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School News

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

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2015

Westminster School District to Offer First Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program in California

By Renae Bryant, English Learner & Dual Language Immersion Programs Coordinator – Westminster School District

Westminster School District will implement the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program in California in the fall of 2015 at DeMille Elementary School in kindergarten. With Vietnamese dual language immersion programs in Washington, Oregon, and Texas, Westminster School District is thrilled to make California the fourth state to host a Vietnamese dual language immersion program in the nation.

So, what is dual language immersion? Dual language immersion integrates native English speaking and English language learning students in the same classroom and provides academic instruction through two languages, one of which is the primary language of each group (for example Vietnamese and English). The students learn a second language while they are learning content, which is very different than how most of us learned a second language. Many of us do not remember our second language, because we learned it out of context and in isolation (for example conjugating Spanish verbs). Unlike bilingual education, the goals and research based benefits of dual language immersion are bilingualism, biliteracy, cultural proficiency, global citizenship, academic achievement in all subject areas, 21st century skills, increased family involvement and the Seal of Biliteracy Pathway Award attainment at third, fifth, and eighth grades (with the ultimate goal of the student graduating with the California Department of Education formally recognized Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma).

To date, more than 2.5 million jobs in California are tied to international trade. Since 1992, the jobs tied to international trade have increased by 108%. The need for students to be bilingual and multilingual is rapidly increasing. Westminster School District is pleased to do its part to prepare our students to be true global citizens by offering the first Vietnamese dual language immersion program in California.



“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” —Nelson Mandela

This Nelson Mandela quote is at the heart of 21st century skills, global awareness and biliteracy. It is at the center of every dual language immersion program including the innovative Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program that will begin in the fall of 2015 in Westminster School District.

Enrollment forms will be available in the spring for this outstanding but rigorous program. Westminster School District will take transfers from outside the district as well as within the district for our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program. For more information, please call Renae Bryant at 714-894-7311, ext. 1083 or email at rbryant@wsdk8.us.

Saturday Academy a Success in all 16 WSD Schools!



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Volunteers are Priceless



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor

As we begin 2015 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.

The Fountain Valley Community Foundation was formed 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 Rob Frizzelle 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!

Volunteers save the City thousands of dollars
by performing necessary tasks.
We encourage you to volunteer.
Volunteers are not paid but are “priceless.”

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

Happy New Year 2015!



Jill Hardy
Mayor

I want to take a moment to express how wonderful it has been serving the residents of Huntington Beach as part of your City Council, and how honored and thrilled I am to serve as your Mayor for the second time.

We had an eventful 2014! We celebrated the 100 Years of Surfing, and Pier’s 100th anniversary with a historic commemoration ceremony. In addition, we hosted a spectacular 4th of July celebration, opened the free Vans skatepark, welcomed the first ever ‘Bulls on the Beach’ event, and broke ground on the long-awaited Senior Center in the Park.

Later this year Huntington Beach will welcome the opening of a modern day retail experience, that will bring a variety of new shops, dining experiences and a new hotel.

I want to reiterate how excited and privileged I am to serve as your Mayor. I am eager to see what the new year will bring!

WALK for Kids

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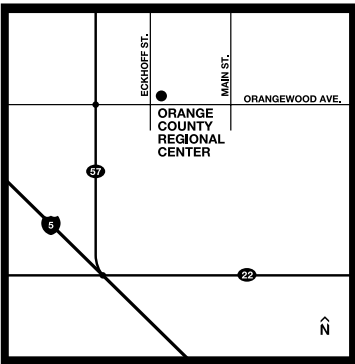
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When Should Your Child See an Orthodontist?



Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

One of the most common questions I hear from parents is what age their children should come in for an orthodontic evaluation. Unfortunately, I've found most people think one of the following: 1. they should wait until their children are in their teens, 2. they should wait until all of their child's baby teeth have fallen out, or 3. they should only see a specialist if their primary care dentist gives them a referral to see an orthodontic specialist. However, there can be subtle problems with the growth and development of the teeth and jaws that orthodontic specialists can detect at an early age and may be best treated at that time. It is for this reason that the American Association of Orthodontists and I recommend a check-up with an orthodontic specialist by age 7. At your child's orthodontic evaluation, it may be revealed that their bite is fine and that continued monitoring is appropriate. Alternatively, early treatment may be recommended as it can prevent serious problems from developing and may make treatment at a later age shorter and less complicated. In addition, early orthodontic treatment may allow results to be achieved that simply could not be achieved after the face and jaws have finished growing. Early treatment gives orthodontic specialists the chance to:

- Help guide jaw growth
- Lower the risk of trauma to protruded front teeth
- Correct harmful oral habits such as finger/thumb sucking habits
- Improve appearance (and as a result improve your child's self-esteem)
- Help guide permanent teeth into a more favorable position
- Improve the way the lips close/meet

With an early orthodontic evaluation, you will give your child the best chances for a bright future and a beautiful (and healthy) smile!

Dr. Andrew Harner is an orthodontic specialist and practices orthodontics in Huntington Beach. He is member of the American Association of Orthodontists. He serves on the Board of Directors for both the California Association of Orthodontists and the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists. In addition, he is the Case Report Editor for the PCSO Bulletin. 714-842-9933



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year! The holidays already seem so long ago as we begin 2015 focused on the next six months of this school year. Healthy food choices and exercise will help the students reach their academic goals. We welcome Dr. Harner as a new columnist to write about orthodontic health. FV Regional Hospital & Medical Center continues to bring us valuable health news.

The quality of our schools set the standard for the community and we are fortunate to have community and parent involvement in our schools.

Our next issue is March 11.

School News

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Elizabeth's specialty:
Bookworm

Elizabeth, 20-years-old,
Miller Children's Urology & Nephrology Patient

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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What is LCAP?



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

As part of California’s new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required to develop, adopt, and annually update a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP system provides an opportunity to engage a broad group of stakeholders in determining how to invest financial resources to achieve positive outcomes for students. Involving parents, students, teachers, and community members in the planning process is a step in the right direction toward local control, flexibility, and accountability.

LCAPs are designed to:

- Describe measurable, multi-year goals for student outcomes.
- Demonstrate how the district’s budget will help achieve those goals.
- Assess how well the plan’s strategies improve outcomes each year to encourage continuous improvement.
- Address specific needs of students from low-income families, English learners, and foster youth.

State Priorities

California has identified eight priorities for improving student outcomes that must be addressed by school districts in their LCAPs.

1. Basic Services – provide students access to fully credentialed teachers, instructional materials that align with state standards, and facilities maintained in good repair.
2. Implement Academic Standards – implement California’s academic standards, including the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics, Next Generation Science Standards, English language development, history social-science, visual and performing arts, health education, and physical education.
3. Parent Involvement – seek parent input in decision-making and promote parent participation in the educational programs of all students.
4. Pupil Achievement – improve student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures including test scores, English proficiency, and college and career preparedness.
5. Pupil Engagement – measured by school attendance, chronic absenteeism, dropout, and high school graduation rates.
6. School Climate – measured by student suspension and expulsion rates, and other means, such as surveys of pupils, parents, and teachers on the sense of school safety and connectedness.
7. Access and Enrollment to Courses in a Broad Course of Study – student enrollment in a broad course of study in all of the subject areas, including those classes that provide Advanced Placement study.
8. Other Pupil Outcomes – measuring other important student outcomes related to required areas of study, including physical education and the arts.

What is the Status of LCAPs in Orange County?

All 27 districts in Orange County, including the OCDE ACCESS program, have developed their LCAPs and were approved by the Orange County Superintendent of Schools in August. These LCAPS are posted on our website for public review. I am pleased to report that after a collaborative process to ensure that the needs of all students are addressed in a fiscally responsible manner, all districts have moved ahead with full implementation of their plans. Looking forward, Districts will provide annual updates for stakeholders and local boards regarding progress toward their LCAP goals.

I encourage you to get involved with your local school to share your thoughts about how to best meet the diverse needs of our students. Your valuable insight will help ensure that Orange County students lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.

For more information, and to view district LCAPs, visit <http://ocde.us/lcap>.

Library Highlights



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

Winter has arrived in a flurry! Our Winter Toddler Storytime session runs from January 14 to March 18, 2015. This fun event is designed for children aged two to five, but all age groups are welcome. We have stories, songs and plenty of fun.

We are continuing with our Kids Movie Monday. These family friendly movies are shown on most third Mondays of the month. Look for one on March 16, since we are closed for Presidents Day on February 16. For more details, please call the library information desk.

Homework Help picks up again on Wednesdays and Thursdays until May 28, from 4–5 p.m. (except during school holidays). Teen volunteers are available to assist elementary and middle school students with their homework, or to act as reading buddies. Students should bring their homework or book. They are also restricted to 15 minutes of help when others are waiting.

Please join us for our Monthly Craft Time on every first Tuesday afternoon of the month. On February 3 and March 3 at 3:30 p.m. we will be offering a quick seasonal craft project that is perfect for children from ages two to 14.

Our BARK program (Beach Animals Reading to Kids) is held on every third Saturday of the month. Here we invite and encourage children to increase their reading skills and self-confidence by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. Students can sign up at the Fountain Valley library Information desk.

Teen Movie Saturdays are every first Saturday of the month. Our Teen Activities Board selects movies that are rated PG or PG-13. Please call the library for more information.

Be sure to watch for our fascinating program about wolves and their habitat, as presented by Skie Bender, an educational outreach specialist for Wolf Haven International in the state of Washington. She will be at the library on Tuesday, March 10 at 4 p.m. to share her experiences and show artifacts about these fascinating and beautiful creatures.

Huntington Beach Central Library

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

Many Activities in Store



Barbara Richardson
*Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services*

The Friends of the Children’s Library group is hosting its annual Authors Festival on Tuesday, January 27 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Central Library. The awards ceremony for the winners of the writing and illustrating contest will also be held during the Festival at 3:45 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. Come meet a variety of writers and illustrators of children’s books. Books will also be available for sale (and at an author signing) during the event.

Huntington Beach Reads has several events planned for the book *Until Tuesday*, by Luis Carlos Montalvan. These programs are free and open to the public. *Until Tuesday* is a story about a wounded soldier whose life is changed by a therapy dog named Tuesday. There will be a special story and craft time for children on February 16 at 2 p.m. at a local bookstore; on February 25 at 5 p.m. at the Oak View Branch Library; and also on February 26 at 3 p.m. in the Central Library’s Tabby Theater.

Ending highlights will feature the author speaking at the Central Library Theater on March 26 at 7 p.m. He will also be hosting a special children’s event on Saturday, March 28 in the Library’s Tabby Theater. The author will read aloud from his children’s book *Tuesday Tucks Me In*. For more information about HB Reads and events, please visit HBreads.org.

Children from four to 12 years of age can also read aloud to a dog at our B.A.R.K program on the first Saturday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fountain Valley School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

On behalf of the Fountain Valley School District, I would like to welcome all of our students, teachers, support staff, administrators and parents back from winter break, and wish everyone a very Happy New Year. Here's to 2015!

As the new superintendent, I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am to work in a place as special as FVSD. This is a dream job for me, and I am excited to be joining such a spectacular team! FVSD has a dedicated and committed Board of Trustees; has done great work for years; and is highly regarded as one of the best districts in Orange County. And, of course, it is a privilege to follow Dr. Marc Ecker and to build upon Fountain Valley's already strong foundation.



FVSD Trustees Sandra Crandall, Jeanne Galindo, Lisa Schultz, Ian Collins, Jim Cunneen with Superintendent, Mark Johnson, Ed.D.

Over the next several months, I look forward to meeting and working with many of the people who make this community and this school district a special place for children. I have been and will continue to meet with teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, community and business leaders, and members of various community organizations. These meetings are critical in helping me understand the role the district plays in serving and supporting students, families, and the larger community.

Additionally, it is important that we continue to build a visionary plan to prepare our students to flourish in their future endeavors. For years, Fountain Valley School District has served as a model for others to observe. However, in the spirit of continuous improvement, our work is never done, and we will continue to be the beacon of excellence for public education.

Together, I'm confident that we will provide exceptional opportunities and outcomes for our children. In such a short time, I already love working with all of you, for all of you, and in this very special place. What a *nice place to live*, work and go to school!

Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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A Champion of Public Education

The end of December 2014 is the retirement of Dr. Marc Ecker, Superintendent of the Fountain Valley School District. Dr. Ecker has faithfully served the district for 35 years. He has held many different positions serving as principal of Fulton, Masuda and Talbert Middle Schools. He was Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, Business Services. Dr. Ecker became the superintendent in 1996 and during his tenure has made the district an outstanding place for students and staff.

A few of his major accomplishments are; creating an endowment fund; solar energy at all of the schools; a new maintenance and operations facility; and a new district office. His instructional leadership has led to 10 Distinguished School recognitions, a Blue Ribbon School and Fountain Valley School District being recognized as the top performing elementary school district in Orange County.

He has been recognized as an important leader of the Special Education Alliance, has been awarded the Tracey Gaffey Award for his mentoring of aspiring and new leaders. Dr. Ecker has been honored as the ACSA Superintendent of the Year; he also served as ACSA President and as the President of the Association of Middle Level Educators. After his retirement, he will continue to assist a multitude of educators in their professional growth through ACSA and his teaching at California State University, Fullerton.

He is a kind, caring and passionate man. He has always displayed a positive demeanor through all his endeavors. He is respected by his peers, staff and Board members. If there was an Academy Award for education, Dr. Ecker would receive the "Outstanding Contribution" to public education award.

Dr. Ecker will be missed but can be assured that he has left a legacy in the school district and throughout California. On Thursday, December 18th, 2014 the Fountain Valley School District Offices were dedicated in honor of Marc Ecker. From all of us in Fountain Valley, you will be missed. Good-bye and good luck.

Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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

Get a 'Taste of Fountain Valley'!



Judy Edwards
President

On Saturday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m., the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation will be sponsoring the Taste of Fountain Valley event at the Fountain Valley Senior Center. Join our Gold Sponsors—Mimi's Jewelry, Rainbow Environmental Services and Ziggedy.com—and hundreds more supporting our local schools. Our website has ticket and sponsor information.

Proceeds from the Taste of Fountain Valley event will help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 for art and music in the Fountain Valley School District to impact as many students as possible. We are funding instruments and materials, and FVSD teachers are working on other programs. Giving Tuesday also raised \$2,660 and is still open at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/FVSF4ArtsandMusic>. These programs to fund music and art complement the essential funding we provided to launch robotics programs at all middle schools last spring.

The Foundation also joins everyone honoring Dr. Marc Ecker on his retirement after over 35 years of serving the children of the Fountain Valley School District, the past 18 as our superintendent. And we welcome our new superintendent, Dr. Mark Johnson, who will start the New Year with us!

Our Foundation focuses on one thing: enabling our community to support our local schools by providing funds that enhance and enrich our students' experiences. We invite you to follow us on Facebook and visit our website frequently. To help out, get information, or if you have an idea we should consider, call us or e-mail TOFV@fvschools.org!

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

A Lab Learning Experience

Courreges fifth-grade students attended the Tiger Woods Learning Center (TWLC) during November. The TWLC Career Orientation Program (COP) provides fifth-grade students and teachers with interactive, innovative learning experiences.

Crime Lab 101 is a series of lessons that teach students about forensic science as a career, providing them with a variety of hands-on activities such as fingerprinting, DNA analysis, microscope use and chromatography. Marine Science gives students an opportunity to discover all aspects of ocean life, including exploration of oceanic regions, squid dissection, analysis of sand samples and marine-life classification.

While students participate in these interactive science and technology workshops, their classroom teacher receives professional development focused on the skills needed to re-create the TWLC experience in their own classrooms. Training demonstrates ways to incorporate positive youth development, science and the use of technology in a regular classroom environment.



Courreges student, Karlee Giuntoli enthusiastically works on her crime lab activity at the Tiger Woods Learning Center.

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

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



Kevin Johnson
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Student Council Inspires Falcon Pride

Student Council Elections were held during the month of October at Fulton Middle School. Our students did an outstanding job preparing their speeches and campaigns during election week. We are so proud of all of them! We are excited to announce our Fulton Middle School Student Council Executive Board for the 2014-2015 school year: Steve Stewart, President; Lauren Stewart, Vice President; Madison

Grogan, Secretary; Sadie Templin, Treasurer; Kelly T. Nguyen, Member at Large; and Paige Anderson, Cydney Izabal and Jakob Bixler, School Site Council Members.

Our Executive Board works with the homeroom representatives, under the guidance of Fulton's activities director, Jennifer Jareb, to plan activities throughout the school year. Around campus, they promote school spirit through classroom competitions and spirit days. Additionally, our student council plans our school dances and philanthropic drives and helps out around campus during special events.

Shortly after elections, the council immediately began working on the fall dance and the pumpkin competition, which were immediately followed by the holiday door-decorating competition. Students are looking forward to the spring dance, and in the meantime everyone is enjoying the once-a-month Rockin' Lunch hosted by the student council.

The Fulton student body is looking forward to a fun and exciting spring with all the exciting activities the council has planned!

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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Fall Family Fun Night!

Scott Rogers, a Cox PTO father served as our head director of our annual Fall Family Fun Night (FFFN). For the first time, FFFN was held on a Saturday evening in late October. It was a terrific way for our community to come together, kick off the school year, and share an amazing time of dancing with DJ Borack, food, games, prizes and numerous activities. Students played carnival-style games to earn raffle tickets and prizes. Dozens of amazing prizes, including toys and theme-park and baseball tickets, were handed out to happy winners.

Cox PTO looks forward to many years of hosting FFFN to bring our community together. A special thank you to all the PTO members, staff and fifth-grade volunteers for helping to make this year's event a huge success! Please keep your eyes and ears open for next year's Fall Family Fun Night to bring the Cox Community together.



Katelyn Densberger and Aiden Perez Winners at Cox Fall Family Fun Night.



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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Erin Bains
Principal

Student Council Organized Canned Food Drive

Each year the Gisler Elementary School Student Council holds a canned food drive to benefit the Southwest Community Center, which is located in Santa Ana. This center provides food, clothing, shelter, and guidance to help families make ends meet. This year, under the guidance of President RJ Frechette, Vice President Lucy Dowdy, Secretary Megan Puckett, and Executive Board Members Ethan Exequiel, Jacob Baker, Lila Crossett, and Kane Cross, the student council held another successful food drive to benefit families in need. The food drive was planned and organized by the officers and 10 room representatives.

All student council members reported to each classroom on campus about the food drive, helped organize the fliers and donation boxes, and made posters advertising the drive. They also organized boxes for collecting donated items brought into classrooms and collected the donations throughout the week of the food drive. By the end of the week, Gisler students had brought in a ton of cans! The canned food drive was a great success!



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

Woodshop Among Students’ Electives

The introduction of electives into a student’s schedule is definitely one of the highlights of entering middle school. One popular favorite among Masuda Middle School’s students is our woodshop class, which lasts for one trimester of a student’s sixth-, seventh-, or eighth-grade year. As the trimester begins, students are first required to pass a stringent safety test, and then they move on to a series of required projects. These mandatory projects demonstrate students’ competency with hand tools, drills, saws, and sanders. After successful completion of the requirements, students are able to move into a myriad of available projects, selecting a challenge of their choice. This allows for maximum student motivation and differentiation, matching projects to students’ interests and skill levels.

The hands-on nature of this class, and many other electives like it, is a welcome change to the traditional “academic” class for our students, allowing them the chance to demonstrate skill and innovation in a less traditional way!



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Pride of the Wolfpack

Jon Pritikin is a name you might not have heard of, although he’s spoken all over the globe to millions of students at thousands of school. Jon recently visited Oka Elementary School and delivered a moving and powerful message. His impact left students with the desire to want to be a hero for someone else.

Students witnessed feats of strength from Jon, including rolling a frying pan into a small rolled taco, bending a steel bar in half (while clenched between his teeth), and breaking a baseball bat over his knee.



Jon in action with a couple of students assisting him!

Even more important than watching him show off his strength, Jon shared his moving story, which had students on the edge of their seats and others in tears, based on his own experience as a child. All the students in the audience left knowing they had an opportunity to be heroes to someone else at Oka. The challenge issued by Jon was to never let a student eat lunch alone. In the days that have followed, there are many students who have made new friends at the lunch tables!

William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

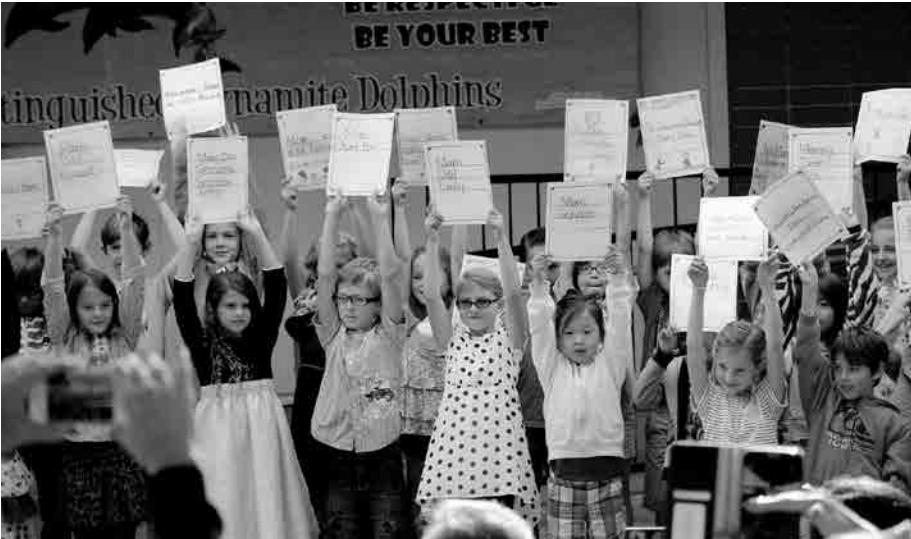
8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.wtnes-fvsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Chris Mullin
Principal

Special Persons Day Community Favorite

Recently, Newland held its annual “Special Persons Day.” This is a day where students and teachers alike honor those who support our students in so many different ways on a daily basis. Newland welcomes grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, friends, and of course parents. All grades along with our resident pre-school classes put on a performance for our guests. After the performance, students are encouraged to take their guests on a tour of their school and especially their classroom to show off their work and thank them for the support they give. PTA hosted treats and coffee for our special visitors as well as holding a raffle. This year’s Special Persons Day was a huge success and a wonderful way to express thanks to our community.



Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

The Panther Prowls

This year Plavan held its annual Jog-a-Thon in early December. Our Plavan families were challenged to raise \$18,000 to help support field trips, classroom supplies, technology, our Meet the Masters art program, and much more.

Working together, our families ended up raising over \$20,000! We feel blessed to have such a wonderful community that can work as a team to help support the hearts and minds of our students.



Kindergarten runners with Plavan’s Pete the Panther.

We provided some fun incentives to help motivate everyone. For \$10,000, we offered to have our PTO president shave his head! For \$15,000, we agreed to have our head custodian drink a “Mystery Shake” with ingredients chosen by the students. For \$18,000, the children had the opportunity to SLIME their principal. In addition, each classroom that could raise \$1,000 also enjoyed silly-stringing their teacher!

The Jog-a-Thon was a great success. We are extremely thankful for the support of our Plavan families.

Samuel E. Talbert

Middle School (6–8)

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

How We ‘Get REAL’!

At Talbert Middle School, we reward those that are diligent, studious and always willing to go the extra mile in support of their school community. In celebration of these students, we started the Get REAL program. The purpose of Get REAL is to recognize and reward students while encouraging them to continue to “Get REAL” (responsibility, excellence, attitude and learning) with their academics and attitude.

The rewards ceremony is a special time when students and parents come out for an afternoon assembly to encourage and support those that have worked hard to achieve and excel each trimester. At the assembly, students are awarded different cards that, depending on the color, can earn rewards for the students at the school. The silver card entitles students with a 3.0–3.49 GPA and no N’s or U’s in citizenship to a VIP lunch and free drinks at the dance, while a silver card rewards those with a 3.5–3.99 GPA and no N’s or U’s in citizenship with a Got REAL T-shirt and preferred assembly seating. The most sought-after card is black and rewards those that obtain a 4.0 GPA and of course no N’s or U’s in citizenship. With these cards, students receive a free snack, three VIP early lunches, free pizza, free drinks at the dance, a REAL T-shirt and preferred assembly seating at assemblies.

