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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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Getting Ready for School

*By Gregory Hauk, Superintendent
Huntington Beach City School District*

In the Huntington Beach City School District, we recognize and respect the significant impact that high-quality early childhood education has on our youngest learners. Not only are children who enter their Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms better equipped to acquire vital 21st-century skills, but families also have the unique opportunity to acclimate to and engage in the school community.

Decades ago, the idea of preschool programs typically centered around childcare needs; content knowledge or even attendance in an early childhood program was not necessarily expected from children prior to their entry into kindergarten. We now find that children who have not had previous experiences in early education



In Huntington Beach City School District's preschool program, reading and music are two of their favorite things.

programs may encounter quantifiable challenges in their first learning year as kindergarteners. As a district, we have adopted multiple data-driven methods in order to best meet the needs of young children. We use an Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale to measure the quality of the learning spaces, a Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System to measure effective adult-child interactions, and specialized developmental assessment tools to measure each

individual child in terms of growth and development across a multitude of domains. These methods ensure that there are specific standards, goals, and competencies expected of each and every teacher of young children in order to best support the specific needs of early learners.

We offer a variety of early learning programs for children prior to Transitional Kindergarten or kindergarten that have been intentionally designed to benefit our youngest learners and their families. For example, should you visit the campus of Joseph R. Perry Elementary School on a Friday morning, you would likely encounter a portable full of young discoverers and explorers and rows of strollers left outside the Learning Link. This program is offered at no charge to our community and provides a valuable first experience on a school

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Polar Day: STEAM Education is a Driving Force in FVSD

*By Dr. Mark Johnson, Superintendent
Fountain Valley School District*

The Fountain Valley School District was pleased to host its First Annual Polar Day at Talbert Middle School on Saturday, December 12th. The event was designed to showcase various STEAM activities in the District and was open to all FVSD students and their families. Over 950 attendees, with students from preschool to eighth grade, participated in the experience. The effort was led by the District's OC STEM Initiative Team, which consists of teachers, support staff, parents and administrators.

Ms. Jennifer Morgan, Principal at Talbert Middle School, commented, "Polar Day was a great opportunity for parents and children to learn about science, together. There was excitement in the air as families participated in interactive learning experiences, which focused on the Poles."



OC STEM Initiative Leads put together a successful Polar Day in the FVSD.

ExplorOcean, FVSD partner and non-profit organization dedicated to educating students on ocean literacy, provided hands-on experiments for participants, including: a study of plankton, examination of salt and pH levels, exploration of water refraction, a snowflake modeling station and polar soap ball creations. ExplorOcean's Dr. Wendy Marshall stated, "We were thrilled to be a part of this creative initiative. We commend FVSD and Talbert MS for designing

an engaging day around such a unique theme."

Moreover, FVSD teachers, support staff and volunteers provided additional stations and learning opportunities, including: interactions with glacier goo; a Yukon Quest where students had the opportunity to build their own cardboard bobsleds; polar crafts - including snow globes and snow owls; cookie decorating; snow simulation; moon cycles; and, polar exploration videos. Students and families also had the pleasure of hearing from Talbert science teacher, John Wood, as he shared his real-life experiences exploring the arctic.

Mr. Wood stated, "These types of experiences are necessary if we are to guide our young learners into those meaningful careers that

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

It is always fun to begin a new year with hope and anticipation. This issue adds to that hope. The mayors messages are positive and encouraging you to become involved to help the communities be even better. The superintendents and principals are focused on academic success. It is such an exciting time to be a student.

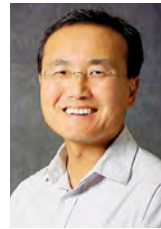
We had a record number of entries in our contest last issue and another one is waiting for you on page 34. .

Our next issue is March 9. In the meantime, Happy Valentine's Day!-

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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Traveling with Children



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

Planning ahead for a family or holiday trip will help keep everyone healthy and happy. Bon voyage!

- Hopefully you've spoken with your doctor before you leave about any necessary vaccinations if you will be traveling outside the United States.
- Start adjusting your family's sleep schedule several days ahead if you are traveling to another time zone. Drink plenty of fluids during your trip - dehydration can contribute to the effects of jet lag.
- Pack all medications and supplies, including prescription medications in original bottles, over-the-counter medications, hand sanitizer, antiseptic, antibiotic ointment and bandages. Include inhalers, insulin and allergy medications. Do not check this bag if traveling by plane or bury it in the trunk if going by car.
- Locate the closest hospital ahead of time. Bring a copy of your child's health history including blood type, immunizations, doctor's contact number, health insurance information, and lists of health problems, current medications and allergies.
- Make sure children carry an identification card in case they become separated from their family. Check the local emergency number; not all places use 9-1-1.
- To minimize ear discomfort during take-off or landing, encourage children to yawn, swallow or if they are old enough, chew gum. Infants can nurse, feed from a bottle or suck on a pacifier.
- Avoid diarrhea during travel by drinking only bottled water and practicing good hand-washing techniques. Also avoid ice cubes in drinks and food from street vendors, as well as eating only properly prepared foods.

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Do You Just Belong?



Cheryl Brothers
Mayor

Greetings to Fountain Valley teachers, parents and students. Are you ready for a new year? After you finish your shopping lists, consider making a list of resolutions for 2016 that includes the gift of time to someone in need, your school, or your community.

During my year as Mayor of Fountain Valley, which began on December 1st, I will focus attention on volunteer opportunities and recognize those generous volunteers that quietly go about our community making someone's life easier, improving our environment, or fund-raising for worthy causes. In other words—making a difference without the expectation of a reward other

than that satisfying feeling you get when you know someone has benefited from something you have done.

Volunteering can be fun and rewarding in many ways. You get to meet new friends who share the same interests and perhaps learn a new skill that will benefit you for life. You are never too young or too old to start something new or join a group that already has a mission.

If you are a member of a club or committee – good for you. Please consider these words that summarize how you can make a difference.

Do You Just Belong? Are you an active member the kind that would be missed? Or are you just contented that your name is on the list? Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock? Or do you like to stay at home Then criticize and knock? Do you take an active part to help the work along? Are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs? Do you work on the committees to see there is no trick? Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique? Come to meetings often and help with hand and heart. Don't be "just a member...." Please, take an active part! Really think this over. You know right from wrong. Are YOU an active member? Or do you just belong? —Anonymous

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

Teachers, Staff, Parents and Students!



Jim Katapodis
Mayor

Happy New Year 2016! 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. If you would like, I am available to come speak at your school. Please contact me at jim.katapodis@surfcity-hb.org or call 714.536.5591 to schedule a date and time.

We had an eventful 2015! We broke two Guinness Book of World Records for longest surfboard (42 feet) and most people on a surfboard (66 riders), hosted more than 100 delegates from Australia as part of the Special Olympics World Games, and opened the highly anticipated Pacific City retail center. In addition, we hosted a spectacular 4th of July celebration which was televised across Southern California on KABC-7 for a second year in a row.

In spring 2016, Huntington Beach will welcome the opening a new hotel – Pasea, as well as the new Senior Center in Central Park.

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

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OC Pathways



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

On a cool December morning, in a historic airplane hangar at the Orange County Great Park, some of the region's top educators and business leaders gathered for a very special birthday party.

OC Pathways, an initiative that brings together schools, colleges and businesses to create new career paths in targeted industry sectors, was celebrating its first year — and what a year it's been.

Over the past 12 months, more than 8,600 high school students have enrolled in OC Pathways programs, receiving career preparation in the fields of health care, biotechnology, engineering, advanced manufacturing, information technology and digital media. In our community colleges, more than 12,500 students have participated in OC Pathways coursework, earning roughly 600 certificates and 85 degrees.

Led by the Orange County Department of Education and Saddleback College, OC Pathways was launched in 2014 through a California Department of Education grant. Along with its efforts to partner schools and colleges with industry leaders, the project creates work-based learning opportunities for students — these include internships and mentorship — and it empowers educators with innovative teaching strategies.

In just the first year of this initiative, more than 2,500 students participated in one or more work-based learning experiences, and we have seen a 13 percent increase in the number of articulation agreements that allow high school students to receive community college credit for taking career technical education courses.

Moreover, OC Pathways has established 53 additional businesses partnerships that will help strengthen the 21st-century workforce.

On Dec. 2, these business leaders were among the 300 or so who gathered in the Great Park's Hangar 244 for a morning showcase that featured incredible displays from local schools, colleges and businesses, as well as video profiles of students who are on successful career tracks thanks to OC Pathways.

NASA astronaut Leland Melvin, who made two trips aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis, was riveting as our keynote speaker at the end. I was also honored to say a few words, joining Saddleback College President Dr. Tod A. Burnett, OC STEM Executive Director Dr. Linda Christopher, Orange County United Way president and CEO Max Gardner, and four very impressive high school and college students.

Thanks to the unparalleled levels of collaboration between Orange County's secondary and postsecondary partners, OC Pathways has already racked up more achievements than can be listed in this column, and we're just getting started.

Just think of what can be accomplished in year two.



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17560-15

Flu Can Be Serious for Children with Asthma



Eliezer Nussbaum, MD
Medical Director,
Pediatric
Pulmonary Center

Asthma is one of the most common chronic childhood disorders affecting an estimated 7.1 million children in the U.S.

Asthma triggers are often harmless to most people, but certain substances, weather conditions or even other diseases, like the flu, can make life difficult for a child with asthma. Though triggers don't cause asthma, triggers can lead to asthma symptoms and flare-ups.

For parents, it is important to know what can trigger your child's asthma and how to prevent asthma attacks, especially during flu season.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, each year an average of 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized because of influenza complications.

Because children with asthma have sensitive airways, the flu can cause further inflammation and bring on an asthma attack. With already weakened lungs and airways, the flu can even lead to more serious conditions like pneumonia and other respiratory infections.

Prevent Colds and Flu

- Wash your child's hands with soap and water often.
- Serve healthy foods, like fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Promote regular exercise and make sure your child gets plenty of rest.
- Visit your child's health care provider regularly and keep their vaccinations up-to-date, including a yearly flu shot.

Even healthy kids of any age can get seriously sick from the flu, and they can spread it to family, friends and others. Everyone 6-months-of-age and older should get a flu vaccine every year. Get your children vaccinated — call their doctor, nurse or a clinic.

Orthodontics Matters

Get Your Smile On!



Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

As an orthodontist, I love perfect smiles! So I am not at all surprised by the results of a study that reported the first thing people notice when they meet someone is their smile. In fact, 47% of respondents notice people's smile first, followed by their eyes (31%), their smell (11%), their clothes (7%) and finally their hair (4%). For this reason alone, I say smile often! Interestingly enough though, there are many other amazing reasons to smile listed below.

- **Smiling can make your healthier.** Studies show that smiling can temporarily lower your blood pressure, reduce your heart rate, and can even stimulate the release of endorphins that reduce pain, combat stress, and elevate mood (these are the same molecules that are released when exercising and produce "runner's high")
- **Smiling is contagious.** According to a recent study, when you smile, 50% of people smile back. In addition, another study showed people are more willing to socially engage with someone who is smiling.
- **Smiling increases productivity.** There is truth to the old adage to "whistle while you work". Smiling has been shown to increase your productivity while performing tasks.
- **Smiling increases longevity.** Believe it or not, in a study published by *Psychological Science*, it showed that smiling can actually increase your lifespan! With so many reasons to smile, flash your pearly whites often! In future installments, I will go over how to take care of your teeth and ways to improve your smile so you have the healthiest and best smile ever!

Dr. Andrew Harner is an orthodontic specialist and practices orthodontics in Huntington Beach. He completed dental school at UCLA and then specialized in orthodontics at UCSF. He is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists and is the President-Elect of the California Association of Orthodontists. He also serves on the Board and is the Case Report Editor for the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists. www.harnerorthodontics.com
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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Cognitively Guided Instruction Launches in FVSD

Over the last two months, Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through second-grade teachers have been working hard to learn more about and begin implementing Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), a research-based philosophy that focuses on each student's conceptual development in math. This professional development series includes three cycles spread out over three months. Each cycle includes time for site teams, cross-district collaboration, and evening training with a consultant.



