

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



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

**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 59**

**MARCH / APRIL 2014**

## Collaboration for A Successful LCAP

*By Dr. Donald Austin, Assistant Superintendent  
HBUHSD Educational Services*

**The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a condition for all districts in California to receive Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) money.**

All districts are now required to create LCAP documents to direct dollars supporting all students through the transition to the Common Core State Standards and preparation for post-secondary education and careers. Additionally, the plans provide measurements of success for English Language Learners (ELL), foster youth, students with disabilities, and low-income students.

All new accountability measures come with a degree of ambiguity when it comes to specific requirements, formatting, and required assessments. The LCAP is no exception and has some inherent complexity. The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) has taken the time-proven approach of creating a plan



**HBUHSD stake-holders collaborate using the Canvas® Learning Management System on recently purchased Chromebooks.**

anchored in our established strategic plan and other relevant guiding documents. We believe that the good work we have done in the past will serve us well as we prepare for the future.

In typical HBUHSD fashion, our stakeholder group significantly exceeds the outlined criteria in size and representation. Over 50 participants are currently involved in the creation of our LCAP, including teachers, classified staff members, parents, students, and administrators. We have encouraged each participant to advocate for all students and to ask critical questions throughout the process. We are utilizing the bulk of our efforts to examine our systems of support in the areas of conditions of learning, engagement, and pupil outcomes. While these are not new concepts to us, the LCAP is providing an opportunity for us to deeply examine our current practices and look for places to improve our services.

We believe that the collaborative and inclusive process we have put into place to create the LCAP will lead to powerful outcomes for our students. Our schools will continue to equip students with current instructional technology, well-maintained facilities, and a staff of professionals trained to promote problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, informational literacy, citizenship, and personal and social responsibility.

## Essential Technology

*By Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent  
Ocean View School District*

**The goal is to have students using technology at an early age to prepare them for their future**

It is an exciting time in the Ocean View School District! The district is in the process of conducting a large, technology upgrade. As we progress with online assessments for students, which require more technology tools that are accessible to students and staff, school districts need to provide technology tools to keep up with ever-changing technology changes. If you are like me, our children are so much better with technology than we are. If I need my phone programmed, I give it to my seventh-grade student to get it done faster. This is the future; technology will increasingly be a part of our daily lives. The district is excited to have the ability to use restricted funds that target modernization of our buildings for these technology purchases.

The district is completely overhauling its infrastructure, purchasing new servers for storage, switches for school connectivity, and mobile access points for wireless accessibility in classrooms. Sixteen mobile computer labs will be purchased for schools, with more coming next year. The goal is to have students using technology at an early age to prepare them for their future. From typing and creating PowerPoint presentations to navigating through search engines, students will be ready for their future in which technology is essential.



**Students at Harbour View in the Ocean View School District use their time in the school's computer lab to prepare for this year's Smarter Balance Assessment; the new statewide assessment is completely online for students in grades 3-8.**

### Inside:

<b>Miller Children's Hosp.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FV Regional Hosp.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Camps/Activities</b>	<b>11-13</b>
<b>HB Central Library</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FV &amp; HB Mayors</b>	<b>31</b>

### Superintendents



**Fountain Valley**  
**Dr. Marc Ecker**  
pages 7-10



**Ocean View**  
**Gustavo Balderas**  
pages 14-18



**Westminster**  
**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**  
pages 19-24



**Huntington Beach Union High School**  
**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**  
pages 25-30

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**Covering the:**  
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**HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL**  
**OCEAN VIEW AND**  
**WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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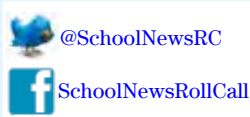


**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 10th Anniversary publishing *School News* covering these four school districts. The changes in technology have been remarkable during the 10 years, but the one constant has always been each district's focus on the best for their students even with severe budget cuts. You have learned new terminology over the years and the latest is Common Core. As these standards are implemented you will become familiar with the results. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is May 7.