The response is overwhelming, and so is student achievement at the school. The students and staff at Talbert recognize that their academic future begins now! The majority of Talbert students work hard to achieve academic success, and we always want to recognize students by rewarding greatness. The next assembly is coming soon, and we always set the expectations high! We at Talbert know that success is the combination of determination, perseverance and a hard work ethic, and we invite all students to “Get REAL”!

Hisamatsu Tamura

Elementary (K–5)

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

Jog-a-thon 2014

Tamura students raised nearly \$24,000 at their recent jog-a-thon held on November 13th. The jog-a-thon is the PTO’s primary fundraiser for the year which funds nearly all of our sponsored programs such as Accelerated Reader, field trips, ST Math, assemblies and technology upgrades. Many thanks to our fabulous coordinator, sponsors and parent volunteers who made our jog-a-thon event not just a financial success but a whole lot of fun! Our coordinator Mrs. Sanchez, organized two different tracks, great volunteers, and high-energy music. The children were excited to participate and couldn’t wait to have their laps recorded by our incredible volunteers. The students were also thrilled with their incentives and prizes. Thank you to the Tamura PTO, our coordinator, the sponsors, parent volunteers, staff and students for all of the support you gave to create a wonderful event!



Constellations Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received February 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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AQUILA

ARIES

AURIGA

BOOTES

CANCER

CANIS MAJOR

CAPRICORNUS

CASSIOPEIA
- GEMINI

HERCULES

LEO

LIBRA

LYRA

ORION

PEGASUS

PERSEUS

PISCES
- SAGITTARIUS

SCORPIUS

TAURUS

URSA MAJOR

URSA MINOR

VIRGO

ZODIAC

Our contests are courtesy of
Barkate Orthodontics.
(please see page 5)
Congratulations to Nana Nguyen
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

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

Huntington Beach City School District

20451 Cramer Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Haulk

Still Creating Dreamers

I had the opportunity to attend the Sowers Middle School Winter Concert Program in early December. The evening showcased the Sowers Beginning Band, Cadet Band, and Orchestra, as well as the School Choir and Show Choir. From the first number, which combined the choirs singing together, through the beginning band, which is amazing, considering they just got their instruments in September, to the final number, where the choirs sang Christmas songs accompanied by the bands, it was a magical evening that allowed the audience to forget about their day-to-day work and instead spend a couple of hours dreaming about past Christmases and the beauty of the season. We were all enthralled by the incredible talent of those middle school dreamers who participated in band, choir, or, for some students, both!

Vincent van Gogh once said, "I dream my paintings, and I paint my dreams." Many school districts in California have greatly reduced the arts; instead, in Huntington Beach City School District, we are continuing to offer many options for our artists and dreamers. We are able to do this through incredible partnerships with groups that support our students in so many different ways.

One of our most important partnerships is with our parents and especially our PTAs. Both of our middle schools have zero period classes to allow our artists to take an extra elective to be able to participate in both band and choir. Our parents help fund those zero period classes, and our PTAs help to pay for music instruction at many of our elementary schools, as well as supplemental music classes. Parents also participate in our Meet the Masters programs, which showcase specific artists each month for our students to learn about. Probably the most exciting area of the arts that our PTSA runs each year is the PTSA Reflections contest. Each year our dreamers paint, draw, dance, write, and sing the most incredible pieces, and we could not do it without our parents.

The Huntington Beach Educational Foundation (HBEF) is also a great partner for the arts. HBEF helps to fund our Arts Advantage program, which brings the arts to every one of our schools, helps fund classroom art through teacher grants, and pays for field trips to museums and art centers. Each time the district needs assistance to participate in an arts project for our students, HBEF is there with both financial support and volunteers. This year HBEF helped develop a partnership with the Chuck Jones Creativity Center for a night of arts and exploration. It was an awesome event for both our student dreamers and their parents.

We have other partners that help bring the arts to life in our classrooms. Our partnership with the Huntington Beach Arts Center helps with funding that allows our students to attend art shows at different venues, and each year they host a show of student artwork and music that is absolutely incredible.

I am very proud of our dreamers and the partnerships we have developed as a district, which provide opportunities for our dreamers to turn those dreams into art.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Shari Kowalke
President

Resolve to Get Involved

As we enter into a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, administrative staff, teachers, PTAs, and the Huntington Beach Education Foundation for their continued support and strong partnerships with the Huntington Beach City School District. It is these critical partnerships that make Huntington Beach City School District a desirable school district with numerous valuable programs and assets that we can all be proud of.

I encourage you to become an active participant in your child's education. Take the time to support your child's school site PTA, volunteer your time and talents, and, most importantly, stay informed of the happenings, not only in your school but within the district. Next, make sure you are a member of the Huntington Beach Education Foundation by joining today at hbef4kids.org. Help make this an even better place for children to learn and grow!

On behalf of the Huntington Beach City School District Board of Education, I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/dwyer



Dr. Morgan Smith
Principal

Partnering for Student Safety Opportunities

Supporting Dwyer students on all levels is mission one at Dwyer Middle School. To start the New Year off, Dwyer will be providing a series of activities and events that aim to do just that. In early January, all 7th and 8th graders will be trained and certified in the American Heart Association CPR training in PE classes. We will also prepare students for bike safety by running a Bike Safety course presented by the Huntington Beach Police Department.



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John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall
Principal

Eader’s Artists Make the World a Better Place!

Many Eader Eagles displayed their talents in this year’s PTA Reflections Art Contest! The theme was “The World Would Be A Better Place If...” and our Eagles gave many wonderful suggestions in their artistic endeavors. Students entered their artwork in several categories including Visual Art, Photography, Literature, and Film. Students worked on their masterpieces on their own time and were awarded at our monthly awards assembly. Special thanks to our awesome parent organizers, Dione Chapman and Erin Goldbarg, and extra special congratulations to our creative artists: K-Emery Chapman; 1st-Christina Harper, Noah Nentges, Ryen Goldbarg, Brent Ray Benson; 2nd-Gabriella Jenkins, Taylor Tohmoush, Luc Chapman. Visual Art: Honorable Mention-Cameron Britton; Award of Merit-Koa Hard; Award of Excellence-Maxwell Austin. Photography: Award of Excellence-Gaviano Pino.3rd-Tatum Hunter, Liam Beck Schafer, Andrew Austin, Jackson Figueroa, Ian Cadacio; 4th-Mallory Mottles, Aspen Hendershot, Anna Hardy, Sarah Hentges, Keira Anderson, Gian Pino, Brianna Ruo Rock, Riley Hilbert, Brooklyn Moulton. Visual Art: Honorable Mention-Presley Furuike, Award of Merit-Nicolas Rowe, Award of Excellence-Kate Marcus; Photography: Honorable Mention-Mia McClellan, Award of Merit-Samantha Kippur, Award of Excellence-Jack Chapman; Literature: Award of Excellence-Nicolas Rowe; Film: Award of Excellence-Samantha Cook.



Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Honors Continue

It is with great excitement that we share with our Huntington Beach community Huntington Seacliff Elementary’s most recent honor. Our article last month announced our award of California Distinguished school. Over the Veteran’s

Day weekend, members of our staff flew to Washington, D.C., to receive the highest honor of being selected as a 2014

National Blue Ribbon School. Again, under the leadership of Mrs. Sullivan, who recently retired, the staff and school community’s extraordinary efforts, to provide the finest education to its students, was rewarded. Seacliff received this amazing accolade in the area of ‘Closing the Achievement Gap.’

We are so proud to have validated that all students at Huntington Seacliff Elementary excel! This honor places us with only 337 schools across the nation to receive this honor. There were 24 schools in California and only 3 in Orange County receiving this exceptional distinction of 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.



Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

Learning About Music

This year Hawes is becoming a Class Act School! Through the Frieda Belinfante Class Act Partnership, and the support of our PTA, our students will be participating in the Pacific Symphony’s flagship youth education program. Nancy Eldridge, our resident musician, will also be sharing the life and music of a “Composer of the Year” through a strong, standards-based music curriculum.

This year our students are discovering the joy of music through the eyes of Leonard Bernstein. They have already experienced a “prelude assembly” where they learned about the major and minor keys and how the composer incorporated both of them to help evoke the emotions. Our teachers even experienced an afternoon of learning on their own, conducted by experts from the Pacific Symphony.

Beginning this month, each of our classes will also be experiencing an in-depth lesson from our resident musician. Our year of musical education will culminate with the Hawes’ second- through fifth-graders traveling to hear a concert about Bernstein. The K–1 students will also be having a hands-on symphony experience at our school as well.

Additionally, all of our students will be sharing their learning during a special Bravo Assembly at the end of the year. This will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned about Leonard Bernstein.

Participation in this partnership provides our students with an opportunity to discover the performing arts in a different way. We are grateful to both our PTA and the Frieda Belinfante Partnership for their great support!

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

8800 Burlcrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/moffett



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

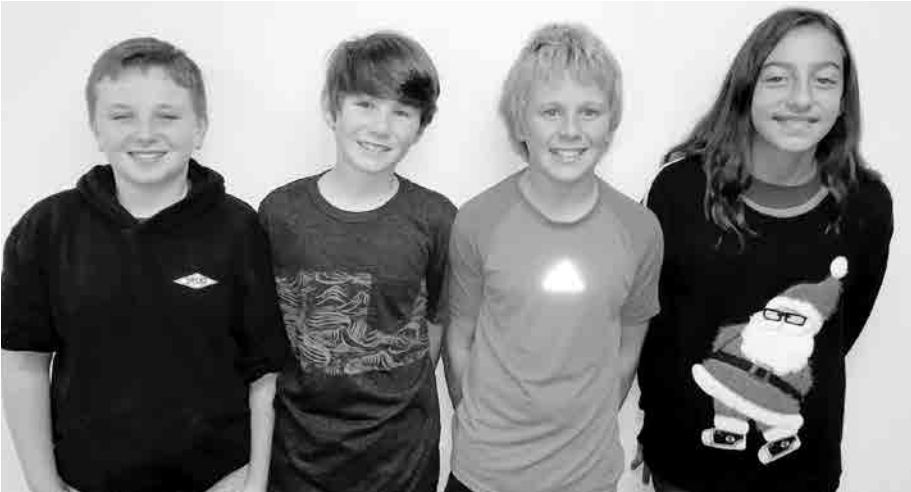
The Importance of Leadership

Moffett School regularly elects four students to serve as officers on its student council. Following a prepared speech from each candidate, the students in grades three to five elect a representative for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and publicity. These officers then lead our student council, which contains one elected representative from each classroom.

The student council leads a variety of projects at our school. These include managing the recycling program, coordinating school celebrations, leading weekly flag assemblies, and

determining our school-wide community service projects. The students provide valuable services for our school. They also learn the importance of leadership and stewardship.

The officers conclude the year by sharing (at our promotion ceremony) a retrospective of their years at Moffett. This includes the enjoyable activities in which they participated; the important things they learned at each grade level; and how their parents supported them throughout the years.



President-Jack Berger, VP-Katin Chomchavalit, Secretary-Jeff Ciccarelli, Publicity-Leila Dandan.

A close-up photograph of two young girls with light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. They are wearing a pink and orange striped shirt. The photo is set within a light blue oval frame.

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Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

19231 Harding Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-3348 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/perry



Renee Polk
Principal

A Big Ringing Out to 2014!

Perry Elementary has had a great first trimester! At the end of October, we held our annual fall festival. Our fabulous PTA planned a costume parade, a pumpkin patch and a Trunk or Treat for Perry students! This was a very well-attended event and a fun evening for Perry students and families.

In November, we held our annual Perry Jog-a-Thon. This year, our Jog-a-Thon had a Turkey Trot theme. The Perry Turkey Trot was an opportunity for students to set physical-fitness goals

and to participate in a schoolwide jog-a-thon with their peers. Our students were motivated to achieve their personal best in our Turkey-Trot/Jog-a-Thon, and it was a great day of fitness and fun at Perry Elementary.

As we wrap up 2014, we are looking forward to a great 2015 filled with a continued focus on the Common Core, 21st Century Learning and positive Perry Panther spirit!



The Perry Panther Turkey Trot/Jog-a-Thon.

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

770 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-1469 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/smith



Carolyn Beck
Principal

A Focus On the Arts

Smith School is proud of our continued focus on the arts as part of our students' well-rounded education. Each day begins with an announcement over our public-address system focusing on a classical musician, which is followed by a musical excerpt from this musician. Our students and staff enjoy beginning their day listening to beautiful music.