TK-2nd grade teachers engage in Cognitively Guided Instruction professional development in the Fountain Valley School District.

Teachers and principals appreciated both the site and district time to ensure everyone was on the same page moving forward. As for the evening trainings, 63 of our TK through second-grade teachers have voluntarily participated. And, we are excited to see CGI strategies already being implemented within our classrooms. We will be offering the same professional development to our third-through fifth-grade teachers in the spring.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Steve McLaughlin commented, "I continue to be impressed with the many ways FVSD teachers strive to find innovative ways to enrich the learning environment for our students, resulting in unparalleled outcomes."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jeanne Galindo
President

Planned Facilities Improvements

Last year Tamura School celebrated its 50th anniversary. This momentous occasion was deserving of recognition. It also gave us pause to note that schools in Fountain Valley are aging and need basic repair.

The district and our stakeholders also identified the need to address air climate and air quality through the Local Control Accountability Plan. An engineering study followed, which gave options for cooling our rooms, including proper airflow exchange.

Then a Facilities Committee was formed. This committee, representing parents, teachers, classified staff, the community, and the School Board, spent over nine months carefully studying schools within and outside of our district. The committee saw many possibilities to create an updated learning and working environment. Then a recommendation came to the Board to hire an architectural firm to create a Master Facilities Plan.

After a competitive interview process, the Board took action in December and approved LPA, Inc. Everything from plumbing, electrical, roofing, and windows to outdoor spaces and air quality will be carefully assessed.

It is commendable that all of this work took place in months rather than years. Hats off to the leadership of our district for moving forward in a purposeful manner to address this major district concern.

Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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

Dedicated to Our Students



Judy Edwards
President

The Fountain Valley Schools Foundation is moving forward with its second featured event of the year called "Taste of Fountain Valley" (TASTE). This event will take place on April 23 at the Center at Founders Village. The organizing committee is working hard to gather new and interesting restaurants, and there might even be a brewery or two participating in this annual event as well. Please mark your calendars.

In our continuing effort to enrich the Fountain Valley School District's programs and curriculum, we recently participated in the city-wide Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Foundation had a special booth that gave local children an opportunity to win a stuffed animal and make a beaded bracelet. The parents were also able to fill out a short survey and receive information about the Foundation and what it does for our District's children.

We are currently helping the five District music teachers fill some of the items on their wish lists. The elementary teachers are asking for rhythm instruments, and the middle school teachers and band directors have asked for special chairs and music stands. We also continue to support the STEAM programs (science, technology, engineering, arts, and music) with refresher kits for the robotics program, as well as extra help in purchasing several 3D printers to expand the robotics program.

The Fountain Valley Schools Foundation continues to be dedicated to supporting the students of the Fountain Valley School District. During this New Year, please help join our effort by becoming a member or volunteer, at FVSCHOOLS.ORG.

Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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Thank you for reading *School News*.

will develop them into the problem solvers of the future. I am so proud to be a small part of this community that is willing to dedicate the time and resources toward preparing our kids for the challenges that lie ahead. I also want to thank everyone who participated in this event. The Polar Regions are critical components to our planets' natural systems that touch every person in every nation. We must continue to educate and inspire our youth and ourselves toward building a better tomorrow."



Gisler Gators, Sam Middlebrooks, Taylor Herschfield, Wyatt Sexton, and Abby Middlebrooks, experience arctic insulation.

Polar Day provided a unique opportunity for all families across the District to learn about the amazing STEAM activities going on at our campuses. And, this exciting event would not have been possible without the assistance of our amazing employees and volunteers. They spent countless hours planning to ensure that Polar Day was a wonderful success. We hope to see you there next year!

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

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Kevin Johnson
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Soccer Winners!

While Fulton is always proud of our strong history of high performance with regard to academics, we are also quite proud of the athletic prowess of our Falcons! Recently in the district-wide soccer tournament, Fulton boys captured the cup! In game 1 Fulton boys beat the opposition 2-1 with both goals by Tyler Le. In Game 2, the boys scored 4-0 with Christopher Oullette at 2 goals, and Tyler Le and Blake Anderson contributing one each. In game 3, the boys took down beat Grace Lutheran 4-0 with 2 goals by Chris Oullette, 1 by Jake Brooks, and 1 by Blake Anderson thanks to the amazing planned non-assist whiff by Jake Brooks. Overall, Fulton boys took 1st place in the tournament!



(Back) Coach Jennifer Rose, Nicholas Horn, Abraham Alhanna, Connor Wright, Connor Trapp, Tyler Le, Jake Brooks, Tyler Huffmire, Blake Anderson, James Templin, and Eli Ferretti.
(Front) Omar Shukairy, Walter Lonergan, Roddie Anderson, Cantor Wright, Jack Nelson, Cade Orgill, and Christopher Ouellette.

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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Chris Christensen
Principal

Local Veterans Honored by Courreges

Courreges Elementary School students honored more than 40 local veterans on November 10, 2015. During the morning flag raising ceremony each

student and guest were issued American flags, as each veteran was announced and honored. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the students were led by the veterans out to the field, where each of the more than 700 flags were posted on the field to be viewed the next day on Veterans Day.



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

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Patrick Ham
Principal

Cox Promotes STEM Education in the Classrooms

The teachers and students at Cox Elementary School understand the importance of STEM education: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Throughout the school year, students work in collaborative groups to develop team and communication skills in the STEM field. Three examples of collaborative STEM focus took place this past week in our 2nd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms. 2nd grade students in Mrs. LeCompte's class worked hands on in collaborative groups to predict and observe the positive impact that earthworm have on our plants and soils. 4th grade students worked collaboratively to create their California Animal Project and Presentation. Students in Mrs. Harvest and Mrs. Raymond's classrooms worked collaboratively to created Animal Habitat Hats, PPT, and a formal presentation of the animal. 5th Graders in Mrs. Schlosser and Mrs. O'Rourke's classroom worked in collaborative groups to create Rube Goldberg Machines that solved the challenge task.



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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Erin Bains
Principal

Canned Food Drive

Each year the student council at Gisler holds a canned food drive to help benefit the Southwest Community Center located in Santa Ana. The Center provides food, clothing, shelter, and guidance to help our local families make ends meet. This year the council held another successful food drive to benefit families in need. The food drive was planned and organized by student council officers and 10 room representatives. The council members reported to each of the classrooms about the food drive, and also helped organize the creation of flyers, donation boxes, and advertising posters.

They also organized the boxes that were used for collecting the donated items brought into the classrooms. They collected these donations all throughout the week of the food drive. By the end of the week, our Gisler students had brought in over 1,100 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.fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com



Jay Adams
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

Honoring Our Veterans

On Monday, November 9, Masuda Middle School held its annual Veterans Day ceremony to honor our school's namesake, Kazuo Masuda, and all of the veterans of our country. The entire student body took part in the presentation, which included the history of Veterans Day, poetry, instrumental and vocal performances, information about the five branches of our military, the playing of "Taps," and a moment of silence.

The highlight of the event was our guest speaker, Commander Ted Roberge, a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. Mr. Roberge was able to relate to the students in a meaningful and educational way. Other special guests included Mas and Lily Masuda and Denice Tamanaha, members of the Masuda family. We were also honored to host many members of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3670.



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

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Chris Mullin
Principal

Special Persons Day - Community Tradition

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.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Initiative + Compassion = Excellence

Each year, Oka Elementary School has a character trait of significant focus. Expanding on previous years that included Integrity, Respect, Perseverance and Initiative, our attention is on Compassion this school year. The goal is for students to understand its importance and then live it out in real life. Two fifth-grade students are doing just that!

Hailey Cortez and Raylee Hayes approached their principal in November with an idea: They wanted to do a book drive to help



Raylee Hayes & Hailey Cortez with just a few of the books collected.

other students have more books to read and spark the passion for reading with every student in each grade level. Over the past few weeks, they have turned their dream into a reality. They've promoted the book drive with enthusiasm, collected and counted numerous boxes and bags of books, and are now sorting well over 350 books! They're still collecting, too!

Hailey and Raylee are excellent examples showcasing the Pride of the Oka Wolfpack—Way to Go!

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Run To FUNd!

Plavan held its annual Jog-a-Thon in early December. Our families were challenged to raise \$25,000 to help support field trips, classroom supplies, technology, the Meet the Masters art program, and so much more.

Everyone worked hard to help raise over \$25,500! We feel blessed to have such a wonderful community that can work as a team to support the education of the mind and heart of all our students.



Kindergarten students loved running to support their school!

The classrooms that raised \$1,000 will get an opportunity to silly string their teacher. Students who raised \$50 will receive free prizes, and have lunch in the park with their teacher. Students who raised \$100 or more will receive raffle tickets to win an iPad mini. The 10 top money earners will enjoy a fun-filled day of bowling with the principal.

This was a very successful day, one where students, parents, and staff members could enjoy a morning filled with fun and exercise.

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

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

Positivity and Altruism

By Mark Holman, Assistant Principal

The Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program at Talbert Middle School is at the forefront of positivity and altruism at the school site. This school-based, peer-to-peer youth development program covers fourth through 12th grades and is built upon a philosophy of students helping students. The PAL curriculum is certified and recognized as an evidence-

based practice by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practice (NREPP). The program supports the development of 21st-century skills by fostering leadership and communication.

At Talbert, peer leaders spend their elective period planning events on campus to build a positive school climate through leadership, team building, mentoring, conflict resolution, and cross-age teaching. PAL takes pride in the various activities they develop and promote around campus. From Red Ribbon Week to beach cleanups, they are seemingly everywhere and continue to spread the message of positivity wherever they go.

Throughout the year, they hold charity fund-raisers such as Pennies for Pasta, which helps the to raise funds for medical research, as well as canned food drives to help families in need in the local community. During the holiday season, PAL hosted a holiday boutique, and all proceeds were donated to a local charity.

It is important to plant the seeds of altruism early. Teaching students to look beyond themselves and help others is a vital part of helping them grow into well-rounded individuals. More of this attitude is needed throughout the world. At Talbert, it is our hope that together we can make a difference.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

A Running Success

On Thursday, November 19, Tamura School held its annual Jog-a-thon. Many thanks go to the fabulous coordinators, sponsors, and parent volunteers who made this event not just a financial success, but also a whole lot of fun!

Our coordinator, Mrs. Sanchez, organized two different tracks, some great volunteers, dynamic music, and a fun, high-energy program. The children were excited to participate, and couldn't wait to have their laps recorded by our incredible volunteers. We appreciate all of those who cheered on our students with their supportive comments.

The weather was perfect. What a sight it was to see our students, teachers, the Tamura Tigers, and our parents all running and walking the tracks. The students were thrilled to help meet the challenge of reaching their goal of \$20,000, and we are grateful for the \$19,407.75 that has already been collected.

Thank you to Mrs. Sanchez, the Tamura PTO, our sponsors, parent volunteers, staff members and our students for all of the support you gave to this great event!



Huntington Beach City School District

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/964-8888 • www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Haulk

CONTINUED *From Page 1*

campus for all children under the age of five. We also host a tuition-based program, our Preschool Academy, for children who are at least three years old at Eader, Peterson, and Perry Elementary Schools. Children attending the Preschool Academy experience carefully planned, developmentally appropriate activities designed to ensure a seamless transition into their next educational year. An Extended Kindergarten program is offered to children in early February as an option for those who do not qualify for Transitional Kindergarten, yet would benefit from the early learning experiences.

