely hectic. Referee whistles were blowing, coaches were screaming, fans were cheering, and athletes were competing at the highest level. There was spirited electricity in the air and one



**Kent and Mike Hulett, founder of Adversity Volleyball.**

person focused on seemingly every person and game going on in the gym. He was constantly watching, coaching, leading, cheering teams and players, motivating them to do their best. He would also greet parents and coaches too, obviously appreciated and respected by everyone inside the gymnasium. By the end of the tournament everyone knew that he is the Champion.

His name is Mike Hulett, Founder of the non-profit organization called Adversity Volleyball. As President, Head Coach and Organizer of the entire tournament, he brought together hundreds of student athletes from the Great Lakes region and our team from California. Mr. Hulett is also a quadruple amputee who went

through the adversity of having lost his limbs due to diabetes. However, he continues to pursue his love and passion for the game of volleyball bringing joy to hundreds of athletes and their families.

As Head Coach of the Men's Paralympic Sitting Volleyball Team from 1996 to 2000 he inspires others through his leadership. In 2004, he led the USA Paralympic Women's Volleyball team to a Bronze medal in Athens, where he was also named the United States Olympic Committee Paralympics Coach of the Year in 2004. He also led the Women's team to a Silver medal in Beijing. The Athens and Beijing medals were USA's only Olympic medals ever won in Disabled Volleyball. In addition, Mr. Hulett won the Disabled Sport USA's Volunteer of the Year award in 1997, the Great Lakes Region Outstanding Clinician Award in 1998, and the USA Volleyball Leader Award in 2002.

Mr. Hulett said, "I want to show kids that they need to be grateful for the things they have, because things can be taken away in a matter of seconds." Through the Adversity Volleyball Club, his coaching and leadership, he inspires athletes to do their best and to appreciate everything they have.

# From the Boathouse

## Rowing Your Way to College

Six minutes and 30 seconds. That's the magic time a male high school athlete needs to achieve on a rowing machine to receive a college scholarship. It's the strangest thing, relying on a machine known as the Concept 2 Indoor Rowing Machine, which measures the amount of work performed while pulling a lever. A football coach doesn't offer a scholarship simply because someone runs a certain 40-yard time. A basketball coach doesn't offer a scholarship because someone can dunk. A baseball coach doesn't offer a scholarship because of how far someone can hit a baseball. But in rowing, when a male athlete records a time of six minutes and 30 seconds, the word spreads like wildfire among college recruiters.



**Brad Teter**

Brad Teter, a high school rowing athlete at Marina Aquatic Center, and Andy Marshall, a high school rowing athlete at Long Beach Junior Crew, were up for the challenge. Jack Nunn, the owner of Powerhouse Fitness, reviewed their eating habits, examined their old workout routines, and helped them set goals. He developed detailed fitness and nutrition plans, which included daily rowing-related workouts. Both young men also attend Powerhouse Fitness indoor rowing classes at the boathouse and warehouse locations, which they enjoy due to the diversity of the participants.

Since Teter and Marshall have been training, they have gained muscle, increased aerobic endurance, and dramatically improved their rowing times. Both athletes aspire to achieve fast enough 2,000-meter scores to continue rowing in the colleges of their choice.



**Andy Marshall**

Powerhouse Fitness provides personalized athletic performance training combined with highly effective consulting services. This consulting service, which was developed through two decades of rowing for collegiate and national team coaches, focuses college rowing programs, the recruiting process, and the steps an athlete needs to take to be considered for recruitment to a college or university. Our goal is simple: To ensure that you maximize your rowing potential through training and knowledge, so you can reach your ultimate goal of gaining admission to the college or university of your choice.

Jack Nunn/Owner, Powerhouse Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90803  
562/688-1716, [www.powerhousefit.com](http://www.powerhousefit.com).



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# LOS ALAMITOS YOUTH BASEBALL Spring Sign Ups for 2013

**Sign Up Dates:** November 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Visit:** [www.LAYB.org](http://www.LAYB.org) for more information

[www.LAYB.org/headlines\\_boundaries.html](http://www.LAYB.org/headlines_boundaries.html)



**LAYB Tryout Dates: January 12th and 13th**



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*

Today, more than any other time in history, educators are charged with ensuring that students are prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the global economy. A large number of jobs today require a bachelor's degree or higher, and the new jobs projected to be created will incorporate a wide variety of education, training, and special skills. In Orange County, we are committed to preparing our youth for jobs that require higher order thinking, complex problem solving, and specialized skills. Those are the jobs that will command the salaries that will be needed to provide the ability to buy homes, raise families, and prosper in the twenty-first century.

As a nation, we must continue to raise the bar and ensure that all students have the opportunity to pursue post high school education that will prepare them for the specialized careers of the future. In this increasingly complex world, our job as educators is to create greater awareness of the college experience, expose youth to new and emerging career opportunities, heighten their desire to attain an education beyond high school, and help guide students in their preparation for postsecondary education, including technical and two-year degrees. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are an important step to achieving this goal.

While California's academic standards have consistently ranked at the top, the CCSS were developed to ensure the highest quality and consistency across the state and the nation. There has been a critical need for the development of a

The mission of the CCSS is to provide a consistent, clear understanding of the knowledge and skills that our young people need to master in order to be prepared for success in college and beyond. The CCSS are the culmination of a collaborative effort between educators, parents, content experts, researchers, higher education leaders, national organizations, businesses, and community groups from forty-eight states, two territories, and the District of Columbia. The CCSS were developed using the best state standards and the experience of teachers, with feedback from the general public. In addition, the standards are internationally benchmarked to ensure that our students receive a high-quality education regardless of where they live.

As educators embark on the exciting work of implementing the CCSS, it will be evident that this is not a “one-size-fits-all” program, and states will be able to customize the implementation and curriculum. While common learning objectives provide a clear vision of what educators in all states should embrace, the standards do not tell teachers how to teach. Instead, the CCSS define what students should know and master so that teachers can design appropriate lesson plans.

With implementation of the CCSS, we will enable more students to be prepared for a postsecondary education and as a result improve our state's economic competitiveness. The CCSS offer an extraordinary opportunity to transform education across America, and are a critical step toward providing a common foundation for young people across the country that will prepare them with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and beyond. To learn more, visit [www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA](http://www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA).

# Swim Word Search Contest

# Rules!!!

**Rules!!!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that is the word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put FH0W in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2012  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
\$20 gift certificate redeemable at Slater's 50/50  
8082 Adams Avenue, Huntington Beach.