Our school provides music instruction in many ways. We have a strong chorus program, which includes close to 100 fourth- and fifth-grade students. They practice weekly and perform a holiday concert and spring concert at the Huntington Beach Art Museum. In addition, many students participate in our band and strings programs. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are learning to play the violin, and the instrumental band program begins in third grade.

Visual arts are taught through the Art Masters program. Students learn about six different artists throughout the year and create art projects using the artistic styles or mediums of the featured artists. In addition, we hold a Family Art Night, led by a local artist. Students and their families draw along and take home their works of art. Finally, several teachers are participating in visual arts curriculum training through the Orange County Department of Education Arts Advantage program and are excited to implement what they have learned.

Many students at Smith participate in PTA's Reflections program through visual art, literature, music and dance. We hold an art show in January to share all student entries and to showcase their talents. We are very proud that four of our students' entries have been chosen for honors by the Fourth District PTA.

We feel that the arts are an important part of our students' education, and we will continue our focus on the arts.

John R. Peterson *Elementary*

20661 Farnsworth Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-1515 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/peterson



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

Hats Off to Our Ancestors

The students in Mrs. Perkins's fifth-grade class are honoring their heritage by taking their "Hats Off to Our Ancestors!" Each student has selected one of his or her ancestors who immigrated to the United States for an in-depth study of the epic journey that brought the family to America. The students presented their findings to their class, using hats they had decorated with items to represent the immigrants they found.

Some very interesting relatives have been discovered! Room 28 claims a descendant from the original Mayflower pilgrims, a descendent of Chief Red Bird of the Cherokee tribe, and a descendent of the man who refurbished the tall ship, Pilgrim, which is currently docked in Dana Point Harbor.



If you would like to see the decorated hats that celebrate the ancestors of Mrs. Perkins's students, feel free to stop by the Clapp Wing and check out the display in front of Room 28.

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/sowers



Dr. Cynthia Guerrero
Principal

Preparing 21st-Century Learners

As we all grapple with the speed of technology and the vast amounts of information available, we at Sowers Middle School take the time to reflect on what skills and competencies our 21st-century learners will need to be successful in college, career, and life beyond middle school. We also examine opportunities for our students to apply the 7Cs: critical thinking; creativity; communication; collaboration; computing; cross-cultural; and career/civic learning.

One such opportunity that included rigor, relevance, and application was the global movement called Hour of Code, which reached tens of millions of students in more than 180 countries during the week of December 8–14. Our activity included a set of 20 self-guided puzzles, which taught the basics of computer science for users with no prior experience. In each puzzle, students wrote programs that got a character through a maze. The activity used Blockly, a visual programming language with blocks a student must drag and drop to write programs. Even though students were using blocks to write code, they were able to see the code they wrote represented in Javascript, a text-based language. Our goal was for students to walk away thinking that computer science was fun, approachable, and relevant to their lives and to inspire them to take interest in the field of engineering and coding.

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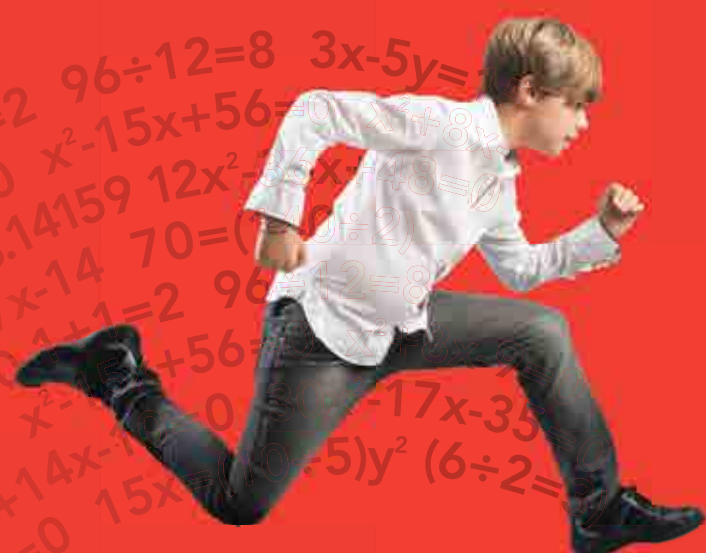
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Note-ables

More Multicultural Children's Songs



Kate Karp

In celebration of the giving season, here's an offering from an award-winning children's music icon. Smithsonian Folkways has just released Ella Jenkins' 34th album, a sampler of music and spoken word that represents many diverse countries and cultures around the world.



Jenkins, called the First Lady of the Children's Folk Song, has recorded collections for children since back in the days of vinyl. My teacher played her records when I was a child in 1957, and yours may have, too, in the six-plus decades of her still-active career.

This collection sends children on a global tour that will educate them about vocabulary, special celebrations and cultures from here in the United States straight through the planet to the Great Wall of China—well, actually, that would be in the Indian Ocean, but you get the idea. There are stops at an Australian zoo for a visit with the continent's unusual animals, in Cuba for a dance lesson and in Israel for a dreidel spin. Children will learn how to count to ten in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and Greek (and in English, of course) and will hear how *Cairo* in Egypt is pronounced differently from *Cairo* in Illinois. And their passports are good for a dozen other lands.

Jenkins turned 90 years old in August, and she's still singing. *More Multicultural Songs* comprises her continuing gift of learning and connection to cultures through song to children everywhere.

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

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Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gustavo Balderas

Educating Global Leaders

The United States is a global leader in the fields of science, engineering and innovation. Sadly, only 16 percent of students in our country pursue expertise in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The goal of the STEM program is to move students “from the middle to the top of the pack in science and math” [President Obama]. To accomplish the goal, we must begin to cultivate student interest in these vital fields early in their education careers. Therefore, Ocean View School District is delighted to pilot STEM at two of our schools:

Lake View Elementary School and Vista View Middle School.

With its history as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Explorer School, its status as a Smart Technology Showcase School, and its stellar ST Math and Music programs, Lake View is the logical choice for a STEM program at the elementary level. Lake View began its participation last year as a pilot program in fourth and fifth grades and expanded the program to K–5 for 2014–2015. Teachers have received training and are using the Engineering is Elementary program to guide students through the engineering design process with project-based learning. Students learn to Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, and Improve as they work in teams to solve problems collaboratively. Students have the opportunity to learn about different types of engineering: environmental, biomedical, materials, aerospace, transportation, and bioengineering, just to name a few. We are planting the STEM seeds at Lake View.

Vista View was already offering excellent elective programs that featured the basic principles of the STEM program, making Vista View the undeniable perfect candidate at the middle school level. Currently, Vista View offers students an impressive line-up of elective classes such as: Robotics, Computer Applications, Computer Repair/Maintenance, Games and Logic, Archeology, Graphic Design, Media Technology, Information Technology, Marine Biology, Video Production, Google Apps, and College and Career Readiness. Additionally, Vista View offers a daily STEM enrichment class. This class focuses on hands-on, project-based learning through lessons in engineering, science, and mathematics that goes beyond the core curriculum. Students are encouraged to apply their learning and skills to solve real-world problems using technology. All of the STEM enrichment activities additionally tie to the core curriculum for each grade level. For example, solar energy units would be taught in sixth grade to supplement the core science curriculum based on renewable energy.

Ocean View School District is proud to promote STEM education experiences that focus on hands-on learning to increase student engagement, interest and achievement in the 21st century.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President

Supporting Our Community

As the new president of the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, I would like to introduce myself.

I began my career in education in 1995 in nearby ABC Unified School District teaching the subjects of math and science at Fedde Middle School. I became a key writer for the Magnet School Assistance Program Grant application and served as the magnet school coordinator, managing a \$3.2-million grant budget. I bring with me extensive experience and innovative vision in creating magnet programs to the Ocean View School District.

Presently, I teach sixth-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) in Cerritos. While at Cerritos Elementary School, I have co-written the California Distinguished Schools Recognition Program applications in 2008 and 2014, with the district receiving awards in both years.

I hold a bachelor’s degree in anthropology, a multiple-subject credential, and a secondary single-subject credential in biology. I am credentialed to teach K–12 and adult school. I’ve had the privilege to serve the Special Education community as a home-school teacher. Recently, I’ve furthered my education by successfully completing the California School Board Association, Masters of Governance Program.

I am a Huntington Beach resident, along with my husband and two sons. I enjoy being active in the community by participating as a member of the Hope View PTO and volunteering my time and resources on behalf of various youth sports leagues, including, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Ocean View Little League (OVL), and Friday Night Live (FNL).

I am proud to serve the communities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, and Midway City.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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Joseph Gaglione, *Member* and **Jack C. Souders**, *Member* (pictures unavailable at press time)



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Circle View *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

Positive Behavior

Circle View students are working hard every day to demonstrate the pillars of our positive behavior support system—Safe, On Time, Respectful, and Ready to Learn! Students are also honored every day for working hard towards these goals and making our school an awesome place of learning and working together! This year, we are honoring our students' increased efforts to be “On Time” with a large banner awarded to the class with the highest attendance percentage each month at our awards assembly. So far, our winners this year have all had over 99% attendance each month!! Students are also being honored with our new Super Eagle tickets this year—classes who demonstrate our pillars of positive behavior are working to earn “Principal Time” by collecting 100 tickets! Circle View is a great place to learn and work, thanks to the amazing work by our teachers, students, and community!!



Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Coming Together

Whether as a class, a staff, a team or a family, November is a great time of year to simply come together, enjoy each other's company, and be thankful. A great example of this took place in Wendy Ulrich's transitional-kindergarten class. The students enjoyed a wonderful friendship-vegetable soup, but it was much more than that.

Putting manners into practice, like saying “please” and “thank-you,” were heard in abundance. Students learned how to properly prepare a table setting and learned the difference between fruits and vegetables. Students also appreciated whole, natural food as compared to processed food. Graphing and watching a liquid turn into a solid was another highlight as students churned their own butter. A great appreciation was had when students realized what they could accomplish and enjoy when they worked together as a team. Parents were also invited and encouraged to carry on these wonderful practices.



Noah, Kaylee, and Charlotte enjoying their meal.

College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds

As a precursor to Red Ribbon Week, all students attended an interactive assembly presented by Mauricio Lopez, the author and creator of Cardioville, an animated production that promotes healthy heart habits, character education and an anti-bullying message. The children were mesmerized while watching the short animated cartoon in which the Cardioville characters explained about the benefits of healthy eating habits, hydration and exercise.

This was also the perfect way to reiterate the Red Ribbon Theme, “Love Yourself,” which stressed making healthy choices for a healthy body. As an added incentive, the Cardioville cutout characters joined the students, staff and parents during the annual Jog-a-Thon in November. Pictured are Mr. Lopez, the creator of Cardioville; Mr. Lampley, a College View parent who assists us with our physical education program; College View students; and of course, the Cardioville characters.



Harbour View *Elementary*

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

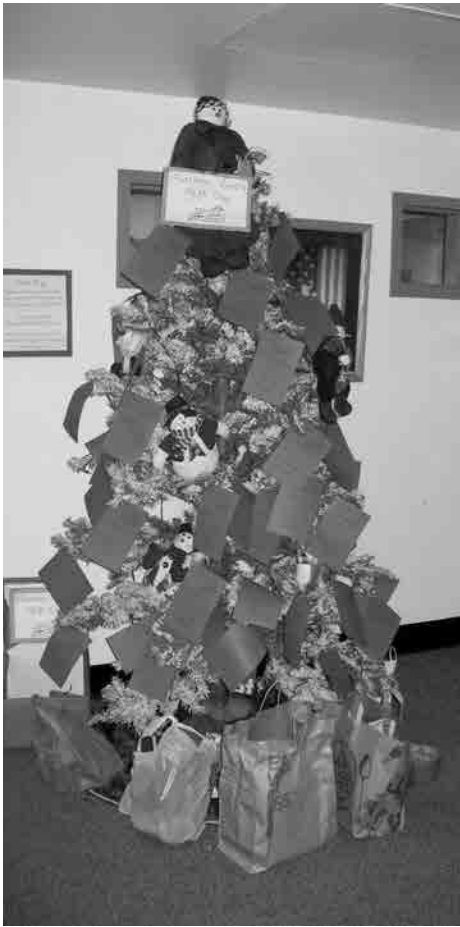


Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Holiday Wish Tree

December brings a time of year that is very important not only to Harbour View Elementary School, but to the community that surrounds it. It is with great pride that we once again invited everyone to participate in the annual “Holiday Wish Tree” gift drive. With generous support from our wonderful community, we collected unwrapped gifts to make the holidays a little brighter for 25 Harbour View families in need. Each child received an outfit, a jacket, and a toy. They were not only given necessities, but a ray of hope and a feeling of being loved and cared about.