Our goal in the Huntington Beach City School District is to serve every child with high-quality early childhood educational opportunities, and we will continue to expand programming and refine practices in order to best meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



Bridget Kaub
President



Brian Rechsteiner
Vice President



Dr. Paul Morrow
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Member



Rosemary Saylor
Member

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bridget Kaub
President

New Year, Continued Commitment

As we embark on a new year, often we look back at the accomplishments of the last year and look forward to working together to accomplish even more in the new year. Each year brings the promise that we have all made to our children, families, and community to provide an excellent, well-rounded education in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. I am proud and honored to serve our community in the capacity as a trustee and Board president. I am pleased to work alongside my fellow Board members and all of the professionals who make our schools exceptional.

I am consistently impressed with the strong sense of community here in the Huntington Beach City School District, as evidenced by the many community members who make up our PTA/PTSA organizations, the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation, Arts Alliance, and Reflections. The list of our professional staff, community members, and organizations that work every day to provide the excellent educational experience to our children is long. As we continue to work every day to provide the strongest foundation for our children, we must continue to be relentlessly devoted to our mission, values, and goals and to strong advocacy for our schools, our children, and our community.

We have much to be thankful for as we move into 2016. Our district continues to move forward with many programs, including early childhood education, after-school sports, and robust art and music district-wide, as well as Distinguished School, Gold Ribbon, Blue Ribbon, and Golden Bell Awards. I look forward to both challenges and accomplishments for our district in 2016 and beyond. When we all work together on behalf of our children, we all win.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year from all of us at the Huntington Beach City School District.

Educational Services

20451 Cramer Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888



Jenn Kinkel
*Director
Early Childhood
Education*

Early-Year Family Engagement

Whether a child is transitioning to school for the very first time or has been attending school for over a decade, we can all agree on the benefits of family engagement. Sometimes referred to as *cradle-to-career educational partnerships*, the overarching goals behind engagement are similar for all ages of children and their families. We use a variety of techniques deeply embedded in our district's early-childhood programming to foster an early and secure link to the school system. We know that creating these strong links in the early years will result in much stronger connections later.

One strategy for engagement can be found nested within our Learning Link program. Once a week, children between the ages of newborn to 5 years old are invited with their families to explore an environment set up specifically for very young children. Equipped with an infant area, plenty of blocks and materials for engineering, a library, dramatic play space and more, this free program offers more than just a place for families to gather on a weekly basis. As it is held on an elementary school campus, it affords young children and families a first glimpse at what they will experience in the future. Our school-readiness nurse regularly visits the program and offers both developmental and physical screenings to young children while involving their families for valuable educational purposes. These include BMI, vision, hearing and dental screenings.

The structure of our Preschool Academy program clearly demonstrates our commitment to family engagement in the early years. We regularly host parent-education opportunities and meetings where families are invited to serve in an advisory capacity. Additional partnerships are fostered through biannual conferences, volunteerism in classrooms, ample communication through a variety of strategies, and campus involvement through the Parent Teacher Association.

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

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



Darren Platt
Principal

Art is a Process

The arts are alive and well here at Dwyer Middle School! During the holidays, students had an opportunity to display all their hard work. From Elf: The Musical to our "Instrumental Holiday Program" to our Student Art Gallery and Vocal Showcase, students performed their variety of talents to enthused crowds.

But why do we spend so much time on the arts? Is it just to showcase some of our amazing students?

Art is an essential piece of becoming a deep learner.

According to Carol Morgan, deputy director for education at ArtsConnection, "artistic creation in all art forms is an iterative process: collaboration, critique and revision are essential especially in the performing arts. Formative assessment is intrinsic to artistic creation in all art forms:



making artistic choices, giving and receiving feedback, and revision. This fundamental of teaching and learning made visible in the arts is key to the procedural knowledge essential to student achievement of the Common Core State Standards."

John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall
Principal

Building STEAM

The term “STEAM” stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, and it is a popular focus for our 21st-century learning.

Miss Shim, one of our school’s wonderful first-grade teachers, and our Arts Advantage liaison, recently invited an outstanding guest speaker to help bring STEAM to her enthusiastic students! Ms. Jeannie Lee, an engineer working with the local chapter of the Advancing Women in Transportation group (WTS), taught Ms. Shim’s class about modern transportation, architecture, and engineering careers. She also demonstrated how art and science can play big roles in these important fields.



The Shiminators show their designs!

The students then created their own transportation masterpieces, which were later featured at the WTS Transportation Art Exhibit Gala Auction held on December 3 at a local celebratory event. The Gala also featured artwork donated by Dr. Ray Wolfe, the executive director of San Bernardino Associated Governments. This event was sponsored by a variety of local businesses in the area. Thank you, all!

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

Experiencing Vivaldi

For the second year in a row our Hawes Elementary School is a Class Act! Through the Frieda Belinfante Class Act Partnership, and with the support of our great PTA, Hawes students will soon be participating in the Pacific Symphony’s flagship youth education program.

Andy Honea, our resident musician, will be sharing the life and music of our Composer of the Year through a standards-based music curriculum. This year the students will be learning about the “forces of nature” through the eyes of Antonio Vivaldi.

Beginning in January, they will experience a special Prelude Assembly about this great composer and how he integrated the idea of the forces of nature into his compositions. Presented by experts from the Pacific Symphony, our teachers will spend an afternoon learning about Vivaldi through various classroom activities. Each of our classes will then experience an in-depth lesson with our resident musician. This wonderful year of learning will culminate with the students in grades two to five “hitting the road” by traveling to the symphony for a special Vivaldi concert.

The K–1 students will also be having their own hands-on symphony experience at our school. Additionally, at the end of the year, all of our students will share what they’ve learned at their very own Bravo Assembly. This event will give them an opportunity to show what they know about Vivaldi!

Participation in this partnership is providing our Hawes students with a fantastic opportunity to discover the performing arts. We are grateful to our PTA, and to the Frieda Belinfante Partnership, for their wonderful support.

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Helping Others

Recently, our Seacliff Cub Scout troop exemplified two elements of our school’s vision statement regarding positive values and strong character, and open communication and collaboration between all members of the school community. The boys effectively worked with with school administration, staff, and students, to conduct a food drive to assist our community members in need of food for the holidays. The troop monitored the collections, picked up the donated items from all of the classrooms, organized the food they collected, and delivered it



all to a local food bank. Their hard work resulted in many big boxes overflowing with canned and dried foods. Huntington Seacliff Elementary strives for academic excellence and strong character. These boys exemplified both areas very successfully. We are extremely proud of their accomplishment.

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Student Council

Moffett School elects four students to serve as officers for our student council. Following the presentation of a prepared speech by each student wishing to run, students in third through fifth grades elect a representative for each office: president, vice president, secretary, and publicity. Officers then guide our student council, which includes one representative elected from each classroom.

Our student council leads a variety of projects for our school including managing our school recycling program, coordinating school celebrations, leading weekly flag assemblies, and determining school-wide community service projects.



Publicity-Taylor Stanley , VP-Gavin Yauchzee, President-Luke Jones, and Secretary-Lindy Tarvin.

These young leaders provide valuable services to our school while learning the importance of leadership and stewardship. Officers conclude their year by sharing, at our promotion ceremony, a retrospective of their years at Moffett, including the enjoyable activities in which they participated, the important learning at each grade level, and how their parents supported them through the years.

A close-up photograph of two young girls with light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. They are positioned in the upper left portion of the advertisement, framed by a light blue curved border.

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Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

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



Dr. Renee Polk
Principal

Veterans Visit Perry Elementary

In honor of Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 we had nine veterans from the American Legion (HB Post 133) and HBCSD Board of Trustees Member Mr. Brian Rechsteiner (who is an Army veteran) visit Perry Elementary School. The American Legion visit was coordinated by 91-year old WWII Navy Veteran, Mr. Bob Laizure. The veterans led all of our students in the Pledge of Allegiance at our weekly Perry Panthers P.A.W.S.-itive assembly on November 5th. The veterans also conducted a brief discussion about the importance of our American flag, how to fold the American flag, and the significance of each fold. Each of the nine American Legion veterans also visited classrooms after the whole-school assembly to answer student questions. We would like to extend a huge thanks to the nine veterans from the American Legion (HB Post 133) who visited Perry Elementary and we would also like to extend our sincerest thanks to all veterans and active duty soldiers for their service to our great nation!



Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

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



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Incorporating Technology

Technology is an integral component of the instructional program at Smith Elementary School. Our supportive PTA has purchased computers for two computer labs and netbooks for two mobile computer labs, so students can access highly engaging Web-based programs aligned with our academic content standards.

Our students enjoy learning math concepts using the ST Math (JiJi). Spatial-temporal reasoning is the innate ability to visualize and manipulate images through a sequence of steps in space and time. This process is critical to solving math problems. The interactive activities in ST Math provide students with experimental applications to deepen their conceptual understanding. Students can access JiJi math at school and at home. At our Student of the Month Assembly, each class has the opportunity to win a trophy to proudly display in their classroom for achieving the most progress in a one-month time period.

Our students work for high academic achievement in reading using Ticket to Read and Accelerated Reader. Ticket to Read is a self-paced, student-centered online program. Students complete tasks in the areas of foundational skills, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. With Accelerated Reader, students read books at their reading levels and take comprehension tests. Students earn points to reach their individual reading goals and are recognized at our Student of the Month Assembly.

Using these programs, our students will be well prepared for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests in April.

John R. Peterson *Elementary*

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



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

The Artist Within

Peterson's new art program is sponsored by the PTA and taught by Letitia Di Luca Stern of Creative Little Minds. "Ms. Letitia" holds a BA in art history and Italian and has had a passion for art since she was a child in Italy. Her techniques include different media such as paint, watercolor and oil pastel.

The program consists of five assemblies and five in-class lessons for all grade levels. So far, the focus has been on Amedeo Modigliani and Giorgio de Chirico. During the assemblies, Ms. Letitia gives students a solid background of each artist's history:



place of origin, the type of art he is known for, and the technique he represents. Classroom art projects combine the artist's technique and style and use a number of media.

The goal of the program is to inspire our students to find their inner artist and cultivate a lifelong confidence in and appreciation of their own artwork.

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

The Halls are Alive...

Our school and district are fully invested in the growth of music programs, which are said to improve both brain function and academic success. Sowers has a long-running program consisting of band and choir that has earned superior ratings in many festivals. In just one year, Sowers has grown the program by over 100 students by adding orchestra and guitar classes and a teacher whom we share with Dwyer Middle School. There's also a parent booster club to support and grow our music program.

Our December holiday performances were outstanding. Our wind ensemble performed at a local concert hall as part of a preshow for the *Nutcracker*. Additionally, the wind ensemble, orchestra, Uptown Girls and Mixed Melodies Show Choirs performed at a senior center as part of our community service program. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

Our students have a rich experience in all levels and genres of music. We congratulate them!



Guitars are new addition to Sowers Music Program.

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Rebuilding with Credibility and Stability

It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year! Our students are working diligently on learning, and our parents and employees on supporting our core curriculum. Ocean View School District (OVSD) teachers and administrators are focused on providing a first-class instructional program. As I visited our schools this fall, I saw that we are doing exactly what we set out to do—and I noticed something else. We are interacting with our community members, including city leaders, law enforcement, service organizations, local businesses, and neighbors. It reminds

me that much of what we do as a school district not only involves classroom instruction, but also includes building strong, lasting relationships.

Since coming to OVSD in July, I have talked about my dedication to building a healthy leadership team. This includes building healthy relationships. Our leadership team is made up of school administrators, department directors, classified managers, and the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet. Together, we make important decisions that ultimately affect our students and their education. For the past several months, our team has discussed how OVSD becomes a healthy organization—what it looks like, how it behaves, and who is involved. It is a truly amazing process to watch and in which to participate.

