

FREE

# School News

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

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 58

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014

## 21st Century Middle Schools

By Trish Montgomery,  
Public Information Officer  
Westminster School District

The exciting transformations of Westminster School District's three middle schools, Johnson, Stacey and Warner, are nearing completion. Thanks to the funding provided by Measure O, a bond measure that voters passed, we are significantly enhancing the quality of education our students receive. The new facilities at our middle schools are enabling our students and staff to leap into 21st century learning.

### New Science and Technology Buildings

The new two-story Science and Technology Buildings at all three middle schools have been designed with highly flexible spaces that offer unique, "hands-on" environments geared toward student-centered instruction. Organized into integrated creative, digital, discovery and exploration studios for the arts, technology, shop and science programs respectively,



6th, 7th, & 8th grade students in Ms. Felicia Stucken's Art Survey Class at Warner Middle School. The class is part of the STEAM program.

the facilities offer a variety of spaces and room sizes that range from the intimate – such as digital and recording studios – to large, open spaces for interactive lectures and group projects. All spaces are easily reconfigurable with mobile furniture to suit the

ever-changing needs of the District's evolving educational program. Second floor science labs have separate lecture and experiment zones, resource rooms with specialized equipment, and rooms for smaller group discussions and presentations.

### Outdoor Learning Spaces

The concept, "everywhere a student goes on campus should be an opportunity to learn," is exemplified in the new Outdoor Learning Spaces. In addition to new outdoor spaces where classrooms, small groups of students or individual students can go to work on projects, the spaces themselves provide learning opportunities. For example, the pathways between buildings and the hardscape around buildings include words and phrases stamped into the concrete relating to the primary focus of the particular learning space. There are music scales and concepts relating to music and composition outside the music classrooms. There are science terms outside the new science classroom buildings. Long pathways show the relationship between feet and meters. All the outdoor spaces also have wireless internet (Wi-Fi) access

See 21ST CENTURY • Page 21

## Our Priceless Volunteers



Michael Vo  
Mayor  
Fountain Valley

As we begin 2013 and reflect upon some of our New Year's resolutions, I think of the many times I have observed community volunteers reach out to make the lives of others better. Volunteerism is truly an admirable quality, and what better time to make a commitment to help serve others?

In Fountain Valley, we are blessed and surrounded with community volunteers who want to give back to those in need or serve others by sitting on various city committees, commissions or Boards, assisting at the Center at Founders Village doing office work or serving food at the lunch program, serving as a member of our police department in the Reserve Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), or volunteering with the Fountain Valley Fire Department–Fire Inspection Retired Seniors Taskforce (FIRST) program.

We also have the Fountain Valley Community Foundation to help promote and fund community programs and events. The foundation offers sponsors and contributors a non-profit organization with tax exempt 501(c)3 status. Contact Community Services Manager Mark Nix at (714) 593-4449 for more information.

Volunteers save the city thousands of dollars by performing necessary tasks. Fountain Valley has many churches, sports programs, and service clubs offering services and assistance to the community. We encourage you to volunteer.

Volunteers are not paid but are "priceless." So make that New Year's resolution and commitment to volunteer and see the results of your actions.

You will be glad you did!



Matthew Harper  
Mayor  
Huntington Beach

## An Even Better Place to Live

The holiday season is over, and winter is upon us. I was appointed Mayor of Huntington Beach in December, and I, like many other people, made many New Year's resolutions. One of my resolutions this year is to make Huntington Beach an even better place to live.

One of my New Year's resolutions as Mayor is to encourage more feedback from the citizens of Huntington Beach. How can you become educated on these decisions and involved in your community? Well, first I suggest that you check out the city's Web site, [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov). This site will connect you to city council meetings and agendas, city departments, and other organizations within the city. Through the Web site, you are also able to e-mail me or any other city council members.

You can also attend a city council meeting. City council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month in the City Council Chambers at 2000 Main Street. The meetings start at 6 p.m. and are also webcast for those who don't subscribe to cable television or Fios.

As you learn more about the city, please take the time to educate your children as well, because someday they will be in charge of making decisions for Huntington Beach.

Happy 2014!

Thank you for including *School News* in your reading choices.

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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



Happy New Year!

Beginnings are always filled with hope. A new year is much like blank pages in a book waiting to be filled. Here's to a great year as you fill your pages and we continue to bring you the excellence from these fine districts. Beginning with the March 12 issue Huntington Beach City School District will be included.

In addition to the school articles you have responded overwhelmingly to the FV Hospital, Miller Children's Hospital and Mayor's informative articles. Of course, the contests are favorites and we have two in this issue!

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## RSV Infections



**Kenneth Kim**  
M.D.  
Medical Director,  
Pediatric ICU

Almost all children have a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection by their second birthday. In most cases RSV causes only minor cold-like symptoms. Some children may develop more severe infections that require hospitalization.

RSV is spread through infectious respiratory secretions that are inhaled or passed through direct contact. The virus also can live for hours on toys or door handles. The peak RSV season starts in the fall and ends in the spring.

Signs of RSV usually appear about 4-6 days after exposure to the virus. Older children typically have a runny nose and decrease in appetite. Coughing, sneezing and a low-grade fever may develop 1-3 days later. The only signs of RSV in very young

infants could be irritability, decreased activity, and problems with breathing. Full recovery from RSV takes about 1-2 weeks.

Severe cases of RSV can lead to infections such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia. Hospitalization may be necessary for infants who require intravenous fluids, supplemental oxygen, suctioning of mucus from the airways, or a breathing machine to ease breathing. Antibiotics may be administered for bacterial complications.

Children at increased risk for developing severe cases of RSV include:

- Infants under 6 months old
- Babies under 1 year old born prematurely or with congenital heart or lung disease
- Children with weakened immune systems from a medical condition or treatment

There is no specific treatment or vaccine for RSV. Symptoms can be relieved by creating moist air to breathe, sitting in an upright position, drinking fluids, avoiding exposure to cigarette smoke, and using saline nasal drops or over-the-counter pain relievers to reduce fever and relieve a sore throat. A medication called palivizumab may be prescribed for children at increased risk for serious complications from RSV. The drug does not stop RSV infections, but it can prevent severe cases from developing.

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# Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach

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## Know About Food Allergy Signs



**Divya Joshi, MD**  
Chief Medical  
Officer

Recent studies have shown that nearly 1 in 20 young children under the age of 5, and almost 1 in 25 adults are allergic to at least one food. Researchers also estimate that up to 15 million U.S. citizens have food allergies, and in 2008, a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that there was an 18 percent jump in food allergies between 1997 and 2007.

A food allergy is an irregular immune response to a certain food that the body reacts to as harmful. A food allergy occurs when the immune system mistakenly targets a harmless food protein – an allergen – as a threat and attacks it.

An allergic reaction to food can affect the skin, the gastrointestinal tract (stomach and bowel), the respiratory tract and, in the most serious cases, the cardiovascular system. Reactions can range from mild to severe, including the potentially life-threatening condition known as anaphylaxis, which may threaten breathing.

More than 160 foods can cause allergic reactions; however, the CDC lists just eight foods that cause 90 percent of these reactions. Those eight food types are wheat, soybeans, fish, shellfish, eggs, cow's milk, peanuts and tree nuts.

The most common food allergy symptoms include:

- Tingling or itching in the mouth
- Hives, itching or eczema (skin breakout)
- Swelling of the lips, face, tongue and throat, or other parts of the body
- Wheezing, nasal congestion or trouble breathing
- Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting
- Shock with a severe drop in blood pressure
- Rapid pulse

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To determine if your child has a food allergy, ask your child's physician. The physician will ask questions about your child's medical history to gain a better understanding of what food may be affecting your child. The physician may conduct tests to identify what foods your child is allergic to. The most common of these tests are so-called skin prick tests and blood tests. If the allergy is severe enough your child may need to complete oral food challenges and trial elimination diets.

But remember, once you get good control of your child food allergies, you will find a sense of balance and normalcy in your lives and will learn to live, and live well, with food allergies.



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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marc Ecker**

### State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson Visits FVSD

The Fountain Valley School District received a call from our State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, asking if he might be able to visit the school district and observe the exemplary instructional programs that have been the cause of the district's outstanding academic achievement. Mr. Torlakson had the opportunity to visit Cox Elementary and Talbert Middle School as well as the district offices.

During his visit to Cox School the Superintendent toured the campus led by the principal, Patrick Ham. He saw small group differentiated instruction with students rotating through reinforcement centers when not meeting directly with the teacher. He viewed the S.T. Math lab where kindergarten students were working on their math skills. He saw classroom writing projects and student seeking text-based evidence from recently purchased materials.

At Talbert Middle School, the State Superintendent was able to visit the STEM Pilot program. His tour guide was principal Cara Robinson and they followed a group of students who were in possession of recently purchased chromebooks. He observed how these students accessed information beyond the walls of the classroom as part of the teaching learning process. Mr. Torlakson spoke with several of the teachers in the pilot and even had the opportunity to meet with science teacher John Wood, one of the 2012 finalists for California Teacher of the Year.

Upon returning to the district office, the Superintendent spoke briefly with fourth grade teachers in a Common Core State Standards training. He shared his strong support for the training they were receiving and thanked them for their service in delivering very important quality instruction to their students. He praised their dedication and commitment to improving their own skills and talents. It was indeed a wonderful visit and a great opportunity for Fountain Valley to share its success with our State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

## Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • [www.fvef.org](http://www.fvef.org)

## Join the Foundation in Supporting Our Schools



**Nicola Weiss**  
*President*

Great News! The California Department of Education recently nominated three of our schools — Courreges Elementary, Gisler Elementary and Newland Elementary — for the 2014 California Distinguished School Awards!

The Fountain Valley School District consistently has the best academic scores among the 13 K-8 school districts in our county. No wonder real estate agents knock on our doors asking if you would move to make room for another family that is eager to benefit from our topnotch schools!

Surprisingly, the Fountain Valley School District receives about the lowest state funding per student of all the school districts in Orange County. We still receive fewer dollars per student than we did in 2007-2008, and this after six years of rapid cost increases in areas like health insurance and energy. Eighty-five percent of the teachers' desktop computers are over four years old due to postponed updates!

The Fountain Valley Educational Foundation protects our families' investments in this community by assuring that our schools and children have what they need to lead in academic achievement. We raise money to fund an enriched education that includes science, technology, and music subjects; and all with the help of classroom technology tools that prepare today's children for the demands of a new world economy. But we need your help!

Join us and become a sponsor for the 10th-annual Taste of Fountain Valley event on Saturday, February 8, to be held at 5:30 pm in The Center at the Founder's Village Senior and Community Center. Go to [www.FVEF.org](http://www.FVEF.org) and follow the Taste of Fountain Valley links! Or call Nicola at 714-235-3523.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

### Great Excitement in 2014

As we enter 2014, there is great excitement as we look to what is happening in the education community: Local Control Funding Formula and Common Core State Standards.

Each of these provides new challenges for school districts. While it is exciting to have Local Control, it comes with more than a few strings. Not everyone will receive equal funding, and the control is not completely in the local Board's hands. There are many new terms like base funding, concentration grants, and supplemental funding. They are also talking about accountability and transparency. There is still the foggy area of "the plan" or Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). We hear that the template is due in January. Thankfully most are not waiting for the template but are beginning their plan now. All in all, this is a great concept that is yet to be completely fleshed out. This is the challenge of modern education.

Common Core State Standards are another story. With the Common Core, there is a real shift in the approach to learning. Increasing emphasis is on informational text, real-life relevance, and specific references to digital media and graphic arts. Language arts and math will no longer be taught alone. These areas will work together to build stronger applications to the modern world and the workplace. This is a real step into the future. There is excitement in the ranks of teachers as they approach this new challenge.