We would also like to thank the Huntington Harbour Kiwanis, under the leadership of Mrs. Eva Kilgore, for your donations to our families. Your unwavering support throughout the year is so very much appreciated!



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Hope for the Holidays

Our Hope for the Holidays event, held on Sunday, December 7, gave us a wonderful opportunity to once again bring our community together. We were able to join together to play games, make crafts, sing karaoke, eat, enjoy friends, and take pictures with Santa!

Creative holiday booths also provided holiday shopping and fun. We were even treated to the sight of our local fire department arriving to pick up the unwrapped toys that were donated to Sparks of Love. We want to thank our hard-working, enthusiastic PTO board and parents for creating a fun and festive opportunity to unite our students and families from three different sites in three school districts.



We appreciate Trustee Clayton-Tarvin and newly elected Trustee Gaglione for their support and attendance throughout the day. We all enjoyed a truly magical community event.

Go, Hawks!
We are truly
Hope View
Strong!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

Crayola Celebrates Student Artists

Mesa View Middle School Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students Xolani Hodel and Nathalys Pham had their personal artwork selected by Crayola to become part of the U.S. Department of Education's permanent art gallery. In response to Crayola's annual art expo, their teacher, Mrs. Andrusky, submitted a few samples of student art from her classes to be considered. Xolani and Nathalys' drawings were two of 46 students whose work was selected from across the country. These young artists can find their framed art displayed at the national office in Washington, D.C. or in one of the 49 regional offices around the nation.

Crayola honored each young artist with a personalized plaque featuring his or her original art. To acknowledge their contributions and celebrate their

creative expression, students and teachers received a generous sampling of assorted Crayola art. Xolani and Nathalys were given special recognition at Mesa View's first trimester awards assembly for their artistic imagination. They are truly an inspiration to their fellow artists. Way to go, ladies!



Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Hour of Code

Last year, hundreds of organizations joined to create fun introductions to computer programming. This year, the goal was to get 100 million participants from across the globe to celebrate Computer Science Week by spending an hour learning how to write code. This one-hour introduction was designed to demystify computer science and show that anybody can learn the basics. Naturally, Lake View fourth- and fifth-graders joined in!

Our students worked on 10 tutorials for two games, and many independently moved from the game with the easier coding to the

more difficult one! The tasks required students to write up to 20 pieces of code. While it started out easy, every addition piece was increasingly challenging. Students learned how to think like computer programmers!

"The best thing about the hour of code is that it was really fun! Challenges can be fun!" said one of Mrs. Lewis' students. What better lesson could we teach?



Lake View students write computer code!

Marine View *Middle School*

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



William Lynch
Principal

Performing Arts

Marine View Middle School's performing arts department continues to grow in its 21st year. Our program serves approximately half our student body, and its rich cultural diversity mirrors our school's, adding to the uniqueness of our performances. Yearly, students have the opportunity for myriad arts experiences through a variety of venues.

Our instrumental music program offers over 50 students a chance to learn an instrument. Besides participating in seasonal school concerts and festivals, many band members are proud members of our marching band in the Huntington Beach Fourth of July parade and also team up with other middle school band members for our Ocean View Honor Band program.

In our thriving vocal music program, our 55-member Mixed Choir and 41-member Jazz Ensemble Showchoir continue to make names for themselves as "musical ambassadors" for the district, with annual performances at a diversity of venues.

Our dance program is an important addition to our fine arts curriculum and includes over 200 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade participants who selected this class over traditional PE. Marine View is also home to our competitive Dance Team that recently won the high-point-overall score for juniors in the Miss Dance Drill Team competition.

The most recent and exciting development is the addition of the spring musical-theater production of Disney's High School Musical Jr., debuting on the Marine View stage on Feb. 26, 27 and 28 at 6:30pm. To mount this production, our instrumental music, vocal music and dance programs will rally to create a musical theater experience like none other. Students will gain skills not only in acting, singing and dancing but also in technical aspects of musical theater such as lighting, sound and set building.

At Marine View, our students and faculty continually work together to teach countless students about the incredible impact music and the arts can have everywhere.

Oak View *Elementary*

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

Francesca Ligman, Interim Principal
Healthy Partnership

Oak View Elementary School and Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County have recently partnered in the School Pantry program. On the first Wednesday of the month, Second Harvest, Oak View Elementary, Oak View Renewal Partnership and community volunteers set up a farmer's market-style food pantry in front of the school. The food pantry serves around 200 Oak View families who select fresh produce of their choice. The Food Pantry has proven to be a great community event and families enjoy the food. An added plus is the promotion of healthy eating and healthy living!



Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

The Magic of A Clown!

Oak View Preschool children and parents were treated to a great magic show sponsored by the RIF organization. A magical clown was sponsored by Reading is Fundamental, a non-profit organization that provides low cost books to schools. The Orange County Department of Education collaborates with RIF to provide low cost books to preschool programs like ours. The children loved hearing about the importance of books and how they can provide entertainment for them anytime, anywhere.

The clown did tricks with scarves, hula-hoops and magic wands to show children that it's fun and that they can learn about magic from a book. Children will receive the gift of 2 free books next week when they participate in a Book Giveaway Event on December 15 in room 10 at Oak View Preschool.

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 that focus 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.

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Spring View Rises to the Occasion

Once again the Spring View students and Staff have risen to the occasion. As many of you are aware, the Ocean View

School District recently relocated three schools, Oak View, Hope View and Lake View. After hearing the news that Oak View teachers and students were in need of additional supplies including reading books, the Spring View Staff and students organized a book drive to help our fellow Ocean View family members. In one just one short week, the Spring View students and staff collected thousands of books to give to the Oak View Students and Staff. The books were delivered before Thanksgiving Break by Spring View Teachers' Tracy Mitchell and Nancy La Rusch.

This is just one small example of the Ocean View spirit being alive and well.



Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

PTO Shines for Students

Star View is lucky to have a very wonderful and active Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Our teachers and parents value their extracurricular opportunities, and through the PTO they actively raise money to help make sure that all of our students will receive a well-rounded education.

We are happy to have a brand-new PTO executive board this year. The previous board dedicated thousands of hours to our school and left a memorable legacy. The 2014–2015 executive board is Jennifer Johnson, president; Shelby Atwood, vice president of fundraising; Melissa Woolley, vice president of membership; Mandy Steadman, treasurer; Kayla Sacks, secretary; and Becky Martinez, parliamentarian.

The PTO is responsible for raising approximately \$30,000 per year; money which is then allocated for field trips, assemblies, and art supplies. So far this year the PTO has raised funds during their membership drive, the fall fundraiser, Frozen Friday, Skate Night, and the See's Candy fundraiser.

During the 2014–2015 school year our PTO will be trying to raise additional funds to help purchase street hockey barriers for the playground. These barriers are used to create a contained hockey rink so that our students can play street hockey during their structured PE time. These new barriers will truly benefit this cooperative team sport.

Star View students appreciate all of the hard work and many hours of time that our parents and staff members have dedicated towards making their educational experience memorable. Please visit Star View's Web site, at www.ovsd.org, for more information about the PTO.

Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Our Kids' Club

Sun View is fortunate to have quality before- and after-school child-care programs that are thriving—Kids' Club program director Lynne Grace has always said, "If we build it, they'll come."

Ms. Grace retired in December after 22 years of stewardship, and we're grateful for her leadership, patience, guidance and support! We're equally grateful to have two amazing staff members to supervise and guide our cherished children. Amanda Sinks serves as program facilitator extraordinaire, and we welcome our newest addition, child-care assistant Kristen DeGree. We couldn't ask for a better team!

We asked students what they like about Kids' Club. Dylan loves the daily arts and crafts, Emily loves the group games, Christian likes "Miss Amanda" and

the children, Charlize loves how everybody gets along, Ryan likes the playground, and Cadence likes everything! Miss Amanda appreciates the diversity of the students and the opportunity to provide a safe, happy and healthy environment!

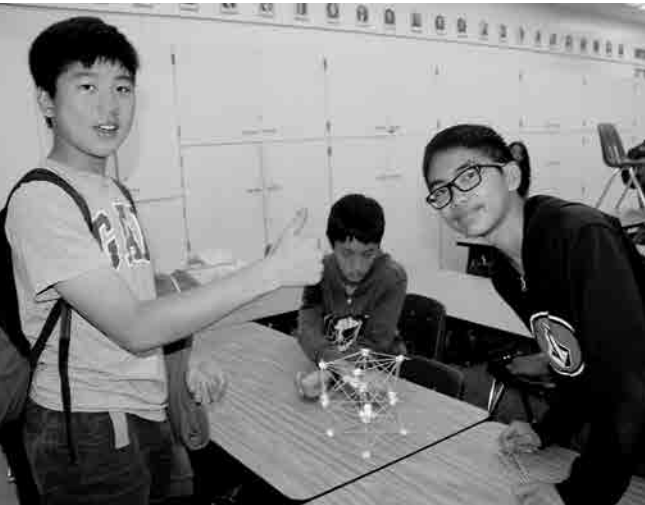


Vista View *Middle School*

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

Joe Santos, *Interim Principal*
STEM Activities

For the past two years, Vista View Middle School has been integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) into our educational program. This year we have taken another step by implementing a 30-minute STEM period in our daily schedule. Students have been explored math and engineering concepts with a wide range of hands-on and interactive activities, including using household items such as spaghetti, marshmallows, and straws to create self-supporting structures. They have examined aerodynamic principles by designing kites out of newspapers, soda straws and tape. Students have learned about forensic science through the examination of fingerprints and other data. With each activity, students have worked collaboratively, using problem-solving strategies, critical-thinking skills and creativity.



STEM teacher Alanna Esparza said, "STEM has been a great way for students to collaborate. The class favorite has been the egg drop, where students had to design packaging using straws, wooden craft sticks, string and tape to secure an egg from cracking when dropped from a five-foot height."

Village View *Elementary*

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



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

Sharing the Magic

Cans, food cans! Get your food cans! If you bring cans, then people can have food!

For the past few years this chant has been repeated every morning during the month of November. That's because November is when our students and their families help gather cans for the Hope Office at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church. Together, just this fall season alone, our canned food drive has collected over 1,000 cans for the needy families of Huntington Beach and surrounding areas.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation also recently visited one lucky first-grade classroom, and together the entire school wrote over 200 letters to Santa for a local department store's "Believe Campaign." By sharing the magic of the holiday season we were able to contribute over \$200 to help make more children's wishes come true.

With the help of our students, parents, and staff members, we at Village View are proud to support these two charitable organizations!



Westmont *Elementary*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

Stack the Table

By Isaiah Lane, Alexa Torres and Alexandria Tran, Student Council

This year at Westmont Elementary School, we have another school joining us, Lake View Elementary School. The student council members from both schools were talking about having a friendly competition to help people in need. So we created the holiday food drive called Stack the Table. The way it works is students bring in nonperishable food to school each day. Student council members collect all the food items and bring them to the library to stack the table.

The reason we are doing this is because we want to help other people or families in need of food. It's better to give than to receive. We want to show how we care for others. The school that brings in the most food items will wear the winning school's school shirts. But everyone knows, no one is a loser! Besides, the real reason is to help the hungry and the ones in need. Thank you to everyone who participated!



Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps

Super 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 “turquoise,” “pasteurized” and “masquerade.” The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders had to tackle words such as “dialysis,” “facade” and “acquaintance.” Congratulations to all of our superlative spellers!