Anchor	Flippers	Paddles
Backstroke	Freestyle	Pool
Boards	Goggles	Pulleys
Breaststroke	Headcap	Race
Butterfly	Kickboards	Relay
Chlorine	Kicking	Strokes
Diving	Lane Lines	Surfacing
Dolphin	Medley	Times
Ear Plugs	Meets	Underwater

## Congratulations September Contest Winners!

## Michelle Jones—Car Parts

## Dave Dobrin—Seek ‘n Find

# Word Search by Gunnar Coop

G	N	I	K	C	I	K	N	I	H	P	L	O	D	L
O	M	H	C	A	S	D	R	A	O	B	K	C	I	K
G	P	C	M	E	D	L	E	Y	Y	A	L	E	V	D
G	A	H	J	F	H	I	T	R	V	O	B	G	I	G
L	C	L	B	R	K	I	A	N	O	U	M	S	N	Y
E	D	O	P	E	M	V	W	P	T	H	I	I	G	T
S	A	R	S	E	K	O	R	T	S	K	C	A	B	O
W	E	I	S	S	T	T	E	T	F	A	K	N	O	R
T	H	N	V	T	L	R	D	A	F	T	S	B	A	Y
X	N	E	I	Y	F	V	N	R	R	M	Y	C	R	N
L	F	Z	J	L	W	D	U	O	U	P	E	E	D	L
V	F	R	Y	E	E	S	P	A	D	D	L	E	S	R
T	C	M	V	D	M	N	D	Z	Y	A	L	U	T	N
E	B	B	I	Y	O	Z	A	G	Y	P	U	C	G	S
G	U	A	G	K	S	B	F	L	I	P	P	E	R	S

# Westminster School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Warner Teacher Wins \$1000 in School Supplies

In October, one of our Warner Middle School teachers was surprised with a very special award. Ms. Valerie Casato, a math teacher, was awarded \$1,000 worth of school supplies from an office supply store chain as part of their “A Day Made Better” event, which celebrates teachers for demonstrating passion, dedication, and innovation in the classroom.

**Richard Tauer**

Matthew Skoll, the principal at Warner Middle School, nominated Ms. Casato for the award and had this to say about her: “Ms. Casato is a wonderful teacher and her students truly love being in her class. Each day, Ms. Casato comes to work with a great big smile on her face and a fantastic attitude. Her classroom lessons are engaging, and her students are always on task. It is a pleasure to have Ms. Casato as a member of the Warner team, and she deserves every accolade that she receives!”



**Business representative; Valerie Casato, Warner Teacher and award recipient; Jennifer Morgan, Warner Asst. Principal; Matthew Skoll, Warner Principal**

Because teachers spend a significant amount of their own money annually on classroom supplies, the office supply chain founded “A Day Made Better.” Representatives from the company presented Ms. Casato with a giant box, which contained everything from a digital camera, a labeler, and a leather chair to a magnetic bulletin board, antibacterial wipes, sticky notes and much, much more. I’m not sure who was more excited, the students or Ms. Casato.

I’d like to extend our sincere thanks to the office supply chain for recognizing Valerie Casato, a very deserving teacher!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Sergio Contreras**  
*President*

### Test Scores Keep Rising!

The California Department of Education has released 2012 test scores for schools throughout the state and the Westminster School District (WSD) has a lot to be proud of. The 2012 Academic Performance Index (API) score district-wide, increased an impressive 17 points to 838. This score is well over the statewide goal of 800 and is 50 points above the statewide average of 788! In addition, many of the school site increases are extraordinary. Stacey Middle School posted a remarkable 42 point gain, Finley Elementary went up 34 points, Webber Elementary had a growth of 32 points and Schroeder Elementary exhibited a 25 point gain.

“Our test scores are a cause for celebration,” said Richard Tauer, Superintendent. “We have been on an upward trajectory for quite some time. In fact, our test scores have increased 56 points in the past five years! I am very proud of our students, staff and parents. Everyone has worked hard and it shows.”

Mr. Tauer is right. These accomplishments are the result of great teamwork. While there are many contributing factors to our achievements, we believe that embracing The Essential Elements has had an impact. The Essential Elements include:

- Focusing on learning rather than teaching
- Working collaboratively
- Monitoring and measuring student progress on a frequent and timely basis
- And building the capacity of students and staff

In such difficult budgetary times, it is very encouraging to start the year off with such positive news that reconfirms we are moving in the right direction.

### Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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### MAYOR CITY OF WESTMINSTER • FROM PAGE 1

the-art police building and parking structure were constructed. The Miriam Warne Community Center and Chamber building replaced a modular structure the chamber had used since 1971. Sid Goldstein Freedom Park was dedicated in 2002, and the Vietnam War Memorial was located there in 2003. Liberty Skate Park opened in 2001, and the Sigler Park Splash Pad opened in 2008. An outdoor fitness equipment area was established by the senior center in the civic center in 2009. In fact, all Westminster parks were upgraded and improved during this time.

I’m very proud of our wonderful diverse community. Although I chose not to seek re-election, I look forward to remaining active and involved with the events and issues we will face in the future.



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# Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Place, Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx



**Dr. Lori Rogers**  
Principal

## A New Season

By Mr. Kevin Whitney

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to Anderson Elementary's 2012-2013 student council governing body.

They are President Britney Truong; 1st Vice President Henry Quach; 2nd Vice President Tony Soi; Secretary Jennifer Vu; and Treasurer Robert Patterson. These are some of our most intelligent and thoughtful Anderson Tigers. The staff advisors are Dana Pople, Franny Guerrero and Kevin Whitney.

During their first meeting of the year the student council made some historic decisions. Concerned with student health, they chose to provide a non-edible item to be attached to the Anderson Halloween Gram, rather than a piece of candy.

At the same meeting they also voted to work with the staff and PTA to host the school's first Trunk or Treat Event. This successful happening provided a space for Halloween fun for the children to laugh together and celebrate the fall holiday. Anderson students showed up with their parents and siblings to ring in the season and say "Goodbye" to the summer.



**Anderson Student Council 2012/13**

# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx



**Donna Brush**  
Principal

## Hard Work Results in Improved Test Scores

The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program is an important part of the state assessment system. It is administered annually in the spring in grades two through eleven. Tests in the STAR program measure how well students in California public schools are learning the knowledge and skills identified in the California content standards.

The STAR Program includes the California Standards Tests (CSTs), which are multiple-choice tests in English language arts and mathematics. Additionally, a writing test is administered in fourth- and seventh-grade, and fifth-grade students are tested in science.

CST results are reported using five performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic and far-below basic. The state target was for 78.4 percent of students to be proficient or above in English language arts, and 79.0 percent in mathematics. About 80 percent of our students achieved at the proficient or advanced level in English language arts, and 82 percent in mathematics.

Each year, California schools receive a state Academic Performance Index (API) score. The API measures schoolwide growth and individual student group growth on a scale of 200-1000. The statewide performance target is 800. Eastwood's API of 906 is a 19-point increase over last year.

We have carefully analyzed our data, and have determined the 2012-2013 academic focus to be reading comprehension and written expression. We believe that through increased non-fictional reading, continued use and refinement of Thinking Maps, increased instruction and practice in writing, and adding rigor and relevance to the curriculum, our Eastwood students will have unlimited achievement opportunities.

# Clegg *School*

6311 Larchwood Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/clegg.aspx



**John Staggs**  
Principal

## Reading Has Its Own Rewards!

We are off to a great start of the 2012-13 school year at Clegg Elementary School. One of our school focuses this year will be the Accelerated Reader program. Students are encouraged to read Accelerated Reader chapter books and then take computerized tests that will show their comprehension of the books they have chosen to read. Students will accumulate points with each test passed. The schoolwide goal this year is 7,000 points.

The top two earners from each grade level will have the opportunity to participate in a schoolwide activity that we will be deciding on in the coming days. This activity will happen on one of the last days of school in front of the entire student body. Our librarian, Peter Futzaun, works closely with our students and has a monthly reward system in place for students who achieve their monthly goals. Last year's top earners threw water balloons at the principal and many of our amazing teachers here on staff to celebrate their accomplishment. There was a lot of fun had by all.

Our students are doing a fantastic job, and we are sure they will meet the goal set for this school year.

# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx



**Shannon Villanueva**  
Principal

## DeMille Dolphins are Smart!

As part of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), all DeMille students are expected to be S.M.A.R.T. This means that they follow the schoolwide behavior expectations to Stay safe, Make good decisions, Act responsibly, Respect others, and Try your best!

At Back to School Night, our DeMille parents learned how to be S.M.A.R.T. in the school parking lot. The very next day we had a schoolwide PBIS behavior expectation kick-off. The students who are enrolled in the after-school PRIDE program, and the PRIDE staff members, all planned and delivered lessons on how to be S.M.A.R.T. around the school.

Students were shown examples and non-examples of how to behave in the multipurpose room, the restrooms, the hallway and the playground. They rotated from station to station to learn the behavior expectations in each area of the campus.

The PRIDE staff and students did a wonderful job of showing our DeMille students how to be S.M.A.R.T.!



**DeMille 3rd graders learn how to be S.M.A.R.T. on the playground!**

# Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx



**Maria Gutierrez-Garcia**  
*Principal*

## Learning to Stand Up for Self and Others

Finley Elementary School held its annual Parent Power Lunch in October. This year, Westminster School District prevention specialist Sheree Newman and Finley School counselor Rita Neumann teamed up to present a timely and informative keynote session on Bullying Prevention, cyberbullying and the services provided by the Westminster School District to prevent and address these issues in the kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms. The event began in the multipurpose room with a PowerPoint presentation and some public service announcements on bullying, bullying prevention and cyberbullying.

Following the keynote presentation, Joey Van Camp, RN, and Tracey Zoleta, RDA, shared a brief Nutrition Network presentation followed by a Zumba moment of dance and fitness! Parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, all getting fit!

Parents then went out to enjoy a picnic lunch with their children and wrapped the event up by sharing a book or playing a game together outdoors.



**English Language Advisory Representatives: Maria Flores and Lourdes Muniz wait for their school age children to join them for a picnic lunch while waiting with the younger siblings.**



**Finley Parents viewed public service announcements on the different types of bullying that exist.**

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx



**Shane Vinagupta**  
*Principal*

## The Ultimate Warriors

All good schools have a common factor: they have a good staff. Johnson is no different. Whether it be the classified employees who work hard to manage things behind the scenes, or the certificated staff members who support our students' success, it is undoubtedly a team effort.

The school year began with many obstacles. But they were able to be overcome by teamwork, flexibility and an unwavering resolve to do what is best for our students. I cannot thank my staff enough for facing these challenges and stepping up when called upon.

It is because of each one of you that Johnson made double-digit gains on its API score last year. And with your continued support and focus, you will also be the reason why we will soon reach our goal of becoming an 800 API school.

Thank you all for your commitment to our school, our students, and our community. You guys are awesome!



**The Johnson staff works and plays as a team.**

# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Drive, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx



**Dr. Hiacynth Martinez**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Another Year of Achievement

At this year's third-annual State Testing Student Achievement Celebration, our Fryberger students, parents, teachers, support staff and Freddy (our mascot) had a fantastic time honoring the results of our collective efforts. What dedication was required to mark yet another year of schoolwide success!

Our students were recognized for jumping bands on the California Standardized Test (CST) in English Language Arts (ELA) and math, and on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT).

The students were so proud to be acknowledged for their growth on these comprehensive annual assessments. They also gallantly rose to their feet to signify their 2012 membership in other various ELA and math clubs. In fact, there were several students who made it into the 600 Math Club for two consecutive years!

Congratulations go to Huynh-Anh Duong, Alan Tathanhlong, Julio Molina and Justin Nguyen, as well as to the other students who shared the spotlight for their academic success!



**600 Math Club Students: Julio Molina, Huynh-Anh Duong, Savannah Orr, Hasani Lam, Johnny Nguyen, Nathan Tang, Allan Tathanhlong, & Justin Nguyen**

# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

## Teaching through Technology

Hayden Elementary School's Back-to-School Night was a huge success. We had a tremendous turn out by our community and families. This night is an opportunity to lay the foundation for the rest of the year and communicate our expectations at Hayden.

Ms. Keating and Mrs. Angeles took student engagement to another level and gave ownership to their students. Rather than having the teacher explain the information to the parents, the teachers created class videos, which were shown to the parents. Each student was filmed individually presenting the curriculum and expectations, which were compiled into a video. This innovative technique fully engaged the parents, and they were excited to see their children on display. Students also benefitted by having their classroom expectations reinforced by participation.



# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • **714/894-7311 Student Services.** / **714/898-8389 Child Dev.**  
www.wsd.k12.ca.us



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

## Buzzing with Great Behavior!

The Land “Bees” are buzzing along towards a great start this year. That’s because they are following our PBIS program for great behavior!

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. It is a system for helping children make appropriate behavioral decisions. Now starting our third year with this program, we have learned many new lessons about bringing everyone together as a team. We hope to encourage and support expected behaviors in both the classroom setting and throughout the school.

These expectations are built around three simple attitudes: be safe, be kind, and be attentive. Using our bee mascot as a central theme, we recognize and reward those classrooms which meet the expectations by filling up their honeycomb template with bee stickers. These are awarded when a classroom is “caught bee-ing good.”

Each month, those classrooms with a full honeycomb are recognized in front of the entire school. They also get to participate in a special activity. The result has been a safer school, kinder peers, and children learning to be more attentive!

At the end of the year these preschoolers will then head off to their elementary school sites, where they will be prepared to exhibit appropriate behaviors in a strong learning community.



# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • **714/894-7264** • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx



**Paul Andre White**  
*Principal*

## Great Accomplishments

The staff, students, and parents of Schmitt Elementary School recently had the opportunity to celebrate the tremendous success we achieved during the 2011–2012 school year. We were thrilled by the release of our Academic Performance Index (API) data, which reflected the hard work by all of our stakeholders last year.

I am proud to be able to share with the community that our API grew again last year from 808 to 828. In addition, we were also informed that Schmitt is no longer considered to be in program improvement status. This is a reflection of the sustained and systematic practices that are in place and taught with fidelity by an amazing group of professionals. Since the 2005–2006 school year, Schmitt’s API has increased by 138 points! That kind of growth is not attainable without the hard work of an entire school community coming together with a common focus.

Our teachers, support staff, students, and parents are working hard—and working together—to continue the steady improvement of our school. We are continuing our established practices by focusing on fluency instruction, master scheduling our fifth-graders, and moving through the process of developing school-wide expectations with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). In addition, teachers are putting into place targeted English-Language Development (ELD) instruction at all grade levels and preparing for the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

As principal, I am incredibly proud of the great things that our team has accomplished and equally excited about the growth to come.

# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • **714/372-8800** • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Nutrition Class for Parents

Every Wednesday morning during the month of October, about 30 parents participated in a nutrition class titled “What’s on Your Plate?” This series of free classes was sponsored by the Nutrition Network. The goal was to learn how to make easy, healthy changes to your meals at home.

Parents learned about the importance of breakfast, correct portion sizes, nutrition myths, how to personalize their recipes and rethinking their drinks. Each class included a hands-on cooking activity and a Zumba exercise break. All of the parents who partic-

ipated had a great time. They tasted some great food, got up and got moving, and even made some new friends.

The series ended with a graduation ceremony. Each parent received a certificate of completion and some gifts to help them continue on their path to healthier eating. Some great food was shared!



