

FREE

# School News

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

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 76

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

## OVSD Provides Range of School Programs in 2017

By Julie Jennings, Information Manager  
Ocean View School District

The Ocean View School District (OVSD) is looking to the future and planning innovative programs that will serve the needs of our diverse student population, which includes preschoolers through eighth-graders. We seek to provide families with a range of educational options for their children. With a focus on achievement and continued success for these students, we are excited to expand several of our existing programs and launch new ones in 2017. Some are still in the planning stages, but many are already underway. Our hardworking leadership team, teachers, and staff members are committed to finding the best learning opportunities for our students, so they can benefit from a strong foundation of academic success and well-rounded experiences as they advance into the 21st century.

In December, we began enrolling students in OVSD's new Early Kindergarten program. The program serves children born between December 3, 2011, and March 1, 2012. Three family information meetings were held in November and December to help families learn more about the program, ask questions of staff, and find out if the Early Kindergarten program is right for their children.

As of this month, the first class of Early Kindergarten students

See **OVSD PROVIDES RANGE** • Page 15



OVSD now offers more opportunities for students in grades 6-8 to participate in music programs. Here, the Marine View Jazz Ensemble participates in Disney's Performing Arts Show Choir Workshop in which they worked with a Disney Clinician on honing their singing and dancing skills.

## HBCSD: Awesome New Programs and Unlimited Possibilities

By Gregory Haulk, Superintendent – Huntington Beach City School District

Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) has brought the arts to life with incredible new programs, has increased the physical fitness of our elementary school students with physical education specialists, and is increasing the language capacity of our elementary students with both Mandarin Chinese and Spanish lessons. These new programs, along with the passage of Measure Q, mean the future potential of our students is unlimited. Measure Q will bring new facilities, including technology and fabrication labs and new gyms, to both middle schools. Measure Q also provides updates to all classrooms, bringing in both 21st-century technology and devices for all students.

Huntington Beach City School District is committed to bringing the arts to ALL of our students to help develop ALL of their skills. Utilizing the research-based methods of the MIND Research Institute, all of our elementary students have the opportunity to learn how to play the keyboard and read and write music. They also receive instruction from a vocal teacher while learning music theory and history. These programs are available at all of our elementary schools and then feed into our middle schools. Dwyer Middle School has a junior Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) program with a direct link to the Huntington Beach High School APA program, and Sowers Middle School has over 350 students enrolled in at least one music elective course. With our test scores placing HBCSD as one of the top performing elementary districts in Orange County, this shows the strong district commitment to educating the whole student.



Huntington Beach City School District has also committed to the physical health and well-being of our students. The district is piloting a program at the elementary level with physical education specialists, who work with our elementary students on a regular basis. Students are trained to become lifelong

See **HBCSD AWESOME NEW PROGRAMS** • Page 10

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

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**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



## Happy New Year!

It is always refreshing to begin a new year. It is fun to fill in the pages in a new calendar with anticipation of what's to come. For those still making resolutions, focusing on health and good habits continue to rank at the top of lists. In this issue, Ocean View School District focused on Acts of Kindness (pages 15-20) as did the Superintendent of the Office of Education, and our columnists Dr. Shari and Kate Karp on page 21. Here's to a wonderful new year and we'll continue to bring you excellence from FVSD/HBSD/HBUHSD/WSD and OVSD with our next issue March 15.

## Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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

## RSV Infections



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

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

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

Signs of RSV usually appear about 4-6 days after exposure to the virus. Older children typically have a runny nose and decrease in appetite. Coughing, sneezing and a low-grade fever may develop 1-3 days later. The only signs of RSV in very young infants could be irritability, decreased activity, and problems with breathing. Full recovery from RSV takes about 1-2 weeks.

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

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

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

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

ER WAITING IS NO FUN.

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Managing Your Child’s Asthma at School



Eli Nussbaum, M.D.  
Medical Director,  
Pediatric  
Pulmonary Center,  
Miller Children’s &  
Women’s Hospital  
Long Beach

Asthma can’t be cured, but it can be controlled with proper care. To help manage your child’s asthma during school hours, it’s important to communicate with their school early and educate them on warning signs.

There are several important steps you can take:

- Notify the school that your child has asthma.
- Obtain the medication school form signed by your child’s doctor.
- Keep a current copy of your child’s asthma action plan on file at their school. An asthma action plan is a written plan that is developed with your child’s doctor to help control their asthma. The action plan shows daily treatments, such as medication. It also describes how to handle worsening asthma or attacks.
- Identify and communicate your child’s warning signs to their teacher and other caretakers.

Identifying Warning Signs

Warning signs and symptoms are not the same for everyone, and your child may exhibit different signs at different times. Common warning signs include:

- Difficulty breathing • Coughing • Wheezing • Tight Chest • Sneezing
- Increased coughing, wheezing or shortness of breath during or after exercise
- Getting out of breath easily • Breathing faster than normal • Runny nose
- Itchy, watery or glassy eyes • Itchy, scratchy or sore throat • Restlessness
- Stuffy head or headache • Change in face color • Dark circles under eyes

Think back to your child’s last asthma attack. Write down the signs they experienced. When these signs do appear, either at school or home, it’s important to follow your child’s asthma action plan. With consistent communication, you and those close to your child will know exactly how to help prevent or treat an asthma attack.



Authors Festival



Barbara Richardson  
Senior Librarian  
Programming and  
Youth Services

The Friends of the Children’s Library are hosting their annual Authors Festival on Tuesday, January 31. They have arranged for a variety of local authors and illustrators of children books to speak at several local schools that day. Many of the participating authors will be returning to the Central Library from 2:30 to 5 p.m. to meet with the public. Books will be for sale (and author signing) during the event. The awards ceremonies for the winners of the FOTCL’s “Imagine if you found...the secret in the library book” writing and illustrating contest will be held during the library reception at 3:30 and 4:15 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. For a list of participating authors, visit fotcl.org.

HB Reads One Book’s annual Author Visit will be held on Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Theater. This year’s author is Jamie Ford who wrote the best seller, The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. This historical novel deals with the love and friendship between a Chinese American boy and a Japanese American girl who is sent to an internment camp during World War II. There will be special free origami storytimes for children at these locations: Central Library, Tabby Theater on February 16 at 3:30 p.m., Barnes and Noble, Bella Terra on February 20 at 2:00 p.m., and at the Oak View Library Branch on Wednesday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m. The ending highlight of the HB Reads program will be when Mr. Ford speaks at the Central Library on March 23 at 7:00 p.m. This is a free event and the public is invited to attend. For more information, please visit hbread.org.

Consider becoming an active member of the Friends of the Children’s Library volunteer support group. Membership brochures are at the Children’s Desk.

Our specialty: Pulmonology      Ashlee’s specialty: Animal Lover

Our specialists are the leaders in children’s health care.

As an infant, Ashlee was constantly in the hospital. Eventually, she was diagnosed with asthma. When other health conditions arose, it became life-threatening, until she turned to Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach. The Pediatric Pulmonary Center team created a treatment plan that addressed all of her complex illnesses. It’s been years since Ashlee’s last hospitalization and today, routine helps control her symptoms. She’s even managed to keep her furry friends close – despite her asthma.

From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children’s is the leader in getting kids better.



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Ashlee, 18-years-old,  
Miller Children’s  
Asthma Patient



# Lots of Choices at the Library

By Erik Oviedo, Children's Librarian

We will have many fun and free programs at the Fountain Valley Library in January, join the fun! Our Spring storytime session began January 4th and we have two times available, 10:30am and 11:30am every Wednesday until March 29th. The monthly BARK reading with therapy dogs program will be in our children's area January 21st from 3:30- 4:30pm. We will have a special Lunar New Year storytime at 10:30am on January 25th. Winter/Valentine Craft day will be held on January 26th from 4-6pm. Finally, our Winter Let's LEGO! Session will be on January 29th from 4:30- 6:30pm.

In February, we will have a special preschool juggling show presented by David Cousins at 10:30am on February 8th. At our special February event, we will have a family presentation, World of Wolves at 5pm on February 9th. We will also have BARK therapy dog program on February 18th from 3:30-4:30pm, a seasonal craft on February 23rd from 4-6pm and our February Let's LEGO! Session will be on February 28th from 4:30- 6:30pm.

Our TAB (teen advisory board) will have a busy winter! Our second teen movie will take place on February 4th from 2-5pm. Game/Let's LEGO! will be held on January 28th and February 25th from 1-4:45pm.

- Shelving program for teens ages 16 years and older, needing community service hours for graduation requirements, honor society hours or college preparation. Teens may pick up an application from the library.
- Friends of the Library Bookstore sells gently used books for all reading interests, including children's fiction and non-fiction. Donations are also accepted at the bookstore. The Friends hold movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1:00 PM with refreshments for older teens through adults.

# Westminster Library

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

# Lots of Choices



Cathy S. DeLeon  
Regional Branch  
Manager

**Book Babies** every Tuesday at 10:30am. Get your littlest one started early with songs, play, and books! Recommended for children 0-2 years old.

**Preschool Storytime** every Wednesday at 10:30am.

**Family Storytime** every Saturday at 10:30am. Help encourage early literacy skills in your children—and have fun—with stories, songs, and a craft. Preschool Storytime is for children 2-4 years old, and Family Storytime is for all ages.

**Crazy 8s Club** every Monday from January 23-March 27 at 3:30pm. Discover how much fun math can be with silly games and cool experiments!

This 8-week session is open to students in 3rd-5th grade. Registration is required. Call us or visit the checkout desk to sign up today!

**Tet Celebration** Saturday, January 21 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Join us for crafts, refreshments, and performances by local school and community groups.

**Homework Help** every Saturday from 1:00-4:00pm. Volunteers are here every week to help students from kindergarten to high school!

**VolunTEENS** 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 old to volunteer.

**Teen Advisory Board**

The TAB is a group of teens who meet once a month to help plan programs and give valuable input about what books and magazines to order for the teen section. A fun way to have a say about what goes on at your library (and get volunteer hours)!

The library is an excellent, FREE resource for students. Your library card gives you access to our books, magazines and computers—and even eBooks and databases you can access from home!

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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Mark Johnson**

### Grateful in FVSD

On November 8, 2016, the Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) community came together and passed Measure O, with 64.2 percent of the voters marking “YES” on their ballots. To get to this point, hundreds of parents, teachers, classified staff members, community members, city officials, business leaders, and even students participated in over 18 months of work, prior to the Board of Trustees placing the measure on the ballot in early August.

Beginning in March 2015, the facilities committee, comprised of more than 35 teachers, classified staff members, administrators, parents, and business leaders studied facilities in the Fountain Valley School District, as well as surrounding districts. The goal was not just to see what was needed in FVSD today, but to examine the possibilities for facilities well into the future. In October, seven months after their work began, the facilities committee made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to hire an architect and begin the process of developing a comprehensive facilities master plan.

With this recommendation, the Board of Trustees hired LPA Architects, Inc. to complete the Facilities Master Plan. From January through June of 2016,

LPA engaged stakeholder teams, hosting more than 40 meetings with more than 290 participants and 171 survey responses. This extensive work led to the development of our Facilities Master Plan, presented to the Board of Trustees in June 2016.

Driven by the need to include input from our community, especially those who do not currently have children in our schools, the School Facilities Engagement Committee (SFEC) was created, which included 60 participants representing a cross-section of our community. SFEC met weekly for four weeks in May, three hours each night, focusing on one topic per meeting. At the end, they presented a consensus report to the Board of Trustees in June 2016, recommending amongst other things, the pursuit of a general obligation bond to fund educational infrastructure and facilities improvements.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of those individuals committed to facilities improvement in the Fountain Valley School District. Over the past 18 months, through participation in the facilities committee, our Facilities Master Plan teams, and the SFEC, hundreds of staff members, students, and members of our community committed themselves to improving the learning environments in our district. On behalf of our students, staff and community, we applaud the dedication of these individuals, who have made this dream a reality. And for that, we are forever grateful.



**Staff, students and community leaders are celebrated for their dedication to facilities improvements in the FVSD through the passing of Measure O.**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Sandra Crandall**  
*President*

### Choice. Decision. Continuity.

Those are the three concepts which played a role in the November 2016 School Board election in the Fountain Valley School District. We had three candidates who were willing to give of their time and expertise to serve the students, parents, and community. Only two seats needed to be filled.