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

4th & 5th Grade School Site Winners:

Anderson—Lena Nguyen, Clegg—Ashtyn Arthur; DeMille—Jade Tran; Eastwood—Kelsey Tang; Finley—Ryan Nguyen; Fryberger—Brandon Tran; Hayden—Johnny Alpuerto; Meairs—Jenny Phan; Schmit—Diego Montes; Schroeder—Haley Lewis; Sequoia—Lynn Nguyen; Webber—Lenny Nguyen; Willmore—Lisa Tran



4th & 5th Grade Winners
Superintendent Dr. Marian Phelps, Jenny Phan- 1st place, Ashtyn Arthur- 2nd place and Lena Nguyen- 3rd place

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

Anderson—Wesley La; DeMille—Samantha Pham; Eastwood—Jeremy Flores; Johnson—Katy Nguyen; Schroeder—Michael Trgo; Sequoia—Linh Tran; Stacey—Ann Truong; Warner—Vi-Tam Nguyen; Webber—Tommy Thach



6th, 7th & 8th Grade Winners
Dr. Marian Phelps, Ann Truong- 1st place, Wesley La- 2nd place, and Jeremy Flores- 3rd place

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mary Mangold
President

Saturday Academy a Success!

Last spring, the district launched a new Saturday Academy which has been a resounding success. Saturday Academy is an academic attendance recovery program that allows the district to recover funding lost from student absences through a voluntary four-hour enrichment program. We have had more than 3,000 students participate in our first three Saturday Academies and we have recovered \$108,500.

This year, we are offering the program at all 16 of our schools and all students that have a recorded absence may participate.

We provide a rich variety of academic and enrichment opportunities throughout the day. The array of activities our students may choose from include: technology, writing clinics, physical education, science, English language development, and drama and arts. Students also benefit from a low teacher to student ratio at the Academy, which is 16:1. Parents and students alike are raving about our Saturday Academy. I am so pleased that this has turned out to be a big win-win for our schools as well as the parents and students we serve.

Upcoming Saturday Academies

January 24, March 14, May 16, June 6

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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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

The Power of Partnership

At Anderson Elementary School, we are proud to partner with the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Potential, Responsibility, Innovation, Determination and Excellence (PRIDE) Program. Funded through Proposition 49 and under the site leadership of Vanessa Cendejas, 100 students participate in a daily after-school program.

One of the highlights of the program is the clubs. Students have the opportunity to choose one of several clubs to further their learning in a specific subject. In December, ASES PRIDE held their Holiday Showcase to share all that the students learned



The Busy Builders Club.

with the families and staff. We saw a rocket launch from the STEAM Club, dance performances from the Performing Arts Club, a wooden bridge built by the Busy Builders Club and a runway fashion show from the Fashion Club.

The ASES PRIDE program is a great partner connecting school, family and fun.

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Integrating Technology

Teachers and students alike are all very excited about our new Chromebooks. Each student in second through fifth grades in the Westminster School District has been assigned his or her own personal Chromebook. Teachers have been trained by district personnel on how to integrate these devices into their daily instruction. The district has hired three instructional coaches to work with our teachers on instructional technologies and how best to use these Chromebooks in the classroom. In addition, these coaches are advising staff on using websites to host materials and web-based presentations as well as videos to enhance instruction.

Since we have started using the Chromebooks here at Clegg, students have been extremely excited and are finding innovative ways to expand their learning. While in our classrooms, you will find students using their Chromebooks to do research, type assignments, and create interactive presentations. Improving student achievement is a major advantage of using Chromebooks. While our students are beginning to create projects, our teachers are able to give feedback on these documents early in the process, allowing students to learn and make changes in order to submit the best possible product before grading.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutiérrez-García
Principal

Holiday Program

The annual Winter Holiday program at Finley School was held on Friday, December 12, 2014 and there was standing room only in the school's multipurpose room in spite of a heavy rain storm that flooded the area! Parents and family members weathered the storm and came out to support the preschool, kindergarten, first, and second grade performers whose songs and joyful voices warmed everyone's hearts and lifted everyone's spirits.



Finley fifth grade student announcer, Ryan Nguyen, introduced the second grade performers to the audience.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Saturday Arts Academy

Last spring, the Westminster School District implemented a Saturday Academy at each school site as a way to recover lost funding for students with

absences. Schools could design the four-hour instructional day in any way they chose.

Beginning with this school year, the DeMille Elementary School staff teaching the Saturday Academy chose to rename these sessions. The Saturday Arts Academy focuses on instruction around the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards. Study and practice in the arts refine students' abilities to perceive aesthetically, make connections between works of art and the everyday lives of people, and discuss visual, kinesthetic, and auditory relationships. Students are taught to locate works of art in time and place, make reasoned judgments about them, and investigate how works of art create meaning. The rotations at our Saturday Arts Academy incorporate visual arts, music, theater, and dance, integrating the use of technology as well as literacy and math.



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Student Achievement

The most accurate predicator of student achievement in school is not family income or social status; it is the extent to which a student's family is involved in their child's education.

Parents are a child's first and foremost teacher. Parents, and only parents, can set the stage for their children's success by providing unconditional love, establishing rules, and expressing high expectations. When parents talk to their children about school, expect them to do well, make sure that out-of-school activities are constructive, and help them plan for college, their children perform better in school. Parents are in the best position to model the personal qualities and learning habits they want their children to develop. Parents have the power to help their children paint an attractive picture of their future and plan ahead to make it happen.

When there is a strong partnership between parents and their children's school, students make greater gains. Being involved in your child's school means different things to different people. Parent involvement could be in the areas of communication (ongoing communication with your child's teacher and the school regarding your child's progress), volunteering (in your child's classroom, as a room parent, as a member of PTA, or at school events) or decision-making roles (becoming a member of School Site Council, English Language Learners Advisory Council, or PTA).

Eastwood Elementary School prides itself on having a strong partnership with parents and the community. Working together in support of learning ensures the success of every Eastwood student.

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Paula Mills
Acting Principal

Students On the Run

In October, while many students were participating in Halloween activities, the Fryberger students, staff and parents were running around our field in our first annual Fun Run. Students and staff wore red shirts and gathered on our field with pennants to represent their classrooms. They pranced like pumpkins, flew like witches, jogged like Jack-o'-lanterns, bounced like bats, walked like Frankenstein monsters, and galloped like goblins, all to Halloween music.

During that run, students and teachers tallied the number of times their classroom ran around the track to calculate how many miles they ran. They kept this pace up for one hour! The Fun Run's purpose was to promote community involvement, physical fitness and math skills as well as replace Halloween parties. It also helped students get rid of some of their "wiggles" in anticipation of the evening activities. Parents, staff and students had a great day.



Fryberger's fourth- and fifth-graders are going to start getting in shape for the Kids Run the OC, an event that will culminate in the spring. Students will meet after school with our second-grade teacher Mr. Nakano and fifth-grade teacher Mr. Rodriguez to start running. By the end of the program, each student will have accumulated the equivalent of 25.2 miles of fun activity and will be ready to finish their own marathon by completing their final mile at the Kids Run the OC, held in conjunction with the OC Marathon finish-line events at the fair. Our students are indeed becoming physically fit!

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

A Well-Rounded Education

Johnson Middle School prides itself on providing students with a well-rounded education while allowing kids to pursue activities they are passionate about. Students are able to participate in activities such as Journalism, Yearbook, Robotics, technology, Drama, Sports, Orchestra and Band. These experiences along with the core subjects allow students to grow above and beyond just a normal grade in a class. The experiences and knowledge gained from "extra-curricular" activities follow students throughout life. The teachers at Johnson are striving to find even



more creative ways to get students to show off their talents and skills.

Mr. Perry Paxton and the Johnson Middle School Music Program recently performed several holiday concerts for local elementary schools and had a well-attended performance for parents at night. The students showed that their hard-work and dedication has paid off and we look forward to seeing what other exciting musical events they have planned this year.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Helping Others

'Tis the season to help others here at Hayden School!

During the month of December, we provided our Hayden students and their families with the opportunity to give back to their community. Along with a toy drive, we also organized a canned soup drive to help those in the neighborhood who needed the extra support during this holiday season.

A big thank-you goes to Mr. Archer, who supported the canned soup drive, as well as Mr. Barajas, who promoted and organized the toy drive. This year we were able to collect nearly 800 cans of food for a local shelter. We also provided some of our Hayden families with new toys and backpacks right before Christmas.



It's always amazing to see how much we can accomplish as a school and a community when we all come together and work towards a common goal. At Hayden, we are very proud of our academic performance. But we are even more proud of how our students and families are always willing to help others.

Land School

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



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



Reagan Lopez
*Administrator
Student Services*

Focused on Students

The Land School staff is keeping the focus on the children in the classroom. In preschool, learning activities are about meaningful conversations, cooperative play, and foundational literacy and math concepts. Many of the Land preschool educators are undergoing intensive coaching and training to further improve their professional skills. As voluntary participants in the Quality Start Orange County program, educators are provided with over 15 hours of personalized professional development with their

coaches and have access to multiple workshops and trainings to bring the latest research and developmentally-appropriate practices to their classrooms. Preschool teachers also get two visits from outside agencies to observe and provide feedback on the instructional elements of their classroom. All of these opportunities provide a quality preschool experience for the children in the program and ensure they are ready to start kindergarten with success. Research shows that quality preschool programs allow the natural questioning and exploration of children to drive learning activities.



Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Fifth Grade Goes to Camp High Trails

By Maria Huerta

Whoo-hoo! Science camp was a blast! Let me share with you my favorite memories from the three days at Camp High Trails. To begin with, I learned how to shoot a bow and arrow. Shooting a bow and arrow was fun to do. It was difficult to shoot at the target. Next, I practiced a skit with the girls in my cabin. It was hard to go up on stage in front of all of the fifth-graders. Finally, we had a campfire. It was freezing up in the mountains.

When it got darker, I knew then what my instructor meant about layers! I had fun watching the instructors do their skit and the other cabins do their skits. In conclusion, I had a wonderful time at science camp.
By Colin Atangan

Hey! Science camp is an awesome experience! Let me tell you my three favorite things. To start with, the campfire was hilarious. My cabin got front-row seats, so we were warm and cozy. Some of the instructors did plays that were funny, and the fire was nice and warm. Second, we did some skits, and each cabin did one.

Finally, during late night, we did a class called Nocturnal Nations. During that class, we did a night hike. *Crunch! Snap!* The leaves breaking under our feet sounded like a crackling stove. We came to a nice place to sit. Our instructor told us to cover one eye. He told us the story of a pirate named One-Eyed Jack. After the story, he told us to cover the other eye. It was like we had night-vision goggles on!

Now I've told you my three favorite things at Science Camp. I hope you go to camp and do them, too.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Kindness Starts with You!

Our 2nd grade classrooms taught by Mr. Chien, Mrs. Shay, Mrs. Baer and Mrs. Eatherton just completed a unit on kindness. The driving question to start the unit was, "How can we, as humanitarians, provide a product or assistance to others less fortunate in our community?" The classrooms decided to do a canned food drive and collected food to donate to families at the school and our local food bank. As part of the unit, students decorated the collection boxes and also presented information to each classroom about the canned food drive. They then collected the food each Friday. After the food was collected Junior Girl

Scout Troop #2907 organized the food and created food baskets. Not only did we help our families, but the 2nd grade classrooms also donated more than 12 boxes of food to a local food bank! Thank you to all of our families who donated food – your kindness is appreciated!



Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Taking the Challenge

This fall, Diego Montes, a fifth-grade student at Schmitt School, made us proud with his outstanding spelling skills. All of our spelling bee contestants were best in their class. Schmitt students were so hard to stump that the spelling bee coordinator had to find more challenging words in his dictionary. We had tried all of the words on the official list!

It was a tough competition, but Diego Montes hung in there and blew us away with his spelling skills. He earned first place at Schmitt, and then moved on to represent our school at the Westminster School District's spelling bee event.

The WSD group of spellers also proved to be a stellar group. The spelling bee committee had a tough time eliminating most of the contestants in the first few rounds. They finally came up with the word "leprechaun," and that unluckily wiped out almost half the contestants!



Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shay Reardon
Principal

A Great New Tool

This fall, Sequoia Elementary School received a Chromebook for each student in the second through sixth grades! Our teachers are now doing an amazing job incorporating this new technology into their classrooms.

In addition to the Chromebooks, Sequoia also has a new educational technology teacher. His name is Jason Spence, and he is on site every Thursday to help our teachers integrate them into their lessons.

For example, our fifth-graders are learning about historical Jamestown, and our fourth-graders are learning about California. So Mrs. Pam Quan's fifth-grade class and Ms. Ballard's fourth-graders joined Mr. Spence as he co-taught a lesson on creating a Google slideshow. By inserting facts, video clips, and pictures, Mrs. Quan and Ms. Ballard then had their students create slideshows to present the information they had researched and learned about the subjects. The students were so incredibly excited to be creating and presenting their own slideshows to the class!

