

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



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

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NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2013

Curriculum + Skills = College/Career Readiness and Common Core!

*By Dan Bryan, Principal
Ocean View High School*

We know from David Conley and others that college and career readiness skills have “significant overlap.” Ocean View teachers and staff believe that statement is true, so we are training our students for what is next, whether it’s enrolling in college or pursuing their career in the world of work.

College/career readiness can be measured by what classes are on a student’s transcript, how many Advanced Placement (AP) tests they take, what their ACT or SAT score is, etc. We also believe college/career-ready students should be able to think critically, collaborate, innovate, persevere, and show how they have achieved knowledge and skills. Success in college and work is not easy!

In fact, many college classes have a project or signature assignment that asks students to reflect on what they learned and how they built skill in a particular area. How do we know? We asked our recent graduates to reflect on what they found they needed to know when they entered college and how Ocean View helped them learn it. Students told us the exercise of choosing what work to reflect upon to show growth was something they wished they had more practice doing while in high school. So, what if we created a signature project all students



Ocean View High School students conducting online research to share in their Google Doc!

had to produce before they graduated that focused on how well they learned those five skills: critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, perseverance, and achievement? We did! It’s called the e-Folio!

The idea behind the e-Folio is for students to create a repository for their important work throughout all four years of high school and then choose some exemplary samples which show evidence of growth in the areas they choose to highlight. Students reflect on what they have learned and show evidence of their growth in an extended reflection called “My Academic Journey.” In addition, students create a resume and must present an evidence section, which includes classwork, homework, and special projects, that they used in their reflection. In order to create the e-Folio, students need to know how to use many applications in their Google Suite, which every district student has.

This summer, we wanted to create a way for our e-Folio to be fully

electronic, to reflect how students have learned critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, perseverance and achievement. We knew we needed to train our students. In mid-October we started classes for what we call the Student Google Challenge. We are taking cohorts of students by grade and teaching them how to access our Parent/Student Portal, their school-issued G-Mail account, how to create a Google Doc(ument), how to create folders, how to upload to their Google Drive, how share Google Docs, and how to create their own senior portfolio Web sites. Here’s the best thing. Many of our classified staff—clerks, secretaries, guidance specialists, and our registrar—are teaching the Google Challenge classes to the students on our early-release days while teachers are engaged in their staff development. We also have district information technology support on our campus during the trainings.

It’s a true team effort, and I’m glad we are out in front, making this part of our cultural curriculum—a college level, Common Core State Standards, whole-class, signature assignment! The bottom line is, Ocean View teaches its students to be college and career ready through curriculum AND skill building—both essential to college and career success!

Superintendents

Fountain Valley



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Covering the:
**FOUNTAIN VALLEY
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
OCEAN VIEW AND
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The front page headline says it all Curriculum+Skills=College/ Career Readiness and Common Core! Students are being prepared to compete in a complex world with greater challenges than ever.

Districts are fortunate to have Education Foundations focused on funding classroom necessities not provided in the District budgets. Community support is needed for their valuable contributions.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays! We are thankful for your continued readership. And we are thankful for the men and women serving in our armed services.

Our next issue is January 8th.

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

17100 Euclid St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/966-7200 • www.fountainvalleyhospital.com

Could you be diabetic and not know it?



Laura Garcia
RN, CVN, BSN,
PHN, CDE, CPT
Diabetes Program
Coordinator

Most people have heard of diabetes. You might even know someone who has the disease, which affects more than 26 million people in the United States. What you might not know is that about seven million of these diabetics do not even know they are sick.

Diabetes develops when the pancreas does not make enough insulin (Type 1) or the body cannot use its own insulin as well as it should (Type 2). This causes sugars to build up in the blood and can lead to serious health problems, including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, lower-extremity amputations and even death. Between 90 and 95 percent of all people who have been diagnosed with diabetes have Type 2.

One of the reasons diabetes goes undiagnosed in so many people is that Type 2 diabetes develops slowly. Many people will have this form of diabetes for as long as 10 years without noticing any symptoms of the disease, which may appear harmless and may vary from person to person. These symptoms include:

- increased thirst
- frequent urination
- flu-like symptoms
- weight gain or loss
- blurred vision
- slow-healing sores or frequent infestations
- nerve damage
- red, swollen, tender gums.

Diabetes risk factors include being overweight, family history, inactive lifestyle, increasing age, genetics, high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure. If you have risk factors for diabetes and are experiencing any of the signs and symptoms of the disease, see your doctor immediately. Do not assume your doctor will automatically test you for diabetes. Doctors do not usually screen for diabetes during routine visits.

There is currently no cure for diabetes. However, the disease can be managed by monitoring blood sugar levels (The American Diabetes Association recommends an A1C goal of <7%) and maintaining a healthy lifestyle comprised of diet, exercise and a healthy weight. Medications may also be used when these treatments are not sufficient. Diabetics who follow these treatments can often lead relatively normal lives.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?

If you have diabetes you may know about A1C. A1C tells you the average level of glucose (sugar) in your blood over 2-3 months.

Good control of your glucose reduces the risk for vascular complications occurring in your eyes, kidneys, heart, nerves, digestive system, circulatory system and sexual organs. The American Diabetes Association recommends an A1C goal of <7%.

FREE DIABETES SCREENING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18
9:00 AM-1:00 PM

The Center at Founders Village Senior and Community Center
17967 Bushard Street, Fountain Valley, CA
Join us for a free screening and diabetic education
by a certified diabetic nurse educator.

FREE DIABETES LECTURE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, Saltzer Conference Room
17100 Euclid Street, Fountain Valley, CA
Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Punim, MD, Endocrinologist



A1C goal of <7%.

Space is limited — please call (714) 979-1408
to register or for more information.



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™ for its Inpatient Diabetes Care program,

Breakfast Boost

By Grace Kim, MS

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! There goes the fourth time your child has pressed the snooze button. “Wake up and eat something before you go to school!” you call from down the hallway. “Ten more minutes,” comes the groggy response.

It’s another school morning and all of a sudden, you hear your child scrambling inside the room. Before you know it, he magically appears before you in the kitchen, dressed and ready to go. “Sit down and eat something,” you insist. But as quickly as he emerged from his room, he is already out the front door. “Can’t eat! I’m late!” his voice trails behind him.

Sound all too familiar? As a parent, you may be worried that your child has not eaten since last night’s dinner and will not be eating until noon, and with good reason. Studies have shown that students who eat breakfast are more attentive in class, perform higher on exams, and are less likely to be absent from school due to illness. Eating a good, healthy breakfast simply provides a great start to the day. For our “on-the-go” students, try one of the following:

- Prepare in advance breakfast burritos and wraps
- Low-fat yogurt with nuts and fresh fruit
- String cheese with whole-wheat crackers
- Hard-cooked eggs
- Whole-grain breads, cereals, muffins, pancakes or rolls
- Fresh whole fruits and veggie sticks

Your family may also take advantage of the meals offered through the School Breakfast Program. Breakfasts meet the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. If you would like more information on how to provide a nutritious breakfast for your family, contact Huntington Beach Union High School District Nutrition Services at (714) 894-1698.

Studies have shown that students who eat breakfast are more attentive in class, perform higher on exams, and are less likely to be absent from school due to illness.

America’s Growing Epidemic



Mario Brakin, MD
Medical Director,
Endocrin and
Diabetes

More children and teens are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes than ever before. Experts say it is directly related to the rapidly increasing number of overweight kids. Today, the American Diabetes Association estimates that 1 out of every 6 kids have pre-diabetes — a collection of risk factors that often leads to type 2 diabetes.

Identify the Warning Signs of Type 2 Diabetes

- Excessive thirst
- Blurred vision
- Tiredness or fatigue
- Frequent infections
- Slow-to-heal cuts and sores
- Frequent urination (including bedwetting)
- Acanthosis nigricans (AN)—a darkening of the skin around the neck or under the arms

Taking Steps to Prevent Type 2 Diabetes

The best way to help reduce your kids’ risk for developing type 2 diabetes and other associated health problems is to make healthy lifestyle changes. These work best if they involve the entire family, and will benefit everyone.

- **Eat a healthy diet.** Encouraging your kids to eat low-fat, nutrient-rich foods — like whole-grain cereals and breads, fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and lean proteins — can help prevent excessive weight gain.
- **Limit sugary foods and beverages.** Consuming lots of sugar-filled foods and beverages — like sodas, juices, and iced teas — also can lead to excessive weight gain.
- **Make physical activity a daily part of life.** The more energy your child burns, the better his body uses insulin. An hour or so of lively physical activity every day is a good goal.
- **Reduce screen time.** The time your child spends watching TV, surfing the Internet, and playing video games should be kept to a limit. The risk of obesity increases when your child watches more than two hours of TV per day.



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Violence Prevention and Safe Schools



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

October 20 – 26, 2013 is America's Safe Schools Week and a time to reflect on the essential component of safety in the daily operation of schools. Students, families, and school staff have a right to expect their schools to be safe havens. In response to the Sandy Hook tragedy and other incidents of violence in the nation, there has been a renewed call to protect children and create safer school climates. Proposed solutions include, hiring additional school resource officers, counselors, and mental health professionals, and promoting collaboration between schools and law enforcement in developing comprehensive emergency plans, which include hands-on training.

A shining example of making school safety a priority in our county is the School Assessment Project, which is a partnership between the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). This united effort, which is unprecedented in our state, will focus on collecting data from all schools, including emergency plans, evacuation routes, maps, and other details that will be provided to first responders during school emergencies. The Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, a division of the Sheriff's Department, will work closely with local law enforcement agencies and OCDE to collect the data and provide feedback to schools regarding their emergency plans. This collaboration between school officials and local police will strengthen protocols for school safety across the county.

The California State Board of Education recognizes that a beginning step toward safer schools is the development of a comprehensive plan for school safety by every public school and district in the state. This plan includes making schools safer not only by enhancing their physical security and making

See **Violence Prevention** • Page 16

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NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2013 **5**

Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

District Student Wins National Science Award

The Fountain Valley School District is proud to announce that Keoni Gandall, a former Talbert Middle School student who was promoted to ninth-grade in June, won first-place honors in the science category at the National Broadcom Masters event in Washington D.C. In winning first place, Keoni was awarded an iPad and \$3,500. This was on top of receiving a check for \$500 and an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capitol for becoming a finalist. To top off the recognition, he met President Barack Obama, shook the president's hand, and received a personal tour of the Oval Office from the president himself.

As a student at Talbert Middle School, Keoni was taught by another honoree, one of California's finalists for State Teacher of the Year, Mr. John Wood. Mr. Wood was inspirational in his work with the very talented Keoni and, as such, both Keoni and Mr. Wood will have an asteroid named after them. Talbert Middle School will receive a \$1,000 gift, which will be used to help fund its brand-new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) pilot program, which kicks off this year.

Keoni will be honored by the Fountain Valley School District at an upcoming Board meeting for his outstanding accomplishments as an upcoming star in the science world. Keoni's recognition comes at a crucial time, as the district moves to implement the new California Common Core State Standards. The new STEM pilot at Talbert hopefully will set a standard for our district as we prepare students for high school, college and career readiness in science and math.