All three candidates ran ethical campaigns as they engaged the community. The information they provided both through their local magazine advertisements, their participation in the candidate’s forum, and their interface with their constituents allowed the voters to make an informed decision. The voters re-elected the two incumbents. That speaks to continuity.

Our team is a strong one that embraces governance standards. They include keeping the district focused on learning and achievement for all students, communicating a common vision, and ensuring that our superintendent holds district personnel accountable. As individual Board members, we, too, work within our roles, provide community leadership, and govern in a dignified and professional manner.

Congratulations to Mrs. Jeanne Galindo and Mr. Ian Collins for their victories. We will now continue our rigorous work as a governance team focused on teaching and learning initiatives and facilities upgrades



**Sandra Crandall**  
*President*



**Lisa Schultz**  
*President Pro-Tem*

### Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



**Jim Cunneen**  
*Clerk*



**Ian Collins**  
*Member*



**Jeanne Galindo**  
*Member*



# Fountain Valley Schools Foundation



## Enriched Learning Experiences

In December, I had the opportunity to observe how the monies earned by the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation help the students of the district.

Polar Day, a district-wide event now in its second year, was held at Talbert Middle School. The Polar Day event is for the study of science in general, but the Artic region in particular, and it specifically celebrates the Antarctic Treaty being signed in 1959. The event had five major speakers who spoke on everything from Polar exploration, Artic ecosystems, levels of gases in the atmosphere over the last 2,000 years, and the effects of permafrost thaw and fire on greenhouse gas emissions.

While the speakers were interesting, they were better suited for the parents and older students. Hands-on activities however held the younger students' interest, such as make a penguin from a water bottle, "Who eats what?," coloring the flags of the poles, the Cabrillo Aquarium with touch-and-think activities, and make your own slime. And for the very adventurous there were cardboard sled races!

When you had exhausted all of these activities you could then have lunch in the bowl, or decorate your own cookies. All in all, everyone seemed to have a fun time along with a great learning experience. I was thrilled to see that through the Foundation's support we could help provide an enriched learning experience in science and ecology.

The Foundation is also now in the planning phase of our Summer Enrichment Academy. The team is in the process of hiring a director and planning the offerings for the two summer sessions that will begin in July. Registration will be online in the near future.

The Taste of Fountain Valley committee is also hard at work with plans for an event that will take place on April 29. This fun activity and others like it help support the spring Arts Showcase and the Monster Concert. Music, science, and robotics have always been a major focus of our Foundation.

www.FVschools.org

# City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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

## Honored to Serve



John J. Collins  
Mayor

In 2017 we celebrate 60 years of being the City of Fountain Valley. Over the 60 years Fountain Valley has been incorporated as a City, thirty-eight of its residents have served as City Council Members. Twenty-one have taken on the additional responsibility of being Mayor. Considering this, a certain perspective can be understood regarding the prestige and unique honor that accompanies the title of Mayor.

On December 13, I proudly stated my Oath of Office and commenced my seventh term as Fountain Valley's Mayor. Having my daughter swear me in was a great honor. I had intended to have my wife, Barbara swear me in, but as many of you know she died the month before I was to be sworn in.

Being an effective Mayor requires, among other things, a substantial commitment of time. Past Mayor Cheryl Brothers gave generously of her time during her term as Mayor bringing a great deal of respect and honor to the role of Mayor as she shepherded us through many events in 2016.

Fountain Valley was one of the first "master planned" communities in the state. I believe this is probably the basis for Fountain Valley being "A Nice Place to Live." Our City forefathers gave us the "roadmap" that sets almost all standards by which we operate. Fountain Valley has been recognized as a leader in problem solving, while maintaining high standards for our residents.

I am honored to serve the people of Fountain Valley and I am ever mindful of the history and circumstances that have brought us together to face the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen  
Principal

## Courreges Honors Local Veterans

Courreges Elementary School students honored local veterans on November 10, 2016. During the morning flag raising ceremony, local veterans were honored and recognized for their service in the U.S. Armed Services. The ceremony included vocal performances by 3rd and 5th grade students, as well as a ceremonial flag raising by Girl Scout Daisy Troop #4167. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the students were escorted by the veterans out to the field, where more than 700 flags were posted on the field to be viewed by the community over the Veterans Day weekend.



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

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.cox.fvdsd.us



Patrick Ham  
Principal

## A Special Visit from Officer Dave Geer

Officer David Geer, father of Hunter Geer (Mrs. Hornbuckle's Kinder) from the Long Beach Police Chopper Unit landed on Cox School's playground on November 8th. All 750 Cox students enjoyed the sight and power of a police chopper landing on our field. Our Kindergarten students learned about a career in law enforcement, importance of Red Ribbon week, being a good friend, and the importance of education. Thank you Officer Geer and the Long Beach Police Department for an unforgettable experience for our students.



Mrs. Hornbuckle's K class with Officer Geer.

# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.gisler.fvdsd.us



**Erin Bains**  
*Principal*

## An Incredible Day

Since 2005, Gisler Elementary has participated in the Anaheim Duck’s “Reading is the Goal” program. This program promotes the importance of reading, and focuses on fourth-grade students in Southern California. Fourth-grade teacher Tiffany Laird leads our program every year.

Each year a school is chosen by the program for “Reading is the Goal Day” to help promote literacy. This year Gisler was chosen! So on November 16, our school was treated to a day with the Ducks. Ducks executives and front office members came to read and speak with each of our TK to fifth-grade classes, including Wild Wing! At recess, street hockey courts were set up for all the students to participate in.

The day concluded with an assembly for the third- through fifth-grade

students. Two players, Jared Boll and Josh Manson, read to the students and held a question-and-answer session. A signed jersey and hockey equipment were also donated to our school. It was an incredible day for our students, and one they will not soon forget!



# Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masuda.fvdsd.us



**Jay Adams**  
*Principal*



**Jennifer Kajdasz**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Noon Leagues are A Hit!

To promote health and a sense of family amongst homeroom students and teachers, Masuda Middle School’s Noon Leagues are running year round at lunchtime, with grade levels competing against each other. We started off the season with soccer, which will be followed by flag football. And the year would not be complete without the ever-popular dodge ball.

Students do not need any experience to play—just the right attitude. Teachers have also been joining in on the fun and helping their teams to victory. At the end of each season, the homeroom champs get to brag and lift their trophy high as they enjoy a sweet treat to celebrate their hard work. But they can’t get too comfortable, since the next season is lurking around the corner, and there are other homerooms waiting for their turn at the top.



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

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • www.fulton.fvdsd.us



**Kevin Johnson**  
*Principal*



**Matt Ploski**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Student Council Inspires Falcon Pride

Student council elections are held each spring for the following school year at Fulton Middle School. The 2016–2017 Student Council Executive Board includes: Winston Vu, President; Binh Do, Vice President; Michelle Pham, Secretary; Derek Nguyen, Treasurer; Jovana Hester, Sports Commissioner; Nisha Alberto, Publicity Commissioner; Gigi Kikawa, Activities Commissioner; and Devan Pathak, Activities Commissioner.

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



This school year has already proven to be incredibly busy, as ASB has sponsored the fall dance and the Great Pumpkin Competition, immediately followed by the holiday door-decorating contest and multiple spirit days. Students are looking forward to the spring dance. In the meantime, everyone is enjoying the once-a-month Rockin’ Lunch, hosted by ASB.

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

# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvdsd.us



**Kathy Davis**  
*Principal*

## Special Persons Day

November was the month to remember and express our thankfulness for the gifts in our lives. To thank all the special people in the lives of Tamura students, the children invited them to attend Special Persons Day.

All of the students worked hard to practice and perform songs and poems for the special guests to say how much they appreciate their special persons. Tamura’s Special Persons Day was held just before Thanksgiving break. Refreshments were provided for the guests and included coffee, juice, water, doughnuts, bagels and cream cheese. There was a photo booth to capture the students with their special guests. We also had a craft table, and it was an opportunity for our students to sell Turkey Grams. The grade-level performances began first thing in the morning; once they were finished, the guests were able to go and visit the students’ classrooms.



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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvds.us



**Christopher Mullin**  
*Principal*

## Special Persons Day – A 25 Year 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.



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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.plavan.fvds.us



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## Plavan Jog-a-Thon: Run Out And Raise :R.O.A.R

Plavan held their annual Jog-a-Thon on December 8, 2016. This is our largest fundraiser of the year to support student assemblies, field trips, art, reading and math programs, technology, PE equipment and much more.

Our Parent Teacher Organization planned an incredible event that brought the community together to raise over \$25,000 for our children.

We are tremendously grateful for

the support of the Plavan community and all the hard work that went into planning the event.

The children and families had a wonderful time running laps and through fun obstacle courses. The children were thrilled that we made our fundraising goal and that their hard work paid off. They will have the opportunity to silly string their teacher and tape their principal to the wall!

This Jog-a-Thon proved that teamwork makes the difference!



**Amelia Terich, 5th grade teacher and Mason Terich, Tk student showing their ROAR !**

# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.oka.fvds.us



**Erik Miller**  
*Principal*

## Going Far Starts in Elementary School!

After a Red Ribbon Week rainout in October, Oka Wolfpack students were finally able to celebrate their positive choices by having an assembly that focused on promoting a healthy lifestyle both mentally and physically. Recently, riders associated with a youth-apparel business that focuses on bicycles came to visit Oka students. They provided everyone in the audience with an incredible interactive assembly that let students see all sorts of tricks from professional riders!

Students also got to hear about the hundreds of hours riders spent becoming champions. Hard work and determination in reading and math play very important roles for riders, but students also need to have these same qualities. The audience also learned they can do even more when they connect it to this year’s school theme, “Positive Mental Attitude!”



One of the show highlights included a group of teachers lying on the ground while they watched a bike jump straight over the top of them. Overall, it was epic!

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

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbert.fvds.us



**Jennifer Morgan**  
*Principal*



**Mark Holman**  
*Assistant Principal*

## FVSD Polar Day

The second annual FVSD Polar Day, hosted by Talbert Middle School, was an amazing success. The theme of this year’s event was “A World United Through Science,” and once again, we were thrilled with the amount of enthusiasm for the event!

Polar Day was created as a way to celebrate the collaboration among the 12 countries that signed the Polar Treaty on Dec. 1, 1959. The goal of Polar Day is to allow students to come together to celebrate that treaty and the connectedness of nations through collaboration and fun. This year included several guest speakers, hands-on activities, and a gingerbread-house contest involving each of the 10 FVSD schools designed to look like all 12 polar stations on the continent.

It was an amazing day of family, community, education and fun, and we are already looking forward to the prospect of next year’s event!



# Huntington Beach City School District

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/964-8888 • <http://www.hbcasd.k12.ca.us>

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Gregory Haulk**

### Success Is Simple

Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) is a top-performing school district committed to providing rigorous, quality instruction as well as exceptional programs that offer students opportunities to maximize their potential personally and academically. One of our core values is to make decisions that are student-centered and to address the needs of our children as individuals as well as for the greater good. HBCSD continues to expand our elementary electives and formalized structured learning experiences within the school day, particularly in the visual and performing arts. We now offer vocal music at all sites as well as a research-based keyboarding curriculum. Students showcase what they learn through performing in public and at expo events hosted by their campuses throughout the school year.

In addition, we have developed a partnership with Huntington Beach High School's Academy of Performing Arts (APA) elite magnet, which has allowed us to create a Junior APA program to provide eligible students with a pathway and a seamless transition into the high school. We are excited about the new courses that have resulted, including as dance physical education, guitar, and a modern music appreciation class. Over 350 students performed at the annual Sowers Middle School holiday concert, and the show was an incredible variety of show choir, chamber orchestra, concert band, choreography, at beginning, intermediate, and competitive levels.

HBCSD recognizes the importance of preparing our students for a diverse world, so we have invested in a new pilot program to encourage students to learn the basics and ultimately master Mandarin Chinese and/or Spanish as a second language. Students are able to learn at their own pace, and the curriculum is customized for elementary students.