**Meairs Moms preparing a healthier version of French Toast.**

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • **714/894-7268** • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

## PTA’s Lunch on the Lawn

In October, Schroeder’s PTA Parent Teacher Association held its annual membership event at Lunch on the Lawn. All Schroeder families were invited to eat lunch with their children during the regular lunch schedule.

The lawn turned into a picnic area with benches, lawn chairs and blankets. Over 350 family members and loved ones joined the student body for this wonderful event. The PTA took this opportunity to encourage joining their organization. Their mission is to “work diligently to provide continuity between students, families

and staff to improve education by supporting staff, encouraging students and creating a sense of community.” It’s a win, win for everybody—parents, families, staff and most importantly, the children. It’s not too late to join PTA—you can become a member today!



**Lunch on the lawn.**

# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Road, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx



**Tammy Hubbard**  
*Principal*

## Soaring High

The next few months will be active ones here at Sequoia. We will be participating in family soup, skate and Santa pictures with cookie decorating nights. These are wonderful opportunities for our families to come together and enjoy a night of relaxation and fun.

There will also be a food and toy drive in November and December, where we will be able to help many of those in need of some extra assistance. Thank you to everyone who will be participating in these events; we look forward to seeing you! Please watch your calendar for more information.

We also want to offer congratulations to Mrs. Mizuo, one of our fabulous kindergarten teachers. She recently received a grant from donorschoose.org that will benefit her entire class. She wrote the grant to add some percussion instruments to her curriculum so that her students could fulfill the visual and performing arts content standards.

In addition to Mrs. Mizuo's award, Mrs. Prendergast, a sixth-grade teacher, also submitted a grant idea for a document camera, and has been awarded this incredible tool. She will be using it to enhance her instruction and save valuable time sharing information with her students. Great job ladies for going the extra mile!

We want to thank these very generous donors for continuing to support our educational program and our students. Soar high with Eagle pride!

# Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## We Witness History

*By Claire Mangold and Zahraa Hijara*

Twenty-five years ago, Congress authorized the *Endeavour* space shuttle to soar into space. During the *Endeavour's* career, it made 25 journeys into the universe. The *Endeavour* was recently retired, and on Friday, Sept. 21, the students at Stacey Middle School had the opportunity to witness the *Endeavor's* final flight.

A Huntington Beach aerospace corporation kept our principal, Mrs. DeBritton, informed of up-to-the-minute scheduling as to when the *Endeavour* might soar over Stacey via Bolsa Avenue. Having the chance to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event filled everyone with excitement.

As the *Endeavour* made its final journey, the new teachers at Stacey were just beginning theirs. On behalf of the students, parents and staff, we would like to welcome Mr. Alu, Mrs. Karsh, Mr. Millar and Mr. Mitchell to the Cougar Campus. The PTSA also organized the Welcome Back Dance to kick off a great new school year. Many students enjoyed the great music, dancing and delicious snacks.



Stacey has some amazing events occurring in the next few months, including our first-ever Halloween Costume Contest and Darkfest, sponsored by our Leadership students, so get ready to get your spooky on!

# Warner *Middle (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx



**Matthew Skoll**  
*Principal*

## Giving Back

*By Teryn Ngo and Myla Trinh*

This year at Warner, our goal is to focus on giving back to others. Recently, our National Junior Honor Society took part in a 9/11 service project that helped raise money for the Combat Wounded Warriors, a group of servicemen and women who were injured in the line of duty.

Together with Warner's student body, we raised \$650 to go towards a "Warrior Rock" for Amber Fifer, a Purple Heart recipient who was injured during her deployment in Afghanistan.

Inspired by the work of NJHS, Warner's PAL and Leadership students will also be collaborating with a charity called Free the Children. Our goal for this year is to raise \$5,000 to help build a water well for the impoverished people of Haiti. We want to bring a positive change in the world, and know that even though we're just children, we can still make a difference.

# Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/webber.aspx



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## An Upward Trend

I simply want to take this opportunity to let you know how proud I am of the Webber team (our students, parents, teachers, support staff, etc.) We made a 32-point growth on our API for last spring's California Standardized Tests. Our API is now 812!

Our team has worked very hard and strategically to focus on the use of Thinking Maps, GLAD Strategies, Systematic ELD, Positive Behavior Intervention Systems, parent involvement and more! It is my hope that this will be the beginning of an upward trend in getting more and more of our students rated as proficient or above in all academic areas.

However, I know that we cannot do this alone. We will continue to enlist the support of our community to make sure that all of the students are making significant growth both socially and academically. Great job, Webber Wolverines!

# Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx



**Rob McKane**  
*Principal*

## Focusing on Fluency

Willmore Elementary School is doubling down on our efforts in teaching reading fluency. Every student works on reading fluency every day at Willmore, and we've taken it to a much deeper level than students speeding through passages. We know and teach that reading fluency has three main components: speed, accuracy, and prosody. While students understand that among the goals of fluency lessons, getting them to read clearly and at a faster rate, are important, they often struggle with prosody, or including voice inflection, tone, and meter. It is one thing to be able to decode words in a passage, but quite another to be able to answer questions about or retell the passage in one's own words.

Having started the program last year, students are used to the daily routine of practicing word attack skills, going over new vocabulary, answering questions, and enjoying learning the new things the non-fiction passages contain. This year, we are focusing on involving our parents more. We are planning several family reading nights, which will start with modeling fluency exercises, which can be done at home. This can be difficult for our non-English-speaking parents, but, with the proper tools, they too can participate.

We are always looking to increase the educational capacity of all of our families, but we are also hoping to generate a positive buzz about fluency and giving families the proper tools, enabling them to do more of this work with their students at home.

# Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**

### Great Teachers and Great Students

It seems it was just yesterday (code words for I am “gaining in life experience”) that Mr. Ferrone, my sixth-grade teacher, stopped what was always an amazing classroom experience of discussion, creativity and risk to share words that may not have made sense to a sixth-grader at the time. It seemed Mr. Ferrone rarely sat or even took time for a full breath. So when on that memorable day he grabbed a stool, moved it to the center of our non-traditional room, and spoke in a slow but emotional voice, we knew important words would follow...and they did!

As I recall, his voice almost cracked as he said, “You kids are just amazing. I struggle to find words to describe how smart, energetic, and creative you are each day.” He went on for some time; for a sixth-grader it was almost a bit awkward to see this amazing teacher whom we all adored teetering on the brink of emotion, but we listened intently to his descriptions. After all, he thought we were pretty cool young people, and what sixth-grader, or senior for that matter, wouldn’t relish the moment. His reaching for another breath didn’t slow his measure; in fact it was what he said next that we all took to heart: “I am confident that each of you will accomplish amazing things in your lives...You will win awards, raise kids smarter than you, have jobs that create new products and solve problems that adults today just couldn’t get to or have the perspective to see...Yes, you all will find a path that will make me proud so many years later!”

My mind’s eye remembers how his voice quivered near the end of that flattering and motivating statement. As all great teachers do, he had touched us forever, and we knew it! At the time, Mr. Ferrone seemed like a “full-grown” man with the same “life experience” I described at the start. But Mr. Ferrone was actually a whopping 24...ah, perspective.