Congratulations go to Keoni Gandall and his parents for their support of his efforts. This goes to show that the working relationship between the school, the teachers and the students can reap some mighty powerful and positive results.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jimmy Templin
President Pro-Tem

A Wonderful Reminder

As a trustee of the Fountain Valley School District and the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Director for the Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program, I have found myself inundated this year with topics such as Common Core State Standards, Local Control Funding Formula, the Language and Cultural Access Program (LCAP), Local Plans, Alternative Dispute Resolution, solar panels, California Special Education Management Information System Software (CASEMIS), and the uphill battle of funding necessary technology. These important issues, to name a few, need to be addressed, and, while I understand their importance, I found myself feeling disconnected from the reasons that led me to become an educator.

Fortunately, I was recently blessed with a wonderful reminder of what is at the core of our work. As I do each year, I had the opportunity to attend Back-to-School Night at a couple of our campuses. As I expected, I sat and listened to a variety of teachers describe their expectations, class syllabi, and classroom rules. What I did not anticipate was that these same teachers would also share their passion and excitement for teaching. Their enthusiasm and heartfelt love for their students was extremely contagious. I left that night feeling as though my "educational batteries" had been recharged. I was reminded of how wonderful our teachers are, how special the classroom environment is, and why many of us who serve as Trustees and/or administrators work so hard, even though we are often detached from the classroom setting.

I am grateful to be a part of public education and also grateful for the wonderful teachers who bring their passion for teaching to the classroom each day.

Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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Offer Your Child A Jump Start

Early Entry Kindergarten Program



Ages: Children turning 5 years of age on or before February 3, 2014

Where: Oka Elementary School

When: Monday through Friday
7:50 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.
February 3 - June 17, 2014

**Registration Packets will be Available
Beginning November 5, 2013 at Oka Elementary**

- Completed registration packets will be collected on December 5 from 2-4 p.m. at the District Office on a first come/first served basis
- First priority will be given to in-district families
- Remaining spaces will be filled with inter-district families
- The class will be open to the first 30 children registered
- A waiting list will be maintained for any vacancies

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Stepping Up



Nicola Weiss
President

UCLA's Anderson School economic forecast for September stated that people who invested in skills important to last century's growth sectors soon discovered that these did not match the current workplace demands. It stated that, "Those sectors which are producing the job growth in California now require a different set of skills."

Schools with the resources needed to provide an enriched, future-oriented education to every student, and which enable the use of technology to keep skills current, are essential to a strong local economy. At the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation, our mission is to, "enrich each Fountain Valley student's academic experience by providing cutting-edge technology and the resources to inspire them to think, to create and to achieve."

Despite recent increases, state funding per pupil in Fountain Valley remains \$543 less than in 2007–2008. One sacrifice was in not replacing the teachers' desktop computers, of which 85 percent are now over four years old.

We're behind in educational technology for students as well. Within Orange County, our school district scores at the very top of the 13 elementary school districts on the state standards tests, but is dead last in state per-pupil funding.

To provide an education that enables continual adaptation to increasing skill demands, our Foundation must attain its vision of, "A community united in support of educational excellence to empower our next generation of creators, innovators and visionaries."

So please help us! Serve on our board or advisory committee, help sponsor our "Taste of Fountain Valley" on February 8, or invite us to speak and share your ideas. You can contact us at FVEF.info@gmail.com.

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K–5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courreges.html



Chris Christensen
Principal

Technology EXPLOSION!

After reading this headline, you are probably a little worried that a computer blew up in a classroom or our computer lab fell victim to some vicious cyber attack. However, rest assured, the "technology explosion" I am referring to is actually quite positive.

This summer, 19 Courreges Elementary School teachers wrote grant applications to various organizations, including Donor's Choose and the Huntington Beach Assistance League (HBAL). I am happy to report that just last month these teachers accepted over \$10,000 in grant funding from these various organizations, with \$7,500 coming directly from HBAL. The support of these organizations has helped further our goal of increasing students' access to educational technology in the classroom. Thanks to the HBAL alone, we now have 10 additional electronic tablets, four netbooks, and two e-readers, not to mention additional materials for science kits and experiments.

In addition to HBAL's support, our PTA recently donated \$7,500 toward 10 new mini tablets, a new tablet docking station, and a laptop computer to serve as the "motherboard."

The Fountain Valley School District has also stepped in by piloting a 1:1 technology enhancement program in two of our third-grade classrooms, allowing all 60 students to have their own netbooks for the school year.

As you can see, thanks to the generous support from so many organizations inside and outside our school community, Courreges is well on its way to providing students with the needed technology to access curriculum, resources, and the 21st-century skills that will be needed in the future.

We certainly welcome and appreciate this "technology explosion!"

Happy Thanksgiving!

COVERING THE DISTRICTS OF:

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, OCEAN VIEW, WESTMINSTER AND HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Jennifer Perkins
Principal



Inger Kent
Assistant Principal

Fall is Here!

Every year our PTA supports Fulton by organizing a fantastic fall fundraiser. This year was no exception, as the parents organized a magazine sale to help support the school.

The funds from this event support our school in so many ways, such helping with clubs, after-school sports, spirit activities, classroom materials, technology, student recognition, various assemblies, and the school library. We appreciate all of the support our families showed by participating in this event.

Fulton also hosted a Family Science Night on October 28. We had many hands-on activities for students and families to participate in while they learned about science. Many of our teachers hosted special activities on campus, and the Orange County Astronomers brought out their telescopes so that we could take in the wonders of the night sky. The PTA also organized a book fair on campus that featured many interesting books on science.

Fulton encourages its students to get involved, and supports a variety of leadership opportunities to help foster this goal. This includes Student Council, PAL, Helping Hands, NJHS and Yearbook. Our Student Council plans and organizes school-wide activities all year long. They actively promote school spirit through classroom competitions and spirit days.

We are excited to announce our Student Council Executive Board for the 2013–2014 year. They are Hope Nguyen, president; Rebekah Pinkham, vice president; Jackie Hester, secretary; Taylor Vu, treasurer; Samantha Araiza, member at large; Caroline Murdock, public relations officer; and three school site council members: Sara Van Alst, Grant Eichinger and Kent Bewley.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4210 • www.regs-fvdsd-caschoolloop.com



Erin Bains
Principal

Student Council

The 2013–14 Student Council elections were held at Gisler Elementary. 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: Gianni Tello, president; Hailey Fernandez, vice president; RJ Frechette, secretary; and Devin Adamson, Shane Dzwilewski and Ava Bishop, executive board members.

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. Student Council officers and their advisors, Mrs. Laird and Mrs. Rogers, are off to a great start, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year!



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

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.jhces-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



Patrick Ham
Principal

Noon League Homeroom Sports

At Cox Elementary School, we believe in training up our students in the areas of teamwork, sportsmanship, and collaboration. To promote these traits as well as healthy exercise, our upper grade students enjoy lunch time homeroom sports leagues. We are scheduled to have three events this year: Flag Football (October to December), Dodge-ball (January to February), and NEW for 2014, SOCCER (March to May)!!! Participation is encouraged for all upper grade students who exhibit good character, behavior, and work completion. The Championship Trophy goes to the winning Homeroom!!!



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6-8)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

The Illustrious 600 Club!

Each year, schools eagerly anticipate the release of our previous year's STAR scores from the state of California. We then tear through those records looking for members of an annual club: the illustrious 600 Club! These are students who have scored a perfect 600 on one or more areas of STAR testing, getting every single question right. We are always amazed that we have any but were particularly pleased

with these current sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who have demonstrated outstanding knowledge above and beyond what is normally expected.

In the area of math: Connor Bennett, Thong Hoang, Jenni Lim, Anthony N. Nguyen, Hallie Tran, Huy Vu, Pamela Cardoso, Jerome Dovan, Andrew Nunes, Bethany Pham, Martin Pham and Britney Lam each received a 600 score. We even had one amazing student score a perfect 600 in the difficult area of English/language arts: Katrina Huynh! We're all so proud of you, Monarchs!



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

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



Chris Mullin
Principal

Raising Money for School Programs

Newland recently held its annual Jog-A-Thon event. This is our PTA's main fundraiser for the year.

The students collected a little over \$21,000 dollars for the organization. As funds within the district have tightened, and tough choices have had to be made in regards to programs, our PTA has stepped in to fill much of the void that was caused by a lack of funds.

This year our PTA will be funding a number of different music programs. Music continues to be an essential part of Newland, and it enriches all aspects of our school. Additionally, the PTA will be supporting art programs, field trips, new technology and various classroom enhancements.

Newland benefited from a large community turnout for the Jog-a-Thon, which helped to ensure its success. This was a wonderful event which helped to raise money for the school, and at the same time promote fitness.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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Erik Miller
Principal

Rainbow of Respect

Oka Elementary School is proud to continue a longstanding tradition of incorporating Values in Action into our school culture. Not only do students strive to do their best academically, but they are expected to grow as people of outstanding character. Throughout the school year, students have been and will continue to be celebrated for their efforts to show respect.

When students have done something that demonstrates respect to another person, their school, or even themselves, they are recognized by having their names printed on a Respect Cloud. The cloud is then added atop our Rainbow of Respect in the office! Each week many are winners in our weekly Respect Raffle.

Students have quickly learned that school is a much more enjoyable place when they are challenged to demonstrate academic excellence and high levels of respect. Come check out Oka's pot o' gold at the end of our rainbow...many students who are great examples of respect.



A few of our students already recognized for showing respect and earning a cloud!

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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Morgan
Assistant Principal

STEM Is Blossoming

Talbert Middle School is piloting a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program. Focused on creativity, collaboration, research, critical thinking, and technology, the STEM program is right in line with the new Common Core State Standards.

A cohort of STEM students travel together throughout the day for core subjects, which provides opportunities for collaboration and

team building. Each student in the program is provided with a netbook to use in class, and technology is heavily integrated into the program. Students engage in real-life challenges as they have an opportunity to develop a real-life problem, research that problem, and engineer a solution.

Part of the program includes field trips such as the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Ocean Institute Sea Floor Explorer Program and the Solar Decathlon.

Thanks to the hard work, knowledge, and creative thinking of Talbert teachers, students in the STEM program benefit from outstanding educational opportunities.



Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Celebrating the Fall Season

The Plavan Panthers celebrated the fall season in mid-October with their third-annual Plavan Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch. Families came together to play carnival games such as the Pumpkin Ring Toss, the Bean Bag Tic-Tac-Toe, and many more.

They also had an opportunity to purchase their Halloween pumpkin from the Pumpkin Patch, while enjoying a yummy lunch and neat treats from the snack shack. The children and their families had a fantastic time interacting with each other and their teachers, too!



On the day of Halloween, our students dressed up in fun costumes and traveled down the street to the Carmel Village Retirement Home. There they 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!

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

A Well Deserved Thank-You

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and the parents who work together in the best interest of children. The contributions of Tamura's dedicated parent volunteers and PTO are greatly valued and much appreciated.

Parent volunteers are an integral part of the educational process and are seen every day on campus serving a variety of needs: working in classrooms, volunteering for field trips, donating money to support school programs, helping at home preparing teacher materials, donating time at school events and the list goes on and on.

Our PTO Board and PTO volunteers are hardworking, positive and extremely capable members who always give so willingly of their time, talents and energy whenever and wherever they are needed. Whether it's organizing the Accelerated Reader Program, coordinating the Jog-a-thon or working the Book Fair, our PTO is always there to help. Our PTO works hard at fund-raising to supplement the core curriculum. The contributions help provide activities to enrich the classroom lessons, technology that makes learning interactive and fun, the Art Masters art program that teaches our students about famous artists, classroom and library books that enrich the reading program, and many other wonderful activities and programs for our students.

I am humbled every day by our parents' dedication and support. I truly appreciate all they do to make Tamura a great place to be.