Another example of how our new Chromebooks are being utilized is in Mrs. Susan Prendergast's sixth-grade classroom. Mrs. Prendergast is our technology coordinator for Sequoia, and she recently had her students participate in a one-hour introduction to computer science called the "Hour of Code." Her students were completely engaged in problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity.

All of our Sequoia teachers have done an extraordinary job of incorporating these Chromebooks into their classrooms. They are now creating valuable and engaging lessons for our Sequoia students!

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Giving and Growing

Family, Friends, and Fun is our student leadership theme for the month of December. Our Give-a-Thon donation totals were 709 food items, 372 hygiene items, and \$2,285 raised to support the Red Cross, St. Jude's Make a Wish Foundation, Intrepid Fallen Heroes, the American Humane Society, and the Nature Conservancy. These charities are the focus of our fund-raising programs for this year.

The Stacey Middle School student body is committed to making a difference in our community. Students stepped up

in December to help with the cleanup of our library, which was modernized with new books, shelves, layout and furniture over the winter break.

Students are excited to receive their new netbooks in mid-January, when the 1:1 devices will be rolled out to middle schools. Each student will receive his or her own netbook to help with research, homework and extended learning.

Happy New Year to everyone!



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kevin Whitney
Principal

Reading Comprehension

On December 10th, Twenty three families were represented at our "Reading Fluency Workshop". This hands-on training was led by Webber's Parent Liaisons – Jocelin Carmona and Ha Nguyen. Jocelin and Ha have experience co-leading other Webber Parent Classes: Parent Nutrition, Parenting Partners, and Latino Literacy. The workshop began by providing parents with an understanding of fluency and the assessments used at Webber to determine a child's reading fluency level. Parents left the training with knowledge and experiential activities; which they can use

to support an increase in their child's reading fluency. Our parent classes will continue in 2015; the topics will include Reading Comprehension, Family Literacy Classes, and 21st Century Citizenship. Classes are open to the entire Webber Educational Community.



Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

A Thrilling Victory

On November 19, the Warner Wildcat football season had a thrilling day of home games against Johnson and Stacey.

The first order of business was making up for the previous week's disappointing loss against Johnson. The entire team played smart, mistake-free football and earned their revenge with an 18-8 win.

Next up for our tired Wildcats was a game against a Stacey team that had already defeated Johnson 40-0. An incredible defensive effort from Aaron Yang, Waihin Soe, Juan Rivera, Carlos Moreno, Phil Pham, Jennifer Vu, Mesa Lilli and Joseph "The Bulldog" Fernandez kept the Stacey offensive juggernaut subdued. Yet, with just two minutes left, Warner was down 12-8!

Quarterback Matthew Nguyen calmly marched the offense down the field, with key passes to Sergio Vega, Manh Dao, and Juan Rivera. With just seconds left, Matthew found Victor Andraca fighting off two defenders for a winning touchdown and a stunning 14-12 victory!



On December 10th, Warner defeated Stacey again at Stacey, to complete back-to-back titles. Warner Wildcats ROCK!

Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Community Support: Hope-More

Recently, Willmore welcomed a number of displaced students to our campus. Fellow educators, students and community members had been thrust out from their home school and needed a temporary home. The Willmore community saw this need and was immediately ready to extend a hand.

While combining two schools and communities brings with it challenges, everyone has stepped up to make sure all of our children are in a safe place where they can learn from familiar faces. One of the most inspiring moments was the traditional celebration of Thanksgiving. Each school has its own but similar tradition of students performing and reminding us of the importance of community. We wanted to highlight that by combining our efforts. It didn't take long to make some adjustments so that both events could be combined into one. Primary students from both schools performed in front of many parents, and the message became acutely apparent that communities that work together are successful. Beyond that, the sharing of tradition, learning and love made this event all the more special.

Although we are joined together by school buses rather than a tall, masted ship, the important and positive aspects of bringing communities together, sharing, and supporting has given us all more hope for the future for all of our students.

Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

A Light On the Classroom

What are some of those daily markers of student and teacher engagement that remind us of great teaching and learning and tell the story of 21st-century instruction? Recently, I received a morning phone call from Dr. Paul Morrow, the principal of Marina High School. Although the conversation started with morning pleasantries, the urgency in his voice told me we had more to discuss. Then the words any high school administrator would not want to hear: “We have a complete power outage on campus.”

Just a short drive away, I was able to join Dr. Morrow and his students and staff on the now rainy and dark Marina campus. As we began to walk hallways and visit classrooms, most with only the dim glow of illumination provided by emergency lights, once again it was a marker that reminded us just how special the teacher-student relationship can be when at its very best!

Now let's be fair. Teenagers, rainy day, Friday, and no power (except the always-present smart phone)—what followed in each dark hallway was something we should all be proud of. They were still engaged in learning! Yes, from English to math and history, as I looked into classrooms, students and teachers were fully engaged in lessons of the day. No lights, except for a single fluorescent tube to provide safety, but our teacher and student lights were “shining brightly.” From shared smart-phone light, room after room, the very same teenagers facing a rainy Friday with no power were taking exams, having small-group discussions, and engaging in what their teachers had prepared for the day. Lest we ask too much of the teen crowd, after an hour, Southern California Edison came in like the electric cavalry, and Marina was once again at full strength.

Although I would take great pride in describing so many of the powerful classroom strategies of 21st-century learning—from shared Google Docs to virtual group collaborations and beyond—on this day it was the dynamic relationship between our classroom teachers and their students. There had been thoughtful homework and focused studying the night before, and a little power failure would not deter our 21st-century classrooms. The future is “bright!”

A hearty thank you to our entire school community, and very best wishes for a wonderful 2015.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry

President

Financial Stability

The Huntington Beach Union High School District is pleased to report that the financial health of the district is stable. At the December 9 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the first interim financial report for the fiscal year 2014–2015 was presented and accepted. This report outlines and certifies that the district will be able to meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and subsequent two fiscal years. The statewide changes to school funding, as a result of the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), do not result in a substantive change to our district's budget. We are pleased to be projecting a positive ending balance for this year. Of course, this would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of our teachers, staff and administration.

That said, we must keep a watchful eye on the future and prepare for impacts to our budget. Some factors which will impact our district include: the temporary sales tax increase, Proposition 30, which expires in 2016; the income tax increase, which expires in 2018; our increased payment to California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS); and the recently passed (November 2014) Proposition 2 limits to the school districts' ability to maintain reserves to protect against such things as the volatility of state revenues, unanticipated one-time outlays, cash flow issues, and declining enrollment.

The Huntington Beach Union High School District has a proud tradition of fiscal responsibility, which requires planning, management and diligent oversight. By working together with our employee associations, parents and students, and the community as a whole, planning strategically and maintaining open communication, we will continue to serve our districts' students...and serve them well.

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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Steve Curiel
Principal

Team Accomplishments

With more than three months into our new Coast High School program, it seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming our previous CDS students into their new home. There has certainly been a lot of “getting to know each other” from both a staff and student perspective, but a first-time visitor walking onto our campus would think that the school has been functioning for quite some time with its own culture and history. Our students and staff members have worked hard to blend the two programs in a way that preserves the important traditions of both.

With the holiday season just past us, our Coast staff was happy to have had the opportunity to participate with the students in a Halloween dance. Although no dancing actually took place, there were plenty of fun games and activities to help keep everyone engaged in the event. Most importantly, the students were able to have fun with staff members in a more informal setting. Opportunities like these help our students bond to each other, the staff, and the school.

Not too long after the dance, our students and staff members shared a Thanksgiving meal organized by the students. This event was extra special because we were able to invite the Huntington Beach Adult School staff to join in the festivities. There was plenty of turkey, ham, potatoes, and pumpkin pie. The students were excellent hosts with both setting and cleaning up. They all demonstrated a desire to show their appreciation for the work that our teachers do for them.

One of the most exciting things happening at Coast High right now is the regional 2015 Solar Cup competition, which is drawing the interest of over 800 students from throughout Southern California. Each school has teams that are composed of students and adult support staff such as teachers and volunteer supporters. The ultimate goal is for the students to build a boat the size of a small kayak that is completely solar powered.



The boat building and entire competitive process takes 8 months. We are tremendously proud of the work that our Coast High team has already done. The main wood structure is now complete, and it is simply amazing. It's hard to believe that our students were able to build such a great-looking boat! The next phases will include applying the special epoxy coatings and then rigging the boat with a solar power motor.

Our team is lucky to have the support of staff members who happen to have some knowledge in woodworking and motors. We even have a local city councilmember helping students, lending his expertise in electrical circuits! I look forward to the day when I can see the boat and its captain in the water, powered not by the wind, but by the sun.



Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

Off the Page, Into the World

At Edison High School, the teachers are designing lessons to bring math to life and make it very relevant, creative and fun. Yes—math is fun!

The Advanced Placement Statistics students have started a project designing observational studies and experiments on the aquaponics systems in the new EHS Innovation Lab. An aquaponics system is a food-production system that utilizes fish excretions as nutrients to feed the plants, which are cultivated in water. The water is then recirculated back into the fish tanks to feed the fish. Along with this project, these students have started

a website so that students' families can follow the progress of this very relevant assignment from their homes.



Students in the Innovation Lab.

The Precalculus students have been working hard on projects that bring their classroom math experiences to the world around them. The students turned in a graphing art project that had them create art by writing formulas into a computer program called Desmos on Chromebooks. They are also currently working on a project using a real estate website that has them looking at trends in real estate appraisals and sales.

AP Calculus and Algebra2/Trigonometry students are enjoying the benefits of an innovative instructional approach to teaching: the “flipped classroom.” In this approach, the teacher provides the direct instruction via video lectures posted on YouTube that the students are expected to watch the night before class. The next day in class, the teacher briefly reviews concepts introduced in the video that the students watched the night before. Then, the students do the corresponding homework in class, where they have the advantage of the teacher's immediate assistance as they are working through the problems alone or in groups. Our students seem to like this new approach because they get a chance to dig deeper in class with the support of classmates and the teacher.

Students at Edison HS are finding that math is not something that simply lives in our classrooms or in their text book—math is part of the world we live in.



Chromebooks Quiz.

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Kirk Kennedy
Interim Principal

College and Career Planning

By Clint Walters, Guidance Specialist

On October 15, 3,700 students converged onto campus with one goal in mind—to learn something new, including how to prepare for a career and succeed in college. The ninth-grade students took a College and Career Assessment survey to analyze their interests, skills and personal strengths, the entry point for college and career readiness. Tenth-grade students participated in the new Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Challenge to familiarize themselves with the new testing format. The re-designed SAT will be administered by the College Board starting spring 2016. Our 11th-grade students completed the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), designed to give them firsthand practice with the SAT format and assess their reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills. To round out the day, all ninth-, 10th-, and 12th-grade students attended a College and Career Exploration Fair, where approximately 80 colleges and businesses provided materials and answered questions about their respective schools

and careers. With decorated booths and festive balloons, the atmosphere was positive, friendly and informative.



Students attended the career fair throughout the morning.



Students spoke with police officers, paramedics, lifeguards, and fire fighters while looking at their respective vehicles.



Career representatives busily answered student questions and provided relevant materials.

One student shared that the day helped her decide her top two colleges of interest, and another student said he now knew what career he wanted to pursue. Assistant Principal Ms. Peterson commented, "Testing went so smoothly, students really engaged the vendors and asked great questions, and classroom activities were meaningful to all grade levels."

Whether students made definitive decisions or just one simple seed was planted, one thing was evident: students were thinking about their futures.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Funding Source, Support Services and Collaboration

As we approach the end of the year, I am happy to report that one major task that a select group of HBAS staff has been working on for the past nine months is nearing a major benchmark that will potentially have a significant impact on our school going forward. I am referring to the AB 86: Adult Education Consortia Planning, a collaborative project with our local community college district schools Golden West College, Coastline Community College and Orange Coast College, and local adult schools Huntington Beach Adult School, Garden Grove Adult School and Newport Mesa Adult School. Through this collaborative effort, teachers and administrators from all schools have been working on a comprehensive plan that was submitted in a report to the state in December 2014. In this report, we have looked at the current state of our programs in terms of number of students served and what courses are offered and have identified the current needs for adult education and how to address the gaps between current services and needs, ways to integrate programs and streamline transitions to postsecondary or workforce, ways to accelerate student progress toward academic and career goals, ways to collaborate in ongoing professional development for faculty and other staff, and ways to work more closely with existing partnerships

The work has been extensive, and there have been many great ideas developed. The report is quite long, but I believe there are some significant themes that I can summarize here. One major theme that stands out in the report is the need for a dedicated and sufficient funding source. Currently, this is lacking for adult schools in California, and without a clear funding model that protects current programs from further cuts, all the work put into the plan will be for naught.