I am proud to say that Fountain Valley is busy with our stakeholders drawing up a framework for our plan. We are also offering training for our teachers for the Common Core. There is an excitement in what we are doing for the future of our students. We are meeting the challenge.

### Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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**Chris Christensen**  
*Principal*

## Courreges Raises \$50K

Courreges students raised nearly \$50,000 at their recent jog-a-thon held on November 7, 2013. The jog-a-thon is the PTA's primary fundraiser for the year that funds nearly all of their sponsored programs such as ST Math, Accelerated Reader, field trips, curriculum enhancement, and technology upgrades. A special thank you to Monica Maytorena, JAT Coordinator, who worked countless hours organizing and planning the event. Thank you Monica!



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

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



**Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Healthy Choices

The teachers and staff at Cox Elementary School are invested in implementing a new health-and-wellness program that will promote exercise and healthy food choices for our students. This program has two components. First, during lunch, students are encouraged to participate in three Noon League sports tournaments with their upper-grade homeroom for each trimester.

This year, Cox students are participating in flag football, dodge ball and soccer. Second, students are encouraged to eat more fruits and vegetables during lunch.

Every Wednesday morning, the principal, Mr. Ham, announces to the entire school healthy nutritional facts and a trivia question by which students can earn cool and healthy prizes. Cox teachers act as role models in this endeavor. In the cafeteria, you will see posters of Cox teachers modeling healthy lunch choices for our students.'



**Teri Langston & Jessica O'Malley: Cox 1st Grade Teachers model the importance of eating an apple at lunch.**

# 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*

## Winter Music Concert

Fulton Middle School's new instrumental music program is off to a fantastic start. Under the direction of Mr. Solomon Katz,

the Fulton Band, Orchestra and Symphony presented their Winter Music Concert on Thursday, December 12, 2013. The students donned professional performance attire of white tops and black bottoms with splashes of holiday cheer. The audience overflowed with proud parents and supporters of the music program. Several students introduced musical selections with background information about the composer. This year's musical selections included Aura Lee, First Chorale, Rondo and Country Dance along with holiday favorites of Jingle Bells, My Dredyl, Up on the Housetop and a specially arranged Christmas in Concert medley. Congratulations again to our performers, parents and to Mr. Katz for a wonderful way to enjoy the holiday season.





# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • [www.regs-fvsvd-caschoolloop.com](http://www.regs-fvsvd-caschoolloop.com)



**Erin Bains**  
*Principal*

### New Mural

Our Gisler playground is sporting a new look! Thanks to the hard work of 2nd and 3rd grade parent, Don Crossett and his crew we have a new Gator mural to play handball with. Mr. Crossett wanted to add some color, pizzazz and school spirit for the students and it is definitely one of the first things you notice as you drive down the street. Mr. Crossett worked after school and on the weekends and was able to have all the paint for the project donated. Our entire school and community benefit from the dedication of parents like Don and his wife. Thank you for such a wonderful addition to our school!



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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • [www.wtnes-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.wtnes-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Chris Mullin**  
*Principal*

### Special Persons Day is a Community Favorite

Recently, Newland Elementary School held its annual Special Persons Day. This is a day where students and teachers alike get to honor those who support our students in many different ways on a daily basis. Each year, Newland welcomes grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, friends, and, of course, parents.

All grades, along with our resident preschool classes, put on a performance for our guests. After the performance, students were encouraged to take their guests on a tour of their school and especially their classrooms to show off their work and thank them for the support they give. PTA hosted treats and coffee and a silent auction for our special visitors.

This year's Special Persons Day was a huge success and a wonderful way to express thanks to our community.



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

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • [www.masudams.fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.masudams.fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Jay Adams**  
*Principal*



**Jennifer Kadjasz**  
*Assistant Principal*

### Our Special Day

On Friday, November 8, Masuda held its annual Veterans Day ceremony to honor the school's namesake, Kazuo Masuda, as well as the revered veterans in our country.

The entire student body took part in the proceedings, which included the history of Veterans Day, poetry, music, a dramatic presentation, and a moment of silence. The highlight of the event was our guest speaker,

Mr. Keene Sherburne, who is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

As a young man involved only recently with the conflict in the Middle East, Mr. Sherburne was able to reach out and relate to the students in a meaningful and special way. He went on to give much of his day to the school, interacting with the children and leading by example.

Special guests at the ceremony included Masuda family members Mas, Lily and Dennis. We were also honored to host many members of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial at VFW Post 3670.



**Veteran Keene Sherburne shares with students.**



## Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Erik Miller**  
Principal

### Reaching Our Goal

Like many other schools, Oka has struggled with not having enough computers to meet the needs of its students.

But this past fall, Oka took matters into its own hands, and began to plan a mighty fund-raising campaign called “Chrome-fest 2013.” In just a few months we went from a dream to a reality!

Chrome-fest was a casino-night style fundraiser, with the goal of raising enough money to purchase an entire classroom set of Chromebook tablets. Between sales from a silent auction, buying tickets for the event, and the commitment of many generous Oka supporters, we were able to reach this goal!

An extreme amount of appreciation and gratitude goes to event organizers Brenda Espinoza, Andrea Gerhardt and Katy Garrett for all of their efforts.



Oka students excited about using a new Chromebook tablet.

They made this event so successful. In addition, every Oka teacher showed their support by either attending or being a part of the auction.

Most importantly, all Oka students will now be able to have a real Chromebook in their hands multiple times per week, beginning in 2014.

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

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



**Julie Ballesteros**  
Principal

### Growing Inside and Out

Plavan School strives to educate students inside and outside the classroom. Students in third through fifth grades have the opportunity to participate in organized sports during lunch recess. A Plavan teacher, Mr. Andy Grant, donates his lunch hour each day to lead our Plavan Lunch Leagues.

Students may sign up for three different sports throughout year: soccer, football and basketball. Boys and girls have the opportunity to learn the rules and strategies of the games and the importance of good sportsmanship.



Our lunch leagues have also inspired three other teachers, Miss Burza, Mrs. DeJulio and Mrs. Panzella, to create the Plavan Spirit Squad. This group of students works together to support our athletes during lunch and spread school spirit through the week. Each Friday, the squad leads all students in school-wide cheers to support our positive behavior expectations. The lunch leagues and spirit squad have increased positive behavior and overall school spirit.

## Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kathy Davis**  
Principal

### Schoolwide PBIS Discipline Training

At Tamura, staff and students step up with Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a proactive schoolwide discipline system in which learning and teaching are valued and unsafe, unproductive behaviors are discouraged. During the month of December, positive schoolwide expectations were directly taught and modeled during a series of planned rotations. Teachers presented and modeled expected school behaviors within all contexts of the school. We are proud to have had many parents participate in this important schoolwide focus.

The science of behavior has taught us that students learn better ways of behaving by being taught directly and receiving positive feedback. It is our goal that all of our students can tell you what is expected of them and can give behavioral examples because they have been taught, actively supervised, practiced, and acknowledged.

At Tamura, discipline is an opportunity to teach prosocial behaviors and is less about punishment. All rules and expectations support Terrific Tamura Tigers by being safe, being responsible, being respectful and being your best!

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

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



**Cara Robinson**  
Principal



**Jennifer Morgan**  
Assistant Principal

### Torlakson Visits Talbert

We recently had the privilege of being visited by Mr. Tom Torlakson, the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was a true honor to host such an influential official.

Mr. Torlakson stopped by to observe our STEM program. Visiting Mrs. Shannon Miller's history class of STEM-cohort students, he observed technology integration at its fullest. Each

student was using a Google Chromebook to do research about China in this fully paperless course.



California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, Principal, Cara Robinson, and 8th grade science students- Preston McFadden, Olivia Espinoza, and Johnathan Guarnaccia

Mr. Torlakson showed further interest in Talbert's other technology endeavors, including the “flipped” classrooms and the BOYD (Bring Your Own Device) program.

As a previous science teacher himself, Mr. Torlakson expressed his liking for the subject. He visited three different science classes to converse with the students. He helped some students with their work, asked questions about science, and showed a genuine interest in the learning process. It was truly a privilege to have Mr. Torlakson visit our school.



# Ocean View School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Gustavo Balderas**

### Making Ocean View a Better Place

As I complete my first year as Superintendent of the Ocean View School District, I often reflect on the parent support that this wonderful community provides to its schools. During my conversations with many people in the Ocean View School District community and through my school site visits, it is quite apparent that there is a strong parent association influence that greatly benefits our schools and, ultimately, our students.

Parents in our district spend countless hours fund-raising and supporting their neighborhood schools to ensure that we can provide the best possible education for their students. When I walk into classrooms, there are sometimes multiple adult volunteers helping support the classroom teacher in a variety of tasks. At school fund-raising events, I am amazed by the efforts of these parent organizations in supporting the school sites.

I would like to personally thank all of the parents, guardians, and grandparents for all of the support that you provide the Ocean View School District. We are a better place because of your commitment to our schools and our students.

### Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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**Gina Clayton-Tarvin**  
*Member*



**Debbie Cotton**  
*Member*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Debbie Cotton**  
*Member*

### Technological Advances

There is substantial evidence that technology has become a vital component for the success of our children's education. Technology: improves learning and achievement among students of all ages, aiding all students in meeting higher standards; helps inspire teachers to become experts in their subject areas; provides administrators with better data that can improve decision-making and policy implementation; helps schools meet the needs of all students by creating effective, individualized learning environments; and prepares our students for the future.

Now more than ever, as the new Common Core State Standards are being implemented throughout our district, technology becomes a key cornerstone. Students will be taking their state exams on computers that are programmed to reach them at their level. For examples of the test to come, log onto [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org).

So, how are we getting ready here in Ocean View? The first part of the implementation is to provide all students with access to technology. This starts with the backbone. The behind-the-scenes implementation will ensure that technology is accessible at all school sites and that the system can handle multiple users. The second step is to determine what tool the students will use. Finally, we are providing professional development for our teachers and staff to provide safe and informative education for our students.

Look for the changes to come. As we continue to develop our Strategic Plan, ideas such as "bring your own device" and other technological outreaches are being considered. Watch for community listening sessions and school presentations on our Strategic Plan so that you can keep informed and provide input. This is a community effort, and we value all your contributions. Check with your school or watch our Web site for more information.

## Circle View *Elementary*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5035 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Carol Furman**  
*Principal*

### A World-Class Art Program

Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful PTO, the students at Circle View are participating in a world-class art program this year! The "A is for Art" program has brought the likes of Michelangelo and other legendary artists to life for our students! Six times this school year, students will attend a lecture by art educator Desiree Beaver and participate in highly-engaging, hands-on projects. In their most recent project, students in primary grades sculpted from clay, while our upper grade



students practiced portraits in charcoal. Students will be exposed to many different mediums of art this year. Observing their concentration and rapt attention to the projects, it is easy to see why this program has received rave reviews from students and parents alike!

## Golden View *Elementary*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

### Reading is Fun

It's so wonderful to snuggle up with a good book! Whether it's a suspenseful tale, a happy story, or whatever your preference, we at Golden View always treasure the time we get to spend reading.

Something we always look forward to is our annual Literacy Picnic. This is a special event that celebrates reading by building connections between students, family and community. At the Picnic, our parents eagerly wait for that special time they have with their child to read a favorite book on the school field.

Not only are parents invited, but other family members like grandparents and even aunts and uncles are welcome. Having a field full of families sharing quality reading time makes for great childhood memories.



A special person who also instills a love for reading is our new librarian, Sandy Supple. We are fortunate to have someone who is so passionate about reading, and can help celebrate our students' success with literacy.



# College View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Smith**  
*Principal*

## The Tradition Continues

Bunny's Kids is a nonprofit organization that provides bags of toys and necessities for the homeless families and shelters in Orange County.

This year, College View Elementary School partnered with Golden View, Lake View, Mesa View Middle School, Marine View Middle School, and Sts. Simon and Jude, as well as with many Ocean View School District personnel, to bring some joy to Orange County's homeless families.

