

Celebrating Shay Reardon, 2021 OC Teacher of the Year



Ms. Kim Bui (WTA President), Mr. John Staggs (Principal, Clegg Elementary), Mrs. Beverlee Mathenia (Senior Executive Director, Educational Services), Dr. Cyndi Paik (Superintendent), Mr. Art Jimenez (Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources) and Mrs. Shay Reardon (OC Teacher of the Year 2021).

From the Westminster School District

Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops.
— Henry Brooks Adams

As the world continues to operate under the ever-changing COVID-19 times, we have amazing teachers that continue to inspire students and families around us with their dedication, hard work, and innovation. At WSD, we are proud of our teachers as they continue to promote student learning using various strategies to meet the needs of our diverse learners. One of our special teachers, Mrs. Shay Reardon of Ada Clegg Elementary School has been recognized for going above and beyond her responsibilities. She was selected as one of the 2021 Orange County Teachers of the Year. From a pool of 58 district-level teachers of the year, Mrs. Reardon was in the group of six selected to represent Orange County. Orange County Department of Education created a virtual celebratory event to honor her and the semifinalists. She was awarded a special trophy along with other prizes. Mrs. Reardon has taught various grade levels and even has an administrator's experience. When anyone enters her classroom, they can immediately see her passion for teaching and love of learning by her students. Her colleagues see her as a gifted teacher, mentor, and a leader, who is willing to share creative ideas to reach all learners. For parents, she developed workshops covering a wide range of topics, including how to help middle schoolers with homework, bullying, and how to deal with

social media. Mrs. Reardon creates lessons that are student-centered, research-based and technology driven. For the community, she has organized donation drives for active military personnel serving overseas and survivors of natural disasters. Mrs. Reardon states, "Each day, I walk into my classroom extremely grateful to be a teacher and realize that it is my responsibility to create a safe place where students feel accepted, loved, and challenged creatively and academically." Let's congratulate Mrs. Reardon with a grateful heart!

Superintendents

Fountain Valley



Dr. Mark Johnson
pages 5–8

Ocean View



Dr. Carol Hansen
pages 9–14

Westminster



Dr. Cyndi Paik
pages 15–20



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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Happy New Year!

It is a new year, but I'm sure many of you are feeling like you are watching the movie "Groundhog Day." In this issue you will read how teachers are creating ways to keep students engaged and motivated in this abnormal virtual world.

Thank you for being involved parents while you are meeting your own day-to-day challenges.

Our next issue is March 3, 2021.

Be well.

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Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Can Happen at Any Age



Roy Nattiv, M.D.,
pediatric
gastroenterologist,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach



Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is a digestive disorder that occurs when acidic stomach juices, or food and fluids back up from the stomach into the esophagus. GERD affects people of all ages, including infants, which may experience this in the form of spitting up, particularly after feedings. This is normal and, in most cases, infants stop spitting up between 6 and 12 months. However, if it continues or you notice these other symptoms, talk to your child's doctor:

- Irritability
- Vomiting
- Refusing to eat
- Problems swallowing or breathing issues after eating

Treatment for gastroesophageal reflux in infants depends on their symptoms and age, but may involve feeding changes, medicines, or very rarely surgery.

Acid reflux happens to everyone on occasion, but if it happens too often, it can cause irritation or damage to the esophagus. Nearly 10 percent of teens and pre-teens in the U.S. are affected by GERD. Symptoms in kids can include:

- Burning sensation in the chest
- Chest pain
- Difficulty swallowing
- Dry cough

Similar to infants, treatment depends on the child's symptoms and age. Most kids with acid reflux can lead normal, active lives with minimal lifestyle adjustments and other treatments.

If you recognize signs in your child, seeking help from a pediatric gastroenterologist like the ones at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach will ensure a proper diagnosis and treatment. It's vitally important that you continue to seek care for your child when needed. Miller Children's & Women's has put extra measures in place to keep you safe. Learn more at millerchildrens.org/COVID.

Virtual Programs, Online Learning Support and More from HBPL

By Laura Jenkins, Children's Library Clerk

The Huntington Beach Public Library invites children and their families to tinker, learn, and explore at home this season! The Children's Library continues to offer a variety of virtual and take-home programs for youth ages 2 to 12, including virtual storytimes, take-home activity kits, and Zoom book clubs.

Registration for the popular elementary-age Take&Make Activity Kits opens weekly at 3:00 PM on Sunday through the library's online calendar (hbpl.libcal.com). Themed kits explore a different topic each week, incorporating STEAM concepts and including resources for further exploration. Preschool Busy Bags, for ages 2 to 5, and Teen Try Its, for ages 11 to 18, are also available on a bi-weekly basis.

The Wise Owl Book Club for tweens ages 8 to 12 will meet in February and March to discuss the book *Girl Giant and the Monkey King*, by Van Hoang. *Girl Giant* explores the world of Vietnamese mythology through the story of 11-year-old Thom Ngho, who is keeping a secret: she's strong. Like, freakishly strong. And it's making it impossible to fit in at her new school. When Thom's strength attracts the attention of legendary trickster Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, Thom makes a bargain to become "normal." The Monkey King is cunning, though – will Thom be able to outsmart him and get what she wants? Registration begins February 1 through the library's online calendar. All registrants will receive a copy of the book and a craft/activity kit!

The library also continues to offer virtual learning support through its online tutoring service, Brainfuse HelpNow. With your HBPL library card, you can access live homework help, essay editing, test prep tools, and so much more. You can also access article databases, online resources, and study guides. Find them online at bit.ly/HBPLchildrens.



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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Fountain Valley School District is proud to celebrate our 2021 Administrator of the Year, Chris Mullin!

Principal of Newland Elementary School, Mr. Mullin has been a part of the FVSD Family for nearly forty years! He attended Moiola School from kindergarten through eighth grade. He then attended and graduated from Fountain Valley High School. Mr. Mullin returned to the District after experience as a wild-land firefighter with CDF and with US Forestry as a backcountry ranger, followed by completion of his bachelor's in education at Montana State University. He taught science and PE at Masuda Middle School before becoming an administrator at both Fulton and Masuda. In 2013, Chris became principal at Newland Elementary School.

Chris embodies everything that is good about the FVSD Family. He leads the team at Newland with kindness, a focus on communication and a dedication to what is best for all students. As Superintendent, Dr. Mark Johnson explains, "Mr. Mullin is an exceptional leader who cares so much about his students, staff and community, and it is a privilege to honor him for his years of service and dedication. We are all proud to have him as part of our FVSD Family!" Newland continues to excel under Chris' guidance. Newland Elementary's record of academic excellence includes recognition as a California Distinguished School and a National Blue Ribbon School.



Newland Principal Chris Mullin celebrated as FVSD Administrator of the Year 2021.

The FVSD Family is honored to celebrate Mr. Chris Mullin for his character, dedication to teaching and learning and leadership. We are pleased to recognize him as the District's Administrator of the Year for 2021!

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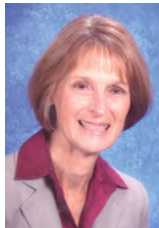
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Looking Ahead Together in 2021

By Sandra Crandall, Board President

Here's to 2021! A new year awaits! And, we in FVSD, are looking ahead together! We, officially, honored and said good-bye to our Trustee, Ian Collins who served the district so well for 12 years. We welcomed our newest Trustee, Steve Shultz who begins a four-year term. And, we thanked our out-going President, Jeanne Galindo, who led us for the past year.