At HBCSD we believe that we are doing the right thing at the right time. If you would like your family to be a part of ours and would like to join us in our journey to continued success as we work to achieve our ultimate goal of the best Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in Orange County, please call (714) 962-8888.

### AWESOME NEW PROGRAMS • From Page 1

learners in regards to their fitness. They also learn skills they can utilize for life to stay fit and active. Our school nutrition program has also gone through incredible changes to provide the appropriate fuel for our students during the day. With the future addition of physical education facilities at the middle school level, our students will learn appropriate fitness skills from preschool and kindergarten until their graduation from the district.

HBCSD is also piloting a program that is teaching students a second language at the elementary level. Students have the opportunity to learn either Mandarin Chinese or Spanish as a second language at their own pace. Their exposure to a second language can continue through their entire elementary experience.

The move to 21st-century classrooms and technology in every classroom will increase student access to data and materials as well as increase engagement, and this has been happening at all of our schools over the past few years. However, with the passage of Measure Q, all of our classrooms will be upgraded to this level in the near future, with training for all of our teachers and staff to increase the technology usage and potential of every student.

HBCSD is quickly becoming one of the elite districts in both Orange County and the state of California. If you would like to find out how your student can take advantage of these incredible programs and unlimited learning potential, please contact the Huntington Beach City School District at (714) 964-8888.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*President*

### Moving from Excellent to Amazing

Approximately 24 years ago, I was hired as a principal in an outstanding school district: Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD), to be specific. While there, I had the privilege of working at both the elementary and middle school levels. Now, after serving as principal of Marina High School for nine years, I was given the opportunity to serve and represent our community on the HBCSD Board of Trustees, where I now serve as the president.

During my 24 years in HBCSD, I have watched as this district continued to grow and become one of the best school systems in Southern California. The HBCSD is a place where students grow and learn, teachers and staff contribute to the future of our children, and parents are active participants in their children's education and their community.

Recently, our community overwhelmingly supported our district in passing Measure Q, a bond measure designed to provide the funds for some innovative improvements in our district as we move from excellent to amazing! First of all, THANKS! Thanks for your confidence, your support, and your vision in building a school system that competes on par with the finest private and charter schools in Orange County. The HBCSD is definitely a place our city can take great pride in.

Due to the passage of Measure Q, our district is on a path to provide learning environments that, not only support 21st-century learning but also stimulate and push it forward. As the next few years go by, you will see a number of changes begin, including the construction of multi-use facilities at our middle schools, the development and addition of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) facilities at each of our schools, and the upgrade of our technology infrastructure, which will provide students, teachers, and parents with the ability to think deeper, look beyond the known, and create, innovate, and invent our future.

From all of us in the Huntington Beach City School District, THANK YOU!



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*President*



**Rosemary Saylor**  
*Vice President*

### Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



**Shari Kowalke**  
*Clerk*



**Bridget Kaub**  
*Member*



**Ann Sullivan**  
*Member*



# Educational Services

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/964-8888



**Carolyn Wertheim**  
*Director  
Early Childhood  
Education*

## Play is Children's Work!

Children are constantly gathering information about the people and things around them. While this often occurs through connections with friends and family, many times a child can discover information through independent exploration and play.

Imagine how different an experience it is for a child who discovers that they can create the color green while painting a picture with yellow and blue paint, compared to a child who is only told that yellow and blue combine to make green.

Children construct meaning through active participation, and benefit from open-ended exploration. When this investigation is coupled with positive interactions from caring adults and

friends, children can have a tremendous opportunity to build their conceptual knowledge and critical-thinking skills.

As we engage with the children in our lives, we support their exploration and discovery of the world around them through play. Always provide the time and space for children to discover their own ideas and connections to the world around them.



# City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov)

## Happy New Year 2017!



**Barbara Delgleize**  
*Mayor*

Happy New Year 2017! 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 [barbara.delgleize@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:barbara.delgleize@surfcity-hb.org) or call 714.536.5578 to schedule a date and time.

We had an eventful 2016!

The Inaugural Breitling Huntington Beach Airshow

rocked our beautiful skies above the beaming Pacific Ocean. More than 500,000 people attended the event and I'm pleased to announce the show will return in 2017 the weekend of Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. In addition, we hosted a spectacular 4th of July celebration which was televised across Southern California on KABC-7 for a third year in a row.

In summer 2016, Huntington Beach welcomed the opening a new hotel and spa, as well as the new Senior Center in Central Park.

I have lived and worked in HB for more than 40 years, and I want to reiterate how excited and privileged I am to serve as your Mayor. I am eager to see what the New Year will bring!

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I have lived and worked in HB  
or more than 40 years,  
and I want to reiterate how excited and  
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I am eager to see what the  
New Year will bring!

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# Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • <http://dms.schoolloop.com>



**Darren Platt**  
*Principal*

## What Makes Us Great

Celebrating students is one of the joys of educating young people. To see them work hard at an endeavor and then push

through, trying their best at every moment no matter the outcome, helps us know that we are part of the process of helping our students become amazing people.

We held our very first sports rally this month at Dwyer! Our new Cheer Squad (composed of 36 girls) led cheers and created tunnels for our athletes to run through as their classmates also cheered them on. To make this event even more special, our rally was emceed by ex-Green Bay Packer Mike Montgomery. The fall sports rally celebrated over 90 students this season who participated in girls basketball, boys volleyball, the Surf Team, as well as the new Football Club and Cheer Squad.



It is through celebrations like this that our students feel connected to school, and when students feel connected, they learn more effectively. This is part of what makes Dwyer the "House of Scholars and Champions"!





beautiful •  
smiles  
bright futures

Changing lives, one smile at a time!



**HARNER**  
**ORTHODONTICS**

**Andrew T. Harner DDS, MS**



(714) 842-9933 • [www.harnerorthodontics.com](http://www.harnerorthodontics.com)  
18700 Main St., Suite 112 • Huntington Beach, CA





# John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



**Debbi Randall**  
*Principal*

## Team-Teaching Environment Sustainability!

In October, several high schoolers hiked over to Eader Elementary to teach second-graders about our environment and how to preserve it. Ms. Porter's Environmental Sustainability class was greeted by Mrs. D'Innocente's eager students!

The Edison Chargers read storybooks they'd written and illustrated to the children. They outdid themselves with the artistically designed pages and well-written information about respecting our ecosystem and caring for our environment.

The books told about the importance of preserving water because of the drought; not using or littering with plastic soda-can rings, which enter the ocean and entangle ocean life; caring for our planet; and practicing sustainability. One high school student dressed like his main character, a butterfly, complete with wings and antennae!

The sophomores asked questions about their books, such as what the moral of their story was and the overall theme. Second-graders were thrilled, and it was a fantastic learning experience! Thanks, Chargers, for this use of your talents!



**Edison students teach Eader's second graders with their personally-written stories on Environment Sustainability!**

# Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Monique Huibregtse**  
*Principal*

## Running for a 21st-Century Library

If your student loves to read, collaborate, and work in a comfortable space, would your current school library meet his or her needs? Probably not. We are fortunate to have a relatively new library at Seacliff Elementary School that is only 17 years young, but when you evaluate it from the perspective of meeting the needs of the students of today, our library could use some renovation!

This was validated recently when a fourth-grade class took advantage of open library time. The teacher told them they could read anywhere in the library. They all found corners to cuddle up

with their books or spaces to lay on their tummies and read. Some even read in groups between the shelves. But not one student used the chairs or tables!

When students were presented with pictures that showed what their new library could look like, they clapped and cheered. They wanted softer seating, and they were educated about flexible seating and loved the idea. They cheered when they saw chairs in bright colors and interesting shapes.

We want a 21st-century library that will meet their needs. We know these changes will be expensive, so we had a jog-a-thon on December 7. The students raised almost \$33,000! We jogged, ran, and walked to celebrate not only the funds raised, but also that our 21st-century library is now going to become a reality.

# Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

9682 Yellowstone Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8302 • <http://hes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com>



**Julie Jennings**  
*Principal*

## A Magical Journey

For the third consecutive year, Hawes Elementary School is a Class Act School! Through the Frieda Belinfante Class Act Partnership and the support of our PTA, our students will participate in Pacific Symphony's flagship youth education program. Carolyn Riley, our resident musician, will share the life and music of a composer through standards-based music curriculum. This year our students will be learning about Mozart with a theme of "Magical Journeys."

Beginning in January, our students will experience a Prelude Assembly, when they will learn about Mozart and how his music takes us on magical journeys. Our teachers will spend an afternoon learning about our composer from Pacific Symphony experts. They will also learn activities to utilize in the classroom. Each of our classes will experience an in-depth lesson with our resident musician.

This year of learning will culminate with Hawes hitting the road with our second-through fifth-grade students to hear a concert of Mozart's music. Our kindergarten and first-grade students will have a hands-on symphony experience at school. Additionally, all students will share their learning at the end of the year through our very own Bravo Assembly, which will give students an opportunity to share what they have learned about Mozart.

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

# S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

8800 Burlcrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • <http://www.moffettschool.com>



**Michael Andrzejewski**  
*Principal*

## Our 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 grades three through five elect a representative for each office: president, vice president, secretary and publicity. Officers then lead our Student Council, with 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 schoolwide community-service projects.

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.



**Publicity-Kai Staley, VP-Drew Linnen, President-Joshua Hennig, Secretary-Jeremy Ciccarelli**

# Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Renee Polk Johnson**  
*Principal*

## A Memorial Tile Wall

Colin Earle attended Preppy Kindergarten at Perry Elementary School during the 2015–2016 school year. In March of 2016, he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer (DIPG). After a valiant battle, Colin passed away on July 30, 2016. He was five years old.

Colin possessed great strength, perseverance, and courage. He loved sports and his friends and family, and he also loved attending school. Colin especially loved learning, listening, and singing songs in Mrs. Holmes' Preppy-K classroom.

Through his courage, we are reminded that each day is a blessing, and an opportunity to create lasting memories. Colin's life and attendance at Perry Elementary has forever touched the lives of so many. He will always remain in our hearts.



Colin will also be forever remembered in a memorial tile wall at the school. Recently, his Preppy-K friends, family, and other friends from sports and the community came together after school on November 17 to paint a special tile for Colin. The children's tiles will surround a picture tile of Colin, and these will be assembled into a tile wall for permanent placement at Perry Elementary.

Colin's memorial tile wall will be a reminder for us of his bravery and courage, and of the love of his friends and family who will forever surround him. A reveal of the tile wall will take place sometime in the beginning of 2017.

Colin is survived by his loving parents, Jen and Dan Earle, and by many other family members, friends, and members of the Huntington Beach community and beyond who will never forget him.

# Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

770 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-1469 • <http://www.smithelementary.com>



**Carolyn Beck**  
*Principal*

## Red Ribbon Week Assembly with the DEA

At Smith Elementary School, it is important for us to ensure that our students are safe and drug free. This year as a culmination of our Red Ribbon Week activities, we were fortunate to have a visit from agents from Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), who highlighted for our students the risks associated with drug use.

The students experienced the undercover vehicles driving onto campus, were able to interact with a K-9 unit, and witnessed the landing of the DEA helicopter right in front of them on the basketball court. The agent's presentation was highly engaging and reinforced the week's message of the importance of staying drug free. It also inspired many students to consider possible careers in law enforcement. This assembly will be a lasting reminder to our students to stay drug free!



# John R. Peterson *Elementary*

20661 Farnsworth Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-1515 • <http://pes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com>



**Dr. Constance Polhemus**  
*Principal*

## No Idle Zone

As part of Peterson Elementary School's GO GREEN campaign and the creation of our Great Green Giants (G3) team, the school has developed a No Idle Zone around the school. Idling is when a driver leaves the engine running and the vehicle parked.

Every day in the United States millions of cars and trucks idle needlessly, sometimes for hours, and an idling car can release as much pollution as a moving car. We may not be able to avoid keeping our engine running when we're stopped at a traffic signal or stuck in slow-moving traffic, but other times idling is unnecessary.

One of those times is when waiting to pick up a student from school. Peterson Elementary is asking parents and visitors to turn off their ignition if they're waiting more than 10 seconds. Contrary to popular belief, restarting your car does not burn more fuel than leaving it idling. In fact, idling for just 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting the engine. Reducing idling makes the air healthier around the school by cutting down on hazardous pollution in our neighborhood.