Over 900 bags of toiletries, books and toys were assembled at College View on Sunday, December 8. Student council representatives, teachers and staff members from Lake View and College View also helped a number of volunteers from the Huntington Beach community gather, organize, wrap and distribute these much-needed supplies.

The following Orange County shelters received these generous donations: the Mental Health Association, Colette's Children's Home, Mental Health Families Shelter, CSP Huntington Beach Youth Shelter, the Illumination Foundation, Mercy House, and the Grand Street Center Soup Kitchen.



# Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

## Engineering Assembly-Line Challenge

As part of our STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program, Lake View first- and second-grade students participated in a Thanksgiving Snack Assembly Line Challenge. Students in Mrs. Schleich's and Ms. Stuart's classes became industrial engineers, designing assembly lines to speed up the preparation of Thanksgiving snacks.

An efficient assembly line breaks a large job into smaller pieces so the whole process gets finished more quickly. Before getting to work, the students saw real assembly lines in action as they watched video clips of two favorite-candy factories!

Through this project, the students learned how to follow specific criteria for the product and work with materials and time constraints. They worked in teams, following the engineering design process: Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create and Improve. When the activity was completed, everyone enjoyed the snacks and then completed their data collection. The shared feedback helped them improve their plan so that their assembly lines can work even more efficiently next time. We are looking forward to more engineering activities!



**The activity ends with a completed project!**

# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

## Read, Read, Read!

Here at Hope View, we recognize the importance of reading, and strive to instill a strong love for it in our students.

Thanks to our PTO, and our loving librarian, we are now in the second year of utilizing a great incentive program called Reading Counts. This program is supported through book fairs and other fundraisers by our hard-working PTO members. Through the utilization of Reading Counts, and by using the Best Foot Forward program in the kindergarten and first grade, the goal is to encourage our students to increase their interest in reading.

We are very grateful for the participation of our parents, who support both of the reading programs. Thanks to them, and to our dedicated staff members, we know that the practice of reading high-interest and engaging books has grown tremendously!

Our hard-working, creative Hope View staff continues to develop fun and exciting ways to engage their students. From the Reading Buddies and Helpful Hawks programs, to various Reading with Relatives, Reading Incentives, and Dr. Seuss Night activities, each of our students is encouraged to keep their interest level high.

We at Hope View strive to encourage our children to find the one magical story that will unlock their imagination, or provide the information they need to learn more about an area of interest. Thank you, Hope View Hawks, for your continued hard work. And be sure to read, read, read!

## School News



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# Mesa View *Middle School*

17601 Avilla Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Dr. Stephanie Henry**  
*Principal*

## His Favorite Place!

Last month, a Mesa View student was surprised by local restaurant staff with a pizza party for his entire class! What's newsworthy is how this fiesta came to be.

Ms. Haag's assigned her seventh-grade GATE ELA class to describe their "special place." Aiden Murphy's was his favorite pizza place, in Huntington Beach. He described the atmosphere of the restaurant and the quality of the food, but the most touching part was when he described the employees.

"They all know my name, which to me is pretty impressive... and they will always remember if something changed, like if I

got a haircut or a tan or something," he wrote. Aiden's mother forwarded the essay to one of the restaurant employees, and it went viral across the nation and is now on the restaurant's employee website to share outstanding customer service.

It's wonderful to see our local community and businesses embrace our students and celebrate their academic success. Congratulations to Aiden Murphy and his family!



# Harbour View *Elementary*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-6602 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

## New Year's Resolutions

At Harbour View Elementary School, we believe that helping children create New Year's resolutions is the beginning of teaching them the importance of setting goals. Goal-setting is an important skill that children can take all the way into adulthood. Here are some of our favorite first-grade resolutions from students in Mrs. Ashley's class.

Mikaya shared, "My New Year's resolution is to work harder to sound out all words." Jesse set a goal to put on his jacket all by himself. Aiden promised not to bully anyone. Kellan said he wants "to

be a good citizen and get the Pelican Pride Award." April plans to write good stories and "use a period at the end." And Gianna will learn to tie her shoes all by herself.

Happy 2014 from the staff and students at Harbour View!

# Marine View *Middle School*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-0624 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Shelley Morris**  
*Principal*

## New Incentives

*By Julie Ybarra, Language Arts Teacher*

Marine View Middle School is up and running with our implementation of PBIS! The year began with a kick-off assembly to demonstrate to our students "What Not to Wear" as modeled by teachers on stage. Some dressed appropriately and some not so much! The teacher-actors were able to emphasize appropriate behaviors at this fun assembly as well.

In addition to demonstrating acceptable attire and behavior, Marine View has also implemented the use of "Mariner Money."

Students who have been seen demonstrating excellent personal choices around campus are rewarded with "money." Ultimately, the highest earners in each trimester will also be rewarded with a field trip. Our first trip will take place at a bowling alley.

Not only is Marine View constantly rewarding its students for their positive behavior, but our staff is also developing a mentoring program to help those who might need some extra attention. Selected students will soon be participating in a "check-in and check-out" system with their mentor several times a week. The intention of this new program is to assist students who could be performing at a higher level, but may not be receiving the extra time and attention they need.

We have many staff members ready to go, and our students will soon be notified that they have been selected for this wonderful new opportunity at Marine View.

# Oak View *Elementary*

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Laura Dale-Pash**  
*Principal*

## Enrichment Means Fun

The GOALS program (Growth Opportunities through Athletics, Learning and Service) has begun its second school year at Oak View. Funded by an ASES grant (After-School Education and Safety), the program began last year and now serves 85 of our fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Children attend the program's well-rounded and enriching activities for three hours every day. Wednesday's GOALS participants spend over five hours at the GOALS headquarters in Anaheim, which can include a field trip. The afternoon portion of the program includes a healthy snack, homework assistance, sports, academic enrichment, art, and various service activities. Enrichment includes science activities, math practice in the computer lab, and art lessons with a professional artist.



December was an exciting month. It was marked by a visit to the Veterans Hospital to deliver paintings, the first hockey practice in full gear at Anaheim Ice, and a bonfire, S'mores, and hot chocolate at the Garden Theater.

Teacher Mary Thompson remarked, "GOALS is the greatest thing to happen to Oak View!"



# Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
Principal

## An Education Resource Center

Welcome to the Learning Link! This is where our children and their parents (or caretakers) can be introduced to school for the very first time.

The Learning Link is a parent-child program for children ages two and three. The Children and Families Commission of Orange County provides funding for our Learning Link teacher, Miss Helen Peña, to help future students become better prepared for school. The class lasts for eight weeks, and is repeated several times throughout the year.



Some of the program's activities include listening to a story, dancing and moving to music, and playing with art materials. Miss Helen first demonstrates how to complete a project with a child, and then the parent takes them to a play area to do the project together. Another important part of the class is play or choice time. Here the children can discover the different learning centers throughout the classroom.

By helping to prepare children for the preschool experience, this program is truly a Link to Learning!

# Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



**Paul James**  
Principal

## Speech and Language Itinerant Program

The Speech and Language Program at Pleasant View School serves preschool children ages 3 to 5. At Pleasant View, we offer two different types of programs for our children. Our Itinerant Speech/Language Program serves students from our surrounding area who have been identified and are eligible for speech and language services. These students attend different general-education preschool sites but are transported daily by their parents and are provided with a variety of instructional time blocks throughout the day.

Our three speech and language pathologists—Anne Lang, Vicki Kincaid and Anne Fujiwara—along with our speech and language pathologist assistant, Jayne Nance, provide intensive instruction in individual and group sessions each day, focusing on articulation, voice disorders, language development, stuttering and social skills. This dynamic and systematic team services over 100 students. Pleasant View is fortunate to have these outstanding and dedicated individuals to service our families and students

# Star View *Elementary*

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



**Jamie Kinder**  
Principal

## PTO Shines for Students

Star View is lucky to have a wonderful and very active Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Star View's teachers and parents value extracurricular opportunities and raise money through the PTO to ensure that the students receive a well-rounded education.

The PTO is responsible for raising approximately \$30,000 per year, which is allocated for field trips, assemblies and art supplies. At the end of the 2012-13 school year, the PTO was able to fund a new computer lab that was recently installed. In trying to prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning environment and the new Common Core State Standards, it is imperative that each child has multiple opportunities to learn computer skills and work with technology on a regular basis.



The students of Star View truly appreciate all the hard work and hours the parents and staff members have dedicated toward making their elementary educational experience memorable.

# Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
Principal

## The Man, the Myth, the Legend

As the principal at Spring View Middle School, I can truly say I am blessed to work with a staff of outstanding people. Our staff cares deeply about the well-being of all of our students and demonstrates this caring by taking extra time to help a student with a difficult concept, offer a kind word in the hallway, or just listen and understand a student's concerns. The Spring View staff is second to none!

That being said, I would like to take time to highlight a staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that Spring View's climate is one of respect and acceptance. Mr. Scott Vanatta is our Associated Student Body (ASB) advisor and a key reason why Spring View is a fantastic place to be. Twice a year Mr. Vanatta devotes hours upon hours of his own time to help produce, direct and, if need be, star in Spring View's BEST fests. Through various skits, dance routines, humorous videos and contests, students are treated to a wildly entertaining show with an important message of respect and acceptance.

Because of who he is and all he does, I would like to personally thank Mr. Vanatta for his dedication to the students of Spring View.



**Mr. Scott Vanatta**



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# Sun View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## A Helping Hand

In November, members of the Huntington Beach (HB) Rotary Club visited Sun View Elementary School to conduct their monthly meeting but, more importantly, visit the newly established computer lab consisting of 17 new computers. The newly converted classroom/lab is occupied by kindergarten, first- and second-grade students on a rotation basis.

Our staff remains committed to maintaining high standards for achievement and excellence as we transition into Common Core Standards, including a new computerized state assessment field test in English language arts and mathematics for third through fifth grades this spring. We know that early intervention is critical to academic success. Thanks to this generous donation from the HB Rotary Club, students have the opportunity to begin preparing immediately.

The contributions we receive strengthen our school, enhance morale, and ensure an even better education for our students, who are the leaders of the near future. We appreciate the helping hand!



# Westmont *Elementary*

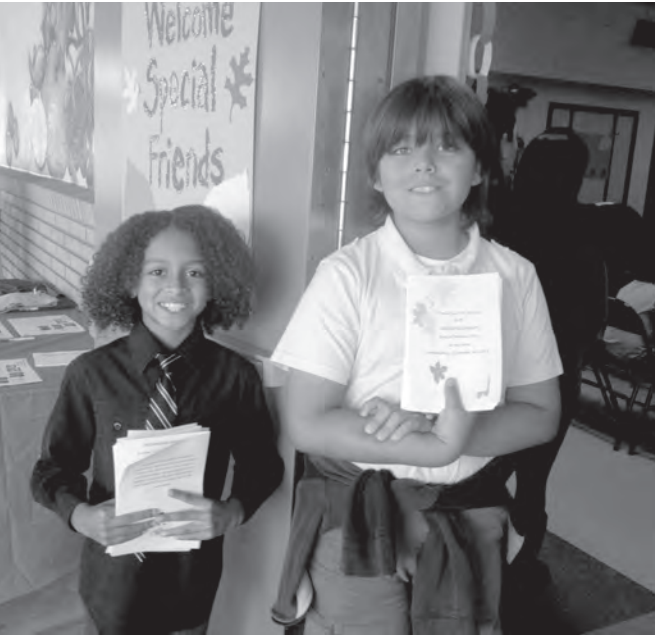
8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org



**Karen Sanders**  
*Principal*

## Special Person's Day

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends took time off from their daily schedules to come to Westmont's Special Person's Day. The multipurpose room was decorated with student-made posters welcoming our guests. Our awesome Student Council members served as hosts and hostesses, and the PTO did a wonderful job of recruiting local businesses that contributed goodies, coffee and juice. Our guests also had the opportunity to take family photos.