- With a new team in place, we are looking forward to guiding the following initiatives.
- After a thorough process, which included teacher and community input, we adopted science textbooks for our K-8 students and history textbooks for our 6-8 grade students.
 - Culminating over a year's worth of work, which included teacher input and a pilot, a new report card for our elementary students will be tailored to support grading in both the hybrid and virtual models of instruction.
 - With careful thought, we are ready to phase in our intervention teachers to support our students who need extra help.
 - Tapping additional resources, including community partnerships, we are providing enhanced support for all students in the area of social and emotional learning.
 - Two more of our school sites will have construction completed by summer which will bring the total to 7 of our 10 school sites enjoying first-time-ever air-conditioning, new flooring, ceilings, windows, tile and paint.
 - With the help of our community and the passage of a bond, we will issue our final \$7 million in bonds so we can complete, as promised, all construction at all of our school sites.

Not only are we looking ahead to these wonderful opportunities, but we are looking forward to doing this work together! Happy New Year!

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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal

Keeping Students Safe

As we prepared to reopen for in-person instruction again, the Cox Elementary School staff was primed and energized to have students back on campus. Like all schools that reopened in the fall, Cox staff prioritized safety. We implemented a variety of sanitization procedures, health screening procedures, extra cleaning, mask use, physical distancing practices, and more. However, our confidence in the overall safety of our school site has really been a result of the collaborative work between home and school. Parents and staff alike have taken on the increased responsibility of keeping sick students at home and communicating proactively together.

The 12 weeks of in-person learning that occurred prior to winter recess will continue to inform our work going forward. The instructional gains of our students in that 12-week window has invigorated the staff to push through these difficult times. We look toward re-establishing the robust array of interventions and supports that the school had in place prior to the emergency closure in March 2020, and we are ready to go!

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to our PTA Volunteers of the Year, Deanna Beaman and An Rasmussen! Deanna and An are a dynamic duo who have gone the extra mile to support our amazing school!

Deanna and An are close friends who have worked together on so many projects to help support our teachers, our students, our PTA, and all of us at Courreges Elementary School.

Cooperatively, Deanna and An have served as our vice presidents of membership, chaired teacher appreciation week, worked tirelessly (even during quarantine) to provide spirit wear to all of our faculty and families, and coordinated last year's holiday shop and end of your carnival, in addition to volunteering almost daily in our classrooms and around the school.



Deanna Beaman and An Rasmussen help promote PTA membership during our first week of virtual learning.

Our school and PTA have benefited so much from Deanna and An's ongoing commitment. They are fabulous friends to many, dedicated community members, devoted wives, and, most of all, outstanding mothers to their children.

Thank you, Deanna and An! Congratulations for being recognized as our PTA Volunteers of the Year!

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Teri Malpass
Principal

The Show Must Go On!

While the pandemic has created obstacles, learning must go on and IS going on at Gisler! When you walk into classrooms you see plexiglass dividers on student desks, smaller class sizes, desks measured and marked 6ft apart and students and staff both wearing masks. However, the similarities with learning outweigh the differences with PPE! Teachers are using best practices to instruct students and finding creative ways to conduct assessments while engaging students in meaningful and powerful conversations!



In Miss Shofstall's fifth grade classroom, students prepare for their decimal exam with a 'Decimal Diner'. In the past, this activity has been done with students in large groups, but this year the diner became seating for 'one' and the learning was just as powerful. Miss Shofstall's students were prepared for their test and had fun while doing so.

The staff and students are beyond resilient at Gisler!

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

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



Erin Bains
Principal



Julie Gonzales
Assistant Principal

Student Council Food Drive

Each year, Fulton's ASB holds a canned-food drive to benefit the Someone Cares Soup Kitchen in Costa Mesa. This center provides food, clothing, shelter and guidance to help families make ends meet.

This year, under the guidance of President Amelia Kawaguchi as well as our activities director, Mrs. Rose, ASB members held another successful food drive to benefit families in need.

Students helped organize the flyers and donation boxes, and made posters advertising the drive. They also organized boxes for collecting donated items brought into classrooms and collected the donations throughout the week of the



What an impressive amount of donations. Thank you Falcons!

food drive. There was a competition between homerooms to see who could collect the most cans, and Mr. V's class brought in 295 and Mrs. Negro's class brought in 253.

By the end of the week, Fulton students had brought in 1,708 cans! The canned food drive was a great success!

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal



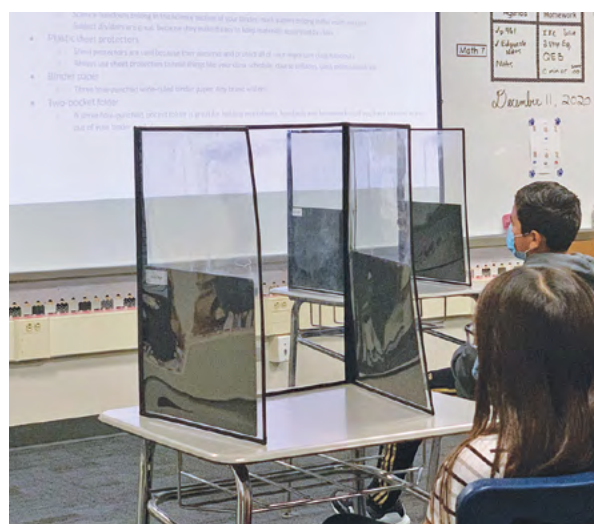
Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Grateful for Our Counseling Department

Masuda is very proud of our counseling program and Mr. Wesley Manning, our 6-8 counselor. Especially in this pandemic-period, Social-Emotional Learning, health and concerns are at the forefront of our students/families' needs. Within the FVSD, we work to help meet those needs and provide all with the supports that they need to successfully move forward.

Our counseling department meets with students and families on an individual basis for the following: academic goals/grades and organizational concerns, interpersonal relationship concerns, bullying (in person and/or cyber), college/career, self-harming behaviors, suicidal ideation,

and other concerns as they arise. They also work proactively with students in the classrooms and help with online resources, such as their popular "Wellness Wednesday" series. We are so grateful for all that they do on an ongoing basis to help our Monarchs to be their very best selves!



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

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

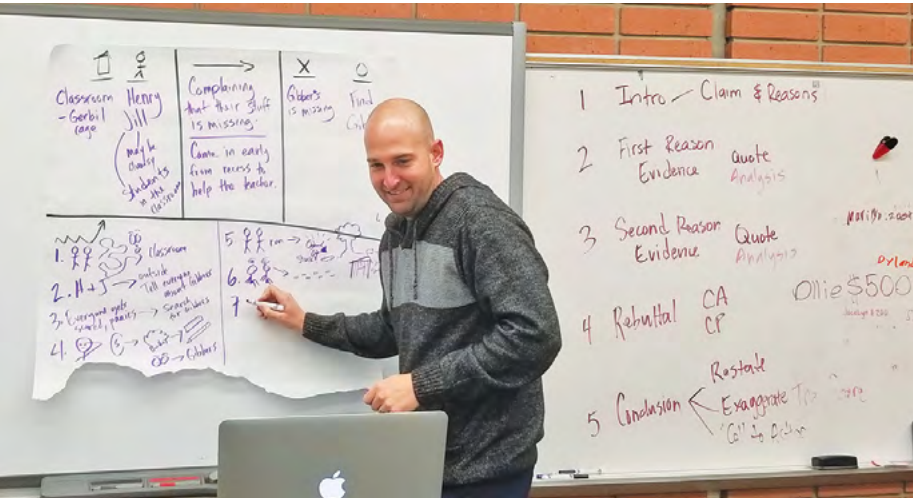


Christopher Mullin
Principal

Striving to Be Our Best

It is hard to believe that a year ago everything around Newland was so... normal. It now seems like a world away with virtual schedules, hybrid schedules, cleaning schedules. In some ways, school and classes look very different from a year ago. But, in many ways, things are very much the same. Students still love being in class. Teachers continue to go the extra mile and work diligently to create engaging lessons for their students. Whether in class on campus or online, teachers are working hard to keep students involved and on pace with their learning.