At our last meeting, we presented the first tangible outcomes of our hard work. Following months of discussion and small-group activities about priorities, accountability, expectations, practices, and hopes, we revealed an overall Thematic Goal, Defining Objectives, and Standard Operating Objectives for the district. Our work has resulted in this overarching goal: Rebuilding a credible and stable school district for families, employees, and the community. Our team organically created these objectives in support of the goal: a renewed focus on student learning; a comprehensive communications plan; and inter-divisional communication structures to increase our effectiveness.

You can see that student learning is our number one priority, but coming in a close second, as a healthy school district, is communications, which is critical to building strong, lasting relationships. I will continue to update you about this important work as we move forward.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President

OVSD Board Announces New Officers

As the president of the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, I am pleased to say our Board held its annual organizational meeting in December. We voted on new officers to serve through December of 2016. The 2016 officers are: Gina Clayton-Tarvin, President; Jack C. Souders, Vice President; John Briscoe, Clerk; Debbie Cotton, Member; and Joseph Gaglione, Member.

The Board also voted to approve our 2016 meeting dates. The Board meets in the District Office Board Room at 17200

Pinehurst Lane in Huntington Beach at 6 p.m. Our 2016 meeting schedule is posted on the district's Web site at www.ovsd.org. Please bookmark the Web site to stay connected and get the district's latest news, information, registration links, photos, calendar, and more.

Although I keep busy serving as your Board President, working full-time as a sixth-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) teacher, and parenting two wonderful children, it is critically important to me to visit our campuses, collaborate with our community partners, and stay connected with and involved in the issues that are important to our parents and employees. I have reflected on the first several months of this school year and how much we have accomplished as a district.

We successfully selected and introduced a new superintendent, Dr. Carol Hansen, and an entirely new leadership team to our parents and communities this year. Our work is together is just beginning, but we are already seeing the fruits of our labor, including improved, two-way communications and a commitment to rebuilding a healthy, credible, stable organization. We also reopened Hope View Elementary School in the fall and are now focused on the grand reopening of Oak View Elementary School in the next month. This will be an incredibly exciting time for the Oak View community of students, parents, teachers, staff, and neighbors. We are planning a big celebration!

I look forward to the coming year and all the exciting successes we have yet to experience.

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/Language Itinerant Program

Our Speech and Language program serves preschool children from ages 3 to 5. At Pleasant View, we offer two different types of programs for our students. Our Itinerant Speech and Language program is made up of students from our surrounding geographic area who are identified and eligible for speech and language services. These students may attend different general education preschool sites in the area but come to us every day for a variety of instructional time blocks. Their parents either bring them to Pleasant View or arrange for transportation.

Our two speech and language pathologists, Anne Lang and Vicki Kincaid, along with our speech and language pathologist assistant, Jayne Nance, provide intensive instruction in individual and group sessions each day. They focus on articulation, voice disorders, language development, stuttering and social skills. This dynamic and systematic team regularly services more than 100 students. Pleasant View is fortunate to have these outstanding and dedicated individuals to provide services for its families and students.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President



Jack C. Souders
Vice-President



John Briscoe
Clerk



Debbie Cotton
Member



Joseph Gaglione
Member



Circle View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

'Earth to GATE!'

Fifth-grade Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students in Mrs. Fisler's and Dr. Webb's classes recently enjoyed Space Day. Through a variety of hands-on activities during the annual event, students created space suits and rotated through various stations.

At one, students used Chromebooks and Google Docs to create their own future space stations. At another, under the guidance of a parent engineering volunteer, students calculated their weight on different planets by dividing and multiplying fractions to determine how far they could jump on earth. Thrust

and Newton's Law were demonstrated through balloon races in which students used balloons to propel straws over string to a targeted destination. Students also climbed inside a giant teacher-made "space station," where they watched a shuttle launch and ate freeze-dried ice cream.

Space Day is a great example of the lengths to which Circle View teachers and parent volunteers will go to make learning meaningful and fun!



College View *Elementary*

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



Katherine Smith
Principal

Bunny's Kids

Bunny's Kids is a nonprofit organization that annually provides Orange County's men's, women's and children's shelters with much-needed supplies and toys. In December, over 60 volunteers from multiple sites across the Ocean View School District and all over the Huntington Beach community united at College View Elementary School to assemble 1,200 hygiene bags. Each was filled with books, toiletries and toys for families in need.

As a result of our districtwide effort, this was the most successful campaign yet! The organizers of Bunny's Kids would like to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who participated. Also, a special thank-you goes out to the student council representatives, parents and teachers from College View and Sun View Schools. You were an integral part of the process. The 2015 campaign was a truly heartwarming experience for everyone who was involved.



Golden View *Elementary*

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



Brett Hardy
Principal

Code Building

Did you know that by the time our Golden View students are graduating from college and entering the workforce that there will be an estimated job shortage of approximately one million in the field of computer science? Did you also know that only one out of four schools offers classes in computer science? Golden View is doing its part to raise awareness by participating in the Hour of Code in support of Computer Science Education Week, which took place in December.

The Hour of Code is a worldwide effort to simply get as many students as possible in front of a computer to practice coding. Our students had the opportunity to program and code many different activities, including Star Wars and Minecraft. It was so wonderful to see how excited even our youngest students, kindergarteners with special needs, became when they successfully solved increasingly challenging puzzles! When students needed help, they collaborated with their classmates to solve the problems as a team. What a joy to see!

The best news of all is that with the addition of our two new Chromebook carts, our students will have the opportunity to continue to code throughout the school year. Teachers and students have shown great excitement with their participation in the Hour of Code.

A fifth-grade student said, "I like learning how to code because it helps me solve puzzles. I have been practicing at home, too."

Many other students have been practicing coding at home as extension activities. Teachers are also able to make connections to the State Standards to help all students become more proficient in math. Our hope is that we have sparked an interest in a whole new field of study that will continue all the way through our students' educational careers.

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

New Year's Resolutions Help Us Learn to Set Goals

At Harbour View, we believe that helping children create New Year's resolutions is the beginning of teaching them the importance of setting goals. Our students learn that creating and working towards defined goals can happen at school, at home, and in their extracurricular activities. Goal-setting is an important skill that children can take all the way into adulthood. Here are some of our favorite first grade New Year's resolutions from students in Mrs. Parilla's class:

My New Year's Resolution is... Evelyn: to work on writing my letters the right way...because I'm a lefty; Nicholas – to make new friends; Alyssa – to read my sight words better; Sarah– to practice my take aways; Vincent– to do a better job of drawing turkeys; Shay– to color better inside the lines; Leah – to learn cursive writing; Zeren – to be more creative with my Legos

Here's hoping that you take a moment to set some goals for yourself as we approach the new year. On behalf of the staff and students at Harbour View... Happy 2016!

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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 the subject line)

Entries must be received by February 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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HEAVENLY	REASSURING	

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

Thank you Barkate Orthodontics for sponsoring our Contests!

Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Music is Magical!

Hope View Elementary School values and appreciates music programs. All of our Hope View Hawks have an opportunity to participate in song! We are delighted to continue to offer an enriching districtwide music program to all our fourth- and fifth-grade students, under the direction of Mrs. Robles. Our students are exposed to music through song, instruments, rhythm and dance. Students can also join the chorus if they wish to further develop their vocal talents.



Our kindergarten through third-grade students experience music through song and movement, under the direction of Mrs. Martin. Our primary music program is funded through our PTO. We thank our generous Hope View families.

In addition to our music program, a patriotic song is included in our monthly flag assembly. There is nothing more special than a child's voice. Hope View Hawks, hear us sing!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

Strike Up the Band

The Mesa View Middle School band has been busying playing their instruments all throughout the community. Led by Mr. Dennis Nicolosi (also known as "Mr. Nic"), Mesa View is proud to have over 75 students take part in both the beginning and advanced bands.

Mr. Nic creates wonderful opportunities for the students to play outside the four walls of the classroom. In December alone, Mesa View band members were heard throughout the harbor playing holiday songs at the Huntington Harbour Cruise of Lights. During the first weekend of the *Star Wars* movie premiere, Mr. Nic and his students were also seen entertaining shoppers and moviegoers with popular show tunes.

On our campus alone his band students played three different concerts, including a special one at our Mesa View Winterfest event.



December was a busy month for our Mesa Eagles' band students. They will certainly continue to be busy with their instruments throughout the next year!

Marine View *Middle School*

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



William Lynch
Principal

Changes With the Seasons

Now entering its 22nd year of arts education, the Marine View Middle School's performing arts department continues to thrive. Serving approximately half of our entire student body, Marine View offers its students a multitude of arts experiences through various venues.

We not only boast rapidly growing vocal and instrumental music programs, we also offer our students the opportunity to participate in a variety of performance groups such as band, concert choir, and the Jazz Ensemble Showchoir.

Marine View also hosts an extensive dance program that features our award-winning dance team, as well as Dance PE. We produce a bi-annual talent show and musical which also provides our students with experiences in both performance and production.

The school hosted its premiere Change of Seasons concert last month. The students wowed the audience with a vast repertoire that ranged from holiday classics to rock music by the group Journey. Our students showcased the incredible impact that music can have on the world. A great time was had by all!



Oak View *Elementary*

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



Rosa Mendieta
Principal

Succeeding Together

The Oak View Elementary School PTO is an important part of our family. They are busy year-round with a variety of activities, many of which include vital fund-raising events. In November, the Oak View PTO sponsored a restaurant night fundraiser, which was attended by 50 families. PTO has also been busy since before school started selling chocolates, school T-shirts, coffee and donuts, and beauty products.

Our PTO actively supports our students and staff in many ways. They provide refreshments for parent meetings and for our staff at the beginning of the school year, collect PTO membership funds, and much more! They are currently planning a family dance and fund-raiser for Valentine's Day. We are excited about this event!

Because of our hardworking PTO, we are able to offer many activities that are only possible with their valuable support.



Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

BEST Fest Forward

Our Leadership and Bridges classes, led by Mr. Vanatta and Mr. deLachica, and with some help from the Spring View Middle School staff, entertained our students in December with the first BEST Fest of the school year. BEST Fests, a sort of pep rally, are a part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program and are a chance for our students and staff to have fun and celebrate our accomplishments.

The theme for this BEST Fest was "Dare to be Different!" This simple, yet powerful, message for our students was conveyed through a variety of skits and videos in a collaborative performance by students and staff. It was a pleasure to witness and participate in such a fun activity that to celebrate our students and staff.



Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Santa's Helpers

After more than 20 years in the Ocean View School District, I am excited to become the principal of Oak View Preschool. It is a truly remarkable school. One of the traditions I am thrilled to continue is the annual holiday toy donation from the Huntington Landmark Toymakers in Huntington Beach.

The senior "elves" at the Huntington Landmark workshop spend all year building and distributing more than 3,000 toys for young children across Orange County. Workshop volunteers make thousands of handcrafted toys. Some cut wood, others paint, and some crochet or sew. These workers have generously donated over 200 toys to the children of Oak View Preschool for the past five years.

Teacher Rekha Powar helped select toys from a large variety of items, including doll cradles, trains, boats, and trucks. These gifts make a huge difference in the lives of the children. Our students' holidays are brighter, thanks to the generosity of the Huntington Landmark Toymakers.



A hard-working elf from Huntington Landmark workshop with his latest creation.

Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Thank You to Our Veterans

On November 13, as a special moment during the regular Friday Flag Ceremony, Star View held its first ever Veteran's Day celebration. Mrs. Goodwyn, our principal, invited in all of the school's family and friends who had either once served in the armed forces or are currently serving now.

Star View honored a grand total of 28 veterans at this ceremony. Some of the veterans had served in the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and some of the veterans had recently fought in the Middle East.

The ceremony began with our student council presenting the history of Veteran's Day. Mrs. Goodwyn then introduced each veteran. The veterans were later joined onstage by their children or grandchildren. It was a heart-warming moment to see the children beaming with pride as they stood next to their family members!

Star View also presented each veteran with a special star ornament. The ornaments were made to look like the American flag, and were created by our staff members and students.