The highlight of the morning was the student performances. The students sang songs and read poems. Titles like "Love Song," "You're Something Special," "You Got a Friend in Me" and "I am Your Child," brought tears to the eyes of many of our guests. The students and staff were thrilled to plan such a wonderful day for all of our special guests.

# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Tryon**  
*Principal*

## Super School Community!

Each of our students is a Village View Superhero! Our goal as educators is to unlock the superpowers in each child. Our grade-level teams meet constantly to plan instruction and talk about most-effective strategies. We also meet to discuss needs of students not meeting proficiency benchmarks and brainstorm ideas to help close the achievement gap.

Our classified staff has superpowers to engage students and support teachers in meeting student needs. We have over 35 classified employees who support our students, custodians who work hard to ensure that we have a clean campus, and kitchen support to prepare our lunches. We have kindergarten and classroom instructional assistants who work with small and large student groups and a dedicated librarian who works hard to keep books in our children's hands. Our office-support team works hard to help our students, families and staff.

Our teachers also have extraordinary superpowers! Some can "leap from tall buildings in a single bound." Their unique strengths and efforts are evident in our students' success.

And we know we couldn't do what we do each day without our superhero parents! Their superpowers get their children to school on time every day. They volunteer in our classrooms and for our PTA, and of course, they work with their children to support school success.

Thank you, super-talented community, for supporting the work we do every day. Our children are the superheroes of the future, and we work hard to enhance their superpowers!

# Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Amy Kernan**  
*Principal*

## We Have Fun, Too!

Though the students and staff at Vista View Middle School are working hard to incorporate the new Common Core State Standards and prepare for the Smarter Balanced testing coming this fall, they still like to enjoy participating in our many extracurricular activities. This month, drama students put on a great variety show with singing, acting and comedy. Kelly Truong played her guitar while several of the students sang songs to start the show. It was a great night for everyone!

The Vista View Falcon Volleyball players competed in the Ocean View Volleyball Tournament, and our eighth-grade boys' and girls' teams beat out Mesa View for third place. Our seventh-grade boys brought their game and came in a close second to Mesa View. Go Falcons!



With winter break coming, we are all excited to have some time off with family and friends, but we are looking forward to a wonderful 2014!





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## Note-ables

### iFantastic!



Kate Karp

Whether you're teaching a dual-immersion or a bilingual primary class in English and Spanish or if you just want to introduce English-only children to Spanish, Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band's *iFantastic!* fits its title (that's *fantastic*, natch).

The indie-rock band is a combo of accordions, harmonicas, percussion, guitars and vocalists, including Diaz's wife, Alisha Gaddis. The Jam Band's music has been featured on a major soft-drink commercial, and their previous albums have won praise, including being named Best New Children's Artist by *USA Today*. Their latest collection, sung entirely in Spanish, will have children and parents latching on to the music like a grab bar in a train and joyfully riding it all the way to the last stop.



Some of the songs on the CD were translations of previously recorded Jam Band tunes; the others were written for the CD. "*Los números*" ("The Numbers") will teach number names in Spanish, and "*El gato astronauta*," ("The Astronaut Cat"), charming in its own right, will extend the knowledge to simple addition. "*A bailar*" ("Let's Dance") involves directionality and body awareness through movement and a very catchy tune. "*Tres ratones*" ("Three Mice")

is a charmer of a repetitive tale: the title characters try to hold on to their own tales in a garden as they hide from a cat. The song's lyrics are simple and a natural fit for the rhythm and the accompanying Dylanesque harmonica played by Joe Harpcat.

The Spanish can be easily translated by anyone with a working knowledge of Spanish. They're available for free download at [www.luckydiazmusic.com](http://www.luckydiazmusic.com).

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



# Going Green! Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by February 15, 2014  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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Compost	Garden	Renewable
Conservation	Healthier	Resources
Difference	Impact	Respect
Eco Friendly	Low Waste	Responsibility
Efficient	Planet	Reuse
Emissions	Process	Solar
Energy	Protect	
Environment	Recycle	

**Congratulations to Our November Winner**  
**The Grohmann Family!**

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



# Huntington Beach Central Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • www.hbpl.org

## Authors Festival & HB Reads Events



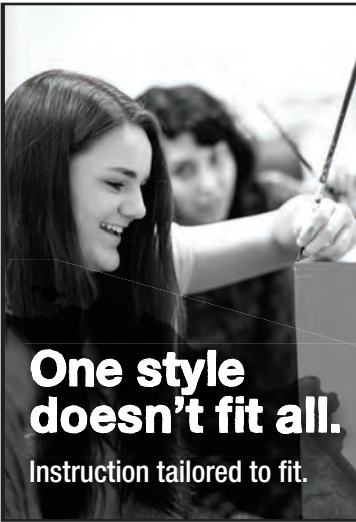
**Barbara Richardson**  
Senior Librarian  
Programming and  
Youth Services

The Friends of the Children's Library are hosting their annual Authors Festival Jan. 28, at the Central Library, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The awards ceremony for the writing and illustrating contest winners will be held during the festival at 3:45 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. Meet a variety of writers and illustrators of children's books, purchase books, and get some of them autographed.



*Lessons from Little Rock* by Terrence Roberts is the HB Reads selected book. As one of the Little Rock Nine, Mr. Roberts was involved in the desegregation of Little Rock High School. Several free public events are planned. Special story times and crafts for children take place Feb. 17, 2 p.m., at a local bookstore; Feb. 20, 3:30 p.m. at Central Library; and Feb. 26, 3:30 p.m. at Oak View Branch Library. HB Reads will also be showing these films: *Prom Night in Mississippi*, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the library's C/D Room; *42, the Life Story of Jackie Robinson*, 2:30 p.m., March 8, in the Library Theater; and *Little Rock Central: 50 Years Later*, March 13, 7 p.m., in the library's C/D Room.

The ending highlight will be Terrence Roberts's speech at the Huntington Beach High School gym on March 20, 7 p.m. An author reception and fundraiser will be held March 20. For more information and to buy reception tickets, visit [HBreads.org](http://HBreads.org).



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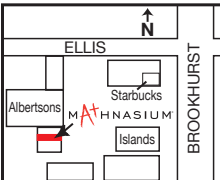
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A Familiar Face From a Foreign Place

Rain—A Moment to Learn Down the Drain



Lauren Barrette

When the rainy season hits, you can feel the sticky heat hanging in the air. You can taste the wet earth and smell the steaming pavement. You can see the streets convert to rushing rivers. Most of all, you can hear the rain as it bangs onto the roof. Nicaragua’s tropical storms bring a downpour of rain that crashes onto zinc roofing like the sound of angry clapping echoing all around you. The change in season brings the long-awaited water that will grow the crops and feed the country. It also brings unexpected changes to all aspects of life, including education.

Slowly but surely, the students return from recess to their classrooms, hands sticky with Coca Cola and fried plantains with chili sauce. I circle the room reminding students to settle down, get out their notebooks and pencils, and please, please, please quiet down!

Just as I seem to have control of the 50 rowdy students, the slow patter begins to hit the roof. We smell it, we see it, and we begin to hear it. Rain! Pounding, attacking, and splashing all around us, the rain has come.

I try to out-scream the rain. “SIT DOWN!” I tell the students. “LISTEN!” But the rain’s attack has won.

Soon a soaking wet child running from classroom to classroom informs us that school will end early. Excitement fills the wet air, and my students pour out of the classroom. My mind drifts back to the indoor lunches and rainy-day activities that my teachers organized to keep us busy from elementary school to high school. But here I am, left confused by what the rain has stolen from me and my students: another moment to learn down the drain.

Graduate Los Alamitos High School Class of 2006. Studied Business Administration with a concentration in marketing at the University of Oregon Class of 2010. I decided to join the peace corps after college because I wanted to challenge myself to use my business degree in a creative way. I also felt that I was at a unique time in my life where I had no real responsibility and could dedicate two years of my life to serving others and seeking personal growth.

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

### Star Spellers!

The top spellers from each school site recently competed in the Westminster School District annual, district-wide Spelling Bee. Two competitions took place—one for 4th and 5th graders, and the other for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The 4th and 5th graders were challenged with words such as “leprechaun,” “typhoon” and “prejudice.” The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders had to tackle words such as “surveillance,” “electrolyte” and “exhilarate.” Congratulations to all of our superlative spellers!



**Superintendent Phelps with 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Spelling Bee Winners**

- 1st place:** Bali Hoang from Eastwood Elementary  
**2nd place:** Kathie Le from Meairs Elementary  
**3rd place:** Ashtyn Arthur from Clegg Elementary



**Superintendent Phelps with 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Spelling Bee Winners**

- 1st place:** Nino Ho from Warner Middle School  
**2nd place:** Stacey Nguyen from Stacey Middle School  
**3rd place:** Jordan Dinh from DeMille Elementary School

The top three winners of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade competition will compete in the Orange County Spelling Bee in February and March. Here is a list of the competitors who proudly represented their schools:

### 4th & 5th Grade School Site Winners:

Anderson	Eric Chau	Meairs	Kathie Le
Clegg	Ashtyn Arthur	Schmitt	Leann Nguyen
DeMille	Vinh Tran	Schroeder	Lillian Thai
Eastwood	Bali Hoang	Sequoia	Katherine Nguyen
Finley	Jenny Luong	Webber	Thuy Nguyen
Fryberger	Jacquelin Nguyen	Willmore	Cynthia Trujillo
Hayden	Gia-Quoc Doan		

### 6th, 7th & 8th Grade School Site Winners:

Anderson	Tracy Nguyen	Sequoia	Peter Pham
DeMille	Jordan Dinh	Stacey	Stacey Nguyen
Eastwood	Lori Mandarin	Warner	Nina Ho
Johnson	Tiffany Phan	Webber	Phuc Do
Schroeder	Andrew Lang		

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Mary Mangold**  
*President*

### Meet Our New Superintendent

I would like to introduce you to our new superintendent, Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps. Dr. Phelps was named Superintendent of the Westminster School District right before Thanksgiving, and she has really hit the ground running. We are thrilled to have found such a highly qualified educator to be our superintendent. Her broad experiences in education and her ability to build relationships and trust will ensure that we work together to prepare our students to be productive citizens in a global society.

Dr. Phelps previously served as an area superintendent in the San Diego Unified School District. She oversaw 29 schools (19 elementary, five middle, three high schools, one K–12 magnet school, and a Spanish Immersion K–8 school) in the Clairemont, Kearny Mesa, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, and San Carlos communities. In her 23 years as an educator, she has served as an elementary and middle school teacher, a vice principal, an elementary principal for 10 years, and an area superintendent for four years. Dr. Phelps was named the 2013 Central Office Administrator of the Year by the Association of California Administrators (ACSA) Region 18, and she was awarded the 2009 and 2010 ACSA National Distinguished Principal Finalist Award for the state of California. In addition, Dr. Phelps was part of the senior level management team that led the second largest school district in the state to become recognized as a 2013 Broad Prize for Urban Education District Finalist. Prior to and during her years as an educator, she worked in hospital business administration with Scripps Health for over 10 years. Dr. Phelps earned a doctorate degree from San Diego State University, a master’s degree in educational leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University and a bachelor’s degree from University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Phelps has really enjoyed meeting the staff, students, and community members of Westminster School District. When asked about her new job, she stated, “I am honored to have been selected as the new superintendent and am delighted to be part of a high quality team and district. I am committed to propel our schools and students through the 21st century, ensuring that our children not only have the skills necessary to be college and career ready, but have the skills needed to be successful in life! We are educating children in a fast-changing world, and we need to be sure that they are prepared to compete and excel as tomorrow’s leaders.” Dr. Phelps is known as a courageous yet compassionate leader and her vision for students perfectly aligns with that of the Board of Trustees.