Newland has always had a history of high expectations and that has not wavered even with a pandemic. Moving forward at Newland, students and staff alike will continue to live up to our motto: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Your Best.



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

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



Dr. Patrick Ham
Principal

Theme for 2020-2021

Happy New Year!!! Each year, Plavan Elementary School's staff and community develop a theme to bring our community together. Our Panther Theme for the 2020-2021 school year is "Connect While Apart." Plavan Elementary school is a close-knit community and due to the current health related challenges, it was not an easy transition to start the school year with a third of our students choosing to learn virtually.

To keep our virtual friends and families close to our hearts, every virtual Plavan Panther is highlighted on our media center's Theme Wall. Our hybrid, in-person students and staff are reminded everyday that Plavan Panthers (both hybrid and virtual students) are indeed "Connected while we are apart" and look forward to coming back together in person in the near future.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Oka Wolfpack Kindergarteners are Super Readers!

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have our students participate in a hybrid in-person school model. Our staff is dedicated to providing each child each with love, support and motivation to learn and grow under these unique circumstances. This month we are thrilled to highlight the amazing efforts of our kindergarten students. Our kindergarten staff has developed many opportunities for students to become inspired to read and love learning through engaging Reader's Workshop lessons. The children are becoming "Super Readers" by using their super reading powers such as their pointing power, picture power and re-read power. Each day the children are immersed in music, a wide variety of reading materials and fun activities that inspires them to love learning while building a strong foundation for their future. We may not be in a normal school setting but nothing can stop our Oka Super Readers!

We are extremely proud of all our students' strength, dedication and perseverance!



Oka kindergarten students are using their Super Reader Pointing Powers!

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

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Molly Kuykendall
Assistant Principal

Much to Celebrate

There is much to celebrate at Talbert as the first trimester of the 2020–21 school year comes to an end. Physical education classes continue to thrive by having students participate in circuit training, speed-walking and physical-activity challenges. Kindness Week and Red Ribbon Week were a success thanks to our PAL students. ASB has been doing dress-up days and playing music during snack time. Halloween

festivities and Pajama Day were big hits. Every Thursday and Friday, you will find students and staff wearing Talbert spirit wear.

Not only is the yearbook class putting together this year's yearbook but they have also created a Talbert newsletter that went live in December. It is managed by students and for students. It includes interviews with teachers, discussions on hybrid versus virtual learning, and all types of interesting stories about our student community.

Although we can't see smiles on our students' faces, we can see it in their eyes that they are happy to be back at school and continue to participate in activities that make Talbert special.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

We've Got Spirit!

As Southern California began our stay-at-home orders, our schools were still fully functioning. And although we knew that changes were imminent, I had to admit...things were good (relatively speaking, that is)! FVSD's safety precautions had proven to work. Our students are interacting safely, and things are as normal as they can get.

The holidays were upon us, and it was perfect timing to celebrate. And, it was also the perfect time to show our gratitude.

We've come together in so many ways. We've worked hard, with a mutual mission to provide our students with the best school experience possible. We are Tamura together! So, we asked everyone to join our upcoming Spirit Week Activities! We've got spirit, how about you?

That's it for now. Stay safe, Tigers!

FVSD Connected *(Virtual TK 5/6–8)*

www.fvsd.us



Erik Miller
Principal

Chameleon Strong

This school year, FVSDConnected began with the goal of keeping students, staff, and families connected to the Fountain Valley School District family. Through student suggestions and voting, we adopted the chameleon as our official mascot.

Within FVSDConnected, we emphasize and encourage students to further develop their skills and abilities toward being Focused, Versatile, Strong, Dedicated, and Connected (FVSDConnected). Through these efforts, we are seeing students successfully stay engaged in front of a computer screen

and handle the various obstacles that come their way with flexibility. Being strong isn't about the physical; it's really about showing others that you have the mental resiliency to persevere and developing the emotional fortitude



to overcome the challenges and demands of learning online. Students have committed to being online for the entire school year, and their dedication toward learning in "new-normal" ways is helping all of us stay connected.

We recently recognized students from the first trimester, our Chameleon Champions, for leading the way in their classrooms, and being Chameleon Strong!



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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Spanish Dual Language Immersion

Last fall, Ocean View School District opened its first Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program at Harbour View Elementary for kindergarten and first grade students to learn English and Spanish and begin their journey to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural.

Dual Language Immersion is a unique educational model where children learn to think, read, write and communicate in two languages. Dual language immersion programs are a way for students to learn academic content (math, science, social studies, English) while also learning to speak, read and write in another language.

Our Spanish Dual Language Immersion classrooms contain a mix of students that are English dominant and Spanish dominant. This mix of students provides optimal interaction and learning.

The goals of Ocean View's Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program are:

- Think, speak, read, and write fluently in English and Spanish
- Achieve academically at or above grade level in English and Spanish
- Develop and cultivate an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures
- Acquire a sense of respect and responsibility for each other, the school, community, our country, and the world

Research shows that dual language immersion students outperform their peers in English-only programs. Students in dual immersion programs have high levels of self-esteem, high academic competence, and motivation. In addition, students will be better prepared for the global job market where a second language gives them a competitive edge.

Our Spanish Dual Language Immersion teachers are nothing short of amazing and, despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed, they have been able to effectively teach both languages in-person and virtually. The Dual Language Immersion program is getting a big thumbs-up from parents and students alike!

For more information about the program, visit www.ovsd.org

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Hope View is Golden!

By Patricia Singer, Board President

Happy New Year! I am so pleased to be providing leadership for the OVSD Board of Trustees as President this year. I've been a Trustee since December 2018 and served as Vice President last year. Prior to my service on the Board, I served consecutive terms as the President of our District's PTA/PTO/PTSA/PTSO Roundtable. As President of the Board of Trustees, I am looking forward to a collaborative and productive year.

Congratulations to Hope View Elementary School on being selected to receive the prestigious Golden Bell Award, sponsored by the California School Boards Association. The award recognizes outstanding public school programs for innovation, sustainability, and best practices that facilitate positive student outcomes. Hope View won the award in the School Culture & Safety category for promoting a safe and positive school climate.

Hope View utilizes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to foster a supportive and positive school culture. The program incorporates the core pillars of character traits, social emotional learning (SEL), and an incredible Guide Dogs of America program, to support students' needs while guiding them to take active steps toward making a difference in their school and local community.

In 2017, after a longstanding relationship with the Guide Dogs of America, Hope View teacher Holly Sjogren introduced a guide dog to her classroom, and the school community was forever transformed. Since then, they have welcomed three guide dogs that have comforted, supported, inspired, and motivated our Hope View students.

Research shows that the presence of support dogs in school helps students to relax, increases attendance, and promotes higher self-esteem. Many parents have shared that their children look forward to days when the guide dog will join their class.

The integration of PBIS, SEL, and the Guide Dogs of America program on the Hope View campus has provided a foundation for a powerful educational experience that inspires a passion for learning, responsibility, and an involved community of learners.