At the end of the ceremony, the entire student body sang three patriotic songs to the veterans and waved miniature American flags. The songs included You're a Grand 'Ole Flag, My Country 'Tis of Thee, and On Veteran's Day. Many of the veterans stayed after the ceremony to speak to the children in the classrooms.

One of the veterans, Army General Wyman, the father of Transitional Kindergarten teacher Ms. Wyman, regularly speaks to the Transitional Kindergarten students each year. He said that he enjoys talking to the students about being a soldier and sharing what it means to protect our country.

This was a memorable day at Star View, and our veterans were honored to be a part of the ceremony. We look forward to continuing this tradition of honoring our veterans.

Sun View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

The Spirit of Giving

In December, Sun View Elementary School's first-graders partnered with a local volunteer organization, OneOC, to participate in a county-wide reading event called The Spirit of Giving. During the program, AmeriCorps volunteers read books to first-grade students and taught them lessons about giving back to the community. Students engaged in conversations about how they could help their families, friends, classmates, school, and community.



Sun View is proud to partner with OneOC, with the shared goal of improving literacy skills while inspiring students to make a difference in the world. Our teachers, Mrs. Batarse and Mrs. Tilton, look forward to having their first-grade students participate in a community service project this year in order to teach the importance of doing good deeds. They also look forward to a future visit by OneOC volunteers in the spring.

Vista View *Middle School*

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



Scott Mooney
Principal

Inspiring Creativity

Students at Vista View Middle School extend and enrich their learning inside and outside of the classroom. One opportunity is our elective wheel program, where students rotate through three different enrichment classes, changing at the trimester. One of the classes most sixth-graders take is beginning drama. "My favorite part of drama is making movie trailers," one student said. "We work together using electronic tablets to create something really fun and interesting."

As a culminating project this semester, students produced a mini-show of songs and dances based on *Alice in Wonderland*, which they performed for their families and friends. The show was a huge success and very well attended. Their proud teacher, Ms. Martin, shared, "The students created a dynamic performance which was propelled to excellence by their collaborative work. They learned a complete show with transitions and bows in a total of just four weeks!"



Village View *Elementary*

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



Julie Alba
Principal

Exploring Art

Through the generosity of Village View Elementary School's PTA, students are provided with art enrichment through our Art Explorer's program. Art Explorers is a school-based art program dedicated to opening the world of art to students, using different art mediums, exposing them to art masters, and introducing the variety of career opportunities available in the art world.

This fall, the students and staff at Village View worked together as a team to create a map of the United States for the playground and a Village View Dolphins mural on campus. Karen Bains, our art instructor, taught the students the history of murals and their importance throughout our community and the world. The bright and engaging murals have given the students a deeper sense of pride in their school.

Village View students and staff would like to thank our PTA and Karen Bains for their time and support.



Westmont-Lake View *Elementary*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

'Spirit of Giving'

David Bray, general manager of a global petroleum corporation, presented Westmont-Lake View School principal Sue Broderson with a check for \$25,000 in front of nearly 100 second- and third-graders in December as part of a countywide reading event scheduled in cooperation with OneOC, a volunteer service provider. Only three Orange County Title I schools received the funds as part of OneOC's "Spirit of Giving" program.

Dr. Carol Hansen, Ocean View School District Superintendent, said that the corporation's commitment to education and community was "truly appreciated."

"Principal Broderson will focus the donation on student safety and school emergency preparedness, working with the local police department," Dr. Hanson said.



Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps

Spelling Bee Champions

The top spellers from each school site recently competed in the Westminster School District annual, district-wide Spelling Bee. Two competitions took place - one for 4th and 5th graders, and the other for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The 4th and 5th graders were challenged with words such as “leprechaun,” “melancholy” and “capricious.” The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders had to tackle words such as “hyperbole,” “poinsettia” and “amnesia.” 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 Winners
1st place Jenny Pham, 2nd place Jason Phan, 3rd place Philip Yann.

4th & 5th Grade School Site Winners:

Anderson	Daren Tieu
Clegg	Jessica Ta
DeMille	Cassidy Dang
Eastwood	Sophie Nguy
Finley	Phillip Yann
Fryberger	Van Chau
Hayden	Tee Lam
Meairs	Sang La
Schmitt	Jenny Pham
Schroeder	Ethan Vo
Sequoia	Jason Phan
Webber	Tony Nguyen
Willmore	James Pham



6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Winners
1st place Haley Lewis, 2nd place Julie Tran, 3rd place Alan Pham.

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

Anderson	Crystal Mai
DeMille	Kim Nguyen
Eastwood	Vance DeBrabander
Johnson	Alan Pham
Schroeder	Haley Lewis
Sequoia	Kathryn Nguyen
Stacey	Samantha Harris
Warner	Julie Tran
Webber	Summer Bui

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jamison Power
President

Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability Project is Underway

Westminster School District celebrated the beginning of its new, district-wide initiative to empower student success through sustainability during a groundbreaking event at Warner Middle School in December. The district is leveraging its California Proposition 39 funding to build a comprehensive sustainability program that will reduce energy and water use, while nurturing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) educational opportunities for students and teachers.

During the groundbreaking celebration, state, regional, and local leaders recognized the leadership of Superintendent Kim-Phelps and the Board of Trustees in developing this comprehensive sustainability program that will set the bar across the region. State Senator Janet Nguyen commented, “Our ability to conserve water, energy, and other natural resources is only successful when all public agencies are doing their part to conserve more—and the Westminster School District is a model for Southern California.”



Board President Jamison Power, Board Vice President Penny Loomer, Superintendent Marian Kim-Phelps, Senator Janet Nguyen, Mayor Tri Ta, & Board Clerk Khanh Nguyen.

City of Westminster Mayor Tri Ta was also enthusiastic about what the district’s new sustainability program will mean for the ongoing partnership with the city as well, stating, “Westminster School District’s new sustainability program will open a new chapter for our partnership—focused on achieving important environmental outcomes through direct engagement with the most important part of our city—our great residents.”

It was paramount to the Board and district leadership that our available Proposition 39 funding go beyond simple energy-efficiency measures and act as a foundation to enhance students’ relationship to the science behind the sustainability project itself. As a result, we have created hands-on STEM activities that turn the district into a living laboratory, using the Proposition 39 project as a platform for hands-on learning and STEM career exposure. The energy-efficiency program is set to accomplish the following: \$18.3 million in general-fund savings after debt service over the life of the program; 1.5 megawatts of solar at all 19 district sites; 15,799 interior and exterior LED light upgrades at all 19 district sites; two electric vehicle-charging stations; water conservation measures at all 19 district sites; improved campus safety with exterior lighting upgrades and solar shade structures; improved student achievement and learning environment with indoor lighting upgrades; hands-on STEM education curriculum consistent with Common Core State Standards; and environmental stewardship through greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction.

For more information visit www.wsd.k12.ca.us.

Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • <http://anderson.wsdk8.us>



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

School Pantry Program

By Mitch Snyder, Assistant Principal

Times are tough, so Anderson is doing what it can to help by providing free fruits and vegetables to our community through the generous work of the School Pantry Program. In October and November, the sponsors of the program, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, brought pallets of fresh apples, peppers, squash and other produce to Anderson. Appreciative community members then were able to handpick their favorites for their family.

The pantry is open to all in the community once a month on the following dates and times: 2 p.m. on Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Apr. 21, and May 19, and at 1 p.m. on March 17 and June 16.

We here at Anderson are proud to have made life a little easier for about 100 families in October and over 165 in November. We are eagerly anticipating even more success with the School Pantry Program in the months to come.



DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • <http://demille.wsdk8.us>



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Saturday Arts Academy Inspires Creativity

DeMille Elementary was proud to once again roll out for the third year their Saturday Arts Academy, led by our school's Art Advocate Patty Pelton. This academy recovers lost ADA funding while giving students a much needed infusion of Arts instruction in all four genres- Visual, Music, Dance, and Theater. The students were led in activities for each, including Circle Painting, Folk Dance, learning about tempo and dynamics using various rhythm instruments, and one of the day's highlights: Camp songs led by none other than DeMille principal Shannon Villanueva! A fabulous time was had by both students and staff, and we look forward to the upcoming Saturday Arts Academy dates: January 23, March 21, April 23, and May 21. Who knew coming to school on Saturday could be so fun?



Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • <http://clegg.wsdk8.us>



John Staggs
Principal

Technology Instruction Moves Forward

Teachers and students at Clegg are all very excited about the one-to-one Chromebook initiative that was put into place districtwide last year. Each student in grades two through eight in the Westminster School District has been assigned his or her own personal Chromebook. Teachers are continually being trained by district personnel on how to integrate these devices into their daily instruction. Each school site has one technology-instruction coach assigned to the site 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 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.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • <http://eastwood.wsdk8.us>



Dr. Jason Kuncewicki
Principal

Blended Learning Buddies

Many of our Eastwood primary and upper-grade teachers took an opportunity this summer to participate in the Westminster School District's technology training. The goal of this training was not just to assist our teachers with their use of technology to support student learning, but also to impact their development as effective citizens in a global society.

Our teachers are now integrating 21st-century skills into the sixth- and second-graders' "Big Buddy" time each week. During this blended buddy time, there is a hybrid of face-to-face instruction with digital/online and Web-based instructional technology. The sixth-graders are given an opportunity to collaborate with the second-graders to both explore the Web and create documents and presentations with Google Docs and slides.

Our students recently created a culminating presentation of Walt Disney's life and works, and they got to celebrate together as well! Our Dolphins are actively supporting technology integration.



Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • <http://finley.wsdk8.us>



Maria Gutiérrez-García
Principal

Collaboration

As part of the Westminster School District LCAP, Instructional Support Specialists are available to collaborate with teachers and principals within the school district. Finley School is working in partnership with the Instructional Support Specialists on improving student writing competencies school wide.



Students in Julie Herkins' class participate in the "hands-on" deconstruction of text.



Third Grade students in Julie Herkins' class listen attentively to April Derr, Instructional Support Specialist as she teaches a lesson on deconstructing text as the class follows along.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • <http://hayden.wsdk8.us>



Mark Murphy
Principal

An Exciting Journey

Hayden Elementary is very excited to have begun its journey this year into a new writing program.

At Hayden, we understand how writing is the kind of essential skill that will benefit our students for the rest of their lives. Practicing writing by the use of engaging activities at the elementary school level can foster confidence and a lifelong love for the written word.

We recently began a new school-wide writing program called "Write from the Beginning." This comprehensive writing program for elementary school students establishes a common focus and shared accountability for school-wide performance. This step-by-step writing program (with direct instruction) is also based upon the Thinking Maps that we have been using for over 5 years.

We have sent three Hayden teachers to be trained in this program. They will be delivering professional development to our staff members throughout the rest of the year. A special thank-you goes to Kim Ugarteche, Kim Nguyen, and Kristen Flores for leading us down this exciting journey.



Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • <http://fryberger.wsdk8.us>



Dr. Dena Kiouses
Principal

Write On!

By Mr. Rodriguez, Fifth-Grade Teacher and 16-Year District Veteran

To be literate in the 21st century, students are required to read like a detective and write like an investigative reporter. Fryberger Elementary recognizes the importance of this type of literacy and has chosen written expression as our schoolwide focus.

Students were asked, "Why is writing important?" In response, many suggested that writing is the best way to communicate new ideas. Here at Fryberger, teachers have been working diligently to introduce, practice, and monitor the writing process with engaging activities for students. Teachers are using a variety of thinking maps and strategies such as deconstructing text and technology web-based programs such as Read & Write to support students as emerging writers.

When a high value is placed on consistent writing in the classroom, it's a win-win all around. Writing is an important tool not just for communicating but also for thinking. So, write on, Fryberger Falcons!



Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • <http://johnson.wsdk8.us>



Daniel Owens
Principal

Creating the Tools

Johnson Middle School continues to look for new and innovative ways to allow students to showcase their talents and skills. One such way is the creation of our school's new Multimedia Department.