When you are finished enjoying your holiday cards, please help abused, abandoned and neglected children by mailing your used cards to:

**St. Jude's Ranch for Children
Card Recycling Program
100 St. Jude's Street
Boulder City, NV 89005**

They create new cards out of your old ones and sell them to raise money for the children.

Thank you,
Kay Coop, Publisher
School News Roll Call

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gustavo Balderas

Strategic Plan

It is very exciting to announce that the Ocean View School District will be developing and adopting a Strategic Plan during the 2013–2014 school year. This plan will be the formalized road map that describes the direction the Ocean View School District will be heading over the next five years. The plan will specify a clear vision, mission, performance goals, objectives, and benchmarks and the policies and strategies to achieve each strategic objective.

The process will be developed using a systematic planning process that engages a variety of stakeholders, including parents, school staff, and site and district leadership. All of the resources we need to achieve our goals that are developed through the Strategic Plan will be identified. This plan will provide a strong foundation as we reflect on our progress and move forward together.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Debbie Cotton
President

A New Era

Nationwide schools are implementing the new Common Core Curriculum. Ocean View School District is no different. This year, our teachers, principals and support staff are all undergoing intensive training on the new California Standards, with the intent to fully implement them by next school year. This year, you will see some shifting of how subjects are taught and what is expected of your students. Deeper understanding and deeper conversations will be happening in all levels, in all subjects. Ask your student the *how, what, when* and *why* questions when you talk about what they are learning in school.

There are more changes underway this school year, many of them not so obvious as the changes in the classroom. The district is undergoing a revamp of our mission statement, our vision and our strategic plan. We are updating to the 21st century and looking forward. We as a district are excited to be moving forward and looking to how we can best serve our students and our community. Under the leadership of our superintendent, Gustavo Balderas, we are reaching out to the community, staff and parents to provide input into the future of the Ocean View School District. Watch for committees to volunteer for; we need your voice and expertise! In the meantime, I encourage you to attend the community listening sessions that provide valuable information on the direction of our district on issues that are important to parents, staff and the community. You can find out when the next one is by visiting our website. Hope to see you there.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

An Arts Affiliate School

We are very proud of our relationship with the Huntington Beach High School Performing Arts Academy. To “kick-off” the school year, the Surf City Singers and the Huntington Beach High School Dance Team performed at our school-wide assembly. All of our students were mesmerized by the exciting routines that they performed. Mr. Tim Nelson, the academy’s musical theater director, addressed the students and faculty, explaining that many of the performers began their artistic journeys in elementary school. Several of the performers

were former College View Elementary School students and were excited to be back to perform and inspire the younger generation to get involved in the arts.

The performing arts are not only fun, but they also improve attention and cognition while encouraging creative thinking, problem solving, team building, collaboration, and communication. The arts foster these 21st-century skills that prepare our children for the rigors of higher education and the work force.

As a performing arts affiliate school, we offer First Position, an after-school dance and theater arts experience. This year the academy will focus on dance team technique to encourage students to eventually get involved at the middle school level. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade may participate in this exciting program. Students attend weekly classes and then perform for parents and friends at a culminating recital at the end of the 10-week course.

Circle View *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

Sweet Learning

The Circle View GATE students in grades three to five recently participated in a worldwide OREO project (Our Really Exciting Online), which of course involved Oreo cookies!

Classes from around the world participated in stacking Oreo cookies as high as they could before they tumbled! After first estimating how many cookies they could stack, our Circle View students packed the multipurpose room to take on this exciting challenge.

Each student had two attempts to record their highest stack of cookies. Once their tallest stack was recorded, class averages were computed, and the school’s results were uploaded to the global Web site. Students were then challenged with many higher-level thinking math activities using their data.



Students participating in the “sweet” activity.

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Building Character

At Golden View, we are excited for another great year! We continue our commitment to provide all Golden View students with academic excellence and the prosocial behaviors that will be the foundation of their present and future success.

At Golden View, the development of prosocial skills is done by having our students learn the Golden Rules – Being Respectful, Responsible and Safe—so they can practice their skills wherever they are. This year, we are developing character even further.

In addition to our Golden Rules, each month, students will learn about one of the following traits: self-control, giving their personal best, being honest, having compassion, working cooperatively with others and what it means to be a good friend. By learning, internalizing and practicing these traits, we know students will have the basis for a successful future!



Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Finding the Fun

The school year is off to an exciting start, with happy children and energetic teachers leading the way! And speaking of teachers, we are fortunate to have added a wonderful new staff member this year. I am happy to introduce Mrs. Stephanie Christidis!

Mrs. Christidis, a fifth-grade teacher, lives in Long Beach with her husband, two children and a Jack Russell Terrier, Zoe. She received her teaching credential from CSULB. In her free time Mrs. Christidis likes to entertain, cook, and go camping.

She also loves to read the same books that her fifth-grade students like, and encourages them to read right along with her. Currently she is reading *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

This year, Mrs. Christidis' goals for her students are to make sure they have lots of "ah-ha" moments finding the fun out of the ordinary, and to enjoy learning. Harbour View is very fortunate to have Mrs. Stephanie Christidis on its team.



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Supplemental School Experiences

Here at Hope View Elementary School, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to provide after-school enrichment classes. Through our PTO and under the direction of Maestra Lietta and Maestra Mariela, our students are learning Spanish! It is such a treat to hear the children chanting and singing in Spanish as they pass through the halls.

Art Camp is a huge success this year. Our students' creative side has an opportunity to soar! Mad Science, with primary and upper grade classes, has conjured up fascinating experiments and gadgets.

Our Hope View Hawk Homework Club, conducted in conjunction with the Huntington Beach High School National Honor Society, is also underway. This wonderful club, under the leadership of their tutoring coordinator, Haley Peterson, and her dedicated classmates, provide cross-age tutoring support. They are building relationships and providing support in the areas of reading, writing, science, math and social studies.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Green continue to work with our fourth- and fifth-grade students, providing a mathematics enrichment class to our identified Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students. We appreciate his knowledge, enthusiasm, and expertise. He helps to expose our students to the joy and fun that can be found in mathematics.

We are thankful to our staff, PTO volunteers, families, and community stakeholders, who have made it possible to offer these additional learning experiences. Hope View's students are enjoying the multiple, optional, enrichment opportunities offered this year!

Go, Hawks!

Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Engineering a Bright Future

Lake View School is now a model school for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. With our history as a NASA Explorer School, our status as a Smart Technology Showcase School, and our stellar ST Math and Music programs, Lake View is the logical choice for a STEM program. We are adding the "E" this year in fourth and fifth grades, with the plan to expand to other grades.

Teachers will be using the Engineering is Elementary program to guide students through the engineering design process with project-based learning. Students will learn to ask, imagine, plan, create, and improve as they work in teams to solve problems collaboratively.



Engineering a way to clean up an oil spill.

Students will also have the opportunity to learn about different types of engineering, including environmental, biomedical, materials, aerospace, transportation, and bioengineering, just to name a few.

We are engineering a bright future at Lake View!

Marine View *Middle School*

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



Shelley Morris
Principal

Points on Our Scorecard

The year is going by so quickly—we are already preparing for parent conference week! It has been a great start so far at Marine. We had a wonderful Back to School Night in mid-September, giving us the opportunity to share with all of our parents the incredible things our students have achieved. Our teachers have been working triple time as they prepare themselves through training for Common Core implementation next fall and have begun to incorporate the necessary instructional strategies and higher-level thinking skills into their lesson planning. They are amazing professionals who go above and beyond every time.

Cross-country season has provided us with another opportunity to celebrate our Mariners' school spirit and dedication, including that of our coaches who give so freely of their time to provide our students with extracurricular activities outside of the school day. We have also enjoyed a little healthy competition among our advisement classes during lunchtime dodge-ball intramurals.

Finally, I must share how fortunate we are at Marine to have such a supportive and outgoing group of parents. Currently, our PTSA is hosting our fall magazine and cookie-dough fund-raisers while preparing for our annual Spaghetti Night Auction in early November. They volunteer countless hours at our site and are always at the ready for any cause our students and staff wish to pursue.

Our school community at Marine is unparalleled, and I look forward to working with each and every student, parent and staff member every single day. Thank you!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Dr. Stephanie Henry
Principal

Join the Movement

The Mesa View WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) and our ASB student groups spent the month of October developing informative and enjoyable activities in honor of National Bullying Prevention Month. The purpose of this special month is to have every community unite together to raise awareness of bullying prevention through events, activities, outreach and education.

Our student leaders began the month by building on the continued focus of anti-bullying in advisement and enrichment classes, particularly on reporting procedures. On October 15, Mesa View students enjoyed a Skate Night dressed as superheroes, and linked it to the anti-bullying theme of "Be a Hero, Not a Bully."

During Red Ribbon Week, our students and staff added an anti-drug message, and enjoyed dress-up days all week. These included crazy socks day, with the theme of "Sock it to Drugs," as well as a day where staff and student teams dressed alike in order to "Team up Against Drugs."

The WEB and ASB students finished the month by publicizing bullying prevention statistics and quotes in the morning announcements. They also held a school-wide PBIS spirit assembly with an anti-bullying focus.

Besides participating in exciting class competitions and school spirit activities, the students also viewed a video by a former Mesa View student which showcased several Mesa View alumni sharing their strong anti-bullying message. Our hope as a school community is to do our part to engage, educate and inspire others to join the movement and help prevent bullying.

Oak View *Elementary*

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



Laura Dale-Pash
Principal

Going Above and Beyond

Oak View Elementary School has a staff of about 60 employees, all of whom are dedicated to our children and the Oak View vision.

Last June, the school honored Ms. Patricia Schraff as its Teacher of the Year. Her colleagues say that she demonstrates compassion, a dedication to her craft, and a passion for teaching. Ms. Schraff teaches the fifth grade, and has been the PBIS lead coach for several years. She was also the lead teacher for the Saturday Academy and the systems manager.

Also, last June for the first time, the classified employees selected our Oak View Classified Employee of the Year, Miss Karmin Thompson.

Miss Johnson has been our health technician for 11 years. Her colleagues say that she truly brings "TLC" to her job, and is always pleasant, caring and nurturing. Oak View and its students are very lucky to have such amazing educators and support personnel.



Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Literacy Picnic: An Extension of the Preschool Program

Every year, parents are invited to attend the Literacy Picnic at Oak View Preschool. One is held in the fall and another one in the spring. This year, the Literacy Picnic took place in September. The preschool teachers and assistants plan with the children's parents to bring a child's favorite book, a blanket, a stuffed animal and a small snack. Parents, grandparents or other family members or babysitters come to school to read and enjoy a book with their children.



The time to read together is an extension of the new curriculum activity that is now part of the preschool program. It is called Parent-Child Time. For the first 10 minutes of each day, the parents or caretakers are invited into the classroom to read a book, complete a journal entry or participate in a learning game or activity. Parents have the opportunity to spend some time in the classroom as the children transition from home to school.

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



Paul James
Principal

Back-to-School Night

On September 18 Pleasant View School/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (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; Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) topics; and much more.

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 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, Theresa Crockett, Kim Hunter, and Genie Peterson, and our support staff, Anne Fujiwara, Melanie Fenger, Anh Mai, Vicki Kincaid, Anne Lang, Patty Mulcahy, Linda Still, and Lynn Trittipo, who help make each day a special journey for our students to learn.

Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Kinder
Principal

Student Council Stars

Star View Elementary School 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 Star View Student Council is one way that our upper-grade students start to learn about leadership.