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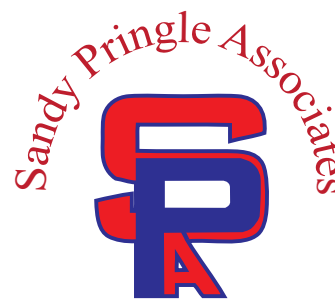


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## Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach

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## Kids with Asthma



**Eliezer Nussbaum, MD**

*Medical Director,  
Pulmonary,  
Allergy, Asthma  
and Cystic Fibrosis  
Center*

Asthma is one of the most common chronic childhood disorders affecting an estimated 7.1 million children in the U.S. according to the American Lung Association. It's the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15.

Although there is no cure for asthma, we know what common asthma attack triggers are and strive to educate children and their families how to avoid their triggers.

Take action in your home to protect your children from triggers like: dust mites, mold, animal dander, strong odors and second-hand smoke.

There are some triggers that can't be avoided like changes in the weather and pollen in the air, but many common triggers are caused by our environment and the people and things in it.

It's surprising the impact making a few changes in your everyday life can have on the community. A cleaner environment can mean fewer hospitalizations for children with asthma, decreased absenteeism from school and a community where they can breathe easy.

Consider adopting a few of these strategies for clean air:

- Drive less – think about walking, riding your bike or carpooling
- Maintain your car – get regular checkups for emissions
- Don't "top off" your gas tank
- Use alternative fuel or vehicles, such as hybrid or electric cars
- Don't leave your car running for extended periods of time
- Conserve energy – turn off appliances, lights, etc. when you leave a room
- Remove indoor asthma triggers from your home to help avoid an attack
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Quit smoking – it's good for you and others



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**Corey, 12-years-old,  
Miller Children's  
Acute Asthma Patient**





## Keeping Children Safe from Poisoning



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

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports unintentional poisoning as the second leading cause of unintentional injury death. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old.

Poison prevention starts with awareness of possible hazards around the house and taking the necessary precautions.

- Keep all harmful household products in cabinets or drawers with locks or safety latches.
- Do not put poisonous products in food or drink containers. Store them in their original containers.
- Do not mix household products together (e.g., mixing ammonia and bleach together can produce toxic gases).

- Purchase products that have child-resistant packaging.
- Do not refer to medicine as "candy".
- Store food and cleaners in separate cabinets or rooms.
- Wear protective clothing when spraying pesticides or other chemicals. Put products away after use.
- Open the window and turn on the fan when using chemical products inside.
- Follow label directions when taking or giving medications.
- Place carbon monoxide detectors in the home.

If poisoning does occur remain calm and call 911. If the victim has swallowed poison and is alert and awake, have them spit out any remaining poison. Do not have them vomit or use syrup of ipecac. If poison comes in contact with the skin, remove clothing and rinse with lukewarm water for 15 minutes. Flush poison in the eye with a steady stream of room temperature water. If poisonous fumes are inhaled, go outside for fresh air immediately. Call the Center for Poison Control and Prevention at 1-800-222-1222 for more information.



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## Heart Attack? Chest Pain?

### Every Minute Matters.

**If you think you might be having a heart attack, seek treatment immediately. Call 911.**

Too many patients have waited because they don't want to alarm their loved ones, or maybe they're worried about incurring unnecessary bills. Whatever the reason, the average patient arrives in the Emergency Department hours after the onset of symptoms.

**What they didn't know was that the faster a heart attack is treated the less damage to the heart and the better the outcome of their treatment.**

We understand the need for speed when it comes to treating what may be a heart attack. And we understand your desire to avoid unnecessary admissions and medical costs.

As an **Accredited Chest Pain Center**, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital will help you do both. We use protocol-based procedures developed by leading experts in cardiac care to reduce time to treatment in the critical early stages of a heart attack. Our processes are designed to seamlessly coordinate across the entire hospital, not just the Emergency Department, and to assure that patients aren't sent home too soon or needlessly admitted.