Last year I was able to attend the retirement party for Mr. Ferrone, and, as you would expect, when he took the microphone to speak, his focus was once again on how today’s youth will make all the difference. Those children are our children, and, yes, they have their “moments.” But from what I get to see in classrooms and at school events, our future is in capable hands. They will make us proud!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Dr. Michael Simons**  
*President*

### Magnet Programs

The Huntington Beach Union High School District is fortunate to have a varied selection of programs for our students to supplement their basic curriculum. Each high school has selected different subject areas for their students. This article will highlight only some of the programs that are available at the sites.

The Business Academy of Ocean View High School (OVHS) is a three-year program that is in addition to the student’s regular program. The academy includes three contemporary business courses, a mentor experience, workplace experience, career speakers, field trips, portfolio development, and workplace skills.

The OVHS International Baccalaureate (IB) is a two-year comprehensive and rigorous pre-university program. The IB diploma provides one of the most respected secondary educations available.

The Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) Academy for the Performing Arts provides an intense educational program which cultivates in students the discipline, dedication, and commitment necessary to achieve excellence in the arts and to inspire our youth to become the artists and audiences of the future through academic, artistic, and aesthetic education.

The HBHS Model United Nations (MUN) will be one of the most challenging and rewarding courses taken by high school students. At local, national, and international MUN conferences, student delegates assume the role of diplomatic representatives to the United Nations and consider items from their agendas.

The Edison High School (EHS) Center for International Business and Communications (CIBACS) is a four-year program in which students are taught to access, interpret, and employ verbal, nonverbal, and electronic sources of information in order to meet the employability requirements for tomorrow’s high-tech, international business environment.

Model United Nations at EHS offers a full four-year program that qualifies for credit as Advanced Placement World History and World Geography.

The Marina High School (MHS) Academic Decathlon is a team competition wherein students match their intellect with students from other schools both locally and state-wide. Students are tested in 10 categories: art, economics, essay, interview, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social science, and speech.

MHSTV is a video production class that enables students to learn the fundamentals of running a television studio.

The Fountain Valley High School (FVHS) Fountain Valley Royal Regiment is an award-winning music and marching band program that competes against the best programs in the county. The instrumental groups perform works by the world’s greatest composers and original music from the most talented marching band composer in the USA.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are plentiful at FVHS and allow students a rigorous AP program, enabling high school students to study college level work and earn college credit by passing AP exams.

Westminster High School (WHS) MERITS is a specialized Honors program for high school students which integrates math, science and technology. Students experience a rigorous and focused curriculum, which prepares them for highly technical fields of employment and encourages them to pursue higher education.

WHS Health Science Careers Academy is a school-within-a-school which combines academic instruction with specialized training in the allied health field. Upon graduation, students are prepared academically and vocationally for post-secondary education.

and Edison High School prepared for this fall season. Students experienced a haunting evening at Ocean View and Westminster as they elaborately transformed their gymnasiums. The Charger student body at Edison High School experienced a ghoulish and eerie night of lights and music at the Yost Theater in Santa Ana.

Before these evenings of fright and fun, the girls experienced the craziness of styling their hair and makeup and finding just the right dress, and guys prepared by selecting appropriate shirts and ties and asking the right dates to the dance. Students and staff worked hard to prepare a night that every student will remember.

## HBUHSD Board of Trustees



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### Spooky Homecoming

October is the time of year when Associated Student Body organizations all over the district kick into high gear with homecoming preparations. Themes were carefully selected, and decoration were ordered and made. Promotional posters engulfed every campus, and the student body was ecstatic.

Some homecoming themes this year reflected the Halloween season. “A Haunted Homecoming” and “A Homecoming of Horror” are themes Ocean View High School, Westminster High School,

# Coast *High School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## The Perfect School for the Right Kid

*By Kathleen Lommen, Assistant Principal  
Huntington Beach Adult School/Coast High School*

The story goes something like this: a blended family with two sons in a band and aspirations in the entertainment business moved to Huntington Beach from out of state. The younger brother started at Huntington Beach High School in the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA), as one would expect. But, then the entertainment business became real by the middle of the 10th grade, and Keaton needed something different. While Huntington Beach High School was a great starting point for our new residents, Keaton needed more time to perform, sing, and play his guitar.

Keaton Stromberg enrolled at Coast High School in December of 2011. He earned high grades in math and science courses. He also brought excellent grades in many performing arts courses with him from APA. This September, there was a buzz around our small office from staff. "Did you see Keaton on 'X Factor'?" He is in the band Emblem3! Keaton's entertainment permit had been sitting on my desk. "Hmm," I thought, "has he been showing up to class and turning in assignments?" Before I would jump into the buzz, I checked with his English teacher to see if he was turning in completed work. Attendance accounting for Coast is two-fold. Students must show up to their appointments and complete all their work. One is no good without the other. When I checked with Mrs. Ginter, I was relieved and truly happy to find that Keaton's progress was outstanding, and further he was a young man of good character.

When I met with Keaton and his mother, we had "the talk." He was to work toward his high school diploma, even though he had been spending many hours a day also working on his music career. Keaton genuinely liked school and agreed that the high school diploma and going to college is always a good back up plan if the music business does not turn out so favorably. He also claimed, "I love math," and he was excited to take the next course, which is required for admission to a four-year college.

As with all students in entertainment, parent dedication is another necessity for Independent Study success. Keaton's mother also is committed to doing what it takes to make this work. She expressed how happy she was that this program existed and will make sure Keaton's work ends up where it needs to be. Then, there is the certificated teacher on the set for "X Factor," who is assigned to ensure that Keaton does his three hours of school work each day. You can be assured our teachers have his new teacher's contact information so they can communicate regularly. Academic success is just as important, if not more important, for students in our program. We have highly qualified teachers who provide expected standards in all subjects, as well as flexibility in scheduling and curriculum delivery, and compassionate support staff who accept all students where they are in their unique life situation.

The exciting part? Watch Keaton in Emblem3 on Wednesday nights on "X Factor." He is the young, quiet one who has become quite popular with the girls, not just those in Huntington Beach. I hear he may be a new global phenomenon and has worked hard with his brother and band-mate to make Emblem3 a sensation. We are proud Keaton is one of our students.

We serve the talented, the unique, the struggling, the anxious, the shy, and the determined teens of the Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, and Westminster High School communities. We are Coast High School!



# Community Day School

1022 Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/799-1414 • www.hbuhdsd.k12.ca.us/CDS/default.htm



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## History Comes to Life

*By Dennis Herzog, Site Administrative Designee*

Community Day School has had an excellent start to the school year. We have several new students who have entered our school this year from Edison, Ocean View, Marina, Fountain Valley, Huntington and Westminster. They entered our school looking for a fresh start and an opportunity to have a positive and productive school year.

Our entire school took a field trip with the Indian Education program to the Museum of Tolerance (MOT) in Los Angeles. The experience was extremely moving and one that will have lasting effects on many of our students. Each classroom prepared for the visit by discussing prejudice and indifference in their classrooms. The lively discussion created an interest in going to the MOT, and all of our students learned from the experience.

Holly Romley's English classes began the 2012-13 school year with *The Odyssey*. In an attempt to engage her students with the text, Ms. Romley asked parent Riun Van Driessche to demonstrate the technique of modern archery just before Odysseus strung his bow and aced 12 consecutive targets. Then Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) guest speaker Ernie Aguilar spoke on modern soldiers and their struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and return to normal family life, which helped to make the massacre of the suitors and their women a bit more understandable.