The fourth and fifth grade students have just begun to meet and plan activities. The teacher leader, Mrs. Kakimoto, is enthusiastic about building the leadership capacity amongst these students through service activities and school-wide events.

Currently, the students are planning a paper drive for our school. In order to save money that would be spent on copy paper, the students will be asking each family to donate a ream of copy paper to the school so the school's funds can be spent on other needs.

Throughout the year, the student council will be planning many more great activities.



Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Supporting the Common Core at School and at Home

Educators get asked all the time "What is the Common Core?" In a nutshell, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are all about thinking deeply, integrating learning, and providing evidence to explain reasoning. Let's take these three ideas and break them down a little.

Thinking Deeply: The CCSS emphasize critical thinking. They require students to analyze more, discuss more, evaluate more, and be able to explain their thinking, often in writing.

Integrated Learning: The CCSS emphasize integrated learning across disciplines. They require students to be able to look at a situation or problem from multiple perspectives and use that information to come up with solutions.

Providing Evidence: The CCSS emphasize "showing what you know" by providing proof and evidence. It's no longer enough to just get the right answer. Students are now required to support their answers with evidence.

Having students practice thinking deeply is as easy as a few questions over dinner or to and from school. First ask "Why?" Have your student explain why he or she believes something. Explain and discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood, and community.

At the heart the CCSS movement is the desire to better prepare our students to be competitive in a global economy. The Spring View Elementary School staff is excited about the challenge ahead of us, and we believe the transition to the CCSS will give our students the edge they deserve heading into the future.

Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Working Together

September greeted us with some great news regarding our improved state test scores! We look forward to doubling our efforts as we transition to the Common Core Standards and prepare students for the Next Generation Assessments.

A new school year is underway, and so we continue to focus on differentiating instruction, English language development, Response to Intervention/Instruction, and Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS). The school logo reflects our continued commitment to a safe and successful school

experience through three significant behavioral expectations: be respectful, be responsible, be safe!

September 11th reminded us of the heroic efforts of our dignified firefighters, police officers and medical personnel, all of whom deserve recognition every day. Once again, Sun View commemorated 9/11 with corporate VIP volunteers who gave their time, skills and services to support the school and help our community of learners. We are delighted to say that the school's garden is flourishing, thanks to the efforts of these corporate friends who worked, side-by-side, with our students, teachers and administrators.

Research reminds us that the most successful students and schools are those where the families, schools and community members work together in partnership. A special thanks goes to OneOC for leading the charge!

Are you looking for this logo
for the contest on page 14?



Vista View *Middle School*

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



Amy Kernan
Principal

It May Be Autumn, but We Won't Fall!

Vista View Middle School started the year off with some very exciting events. We had our Fall Skate Night at a skating center. Everyone had a great time skating, and even our principal, Mrs. Kernan, slowly made her way around the skating rink without falling! We also had our PRIDE Ice Cream Social for all students who reached gold or platinum level by having a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Way to go, Falcons, for working so hard and for so many of you being able to attend the social!

In October, over 50 of our cross-country athletes went to Mt. SAC to compete in the cross-country invitational. Also, at the end of October, we piloted the Houghton Mifflin Online testing resources and are looking forward to continuing to prepare for the Smarter Balanced Field Testing this spring. Our Falcons want to make sure to SOAR with the new Common Core State Standards!



Village View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Tryon
Principal

Making the Effort

The Village View Dolphins rock the deep blue sea! We 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 minds.

We are a spirited school with a very supportive community. Our Spirit Kids, who are current fifth-graders, lead the charge by helping during the Friday Flag Ceremony. Being a Spirit Kid is an honor, and students who serve in this capacity are truly representing our school. 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 supportive and kind. They truly provide positive role models for our students. I am honored to be at a school where staff, students and families come together to do what is best for 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.

Westmont *Elementary*

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

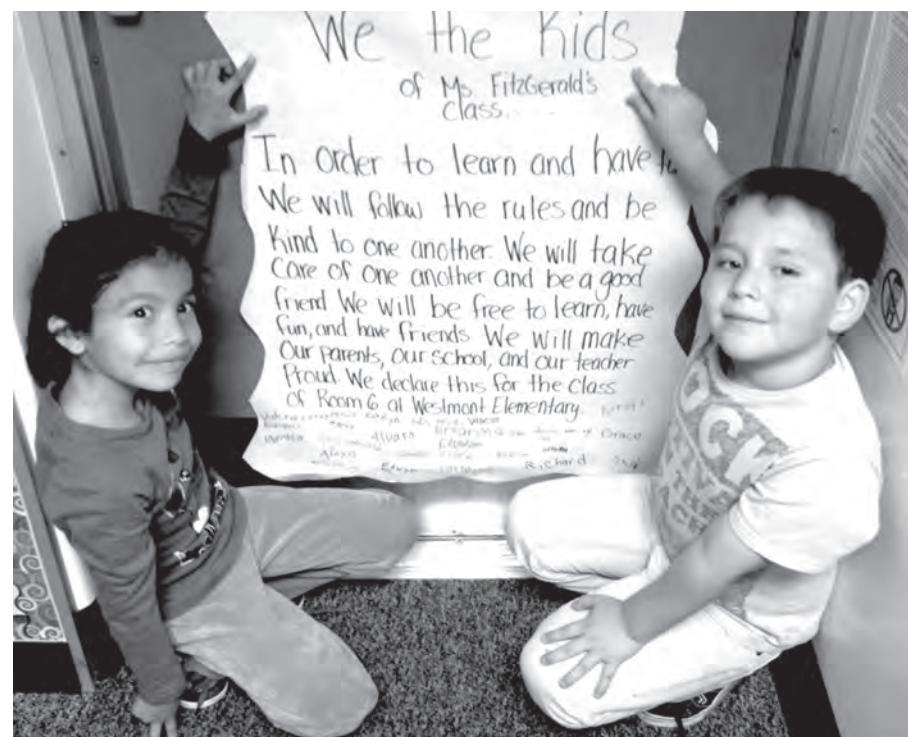


Karen Sandors
Principal

Celebrating Constitution Day

Westmont celebrated its annual Constitution Day, honoring the rights and responsibilities afforded to all Americans by our Founding Fathers. The patriotic spirit was alive as classes did various activities to honor the day.

Our kindergarten classes had a parade that included the wearing of patriotic hats that they made and singing "You're a Grand Ol' Flag." Many of the classes made connections to their classroom constitutions. As a class, they wrote a set of rules on how their classrooms should be run, including how to form a group that makes rules, how to form a group to enforce the rules and how to choose a leader. Some classes wrote their own laws, decided if they were constitutional, and vetoed them if they weren't. They finally signed the bills into law. It was a great experience for all our Westmont students.



Hadrian Ibarra and Valeria Rodriguez with their class Constitution.

Contest!!

This Common Core logo is in two places in this publication.



When you find it, email the **page numbers** to:

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

Your entry must be received by December 15, 2013
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

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Imagine Something Different



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services

Attention all aspiring writers and illustrators, from pre-kindergarten to the eighth-grade! The Sand Scribes' and FOTCL's annual writing and illustrating contest started on October 1 and ends on December 21. The winners will receive gift cards at an awards ceremony during our Authors Festival on January 28, 2014. This year's theme is "Imagine Something Different."

The Sand Scribes' and FOTCL's
annual writing and illustrating contest
started on October 1 and ends on December 21.

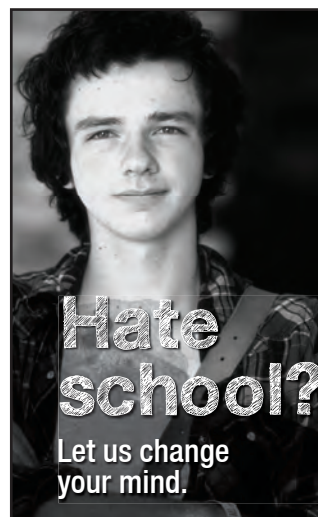
Just imagine if a character had woken up and found that something about it had changed. What would it be? What if the change happened to you? Are you a giant? Are you a bug?

Let your creativity flow and imagine something different! You can print out the entry forms and rules at www.fotcl.org. Entry forms are also available at the Central Library children's desk.

Visit our Web site at www.hbpl.org for library information and access to our databases. You can renew books, put books on hold, research our catalog and download eBooks. By clicking on "Kids Stuff" you can also find our storytime schedules, monthly calendar, and news about upcoming events.

Our Homework Help button offers links to various Web sites, including our live tutor database called Brainfuse. Our Booklists button links you to helpful sites like the Accelerated Reader Book Finder and Lexile Framework for Reading. Our Fun Sites button links to various education games and facts.

Click on the Kids Digital Collection for downloadable eBooks for children. TumbleBooks offers children the chance to listen and read along to stories. Little Pim is our language-learning database for children. It offers 10 different languages!



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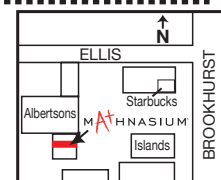
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VIOLENCE PREVENTION • From Page 5



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

sure they are prepared to respond to emergencies, but also by creating safer and more nurturing school climates that help prevent school violence.

According to the California Department of Education (CDE) publication, Safe Schools: A Planning Guide for Action, school safety encompasses two components, school climate, and physical environment. CDE developed a Seven-Step Planning Process for Safe and Effective Schools, which intertwine the requirements into a complete plan for school wide safety and effectiveness.

Seven-Step Planning Process for Safe and Effective Schools

1. Include school staff, parents, students, and the community on the planning committee.
2. Create a vision of your school as a place where students are safe to learn. Integrate the safe school vision with the mission statement for the school.
3. Gather and analyze data (examples include: California Healthy Kids survey, suspension data, police reports, and surveys conducted with students, staff, and parents focusing on issues related to safety).
4. Identify areas of desired change and assess resources available to attain goals.
5. Promote strategies and identify activities and programs to implement (examples of programs: drug and alcohol abuse prevention, gang risk intervention, and bullying prevention).
6. Communicate the safety plan to parents, students, staff, and community members.
7. Evaluate progress and revise the plan as needed to ensure that goals are achieved.

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The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) offers several programs to improve school safety, culture, and climate, and to assist in developing and maintaining Safe School Plans. Programs include Safe from the Start, Conflict Resolution, Gang Prevention, Peer Assistance Leadership, Friday Night Live, and Mental Health Services. Through the CDE School Law Enforcement Partnership Grant, administered through Kern County Office of Education, OCDE offers no cost workshops on Bullying Prevention, Crisis Response training, and Safe School Planning.