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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marc Ecker**

### Fountain Valley's Public Information Initiative

Isn't it interesting how things work out? Last spring, the Board of Trustees adopted their District Goals and Board Interests for 2013–2014. Focusing on three particular interests, two of them new and one that has been ongoing, the Board entered into a contract with Clifford Moss, a public information consultant, to assist them in raising the school district's profile, advancing efforts toward a 21st-century teaching and learning environment and building the fund-raising capacity of the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation. To be sure, all three of these interests to a great extent are very closely aligned around an important connection: linking our schools with the majority of our voters and business community who do not have students in the district.

The district's outreach initiative is consistent with the new School Funding Plan, which requires school districts to reach out to stakeholders, soliciting their engagement and input as to what services schools should be providing students and how the new dollars provided in the Local Control Funding Formula should be spent. Three community information meetings have been held by the district, and three more are planned for the spring. A presentation on the school district, its strengths, and its needs will be made at the Fountain Valley Mayor's Breakfast.

The district's outreach initiative has been a big boost to the work taking place now by the Local Control Accountability Development Team, as draft goals and delivery strategies are being completed in compliance with the budget statute. The school district's overarching objective is to create a realization that strong and vibrant communities cannot exist without high-performing and forward-thinking 21st-century schools. College and career readiness begins in preschool, and excellent teaching and learning require appropriate digital devices and connectivity for the entire time our students are in school.

## Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

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

## The Place for An Outstanding Education



**Nicola Weiss**  
*President*

Many families in our district have children who are sitting in the same classrooms that they sat in as students. Our families stay here because they know that our schools are outstanding. Our teachers are passionate about their students, and our volunteers help out in any way they can.

But we have come to a big hurdle. Our classrooms are changing. They need to become more technology based in order to stay on task for the new testing. That's because technology helps reach students in ways that the older methods cannot. The one-paragraph lessons of past textbooks have led to the opening of new doors to deeper learning and research, but this time online.

Why does this matter? It's simple: our schools need your help more than ever! We need to find additional funding because of the failure of a recent bond issue. The 86 percent of people in homes without children need to learn what this new technological change will be bringing to our schools, and how it can prepare students for the future.

The District has hosted several "State of the Schools" community nights to share this concern and educate the public, but we need to reach larger numbers. If you are interested in helping out and becoming involved, we would love to hear from you! We are looking for people who want to make a difference in our students' learning environment, and support our teachers.

If you have time to spare, please contact Nicola Weiss, the president of the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation, at [cn.weiss@verizon.net](mailto:cn.weiss@verizon.net).

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Ian Collins**  
*Clerk*

### A Community of Learners

The implementation of the Common Core State Standards has required a paradigm shift for the teaching and learning process. The Fountain Valley School District is not resting on its laurels of the high levels of achievement of our students and is embracing the stringent standards set forth by the California State Department of Education. Additionally, the accountability process that is prescribed is well under way.

In order to implement these new standards, the teaching staff must be supported with a comprehensive staff development program. Anne Silavs, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, and Dr. Julianne Hoefer, Director, Assessment and Accountability, have provided the leadership to this new endeavor.

The main focus has been in the content areas of English language arts and mathematics. In English, 12 sessions have been scheduled for the 2013–2014 academic year. Fourteen sessions in math are planned with additional sessions in writing, data analysis, and specific staff development for principals and assistant principals. Board members and other district office staff have been invited to all of the sessions, depending on what their schedules permit.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the accountability part of this new adoption. This includes making sure all the stakeholders are involved and determining how monies should be allocated. Each district must describe its goals in a three-year accountability plan, which will be updated on an annual basis. The plan outlines eight goal areas that include student achievement, parent and community involvement, and school climate.

The success of this new direction requires a steep learning curve for students, teachers, administration, and board members. In a very real sense, we are a community of learners.



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

### Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K–5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • [www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courreges.html](http://www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courreges.html)



**Chris Christensen**  
*Principal*

## Science is Fun!

Courreges held it's annual Science Day and Astronomy/ Science Night on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. The OC Astronomers were on hand with their

powerful telescopes to help students view the stars and there were a multitude of hands-on science labs for all ages.