**Michelle Lafuente, Shayy Kelly, Stephanie Jimenez, Gabby Calderon, Andrew Quinones and Sidney Boyd not present at time of picture taking.**

## Logged On

The month of September was a spectacular month for the upgrading of technology at Community Day School. We received 10 computers and flat-screen monitors in Mr. Lamar's room and 17 new flat-screen monitors in Mrs. Merrill's classroom. The computers will allow our teachers to use upgraded programs that enrich our curriculum. Ms. Merrill also received an ASUS Eee Pad, which she is using in a multitude of ways that include taking attendance, tutoring students using online programs, and providing direct instruction. We are very fortunate to have received the upgraded technology.

Six students have been selected to the CDS student council. From left to right, they are Michelle Lafuente, Shayy Kelly, Stephanie Jimenez, Gabby Calderon and Andrew Quinones. Council member Sidney Boyd was not present at time of picture taking.

Back to School Night took place at the end of October in the evening. We met many of our parents and showed off the great things that their children are learning and demonstrating.

# Edison *High School*

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



**Dr. D'Liese Melendrez**  
Principal

## Club Rush

Edison students enjoyed two days of Club Rush in September during the lunch break. The fall season brings a renewed excitement and interest in club and equal-access opportunities.

Before the actual event, ASB Commissioner of Clubs Tatum Holdaway conducted a planning meeting for all current and new club presidents. Forty-five students attended this “get the facts” gathering in September in the ASB Room. Commissioner Holdaway distributed club and equal access packets with detailed instructions and deadlines. One of the most important ingredients for a successful club or equal-access group is a committed staff member who assumes an overseer position. Edison has 30-plus staff members who volunteer their lunch time to host our active student groups.

At the beginning of the lunch period, students flocked to the area outside the cafeteria and around the bowl. Clubs and equal-access groups supplied posters, flyers, music and costumes to draw the attention of a curious student population. Eager club and equal-access group members explained the purpose and goals of their organization. While fun and camaraderie are givens for a successful group, there must be a defined objective.

## Full-Spectrum of Service

Many of our equal-access groups have a community-outreach component. New this year is a CHOC and Friends Club. The purpose of this student-run group is to bring as much happiness as possible to child cancer patients. Toy drives and hospital visits are planned activities.

Get Psyched is another new student-run equal-access group designed to get members “psyched up” about life and staying on track. Students will have an opportunity to share academic, social and personal experiences. In addition, the group plans to give back to the community and others less fortunate. One of the proposed projects will be to create simple, fun and artistic gift baskets for families experiencing hardship.



**Join Dance**

Curricular clubs have always provided an additional reinforcement for classroom instruction. Mu Alpha Theta is designed to strengthen mathematics interest, scholarship, activity and culture at Edison High School. Peer tutoring, guest mathematicians and state competitions are three anchor activities.

Ocean Minded is another curricular club associated with all science classes. Beach cleanup and assisting our SAC special education students with recycling on campus are two ongoing projects. This group also plans to work with a neighboring elementary school in planting a farm.

Edison students involved in more than academic studies are happier and more community-service oriented. Year after year, our most successful students pride themselves in being a part of school clubs and access groups. This is a proud tradition we carry on for the 2012–13 school year.



**Join Best Buddies**



**Join a Club**

## MAYOR CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY • FROM PAGE 1

**Fountain Valley Kiwanis:** This is a group dedicated to serving community needs with an emphasis on youth. They recently partnered with UNICEF on The Eliminate Project, to help eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus from the face of the earth. To learn more, visit [www.fvkiwanis.org](http://www.fvkiwanis.org) or call Anne Crowley at (714) 887-4453.

**Fountain Valley Rotary:** This club meets every Tuesday in Fountain Valley Regional Hospital's Saltzer Conference Room at 7:30am to plan vocational, community,

club, and international projects. Please call Ed Sussman at (714) 968-7526 or [SussmanFV@verizon.net](mailto:SussmanFV@verizon.net) for more information.

**Fountain Valley Seniors:** This club meets on Wednesday & Friday at The Center at Founders Village at 10am for a short business meeting, followed by donuts, coffee & bingo. For more information, call Joan Mendoza (714) 848-3909.

**Fountain Valley Neighborhood Watch:** Neighborhood Watch is a joint effort to fight crime, protect property, and ensure safe neighborhoods. Call (714) 593-4488 for more info or to become a volunteer.

# Fountain Valley *High School*

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



**Chris Herzfeld**  
Principal

## Building Student Culture

*By Joe Fraser, Assistant Principal of Activities*

Bullying is getting a lot of press these days. It's the hot topic. But when we dig deep into that subject, we are really talking about teaching students how to treat one another and making sure that each student knows that he or she matters.

At FVHS, we are committed to developing a culture in which students are making a connection to school through a wide variety of activities. Our hope and expectation is that by providing an environment that engages students, we improve the students' overall attitude toward being at school; develop deeper connections to the school, adults and peers; and thus develop opportunities to teach students how to treat one another.



**The Baron student section shows their pride vs. Huntington Beach.**

Recently, we have been whipping up interest in attending sporting events. At football games, we have been working hard to provide a fun environment full of music, crazy balloons, the T-Shirt Cannon and halftime activities that keep the students engaged. This year, we have added a new themed football game. In a month dedicated to raising awareness for Breast Cancer, Fountain Valley High School hosted the inaugural Think Pink, Be the Change football game against Los Alamitos High School in October at Westminster High School. This game was about so much more than a few hours of Friday Night Lights. During previous weeks, Fountain Valley High School raised money for the Susan B. Komen Foundation by collecting change from students and staff in each classroom. Similar fund-raising efforts took place at Los Al. And once collected, both schools jointly donated their schools' raised funds to the Susan G. Komen Foundation at halftime of the football game.

## Anyone Can Win in Many Ways

Lunchtimes at FV are filled with bands, student DJs and an occasional record-breaking macarena dance. One of our students' favorite lunchtime activities is Lunch on the Lawn, where teachers bring out their lawn chairs, blankets and even couches and eat lunch with our students.

Another exciting cultural piece at FVHS is our Baron 4 Life Rewards Program (B4L). Students who exhibit the characteristics of our Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) either in school or out are nominated from their third-period class. These students are notified of their nomination and are entered into a raffle that occurs in the bowl at lunch. Ten winners are randomly selected to receive gift cards to a variety of local retailers. All teachers nominate, and every student is potentially eligible.

From a cultural standpoint, we pride ourselves in creating memories for our students. These things alone will not magically fix all of the difficulties that come with adolescence, but combined with day-to-day caring in the classrooms, hallways and playing fields, we feel that we are developing a positive, student-centered atmosphere that make students happy to be at school and Proud to be a Baron!

# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## Career Technical Education

Adult education is the gateway to lifelong learning. It offers a wide variety of courses and workshops for all ages. Those searching for education beyond the availability of a more formal degree or community college class may find an opportunity here to continue their learning.

The non-traditional structure of adult education also makes it possible to respond immediately to trends by offering courses and workshops that are of current interest to the community.

At the Huntington Beach Adult School, our students come first in terms of providing comprehensive academic programs that are relevant to the local workforce. We offer several career technical programs that will help prepare you to enter the workforce in the field of your choice.