Happy New Year, everyone! We are already off to a great start!

### Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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**Amy Walsh**  
*Member*





available to staff, students and guests on the school's local, secure network. Teachers and students have a wide variety of spaces for collaboration and learning.

### New Gymnasiums/Multi-Use Facilities

The new gymnasiums and multi-use facilities at Warner and Johnson are almost finished. In addition to a full sized gymnasium with one main court and two cross-courts, these new facilities will include a fitness studio, a dedicated music classroom, drama classroom and stage for performances and presentations. The new facilities will have enough space to accommodate up to 1,500 people.

### Resource Centers

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



Johnson students are all smiles in front of their new science and technology building.

### Going Green

One of our most exciting site enhancements is our commitment to "going green." Our new green buildings have been designed to create a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while conserving energy, resources and money. The buildings have energy management systems 20% below state energy requirements, the placement of the buildings take advantage of northern light, deep overhangs protect windows from southern exposure, automatic dimming light fixtures were installed, recycled materials were used and we are registered for LEED certification. There is no doubt that the new buildings at our middle schools promise to be environmentally friendly while conserving resources.

Six guiding principles were used in the development of our middle school facilities.

1. Provide 21st century learning environments.
2. Develop schools as centers of the community.
3. Promote safe and healthy schools and lifestyles.
4. Facilitate exploration as the key component of learning.
5. Value stewardship and accountability in all activities.
6. Promote staff development and collaboration.

These guiding principles were established by a Priority Planning Committee and they are a shared reflection of our vision, values and dreams for the children in our district. Each and every guiding principal was successfully incorporated into our new facilities and we are thrilled that our students, staff and community now have 21st century middle schools!

## Contest!!

This Reading Rules! comic is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to:

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



Your entry must be received by February 15, 2014. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



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# Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx)



**Jan Sneathen**  
*Interim Principal*

### Safe City

During the month of September, Anderson Elementary School's Associated Student Body (ASB) representatives met with Officer Sharon of the Garden Grove Police Department to learn ways to be safe in their community.

Following the building of a "safe city" replica, ASB students Leyna Dao, Leslie Lopez, Jade Laloulu, Sophia Nguyen, Katherine Luong, Yazbeck Muro, Tracy Nguyen, Jason Tran, Roger Nguyen, and Amanda Yang conducted student tours. Sites on the tour included an apartment building, a bus, a school, a crosswalk, a

bakery, and a big dog.

The students also offered safety tips such as: look from side to side and behind before stepping off the curb to cross the street; when walking by a driveway, look to see if a car is backing out or coming in; and, when coming into contact with a dog, walk slowly backward with hands at your sides.

Officer Sharon awarded each of these outstanding young leaders a certificate of excellence for community responsibility and hard work. Well done!



# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx)



**Donna Brush**  
*Principal*

### Kindergartners Explore Project-Based Learning

We have begun the transition into Common Core State Standards, which set high expectations for all students and align with college and career expectations for the 21st century.

The standards emphasize critical thinking, learning across disciplines, and proof and evidence. Students will be required to do more analysis, discussion, justification and explanation of their thinking and understanding and will work on project-based learning units. These units contain a driving question and essential questions that engage the students in real inquiry

and result in a performance task or a product. Students publicly present their learning at a culminating event for an audience of individuals outside the students' learning group.

Eastwood kindergartners have completed their first PBL unit, titled "Let's Do School!" They learned that to be successful in school and life, they will always be learning or helping others to learn. Their driving question was "How can we, as ambassadors of our school community, teach others how to 'do school?'"

As the unit began, a mysterious box arrived in each kindergarten classroom. The box contained Bono, a stuffed monkey who had always lived in the jungle and had never attended school. The students' role was to teach Bono all aspects of being a member of a school community. Students presented their learning in the form of an individual and a class oral presentation to parents and visitors from the district office. They were extremely articulate in communicating their learning and are demonstrating on a daily basis that they know how to do school.

# Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/clegg.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/clegg.aspx)



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

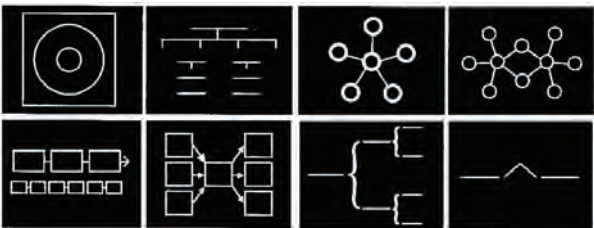
### Thinking Maps

Have you seen your student use a Thinking Map? Students in every classroom here at Clegg Elementary School are being taught to use these maps to organize their thinking.

What is a Thinking Map? It is a language of eight visual patterns, each based on a fundamental thinking process. These patterns are used individually and in combination across every grade level and curriculum area as an integrated set of tools for lifelong learners. All of our students learn in different ways.

Currently the research tells us our ability to learn visually is greater than any of our other senses. By visualizing their thinking through the use of Thinking Maps, students have a concrete image of their abstract thoughts.

Below are the eight different Thinking Maps your child is learning to use to organize their thoughts. Students at lower grade levels may use only the basic ones, and as they move to higher grades they will begin to use the more advanced maps.



Talk to your student about Thinking Maps and have him or her explain to you how they are used. It is an amazing tool that our students are using daily.

# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx)



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

### DeMille's Day at the Theater

Field trips are always an enjoyable and educational outing for students, although in recent years the cost, especially that of transportation, has presented a funding challenge.

What an exciting discovery then to learn that the Segerstrom Center for the Arts has a "Bus-In" program that reimburses the schools for the cost of their buses after the admission prices are paid, which for most shows are only \$5-7! There is a maximum of three buses and up to \$450 each.

Through the generosity of our PTA, this year DeMille purchased tickets for the entire student body to attend a performance. Our fourth- through sixth-grade students attended an amazing production of *Alvin Sputnik*, *Deep Sea Explorer* in October. The entire kindergarten through third-grade classes will be attending *Fluff* in April.



**DeMille upper grade students at a performance of "Alvin Sputnik, Deep Sea Explorer."**

The upper-graders were thrilled with this one-man performance, which incorporated music, animation and puppetry. It culminated with a wonderful Q&A with the performer and crew, and a photo opportunity to boot!



## Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx)



**Maria  
Gutiérrez-García**  
*Principal*

### Reading Buddies Reciprocate!

Students at Finley School have been participating in many exciting activities to celebrate a community approach to literacy. It is part of our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support System whereby Finley students follow the 3A Eagle Way by acting respectfully, acting responsibly and acting safely.

Upper-grade teachers pair up with lower-grade teachers for weekly reading-buddy sessions that had initially involved older students reading to their lower-grade reading buddies. Recently, however, the tables turned when first-grade reading buddies

shared and read their Project Based Learning culminating project to their older reading buddies. Mrs. Chaney's fifth-grade students were impressed with the cognitive academic-language proficiency demonstrated by their reading buddies in Mrs. Sisneros's and Mrs. Passaquindici's first-grade classes. It is heartwarming to witness the weekly sessions and to see the positive effects on all of the students!



**Fifth graders, Kevin Garcia (left), and Keith Benítez (right) look on as first grader, Angel Gallardo-Navarro reads some facts from his culminating project to his Reading Buddies.**

## Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx)



**Andre Illig**  
*Principal*

### 21st Century Programs

Johnson Middle School is truly a place where students of all ability levels and aptitudes can thrive. Each student is carefully considered and monitored in a comprehensive academic program which provides the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful in high school and higher education. In addition to high-quality academic programs for students of all ability levels, we provide a variety of enrichment opportunities. Students participate in our Performing Arts Program, Robotics & Engineering courses, instrumental music courses, ASB Leadership and sports programs.

Recently, Johnson Middle School students performed the hit musical "Annie." Under the direction of Mrs. Colleen Dudas our students performed to full house audiences. In addition to the performance on stage, Mr. Wes Rippeon and his stagecraft class were instrumental to the building and design of the sets. Our Johnson students were not only responsible for the fabulous performance on stage, but also for the technical part of the production. The students worked as stage crew, and controlled the sound and lights during the performance. Teamwork has become an essential part of the program which brings a wonderful support system among students. It is a delight to watch such talent and enthusiasm on stage.

Additionally, we are looking forward to building skills and opportunities for all our students to strategically and capably use technology and digital media. In December 2013 we opened our new Exploratory / Technology building, with state of the art multi-media classrooms, a STEAM lab, Robotics and Visual Arts lab as well as numerous Science labs. These valuable resources will ensure success in the digital age and beyond for all students.

On Wednesday March 19, 2014 we will host a community open-house to showcase our thriving 21st century programs.

## Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx)



**Paula Mills**  
*Interim Principal*

### 2013-2014 Student Council Officers

*By Gabriel Rodriguez, Teacher and Bianca Castillo, Student*

It has been a tradition at Fryberger to mirror the democratic process of electing new officers for Student Council in November so that students understand the process of electing representatives. Students complete primary elections in their classrooms, and a representative from each class begins to campaign to obtain votes. This year was filled with very eligible candidates who gave enthusiastic campaign speeches outlining what they hoped to accomplish this year.

This year's Student Council representatives are Jennifer Diaz, president; David Maciel, vice president; Bianca Castillo, secretary; Helen Mejia, treasurer; Trisha Huynh, publicity chief; and Katherine Nguyen, safety chief.

Here's a personal statement from our new Student Council secretary: "My name is Bianca Castillo, and the reason I ran for secretary is because I am a good student who tries to get things done. I was chosen by fellow students to be secretary for Student Council. I hope to make this school as fun as possible for learning. Our goal is to increase school spirit and make Fryberger a fun school to learn! I'm excited to plan fun events so that students like coming to school every day!"

Student Council's role is very important to the student body. They sponsor many events and help to raise funds for assemblies and field trips. Their creative minds help gather ideas for events that students can participate in and be a part of. I want to congratulate each of the officers elected and the candidates who ran a great campaign.

## Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx)



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

### Soup-er Students

Hayden Elementary School is more than just a local school; it is a major part of the community. One of the ways we support our community is our annual soup drive. The soup drive helps support an interval house that works with local families in need. Hayden is very honored and proud of the partnership it has built with the interval house over the years, and we look forward each year to helping them anyway we can, especially around the holiday season.

With guidance from Mr. Archer, Mr. Barajas and Mrs. Hernandez, our soup drive was another huge success. This year Hayden students helped to collect 1,114 cans of soup. We feel it is extremely important to teach our students the practice of giving to those less fortunate than we are.

The students and families of Hayden make all of us very proud to be a part of the team.





# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us](http://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*

## Access for All: Preschoolers and Music

At Land School, every preschooler is provided unique opportunities to develop, learn, and play together. One opportunity for our young children, regardless of ability, is to participate in a weekly music lesson to develop preacademic and language skills. Every Wednesday, students and staff gather in the multipurpose room to participate in a music lesson. As the guitar is gently strummed, the preschoolers eagerly and excitedly get settled in for a time of lyrics and melodies. The students are even able to choose the songs that they sing, which contributes to a

sense of belonging. Another important aspect about our music program at Land School is that it reinforces our schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program.

Our musical Wednesdays are one way that children with a range of abilities participate in activities in an inclusive preschool setting. The teachers and staff at Land School provide access to a range of learning opportunities for all students. This program has resulted in building positive relationships, social development and learning for all to reach their full potential.

# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx)



**Paul Andre White**  
*Principal*

## Holiday Cheer and Cheers

As the culminating event for their project-based learning unit, our second-graders collected enough food in our holiday food drive to help support 28 families, spreading holiday cheer to our community. In addition to creating posters and making announcements promoting the event, students incorporated their math skills by charting donations and dividing the food amongst the baskets.