Early Learning Preschool

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach • 16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach • 8251 Heil Ave., Westminster • 714/847-2551 X 1107 • www.ovsd.org



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Director of Child Development Programs

Harvest of Learning

Early Learning preschool programs have not let smaller class size or event restrictions hinder the great fun and learning in our classrooms. Behind all the fun, games, art and play is a teacher who plans and coordinates opportunities for students to learn. An inviting pumpkin patch holds lessons in math, shape, size and textures. The exploration of the pumpkin itself has so many science concepts that it is hard to choose! From seed to food, there is a world waiting to be shared in our classrooms.

Friendship was the theme for the months of October and November. Each monthly theme holds daily lessons that include vocabulary, science, math, literacy, and fine-motor and large-motor skills.

The Early Learning teachers participated in the districtwide staff development day. No Such Thing as a Bad Kid: A Strength-Based Approach to Working with Youth was the topic. This approach brings a positive mindset to how we view and approach behaviors in the classroom.



Ms. Yezmin's class having a great time in the "Pumpkin Patch" at Westmont Preschool.

Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org/circle



Jessica Haag
Principal

Science and Safety!

School definitely doesn't look the way it has before, but a couple of things that have not changed are our Eagles' love of innovation and their curiosity. Even though we now all wear masks and practice social distancing, our students continue to thrive and are having so much fun with science! Experiments are still conducted—we are just all behind shields and we don't share any equipment, practicing safety in many ways.

Recently, our fifth-graders were challenged to design and build rockets from two-liter soda bottles that could travel as far as possible or stay aloft as long as possible. Guided by the steps of the engineering-design process, the activity culminated with rocket launches in our Circle View field. Students cheered one another on while recording the data for each rocket.



5th grade students waiting to launch their two-liter bottle rockets

It's a wonderful tradition and a favorite activity that we are happy to be able to continue with just a few safety tweaks. So much fun and great learning all at the same time!

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Our Great Programs!

This year, College View is excited to welcome our preschool Wildcats to our campus. With this great addition, College View is now able to service a wider range of students, providing an even more comprehensive program.

Preschoolers are inspired to learn in the exciting and modernized rooms. They especially love the latest state-of-the-art technology. When out on recess, our new preschool playground provides our Wildcats many diverse play opportunities. We love our not only our modernized site but also our newly expanded College View family.

College View Wildcats continue to rock with American Sign Language! Our year started out well, even with distance learning! Students across all grade



levels watched videos that the DHH staff created to teach them how to sign the Pledge of Allegiance and to learn a number of vocabulary words including feelings, colors and counting to 100, just to name a few. Each month, students can learn about our trait of the month, using ASL as well.

Golden View *Environmental Science School*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Green Ribbon Award

It's with great pride that Golden View Elementary, an Environmental STEM School, received the Green Ribbon Award. Our beautiful two-and-a-half-acre outdoor classroom, called Student Environmental Learning Facility (SELF), provides our students some of the most unique experiences that an elementary school could provide while meeting criteria of the Green Ribbon Award.

Our two organic gardens give opportunities for students to plant various crops throughout the year. Once ready, students learn the valuable lifelong skills of harvesting, cooking and eating their fruits and vegetables. Their gardening experience is further enhanced through lessons on energy and water conservation and reducing waste with composting.



Our Green Team, composed of Golden View students, encourages all our students to be environmentally conscious. As members proudly wear their green shirts with the reduce/reuse/recycle logo, their inspiration and leadership serve as constant reminders of our values. They help out with our Project Zero Waste efforts, our composting program and our recycling team.

Golden View is Green Ribbon proud!

Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org/harbour



Dr. Joy Harris
Principal

A Busy Time

Harbour View Pelicans have been busy! From Red Ribbon week to the Fall Read-a-Thon to our weekly spirit days, to character-themed compliment days or on voting on our new mascot's name, our students are fully engaged in learning that extends beyond the typical academic rigor Harbour View is known for. While safety comes first, we've not forgotten about the importance of keeping students

engaged in a healthy and productive school community. The first school in OVSD to host a Spanish Dual Immersion program, our students are not only acquiring a sense of responsibility to one another, they are also developing a stronger understanding and appreciation of other cultures. Our Dual Language Immersion students joined millions of people from around the world for Dia de Los Muertos in November, celebrating and remembering their own loved ones through books, pictures, art and stories.



Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



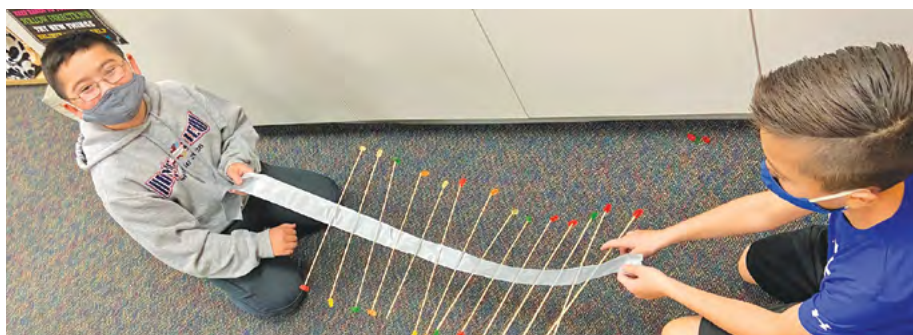
Christina Luckey
Principal

Sound Wave Experiment

Science at Hope View elementary has been soaring this year! From Elephant toothpaste, to electric currents, and even mini catapults, teachers here have done an amazing job bringing hands-on learning to our students during our Hybrid-learning opportunities.

Pictured here are two of Mrs. Broussard's fourth grade students showing how they used candy, tape, and skewers to support a project on soundwaves. Given the constraints of 6 feet apart and wearing masks students actively put this together through a safe process. Once complete the students were able to see how energy is transferred along the length of this model through a wave. The gummy candies made it easy to see how the waves move and the more energy the students applied to this system, by tapping the candy harder, the height of the wave increased.

Students at Hope View are enjoying hands-on learning opportunities and the teachers are making this happen.



Parker Sidell and Koa Wong sharing their Sound Wave experiment from Mrs. Broussard's 4th grade class.

Mesa View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Eagles Soar—Even Online!

This year—a year of shifts and changes—has definitely tested the resilience of our students and staff at Mesa. But one thing we have found over and over: our students and staff rise to the occasion time and time again.

As we head into our second semester, we look forward to providing new and exciting ways for our students to engage, build community, and interact with one another. Our teachers have provided students with skill-building lessons surrounding time management, resiliency and self-efficacy, especially during our Wednesday Advisement. And our students have answered this by growing into wonderful self-advocates, showing growth in academics and engagement, and becoming partners in their learning.

We have also been busy delivering Eagle All-Star and Eagle of the Week awards to students both in class while in hybrid instruction and to students' homes—always being safe with social distancing!—to celebrate our students who are rising above and beyond. When he's available, our very own Eddie the Eagle makes his way around Huntington Beach to hand-deliver these awards, which allows teachers to directly recognize students for being responsible, respectful and reflective Mesa Eagles.

Finally this semester, students are offered an opportunity to participate in community circles, a place where students come together with admin and staff to talk about important issues like inclusion, bullying, building a positive climate, building relationships even when distant, and important issues affecting our community and world, like racial injustice and recent violence or protests. And while these circles are mainly virtual this year, we are so proud of the steps being taken to ensure that the Mesa View community grows even stronger than before 2020. Here's to continued growth and meaningful discourse in 2021!

Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jill Van Der Linden
Interim Principal

Learning Remotely

By the outcomes that our students are producing, you wouldn't know our school was operating under the constraints and limitations of a pandemic.