Idling tailpipes spew out the same pollutants as moving cars. These pollutants have been linked to serious human illnesses, including asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer. For every 10 minutes an engine idles in front of our school, a pound of carbon dioxide is being released into the air. Carbon dioxide is the primary contributor to global warming.

The GO GREEN campaign will be addressing other areas of environmental concern with students and their families in the months ahead, including recycling, energy conservation, beach clean-up, and vermicomposting (worm farming).

# Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • <http://isms.schoolloop.com>



**Dr. Cynthia Guerrero**  
*Principal*

## Sowers Performing Arts Celebrates and Inspires

Sowers Performing Arts Program, made up of Orchestra, Beginning Band, Wind Ensemble, Music Industry & Technology, Guitar, Viking Choir, Uptown Girls Show Choir, and Mixed Melodies Choir, has taken over the Sowers campus!! In just one year, Sowers has grown its performing arts program from 150 students to 350 students participating in a performing arts class—that's over one-third of the entire school population involved in the arts!! The groups performed for two sold out nights at the Huntington Beach High School auditorium in its annual Celebration of the Season as hearts were filled with the joyous sound of the holidays. Additionally, they gave back to the community by performing at Huntington Landmark Senior Holiday Luncheon. Spring brings additional performances, regional competitions, and a musical theater performance. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at SowersVikingsHB.



MIT students, Britta Norquist and Kyler Naef, serenade us to "Baby It's Cold Outside."



# Ocean View School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Carol Hansen**

### Grateful for Our Community’s Support

On November 8, 2016, the Ocean View School District (OVSD) successfully passed Measure R, a \$169-million general obligation bond. Our Board of Trustees and district leadership are grateful for the tremendous support of the staff, unions, parents, and community, and we are ready to take the next steps in modernizing our schools. OVSD residents voted to pass the measure with 59 percent of the vote.

Following the election, I sent a message to district employees and posted it publicly to our Web site, saying, “I wish to send a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your contributions toward the passage of Measure R! We are incredibly grateful for your support of our students and our schools. This general obligation bond in the amount of \$169 million is desperately needed. We can now move forward and begin the process of addressing our aging facilities to provide safe, comfortable learning environments for our students. I wish to acknowledge your ongoing commitment to the Ocean View School District. In the coming months, I will continue our communication to employees, families, and the community at large about the status of next steps. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!”

Newly re-elected Trustee and Board President Gina Clayton-Tarvin, who led the Board in its decision to pursue Measure R, said she “always had faith in the voters of the Ocean View School District.”

The path toward pursuing a general obligation bond became a real possibility during the 2015–2016 school year, when our new leadership team was established. Work continued last spring with the creation of a district-wide Facilities Master Plan (FMP). A team effort ensued in May and June, with hundreds of people from within the district, each OVSD school site (staff, parents, and students), and the community at large coming together in four comprehensive community meetings to list and prioritize school projects. The resulting FMP and dedicated Web site, [www.ovsd-fmp.org](http://www.ovsd-fmp.org), are now in place and will guide the district’s work with these projects.

Again, we thank everyone for the personal time spent sharing our message and prioritizing our vital facilities needs, which are so important for student success. Our community heard you!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Gina Clayton-Tarvin**  
*President*

### Clearly Establishing Roles and Protocols in Board Governance

Successfully managing an entire school district takes a strong, cohesive, consistent team. It requires clear goals, focused objectives, continuous assessment, and realignment. In the Ocean View School District (OVSD), we are taking the steps necessary to do just this for the benefit of our students and families. As your newly re-elected Board President, I am committed to our young scholars and our many employees. The entire Board and superintendent are just as dedicated.

Our Board recently voted to adopt a Governance Team Handbook. The handbook was created through extensive research and is based upon established “best practices” from California’s top school districts by a sub-committee of our Board. With their recommendations in place, we now have a guiding document. We will work with collective responsibility to build unity and support a positive, effective organizational culture in OVSD.

The handbook details the roles of our trustees and our superintendent. As these roles directly relate to our stakeholders, the handbook expressly states that we involve our parents/guardians, community, students, and employees in setting the direction for OVSD. Engagement is a key element, and we have worked hard in our recent endeavors to create an inclusive organization. The handbook also lays out the way in which we, as a Board, welcome our newest trustees, address issues, tackle tough topics, appoint committees, work cohesively, use electronic media, conduct our meetings, and much more. It is a valuable tool that will be a part of our district for years to come, and I look forward to exploring it further as we progress as a new Board.

### Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



**Gina Clayton-Tarvin**  
*President*



**Jack C. Souders**  
*Vice-President*



**John Briscoe**  
*Clerk*



**Joseph Gaglione**  
*Member*



**Norm Westwell**  
*Member*

### OVSD PROVIDES RANGE • From Page 1

is underway at Westmont Elementary School, which conveniently borders the cities of Huntington Beach and Westminster. This inaugural class will provide us with valuable information as we consider expanding the program in the 2017–2018 school year. The response from our community is overwhelmingly supportive, and we have created a waiting list. Our goal is to begin teaching students, at an age-appropriate level, the essential skills needed in language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, science, visual and performing arts, health, history/social science, English language development, and social-emotional development. It is a complete program based on state standards and aligned with the OVSD curriculum.

“We believe our Early Kindergarten class will give our families another important option in preparing their children for success in kindergarten and beyond,” said Dr. Carol Hansen, Superintendent. “Early Kindergarten, which is based on the Transitional Kindergarten curriculum, helps these young students to develop the academic, social, and emotional skills they will need to be successful throughout their educational experiences.”

At the beginning of the school year, we reopened Lake View Elementary School as our first-ever Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) school, with specialized curriculum, classroom design, and teacher training. Our focus on curriculum as seen through the STEAM lens continues in 2017. As a way to further involve families in this new way of learning, the school is hosting STEAM Family Nights throughout the year, involving each area of the STEAM experience. This fall, Lake View hosted two family nights: a Science Night involving the stars, planets, and out-of-this world

science; and a Technology Night for exploration of robotics, applications, and new technology programs. These hands-on events are open to families in the community and are managed by our outstanding staff. This winter and spring we will offer Engineering, Arts and Math Family Nights, with more information to come on the district and Lake View Web sites.

Middle School music programs have expanded throughout OVSD. This year, we are proud to now offer band and choir programs to more sixth- through eighth-grade students. After nationwide arts cutbacks over the years, the OVSD Board of Trustees and district leadership are focused on providing students with a well-rounded curriculum, including visual and performing arts opportunities. Our middle schools are busy developing programs in drama, choir, jazz ensemble, dance, and much more.

This fall, OVSD also launched a new middle school afterschool program at Mesa View Middle School. With ongoing enrollment, this program is offered as a way for families to keep students learning and socializing in a school setting after school hours with trained education professionals. Students are not only given time to do homework, but they are engaged in learning opportunities with local organizations and clubs they create based on their own interests. At a recent Board Meeting, middle school afterschool students shared about their new program via a high-tech visual presentation. They also hosted a special event for nearby elementary afterschool students and their families to orient them to the middle school program.

The Ocean View School District will continue to innovate on behalf of its students, with sustained efforts to promote academic achievement and leadership based on consistency, transparency and credibility.

# Circle View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## Raising Awareness about the Needs of Others

Circle View students are learning how to raise awareness about the needs of others in the community, while putting these lessons into action. Daisy Girl Scout Troop 4254, under the leadership of Shelley Casas and Tori Blum, have partnered with One Warm Coat to collect coats and distribute them to people in our local community. Every day is the perfect time to demonstrate a warm, kind, and caring concern for others, but a much needed coat adds a special embrace to the winter season. Circle View's Daisy Troop created a collection box, posted signs around the school, and collected coats recently with an overwhelming response from families. We are so proud of these girls!



**Top row: Maddy, Maxine, Molly, Mckenzie, and Jessica**  
**Bottom row: Alessandra, Lilly, Priscilla, and Reagan.**

# College View *Elementary*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Katherine Smith**  
*Principal*

## Bringing Smiles to Families In Need

On a special Sunday in December, over 60 community members, students and teachers gathered at College View Elementary School to participate in the tenth annual Bunny's Kids



outreach program. As a result of the generous donations received from College View, Lake View, Sun View, Ocean View Preparatory Pre-School, Hope View, Village View, Harbour View, St. Simon and Jude, Rize Church, and the Ocean View District Office, we were able to assemble over 900 adult hygiene bags and 700 children's gift bags, while distributing over 500 toys! These items were delivered to eight shelters that serve men, women and children in Orange County. A huge "thank you" goes out to everyone who helped to make the holiday season a little brighter for families in need.

# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Brett Hardy**  
*Principal*

## Spreading Holiday Cheer

In December, the Golden View Student Council took a walking field trip to the local Merrill Gardens senior living facility to spread a little holiday cheer. Throughout the week the students had made holiday cards to share with the residents, and they were very excited about the trip. Our Student Council advisers also arranged for the students to sing a few holiday songs to help make it even more festive. "It was the sweetest thing," said Miss Connally, a teacher and adviser. "The residents there were so happy, and it was really heartwarming to see."

Throughout the school year the Student Council chooses the different groups that they would like to support. For example, the Council is also collecting money to help buy shoes for needy students and children in Cambodia. We are very proud of all the hard work and good will that our Golden View Student Council members are taking part in this school year!





# Hope View *Elementary*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Paul Kraft**  
*Principal*

## Honoring Our Veterans

Fall was a busy time at Hope View Elementary School! Along with the addition of three new Chromebook carts purchased by our amazing Parent Teacher Organization, several exciting activities also occurred.

In November, following a visit by members of the Huntington Beach American Legion, our school-wide flag assembly honored the men and women of our armed forces. In mid-November, all of the Hope View Hawks also participated in our annual

Jog-A-Thon fundraiser. This helped the school earn over \$18,000 for technology in the classroom, while also benefiting the students who were able to participate in a fun and healthy activity.

In December, members of Hope View's fourth- and fifth-grade chorus performed for their families and peers. The kindergarten and Transitional-Kindergarten students also participated in the annual Holiday Show at nearby Marine View Middle School. Our Hope View teachers, students, and staff members have been working very hard, with much success, as we head into the new year!



# Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

## A Caring Community

This year, the Harbour View Elementary School community was honored to participate in the Bunny's Kids effort to provide Orange County's men's, women's and children's shelters with much-needed supplies and toys. Our families donated many boxes of items, which were picked up by the Bunny's Kids volunteers to be sorted and bagged for delivery to Orange County

shelters. We would like to thank Kathy Smith, the principal of College View Elementary School, for inviting us to participate in this very worthwhile project.

We are also honored to have been given the opportunity by the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) to participate in the Shop with a Cop program. One student from our school was able to sit with an HBPD officer for a special breakfast and a shopping spree at a national retailer to purchase holiday gifts for his family. A special thank you to Officer Bobby Frahm for reaching out to make this family's Christmas extra special!

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy 2017!

# Lake View *Elementary*

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Jamie Goodwyn**  
*Principal*

## How Humans Can Affect Our Environment

On a beautiful sunny Wednesday, students in Miss Basaez's and Mrs. Solanki's third-grade classes at Lake View Elementary School partnered up with the Orange County Coastal Keeper to see firsthand how humans can affect the environment. Students put on their gloves and set out to clean the man-made litter and other trash at Bolsa Chica State Beach. They sorted and tallied the different types of trash found at the beach. Coastal Keeper

reported that Lake View students had collected over eight pounds of trash from the marked beach area.



What started out as inquiry in the classroom led to a more authentic and purposeful experience for the students. They began their Project Based Learning exploring biomes and identifying the important components of each habitat. Students worked collaboratively on specific biomes and the impact of human involvement. Students concluded that our involvement can greatly impact our world if we don't do anything about it.

# Marine View *Middle School*

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



**William Lynch**  
*Principal*

## An Artistic Influence

Marine View Middle School's performing arts program continues to grow as we begin our 23rd year of arts education for our students. The most recent and exciting development in performing arts is the second coming of our Spring Musical Theater production! Our students, faculty, and parents alike are buzzing about "Seussical the Musical, Jr.," which will make its debut on the Marine View stage on March 2-4 at 6:30 p.m.