For more information on Safe Schools, contact Christine Laehle, Program Specialist, at claehle@ocde.us or 714-327-1067. For information on the CDE planning guide, visit www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss/vp/safeschlplanning.asp

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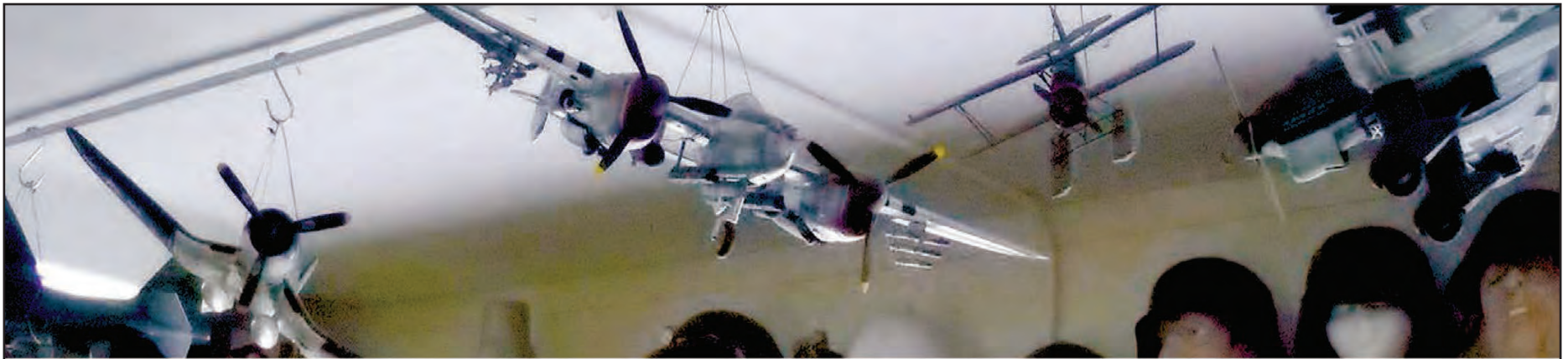


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Note-ables

A Gift for Sophie



Kate Karp

Quebecois poet and songwriter Gilles Vigneault has created a multi-layered literary experience in *A Gift for Sophie*. The storybook with primitive watercolor illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch and a music CD set comprise a tale of friendship across the ages. Seven-year-old Sophie loves to draw and share her art with her best friend and soul mate, Emilio, and her ancient great-uncle, Tom. The gifts Sophie receives from these dear people tie in to the wisdom that “Old Man Tom,” as he is known, passes on to his little niece when he passes on himself. Sophie comes to understand and use this wisdom in a delightful way when she and Emilio encounter a mystery.

The story, translated from the original French, is told in a lilting, evocative manner. The narrative on the CD carries the engagement further—the songs are grouped at the end and so don’t interrupt the storyline; instead, they peel back the layers of each character or incident to reveal its essence. The musicians and artists, including Canadian folk-rock singer Martha Wainwright, expose the story’s undercurrent with voice, woodwind, accordion, and all sorts of string and percussion. Melody lines transport the listeners to a café in southern France, the center of a folk dance, the psyche of a cat.

A Gift for Sophie evoked in me all of this and also a nostalgic memory from across my own years: me on the floor next to my little suitcase 78 rpm player listening to records about Tubby the Tuba, Peter and the Wolf, and the Churkendoose, reading the storybooks that accompanied them. See what this lovely set does for you.



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

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A Gift for Sophie Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by **January 15, 2013**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a copy of the book *A Gift for Sophie* with CD.

LITERARY	SOPHIE	PRISM
STORYBOOK	BEARD	RAINBOW
TALE	CAT	TREASURES
FRIENDSHIP	SIR	HEART
WISDOM	EMILIO	ILLUSTRATIONS
MYSTERY	FISHING	WATERCOLOR
CHARACTER	BEACH	
GIFT	GLASS	

Congratulations to Courtney McIntire
Winner of the September Word Search Contest!

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

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

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



Sheri Loewenstein

Warner Teacher Wins \$1,000 in School Supplies

In October, one of our Warner Middle School teachers was surprised with a very special award. Ms. Rhonda Brownell, a math teacher, was awarded \$1,000 worth of school supplies from a local business with a program that celebrates teachers for demonstrating passion, dedication, and innovation in the classroom.

Matthew Skoll, the principal at Warner Middle School, nominated Ms. Brownell for the award and had this to say about her: "Ms. Brownell deeply cares for her students and tirelessly advocates for those in need. She is a highly regarded teacher who has led the math team for a number of years now, and, under her leadership, scores have risen considerably. In addition, she teaches a nutrition class that gets rave reviews from both students and parents!"



Because teachers spend a significant amount of their own money annually on classroom supplies, the business provided Ms. Brownell with several large boxes that contained everything from a digital camera, a labeler, a leather chair, a magnetic bulletin board, wipes, and much, much more. I'm not sure who was more excited, the students or Ms. Brownell.

Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Uncle Mo

From time to time in the sports world, you'll hear "Uncle Mo" mentioned. This refers to momentum. Momentum is important in so many endeavors way beyond sports.

In the case of Willmore, Uncle Mo has played a big part in our students' success. Our PTA has helped build great momentum in parent involvement. We have more parents involving themselves in their students' overall education. Our community liaisons have built momentum in parent education, building the capacity of our families to support their students. Most importantly, our teachers have built great momentum, continually refining their practices using precise strategies for direct instruction, including GLAD, GATE and Thinking Maps. Collectively, these pieces have come together to put Willmore on a solid, positive trajectory toward success.

Although we all know that test scores are not the only measurement of student success, they are an indicator of growth, and our students grew substantially in this regard, allowing Willmore to post 23 points of API growth since our last legitimate reporting period. That's fantastic! Congratulations to all stakeholders! We'll continue our work, pushing Willmore forward and enjoying the presence of Uncle Mo.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mary Mangold
President

Meet Our Board Members

In last month's edition of *School News*, you got to get to know me a little better, so this month I would like you to get to know the other members of our wonderful school board.

Mr. Andrew Nguyen was elected to the Board in 2006 and re-elected in 2010. He currently serves as Vice President and has successfully completed the California School Board Association's Masters in Governance program. Mr. Nguyen is employed by the Garden Grove School District and has been very active in the Classified School Employees Association. He has also served the city of Westminster in a number of capacities including being a Traffic Commissioner and a member of the Chief of Police's Advisory Council. Mr. Nguyen resides in Westminster with his wife and family.

Mrs. Amy Walsh was elected to the Board in 2012 and currently serves as Board Clerk. She has been actively involved with the school district for many years. Ms. Walsh was the Westminster Council PTA President for two years, she founded the Westminster School District Special Education PTA (SEPTA), and she was the recipient of PTA's prestigious Honorary Service Award. In addition, Ms. Walsh was recently selected as the Special Education Chairperson for the Fourth District PTA. She has served on the District Advisory Committee and as an Arts Alliance Coordinator. Ms. Walsh resides in Westminster with her husband and two school-age sons who attend Westminster schools.

Mr. Jamison Power was elected to the Board in 2012. He received his bachelor's degree from UC Irvine in 2003 and his Juris Doctor from UCLA in 2008. In his law practice, Jamison represents numerous local and national businesses. In his spare time, Jamison provides free legal assistance to low income families, and has received multiple awards from the California State Bar Association for his service. Jamison is also very active in the community, serving as a Westminster City Commissioner and as a board member on the Orange Public Library Foundation, where he helps raise money for local libraries. He is also a member of the Vietnamese-American Education Advisory Council and the Knights of Columbus at Blessed Sacrament parish. Jamison is a proud Westminster homeowner, where he lives with his wife My Lan, his newborn son Kieran, and his dog, Stitchie.

Mr. Dave Bridgewaters was elected to the Board in 2006 and re-elected in 2010. He has been active in the Westminster School District for 25 years and has had all five of his children attend schools in the district. He has been a Westminster Police Officer for 27 years and has served the district as a DARE officer, the chair of the WSD School Attendance Review Board, a SHIELD officer, and a PERT (Psychiatric Emergency Response Team) officer. Mr. Bridgewaters has been an active member of the community and his church for 26 years. He resides in Garden Grove with his wife and family.

Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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President



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Dave Bridgewaters
Member



Jamison Power
Member

Are you looking for this logo
for the contest on page 14?



Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

Technology ROARS!

Anderson elementary school sports a new technology lab. This state-of-the-art laptop tech lab provides access for 36 students at a time to utilize online resources and programs, as well as supervised Internet research for preppie Kindergarten through grade 6.

Equipped with a Smart cart, the lab will become mobile when expected E-rate grants provide Wi-Fi mid-spring.

Concurrently, our state preschool has installed Wi-Fi and has a smart cart with mini iPads.



Mrs. Kristi Carillo is instructing a group of first graders while the classroom teacher, Mrs. Tani Robertson, provides assistance.

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Go for the Goal!

We are off to a great start with the 2013–2014 school year here at Clegg Elementary School.

One of our main focuses this year will be on the Accelerated Reader program. Students are being encouraged to read Accelerated Reader books and then take computerized tests to demonstrate their comprehension and understanding of the books they have chosen.

The students accumulate points with each test they pass. The top two earners in each grade level will have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-the-year event like we have every school year. Last time the students shaved off our librarian's hair in front of the entire school!

Our school-wide goal this year is 8,500 points. This year's event is still being discussed, but it is sure to be a lot of fun. Our librarian, Mr. Daniel Macri, works closely with our students, and even has a reward system in place for those who achieve their monthly goals.

Our students are doing a fantastic job, and so we are sure that they'll meet this year's goal.



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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

Fun Fridays

Welcome to Fun Fridays! a performing-arts-filled half-hour for students to discover their "inner artist"! Patty Petersen, transitional K and arts advocate, leads the program. *Arts advocate* is a newly created mentoring role our district introduced last year to integrate the arts into the curriculum and foster creative ways to teach core subjects through the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards (VAPA).

A national aeronautics corporation provides scholarship grants to cover the cost of arts training given through the Southern Counties Arts Project partnered with OCDE. The corporation employs several people with arts backgrounds or training who do well collaborating, thinking outside the box, and problem solving—21st Century Skills! A representative from each of WSD's elementary schools went this past summer to the eight-day Visual Arts Institute at OCDE, where they experienced hands-on learning in the arts and created VAPA-based classroom arts units.

Fun Fridays are one way we're bringing back the arts! And Ms. Petersen, that ham, sure loves getting up on that stage every Friday!



Kindergarteners enjoying music and movement activities at Fun Fridays.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Third-Grade Multiplication Week

Third-grade math can be daunting for students. They are expected to deepen their understanding of place value and their understanding of and skill with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers. This includes memorizing to automaticity the multiplication table for numbers between 1 and 10—Eastwood students go to 12—using the inverse relationship of multiplication and division to compute and check results and solve simple problems involving multiplication of multidigit numbers by one-digit numbers.

This year, in order to assist students in the acquisition of these skills, Eastwood third-grade teachers have designed an entire week around the concept of multiplication. Students will be immersed in multiplication during English language arts, math, art and music. Every day, students will have a timed fact-mastery test, a lesson on "tricks" for learning the multiplication facts, flashcard practice, reading instruction with literature books containing multiplication themes, multiplication spelling words, multiplication vocabulary words, a daily multiplication writing activity, centers for word-problem solving, a multiplication art activity, multiplication music and last but not least, fact-mastery games.

At week's end, each student will leave campus with a personal book of multiplication groups—e.g., 9 is the number in the lineup on a baseball team, the number of planets in the solar system, the lives of a cat and holes of golf—and their own set of 48 fact families on triangle flash cards. Students will have a deeper understanding of multiplication and will have memorized their number facts.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Maria
Gutiérrez-García**
Principal

Parent Power Lunch

The school year began with much activity at Finley School. In September, more than 200 parents were in attendance for the annual Parent Power Lunch. The morning began with a work shop for parents on the importance of Oral Fluency presented by third grade teacher, Julie Herkins, and Principal Gutiérrez-García. Finley parents learned how to conduct a one minute fluency read and viewed video clips of Finley students in kindergarten and third grade as they participated in a one minute fluency read with their classroom teachers. Following the workshop, parents joined their children for a picnic lunch and then shared some quality time reading books for pleasure.



Valentina Mestroni, RSP Teacher, Stephanie Perry and Joy Chaney, Fifth Grade Teachers presented to a standing room only crowd at Back to School Night on October 8, 2013.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Teamwork!