Assuming the funding issue is resolved in the 2015-16 state budget, the plan then moves on to identify the need for more support services for students to help them stay focused on academic and career goals and keep them from dropping out before reaching those goals. The planning team recognizes that adults have busy adult lives filled with unexpected challenges that tend to push school further down the list of priorities. Providing direct and indirect counseling services and support to help students navigate life's challenges will be a critical component of our future collaborative adult-education efforts.

Another major component of the plan is to have faculty from adult schools work more closely with faculty from community colleges in order to ensure that classes offered in each program connect well so that students can transition easier and reach their goals faster. This will involve extensive work aligning and articulating courses, streamlining enrollment processes, and using similar data and processes in how we track students. This aspect of the plan will most likely involve the largest amount of work and dialogue.

As we look toward the new year, we are excited about the possibilities that our plan presents. All the work that has been put into it has been focused on how to educate and serve the community better, recognizing that a well-educated adult population benefits children, the economy and the general well-being of our society.

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Huntington Beach *High School*

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Dr. Rocky Murray
Principal

A Fall to Remember

Huntington Beach High School has a long tradition of success. Oiler success is not new or unexpected, either. HBHS has produced thousands of successful students, many of whom gained notoriety while they were students or later on during their adult lives. The success we experience becomes a cultural norm, and a constant expectation for our staff, students, parents, and community.

Operating with high expectations is systematic, and becomes one of those things that “we have always done.” When considering the rich tradition and history of HBHS, and the history of the city

of Huntington Beach, our students are influencing the entire culture of this amazing city. Even considering all of the established tradition and success, this last fall season could very well be the best that our school has ever experienced.

In athletics, we were Sunset League Champions in the following sports: girls’ golf, girls’ volleyball, boys’ water polo, boys’ cross country, and surfing. Additionally, field hockey placed second in the regional showcase. Some of our teams also competed deep into the CIF playoffs, where water polo (for example) made it all the way to the CIF semifinals. For some of the sports this was their first time as Sunset League Champs. For others, it was their first championship in roughly 30 years.

The Oiler Band and Color Guard also figured into this championship run. This year the California State Band Championships were held on our campus and at Westminster High School. We had 24 bands in the divisional championships with the competition at HBHS, and 12 more at Westminster. From those groupings the top 15 bands competed in the Open Class Grand Championship Evening at HBHS.

When all was said and done, 3,500 Band and Color Guard students performed at HBHS. The Oiler Band and Color Guard placed third in the Division 4 Championships, and seventh overall at the evening’s Grand Championship! Among all of this team success we saw a number of amazing individual accomplishments.

The fall season also saw an incredible run for our artists. The Academy of Performing Arts has a following that is much bigger than just the school community. They have rightly earned the status of being an elite academy that produces elite talent, and this year they are living up to their reputation. They have already given us amazing performances in *Avenue Q*, *The Dinner Party*, and *As You Like It*. They also rocked us in *After the Beatles: The Solo Years*.

Their momentum will continue, as they are currently preparing for *The Sounds of the Season*. As we like to say around HBHS, there is never a dull moment, and certainly no shortage of talent!

There are generations of Oilers in this great city, and with them comes tremendous Oiler pride and spirit. We are always working to ensure that we can maintain the special traits that make our community proud of Huntington Beach High School. We have the opportunity to be great, and with that responsibility we will continue our work.

Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

The School That Has it All

Marina High School is more than just a place for high school students to spend four years in earning a high school diploma. It’s a school rich in tradition and excellence; one that is embraced by its community, students, and staff members as the best high school in Huntington Beach.

Indeed, a large number of teachers at Marina are school alumni themselves, and many faculty members also completed their student teaching here.

One reason for our sense of pride in the “Home of the Vikings” is the academic recognition that the school has earned. From California Distinguished School, to an enviable ranking as one of the top 36 percent of all high schools in the state of California, to the Orange County Register’s Best High School Report for 2013, as well as the highest-ranking high school in the US News and World

Report Best High Schools in the City of Huntington Beach, Marina has it all. Among Marina’s innovative offerings are an award-winning band program, an orchestra, a phenomenal vocal music program, a great CTE program (career technical education), as well as industrial technology classes in auto, welding and construction. There are also culinary arts classes, visual arts, a virtual enterprise program, challenging Advanced Placement courses, honors and college prep classes, a Marina TV production class, as well as an award-winning robotics team and 21 different sports programs, to name just a few.

Most importantly, and best stated by a recent student who transferred back, “Marina has a sense of community and caring that seems to be missing in most schools. I want to come back to Marina because people care here, and it’s all over our school.”

So what makes Marina High School the place that has it all? Drop by and take a look. Our focus on college and career success cannot be matched. We are a place where students feel respected, appreciated, and supported. Marina is also a school that holds firm on tradition and excellence, led too by an outstanding teaching staff that is connected and supportive of its students, the community, and the pursuit of excellence.

Valley Vista *High School*

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



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Math is Serious Fun

Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) has identified four key instructional “shifts” in mathematics assessment to transition to 21st-century learning: making sense of problems and persevering in solving them; attending to precision in understanding the audience, use of academic language, and quantitative purpose; constructing viable arguments using evidence and critiquing the reasoning of others; and modeling with mathematics for linear and nonlinear relations, predicting and describing critical values in the relationship between variables. These shifts align with the skills assessed on the Smarter Balanced Assessment: problem solving and precision; reasoning and explaining; modeling and using tools to support understanding; and seeing structures and generalizing across different contexts.

To prepare our students for this type of assessment, our math department has come up with a Happy Friday Activity. Mr. Hurst, Mr. Lopez, and Mr. Villalobos have put several twists on the students’ old nemesis, the math word problem, and made solving and responding fun. The structure of the activity is challenging: reading and understanding the problem; figuring out how to approach and solve the problem and which math operations are appropriate; being precise in determining an answer for the specified question; being creative in developing additional questions that could be asked about the

information provided; and writing a cogent explanation of the process and results obtained, using complete sentences, well-constructed paragraphs, and technical language when appropriate.

The “fun” part is understanding and thinking about the context presented in the word problem. In one example, the students are introduced to a young girl who was 12 years old 110 years ago. The girl was later married and had children. In the objective question, students are asked to calculate, using standard metrics, how many generations have succeeded this union. The creative part of the question asks students to envision a reunion of all the ancestors of the couple held today and estimate how many will attend. Students come up with really interesting factors that affect this estimate: how many lived through world wars; the effect of religion and wealth on family size; how weather at the time of the year the reunion is held might affect travel; and how many of the teenagers would want to go. All of these factors require carefully described assumptions, estimates with varying degrees of precision, different appropriate math operations, and clear descriptions of the results of each factor on the final reunion count.

Students work in groups on the problems, and the teachers know the process is “working” when the room is full of laughter as students brainstorm, challenge each other’s assumptions, identify computational mistakes, and come up with very different final answers for the creative question. Our students have often had negative experiences with math, and many have developed an “I just can’t do math” attitude. This activity gets past that mindset. Once the students get into responding to the problem, they realize not only that doing math can be fun, but that it can also help respond to real-world situations. That’s serious fun indeed.

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

Robotics, the Organic Way!

OV's Robotics club was founded in 2012 and originally had nine members. This group of students had an interest in science and wanted to build a competition robot. The first year was extremely hectic for them because they jumped right in without much background knowledge. They built a working robot and finished second highest in the rankings for a rookie team, which was fantastic because they began work on their robot a full six weeks into the "build" season, trailing all other schools in their progress right from the start.

They entered their second season with only two returning members and two returning mentors from an aerospace corporation. They needed to rebuild their club. Before the build season, they focused on recruiting and gained 21 more members, bringing their total to 23 on the team. With more members and some experience under their belts, they were more productive and built a better-quality robot in that second year. They put in over 100 hours of dedicated shop time over that build season. At the competition, Ocean View placed 26th out of 66 teams.



Robotics team with the Boeing Engineers in the background closely supervising construction of the robot.

This past year, the team focused on recruiting and fund-raising. The team purchased new machinery and tools such as a vertical mill and a 3-D printer, and when it comes time for build season this year, they will be able to purchase more robot parts than any year before. OV Robotics has taken their show on the road, too. They've participated in public demonstrations of the robot at our freshman Week of Welcome summer program, football games and our community open house. They have also visited Vista View, Mesa View and Lakeview schools, and they've been on field trips to the aerospace corporation and to Cal Tech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Through the partnership between our club and the corporation, three of our robotics team members enjoyed summer internships at the corporation, learning what it takes to engineer high-tech products. The club has helped create more interest around science and technology at Ocean View, and we're hoping to create an automotive engineering class because of the pioneering work the OV Robotics Team has done.

Special thanks go to Andy Weddle, the corporate engineer who is the club and build-team advisor. The Hawkbots could not have achieved what they have without him and his dedication to our students.

Westminster *High School*

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



Joe Fraser
Principal

A Working Professional Learning Community

A Westminster High School goal for this school year is to build the capacity of our teacher teams to collaborate and support each other in the endeavor of best first instruction and increased student engagement. The Algebra 1 team has been hugely successful and has become a model of what a real working Professional Learning Community (PLC) looks like.

The team got its start early in the year under the guidance of EDsentials coach David Hedges. He has scheduled 13 days this year to work with our Algebra 1 team. Within the first couple visits, the teachers were eager to work together and immediately became a cohesive unit. Our Algebra 1 teachers already knew what a PLC was, as do most teachers. The challenge was in knowing how to run a PLC effectively and, most importantly, why do it at all.



Westminster teachers focus on building teacher teams.

Under the continued guidance of team lead Heather Van Gerven, the Algebra 1 team shares assessments and uses the data to have in-depth conversations about best practices. The teachers share data on everything from Common Formative Assessment performance tasks to unit tests, in what are often lively conversations. The process has evolved to planning classroom activities together and developing common rubrics. The time together is also spent on examining specific samples of student work to provide meaningful feedback and revision opportunities. The team most recently decided to use the Backwards Planning design model to develop and use assessments to drive their instruction for each unit. The team developed units with corresponding activities and assessments, aligned with district curriculum pacing guides and the Common Core State Standards, which are being compiled as a shareable working document.

A working PLC is a process worth the effort. The Algebra 1 team has become a support network as the instructional shifts to Common Core continue to challenge the best of teachers to change their craft. In addition to the support and sharing of best practices, the teachers are feeling more confident and prepared to do their job in the classroom, where it matters most! A working PLC is good for students, and our Algebra 1 team is a model to be recognized.

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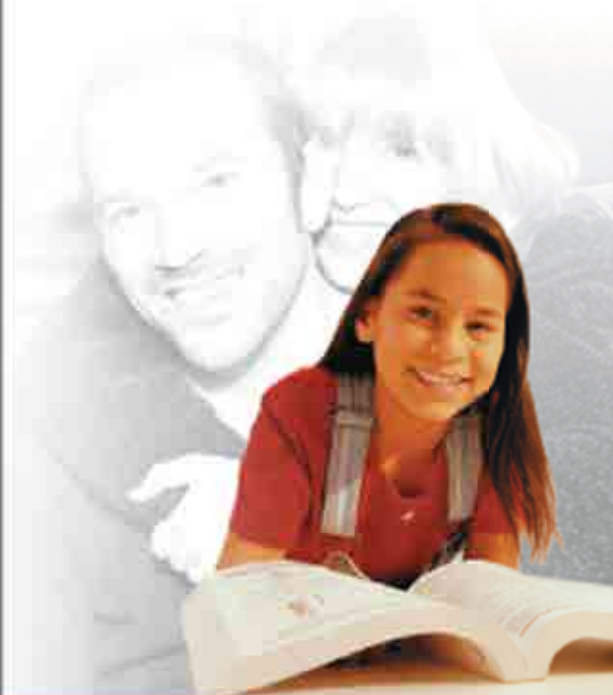
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