To mount this production, our instrumental music, vocal music, and dance programs will rally together to create a musical-theater experience like our students have never taken part in before. Students will be afforded the opportunity to gain skills not only in acting, singing, and dancing, but also in the technical aspects of musical theater, such as lighting, sound, and set building.

Here at Marine View, our students and faculty are continually working together to grow and strengthen our program, teaching countless students the incredible impact music and the arts can have in the world through them.

# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

## The Sound of Music

The school is alive with the sound of music! Mesa View Middle School is proud to have implemented two sections of choir this school year. We are excited to have added these classes, led by longtime music teacher Mr. Nicolosi, to our elective offerings for all grade levels.

Mesa View choir is a year-long elective in which students learn to sing in a variety of styles, as well as read and notate music. This December, students gave their first performances for our Mesa View families.

The choir will also be performing around Orange County. Their voices will be heard at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club during the Cruise of Lights, at the Ocean View School District's Arts Festival in March, and at Disneyland in the spring.

We are excited our students can voice their talents through choir. The expansion of our music program has been a wonderful addition.



# Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Rosa Mendieta**  
*Principal*

## Engaging, Rigorous, Hands-On Projects

Our fourth-grade students are having fun using their creativity while learning about polygonal shapes and building stable structures using toothpicks and raisins. Students develop their imaginations and problem-solving skills as they attempt to build the tallest structure or the most intricate and complex design with their toothpicks. Based on their smiles, collaboration, and discussions with their classmates, it was

clear that the students enjoyed this hands-on project. These types of activities spark our students' imaginations and make learning come alive!



As we incorporate more lessons that create excitement and provide opportunities to reinforce the arts, math and science, we will continue to focus on planning rigorous and engaging activities that also inspire the love of learning in our students every single day.

# Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/843-6938 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

## A Giving Tradition

One of the best holiday traditions at Oak View Preschool is the annual toy donation from the Huntington Landmark Toymakers. These senior "elves" spend all year building, painting, and distributing toys for young children across the county. For the sixth year in a row, these talented craftsmen and craftswomen have generously donated over 200 wooden toys to our students.

Each year, the volunteers at this senior community in Huntington Beach make over 3,000 handcrafted toys. Some cut wood, others paint, and some crochet or sew. Most of the wood they use is donated. The entire community recycles, and the funds are used to purchase paint and other materials to complete the toys.

Principal Anna Dreifus and our custodian, Jose Gonzalez, happily turned their vehicles into sleighs full of beautiful doll cradles, trains, boats, and trucks. Our students' holidays are brighter thanks to the generosity of the Huntington Landmark Toymakers.





# Spring View *Middle School*

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Jason Blade**  
Principal

## A Place for Everyone

Months before students even began thinking about going back to school this year, the Spring View Middle School staff was hard at work planning for a successful 2016–2017 school year. Our mission was to ensure that all of our students felt connected to the school and supported by the staff, and the result was a staff dedicated to making sure that all students have a place where they feel they belong.

Besides being outstanding teachers in the classroom, the Spring View staff is dedicated to our vision of connecting students to the school and supporting all students outside of class time as well. Many of our staff members engage our students in fun and constructive activities during unstructured time, such as recess and lunch. On any given day, I might see students practicing their performances for the BEST Fest in the gym with Mr. Vanatta and Mr. deLachica, playing intramural sports organized by Mr. Piesik, enjoying time in the game room with Mrs. Fuller, practicing instruments with Mr. Martinez, and many more activities where teachers work with small groups of students to help ensure their success.

As Spring View's principal, I am extremely proud to work with such a dedicated, caring, and professional group of educators.

# Star View *Elementary*

8411 Worthy Dr., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Carrie Haskin**  
Principal

## Showing Our Community Spirit!

Star View students have a lot to be proud of this school year! Over the past few months, Students Lola, Alyssa, Cienna and Brooklyn expressed their congratulations to Westminster police officers on their well-deserved promotions by sharing baked goods and cards. Deputy Chief Tim and Commander Cameron expressed their appreciation by thanking our students during a schoolwide flag assembly. It was a special morning for all of us!

In addition to our special guests from the Westminster Police Department, the Kernell family and FISH radio partnered with Star View to Recycle for Reading! Star View Student Council members under the direction of their advisors, Mrs. Mariano and Mrs. Kakimoto, and with the help of our local radio station promoted an intensive recycling effort. Star View students and their families dropped off their recyclables, and adults received a cup of coffee

We are delighted to have the support of our community partners to help raise funds for our reading program while raising awareness on the importance of recycling. It was a fun day collecting, sorting, and taking part in our Recycle for Reading project!



# Sun View *Elementary*

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-9643 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Elaine Burney**  
Principal

## Random Acts of Kindness

At Sun View Elementary School, random acts of kindness occur every day, thanks to our students, staff, community, outside agencies, and especially our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). We have a small, yet mighty PTO that is at school every day to assist teachers, plan fund-raisers, and organize events for our families to attend.

Our recent movie night was a perfect example of a community-building activity. Families brought their chairs and blankets to watch a movie together. Although the wind was howling, teachers and the PTO moms stood outside and cooked popcorn, hot dogs, hamburgers, and other treats to make the night a memorable one.

Before school even started, our mighty PTO, under the direction of President Claudia Martinez, provided beverages and snacks for parents who were pre-registering for school. This was extremely helpful to the office staff and made a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our incoming families.

Sun View appreciates the kindness of our many PTO volunteers!



# Village View *Elementary*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Francesca Ligman**  
*Principal*

## Building Lifelong Friendships

At a recent Village View Elementary School flag ceremony, our very own health tech Shelly Fernandez invited her buddy of 50 years to help kick off our “Be a Buddy Week.”

Shelly met Loretta in kindergarten exactly 50 years ago! Their inspiration led to our selling of “Bee a Buddy Grams.” All week our students were encouraged to follow her example of friendship, which we call “Bee Kind, Bee

truthful, and forgive.” These traits build life-long friendships, and they can begin right here at Village View!



Being kind is already at the top of our list of everyday positive behaviors, and so it was with great pride that we spent the week promoting it. This event exploded from a projected sale of 500 Grams to over 800, which put our office and volunteers into a tail spin. Fortunately, with teamwork and the kindness of our office staff and volunteers, the job was done. We met the quota, and every child celebrated a potential life-long friendship.

# Vista View *Middle School*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Scott Mooney**  
*Principal*

## A Busy Time

The last few months at Vista View Middle School were full of great events! We showed off our skills in the school’s Lip Sync Battle, learned about ocean life at the Long Beach Aquarium, learned more about the harsh realities of the Holocaust when we visited the Museum of Tolerance, demonstrated our musical talents at the Winter Concert, celebrated our academic achievements at the first trimester awards assembly, learned about staying healthy and the dangers of drugs and tobacco from scientist and whistle-blower Dr. Victor DeNoble, and our 8th grade girls were crowned league champions in volleyball.

Falcon students and staff were in the giving spirit when they donated canned goods to Second Harvest Food Bank and raised \$2K for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in their “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser.



**Dr. Victor DeNoble and 8th grade girls volleyball league champions.**

# Westmont *Elementary*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Susan Broderson**  
*Principal*

## Westmont Students, Families and Staff Practice Kindness

Westmont Elementary School is a school with a heart. Students, parents, teachers, and staff are always willing to help others. So, what does kindness and giving look like at Westmont? Here’s what a few students had to say:

“Kindness and giving are what we try to do here at Westmont. When a new student comes, we always try to make him or her feel welcome here.” Grace Latto

“The giving we do here is we donate. We donate to UNICEF by collecting coins for children around the world. We donate box tops, cans of food and books. We have a friendship bench. When someone is feeling lonely they sit there and someone can walk towards them and ask if they would like to play.” Brianna Almazan

“At Westmont I saw a kid who had no lunch, so a kid got up and got a lunch and gave it to him, and he was so happy.” Neathan Vazquez

“Giving is when you are kind and help others. I give my time helping the teachers.” Alvaro Miranda

Westmont students collected over \$500 for UNICEF in October and November! Future service projects include a food collection drive, Valentines for Veterans, and Products for Pets. Thank you to Ms. Marsha Sipkovich, grade 4/5 teacher, for providing these stories.

# Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

## Speech and Language Itinerant Program

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

Our three speech and language pathologists—Anne Lang, Kim Tong and Vicki Kincaid—along with our speech and language assistant pathologist, Jayne Nance, provide intensive instruction in individual and group sessions each day. The sessions focus on articulation, voice disorders, language development, stuttering and social skills. This dynamic and systematic team services over 100 students.

Pleasant View is fortunate to have these outstanding and dedicated individuals to serve our families and students.



# The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects



Kate Karp

The title of this wonderfully helpful resource is directed at children, but Barbara A. Lewis’s Kid’s Guide to Service Projects, Free Spirit Publishing, 1995, is a volunteer guide for any age. The more than 500 suggested projects, ranging in difficulty from caring for a neighbor’s pet to getting state laws and city ordinances passed, will appeal to anyone who want to make a difference and earn breathing space on the planet. The projects, all worthy, are described simply and clearly enough to encourage any aspiring humanitarian.

The projects focus on human and animal welfare, community development and safety, the environment, literacy and politics, further divided into 10 categories. In the introduction, Lewis gives short shrift to anyone’s claims of not having enough time or that the goals are too involved for any one person to attempt. Instead, she maps out projects for every passion, and invites the reader to send her anything that she hasn’t thought of. She then provides a template of 10 steps to make any effort a successful one; gives handy how-tos for pesky paperwork tasks such as creating fliers, writing petitions and press releases, and lobbying for a cause; and suggest seven ways to raise funds.

Anyone who wants to be proactive in solving problems for the community, either local or at large, will find frequent use for The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects. It will be particularly helpful in the service requirement for graduation from high school; and families, youth and religious organizations, and classroom teachers will all find something to forward worthy efforts. Most of all, lone individuals who feel the need to take action on a problem but may be overwhelmed by the details will be happy to find that Lewis has done the initial organization for them. And that in itself is a great service.

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

## Ask Dr. Shari

# Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- Learning: Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- Networking: Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- Building the Résumé: Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- Personal Growth: As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

## Thank you OVUSD

for dedicating your articles  
about the importance of  
Acts of Kindness.

## Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us

# Acts of Kindness



Dr. Al Mijares  
Superintendent

For many, 2016 has been an immensely challenging year, culminating with one of the most toxic and divisive elections in the history of our country.

The latest election cycle has, it seems, reopened old wounds, and electoral maps suggest we live in a nation increasingly divided by politics, ideology and values. Yet there is one trait that unites all Americans, and it is a trait we need to embrace now more than ever. It is kindness.

In May, the Orange County Department of Education launched the One Billion Acts of Kindness initiative as a way to promote civility, character and positive school climates in Orange County and beyond. We also envisioned this campaign as a way to spotlight the compassion that occurs each and every day, often quietly or unnoticed.

So far, we haven’t been disappointed. Well over half a million good deeds have been logged on www.kindness1billion.org and on social media with the hashtag #kindness1billion. And scores of new ones roll in each week.

We’ve heard heartwarming stories from everyday people who are providing food and clothing for the homeless, baking cookies for veterans and finding lost dogs. We’ve heard from children who have welcomed newcomers to school, and we’ve heard from more than a few kids who have spotted someone sitting alone at lunch and invited them to dine together.

One girl said she simply complimented a classmate she didn’t know on her new haircut — and now the two are friends.

As you can see, kindness doesn’t have to be a sweeping movement that immediately impacts thousands. But each compassionate act has the potential to start a chain reaction that can change the world. At the very least, kindness reveals an inner humanity in all of us that transcends politics, race and other barriers used to divide us.

Since the One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign began, a number of local school districts and community organizations have reached out to let us know they’re on board, and many are organizing their own activities and logging their counts on www.kindness1billion.org. Included among them are the Girl Scouts of Orange County and the Boy Scouts of America Orange County Council, which asked its members and volunteers to commit at least one act of kindness per day in November.

We hope this momentum will continue into 2017, with benefits that cascade across the state and throughout the country. And OCDE will continue to champion this cause, because kindness is a sustainable resource that drives society. It’s also a virtue that powerfully manifests character, and character defines who we are.