The competition is heating up at Hayden. For the past three years, the fourth- and fifth-graders have had the opportunity to participate in school sports tournaments during recess. In fall, students can sign up and participate in the soccer tournament. In winter, we have a basketball tournament, and in spring, we offer a tetherball and a handball tournament.

These tournaments give students the opportunity to work together as a team to achieve a goal. Most importantly, the students come together in a structured environment and have an opportunity to shine as a team or as individuals. We stress the importance of being a good winner and how to deal with a loss.

Teams and individuals are rewarded with certificates, ribbons and medals for their participation and effort. Students look forward to the tournaments and the opportunity to bond with their classmates and make great memories.



Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dr. Hiacynth
Martinez**
Principal

A Great Accomplishment

On Monday, October 7, Fryberger Elementary was adorned with balloons and banners as parents filled the blacktop to join in with the school's annual CST and CELDT Student Achievement Celebration. Dr. Martinez holds this celebration every year to recognize the hard work that our students, staff and parents put into academic achievement here at Fryberger.

Every student who jumped one CELDT level to the next was honored with a special button. This is a great accomplishment for many of our students! Fryberger also recognized every student who performed proficient and advanced in the areas of language arts and math on the California State Test last May.



Dr. Martinez and a few third grade students celebrating their achievements on Monday, October 7th.

We were also proud to recognize a number of students who scored 500 and 600 on the language arts and math tests. All of our honored students received special buttons to recognize their accomplishments. Even Freddy the Falcon, our school mascot, made a special appearance to celebrate the success of his Fryberger Falcons!

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Andre Illig
Principal

21st Century Critical Thinking

California school leaders and teachers are busy planning activities to begin the transition to the Common Core State Standards. These new standards were designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. They also provide educators with a powerful opportunity to develop critical-thinking skills and cultivate a lifelong love of learning in our students.

Our students have an opportunity to put these skills into practice with our Robotics program. We're excited to offer coursework aligned with the current educational trends of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education and aligned with the 21st Century learning skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

We value our families and community members as partners in this endeavor. The future is bright for our learning community. Once construction is finally complete, we'll be poised to establish ourselves as an innovative institution within the district.



Robotics STEAM teacher Cynthia Heinle

Land School

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



Beverlee Mathenia
Director Child Development Programs



Reagan Lopez
Administrator Student Services

Collaboration at the Preschool Level

By Jennifer Solano- Speech Pathologist and Darcy Spicer- Early Learning Specialist

Working in groups with peers isn't just something we teach our preschoolers. We as teachers and staff do it on a professional level, too. Land School comprises five special-day classes, one Early Start program, one blended preschool classroom and 12 general-education preschool classrooms. We utilize and blend an RTI (Response to Intervention) model, which includes individualized learning strategies, and a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

(PBIS) model to support our students both with and without Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in reaching their full academic and social-emotional potentials. We have a Child Success Team comprising early-learning and RTI specialists who have open lines of communication with our special education staff; we invite them to give input and collaborate with general-education teachers on a regular basis. Together, we develop SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely) goals for at-risk students and collaborate on other effective Tier I and Tier II intervention strategies for students who struggle academically or behaviorally within their classrooms.

In short, our teachers and specialists at Land School are in constant contact with one another to draw on resources to help all of our children have successful experiences in their development. For instance, the use of visual schedules, picture icons, social stories and token-reward systems are examples of strategies developed by special education staff but are now used throughout every classroom on our campus. As a result of our collaborative efforts, student achievement has improved and teacher referrals from general education to special education have been greatly reduced!

Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

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



Paul Andre White
Principal

Lion Leaders Are Respectful, Responsible And Safe

Here at Schmitt Elementary School we kicked off the school year by rolling out our school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program.

PBIS is a prevention-based approach that reinforces and rewards positive student behavior. We reward our students who are "caught being good" with gold slips, which are then turned into the office for prizes and monthly raffles. Students earn gold slips by following our school-wide expectations to be respectful, responsible, and safe. Since implementation we have experienced a sharp decline in the number of referrals and a dramatic increase in the number of students receiving rewards.

During our kick-off event, staff members took the time to explicitly teach students our new expectations and guidelines across all major areas on campus. Their dedication to the program and student response to our reward system is helping us create a school culture that supports the success of all students and helps nurture our societal values.



One of four murals added around campus to promote our school wide expectations.

Meairs Elementary (K-5)

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Fourth-Grade Field Trip

In October, we went on a field trip to Newport Bay where we learned a lot about the lovely nature. We got to explore nature, go on hunts to learn about nature. and learn about animals. Our naturalist taught us about the Native American tribes—the Acjachemen and the Tongva. He taught us about the consumers, decomposers and producers. Thank you, Inside the Outdoors, for providing this field trip for us!

—Kathleen Vo

When we went on the field trip, I learned three new things. I learned that the dogfish shark has strong jaws. It can even open a clam! I learned that we are on top of the food chain. We can eat about anything. The last thing I learned was that there are many other names for the Indians. I really liked my fourth-grade field trip!

—Cindy Huynh



Fourth grade archeologists

Schroeder Elementary (K-6)

15151 Columbia Ln., 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. Even a rain shower or two couldn't dampen the fun. Over 350 family members and loved ones joined the student body in 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!



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Sequoia *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Shay Reardon
Principal

Positive Decisions

Sequoia Elementary School is off to a fabulous start for the 2013–2014 school year. Sequoia observed Red Ribbon Week in October. Sequoia is dedicated to educating students about the importance of staying drug-free and living a healthy lifestyle. The PTA and student council collaboratively worked together to design a week to spread this important message. Each day of Red Ribbon Week students showed their school spirit and their dedication to being drug-free by participating in daily themes. The daily themes were wearing red on Monday, college attire on Tuesday, purple on Wednesday, sunglasses on Thursday, and caps on Friday. Also, students created posters that signified their dedication to staying drug-free.



Bully Awareness was in the month of October as well. Each Wednesday students were encouraged to wear purple. Our school counselor, Rita Newman, did a fabulous job of teaching our kindergarten and first- and second-grade classrooms about what appropriate and kinds behaviors looks like at school. Our outreach counselor, Wendy Smith, will presented a bully awareness lesson to the third- through sixth-grade classrooms.

At Sequoia Elementary the school community is dedicated not only to high academic excellence but to guiding our students to make positive decisions that will impact their lives for the better.

Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Matthew Skoll
Principal

Warner Takes STEAM by Storm

By Valentina Chan, Alexander Nguyen, Helen Pham and Ngan Tran, from Warner Journalism

STEAM is a program whereby students can extend their knowledge in the vast fields of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Warner's new building features STEAM as a standard curriculum, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate a variety of skills necessary for success in tomorrow's economy.

Warner's new classrooms are wired for modern technology.

Their open design encourages opportunities for grouping, centers, and collaboration. Science classrooms are structured to accommodate direct instruction and independent study, with additional areas for labs and group work. This infrastructure mirrors modern businesses, and helps Warner students build a skill-set for innovation and invention.



Warner students acknowledge and appreciate the new learning environment this building provides. Its spacious structure allows for easy access to advanced equipment in an enhanced 21st-century facility.

Another milestone is added to Warner's long timeline; it's a truly modern makeover. Full STEAM ahead!

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Students Step Up to Stop Bullying.

By Alyssa Ortega, Student – 8th Grade

Stacey School students had an opportunity to partner with Bully Awareness Resistance Education (BARE) to develop an anti-bullying club on campus. The launch event took place on September 30, with videos and speakers to get students motivated to join our new Stacey Anti-Bullying Club (ABC). Over 110 students showed up after school to attend this event.

Todd Aimer, one of the speakers, teaches at a local martial arts studio. He informed the students about the dangers of bullying and how to develop self-confidence. The other presenter, Eddy Newton, who suffers from a rare condition known as NF-1, helped students appreciate themselves.

The ABC Club provides leadership and kindness. Our mission is to make each student feel included. ABC is run by two incredible teachers, Mr. Yohn and Mrs. Valverde. We look forward to many more inspirational events.



Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

The Webber Family

I hope you are enjoying the first few months of school with your children. Every year brings new excitement and new challenges to work on as a family.

This fall, Webber is proud to present the “Family Stories” and “Parenting Partners” parent education programs. All parents are welcome to attend. In these sessions we learn how to work with those students who are struggling with reading, homework, discipline or self-esteem issues.

These workshops empower our parents to help their children improve in overall school success. We learn how to make reading fun and enjoyable. It is also a good opportunity to meet other parents, create a family scrapbook, and learn more about our school.

In many of the parent literacy sessions we will also share information about fluency, reading comprehension, DIBELS, EL, ELD, district benchmarks, sight words, and so much more.

These series of workshops have been inspiring to our parents. I hope to continue seeing more parents participate in our Parenting Partners and Latino Literacy workshops later this year!



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Common Core State Standards

History teachers often have students identify and discuss what are termed “watershed” events. Watershed is defined as an event or period making a turning point in a course of action... it is a time when an important change happens and thus shifts an established direction. As we look at the landscape of public education, one might say the adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) would fit that definition. Schools across the nation are preparing for the evolution of the standards-based instruction movement that began in the 1990s.

The key phrase is “evolution;” the change to CCSS is simply just that.

When the state governors convened and began the talk of Common Core State Standards, they quickly turned to California to find a model of content standards that was both rigorous and had been established and tested. The new CCSS in mathematics and language arts are largely based on the content standards our students and teachers have been using for teaching and learning over the past decade (more than 70 percent in each academic area). While CCSS will have a deeper focus and allow for a greater correlation to college and career, they will still have the same rigor to which our schools are accustomed. Even with the coming curriculum change, the most dynamic research for student achievement still focuses on a teacher providing quality instruction and a student being an engaged learner.

Recently I was able to hear two of our district’s very best teachers, Lissie Barro and Kendra Rosales, present to their colleagues on the Common Core. As all great teachers are able to do, the eager audience immediately was taken back to the Latin root of the words: common meaning “shared” and core meaning “heart.” Ahh, yes, good teaching at its very best! They used real-world instructional examples in literature and algebra to help explain the concept of that “shared heart.” For so many teachers, the CCSS will represent the ability to share the subject matter that is a part of their “personal core.” In other words, the daily desire teachers demonstrate to have their students share a passion and a love for learning in the world they find so powerful, this is at the core of our work.

Over the coming months our district will provide opportunities through Parent University, PTSA, and our district Web site for families to learn more about the CCSS. I know the principals at each of our schools have also made it a priority to communicate with their school communities about what we are learning from our own California State Department of Education. Most recently, the state has decided that in lieu of the traditional Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing this spring, districts will have a chance to pilot the new form of testing for CCSS known as Smarter Balance.

In our global society, today’s students must be prepared to compete in ways that we cannot even fully imagine yet. Something as simple as the iPhone might seem to many as “having always been here.” It has been a part of our daily world for less than seven years. The changes in how our students work, interact, think, and collaborate will evolve at a rate that might be difficult to comprehend. I just hope they remember to stop on occasion and remember the special people who brought them into this world...just like we all helped our parents program their state-of-the-art VCRs!

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Bonnie P. Castrey
President

Sharpened Skills

When I wrote this column at the completion of the 2012–2013 school year, I told the story of the two woodsmen and the lesson learned of sharpening the tools in one’s tool chest in order to remain current and productive. I suggested that teachers in Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) would be busy with lifelong learning and sharpening their teaching skills, that administrators would be refreshing their leadership skills, and that all staff would be preparing for the 2013–2014 school year. It’s been a busy time for all of us, including the Board, with learning about and understanding the new state funding and accountability for education, preparing for Common Core State Standards, and generally retooling for the 2013–2014 school year.