Our goal at the Career Technical Education Department (CTE) is to prepare students to become positive examples of leadership, excellence and social conscientiousness in a complex and ever-changing global community. Career and technical education prepares students to succeed as global citizens in the 21st Century. It also supports healthy economic growth within the state. Students of all ages are prepared for the high demand fields that are projected to experience the most growth.

## Accessibility

CTE has seen tremendous growth in both its medical assisting and pharmacy technician programs. Rapid growth in health, legal services, data processing, management, public relations and other industries has created many new job opportunities for administrative assistants, thus allowing our administrative assistant and data entry programs to become very popular. The need to be adaptable and keep your skills sharp has never been more important.

The Huntington Beach Adult School has a strong commitment to our community in regards to accessibility and affordability. In addition to its various programs and classes, HBAS also offers support services in the areas of career counseling, personal counseling, resume writing, mock interviews and more, and all free of charge to registered students. A counselor is also available at our main campus to advise students as they make career, program and scheduling choices. In addition, low class fees and small class sizes offer quality instruction that is attractive to our diverse population.

The Huntington Beach Adult School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and is recognized as a partner in workforce development by the Orange County Workforce Investment Board and the Orange County One Stop Centers.

We invite you to explore all of the choices offered at HBAS by visiting our Web site at [www.hbas.edu](http://www.hbas.edu).

**SKI SHOW**  
**HUGE SALE • LIFT TICKET DEALS!**  
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**Convention Center**  
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**Ski Dazzle.com**

# Huntington Beach *High School*

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



**Rocky Murray**  
*Principal*

## Off We Go!

Students at Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) thoroughly enjoyed the summer. As we welcomed our students for another school year, there were some ever-so-slight grumblings about being back in school, particularly when the summer extended itself halfway through our fall sports seasons. With those small complaints came a vast number of smiling, cheerful, and excited faces for school to resume. It can honestly be stated that the majority of our students were thrilled to be back in school. One of the remarkable aspects of school is how quickly the year goes. While it seems like we just finished our first day, we have already completed the first quarter.

Many key moments have already transpired or are rapidly approaching. We already had our homecoming football game and dance. Back-to-School Night wrapped up a couple of weeks ago. "Xanadu," our first Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) production of the year was a sizzling success. Academically students have had many tests, quizzes, projects, and other learning opportunities. Seniors should be working on their college applications or career track goals, and the juniors are wishing they were seniors! Sophomores walk around with more spring in their step, since they are no longer ninth-graders, and our freshmen appear to be really happy they are in high school. It is a beautiful thing. Athletically our teams are performing well in the highly profiled and competitive Sunset League. With all of these moments and events in mind, we are really hitting our stride.

Academically it is important to start the year off on a positive note. We encourage parents and students to have frequent communication on how students are performing in class and areas they could benefit for further explanation and inquiry. Our teachers and staff can make a massive difference in the lives of our students, but we need parents and families to be involved in the plan as well. The home-to-school relationship is critical to ensure students are being supported in multiple ways. Now is the time to be focused on grades and be concerned if students are not performing as well as they should. Now is the time to ensure students are on time and at school every single day, unless they have a legitimate excuse for being absent. Being a high achiever and remaining a high achiever entails commitment to individual classes and assignments and striving to get the most out of every learning opportunity that presents itself.

We are off to a fast start and will be into winter before we know it. With that pace in mind, we need everyone to tighten their belts and get focused on school. It is early enough in the year to make significant improvements in the classroom or to already have established a strong case for excellent grades. Regardless of the academic snapshot students are currently demonstrating, there is time to grow. Hold on tight, set goals, and dare to achieve!

Go, Oilers!

## MAYOR CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH • FROM PAGE 1

One of our favorite holiday events, the Cruise of Lights Boat Tour, presented by the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee, will be having its 50th annual narrated tour along the sparkling waterways of Huntington Harbour. Visitors will see thousands of lights on boats, decks, docks and homes. Proceeds benefit the Philharmonic Society's nationally recognized music outreach programs for more than 25,000 Orange County students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The Cruise of Lights will be held December 15 through 23. Cruise times are 5:30 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (714) 840-7542 or visit [www.cruiseofflights.org](http://www.cruiseofflights.org).

For more information about these events or any other events happening in Surf City, please visit [www.surfcityusa.com](http://www.surfcityusa.com). Wishing you a great holiday season and a Happy New Year!

# Marina *High School*

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



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*Principal*

## Communication, Community, Culture

These three words are the key to our success here at Marina High School. As we begin to celebrate our 50th anniversary year, the "Home of the Vikings" is taking time to celebrate and highlight the important characteristics of a good school.

Coincidentally, the Huntington Beach Union High School District has also set, in its newly adopted Strategic Plan, these key areas as their major goals as well.

So, what is happening with "communication" at Marina? Well, have you heard the word "Google" lately? Here at Marina, we are developing a school and community-wide communication system which uses Google as a means to provide instant information to our parents, students and public.

It's simple to join the group. Just type in <http://groups.google.com/a/hbuhsd.edu/group/mhslstannouncements>, and then click "Apply for Membership." Now you too can be on the cutting edge of communications!

If that's not enough, Marina also has its own Twitter feed, which allows bursts of information to be shared instantly to those who subscribe. Join our Twitter group by visiting our Web page at [www.marinavikings.org](http://www.marinavikings.org) to stay in touch with our tweets!

Facebook, you say? Yes, we even have an official Facebook page that our career and college specialist has created, full of the latest information on scholarships and college entrance information. To connect, please visit the site at [www.facebook.com/marinacareercenter](http://www.facebook.com/marinacareercenter).

Another priority at Marina is building awareness of our ancillary learning opportunities. We offer a large number of outstanding Advanced Placement courses. We also have an active and growing AVID program, and continue to offer exciting technical education programs such as video design, auto technology, and construction courses.

This year we will be focusing on offering the PSAT during the school day, too, as well as presentations about college and career readiness.

Our new College/Career Center is also equipped with the ability to assist students with career planning road maps, financial aid information, college admission guidance, resume writing, job interview skills, and scholarship information.

## Working Together

Through team building and parent/community partnerships, Marina has been able to build a growing relationship with local businesses, which can often fund items that we would not normally be able to purchase. A partnership with a local car dealer has provided the school with a new LED marquee to be installed this month. Another partnership with a local real estate business has supplied us with a new and modern softball scoreboard!

Recently, Marina also entered into a new partnership with an innovative fund-raising company to provide (at no cost to parents) a way to help us raise funds for improvements like a new pool, bleachers for our football field, adding an athletic weight room, and more!

Most importantly, we have put a major focus on maintaining a welcoming culture, one that encourages active parent and community participation in campus life. Students begin their Marina experience in our Viking Voyage Program, which is designed to help them adjust from middle to high school. We also offer an exciting community event called the Marina Expo. This is designed for new and incoming parents, so that they can tour our school and get a first-hand look at all we have to offer.

From parent volunteer opportunities to focused task forces; and our Educational Foundation, PTSA, School Site Council, and the ability to join us as a Parent-On-Patrol; the opportunities to contribute here are endless.

Yes, communication, community and culture are alive and working at the Home of the Vikings. So get involved in your students' school! You will make a positive and lasting difference when you do.



# Ocean View *High School*

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



**Dan Bryan**  
Principal

## IB Program Global Sustainability Project, South Africa

In collaboration with the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) at Ocean View High School and the Earthwatch Institute, the Kenneth A. Picerne Foundation will again sponsor the Global Sustainability Project to South Africa.