Our electoral maps may show stark patches of red and blue, but we are certainly more than a nation of two political parties. We are, and will continue to be, a country of compassion, love and inclusion, reinforced every day, one kind act at a time.

# Westminster School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

### Sensational Spellers

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

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Spelling Bee Winners:

1st place: Andrew Vo, Johnson Middle School; 2nd place: Tony Nguyen, Webber Elementary; 3rd place: Jeremy Flores, Stacey Middle School

4th and 5th Grade Spelling Bee Winners:

1st place: Jason Phan, Sequoia Elementary; 2nd place: Kelly Ninh, Willmore Elementary; 3rd place: Andie Cardenas, Clegg Elementary

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



**4th & 5th grade school site Spelling Bee champions.**

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

Anderson, Jake Nguyen; Clegg, Andie Cardenas; DeMille, Helen Liang; Eastwood, Ethan Nguyen; Finley, Julissa Martinez; Fryberger, Charlie Nguyen; Hayden, Jenna Stulpin; Meairs, Sang La; Schmitt, Sofia Mendez; Schroeder, Liem Khoan; Sequoia, Jason Phan Webber, Preston Dang Willmore, Kelly Ninh



**6th, 7th & 8th grade school site Spelling Bee champions.**

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

Anderson, Amely Salgado; DeMille, Alice Nguyen; Eastwood, Quynhmay Ta; Johnson, Andrew Vo; Schroeder, Matthew Lopez; Sequoia, Jasmine Nguyen; Stacey, Jeremy Flores; Warner, Tara Lam; Webber, Tony Nguyen

## Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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## WSD is Golden

*By Penny Loomer, President Board of Trustees*

I had the pleasure of attending the California School Boards Association Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco last month with my fellow Board members and our superintendent. While this conference provides exceptional seminars and learning opportunities, the highlight of the conference was being presented with the prestigious Golden Bell Award. We won the award in the category of outstanding technology for our i4 Blended Learning Academy. Now in its 37th year, the Golden Bell Award is considered one of the state’s leading educational honors, recognizing public school programs that are innovative and sustainable, make a demonstrated difference for students, and focus on meeting the needs of all students.



**Board Member Mary Mangold, Board President Penny Loomer, Superintendent Marian Kim Phelps and Executive Director of Educational Technology Jennifer Burks with the prestigious Golden Bell Award.**

## What is the i4 Blended Learning Academy?

Westminster School District teachers have transformed their teaching and changed the way students learn with the i4 Blended Learning Academy. I4 stands for inspire, innovate, implement, and impact. Dedicated, creative Transitional Kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers have taken giant strides to transition their classrooms into blended learning environments. These i4 innovators are well equipped with ongoing professional development, embedded coaching, and effective online and traditional classroom resources to support personalized learning for students. In collaboration with their educational technology coaches, i4 innovators have discovered innovative practices and provided students with new learning experiences. The i4 innovators have empowered their students to work collaboratively and independently in blended learning environments with Chrome books and online tools. This program has allowed students to engage in dynamic learning experiences across a range of modalities.

There are 1,000 school districts in California, and only 56 Golden Bell Awards were presented. It was an honor to be with our team when we received this esteemed award. I am so proud of our district and this wonderful program.



Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

**Field Trips Open the World**

At H.B. Anderson Elementary School, we know that field trips open the world to our students. Field trips give students the opportunity to experience learning outside the classroom. Student can see first-hand how the concepts they’ve learned at school are applied in the real world. Field trips help students develop new vocabulary, critical thinking and concepts. The

sensory, physical and hands-on aspects of

field trips also enhance learning. Recently the H.B. Anderson first graders went to the Discovery Science Center. On this trip, students not only had fun, but learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) by actively engaging in experiments. These field trips are made possible thanks to the generous partnership of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Field trips are an important at H.B. Anderson because they bring lessons to life!



**Lam Huynh at Discovery Science Center**

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

**Sounds of the Season**

Surf’s up at DeMille! On December 14, DeMille families were treated to a delightful holiday program of “Surfing Santa” themed songs and dances. The program featured the preschool, second-grade, and fourth-grade students. The preschoolers were dressed in their holiday best, and sang their hearts out as they asked Where is Santa? They also showed us how to do the Reindeer Pokey.

The second-graders were ready to hang loose and hit the waves with songs like Surfing Santa and Bring the Surfers. The fourth-graders entertained everyone with songs and dances that had a multicultural flair. Their performance of Mele Kalikimaka brought a smile to everyone.

The program concluded with the Twelve Days of Christmas-DeMille Style. The wishlist included SmartPhones and video games, with not a single partridge in sight!



**Fourth graders sing “Pablo the Reindeer.”**

Clegg School

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



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

**Honoring Our Military**

Mrs. O'Reilly, a first-grade teacher at Clegg Elementary School, works with students every November to honor the military with Operation Veterans Day. During this donation drive, students bring in items to fill care packages to support soldiers who are deployed overseas.

This year we packaged 25 large boxes, and the boxes were sent to Afghanistan and Kuwait. The most-loved items are the handwritten letters from students thanking soldiers for their bravery and sacrifices. The students get to practice some

wonderful character traits, such as caring, gratitude, patriotism, charity, selflessness, and compassion.



Clegg also erects a Veterans Wall of Honor to recognize those who have served or are currently serving in the military. Students are asked to have discussions at home about family members who have served the country in the military. These names are put on stars and are hung on the wall for the whole school to honor.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Jason Kuncewicki**  
*Principal*

**What’s Your New Year’s Resolution?**

Just like the adults around them, our students may be looking at the new year as an opportunity for renewal and a time to assess their lives and consider how they might want to improve them. As a school community, we can help.

Since the topic of New Year’s resolutions is likely to come up anyway, why not make a discussion out of it? Spend some time looking at the kinds of resolutions people make. You might brainstorm a list of possible resolutions with your son or daughter. Then divide that list into categories.

One of the reasons some resolutions fail is because they aren’t specific or measurable. If a person resolves to “eat healthier,” that’s hard to measure and hard to track. With a broad resolution, it’s easy to fall into a gray area and eventually drop it altogether. So teach your student how to take a vague resolution, such as to give the dog more attention, and turn it into a specific, measurable goal, such as spending 10 minutes a day petting and playing with the dog.

Have your child consider how well the plan is going, what factors may be getting in the way, and how the new changes are impacting quality of life. The first evaluation might be a week after goals are set, followed by two more check-ins spaced farther apart. During these reflection times, share how you are progressing with your own goals, and talk to students about how we sometimes end up changing our goals based on what we learn about ourselves over time.

Giving students goals for the year, whether academic or social in nature, will help them to succeed in the future and get them used to meeting and reaching their goals.

Happy New Year!

# Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Raul Olivas**  
*Principal*

## The Hour of Code

Our Finley Eagles took part in the recent Hour of Code, which is recognized nationally from December 5 through December 11. It was truly inspiring to see students of all ages, from Transitional Kindergarten to the fifth grade, use coding skills to have their Chromebook device perform a particular task.

We recognize that only five percent of high school seniors attain the computer programming skills necessary to succeed in today's high-tech and global economy. The idea that our youngsters start to develop such skills at this age is truly a powerful component into their academic and social development in the years to come.

It is truly a magical time when our students are engaged in skills that push the limits of what has always been done. We look forward to incorporating coding into their lessons throughout the year, and plan on taking it to the next level as the year progresses.



# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dr. Dena Kiouses**  
*Principal*

## It's Cool to Be Kind

This year, Fryberger School Falcons are focusing on computer programs, fitness, and the arts during Saturday Academy dates. During the Saturday Academy, GATE students also met, to organize flyers and posters for our winter service project.

The Kindness Campaign continues as our school community collected toiletry items for Colette's Children's Home. We sent items for the winter holiday season and we will continue collecting through February 14, for Valentine's delivery.

Colette's Children's Home provides services and shelter to women and mothers with children in need.

Thank you Falcons for your generosity to those in need. Please keep sending items in January and February, your kindness matters!



# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

## The Imagination Machine

Over the past year and a half the Hayden staff members have been working hard on implementing a new writing program. Hayden is always striving for new and innovative ways to engage and motivate the authors here at the school.

Some of the ways that we have motivated our authors involves bringing in the Imagination Machine twice a year to reenact our students' stories. We are also displaying our favorite stories in the main office, creating a class story, creating digital stories, and giving our students more "voice and choice."

Our latest motivational tool is the use of the green screen to superimpose the students in any setting they choose, and with any character they choose. The students are so excited to see their stories come to life with either an amazing picture or a short video about their story. A special thank-you goes to Dave Hubbard and Kristen Flores for bringing in this latest tool for our students.





# Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

## Our Cheerleaders Sparkle!

Johnson Middle School prides itself on providing its students with a variety of opportunities to participate in exciting, character-building opportunities. One of the newest additions to the Johnson campus is the cheerleading team. Students are having a blast learning routines and dances while cheering on their classmates and showing Johnson pride.

This year, with the help of our Special Education staff, Johnson has been able to give even more students the chance to

cheer on the Warriors. Several students with various disabilities have joined the cheer squad with the support of The Sparkle Effect, a national program that promotes inclusion by introducing students with disabilities to school-based cheerleading. The program has generated and supported over 180 teams in 30 states that directly involve 10,000 students with and without disabilities. According to the website, “As students with and without disabilities cheer together...they showcase a loud and public symbol of acceptance, forever changing a school’s culture to one that values diversity and kindness. The students on Sparkle Effect teams visibly relay a simple message: at our school, all students are respected and included, regardless of ability.”

Pride is strong at Johnson Middle School, and the addition of the Sparkle Effect cheerleading team has made everyone on campus even more proud to be a Warrior.

# Land School

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



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



**Reagan Lopez**  
*Executive Director,  
Student Services*

## The Way to Go!

Land School is all about playtime! To someone new to preschool, it might look like the children just play all day, and have little to do with academics. Actually, child’s play has quite a bit to do with preparing children for academic learning.

Play allows children to begin real-life math calculations (distribution



of play items), phonological awareness (songs/chants and “reading” the menu in the House area), and writing (art and drawing activities), among other areas of academic preparation. Play also provides the perfect setting to work on social-emotional skills, arguably the most important piece of development in the preschool years. Through play, children learn problem-solving, empathy, and self-control of emotions, along with other skills in social-emotional growth.

All of these authentic learning experiences make the use of traditional pencil and paper worksheets unnecessary in preschool, as well as not being developmentally appropriate for the three- to five-year-old learners. Here at Land, hands-on learning through play is the way to go!

# Meairs *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Hour of Code at Meairs

The Hour of Code is a global movement by computer Science Education reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. During the first week of December there were 163,572 Hour of Code events around the world, and one of them was at Iva Meairs Elementary School in Garden Grove, California. Students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth grade participated in this event. The students used tutorials to guide them through an hour of coding. The purpose of this event was to show the students that Computer Science can be

fun, and anyone, at any age can do it! Students were able to pick from a variety of tutorials based on computer games and animated movies that they are all



familiar with. Who knows, an event like this just might be the thing that will make a student choose the field of Computer Science as a career!

# Schmitt *Elementary (K–5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • <http://schmitt.wsdk8.us>



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## Spelling Bee Champion

In November, Schmitt School held its annual spelling bee competition. We had many outstanding spellers compete, and the crowd was super-excited to witness these students’ spelling skills and courage to perform in front of a large crowd.

In the end, Sofia Mendez took first place and proudly represented Schmitt at the Westminster School District Spelling Bee. Sofia did an impressive job in spelling most of the words until she got to the word seize, which wiped out the majority of other



contestants. Nevertheless, she worked hard to study her words, and she did an outstanding job.

The most important thing to note is that any competition is a wonderful experience or journey, not an endpoint. I am very proud of Sofia Mendez, and I hope this event has given her the confidence to continue to participate in challenging events that will push her to learn and grow.

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • <http://schroeder.wsdk8.us>



**Carrie Hernandez**  
*Principal*

## Holiday Boutique

Each year our awesome PTA hosts a Holiday Boutique that allows students to shop for gifts for their family members. Students were able to shop at recess, lunch and after school. Many different types of items were for sale perfectly priced for students to purchase. There were even helpers to wrap the gifts each student purchased! On Friday evening the PTA hosts more vendors and parents have the opportunity to purchase gifts for family and friends. Santa even makes a visit and parents can take free pictures of their children with Santa. Thank you Schroeder PTA for supporting these wonderful activities for our students!



# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • <http://sequoia.wsdk8.us>



**Michelle Watkins**  
*Principal*

## Beyond Hour of Code

Sequoia Academy always strives to offer students the most enriching, balanced, cutting-edge educational opportunities possible. One example of this is our Robotics program that has been implemented this year in grades TK-6th. All students learn through the lens of a computer scientist. Students learn how to code and create computer games. They also learn to build and program robots to complete various tasks and challenges.

Implementing Robotics at Sequoia, encourages communication, collaboration, and creative problem solving. Not

only does coding and computer programming prepare our students for their future, as programming is a key component of digital literacy, it also reinforces the academic practices we embrace, including strong reading strategies and the writing process. Programming also reinforces the engineering design process being implemented in our STEAM Academy. We are excited to share their STEAM projects at Open House on April 12th.



# Stacey *Middle School*

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



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## Getting Down and Dirty: Garden Club

*By Elaine Tong and Katelyn Hooker, "Cougar Chronicle" Student Staff Writers*

Stacey's Garden Club has attracted many students who aren't afraid of getting down and dirty. The club, a favorite at Stacey for the last four years, had its first farmers market in December.

Succulent arrangements as well as many fruits and vegetables were sold. In total, 27 club members, all wearing their green "Playing with Dirt" T-shirts, gathered to sell their produce.

Ms. Thach, the club's founder, was also present along with

Mrs. Janssen to oversee the market.

Sydney Vo, a student at Stacey, said, "It's great! It helps raise money for the school, and people get healthier, too!"

"I just love it!" said Mrs. Cleckler, a science teacher at Stacey.

The Garden Club is "making the school look nice with greens," as Chloe Timmerman, a Garden Club member, said. Garden Club is planning at least two more farmers markets before the end of the year.





# Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Amy Pham Kwon**  
*Principal*

## Red Ribbon Week

*By Trinh Nguyen, Student Videographer, Warner Journalism*

In 1988, the National Family Partnership coordinated the first National Red Ribbon Week. It grew to be so popular now, that a rough estimate of 80 million people participate each year. Red Ribbon is a week dedicated to making students aware that “drug use is life abuse.” At Warner Middle school we organized



an event for each day serving a purpose of teaching people that there are many ways to find happiness other than using drugs. PAL organized games for students so they can see the fun you are able to have without having to use drugs. They played games such as web crawling, ping pong cup and races. To keep all the memories of what we learned from the Red Ribbon Week, they set-up a red ribbon week photobooth. Thank you, PAL, for teaching us the meaning of Red Ribbon Week.

# Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Kevin Whitney**  
*Principal*

## Our Common Goal

A student’s home life has a tremendous effect on shaping his or her school experience, both socially and academically. That is why it’s important to equip parents with tools and resources on positive parenting.

Here at Webber, we believe in the importance of equipping parents to become leaders in their homes! With the help of the Parenting Partners curriculum called “Practical Tools for Positive Parenting-Success Starts at Home”, our parents can not only gain the knowledge and practice, but also learn how to apply these skills in their homes.



**Parents learned about the risk factor and how to protect their children from them**

After finishing the eight-week course, our Webber parents are now sharing how they learned to have better communication with their children; how to be more patient and understanding; the importance of home-school communication; the importance of creating structure and support at home; and the importance of helping to build a positive identity in each of their children. They also learn how to gain support from other parents, and arrive at the realization that they are not alone in this beautiful thing called parenting!

This fall, Webber was proud to offer two simultaneous workshops in both Spanish and Vietnamese. We also offered an evening class to accommodate working parents. The neat part about evening classes is seeing how the whole family attends together, especially the husband and wife.

Webber was proud to have opened its doors to parents from neighboring schools. We truly strive to have a sense of community here, and work together towards our common goal of helping each child be successful in school!

# Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Dr. Nicole Jacobson**  
*Principal*

## Coastal Cleanup

With the “It’s Cool To Be Kind” campaign in full effect, the Westminster School District has partnered with the City of Westminster to encourage students to promote kindness. Willmore has been continuing its kindness efforts, as our fourth- and fifth-grade students recently had an opportunity to give back to the community by cleaning up a stretch of coastline at Bolsa Chica State Beach.

Prior to this field trip, the students learned about the harmful effects of water pollution on the environment. Willmore was one of several local elementary schools involved in this clean-up event as part of the OC Coastkeepers Kids Care Program. This “call to action” allowed our students to interact with the environment by picking up over 20 pounds of trash!

As fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Becker remarked, “Our beach cleanup was a great experience, and helped our students realize there are many ways we can make a difference.”



**Willmore students cleaning up Bolsa Chica State Beach**

# Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

## INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Alan Rasmussen**

### Under New Leadership

With the start of the new year, the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) will also gain a new leader—Dr. Clint Harwick. Following an extensive search for the next Superintendent of Schools, the HBUHSD Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Harwick at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, November 15.

Since 2010, Dr. Harwick has served as the superintendent of Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD), located in South Orange County. Prior to SVUSD, Dr. Harwick was also the superintendent of both Charter Oak Unified School District and Rim of the World Unified School District. In addition, Dr. Harwick previously held several positions at Claremont Unified School District, including director of classified personnel, director of alternative education, principal, assistant principal, dean of students, activities director, high school teacher, and baseball coach.

A lifelong learner himself, Dr. Harwick earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and both his master's and doctoral degrees from Azusa Pacific University. He and his wife, Lisa, are residents of Newport Beach. They have two sons.

"I am honored and humbled to join the Huntington Beach Union High School District team," Dr. Harwick said. "I look forward to taking the next few months getting to know the students, teachers, staff, administrators, and community that make the district so admirable."

Dr. Harwick will start immediately following winter break. Even though the district will be under new leadership, its mission in the new year will remain the same—to educate, prepare, and inspire our students to change the world.



**Nancy Pham**  
*Student Representative*

### Season of Generosity

'Twas the season of giving in our district! In November and December, all district schools have been truly involved! Each school had its own ways to give back to their community, whether it be their school campus or surrounding community. Every high school was able to lend a compassionate, helping hand through fund-raisers and events.

ASB groups and service clubs created wonderful giving opportunities for their student body and staff! Westminster High's ASB hosted a Miracle Minute, raising almost \$1,400 from students and another \$850 from staff. All donations helped Westminster students with eyeglasses, shoes, groceries, Christmas trees and other items. Students and teachers also had a canned-food drive, collecting almost 3,000 cans and donating them to a local food bank.

Marina, Fountain Valley and Coast high schools expressed their warmth and comfort through food! Fountain Valley showed gratitude to their teachers and staff by hosting their annual Holiday Breakfast. Marina ASB students helped their outside community by serving food at a Bible fellowship to assist homeless people and churches in the Westminster area. Coast High School also collected canned goods for the Food and Toy Drive to gather items for the OC Food Bank and needy families.

Just when you thought there were no other ways to give, Huntington Beach High School brought motivational speaker Tyler Durman to their campus to talk about being kind. Students received a gift of both motivation and inspiration.

Speaking of kindness, Valley Vista High School ASB hosted its Season to Be Kind Week, encouraging students to perform random acts of kindness. And Ocean View's National Honors Society made decorative holiday cards for troops overseas.

Regardless of how each high school across the district gave back to their community, their positive impact radiated during holiday season! HBUHSD students wish everyone a joyous holiday and a fruitful 2017!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Dr. Duane Dishno**  
*Member*

### Passing the Gavel

With the beginning of a new calendar year comes a change in the officers of the Board of Trustees. At the organizational meeting held on December 13, Dr. Michael Simons was elected to serve as president of the Governing Board for 2017.

Dr. Simons is a doctor of podiatric medicine in private practice in the community. He has been a resident of Huntington Beach for over 40 years, and his four children all graduated from Huntington Beach High School.

Dr. Simons has represented the community on the City of Huntington Beach Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the Community Services Commission. He was also a gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Simons has served on the Board of Directors of multiple local philanthropic and religious organizations.

Initially appointed to the Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees in 1991, he has been elected to consecutive terms in 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016. Dr. Simons also serves as a member of the delegate assembly of the California School Boards Association.

Additionally, I am pleased and proud to share that Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) once again has been selected as a top workplace in Orange County. This honor was recently certified by the Philadelphia-based Workplace Dynamics, an employee research and consulting firm commissioned by The Orange County Register to determine Orange County's top workplaces rankings. Rankings were based on employee responses to 24 statements covering seven factors. Key to those were organizational health factors, which measure how well employees are working together toward a common cause. As one of the larger employers in Orange County, the district is fortunate to have so many employees who live in this community, who grew up in this community, who went to schools in this community...and who now work in the HBUHSD. Because so many of our employees are local community members, they have a huge stake in the success of our students and our schools, and it shows in the excellence of our academic, athletic, and other extracurricular programs.

We are as proud to have been recognized for the environment in which our employees work as we are of the excellence of our academic programs and the accomplishments and successes of our students.



**Dr. Michael Simons**  
*President*



**Bonnie P. Castrey**  
*Vice President*

## Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



**Kathleen Iverson**  
*Clerk*



**Susan Henry**  
*Alt. Clerk*



**Dr. Duane Dishno**  
*Member*



# Coast *High School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-5160 • [www.coasthighschool.com](http://www.coasthighschool.com)



**Dr. Angela Harding**  
*Principal*

## Team Building Exercises

We recently called upon our “elves”!

Following a recent holiday staff luncheon, our Coast HS teachers and staff members were provided with elf hats and invited to “Santa’s Workshop” (a classroom). The staff members were then divided into two groups, “Team Hot Cocoa” vs. “Team Peppermint.” They were then handed tools and instructions and told that they were going to build a bicycle.

The teams worked closely together as they participated in this project-based professional development activity designed to invoke a spirit of collaboration and camaraderie. This activity was initially modeled at a school district in-service. At the conclusion of the exercise, team

Hot Cocoa emerged victorious after a “tortoise and the hare” style comeback. Slow and steady won the race!

The teachers and staff members then presented the beautifully finished bicycles to two deserving Coast High School students. Many of us have loving memories of receiving our first bikes from Santa and spending our summers cruising along bike paths or streets in our neighborhoods. A curve ball was thrown though when it was revealed that one student had never had the opportunity to experience this cherished pastime when he shared that he was never taught how to ride a bicycle!

The spirit of the season continued when our teaching staff then hoisted him upon his new bicycle and proceeded to teach him how to ride it in the parking lot of the school. The true meaning of the season was accomplished!



# Edison *High School*

21400 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-1356 • [www.edisonchargers.com](http://www.edisonchargers.com)



**Jennifer Graves**  
*Principal*

## Cultivating Future Leaders

Edison High School strives to provide our students with the most relevant and rigorous academic experience we can, but we are also committed to the development of integrity, compassion, and leadership in our students. In that spirit of developing the whole student, we provide our Chargers with an entire month devoted to challenging them to step out as leaders and have a positive impact in the many communities and groups they belong to.

The month of November at Edison is called C.A.R.E Month. C.A.R.E is an acronym that stands for the “Campaign for Acceptance, Respect, and Empathy.” Leading up to the Thanksgiving break, each week is focused on a different theme. The first week was “Abilities Awareness Week,” the second week was “Kindness Week,” and the third week was “Be the Change Week.” Each week contained lessons, challenges, and inspirational activities that can help our students reflect on the importance of being the best version of themselves.

During the “Be the Change Week,” guest speaker Scott Backovich engaged, inspired, and empowered our students to be a person that can change the status quo. Along with teachers, he challenged the students’ thinking, and also taught them how to use their influence to create positive changes in the world around them.

These valuable lessons are a school-wide effort to promote kindness, acceptance, empathy, and inspire positive leadership among the amazing students here at Edison. Please join Edison High School in spreading our vision and cultivating the kind of future leaders that our community can be proud of.



# Fountain Valley *High School*

17816 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-3301 • [www.fvhs.com](http://www.fvhs.com)



**Dr. Morgan Smith**  
*Principal*

## Doing More with Less

Fountain Valley High School is the largest high school in Orange County, and with thousands of students enrolled, we need as many supportive programs and services available on campus as possible. We are not a private school that receives donations, nor do we receive Title 1 funding like many neighboring schools. In essence, we have to do more with less. We excel because each year, our entire community lends a hand when we need it the most.