It is wonderful to observe the excitement of students who are engaged in learning, whether in a remote setting or in person. Here are some highlights from the first few months of the year in grades K-1:

The Kinder students are learning about the different types of animals and what they need to survive. They researched reindeers and used a tree map to organize their information.

They wrote two sentences using the tree map. The Kinder students also made reindeer-directed draw art.



Our first-grade students are working on their Counting Collection. They decide how to count by what to count, what tools to use, and how to represent their total count by recording or drawing their representations.

The photo depicts two girls counting bread tags. They counted by tens and used ten-frames and cups as their tools. They first counted two groups and then combined them to find that they had $118 + 80$. Verbally they figured out that they could move the ten from the 118 and group with the 80 to make 90.

They then added $100 + 90 = 190$, and then said, "We still have eight more from the 118, so it's $190 + 8 = 198$. And all without doing an algorithm!

Manipulating ones, tens, and hundreds in a Counting Collection is important work for our first-graders!

Marine View *Middle School (6-8)*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

Making a Difference

Before the Holiday Break, our Marine View students participated in the annual school-wide service project. For the past four years Marine View Middle School has collaborated with the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter on several service projects, including our annual spring Kindness Week and the "Serve Our City" project last fall, which collected over 600 pounds of food for the shelter.

This year our Leadership class continued to "Serve Our City" by creating a COVID-friendly project to assist the Youth Shelter.

The Huntington Beach Youth Shelter had shared that they go through socks quickly, and so our Leadership students decided to hold a sock drive! The students promoted the sock drive through announcements and posters, created donation boxes, and then monitored and calculated the donations.

With the help of all of our students and community, we were able to collect over 500 pairs of socks for the Youth Shelter, which surpassed our school's goal. Marine View is so proud of our students' creative thinking during these difficult times, and their desire to safely help others.

Oak View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jenna Landero
Principal

Keeping traditions alive during this holiday season!

What a year we have had! One of the most anticipated events of the year is when Santa comes to Oak View! This year, while we knew it was going to look a little different, we wanted to make sure to carry on this important tradition. Our local Kiwanis club sponsored a small gift give-away for all of our students and one of our local partner churches, Branches HB was able to work their magic to bring Santa to the neighborhood. Two of our classes had a special meet and greet with Santa and then we took to the streets with an amazing car parade led by Officer Garcia from the Huntington Beach Police Department. Santa and all of his elves loved seeing all of our students, young and old, waving and shouting “Merry Christmas!”



Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Paul Kraft
Principal

Holiday Learning Engagement

Star View Elementary School students took part in many engaging activities as the holidays approached.

Kindergarteners explored multiple versions of “The Gingerbread Man.” They were busy comparing and contrasting the characters, settings and endings. They enjoyed developing listening skills and small-muscle coordination while creating Gingerbread Man art.

The first-graders completed a literature study of “The Gingerbread Man.” The students read multiple versions of “The Gingerbread Man” and compared how they are similar and different. The students designed their own “gingerbread houses” out of paper with different candy shapes and completed a graph to chart their candy use. The first-graders also wrote about the beginning, middle and end of “The Gingerbread Man.”

The second-graders were engaged in STEM projects that included creating a sailboat that crosses water, designing a parachute from coffee filters and a cup, and creating holiday ornaments with clay.

The third-graders joined the fun of creating holiday ornaments from clay.

Fourth-graders participated in lessons that enabled them to understand multiple perspectives while learning about the character trait of empathy by imagining they were walking in someone else’s shoes.

Fifth-graders participated in STEM activities and built a model of Earth and the sun to determine the cause of day and night.

GATE students got into the act with fictional-character election writing, emphasizing positive character traits and the use of dialog while employing the GATE icons of depth and complexity. Science highlights included hands-on experiments that tested or proved Newton’s laws and lab experiments by growing mold and researching the behavior of earthworms.

Star View is excited to begin the new year and has many engaging learning opportunities in store for the students!

Spring View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

Learning in Tough Times

Parenting a middle school child is difficult enough, and adding a pandemic on top of it all could push some of us over the edge!

Spring View Middle School wants to continue to support parents through the pandemic. In December, Spring View hosted a parent night and brought in licensed clinical professional counselor, author, and journalist, Phyllis Fagell. Ms. Fagell is the author of *Middle School Matters*, and is a frequent contributor to the Washington Post.

Through her Zoom presentation, Ms. Fagell interacted with our principal, Mr. Lempert, as she shared strategies to help middle schoolers thrive in the middle of a pandemic. She shared with parents that middle school is a time for families to develop a resilient child. Some of this focus includes having moral courage, managing challenging emotions, and approaching life with realistic optimism.

Parents and middle school educators can support our middle school students by being calm in their storm. Ms. Fagell reminded parents that their job isn’t to shield children from discomfort; it helps them recover when they experience it. The evening was insightful, reassuring, and meaningful. Spring View is incredibly grateful to the many parents who attended.

Parents who participated had the opportunity to receive a free copy of Ms. Fagell book, provided by Spring View. Our school community is grateful for supporting all stakeholders, students, and parents as we stay positive, strong, and safe through these challenging times.

Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Giving Back at the Holidays

Village View PTO began a beautiful tradition this year, a “Giving Tree.” Working collaboratively with our office, we discreetly identified families

in need. This was especially critical due to the impact of the pandemic. There were many families undergoing rough times and the expenses of the holidays was a huge burden. The outpour of our Village View community was tremendous. Gift cards for groceries, gas stations and wrapped gifts for the children filled our auditorium. Over 20 families were blessed with gifts, donations and gift cards to ensure a warm meal, presents under the tree and a little relief. Parents, teachers, staff and a private school class all contributed to the beautiful act of giving. Many of the families and staff were brought to tears of joy and gratefulness. Village View is a family, and we are honored to reach out to so many and provide this act of love.



Virtual Academy (TK-8)

www.ovsd.org



Keeping Things Normal

By Lori Florgan (TK-2), Jamie Goodwyn (3-5), Isis Ortiz (6-8)

Virtual Academy Ocean View's Virtual Academy believes that academic success, as well as our student's social-emotional development, is important to help our students SOAR to Success. The middle school schedule incorporates weekly time to teach social-emotional strategies to our students. During this 30-minute lesson, students are able to reflect and share their thoughts with their classmates and teacher and can hear from other students how they are able to adapt to this new environment.

In keeping things normal for students, we are still focusing on giving monthly student awards based on monthly character traits, and we are still having weekly middle school Spirit Days every Friday. Our student-leadership class has set up new and virtual ways for our students to participate. They have created grade-level spirit Padlets where students spotlight their school spirit.

We know that by giving these students some of the normal things and supporting social-emotional needs, we are helping them make it through these challenging times.



Vista View Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

A Safe Model!

Vista View Middle School has had a wonderful couple of months after opening school! Students are thriving in the hybrid model in the areas of appreciating being back on campus and connecting with their teachers.

To keep safety first, we have limited activities and outside people entering campus. However, we did a kickoff to school starting in October with a Music and Muffin Day during nutrition. Students listened to their favorite songs, ate muffins provided by our food-service team, and had a moment when life was noticeably lighter. As adults, we enjoyed this moment as much as students. Staff danced as they passed out muffins to students and had conversations. These days, our Falcons know it is the simple things that make the difference.



Students connection and our very own Mrs. Lande dancing!

Additionally, we had a virtual pumpkin-carving/decoration contest. This was a great moment for us to unite an activity at home to school. The submissions were creative and fun to see. Vista Falcons, SOAR!