Let me share with you just one of the many examples of our fine staff “sharpening” their tools and continuing their lifelong learning in order to improve their skills and the learning opportunities for our students.

As background, our district is a member of a Joint Powers Agreement with four other districts that form the Coastline Regional Occupation Program (ROP), and at this time I am honored to serve as the HBUHSD Board Representative to the ROP Board.

At the September meeting of the ROP Board, Merry Kim, a staff member of Coastline ROP, shared with the Board information regarding a summer grant-funded project where teachers were funded in an externship experience in industry for their professional development. Eighteen teachers and community college instructors had the opportunity to participate in two projects. Andy Brown, the math facilitator for HBUHSD and a teacher at Westminster High School, participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Electric Guitar Making Workshop.

This workshop highlighted the teaching of science, technology, engineering, and math through the design, construction, and analysis of an electric guitar. I would add Art and make the acronym STEAM, as the guitar which Mr. Brown created is artistically beautiful and sounds fabulous.

In addition to the cross-curricular learning strategies, this program created an opportunity for teachers to establish meaningful relationships with business leaders and college instructors. These relationships will likely be maintained and create future opportunities for collaboration, learning, and sharpening of the tools necessary to effectively teach our students. With rigorous and relevant curriculum, hands-on application of the principles implants the principles firmly for our students and supports true learning.

Finally, I have enjoyed sharing thoughts about education with you all over this past year while president of the HBUHSD. The next column will be written by the next president of HBUHSD Board of Trustees. I believe that educating and nurturing our students, both the young and mature students, is one of our most important functions as a community. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.



Jasmine Ruiz
Student Representative

Homecoming!

It’s Homecoming Season for the Huntington Beach Unified High School District! From picking out dresses and tuxes, to deciding the perfect theme, the high schools have been busy planning the perfect Homecoming Dance and a memorable Homecoming football game.

Many themes this year revolved around Halloween, including Edison, Ocean View, and Huntington High, whose dance theme was “A Nightmare on Main Street.” Each of these schools created a ghostly night. Ocean View, Huntington, and Fountain Valley’s dances were all on October 12th, Edison’s dance was on October 5th and Westminster’s Homecoming is on October 19th. Marina High School’s Homecoming football game made history with the first transgender Homecoming Queen in the nation! Each of the other Homecoming queens from each school also looked great while being awarded their crowns and it will truly be a night to remember.

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Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Two Big Changes

By Susan Torres, Assistant Principal

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.

—Douglas Adams, from *The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul*

This quote could well have been said by many students who come to Coast High School, one of several options that are available as an alternative to the typical comprehensive high school.

Most students matriculate to these large campuses at the beginning of their high school journey. But along the way, some find that, for one reason or another, these behemoth campuses are not meeting their needs. There are a number of reasons why students request the Coast Independent Study program, but they have all found Coast to be the place that makes school work for them at last.

This year we will be introducing two important changes to help make Coast an even more exciting option for students. The first is that our students will be experiencing, for the first time, new online classes blended with one-on-one instruction and support. We are currently transitioning to full implementation of this new online curriculum called Edgenuity. It will give our students access to engaging, high-quality resources, and also allow our teachers to truly personalize the learning experience.

Instant Feedback

Edgenuity courses combine rigorous content (aligned with the new Common Core State Standards) with direct-instruction videos, multimedia, interactive learning tools, and other resources to help engage and motivate the students.

These courses also embed supports and scaffolds into every lesson so that every student can be successful. Online learning allows teachers to be more connected to their students. They can monitor progress and give almost instant feedback to ensure that every student can attain success on a daily basis.

The second exciting change is that students who are coming to the end of their high school experience, but don't have enough credits to graduate on time, will now have the option of transferring to Coast to receive a Coast High School diploma. They can do so up until the age of 21, so long as they remain continuously enrolled at Coast prior to their 18th birthday.

This is great news for students who perhaps were not as motivated in their earlier years in high school, but have had a change of heart and want a regular high school diploma. It provides another option to the adult school diploma or GED.

Students in these circumstances, and who are interested in continuing their pursuit of a diploma, must meet with their high school administrator to request a transfer to Coast. Perhaps they will discover that Coast High School is indeed "where they needed to be" all along!

Community Day School

1022 Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/799-1414 • www.hbuhd.org



Steve Curiel
Principal

New Changes, New Additions

By Dennis Herzog

School Psychologist and Administrative Designee

Community Day School (CDS) has had a very exciting beginning to the school year. Several significant changes occurred over the summer, including three staff changes. Mr. Lamar was promoted to assistant principal at Fountain Valley High School. We are proud of him and wish him the best. Betty Tran is a teacher new to our school this year. She has a very strong background in teaching all levels of mathematics. Ashley La is a school counselor who will be with CDS one day a week.

Ms. La works two days a week as a counselor at Westminster High School. The third personnel change will involve the hiring of a technology assistant who will continue to assist our staff and students as we move into blended online instruction. The three new staff members will be replacing three staff members who left over the summer, and we know they will be welcome additions to our school.



Getting an Edge Up

Another important change is the utilization of an online instructional program called Edgenuity. Edgenuity provides a full high school curriculum, is Common Core aligned, and is able to provide detailed information about student progress that was not possible to do before. We are currently using Edgenuity in several subject areas at Community Day School and anticipate the expansion of blended online program opportunities for our students as the year progresses. Students will be given the chance to advance their learning at a more rapid pace, earn more school credits while they are in school, and have the option of taking more advanced courses. The goal is for more students to be able to graduate using a combination of direct classroom instruction and blended online programming in our nontraditional school setting.

Our student council has been selected for the year, with three representatives from each classroom. The student council is already planning activities for the school year, including a spirit day and a dance. Back to School Night was held in late October.

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Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

New Science Standards

By Rodney Raschke, Assistant Principal

California is one of the latest states to adopt the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS). These new standards call for more project-based, hands-on activities than the old state standards. The biggest change is the shift from the memorization of facts to students being able to explain why something happened. The intent is to better prepare students for college and careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

This change aligns with the Common Core State Standards in other areas. Students will read complex text, draw conclusions, and support their conclusions by citing evidence from the text. Science teachers at Edison High School are preparing for this by examining their course content and adjusting their lessons to address these changes. Edison is working closely with local agencies to develop partnerships to provide our students with access to state-of-the-art technology.

In early October Edison science staff was asked to bring a small group of students to the Maker's Depot at the Orange County Great Park as part of the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. Our students were impressed with the solar homes. One student said, "I can see myself being part of the design team when I am in college." Maker's Depot is an innovation center where students have access to a variety of new technologies, such as 3-D printers and parts for robots. The ultimate goal is to develop a mini Maker's Depot at Edison.

In order to do this, the Science Department is actively seeking grants from local foundations and the California Department of Education. Edison is also working with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) to share curriculum to support the NGSS. Edison teachers are confident that by incorporating NGSS they will better prepare students for the STEM careers of the 21st century.



Teachers Cabrera and Gardiner with students at Solar Decathlon

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

College Readiness: Going Big at Fountain Valley High School

There's a lot of talk in high schools these days about college readiness. With the transition to Common Core State Standards, schools are shifting their focus to preparing all students for college, careers, and citizenship rather than separating out the college-bound from the rest. Given that our school's mission is "maximizing learning for every student," this fits.

On Wednesday, October 16, Fountain Valley High School (FVHS) made a bold move to emphasize college readiness. We administered college prep exams to every ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grader during the school day. Typically, these exams are offered on the weekends for fees ranging from \$10-\$20. Ninth-graders took ACT's EXPLORE exam, 10th-graders took ACT's PLAN test, and 11th-graders took The College Board's Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Students, parents and school staff will receive valuable information regarding each student's current level of readiness for college and for their high school courses.

Perhaps equally important is simply taking that step to think about life beyond high school. Most of our students say they are going to college, but these tests are concrete steps towards taking charge of their educational progress. Moreover, this may be the only academic feedback from a state or national level test that students will receive this year. Special parent nights will be held in December and January to review the score reports.

FVHS used to offer the PSAT test on a Saturday for \$20. Typically 250-350 students took the exam. Last year, we chose to offer the PSAT during the school day, but as an option and for a fee. Nearly 700 students paid to take the exam. So we got to thinking, "This is great. Twice as many students are going to be getting important information about college. What if we just offered it to all the juniors and found a way to pay for it?" And so the current plan was hatched. Luckily, ACT also has a great tool for freshmen and sophomores, so we can get everyone involved.

So what about seniors? Seniors were treated to a College and Career Fair in the FVHS gym that included over 40 representatives from colleges, universities, and businesses. Students listened to presentations from Dr. Gregory Washington, Dean of the Samueli School of Engineering at University of California, Irvine, and Road Trip Nation about setting goals and following dreams.

FVHS College and Career Specialist Michaela Wakeman is excited for this event. She noted, "All students will get back college and career information and get literature from colleges. It might spark an interest or open a door for a lot of students."

I would like to recognize the following people for the huge amount of planning it took to pull off an event of this magnitude: Assistant Principal Nancy Peterson, College/Career Specialist Michaela Wakeman, Community Resource Coordinator Sharen Tait, and Coastline Regional Occupational Program Coordinator Marvene Sanders.

This was big. Now 2,700 students at FVHS have taken a bigger step towards college readiness, and 900 seniors are more informed about the world they are about to enter.

Are you looking for this logo
for the contest on page 14?



Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

The Doorway to Lifelong Learning

By Tracy Foreman, Career Tech Coordinator

Adult education is the key to lifelong learning, and a transition pathway for students from high school to the community college system. The Huntington Beach Adult School offers a variety of programs to help students reach their educational, training, career and personal goals. It offers courses and workshops for students of all ages.

In today's economic climate, HBAS is a catalyst for students to begin their journey of career training and/or vocational growth.

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

Our HBAS students come first in terms of providing comprehensive academic programs relevant to the local workforce. We offer several career-technical programs that can help them enter the workforce well-prepared in the field of their choice.

For example, we currently offer certificates of program completion for the data entry clerk, administrative assistant, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, and (our newly added program) medical billing and coding professions. Our certificate programs can not only train you for a new job, they can also help you find one. We offer a wealth of technical education and job-training programs and classes, many of which include externships.

New Career Horizons

The CTE has seen tremendous growth in both the 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, and which has made our administrative assistant and data entry programs 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 provide accessible and affordable higher education to our community. In addition to the 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 help the students when they make their 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 recognized by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 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. You can explore our Web site at www.hbas.edu, or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/huntingtonbeachadulthoodschool

Huntington Beach *High School*

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Dr. Rocky Murray
Principal

No Teacher Left Behind

By Nicholas Schwab, Teacher

The real role of leadership in education—and I think it's true at the national level, the state level, at the school level—is not and should not be command and control. The real role of leadership is climate control, creating a climate of possibility. And if you do that, people will rise to it and achieve things that you completely did not anticipate and couldn't have expected.

—Sir Ken Robinson

This quote comes from last year's *TED Talks Education* special. Earlier in the talk, Sir Ken mentioned that great teaching in the United States exists "in spite of the dominant culture of education, not because of it." This simple yet profound statement struck me because I found it to be not only incredibly true but also enormously dangerous. Over the past decade, teachers have constantly been on the defensive, dealing with mandate after mandate. It is past time for teachers to reclaim the profession and fight for the educational principles and policies that make sense. We decided to do exactly that at Huntington Beach High School.