The goal of the Multimedia Department is to see to it that all Johnson Middle School students are able to use the latest technology to help communicate their ideas, goals, and dreams in the modern world. Our students are also encouraged to develop the kind of skills that are needed in a 21st-century workforce.

They have opportunities in the fields of videography and film production, website design, digital graphics, robotics, 3D printing and design, lighting and stage craft, digital music, and digital promotion.

The skills we need for the future are ever-changing. By giving our students the opportunity to explore and create, they can also obtain the tools they need to help tackle these changes.



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

*Executive Director,
Student Services*

Language-Rich Preschool Classrooms

Westminster School District has made intentional decisions with their preschool programming options to ensure that all students are provided with equal opportunities to learn. John F. Land School serves a diverse group of preschool students. Some speak English proficiently, while others are in various stages of English language development. In order to make curriculum and instruction accessible to all students, teachers support language development through the use of a language-rich curriculum and culturally relevant practices.

Preschool programs throughout the district employ the HighScope curriculum, which utilizes active participatory learning. Through this process, students are given the opportunity to participate in and access the curriculum, regardless of their level of English language proficiency. Both teachers and students model language through a process called plan-do-review. Students verbally describe hands-on learning experiences with their teachers and peers and learn over time how to communicate their intentions, problem solve, and verbally share their experiences.

In addition to providing a language-rich curricular framework, teachers at Land School support language development through the use of culturally relevant instruction. By bringing aspects of their students' cultures into daily school-based interactions, teachers validate and reinforce the experiences that each student brings to the learning environment. Students learn classroom vocabulary more quickly by linking it to their previous experiences. Thus, students are encouraged to participate in the discourse of the classroom. Culturally relevant instruction empowers students and provides them with a platform to confidently contribute to the learning experience.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • <http://meairs.wsdk8.us>



Kathy Kane
Principal

Family Math Night Success

Building a sense of community and connecting family engagement to student learning play a key role in helping children learn mathematics. At Meairs, we value the importance of a collaborative partnership with families in teaching and learning.

Family Math Nights can be used as a way of highlighting the importance of math concepts and strengthening skills through fun, interactive stations. In November, Meairs hosted its inaugural Family Math Night for all of our students. We had a

great turnout, with students from every grade level represented. Students and families actively engaged in math standards in action while reinforcing problem solving and communication skills. There were several hands-on stations, including Math-Art Connections, card and logic games, and multiplication tic-tac-toe, all led by our wonderful teachers. There were several standards-based activities highlighting the importance of connecting math concepts to everyday life.

We look forward to our upcoming Science Night!



Dad and daughters having fun with Math.

School News

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Orchid Rocha
Principal

Spelling Bee

The top spellers from every elementary school in Westminster competed in November for the first place position in the District Spelling Bee. Our very own, Jenny Pham, made us proud by winning the 1st place spot in the District!



First Place: Jenny Pham

At our school site competition we had the following students place as follows: first place, Jenny Pham; second place, Libby Ly; third place (tie): Hau Tran and Johnny Dieu.

I would also like to congratulate all of the spelling bee participants for studying their words and having the courage to compete in front of their peers and teachers. I was very impressed with all of the participants.



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Helping Others

This year Schroeder Elementary School students had several ways to help others in our community and beyond. Our second-grade classrooms held their annual canned food drive. With the help of Schroeder’s own Girl Scout Troop #3658, we created Thanksgiving boxes for 11 families and also donated food to a local food bank.

Mrs. Guzman’s fifth-grade class also filled two shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and personal hygiene items, such as soap, toothbrushes, combs, and lip balm, for a boy and girl in their age group. The project really opened the students’ eyes to see how fortunate we are here in our community. The thought of a notebook being a great gift for someone was shocking at first. They began to realize that we take much for granted.

The class also collected money to purchase some farm animals. Our goal was to raise \$14 for 12 baby chicks for one family. The students were more than happy to help. Their change and personal allowances kept rolling in. The class ended up with \$94. After a little research and discussion on how they could best help the most people, they decided to donate toward a goat, to provide dairy products, and 24 baby chicks, to provide poultry and eggs to eat, trade, or sell at the market.

Thank you to everyone who supported these projects!



Michelle Watkins
Principal

Kindness Makes the Difference

Oscar Wilde once said, “The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.” In this respect, our Sequoia students are always trying to reflect upon their own actions and give full attention to how they treat themselves and others.

Mayor Tri Ta recently presented our Sequoia second-graders with special “Kindness Makes the Difference” certificates. Their Project Based Learning Unit had emphasized what it means to be a humanitarian. The students have learned that kindness starts

with us, and so we, as humanitarians, can show kindness to groups outside of school.

The second-graders recently applied their study of kindness by writing letters to veterans to show their thanks during the holiday season. The teachers also worked closely with the Long Beach VA Hospital and sent their own letters of thanks and kindness. Our second-graders have inspired all Sequoia students to practice kindness to each other at school and in the community.



Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • <http://stacey.wsdk8.us>



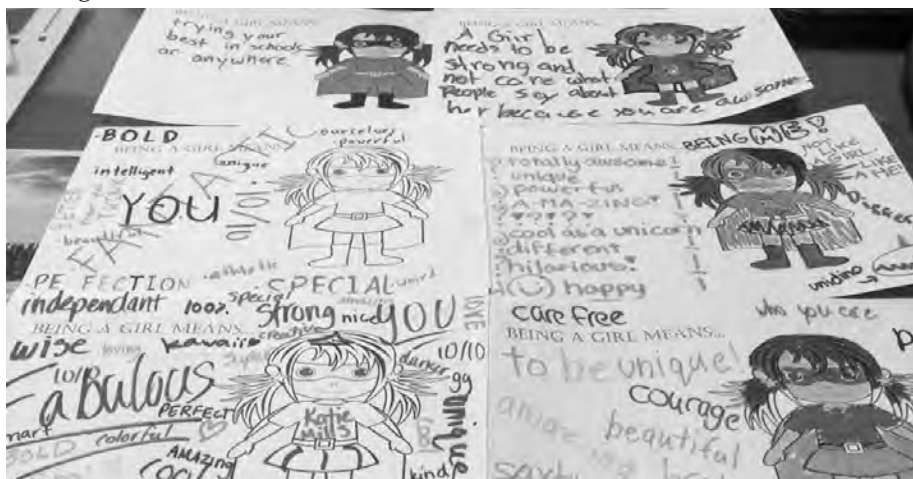
Heidi DeBritton
Principal

'We're All Beautiful'

Stacey Middle School has partnered with Girls Inc. to bring Mind + Body awareness to our students. This curriculum is designed to represent the whole girl both mentally and physically. Our sixth-, seventh- and a few eighth-grade students have been involved with the program through once-weekly PE classes.

During the first session held September through November, students participated in activities discussing body image, stress, fitness and nutrition. One student participating in the program said, "Have you noticed how it's more okay to say something mean to a friend than it is to say a compliment? If I try to compliment a friend, she looks at me like I'm crazy. [It's] kind of sad we don't know how to give or take compliments. We should. We're all beautiful."

We are excited to continue this fabulous program with a new group and bring more awareness to their lives.



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • <http://webber.wsdk8.us>



Kevin Whitney
Principal

Can You Speak Code?

Students at Webber Elementary are continuing the work of being 21st Century Learners. In preparation for our December Webber Technology Forum all students in K – 6th deepened their practical knowledge of Google and coding. Students in first grade used iPads and ScratchJr to learn about basic coding. For those of us born before 2000, coding is the hip way of saying computer programming. First graders were given a problem to solve and then the task of illustrating their solution using ScratchJr to prove their resolution as true (or learn their answer was not

accurate). One boy shared how a boat could move around a rock which was in the middle of the lake. Impressed parents asked, "How did you do that?" He quickly replied, "Coding is easy" and he began to show the parents how they too could use technology to solve problems.



Mrs. Bess working with her 1st grade students to develop their coding skills.

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • <http://warner.wsdk8.us>



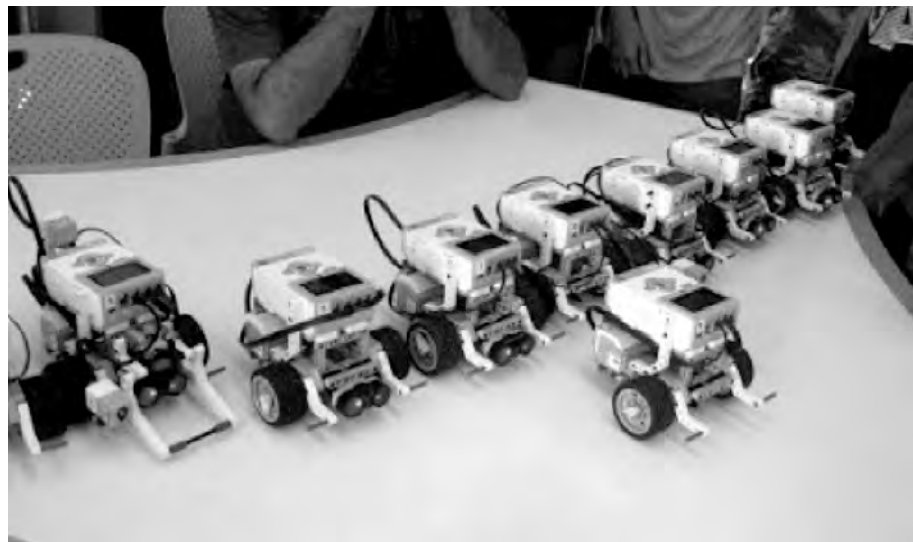
Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

Robotics!

By Tung Nguyen, Student – Journalism

This is the first year Warner Middle School has offered robotics, a special survey celebrated in the Westminster School District! The survey starts with the building of a rover, and inventions escalate from there. For example, the rover can be programmed by moving it with the basic coding. Then, students are tested with more advanced movements, including turns of different angles.

Mr. Schamman and Mr. Sousa teach students the parts of the rovers, how to properly handle them, and how to use them. Of course, learning how to use the materials is important. Students are tested to remember parts and their names. The potential in this survey is vast, as it opens up a new world of technology to students.



Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • <http://willmore.wsdk8.us>



Rob McKane
Principal

#Blendedlearning #Gamification

As we rapidly progress towards full implementation of 21st century teaching and learning, we are learning and using new language. Gamification is one example of this. Gamification is the application of game-design elements into non-gaming situations. In the photo, students are using an online game, prepared by the teacher, to reinforce concepts they have been taught and learn new concepts. One of the main benefits for students is improved engagement. Of course, all learning cannot be done through this process, but the more we are able to incorporate this into lessons,

the more we will be able to enhance students' overall learning experience. Follow us on Twitter at @WillmoreWSD or on our web site: Willmore.wsdk8.us.



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Sticky Activities

January always brings with it an invitation for reflection. Yes, the traditional and well-meaning resolutions follow, but I am referring to reflecting on our work as schools. The ability to point to data that demonstrates we are providing a healthy learning environment for our students is of paramount importance. The standard measures of success and health are easy to find and calculate: a college-going culture; number of students participating in both the PSAT and SAT tests; the college entrance measurement of A–G coursework completion; counselors and psychologists for our students to connect with; and a clean and orderly campus environment, just to list a few. All of those are typical “between the bells” (first period to sixth period) activities or resources.

While all of those indicators are of vital importance to overall school health, I would encourage us to also look at those activities and opportunities that are created for students “outside the bells” (before and after school). These are the “sticky” ones—the events that bond and connect our students to their high school experience and become the building blocks for so much in their futures. Just in the first few months of school, our district has seen: Advanced Placement Honor Roll National Recognition; CIF Champion and League Championship teams; marching bands from each of our six comprehensive high schools receive awards in state competitions; Model United Nations teams dominate competition up and down the state; national and state awards for outstanding individual and cast performances in stage and in vocal music; community service events that, simply put, change lives and touch the hearts of so many in need; and teachers being recognized for excellence in their profession.