Staff Submission



Student Submission

Westmont Elementary (K-5)

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



Sue Broderson
Principal

Comprehensive Support and Improvement

It may be a different type of school year, but our Westmont students are off and running! With the pandemic in full swing, Westmont opened its doors to a hybrid model at the end of September and welcomed students on campus in cohort groups. Teachers began getting to know their students, building relationships and working on social-emotional learning (SEL). We got right to work assessing student academic needs and remediation skills.

At the end of the 2019-20 school year, Westmont received a sizable grant to support student learning and outcomes for the 2020-21 school year. This grant allowed Westmont to add three additional teachers to provide layered support to our cohort groups. We know that best practices for student learning include in-person instruction for most of our students, but because of the pandemic, that was not a viable option. Fortunately, with grant support, we were able to offer four days a week of in-person instruction for students that need the additional intervention and support. Students from kindergarten through fifth grade are invited.

Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Cyndi Paik

WSD Wins Prestigious Golden Bell Award Again

The Westminster School District was selected as a winner of the Golden Bell Award from the California School Board Association for its innovative dual-language immersion program at Willmore Language Academy. WSD is one of only 40 recipients to receive this prestigious honor.

Willmore Language Academy is unique from other language programs because it is the only elementary school in Orange County that provides a 50-50 Spanish Dual Language Immersion model with Computer Coding Specialty program. The program includes a free or reduced fee preschool program for children as young as 3 years old, making the program accessible to all socioeconomic groups and cultural backgrounds. Additionally, this program integrates computer coding opportunities for students to acquire necessary computer skills to best prepare them for their future. Spanish immersion begins at TK/K, making it truly a multi-language learning experience. This is one of the reasons why WSD continues to be a destination district for all families.

Board of Trustees



Jeremy Khalaf
President



Khanh Nguyen
Vice President



Tina Gustin-Gurney
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David Johnson
Member



Frances Nguyen
Member

Outstanding Commitment by All

By Jeremy Khalaf, President

These past months have been unlike any we have experienced. The WSD school community has responded by working together, staying supportive, and remaining united to teaching and learning. We have much to be proud of in WSD. Our students have exhibited tremendous resiliency as they navigate their education. Our teachers have developed effective ways to engage students. An example of our exemplary educators is Mrs. Shay Reardon who was recognized as a 2021 Orange County Teacher of the Year. Also, our parents have been a critical bridge between students and teachers. Their engagement is a key contribution to student success. We are also proud of our Specialty Programs that are well recognized such as Willmore Spanish Language and Coding Academy and Demille Vietnamese Dual Language. Both are winners of the prestigious Golden Bell Award. In 2021, WSD will continue to remain focused on providing excellent programs for students and recognizing outstanding teachers in serving our community.

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsd.k8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Home School Connection

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other. — Millard Fuller

One way to build our Anderson community is through our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The goal of the PTA is to support the connection between the home and the school. It is with great pleasure that we announce our PTA Board for the 2020-2021 School Year.

President – Ray Ramirez
Secretary – Vera DeHaan
Treasurer – Trinh Vo
Auditor – Erika Vertiz
Historian – Patricia Cano

These amazing volunteers are working hard on behalf of all Anderson Tigers. The partnership between the home, the school and the child is an important part of your child's success in school. Parents are key! Here are some steps to take to continue to support you child.

- P – Participate in your child's learning.
 - A – Accept only the best your child can do.
 - R – Read to your child & with your child every night.
 - E – Exemplify those behaviors you would like your child to copy.
 - N – Nurture the attitude in your child that he or she can & will learn.
 - T – Talk to your child, and listen.
 - S – Snuggle. Have you hugged your child lately?
- Congratulations to our PTA Board and here's to a successful 2021!

Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsd.k8.us



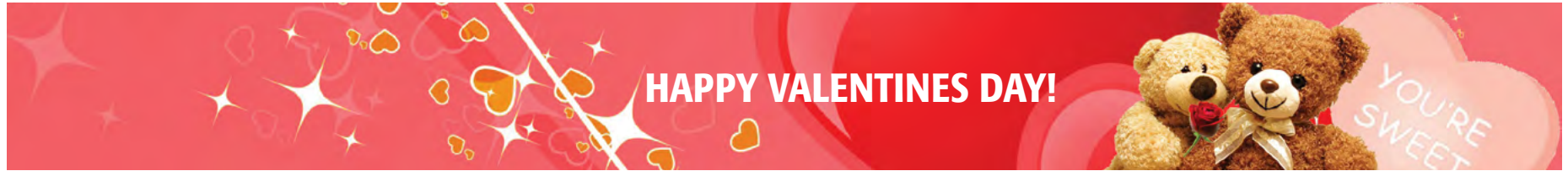
John Staggs
Principal

Successful Learning Models

It has been a different start to the school year, but the students, families and staff of Clegg Elementary School have done everything to make the best of it so far. We started off virtually with all grade levels, the same way we ended the 2019-20 school year. Then, in October, we opened the school with many safety measures in place to any families that wanted to attend a hybrid model, which involves coming to school two days a week and virtual instruction for the remaining three days. We had approximately 60% of the students TK through fifth grade that chose to attend our hybrid model, and 40% chose to remain virtual. Both models have been going extremely well, and it has been great to see students back on campus. We look forward to the day when we can have all of our students back here on campus.

Our Clegg PTA is doing everything it can to provide activities that resemble things that we have done in previous school years. For Halloween, the PTA held a drive-by trunk-or-treat, which is an event we hold each year for students to celebrate Halloween at Clegg. Twelve families decorated their cars with scary themes in the parking lot several feet from each other. Families were then able to drive students through the parking lot with their costumes on to see the amazingly decorated cars and be seen in their costumes in a safe manner. The event was well attended, and families very much appreciated being able to have some sort of normalcy for Halloween.

Our PTA's following event was a virtual Craft Night that took place prior to our holiday break. This event has already had a large number of families signing up, and we look forward to a great event!





Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Helping Hands Keeping DeMille Safe and Healthy

After several months of school closure, we welcomed students back onto campus for in person learning in October. A great deal of planning and preparation took place in order for us to meet all of the protocols to open up safely. We are very fortunate to have an amazing crew of support staff who are working tirelessly to keep us safe and healthy on a daily basis. These dedicated, diligent, and hard working women show up daily to do our morning temperature checks, supervise during brain breaks, clean and sanitize high touch areas, assist with dismissal, and even provide crossing guard services. They consistently do

this hard work with a positive outlook and a smile on their faces (under their masks, of course!). DeMille wants to say thank you to Norberta, Lizbeth, Maria, Gabriela, Marlin, Delfina, Christina, and Linh. Thank you for all you do!



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Embracing Our 'New Normal'

Despite the preparation and planning that have gone into creating our "new normal," Eastwood Dolphins have embraced the changes with smiling faces.

Things look a bit different this year on the Eastwood Campus in Westminister. While we started the year with a 100% virtual model, we were able to pivot back to an in-person hybrid model while still offering a robust virtual option for those families who choose it. On the first day back on campus, you could see students diligently following directional arrows adhered to

the walkways, participating in modified recesses to ensure that we maintain consistent cohorts, receiving prepackaged lunches delivered to classrooms to take home to eat, and learning surrounded by Plexiglas screens adhered to desks strategically placed six feet apart in modified classrooms. On that first day, you could see individual classroom teachers and students wearing masks taking tours of our adapted campus, learning new routes to navigate to restrooms and the office, and to grade specific entry and exit gates. On that first day, you could see students entering classrooms, washing hands, and being greeted with mobile cubbies with all needed materials issued to each student.