Three cheers for our upper-grade students, who recently participated in our school-wide spelling bee. The competition was fierce as LeAnn Nguyen, Bradley Truong, Diana Duong, Erik Lieu, Amadalyn Guerrero, Samson Le, Martin Pham, Allison Collinsworth, Alexia Torres, Kelsey Ali, and Carlos Tarelo battled for the trophy. LeAnn Nguyen was declared our champion, and she represented our school at district level, where she finished in the top five! Congratulations to all our participants. You did an A-M-A-Z-I-N-G job!

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx)



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

## iMom & All Pro Dad

This year Schroeder Elementary School proudly presents the iMom and All Pro Dad programs. These parent programs are a simple 45 minute breakfast every other month held before school where mothers or fathers and their children meet with other parents and their kids in the school cafeteria. During this time, they discuss a wide range of family topics, spend time together, create fun memories, and are equipped with resources to strengthen their relationships. Our October iMom focused on Anxiety, which was especially important at the start of the new school year. Our November All Pro Dad was dedicated to Sharing

and even ended with a soccer ball juggling competition by the dads. It is a fun time for all!

# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx)



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Second-Graders are Humanitarians

How can we, as humanitarians, provide assistance to each other or to those less fortunate in a community? This is the question our second-graders were trying to answer. They decided to assist the Orange County Humane Society (OCHS). They learned all about this organization. They were visited by some volunteers, along with their dogs, and they ran a school-wide campaign to raise money to support the humane society.

Student Nina Dao said, “The second-graders collected donations for the OCHS. We collected for a whole month. We collected because the animals need food, water, toys and medicine. We got \$658. The OCHS will buy lots of things for the animals. If you want a pet, go to the shelter. They have trained pets, and you don’t have to pay a lot of money for them! Just go to the shelter and buy an abandoned pet.”



Students counting donations.

# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx)



**Shay Reardon**  
*Principal*

## Eagle Update

Parental involvement is critical to a child’s success, and to a school’s success as well. At Sequoia Elementary, it is a visible, constant and much-appreciated part of what enhances and advances our school culture.

During the month of December, our Parent Teacher Association worked extremely hard to promote our school community and engage the students in some exciting activities. They designed the “Elves Workshop” for the students so that our children could have an opportunity to shop for friends and family during the holidays. The students were so excited about shopping for the holiday season!

The PTA also hosted the Soup and Bake Sale Night. During this event, our parents, staff and students dined together and had an opportunity to get their pictures taken with Santa. The evening was so much fun for all of the members of the Sequoia School community.

Our first Parent Reading Academy was conducted during the first week of December as well. Resource specialist Regina Alves introduced an informative PowerPoint presentation for the parents that focused on phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, and reading comprehension. After the presentation, the parents were able to visit our classrooms and observe how these components work with the lessons.

This informative evening was enjoyed by everyone who attended. At Sequoia, we will continue to build and maintain a strong and positive home-school connection.



# Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx)



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## Good News

With our new science and technology building, Stacey has added a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) elective so that our students will have an opportunity to participate in relevant, project-based learning modules that can help them think critically and be good citizens.

Our first trimester has ended, and we are so proud of the seventh-graders who were in this elective, as well as their projects. They developed an aquarium company to boost home aquarium sales throughout the nation. They developed home aquariums with calculations for the dimensions, water, weight, types of fish, plants, etc. that are necessary to maintain them and make them beautiful. They also consulted about prices, and developed detailed PowerPoint presentations to highlight the best of their company.

In addition, the students also went to the Long Beach Aquarium to take a behind-the-scenes tour about how this institution builds and maintains its aquariums. In addition, the students had to work in teams to build an aquarium with the correct filter system.



It is exciting to see so many of our students interested in researching new ideas and developing functional products. This trimester, our STEM students will also be developing and constructing fresh-water rain barrels to help with water conservation. Mrs. Winemiller and Mrs. Ibbetson, our STEM teachers, are very busy creating innovative lessons to help stimulate their students' thinking.

# Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx)



**Matthew Skoll**  
*Principal*

## Warner Rocks!

*By Kurt Reisig, Editor-in-Chief, Warner Journalism*

Warner is home to a unique mixture of after-school programs that instill a deeper understanding of personal health, fitness, creativity, culture and ingenuity. These programs extend Warner's curriculum, and influence its students to both vicariously demonstrate the new Common Core standards as well as establish personal goals and interests in a positive environment.

In the areas of personal health and fitness, Warner teachers coach football, softball, volleyball, mixed martial arts, surfing and golf — quite a unique selection for students! In addition to striving for success, and supporting healthy competitive habits, these teacher-led teams also provide independent and interdependent opportunities for the students to utilize their physical as well as mathematical reasoning skills.

If exposing hidden talent is the goal, Warner's after-school arts programs succeed with a diverse array of clubs that attract vast, eclectic communities of student interests. The Dance Club, Korean Club, arts and crafts, and choir activities each offer students an opportunity to demonstrate their artistic, kinesthetic, cognitive, cultural and collaborative skills in a patient, structured and uplifting environment.

Warner's National Junior Honor Society provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership, community connections and interpersonal goal-setting skills. It truly represents teamwork!

As a result, many Warner students find it hard to leave school! Instead, they find personal connections with their fellow students, arenas where they can express their truest energies, and a school community that embraces their talents.

# Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## Rewarding Field Trip

With all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, the Webber ASES PRIDE students still had time for a very special experience! The students went on an unforgettable field trip to a skateboard and sport-bike park in Lake Forest. There, they visited booths with holiday-themed treats, crafts and games in which they were given backpacks, visors and, of course, candy canes as prizes.

The highlight of our trip was watching professional skateboarders, like Ryan Sheckler, do exciting stunts and tricks throughout the park. Afterward, students were greeted by the professionals, who shared their stories about perseverance, hard work and confidence. After pictures and autographs, each student met Mr. and Mrs. Claus and finally walk away from this amazing experience with a free brand-new pair of shoes bearing the park's brand!



This trip was a great reminder of what the holidays are about, and we're so thankful that we were part of it!

# Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx)



**Rob McKane**  
*Principal*

## Family Reading Night

Willmore continues to focus our energy on reading fluency. Every day we bring reading to our students and every night our students bring reading to their families. Like so many other schools, however, many of our families are not native English speakers and struggle to participate in this exercise with their children. So we decided to bring our families to reading.

With the help of our community liaisons and encouragement of our ELAC Committee we translated a number of strategies and questions our families could use to participate with their students in this most important exercise. After going over those, good reading was modeled, stopping for parent/student interaction and after the story was through, families were encouraged to discuss any aspect of the story they found interesting or curious. The night ended with milk and cookies and families chose books to read together. This was our most successful family night and we look forward to doing several more.



# Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**

### These kids today!

‘Tis the season and the year of Common Core...and while our focus on instructional best practices continues to be in sharp focus, I want to take a moment to comment on the other side of our common core...the “common core values” of what is shaping up to be an outstanding generation of young people. I am impressed daily by the altruistic and grateful gestures that our students display, both at our school sites and in our community. This generation of students, despite the need or craving for an occasional “selfie photo” with the latest technology, continues to display a generosity and concern for a larger world that is both energizing and refreshing.

The generational phrase, “Ahhh these kids today,” that we can be sure started no later than with the Greeks and the Bronze Age still rings true. Yet, I would challenge those of us who have achieved the life-longevity to utter that phrase to sharpen the focus on our lens...“these kids today” are heading in the right direction. Recently, I spoke with one of our teachers who was all too proud to share that the students in her classroom had manners that have reached beyond years of teaching. Her daily routine with students has shown something very special about the “common core manners” that visit her classroom each day...woo hoo for our future!

Evidence you say? Just recently a community member was very kind in taking a moment to send an e-mail to one of our principals about their experience in just that same “everyday life situation” involving the all too important common core values of our kids. That e-mail that follows is just the evidence that our school districts, communities, and families are seeking...yes our future is bright!

*Dear Mr. Principal*

*On Monday afternoon, I stopped by a local fast food restaurant... Usually, I go there to pick up a sandwich to take home. On this occasion however, the restaurant was nearly empty so I decided to eat my lunch in the restaurant. I placed my order, got my soda and sat at a table near the window. I looked out and saw a crowd of at least 30 students from your high school approaching the restaurant. My first thought was to rush to the counter and have them pack my meal to go. I have been in fast food restaurants in Los Angeles and Long Beach. When crowds of high school students show up, the places become circuses. They are smart-aleck kids with their pants falling down, yelling, laughing, using language that would make a marine blush and a parent cry in shame.*

*I expected to see that with your high school crowd as well. After all, they are high schoolers. That’s the way all kids act today. Or, at least that was what I thought. Boy was I wrong! Your students were quite well behaved, well dressed, and respectful. When I went to get a refill of my soda, one of the young men smiled and stepped to one side to allow me access even though he was there first.*

*I commented to the restaurant manager about how the students were acting. She said they are always that way.*

*I suspect that you have your share of behavior issues to deal with as Principal of such a large school. If the young people I experienced in the restaurant today are a reflection of how the rest of your student body behave, you and your staff should be proud. Proud of yourselves and proud of the generation of new citizens you are preparing for the future. Congratulations.*

*Keep up the good work.*

*Ahh Yes... “These kids today!”*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Kathleen Iverson**  
*President*

### School Board Members ‘Sharpen Their Skills,’ Too!

As the presidency of the HBUHSD Board of Trustees is passed to me, I want to build on the message begun by Trustee Castrey in the last issue of *School News Roll Call*. Trustee Castrey focused on STEM teachers in the HBUHSD “sharpening our skills.” As board members, we are also busy sharpening our skills! HBUHSD is fortunate to have three of its five board members as veterans. Ms. Castrey, Dr. Simons and Mrs. Henry have 28, 22, and 13 years of service respectively. The two newest school board members, Dr. Dishno and I, have less longevity as trustees, but each comes to the position with over 35 years as public school educators. What, you may ask, do board members need to know, and how do they go about getting the training they need?

Much of our training comes from workshops and conferences sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), an organization that represents over 1,000 educational district boards in California. In December, your board members went to the CSBA annual conference to learn more about curriculum and student achievement, the current status of school funding and finance, trends and demands of new technologies, issues of school and student safety, and laws that impact school districts. This article will focus on finance.

### Understanding and Balancing Our Budget

Board members must be able to read, understand and approve a complex budget. Did you know that the HBUHSD Board of Trustees is responsible for nearly \$145 million in annual revenue and the education of more than 16,000 students in grades 9–12? We have trained staff that does the hard work of building and producing the printed pages, but we are responsible for approving the parameters needed to assemble the budget. We must make dozens of assumptions in planning the district’s finances. For example, we must anticipate future student enrollment over a three-year period. Based on the number of eighth-grade students in our feeder schools and recent trends, we expect our average daily attendance (ADA) will be down in 2014–15 by about 50 students. This is only a 0.3 percent decline, but it means \$350,000 less money we have to spend. This difference will require us to either use our reserves or make \$350,000 in cuts.

Your board must plan for enrollment variations as well as funding changes coming from Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Well-informed decisions and good fiscal planning made by this and previous boards saved the HBUHSD from the need to use furlough days to balance the budget. In the last two months, each of the HBUHSD trustees has attended one or more budget workshops in which we work to keep our knowledge and skills honed.

Currently the HBUHSD is only receiving 82 cents out of every dollar the state should be providing us under Prop 98. We build and adjust our budgets based on “the best information” we have. When we get different information, we go back and revise the budget as necessary. No wonder we need to keep our fiscal skills sharp!

## Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



**Kathleen Iverson**  
*President*



**Susan Henry**  
*Vice President*



**Dr. Duane Dishno**  
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*Member*



# Coast *High School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Meet Our New Math Teacher!

*By Brian Huffine*

Hello, Coast High School community! My name is Brian Huffine, and I am the new math teacher at Coast. I am very excited to join the Coast team and help students reach their academic and personal goals. Joining the staff of an independent-study high school could be quite challenging considering the difference in teaching strategies and operating procedures from a traditional high school. Fortunately, I come from the world of alternative education and have worked in independent study in

the Adult Education program for over 10 years. I've also had the good fortune to work with the previous Coast math teacher, so the program is familiar to me.

This year, Coast High School is offering blended online versions of classes so that students can complete their graduation requirements utilizing the latest in educational technology. By making use of these online courses, students can study anywhere using their laptop computers, tablets or smartphones. The courses feature video lessons, applets, online content and checks for understanding. Additionally, students have the full support of highly qualified teachers to back their progress and assist with questions or challenging concepts and skills. These online courses were added to support our "digital native" students as they prepare for college and careers in the global economy utilizing technology.

In addition to students graduating from Coast High School, the school helps students stay on course for graduation with their class at their home high school. Last year, with the support of her teachers and lots of hard work, Silvia J. was able to make up classes that she had failed during her freshman year. Silvia was able to graduate on time with her friends at her home high school. The teachers and staff are very proud to be able to help her accomplish her goal. Good job, Silvia!

Coast High School staff members feel privileged and honored to have the opportunity to help students achieve their goals in a safe and nurturing environment. Not only that, but we are also proud of how successful students are after graduating from our school. The self-discipline and independent-learning skills students acquire at Coast are ones necessary for a successful transition into college or the work force.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending Coast High School, the teachers and guidance staff are happy to discuss how to transfer in order to continue pursuing your educational, college and career goals. They can be reached at our office.



**Jazmine Ruiz**  
*Student Representative*

## HBUHSD Gives Back for the Holidays!

In light of the holidays, the schools of the Huntington Beach Unified High School District showed their holiday spirit and gave back to the community.

Marina High School started off December with Winter Wishes, in which Associated Student Body (ASB) fulfilled the wishes of students. Some of these wishes included donating money to less-fortunate families, giving a Disneyland ticket to a young boy who recently beat cancer, and giving a boy a bunny.

Westminster High School performed a Miracle Minute, in which students donated money and all proceeds were used to purchase holiday gifts and food for families of students who are either homeless or in need at the school.

Community Day School students have been making beanies and donated over 60 beanies to cancer patients at Children's Hospital of Orange County.

Valley Vista High School's fund-raiser, Change for Change, bought toothpaste, shampoo, blankets, and food for the Huntington Beach Youth Center with the proceeds from selling hot chocolate and popcorn.

Edison High School students donated blood to help save lives, and Huntington Beach High School ASB visited a local Huntington Beach soup kitchen and helped serve food to the homeless.

The holidays are the time to give back, and the students of our district chose to help spread holiday cheer.

# Community Day School

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## An Exceptional Educator

This year it was a pleasure to recognize Darla Merrill as the Community Day High School's Volunteer of the Year. This special event was held at the Huntington Beach Masonic Lodge.

The Community Day High School serves some of the neediest and most challenging students in the district. Our students have some of the most amazing obstacles to overcome both emotionally and academically, and they are overcoming them because of our staff. In fact, we could recognize all of our teachers for their dedication to the students.

But Darla is truly in a class of her own. Her unconditional dedication and passion for her students is just amazing. She truly wants to see her students overcome and succeed. She preaches this all the time, even when they don't want to hear it! But that doesn't stop Darla. She is the one of the best encouragers of the discouraged that I know.

Here are some examples of what Darla does with her students, above and beyond just teaching them science, social science, math, art, health and a number of elective courses. For the past few years Darla has also organized and taken the CDS students to the Ronald McDonald House to help bake and decorate cookies for families of sick children staying at the CHOC hospital.

This year Darla's students are even knitting! Her students have knitted over 45 caps of all sizes and colors for donation to the patients at CHOC. The class delivered the caps prior to the holidays.



**Claudia Gomez, Dennis Herzog, Darla Merrill, Nora Wakefield, Holly Romley, Chris Sweeny, Steve Curiel**

## Going All Out

Darla's class is also the leader in collecting money for the Pennies for Patients program, which donates money to the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. Her class is even collecting can tabs that will be turned into money and donated to a worthy cause for fighting cancer.

Darla participates in many of the district-wide department meetings in order to ensure that the Community Day High School is teaching what the rest of the high schools are teaching. She was the founding teacher of the Community Day School, and has implemented a number of programs throughout the past years. This includes street law, online programming, food drives, recycling programs and many other volunteer opportunities for our students and staff.

Without a doubt, Darla has the heart of a volunteer. She is not one to settle for the "good enough," or just being OK. She is certainly someone you want to listen to when she has a concern, because she goes all out for her students. Darla is also one of the most enjoyable teachers to work with because of her energy, her passion for her students, and her still detectable Southern Girl accent.

The CDS thanks Darla for all that she does, and for who she is as a teacher and person. We are lucky to have her.





**Dr. D'Liese Melendrez**  
Principal

**The Arts are Alive**

*By Ted Reid, Assistant Principal*

Robert Shaw, the former conductor of the Atlanta Symphony, once proclaimed that, “The arts are not a privilege of the few, but a necessity for us all.”

Under the tutelage of dedicated visual and performing arts teachers, the students at Edison have an opportunity to pursue the beauty, the poetry and the passion of life through visual representation, as well as through song, dance and all manner of artistic endeavors.

Last spring, the students in the visual arts program adorned the 240 hallway with a spectacular mural. This imaginative illustration was the result of hundreds of hours of meticulous attention to minute detail from these very talented students. A high point last November was our vocal music department's production of the campy Broadway hit about a man-eating plant with an insatiable appetite, *Little Shop of Horrors*.



**This student-created mural now adorns the 240 hallway at Edison High School.**

After weeks of memorizing lines, rehearsing songs and perfecting choreography, the stage was set for a production which left the audience smiling and humming its memorable tunes as they left the theater.

Edison's marching band just completed their fall competition season. We are very proud that our band and color guard qualified for the California State Band Championships when they took first-place honors at the South Orange County Regional Contest.

Once again this year, the entire Edison student body will have an opportunity to explore their musical and dramatic potential in the ASB's annual spring musical. Please join us on February 28 through March 1 at the Huntington Beach High School auditorium for a great performance of *Footloose*, the 1998 Broadway version of the 1984 classic movie.

The arts are alive and well at Edison High School. Opportunities abound for all students to explore and develop their expressive and artistic potential.



**Kelly Ogas, Alexandra Price, Olivia Melgoza, & Jacob Cain**



**Chris Herzfeld**  
Principal

**Royal Regiment Excels and Legendary Band Director Retires**

Longtime legendary instrumental music teacher Gary Wampler is retiring from Fountain Valley High School after developing one of the finest marching band and

instrumental music programs in the nation. He is certainly going out on top, as the Fountain Valley Royal Regiment just completed an undefeated 11-0 season competing on the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) 5A circuit.

There really is no way to describe the impact that Gary Wampler has had on the students and culture of Fountain Valley High School in his 32 years as band director. Gary is an enigma. He develops a vision and will stop at nothing to see it through. He is resourceful and pragmatic. When the program outgrew its large trailer for equipment, he found a way to get a semi-tractor trailer rig. If they needed a stadium for practice, they rented one. Chairs, instruments, uniforms, drumsticks, a feeder program at the middle schools—whatever it takes. Need people? The Fountain Valley Royal Regiment (FVRR) Booster organization is consistently over 100 members strong.

What exactly does Gary do? He and his staff get 200 students to perform extraordinarily complex music and color guard routines while executing precise choreography and not running into each other. How well do they do it? Here are some staggering numbers:

During Mr. Wampler's tenure, the FVRR has won: 120 sweepstakes awards; 160 first-place awards; 640 captions awards; 37 superior music festival ratings; and over 190 first-place color guard and percussion awards, including three Winter Guard International Percussion World Championships in Dayton, OH, plus one silver and two bronze medals. In addition, the Royal Regiment won their division in state championship tournaments in 1998, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2013.

The FVRR has performed in 11 television commercials, performed with Keith Urban at the Staples Center, and was featured in the Gwen Stefani music video “Hollaback Girl.” A month ago in Las Vegas, the FVRR won the open division, beating 22 schools and receiving best music, best marching and best show awards.

Awards and trophies are nice, but prizes were never the goal. Gary was about building a big program that pushed the students to perform at levels they never thought they could. He wants every student in music. He built middle school feeder bands and orchestras. For 38 years, he was the director of the district band in the Huntington Beach July 4th Parade. He lobbied for and got Advanced Placement Music Theory and Advanced Instrumental Music added to the curriculum. He started his own tutoring club to support students who struggle with the tremendous burden on their time. He has built an orchestra program that now rivals many collegiate and professional philharmonics.

Current student drum major Bianca Singer said, “Mr. Wampler is the most enthusiastic person I have ever met. He gave us the ambition and drive to become better and strive for above and beyond and has sparked a passion for music that we have never seen before.”

Mr. Wampler will hand the baton to Mark Irons, himself a product of the FVRR. Mr. Irons has been the assistant band director for the past six years and is ready to continue the legacy and add his own vision to the future of the FVHS Royal Regiment and the instrumental music program. Thank you, Mr. Wampler!



**Gary Wampler**

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 21?





# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## **Excellence in Adult Education**

It is always a pleasure to recognize staff for the hard work they do for our school and students. At a recent regional conference held

by the California Council for Adult Education (CCAЕ), three of our staff were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and contributions to adult education. What made this a very special night was the fact that they were recognized by their adult education peers across Southern California. It so happens that I was also selected to receive an award, and I am honored to be listed here with my fellow co-workers.



**Li Ngo, Steve Curiel, Mai Tran**

## **Li Ngo – Excellence in Teaching Award**

Li Ngo is an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) teacher who has experience in teaching all ESL levels. In 2004 she developed an English Learner (EL) Civics curriculum and is now coordinating the EL Civics assessments. Li worked collaboratively with a group of ESL teachers to develop a new placement test, which is now being used to place new students. Li helps immigrant students by teaching them survival skills in their new country. She encourages and empowers her students to be actively involved in the community by teaching them life-skill lessons that integrate reading, speaking, listening, and writing.

## **Mai Tran – Excellence in Support Service**

Mai Tran has been an employee for Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS) for over 17 years. Mai is a senior secretary who schedules meetings and appointments and is responsible for both certificated and classified ESL personnel time cards. Her education as a business accounting major comes in handy as she assists with requisitions, purchasing, and account codes for the adult school. As the CCAЕ chapter treasurer, she keeps accurate records of the chapter’s expenses. She is very professional and highly organized, maintains files and records, and is a pleasure to work with. In addition she assists in producing instructional tests and materials for teachers and students. She actively participates and assists in scheduling events and activities for staff.

## **Steve Curiel – Kirk McKeever Award for Significant Contributions to Adult Education**

Steve Curiel has been in adult education for 11 years. He has been very active in and supportive of adult education at the school, region, and state levels. He has proved himself to be an asset to adult education in every aspect. He has presented workshops not only at conferences but also at adult schools throughout the state. He is an exceptional leaders at HBAS, encouraging staff not only to join CCAЕ but to become active members. Steve has a great rapport with the Huntington Beach district administration and is well respected in the community. He always has the best interest of the school, students, and staff in mind when making decisions. He is a visionary, always looking for ways to expand and enhance adult education, not only at HBAS, but throughout the state.

# Huntington Beach *High School*

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



**Dr. Rocky Murray**  
*Principal*

## **Crafting Transformational Learning Environments**

*By: Dr. Angela Harding, Assistant Principal, Activities*

Prior to becoming administrators, we spend significant time as teachers. During those teaching years, we develop a keen appreciation of the impact of learning environments upon student engagement, a classroom variable often overlooked. As administrators, we must continue to apply the insights that we have learned as teachers, and therefore, we must continue to be both fascinated by and curious about the impact of learning environments upon student engagement, and even further, the impact of learning environments upon student transformation.