For the second year, The Picerne Foundation will provide full scholarships for nine Ocean View High School students to participate in a teen expedition to South Africa this summer. The goals of the program are broadening students' understanding of other cultures and increasing their awareness of global ecological concerns. To accomplish this, students will spend 12 days on a game preserve in South Africa engaging with their peers and local community. Students will aid research scientists in studying ecological sustainability among Africa's wildlife, particularly hyenas and other scavengers, in addition to visiting the Apartheid Museum. Other activities will include nighttime spotlight transects, identification of nocturnal predator populations, wildlife reserve management philosophy and techniques, mammal and bird observation, and tree, small-plant and grasses surveys.



## Becoming Custodians of the Planet

The IB Diploma Program at Ocean View High School is a two-year, comprehensive and rigorous preuniversity program that provides a greater depth of study than do other enrichment programs. The IB Program allows each student to take courses in six academic areas. Participating students are actively engaged in a liberal-arts curriculum; a research project in the form of an extended essay; a critical-thinking class, the Theory of Knowledge; and service-learning activities (CAS). The Global Sustainability Project aligns perfectly with the goals and aims of IB student-research-project and service-learning requirements.

To enrich their experience in South Africa, students will focus their independent research papers on questions directly related to South Africa that are chosen from the arts, history, politics, literature, ecology, science or any other topic of interest. Students will also plan and implement an ecological sustainability project within their local community during their junior and senior years in addition to completing a self-study program that highlights global sustainability and attending monthly practicum sessions devoted to expedition preparation, research and field trips.

For more information on the International Baccalaureate Program at Ocean View High School, please visit our website. For more information on the Global Sustainability Project, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/oceanviewhigh-schoolgsp2012/Home>.

# Valley Vista *High School*

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



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
Principal

## Welcome to *The Jungle*

The best analogy for teaching as an art is sometimes a collage. Today's high school students are acclimated to a multitude of simultaneous and immediate inputs. They consider the multifaceted, opinionated, exciting, provocative and stimulating multimedia world in which they have grown up to be normal. When the educational environment can mimic this informational collage, students have a better chance of connecting with and fully understanding the lesson being presented.

Our history department's approach to teaching Upton Sinclair's classic story of American life, *The Jungle*, is a wonderful example of such a collage. Our U.S. history teachers, Lisa Simpson and Meaghann O'Connor, began with this California standard: "Students analyze the relationship among industrialization, large-scale rural-to-urban migration, massive immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe." Both teachers began by introducing their students to reading selections from *The Jungle*, photographs of the times, and YouTube selections that prompted intense and sometimes passionate discussions about the working and living conditions of the immigrants portrayed in the narrative.

## Getting Their Hands Dirty

Then the lesson got messy. Students donned protective gloves and worked in small groups to experience meat packing. They were given ground meat, cut-up hot dogs, broken plastic spiders, and simulated pieces of human fingers and were instructed to stuff these ingredients into the "casings"—plastic wrap—provided. The students also picked a name for their company, e.g., The Three Pigs, determined a price, and designed a label for their product.

The last step was to bring the lesson into the present. The teachers used the current documentary *Food, Inc.* and class discussions about the role of government, especially regulation and control of the food industry, to engage the students and solicit their opinions. Caitlin's reaction to the lesson was typical: "It's so sad that the immigrants were so excited about coming to America and then forced into such poor working conditions to feed their families." The students



Student participation in meat packing simulation.

can see parallels to the living and working conditions of the poor in our present society, both in the United States and around the world.

Oddly enough, this lesson can give our students hope that the future will be better if they can endure the present. It's at least instructive and a little comforting that in this case, history does not have to repeat itself.



# Westminster High School

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**Owen Crosby**  
Principal

## Link Crew

*By Jesus Ortega, Community Outreach Specialist*

Freshman Focus Link Crew is a national freshman-transition program built on the belief that students can help students succeed. It trains juniors and seniors to serve as mentors for incoming freshmen. As positive role models, Link Leaders are motivators, leaders and teachers who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success.

Westminster High School had over 200 applicants from students hoping to become Link Crew Leaders in the 2012–13 school year, and only 80 of them were accepted. These Link Crew Leaders went through two full days of training in the summer to prepare for freshman orientation in August. At orientation, freshmen were greeted by their leaders as they entered the gym and sat through a brief assembly before they were split up into groups. Freshmen were divided into groups of seven to 10 and were led through a variety of activities to help them become more familiar with one another and start thinking about what it takes to be successful at Westminster High School.

Link Crew Leaders provided a list of what they believe every freshman needs to know at WHS before going on a tour of the campus. Food and refreshments were provided for every freshman and Link Crew Leader at the end of orientation, and freshmen were invited to return in the evening for a carnival and dance. ASB and Link Crew collaborated closely to bring Lions in the Making, a carnival where clubs, athletics and other student organizations gathered outside the WHS Gym with fun activities, information and the opportunity for freshmen to sign up to join clubs before the school year started. There was a bounce house for students, and there was a dance in the gym following the carnival. Link Crew Leaders also gave every freshman who attended Lions in the Making a free ticket to attend the first home varsity football game against Marina High School at Boswell Stadium.



**Link Crew leaders giving freshman students a tour of the campus.**

Parents of freshman students were also invited to the carnival and were provided an orientation of their own while students were at the dance. Parents received general information about the school, including schedules and graduation requirements. Parents in attendance also received a free football game ticket so that they could attend the varsity game with their son or daughter.



**Freshman students applying to join Upward Bound.**

Link Crew will continue to offer a variety of activities for freshmen throughout the year, including academic presentations during English classes and fun activities like Freshman Movie Night.

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## EVERY STUDENT MATTERS • FROM PAGE 1

evolved our existing programs to include partnerships with the California Youth Services and the Crisis Response Network. As the recent tragic death of one of our students highlighted, there is no finish line when working with youth.

Strong schools are typically reflections of strong communities. This is certainly the case in Huntington Beach, Westminster, and Fountain Valley. HBUHSD is fortunate to have strong partners in our parents, places of worship, and businesses. Each arm of the community will be tapped to help shape the future of our support systems for students. While the role of HBUHSD is predominately educational by the nature of our positions, the entire community has a shared responsibility in the care of our children. HBUHSD has a commitment to provide positive experiences in a safe and predictable learning environment. Along the way, the district promotes activities and interactions for all children that produce smiles, laughter, and great memories.

The district is pleased to announce the preliminary plans for Parent University. The series will provide educational opportunities for our parents, covering a variety of topics affecting our students. Several topics have been identified, including distracted driving, prescription and illicit drug use, social media, bullying, and the dangers of stress. The district series will complement the programs already existing on our campuses and will allow for some coordination of efforts and resources.

There is no threshold number of students required to determine when support systems are necessary. According to the California Healthy Kids Survey of 8,000 HBUHSD students, roughly 90 percent of all respondents reported having a positive relationship with a caring adult, 98 percent of our students will never have a drug or alcohol offense, and over 97 percent of our students attend our schools each day. These indicators of healthy actions and behaviors are encouraging, although there is always work to be done. Working collaboratively with parents and the community will provide the necessary education needed to address the risks that students currently face in their lives. We embrace the challenges ahead of us. They are, to a large degree, the things most worthy of our best efforts!



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