Two amazing programs are off and running; one helps our students academically and the other helps students and their families that have fallen on hard times. This year, through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

(MTSS), we offer our After-School Academic Program (ASAP) with extended library hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. We have tutoring available for students in any academic area, access to computers, and online tutoring support available through Tutor.com. Struggling students have many options for receiving help.

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) and FVHS has partnered with Robyne's Nest, a local nonprofit designed to help struggling students with many different types of support. One of our biggest focus areas is providing students with the basics, and for some of our families, this includes food, clothing and school supplies. This year our PAL and Link Crew students helped to collected pallets of food for families for Thanksgiving and, more recently, the winter holiday break.



# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4227 • [www.hbas.edu](http://www.hbas.edu)



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Student Success Stories

At Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS), the past few years have been focused on helping people transition to jobs and post-secondary education. Teachers are working diligently to understand what is expected from employers and post-secondary institutions so they can make sure students are well prepared for the next steps in their journey. We have also invested in support staff to work with students as they begin their transitions. We are currently developing new approaches to enrolling students and supporting them while they are with us so that students have the opportunity to develop job-readiness skills, often referred to as "soft skills," while acquiring their academic and vocational skills.

With all these efforts underway, it is always reassuring to hear that our efforts are bearing fruit. Recently, we were happy to hear that three of our students were hired right after completing their training with us. Anongnat Suebsak, a former English as a Second Language (ESL) student who completed the pharmacy technician program, was hired at a national drugstore chain in Huntington Beach. Jason Roth, who is nearly finished with his high school diploma, was recently hired by a closet organizing company. Zoe Garcia,



**Zoe Garcia**



**Anongnat Suebsak**



**Jason Roth**

another pharmacy technician student, was hired by a pharmacy staffing company in Yorba Linda.

These student successes represent many similar successes that are happening more and more often at HBAS. This brings great joy to our entire staff!



# Huntington Beach *High School*

1905 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-2514 • [www.hboilers.com](http://www.hboilers.com)



**Daniel Morris**  
*Principal*

## What If Week

Huntington Beach High School's What If Week had campus-wide activities and events, promoting a positive, meaningful, and kind atmosphere. Associated Student Body (ASB) worked in conjunction with the Bridges Program and Link Crew Program to bring students together to create a more inclusive community.

Bridges sold Kindness Grams, which students could send to peers and staff to show appreciation. All proceeds were donated to the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter, a local nonprofit agency that is close to our hearts. Link Crew had students

write messages of kindness on black and orange strips of paper, which were linked into long chains and hung around campus. Link Crew and Bridges also sponsored Open Mic Night at our beautiful outdoor amphitheater, providing students with a safe space to express their vision for a more united and inclusive community. ASB played music and shared meaningful messages

during the announcements. A talented rock band, comprised of current and former students, shared meaningful songs, poems, dances, and short stories.

Throughout the week, we had fun spirit days to open a dialogue about the positive possibilities of "what if." Themes included Buddy Up Against Bullying twin day, Everyone Counts jersey day, Put Name Calling to Sleep pajama day, We All Rock concert T-shirt day, and Oiler Pride Day. Participating students received raffle tickets for a chance to win gift cards. The week's activities ended with a lunchtime performance by a student rock band.

ASB also hosted two assemblies with Tyler Durman, a local motivational speaker. Tyler spoke about caring relationships and growth mindset. He also gave a parent presentation, where he shared parenting tips. Monitoring teens' social media and discussing with them how to resolve conflicts is just a sampling of the topics. Listening to Tyler is like watching a good movie. He will make you laugh, make you cry, and, ultimately, leave you thinking about life and how you want to live it.

# Marina *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/893-6571 • [www.marinavikings.org](http://www.marinavikings.org)



**Dr. Jessie Marion**  
*Principal*

## Our Newest Photographers

Students in Marina's Endeavors program are excited about a new skill they are learning this year: photography. The Photography class was started by Yvonne Serrano with the intent of giving students "access to avenues of expression that dive past conversational expression." Endeavors serves our students who are on the autism spectrum in a highly specialized setting, and photography allows them to communicate in a new way.

The Photography class is made up of nine students: Joey Alberni, Evan Baldwin, Kieryk Duncan, Jake Jobse, Joan Lankness, Alex May, Kathleen McMillen, Cameron Verge

and Nicki Young. The class was able to fund-raise over \$3,000 in donations to purchase the necessary equipment for students to learn the skills and responsibilities of high-end photography.

When I recently spoke to the students about the class, they told me of some of their favorite subjects to photograph, like people, nature and action shots, and some of the places they have been able to visit, such as the aquarium, local parks and Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Nicki Young shared that she enjoys the class because students in Endeavors have a hard time expressing themselves and photography has taught them a new form of self-expression. Jake Jobse said that the class has given him the chance to do something he has never done before in his life. Cameron Verge said that he was able to find a new passion through photography, while Joan Lankness said that she loves the opportunity to be near wildlife through her photos.

We are so proud of these students and their amazing photographs!



# Ocean View *High School*

17071 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-0656 • [www.ovhs.info](http://www.ovhs.info)



**Dr. Courtney Robinson**  
*Principal*

## College Application Day

Ocean View High School participated in the American College Application Campaign in early November. This campaign is a nation-wide effort to increase the number of first generation and low income students applying for college. OVHS worked with the Orange County Department of Education, community colleges, and the Cal State and UC campuses to help all the OVHS seniors apply for college.

The Ocean View staff worked closely with the seniors to get them ready to apply. Our guidance staff went over transcripts with every student and talked to them about the colleges they were eligible to apply for. The students were then able to gather all of their important information and documents together to help them apply for college.

During the college application days we also had staff members, parents, and other students cheering the seniors on as they entered our computer labs. Once inside, we had our Ocean View staff members and representatives from the different colleges on hand to answer questions and guide the students through the application process. We also had a teacher on campus who raised money to help pay the application fees for those seniors who needed help but did not qualify for fee waivers.



**Ocean View High School Seniors applying for college!**

The energy on campus was so positive. Our ninth- to eleventh-graders kept asking if we were going to do this event for them! Our final numbers were amazing. Out of 327 seniors, we had 296 participate in the event (90 percent), and 245 seniors applied to 314 colleges (75 percent). This campaign was a complete success!



# Valley Vista *High School*

9600 Dolphin St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/964-7766 • [www.vhs.info](http://www.vhs.info)



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

## Kindness Can Be Fun

When can kindness be fun? When teacher Meghann O'Connor's Leadership Class organizes a school-wide "Building Spirit and Kindness Week." The goals for the week included having fun, staying positive, building community, and encouraging kindness both on and off campus. The week was a great example of the ability of the Leadership Class to plan activities that successfully involve our students and staff.

Each day of the week had a fun dress-theme paired with a community building activity for all the students and staff members. The week began Monday on December 12 with "Pajama Day" and the goal of saying "Hi!" to someone new. Tuesday continued with "Mismatched" clothes, paired with giving someone a "high five." Wednesday brought "Team Spirit" (or workout clothes), and attaching a Post-it on the quad wall about someone who had done something kind.



**Alicia with therapy dog, Teddy.**

Thursday featured "Holiday Dress," doing something nice for someone, and a guest appearance by therapy dogs. The week concluded with "Flannel Friday," and we asked the students to say something nice to a teacher or staff member. The students were recognized each day for their participation, creativity, and enthusiasm in supporting the week's dress code and activities. Victoria Brown was selected as the student who best exemplified school spirit and kindness.

Building Spirit and Kindness Week reminds us at this special time of the year that there are so many ways to give to each other, and that the best way to "get" the true spirit of the season is to "give" it away.



# Westminster *High School*

14325 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-1381 • [www.whslions.net](http://www.whslions.net)



**Joe Fraser**  
Principal

## Special Olympics Inspired District-Wide Sports Tournament

On December 13, Westminster High School (WHS) hosted the inaugural Holiday Hoops Unified Sports Basketball Tournament. This inclusive, district-wide competition brought together adapted/modified physical education athletes and general education athletes or “partners,” to train and compete together on the same teams.

Three HBUHSD schools participated — Edison High School (EHS), FVHS – Fountain Valley High School, and Westminster High School (WHS). These three schools made up eight different teams split up in two different divisions — Pro and Collegiate. The team names were Ross’ Rebels (EHS), Lion Mambo (WHS), SAC Town (EHS), Baron Ballers (FVHS), Pouncing Pride (WHS), Den Defenders (WHS), Baron Bombers (FVHS), and Roaring Red (WHS).

After a morning full of hard-fought competition, the Fountain Valley High School teams claimed both the Pro and Collegiate Championship titles! The Baron Ballers and Baron Bombers were all awarded medals and the other participating teams were presented ribbons.

When asked about the success of the inaugural tournament, Doug Siembieda, Director of Special Education, stated, “We are hoping that this will just be the first step toward other Unified Sports tournaments, and eventually expand to invite schools outside of HBUHSD to participate.”

The tournament was made possible by physical education teacher Sue Williams, Westminster High School cheerleaders, girls varsity basketball players and referee’s, ASB, and administrators from throughout the district.

Sponsored by Special Olympics Southern California, the Unified Sports Basketball Tournament aims to promote and create social inclusion between individuals with and without intellectual disabilities through sports.

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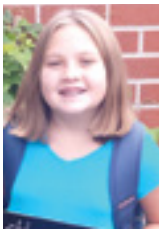
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An Enjoyable Read

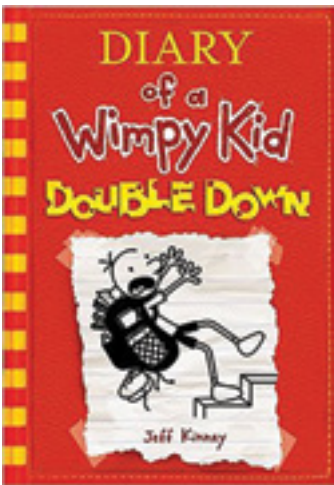


Courtney M.

The book I read was *Double Down*, and I enjoyed the book! Greg's class did a balloon experiment where they wrote a letter and tied it to a balloon, and then they released them. Greg's got the farthest of them all in the class. But it was also close to Halloween, so the reward for the balloon experiment was a huge jar of candy corn, so Greg had to win the jar of candy corn.

Later that night, Greg and Rowley made their costume. It was a two-headed monster. The next night was the big Halloween party that everybody goes to. Continuing on, tonight was the big Halloween party, so Greg and Rowley got ready for the party. His mom loves to embarrass Greg, so she brought some family fun homemade games from a magazine, and everyone ended up loving the party games!

By the way, I rate this book 5!



Courtney likes to play Softball, Football, and ride her bike. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

A Twist On a Classic



Richard J.

*Chickerella*  
Written and Illustrated by Mary Jane Auch

In the beginning it is like the usual Cinderella story about how chicken Cinderella, named Chickerella gets an Evil Stepmother, and starts living in a coop behind the house. Then, because of her poor diet, the eggs she lays become more and more transparent, until they are pure glass. When it's time for the Prince's ball, the Fairy Goosemother appears and helps Chickerella go to the ball, but warns her that she must be back by midnight. So, Chickerella goes to the ball, meets the Prince, and when the clock strikes midnight, Chickerella runs away and leaves behind a glass egg! The next day the prince sends his servants to look for the chicken who laid the glass egg. When they find Chickerella, the Prince tells her that instead of getting married, he wants to start a fashion line with her! When the Fairy Goosemother hears this, she appears and asks if she could help and design clothes for the line. In the end the three friends start a successful clothing line and live fashionably ever after! I liked that the book starts like the usual Cinderella story, but has a funny, unexpected twist, ending in a fashion show instead of a happy marriage.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

Winter Words Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by February 15, 2017  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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Congratulations to our two winners in November  
**Danielle Gertz and Alcatel Fierce**



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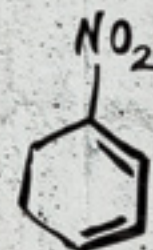
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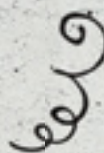
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