Classroom observations both formal and informal provide excellent opportunities to explore the nuanced relationship between learning environments, student engagement and, ultimately, student transformation. I’m an assistant principal of activities, and my own fourth-period leadership class is no exception. As instructional leaders, we strive to hone our craft and engage in the pursuit of mastery. As such, I recently reflected upon the classroom design of our ASB room.

After collaborating with students, the decision was made to physically structure the classroom differently, the purpose being to set the tone that this is the student body government voting chamber. Much like the United States Senate, students now sit in pairs with nameplates that give their last names. The executive board sits at the front of the room, and the student body president—with his gavel, also a new addition—and the executive Board conduct each meeting.

Crafting these simple changes in the physical learning environment has resulted in profoundly positive shifts in student attitude, behavior and decorum. Additionally, these changes have succeeded in transforming the self-view of students.

“I see myself differently now, as more of a leader,” said Samantha Wojtaszek, Associated Student Body treasurer and senior at Huntington Beach High School. “The new classroom structure reminds us that we are the voting government body representing the voice of the school. We feel the gravity of each decision more now, and we take it more seriously as an opportunity to exercise leadership.

## **Food & Nutrition Services**

Huntington Beach Union High School District • 714/894-1698

# **5 Secrets to a Healthy New You!**

*By Grace Kim, HBUHSD Food and Nutrition Services*

Are you going to make changes to your diet this year? Are you wanting to actually stick to your goals? Even if you broke every year’s resolutions in the past, let’s make this year different.

Tips for success!

- Be specific. Get as detailed as you can. Instead of “Eat better,” try “Make half your grains whole grains.” Try replacing white bread with 100% whole-wheat bread.
- Take small steps. If you haven’t been in the habit of eating breakfast, start with small steps like “Eat breakfast one to two times a week.”
- Write it down. Post it somewhere you will see it often, like the refrigerator.
- Share your goals with someone you trust. Better yet, find someone with similar goals. It’s easier to stick to your resolutions when you have someone to support you.
- Something is better than nothing. Expect that you will run into bumps every now and then. So you may have skipped one day; brush it off and move on! Each day brings a fresh new start.

Haven’t made any nutrition New Year’s resolutions yet? Here are some ideas for healthy nutrition habits and goals to help you get started:

- Make half your grains whole grains.
- Switch to 1% or non-fat milk.
- Make fruits and vegetables part of your meal.
- Avoid eating in front of the television or computer.
- Eat together as a family.

For more information, contact Huntington Beach Union High School District Food and Nutrition Services at (714) 894-1698.



# Marina *High School*

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



## Come Join Us at the- Home of the Vikings!

It's that time of year when many families are shopping for schools. Are you happy where you are, or is there another school that is a better match for you and your family? Marina High has it all!



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
Principal

We were in the top 15 percent of California Schools in 2012, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Our teachers have won many awards including HBUHSD Teacher of the Year and seven California League of High School Educators of the Year. Nearly 97 percent graduated in 2012—the state average is 78.5 percent—and SAT scores are among the district's highest, with a 97 percent pass rate on the CAHSEE.

We have a strong AP curriculum program, an award-winning robotics program and several championship sports teams. Our English Department is proud that over 29 percent of our students are in Honors or Advanced Placement courses and experience a 90 percent pass rate on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Our social studies program is top rank in the district in all AP social studies subjects, with exceptional pass rates. Our instrumental and vocal-music programs have won prizes as has our MHS TV program. And after learning either of two world languages, Spanish and Japanese, students can graduate with a Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas.

Our Mathematics and Science Departments offer challenging courses. Our Math Department has the greatest number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement Math classes who pass their high-stakes end-of-year exams. We also offer five math courses for our struggling and special needs students, with two credentialed teachers in each class. Our AP biology and chemistry courses have a nearly 90 percent AP exam. We offer a project-based Marina biology course and a number of science clubs, and we participate in Science Bowl and the Science National Honor Society. We also embrace innovative teaching practices such as the Flipped Classroom and Instagram and Facebook as instructional tools.

## A Comprehensive Catalog

Marina's award-winning instrumental programs include Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band, a growing orchestra, Drum Line and a variety of other ensembles. In vocal music, our five choirs and after-school jazz-vocal ensemble are awesome. Visual arts offers a broad range of courses including Commercial Art, AP Art, Ceramics, Screen Printing, Computer Graphics, Painting, Drawing, Jewelry Design and Computer Animation.

If your future career can benefit from technical education, automotive, welding or construction coursework, Marina once again has it all! Through our Career Technical Education Programs (CTE), students at Marina can experience a wide range of career pathways in software design, virtual enterprise, computer game development, transportation, tourism/recreation, communications, marketing, fashion, interior design, manufacturing, product development, building and construction, and child development. Through our local community colleges, students can even earn college credit in many of our courses.

And finally, throughout our history, we've accumulated 161 league titles, 21 CIF titles and one state championship in our athletic programs. In 2012, the Wrestling Team, Girls' Cross-Country, Girls' Softball won league and Baseball went to the CIF finals. Our football program will have a new coach next season, and facilities for the team have been renewed and refreshed to continue a winning tradition in sports.

You can see that at the Home of the Vikings, you'll experience academic programs that focus on success and preparation for an advanced education, whether at a university, a community college or a trade school. Come take a tour of our school and experience what educational excellence, dedication, commitment and positive school relationships create.

# Ocean View *High School*

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



**Dan Bryan**  
Principal

## Tipping Point with IRs!

*By James Parker, Assistant Principal, Curriculum/Instruction*

"Instructional rounds are an amazing tool to spread best practices across academic areas. They rule!" exclaimed math teacher Whitney Newman.

Instructional rounds started at Ocean View in the spring last school year with a 10-teacher pilot. They rounded twice, first visiting other teachers with a partner and then coming together to have lunch and share out the best practices they all witnessed.

Two of the piloting teachers, math instructor Danny Cash and social studies teacher Brenda McDonough, shared their experience in August at the staff-development day with the entire teaching staff.

"Instructional rounds last year was the shot in the arm my classroom and I needed," Mr. Cash told the staff. "It inspired me. It's the best professional development I've done. I was stuck in a rut doing things a certain way, and I went to a social studies class and saw a game the kids were doing to learn and how much fun the kids were having. I tried it the next day with my kids."

From Mr. Cash and Ms. McDonough's testimonials, 25 additional teachers signed up to be part of Instructional Rounds in this school year. Mr. Cash and Ms. McDonough led the "newbies" through a half-day practicum of instructional rounds in November, where they learned about the process, rounded with partners, and then debriefed.

## IR Testimonials

Since the practicum, the returnees and the newbies have rounded together in December. That discussion was facilitated again by Mr. Cash and Ms. McDonough, in two groups.

"It's a great way to see what other people are doing and to steal ideas," said special-education teacher Mona Ducharme.

"It's a great way to tear down the walls of the school by being welcomed in by other teachers, seeing our colleagues because we are all a team. I was inspired by Mrs. Newman!" said health teacher Kim Ohara.

"The best part is being able to walk around with a colleague and then sit down with them, supporting one another and lifting each other up. It's one of the best things we have going here at OV," said Business Academy instructor Roger Keating.

"It's a great opportunity to see fellow teachers in their element. It's a great way for us to see different styles and subjects we might not be familiar with," said social studies teacher Casey Chop. "There is value in seeing people do things in an outside-the-box way, and it gives me courage to try something I might not otherwise try."

With over half the teaching staff at Ocean View participating in instructional rounds, a tipping point has been reached! We look forward to welcoming everyone again to participate second semester as we learn by doing—from one another!



OVHS teachers debriefing about what they learned after visiting classrooms.





**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

### The Young Poets Club

High school students, especially at-risk students, are often reluctant to share their thoughts and feelings with their peers. Their personal situations often stifle rather than encourage the idea of self-expression and self-esteem.

Social media promotes anonymous communication. Many academic courses focus on paper and pencil, or computerized participation and testing. So what do you do when students ask if they can share their poetry with their English class?

Well, if you're VVHS senior English teacher Seena Rich, your response is an enthusiastic "Yes!" You then open your classroom to these young poets during lunch time on Friday.

Initially, some students read their own works. Others were too shy, and just asked their fellow students to read theirs. Some students just listened. The only rules for the event were to show respect for every poet and reader by listening quietly, and then offer only praise and constructive criticism.

But interest quickly spread to the other students, and the Young Poets Club, which soon opened to the whole school during these Friday lunches, was born.

The content of the students' poetry is even more surprising. The participants all agree that the Young Poets Club is an outlet where they can share the events that have shaped their lives, as well as their reactions about topics like poverty, violence, abuse, love, despair and hope. The Club's president, Anthony, feels that it gives him the impetus to think about his past and dream about his future.



**Mrs. Rich surrounded by presenters from the VVHS Young Poets Club.**

### A Great Motivation

The changes in the poets and their audience have been inspiring. One young poet revealed that it took several Friday sessions before he had the courage to share his poem in free verse, and even then he said he was shaking as his peers watched and listened.

Onlookers report that they often identify with the content of the poems and the experiences upon which they are based. The presenters feel proud and more confident each time they read a poem.

Mrs. Rich adds another perspective: "The Young Poets Club fosters mutual respect among the students when they recognize some of the same experiences and feelings expressed by the poets. The communication and connections between students also builds a strong sense of school community."

The next challenge for the Young Poets Club is to further stretch student creativity and imagination by introducing the works of other poets, especially other young poets. They will also meet established poets to have them share their own work and discuss the creative process.

The hope is that by stimulating the students to take creative risks in their own writing, they will take their imagination to new heights and their poetry to new audiences.



**Owen Crosby**  
*Principal*

### Workability: Focus on Common Core, College & Career Readiness

The success of 21st-century students mandates they be college-ready and be equipped with skills necessary for 21st-century jobs. The Westminster High School (WHS) Workability Program is an innovative, out-of-the-box, and goal-oriented program. The program administrator, Wendy Schwartz, and her staff educate Special Education students in transition skills such as academic development, career training, and independent living.

The WHS Workability Program develops the "four Cs" of the Common Core State Standards, which include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Through a creative curriculum, job-shadowing opportunities, and community-based instruction/work experience, students develop critical-thinking skills that increase rigor and make students more competitive in the global world. Through goal setting and planning, students develop self-advocacy skills which enable them to communicate effectively in job preparation and job-shadowing experiences. Collaboration with both peers and professionals in the education and business world is emphasized during college and career preparation activities including: team building, career portfolio development, pre-employment training, and community-based instruction. Creativity is evident through student projects based on individual goals that utilize technology and social media.

Through their four years of high school, students are provided with: career counseling and guidance; community-based instruction; vocational training through Coastline Regional Occupational Program or other community colleges; referrals to community agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, One Stop Center, and Department of Rehabilitation; transportation assistance; job readiness; job development and placement; and continued support from the school to career transition.



**Wendy Schwartz and the Workability staff**

Wendy Schwartz and her staff of teachers and job developers provide an outstanding array of community-based instruction activities to motivate students for success. Recent activities and community support include motivational speakers from local organizations such as the Newport Sports Museum, Learning for Life Leadership Training, Waterfront Hilton Career Day, Working Wardrobes, Someone Cares Soup Kitchen, Westminster Senior Center, Ronald McDonald House, and Project W at the Westminster Mall. Students also experience social awareness and potential employment options while attending Angels, Dodgers, and Lakers games, University of California, Los Angeles I Am Going to College Day, and Friends of Rollo Fishing.

We are excited to offer this program to our Special Education students as we prepare them for college and 21<sup>st</sup>-century careers.



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