Reflection on our health-check: Huntington Beach Union High School District passes with flying colors of success. Thank you to so many community members and families who volunteer and support the important “sticky” activities that make our schools special places.



Kyle Bui
Student Representative

Sharing Smiles

With football games and tailgate parties in full swing, the Associated Student Body (ASB) groups from every school in the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) overcame one of their biggest challenges of the school year—homecoming. These student leaders put their hard work, passionate dedication, and optimistic attitudes into creating the perfect celebrations for their schools, ranging from Ocean View High School's Mardi Gras to Fountain Valley High School's “Dance Till the End of Time.”

As homecoming season came to a close, ASB's work did not diminish. During the holiday season, students turned their attention to community service. Westminster High School donated hundreds of canned goods to Second Harvest Food Bank, and Huntington Beach High School collected 2,000 cans for families in need at their “Stoplight” dance. Besides conducting a food drive to benefit the Orange County Food Bank, Coast High School also donated toys to Toys for Tots to benefit the less fortunate. But these acts of generosity are just a few of the great things happening within our community.

It is clear that each school truly embraced the seasonal holiday gift of giving. One way was by making breakfast, as they did at Fountain Valley High School. These ASB students served a warm breakfast to the teachers and staff to show appreciation for all they have done for the students.

These acts of kindness are not about receiving positive recognition; they are really to give back to the communities for helping these students to become who they are today. Giving back is one of the simplest ways to make others happy, an enjoyable hobby every school takes immense delight in. It isn't about self-satisfaction or self-fulfillment; rather, it is about sharing something as simple as a smile.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry
Member

New Beginnings

The school year may run from August to June, but in the world of school governance January is the beginning of the new term. I have enjoyed the past year serving as the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) Board of Trustees president. Some of the highlights of the past year include finishing the work of our facilities improvement initiative, refinancing the general obligation bonds at a significant savings to taxpayers, expanding Advanced Placement class opportunities and improved test and pass rates, creating a new three-year strategic plan, and, most importantly, graduating thousands of students. As I close out the year, I am happy to introduce our new Board president, Dr. Duane Dishno.

Dr. Dishno is very well known throughout the community. He is a retired educator and administrator and has served as superintendent of elementary, unified, and high school districts. He is married with two children, and his wife taught for many years in the Westminster School District. He has lived in the community for more than 40 years and is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for his professional and community service. He has served on the Huntington Beach Centennial Celebration Committee, the Pier Plaza Grand Opening Committee, and the Infrastructure Advisory Committee, as well as the Huntington Beach City School District Bond Oversight Committee and the Board of Directors of several local organizations. The Board welcomes Dr. Dishno to his new position with every confidence that he will do an excellent job.

While I will remain on the HBUHSD Board of Trustees, I will be transitioning into a new role with the California School Boards Association (CSBA). At the CSBA Annual Delegate Assembly in December, I ran for and was elected to the position of president-elect of the association. CSBA is the nonprofit education association representing the elected officials who govern public school districts and county offices of education. With a membership of over 1,000 educational agencies statewide, CSBA advocates for effective policies that advance the education and well-being of the state's more than six million school-age children. It will be a privilege to represent Huntington Beach Union High School District and Orange County at the state level.



Dr. Duane Dishno
President



Dr. Michael Simons
Vice President

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Susan Henry
Member

Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

An Impressive Achievement

I recently had the privilege of recognizing Ms. Betty Tran as our Coast High School's Volunteer Teacher of the Year in an annual ceremony event at the Huntington Beach Masonic Lodge. As one of only two math teachers at Coast, Ms. Tran is responsible for quite a number of math courses that she must deliver through the traditional lecture format, as well as by online independent study.

This year she is teaching consumer math, algebra, algebra 2, geometry, and pre-calculus. She also leads the ASB, organizes

various electives, and co-leads our science and technology STEAM program. She is extremely knowledgeable in the area of technology, and regularly provides our staff members with additional tech support. This is a huge benefit to a program that delivers most of its instruction online.

What I have been most impressed about with Ms. Tran so far is the great work that she and a small team of students, teachers, and support staff have done for our STEAM program. As a former science teacher myself, I know how much work goes into setting up the classroom labs. But to do it again after school and



Ms. Tran with her award and fellow teacher, Ms. Merrill, a former Volunteer Teacher of the Year awardee.

on weekends is astonishing. It is something that only a few science teachers can accomplish, let alone math. This past year our STEAM team even competed in two well-known and respected science competitions, and walked away with a number of awards!

Ms. Tran and the work she does – and the way she inspires and motivates our students – has positively changed the culture of Coast High School. She is a humble leader, with a passion to do what it takes to help her students do more than they think they're capable of.

I want to thank Ms. Tran, and recognize her as Coast High School's Volunteer Teacher of the Year.

Edison *High School*

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



Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

A Great Month

In November, EHS chose to take on the challenge of dedicating an entire month to emphasize the importance of Caring. Our students, staff, and parents were encouraged to participate in the campaign. We also designated a special theme for each week: Social Media Awareness, Special Abilities Awareness, and Acceptance.

We also held a powerful all-school assembly called #Icanhelp. Kim Karr, our keynote speaker, did an amazing job explaining to our students the importance of knowing how to use social media in a positive and safe way. The parents met with Kim that evening to become more aware of how their children are using social media.

During Special Abilities Awareness Week, our goal was for students to “walk a day in my shoes.” For an entire school day we had 20 students and one teacher take on some form of physical disability. At the end of the day the participants were interviewed about their experiences. There was also a video shown to the entire school. It was extremely powerful.

Our American Sign Language Club had a special lunch where they taught our students how to order a free hamburger using sign language. That week 20 students also participated in the annual “Walk a Day in My Shoes” conference at California State University, Fullerton.

Our theme during the final week was Acceptance, or basically how to be “kind to one another.” Every student viewed a video in their English class called *To This Day*. The students then expressed how the video affected them through writings, poems, and artwork.

We also had three “Walls of Kindness” posted around the campus where hundreds of students could write kind messages on Post-It notes. The students were then encouraged to take down a note and share it with others.

Our CARE month culminated with the Special Abilities Cluster students stuffing lockers with positive messages written by our staff members to the students. We are very proud of our first CARE month, and hope to make this an annual school event. It was a great month!

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Dr. Morgan Smith
Principal

Baron Spirit

When I took on the role of principal at Fountain Valley High School (FVHS), the largest high school in Huntington Beach Union High School District, I was excited that I would have an opportunity to affect the lives of so many students. What I have come to discover is that my students have had a tremendous effect on me. I couldn't help but be carried away by the current of school pride, which caused me to ditch all the green in my closet and replace it with as many blue dress shirts and yellow ties as I could.

This is our 50th-anniversary year, so school pride is at an all-time high. There are many ways that students can demonstrate school pride, but the way that it can have the greatest impact is by connecting to the campus. We offer a number of opportunities for students to connect and find success. Our choir, band and theater students practically live on campus, and most are taking multiple Advanced Placement classes. It's amazing to me that our students have the energy and endurance to work so hard at so many different things. These same students also play sports, belong to one or more of our 63 clubs, participate in on-campus spirit events, and show up in the thousands to cheer each other on at all of our sporting events.

Our community is a reflection of this commitment to school pride. Last year alone, we had over 40,000 volunteer service hours from our parent and community members. These are current parents as well as those who attended or whose students attended FVHS.

The spirit of this school community can be described in our campus pride program, Baron 4 Life (B4L). Whether you're a current or former member of our campus, you will always be a Baron. There's nothing like the pride that our students feel when they know they are part of something so magical. Our B4L program gives us the opportunity to recognize students who demonstrate exemplary character, academic effort, and Baron spirit.

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Steve Curiel
Principal

Funding-Increase Use

Huntington Beach Adult School has been working in partnership with other local adult schools and community colleges that provide adult-education services. This year, the Coast Adult Education Consortium (CAEC), of which HBAS is a member, received a little over \$2 million from the State's Adult Education Block Grant. Of that total, HBAS will receive just under \$600,000 to increase and improve services to the community. These services are considered by the governor and the state legislature as vital to a strong workforce-development system.

As such, our state funding does come with expectations on how the funding will be used. Our school will be required to report on how this funding was used and what outcomes were accomplished. In addition to reporting how many students have been served, our school will also need to report on a number of other outcomes, including how many of our students demonstrated increased knowledge and skills on federal tests we administer, how many of them earned a high school diploma or equivalency, how many went on to postsecondary education, and how many were placed in jobs or increased their wages as a result of attending HBAS.

Career-Development Support

This level of tracking and reporting is new to our school and will require a lot of work, but we will meet this challenge, knowing that the outcomes being asked from us are critical to the local community's economy. Going forward, we recognize the need for additional support in order to provide the types of services needed to help students get into college, get and keep a job, and provide some level of ongoing support while students transition to these new environments.

After months of analysis and planning, our school determined the need for additional key staff to help us meet the new expectations set for us by the state. With the assistance of our school district and the recent approval by the CAEC of \$600,000 in additional funding, HBAS will be hiring a full-time job developer and a full-time college and career specialist. We are looking forward to filling these positions quickly and begin work to develop our systems to better serve our students and community. We know that our students will greatly benefit by the addition of these two staff members to our program.

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Daniel Morris
Principal

'Tis the Season!

What a wonderful time of year—a chill in the air, crisp mornings, and time to recharge! Before a well-deserved break, the Huntington Beach High School community was busy making sure Santa did not miss anyone on his list. I want to take the time to thank the community for coming together to help those in need. Our students, staff and parents put in hundreds of hours to ensure that families of our students were taken care of in this holiday season.

For the last two weeks, Toys for Tots bins were placed around campus for students and families to fill with new, unwrapped toys for needy families. Hundreds of toys were collected in partnership with the U.S. Marines, thanks to the AP Orchestra.

Our student ASB leadership team held two fund-raisers to ensure that our needy families were taken care of in this holiday season. The first fund-raiser was a can drive in partnership with an outreach-based food bank in which over 1,000 cans of food were donated by students of HBHS. The second fund-raiser asked that students and staff bring jackets and clothing to help a local faith community ensure that our community members were warm for the holidays.

To Be Generous!

The partnership of the HBHS Foundation and the PTSA under the leadership of HBHS staff member Rose Haunreiter raised thousands of dollars in gift cards and scholarships to help support Huntington Beach families in need. This incredible event was held in our career center and included our Dwyer family to help students in need right here on our campus. A special thank-you to the Huntington service organization for their generous support.

Staff members Roxanna Jimenez-Jones and Kimberly McGlaughlin worked closely with our Latino parents as part of the Parent Latino Initiative (PLI) to encourage and support their participation in becoming active members of our community. The annual PLI Christmas Fiesta provides much-needed support to the parents of families in our community as well. Donations are solicited from staff and community to ensure that all families feel supported by the HBHS community.

This hard work by students, staff and community members is a testament to the generous nature of our community. We collectively are proud to call ourselves Oilers!

Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Jessie Marion
Principal

Solving Real-World Problems

Rosie Geck and her Advanced Placement (AP) students are working together to help people in other parts of the world!

As part of the AP Spanish Language and Culture curriculum, students explore other cultures to increase their awareness and appreciation of cultural products, practices, and perspectives. Not only do Ms. Geck's students learn about these things within the classroom, but she also has them take their learning outside the classroom walls to help others across the globe.

The organization Kiva supports people around the world with microloans to alleviate poverty. The group uses the Internet as a tool to empower people to create opportunities for themselves. In Ms. Geck's class, students learn about Kiva and work in groups to choose a project they would like to support. The groups use Google Docs to write and present proposals. Of course, all of this discussion, writing, and presenting is done in Spanish. After the class selects one project, students can voluntarily donate to the cause and watch their microloan help a family in need.