Last year, I was introduced to an online system that revolutionized the way I run my classes. Finally, the years of promises of educational technology became reality. Along with Google Apps for Education, I started using a free version of the learning management system (LMS) Canvas. This system allowed me to efficiently communicate with my students, provide instruction and feedback in new ways, and push students to be directly in control of their own learning. These tools allow me to use my time with students in a more meaningful way while helping them communicate and learn in the ways necessary to be successful after high school. After seeing the impact it made in the way I taught and the way students could learn, I decided to help push our school toward using technology more effectively and efficiently.

At the end of the last school year, two other teachers in the district—Chris Long and Brian Boone—and I created an online training course, using Canvas, to help teachers learn how to use Canvas at their own pace. Teachers voluntarily enrolled and spent time over the summer working their way through the various levels. By the end of the summer, we had over 250 teachers from our district enrolled in the course and taking part in the direction our profession is headed.

Good Climate Encourages Actualizing Ideas

Because of the overwhelming interest from teachers at HBHS, our principal, Dr. Rocky Murray, provided time for technology training during the two days of staff development meetings at the beginning of this school year. During this training, teachers helped other teachers learn how to effectively use this new technology. With the teacher-led training in place, HBHS implemented Google Apps accounts for all students and started using Canvas as its official LMS. By the end of September, nearly 80 percent of teachers at HBHS were voluntarily using Canvas. At the beginning of October, the district announced an agreement to purchase the paid version of Canvas. This shows the influence teachers can have when they proactively impact their profession.

What we learned through this process is that change isn't the hard part; creating the right environment for change is the real challenge. This transition has been messy, but messy can be good. With a major transition in public education occurring, schools need to embrace messiness. The major leap forward in educational technology at HBHS shows that teachers are not resistant to change but rather are hungry for progress and have been waiting for the right opportunity.

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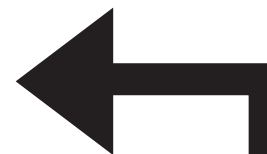
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Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Gallery on the Green

Our new art teacher, Michele Delanty, believes that art is a universal language that can unite people by sharing individual expression with others. A quote from JFK greets each student who enters her classroom: "All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have the equal opportunity to develop our talents."

Michele firmly believes that each student has the potential to express themselves artistically, and that art skills can be learned. She is also convinced that the interaction inherent in art instruction helps students develop important life skills, including accountability, problem solving, collaboration, non-verbal communication, the ability to receive constructive feedback, and perseverance.



Students and teachers enjoying the art on display.

One of her students, Kristen, said that, "She motivates us through demonstrations and giving us individual attention when you get stuck." Another student, Mackenzie, says, "I couldn't draw a stick figure, but Ms. Delanty breaks the work down, and I find that I can really do this. She brings out our potential that we didn't even know existed."

Lauren adds, "I never thought I was good at art, and said I didn't like it, but now that I'm learning techniques of contrast and shading, I really like art."

Delanty describes her goals this way. "I hope that when my students are out of school, they will rely not only on their own knowledge, but on their own creativity to find their own answers."

Life Lessons

In addition to continuing to support other core courses with integrative art assignments, Delanty has also initiated the "Gallery on the Green" program to showcase her students' creative accomplishments. Every few months the school will display our student works on our grass-covered central quad.

The program has also included dance, and the next one will include sonnets and other written works by students from our English classes. We also plan to add additional forms of creative expression to this public forum.

The personal power of art as a non-verbal life-lesson is evident in a special program for the spring semester called The Memory Project. This is a national program where art students create portraits of the children and teens living in orphanages around the world. The portraits are then given to the children as a keepsake.

The young artists who are participating in this program not only enhance their own art skills, they also experience the power of art to sensitively and strongly communicate positive emotions. They learn to make connections with each other, with teachers, with their school, and with very different communities.

Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

College and Career Focus

"With the growing complexity of the world and the increasing demands of the 21st-century workforce, there is little question that all students should graduate from high school fully prepared for college AND careers."

— Achieve Inc., Washington D.C.

Here at the Home of the Vikings, we understand that college and career readiness means that high school students have the English and math knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in their chosen colleges and careers, including community colleges, universities, technical/vocational programs, apprenticeships, or significant on-the-job training.

To be college- and career-ready, we believe that high school graduates must have studied a rigorous and broad curriculum, grounded in the core academic disciplines, but also consisting of other subjects that are part of a well-rounded education. Research indicates that academic preparation alone is not enough to ensure postsecondary readiness, but it is clear that it is an essential part of readiness for college, careers, and life in the 21st century.

In an effort to prepare all students for college and career readiness, Marina High School (MHS) is focusing on a continuum of services for both students and parents. The 2013–2014 school year began with an evening for parents: "Making High School Meaningful and College Possible: It Starts Today." A guest speaker from Princeton Review discussed the finer points of college admissions and also addressed the importance of the Explore, Act Plan and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude (PSAT) tests. For the first time, MHS offered a school-wide testing day for ninth- through 11th-graders in October. These tests identify early indicators for college and career readiness. The PSAT, taken by juniors, also recognizes students for potential scholarship opportunities. December 4 (Explore and PLAN), and January 13 (PSAT) are scheduled testing interpretation nights to discuss the results and to offer an opportunity for questions and answers from MHS staff and a representative from Princeton Review.

To serve all students, we are hosting several evening presentations aligned with our classroom presentations. The development of the freshmen four-year plan begins in November with our counselor classroom visits. The information gathered on the Explore will assist with high school course planning and future college/career discussions.

December is an important month for our seniors. The process of completing and submitting college applications continues. A financial aid presentation will review the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and offer tips for searching for scholarship opportunities.

We are excited to offer ongoing opportunities for all students to explore different avenues toward college and career readiness.

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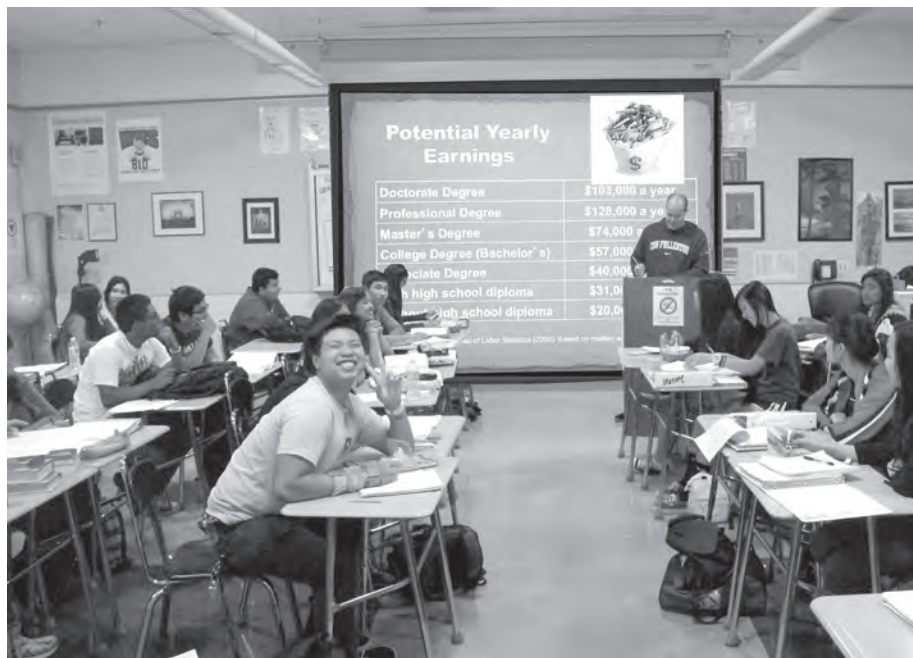


Owen Crosby
Principal

Guidevisement

Understandably, our students and parents have a number of questions about high school graduation requirements and what options exist after high school. A student's four-year plan, college options and majors, application timelines, admissions requirements, NCAA eligibility, along with future career options, are always normal issues where students need guidance and advice.

Teachers play an important role in this regard as resources and role models. A few years ago, Nancy Peterson (the assistant principal of guidance at Fountain Valley High School) combined the activities of guidance and advisement into an activity that we call "Guidevisement." This is where our teachers, in collaboration with the guidance administrators, provide relevant information to help students make appropriate choices for their post-secondary education.



Westminster High School had its fall Guidevisement on Friday, October 11, during the double-fourth periods. Melissa Chan-Nauli, assistant principal of guidance, created two PowerPoint presentations about post-secondary topics for the teachers to discuss with their students. There was one each for the 9/10 and 11/12 grades.

The teachers handed out four-year plans to the ninth-, tenth- and eleventh-graders, and the seniors received a checklist of recommendations for applying to colleges or obtaining financial aid. Index cards were also handed out to students for their feedback, and any additional questions they would like to ask. The goal of Guidevisement is to encourage every student to explore their post-high school options at a community college, a four-year school, vocational training, or an apprenticeship.

Our students found the activity very rewarding and educational. We look forward to the spring semester Guidevisement, with topics that will include scholarship information, financial aid, career/vocational options, and class registration.

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

Holiday Happenings



Connie Boardman
Mayor

This winter and holiday season will be a busy time for Surf City. While this time of the year is very busy with school and seasonal commitments, 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 1 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.



One of our favorite holiday events, the Cruise of Lights Boat Tour, presented by the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee, will be having its 51st 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 14 through the 23. Cruise times are 5:30 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (714) 840-7542 or visit www.cruiseoflights.org.

For more information about these events or any other events happening in Surf City, please visit www.surfcityusa.com. Have a great holiday season and a happy new year!

City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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

Watch All Ways, Whether Child or Adult!



Mark McCurdy
Mayor

The Fountain Valley community has done a great job at making our students a top priority. As our children make their way to and from school, let's remember to be alert and conscientious when driving near schools.

The Fountain Valley Police Department is committed to keeping our students safe and is focusing its enforcement efforts on speed and crosswalk violations near school-related intersections. Please pay attention to crossing guards, as they are there to help our children safely cross the street. Ignoring the presence and direction of a crossing guard is illegal and dangerous. School crossing times are from 7 a.m. to 8:35 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

With the onslaught of cars in our residential tracts during these peak hours, I think it's important to be good neighbors to folks who live on streets near our schools. Blocking driveways, speeding and double-parking are problems that crop up every year. Please consider carpooling or walking children to school.

I express my thanks for making our community's children your top priority. Also, let me compliment and thank all crossing guards for the great job they do. Have a great school year, Fountain Valley!

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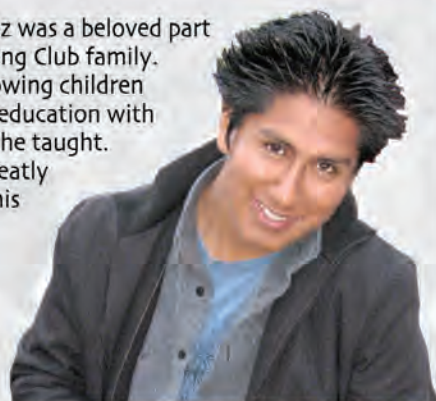
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-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &
Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)

Alex Martinez was a beloved part
of our Tutoring Club family.
He loved showing children
the value of education with
every lesson he taught.
He will be greatly
missed, but his
spirit will
always be
with us.



Alex Gabriel Martinez
6/4/1981 - 8/21/2013

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