On that first day, while masks covered the lower part of all students' faces, you could still make out the smile that was underneath. The joyous sparkle in students' eyes said it all: They were happy to be back with their friends. They were happy to be back with a pencil in their hands. They were happy to feel normal.





Pam LeMuiex
Principal

Celebrating Computer Science Week

It’s Monday morning the week of December 7th, and Ms. Christina Sisneros’ fourth-grade classroom is buzzing about the activities they are planning for Computer Science Week. One group is chatting about how they will code their dance routine and teach it to their friends. Other students will be using computational thinking to break down the steps of the water cycle and create code that demonstrates their learning.

All across our in-person and virtual campus, students are developing projects that integrate grade-level content and computer science standards, as well as enhancing real-life skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

“Students look forward to computer science, and they have adapted well to learning in this new environment,” says Ms. Sisneros. “Last year, students had hands-on experiences with the engineering design process to build robots and structures. But the current learning environment has meant adapting these tasks in ways that students can collaborate safely.”

And our students are growing in unexpected ways. They are collaborating through Zoom breakout rooms, using document drawing and collaboration tools, and sharing their screens to work together. Students are getting a feel for what teamwork in the real world looks like.

The Finley Computer Science Magnet was established to ensure that all students have access to computer science education during their elementary experience. Beginning in kindergarten, the key focus of our instructional program is to teach students to think computationally and use problem-solving processes to solve real-world problems.

“Over the past four years, our students’ problem-solving skills have increased, and they understand how computer science helps them to think in a logical and systematic way to solve problems,” shared Ms. LeMuiex, our principal. “Students are learning how to use technology to create, rather than just consume. It’s exciting that they can see their futures at such a young age.”



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Heroes

The definition of “hero” is a person who is admired or idealized for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. Here at Fryberger, we have many heroes.

Fryberger’s classified staff are heroes. Heroism can be found in the front office in staff members who have now become technology experts. Our custodians are heroic for taking on a much larger workload, thus ensuring that everyone who walks onto our campus has a safe and healthy environment. Para-educators are heroes for continuing to care for our most vulnerable student population. Our food workers are quite heroic as well, always ensuring that our students still have access to healthy and nutritious meals each day.

The teachers who have become troubleshooting experts, and knowledgeable about all things tech, including webcams, computers, headphones, split screens, and educational teaching and learning platforms, are also big heroes. Whether teaching from their newly created classroom in their homes, or teaching alone in their classrooms at Fryberger, these heroes have the utmost patience, resiliency, and love for our students. Planning for virtual instruction is no easy task, and it takes a lot of time!

Let us not forget to mention our student families. Our families are definitely heroes during this time. Ensuring that their children have working technology, and stopping by our school office early in the morning or during lunch breaks to exchange Chromebooks or pick up class supplies, puts these folks at the top of the hero list. These student-family heroes who are now also acting as teachers (on top of their regular responsibilities) make sure that their students are focusing on Zoom and completing their assignments on Seesaw and Google Classroom.

And who are we all doing this for? Our amazing Fryberger students! We are heroes to see that our students feel safe. We are heroes to be inspiring and developing successful, productive citizens who are environmentally responsible in a changing world.

Hayden

Elementary (K–5)

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Giving to Those in Need

During these difficult times, we appreciate all the support we have received from our Hayden families. This support has continued with our annual can food drive.

Our can food drive helps support a local interval house that works with local families in need. Hayden is very honored and proud of the partnership it has built with the interval house over the years

and we look forward each year to help them anyway we can, especially around the holiday season. Our Hayden families and staff has been showing tremendous generosity supporting our can food drive even in these difficult times. At Hayden, we feel it is extremely important to teach our students the practice of giving back to those who are less fortunate than we are. The students and families of Hayden make all of us very proud to be a part of this great community.



Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

Enriching Experiences

Virtual learning has ushered in unique and enriching experiences for students at Johnson. Many of our teachers have discovered ways to see interesting places in the world without ever leaving the house. Mrs. Battaglia’s Global Awareness class recently attended a virtual field trip that took them to HENDY Woods State Park in Philo, California. Students learned about the coast redwoods and the long history of its resilience as a species. Additionally, the class explored how scientists believe these trees can survive in warming temperatures, prolonged droughts and intense wildfires. Students explored the many challenges that these ancient trees must overcome by exploring fire ecology and carbon sequestration. During the trip, a park ranger on location used his camera to take students on a tour of a giant redwood forest in northern California. Students were so engaged that the ranger agreed to stay on zoom with them during lunch to answer more questions.



Schmitt *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Congratulations, Super Readers!

Congratulations to our Super Readers who completed their Accelerated Reader (AR) program goal! We all know the importance of reading for the development of vocabulary, speaking skills, writing skills and the expansion of our knowledge base. For this reason, Schmitt teachers, along with our librarian, Mrs. Perzanowski, highly encourage our children to read daily. The AR program was purchased for the majority of our Schmitt classrooms to help our students monitor their reading and comprehension. For example, if one reads enough narratives, then narrative flow becomes ingrained in our minds and it will come naturally when we are writing. If students read nonfiction books, then they are expanding their knowledge and academic vocabularies. We are very proud of our students for taking the time to read independently to grow their minds. Following are the students who achieved their goal for the first trimester:
Third grade: Duy Doan, Jimmy Hoang, Khoi Tran and An Nguyen
Fourth grade: Huy Nguyen, Andre Pham, Victoria Montanez, David Montiel, Jonathan Nguyen and Jeremiah Estrella.
5th Grade: Bella Nguyen, Lynn Nguyen and Max Dang

Land School

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



Darek Jaronczyk
Executive Director,
Student Services

Social-Emotional Mindfulness

Land School is using a very “minds-on” approach to social-emotional learning! Teachers were recently trained in the Mind Up curriculum, focusing on self-awareness and self-management, which is no easy task for preschoolers! The lessons aim to teach children about the physiology of their brains, putting them in control of their emotional choices. Children are learning vocabulary associated with brain functioning, such as *amygdala*, *hippocampus* and *prefrontal cortex*; and they are understanding how those parts of the brain regulate feelings and actions. They also are learning strategies to quiet their minds in times of stress, which is definitely needed in



Preschooler Meditating

our current environment! Yoga, controlled breathing and meditation complement hands-on learning activities, stories and journaling, which help children know how to handle their emotions in a variety of situations. When asked why it was important to learn about the brain, one preschooler confidently answered, “To help us be happy and learn!” Indeed, it’s exactly what we want for our young children!

Meairs *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

The Garden Continues to Grow

This year things have certainly changed at Iva Meairs Elementary School. Children are learning virtually or participating in a hybrid model. There are few students on campus. Teachers are working extremely hard from home or in empty classrooms to make sure they continue to provide high quality instruction for their students. Using technology has become our way of life. The word zoom has taken on a completely new definition.