Last year, Ms. Geck's class provided a loan for a family to buy a pig, and the loan has almost been repaid. That means the returned money can be reinvested to help the next family.



The students in Ms. Geck's class are clearly very enthusiastic about this project. Students learn about other cultures, practice their literacy skills, collaborate, use technology, and help people in other countries through this experience. What an amazing learning opportunity for our students!

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dr. Courtney Robinson
Principal

Cross-Country Success

This year, our boys' and girls' cross-country teams set out to make history at Ocean View. Over the last four seasons, our cross-country program made a concerted effort to become more competitive and family oriented. During this time, involvement in our program has increased from 30 to over 80 runners.

Throughout the season, our runners were fueled by the strong support of their coaches, classmates, staff and surrounding community. You could really feel the momentum building all season as well as the sense of pride and unity that everyone felt walking throughout the hallways on campus. Staff members wore their cross-country shirts every week and encouraged students to get involved in the program by joining the team or by going out to races and cheering on the runners. Parents got more involved in the program this year, and friends and family attended the meets.

This year's season was the best in the school's history. It was the first time that a boys' cross-country team made it to the CIF Finals. Our girls' team also made its fourth consecutive CIF appearance. Our runners worked hard all year and persevered through the ups and downs along the way. It truly was a special season that our school will never forget!



Valley Vista *High School*

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



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Students as Teachers

In November, VvHS Leadership students, under the direction of our Leadership teacher Meghann O'Connor, made three trips to Hope View Elementary School in Huntington Beach to tutor kindergarten and first-grade students. The elementary students who received assistance with computer skills, in-class work and reading appreciated the individual attention from the "big kids."

As educators, we're not surprised that the real learners were the Leadership students. They learned about teaching, they learned about the rewards of helping others, and they learned about themselves:

I was surprised how smart they are. — Tanner

They used words I've never heard of, like gnarly. — Chase

When we were their age, we learned old style with flash cards, toys and textbooks. Now, everything they do is on technology. — Rosa

I liked seeing the enthusiasm in their eyes — kids wanting to learn. — Courng

Ms. O'Connor noted an important learning outcome: "The students left the very first day proud and happy about the opportunity to help others."

The Leadership students also quickly realized how challenging it is to manage students in a classroom environment. This experience did not kindle a desire to consider teaching young students as a career! It did help our students get more realistic about the behavior of and being responsible for young children. Thus, the "teachers" acquired a very important life lesson in a very direct and personal way—from their "students."





Joe Fraser
Principal

Best Practices

Westminster High School has a vision. This year we are building a common definition on best instructional practices that will lead us into the 21st century and take the lead in Common Core.

Our teachers have spent the last several years receiving strategies from both school-site and district professional development. Our toolboxes are full as we continue to find ways to use consistent strategies across the curriculum and create a common vocabulary for our students.

This summer the team searched for the best way to fit the instructional puzzle together. Our administration and professional development committee identified the AVID acronym WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) as the essence of Common Core, and the essentials of best first-instruction.

The team felt that the WICOR categories were the perfect platform to define our school-wide strategies for students and teachers. By taking the strategies that we are already using, or have been trained to use, we can start to build a commonality across our campus. We are hoping this focus will be evident during walk-throughs and instructional rounds when we see a consistent variety of strategies.

Using the WICOR acronym to sort our instructional methods can help teachers assess their own practices, provide a starting point for integrating new strategies, and establish criteria for sharing these practices with their peers. Our school-wide WICOR vision includes consistent professional development through teacher-led workshops, school-wide early release time, instructional rounds, and integration of our student incentive program known as SWAG (Students with Academic Goals).

We are using the year to build and define our instructional procedure map. WICOR: it's what we do.

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Authors Festival



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 26. They have arranged for a variety of local authors and illustrators of children's books to speak at several of the local schools. Many of the participating authors will also be returning to the Central Library from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. to meet with the public.

Books will be for sale (and an author signing) during the event. The awards ceremony for the winners of the Locked in the Library's writing and illustrating contest will also be held during the Festival at 3:45 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. Please visit hbpl.org for a list of participating authors.

The HB Reads One Book's annual Author Visit will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. This year's author is Conor Grennan, who wrote the New York Times bestseller *Little Princes*. The book is based on the inspirational true story of Grennan's obsession to reunite the stolen children of Nepal with their real families.

Based upon the book, there will be free storytimes for children at a local bookstore, the Central Library's Tabby Theater (on February 25 at 3:30 p.m.), and at the Oak View Library Branch at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2.

The ending highlight of the HB Reads program will be when Mr. Grennan speaks at the Central Library Theater on March 17 at 7 p.m. This is a free event, and the public is invited to attend. For more information, please visit hbreads.org.

Make a difference in your community! Join the Friends of the Children's Library volunteer support group. Help plan, organize, and staff various children's programs and events throughout the year. Visit fotcl.org and "like" the Friends of the Children's Library of Huntington Beach's Facebook page.

Fountain Valley Library

17635 Los Alamos St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-1324 • www.ocpl.org

Activities in the Books!



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

Storytime for young children occurs every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Homework Help is available for students in grades K–8 on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m., except school holidays. High school students interested in volunteering should contact the library.

BARK (Beach Animals Reading to Kids) encourages reading skills and self-confidence in children by reading aloud to therapy dogs every third Saturday at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 16 and Feb. 20.

The Library will be hosting a "Wolf Discovery Program" on Jan. 30 from noon to 1 p.m. This family-friendly presentation about wolves and other predatory and prey species in California includes video footage plus hands-on portions with skulls, antlers and tracks.

Crafts for Kids is available at 3:30 p.m. every first Tuesday—Feb. 2 and March 1. Movies chosen by our teens are shown at 2:15 p.m. every first Saturday—Feb. 6 and March 5. All ages are welcome. The library's Teen Activities Board will be hosting "Game Time" on Feb. 27 from 2 to 3 p.m., open to children and teens.

The shelving program for teens 16 years and older and needing community service hours for graduation requirements, honor society hours or college preparation is open year-round. Teens may pick up an application from the library. Lunar New Year crafts for ages 6 and older will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 16, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is required. Lion Dance celebration of the Lunar New Year will be celebrated in February. Contact the library for more details.

The Fountain Valley Friends of the Library Bookstore sells gently used books for all reading interests, including children's fiction and nonfiction. The Friends hold movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1 p.m., with refreshments for older teens and adults.

Westminster Library

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

We Have Everything!



Cathy S. DeLeon
Regional Branch
Manager

The Book Babies program is held on every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Get your littlest ones started early with songs, dance, play, and books! This program is recommended for children 0–2 years of age.

Preschool Storytime is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Family Storytime is every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Help encourage early literacy skills in your children and have fun with stories, songs, and a craft. Preschool Storytime is recommended for children from 2–4 years of age, and Family Storytime is for all ages.

Grow with STEM will be on Monday, February 8 at 3:30 p.m. Beginning in February, we will also be offering a series of programs that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math. Children will learn more about STEM principles through fun experiments and activities.

Homework Help is held every Saturday afternoon from 1–4 p.m. Volunteers are here every week to help students from kindergarten to high school. If you need volunteer hours for school, church, Boy/Girl Scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the Library! You must be at least 12 years of age to volunteer for Volunteers. Call us or stop by for more information.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is a group of teens who meet once a month to help plan programs, as well as give valuable input about what books and magazines we need to order for the teen section. It's a fun way to have a say about what goes on at your Library (and get volunteer hours!)

We have many other programs for children and teens throughout the year. Please come to the Library for a full calendar, or check online at www.ocpl.org. Library events are always free.

The Library is an excellent and free resource for children and teens throughout the school year. Your library card gives you access to books, magazines, and computers – and even eBooks and databases that you can access from home!

Music to the Ears

By D.H. Coop

I do not know exactly when music became important to me. It may have been on the ride in the car back from Valley Forge in 1949 with my mother, uncle, aunt and grandparents singing “Home on the Range.” Or it may have been the radio shows of the day, such as *The Lone Ranger*, whose theme was from the *William Tell Overture*, or *The Green Hornet* and the theme “Flight of the Bumblebee.” It could have been the two blocks of wood with sandpaper on them that I made music with in the first grade.

I do know that music made life enjoyable and that it became markers for events in my life. Elvis takes me back to the mid-fifties, Hank Williams to the lonely mornings in the fields, and Jack Benny to radio and television when families sat listening together to the same shows. Jack Benny would always get a laugh with his poor violin playing when in reality he was an accomplished violinist.

The truth is, music is good for our soul. For many of us, our music studio is in our bathtub or shower. What would humanity be without music and the teachers that pass the knowledge on to others? It is difficult to imagine a world without music.



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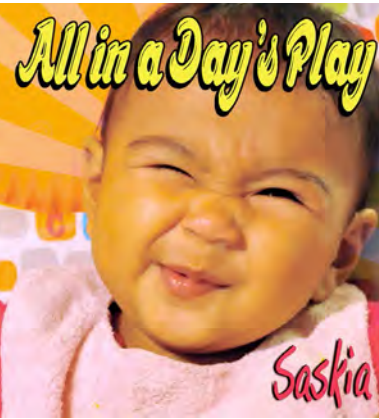
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Using Music to Teach



Saskia Garel

As a parent, if you're like me, you obsess about your child being ahead of the curve when it comes to learning everything from reading and writing to potty training and manners. You also want to ensure that any obstacle they face will be easily overcome with the skills you provide them with. In my experience, music has been my greatest collaborator. Not only in the "play classical music for my baby to make him a genius" kind of way, but



actually using music to teach any type of information or skill. With my son, I would put on a one-woman show at mealtime, playtime, bedtime and basically every time in between. Yes, it was a bit or a lot excessive, but I just didn't want him to struggle or be bored and uninspired. I wanted to stimulate his little brain and expose him to everything.

What I began to notice was that he had an unbelievable ability to learn and retain information because of the songs I entertained him with. By utilizing the combination of lyrics, rhythm and melody, music can aid in the learning experience. Tristan could spell his name as early as he could talk because I taught him the letters in his name to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. At Tristan's daycare, I remember other parents marveling over his ability to recite, not only our home phone number but our cell numbers and his address—in case he ever got lost or separated from us in a crowd. At 6, he was one of the few people in his Scouts Troop that knew the entire pledge by heart by the second meeting, all because I put a melody to it...and to this day he remembers it verbatim, without even having to sing it.

It has been the same with my daughter, Mixie. Since I witnessed the power of music and the fantastic effects it had on my son's learning, I added to our repertoire. At two years old she can read phonetically as I never sang the ABC song to her in the traditional way. I sang it to her phonetically so when she sees a letter, instead of saying its name, she says its sound. If I show her a three-letter word like CAT, she basically sounds it out right away instead of having to discern that the letter C makes the CUH sound. I went as far as to make up songs that highlight sight words, letter blending, prefixes and suffixes. Even as they grow older the songs that I created for them as babies remain ingrained in their little heads. They never suspected that they were learning.

So, try music the next time you want to teach your child anything at all. You can use traditional melodies with your own words or make up your own tunes altogether. I promise you, you don't have to have a beautiful singing voice or impeccable rhythm...you just have to be enthusiastic and fun. A little tip: record yourself so you don't forget the wonderful creations you dream up! I did just that and put together a CD of 24 songs that I sing to my kids all the time. It's called *All in a Day's Play* and is available on iTunes and CD Baby.

BTW, Tristan is now 8 and hasn't conquered eating over his plate. I'm convinced there is just no song for that unfortunately, unless you count "Eat the Crumbs Right off the Floor" sung to the tune of Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes!!

Saskia Garel is a Mom/Singer/Songwriter/Author/Artist
Please visit www.saskiagarel.net

Musical String Instruments 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 the subject line)

Entries must be received by February 15, 2016.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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