However, there is one thing that still draws students and provides a sense of normalcy, the school garden. When students are on campus they are fortunate to be able to go in the garden and maintain social distance while they weed, water and harvest things that were planted in the Spring and late Summer. If we could see behind their masks, we would see smiling faces as the students continue with the familiar tasks they have come to love.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

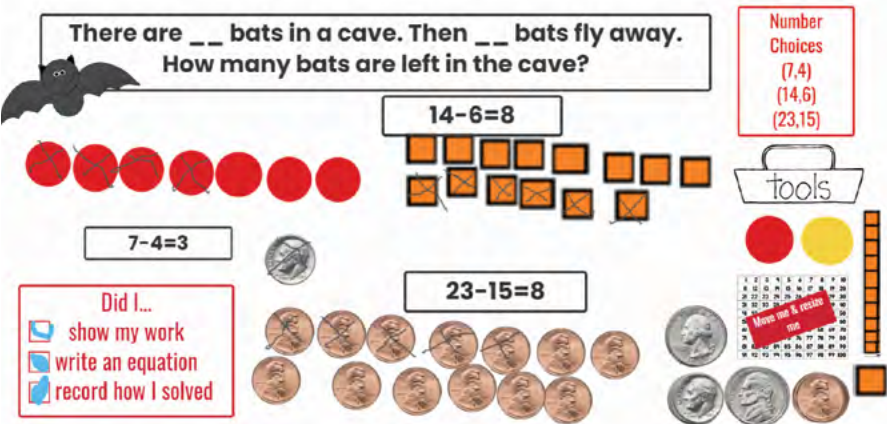
15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

School of Thinkers

At Schroeder, we teach our students to think and problem solve. One of the strategies we use during math is Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI). CGI is a “student-centered approach to teaching math.” Teachers engage students in thinking about math using a variety of strategies to think through problems and the different ways to solve them. Students build a toolbox of strategies to use when solving problems. They might use coins, a hundreds chart, Base 10 blocks, counters, a number line or their own drawing. During CGI, teachers observe children while solving word problems and ask guiding questions to move them through the five levels of development. This in-depth strategy is a powerful tool for students to use.



Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Virtual Learning

Here at Stacey, we wrapped up a successful first trimester of 100% virtual learning. We welcomed a new learning loss intervention teacher who is providing extra support in our English classes. With this new online instructional model, we are making a strong effort to continue to celebrate our students, have fun, and offer support. We recognize students who exemplify respect with Cougar Pride awards. We continue to offer clubs, such as origami, in a virtual setting. Our students had a blast during virtual spirit week dressing up as superheroes and wearing crazy hats. Many of our students participated in a virtual scavenger hunt at our school website. We continue to connect with our parents at monthly PTSA meetings. We had a virtual Back-to-School Night where parents were able to view teacher video presentations. Our staff is looking forward to when we can safely return to campus for in-person learning.



Teachers having fun dressing up for Spirit Week.

Sequoia *Academy*

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



April Derr
Principal

Don't Forget to Read

In October, we were able to reopen our school with a hybrid model. We are so pleased to have some of our students back on campus with us. Our school librarian, Mrs. Henley, knows how important it is to continue to foster our student's love of learning. One of her core beliefs stems from

this Dr. Seuss quote that is painted on her door, “The more that you read, the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” Therefore, she figured out a way to get books back into our student's hands in a safe way. Students can look up books at their reading level and request them via a google form. Mrs. Henley then delivers the selected books to each class. Our students are so grateful to read great books that support their learning. Don't forget to read a good book everyone!



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Robert Murdock
Principal

Value of Flexibility

The 2020–21 school year has gotten off to an unusual start! Online instruction followed by hybrid in-person instruction has taught all of us, teacher and student alike, the value of flexibility. Our students and staff are developing fantastic technological skills and adapting to the “new normal” that we face.

For the last few months, we have also learned many lessons about the process of safely bringing students to school in the time of a pandemic. We had approximately 55% of the students from TK through sixth grade that chose to attend our hybrid model, and 45% chose to remain virtual. Both models went very well, and it was great to see students back on campus. We look forward to the end of this crisis, when we can see all of our students back on campus.

The teachers and staff at Webber are doing everything they can to provide activities that resemble things that we have done in previous school years. Every morning, our students participate in video morning announcements. In these announcements, we highlight the character trait of the month, honor students on their birthdays, and share news for our families. We continue to recognize Wear Your College Shirt Day on Wednesdays and Spirit Day on Fridays.

As we look to the 2021–22 school year, our incoming kindergarten families will need information about what they need to do to have their children ready and enrolled in school. To that end, Webber will be hosting a kindergarten information night on Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in an online meeting.

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Tiffany Harville
Principal

Meeting the Challenges

There continues to be no limits at Warner Middle School! Through the pandemic, virtual learning and all the ups and downs, our Wildcat scholars still pushed through and were able to end their first trimester strong! Over 400 Wildcats met the expectation for Honor Roll and received a 3.0 and higher grade-point average. This year has been a challenge for parents, staff and especially our students. We are incredibly proud of all our students' hard work.

Safety continues to be our number one priority at Warner, but we couldn't miss an opportunity to celebrate our scholars who have excelled academically. Warner staff all joined together to honor these students and their families at our Honor Roll Drive-Through Celebration. Students received a certificate and a special treat for their perseverance, motivation and hard work. None of this would be possible without the support of our Warner family, who were also included in the celebration.

At Warner, our staff and our students have come together amidst a very challenging time. It is together that we will continue to reach the goals we have set for the 2020-21 school year and beyond.



Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Eva Matthews
Principal

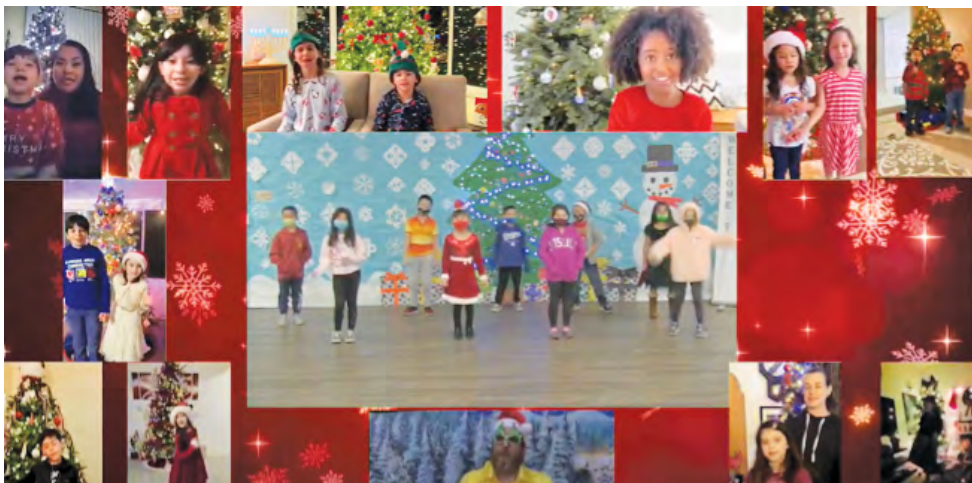
Happy New Year!

We are excited to begin a new year with our students and community. We have gone virtual until February 15, 2021; but that has not stopped us for enjoying and continuing traditions at Willmore. Halloween began our dress up days and lead us into our Thanksgiving gratitude awards for the month. In December, we kicked off our Winter Break with a Winter Wonderland Virtual Spectacular. Students of all ages and staff came together to sing our favorite Christmas songs and put on a virtual performance.

This truly was a community effort with all students' hybrid and virtual participation. It was exciting to watch families getting involved and participating in the joy of the season. On January 22 and 23rd our amazing PTA is hosting a Virtual Magic Show with our Wonderful Mr. Wheeler. Get your tickets at WILLMORE.MYECOMSHOP.COM. And, do not forget, we are enrolling for future Thunderbirds! Our Kindergarten Information Night is January 27th, please visit our Willmore website to view our video and link for



Christmas and Halloween Dress Up Days at Willmore



Willmore's Winter Wonderland Virtual Spectacular