A special "thank you" to Julia Wong (PTA parent volunteer) for her hard work and dedication in organizing the science day and astronomy night. Thank you Julia!

# James H. Cox *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

## A Special Visit

Tom Torlakson, the 27th state superintendent of public instruction, toured Cox Elementary School this past winter. He was accompanied by Fountain Valley Superintendent Dr. Marc Ecker, Board President Mrs. Sandra Crandall, and Cox Principal Patrick Ham.

Cox is a Title I school that, for the past two years, has scored above 900 on the California Academic Performance Index. Mr. Torlakson was able to visit classrooms utilizing the new differentiated instruction model presented in small-group settings, Common Core implementation, technologies such as Smartboards, iPads and Chromebooks embedded into the instructional model, and the computer lab ST Math and "Ticket to Read" literacy programs.

Instructional excellence and innovative programs were on full display at Cox during Mr. Torlakson's tour of our humble school. Our students and staff members want to thank Mr. Torlakson for choosing to visit both our own school and Talbert from the Fountain Valley School District.



**Tom Torlakson visits students in Mrs. Emily Harvest's 4th grade GATE cluster classroom.**

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

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



**Jennifer Perkins**  
*Principal*



**Inger Kent**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Fulton Falcons SOAR!

Fulton Middle School was excited to recognize six outstanding students and two amazing parents at the FVSD Board Meeting on Thursday, February 6th. Students were recognized for their extraordinary effort, achievement and/or improvement. Parents were recognized for the many contributions that they have made to Fulton School and our community! Congratulations to: 6th grade – Taylor Tran and

Alex Wittick, 7th grade – Taylor Thomas and Cory Taylor, 8th grade – Taylor Nguyen and Kent Bewley. Fulton parents who were honored that night were Christine Allcorn, our PTA President and Julia Wong, Hospitality Co-chair. We are so proud to be able to honor these outstanding Falcons for all they do and so lucky to have them as a part of the Fulton family!



# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Erin Bains**  
*Principal*

## An Innovative Creation

This year our 5th grade classes participated in a Cardboard Challenge when creating their Valentine's Day Boxes. After hearing about Caine's Arcade and [cardboardchallenge.com](http://cardboardchallenge.com), the 5th grade team thought this would be a great way to challenge and excite their students. Students used cardboard boxes other disposables to create an innovative creation that would ultimately hold their Valentines. The sky was the limit for their imagination. Students used the engineering design process to perfect their boxes. They planned, created, and improved their design until it was exactly what they wanted and they were confident to present to their class. Students thoroughly enjoyed the project and took their Valentine's Day to a whole new level!



**Kendall, Ava, and Riley show off their hard work!**



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

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



**Jay Adams**  
Principal



**Jennifer Kajdasz**  
Assistant Principal

### Future Stars!

During the month of February, Masuda School recognized some of our outstanding students: Masuda's "Winning Hand" for the 2013-14 school year. At the school-board meeting held in February, we had a celebration to honor these fabulous students for their accomplishments and for their exceptional contributions to our school. We are proud to applaud Safa Yosafi and Darren Truong, sixth



grade; Bethany Pham and Jerome Dovan, seventh grade; and Vivian Bui and Gavin Longworth, eighth grade. The entire school staff is extremely proud of their accomplishments and is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with such stellar students.

Also honored at the board recognition were outstanding parent volunteers Dianne Luna and Stephanie Vogen. These two PTA members have spent countless hours going above and beyond for the students and faculty of Masuda. There aren't enough thank-yous in the world to show our appreciation to these two moms and to the rest of our phenomenal PTA.

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

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



**Erik Miller**  
Principal

### EEK! It's Early Entry Kindergarten!

In February, Oka Elementary welcomed a new classroom of young students to our campus. Early Entry Kindergarten is designed for students who have turned 5 years old by the first day of class and are looking to be better prepared as they enter kindergarten in the fall.

Oka is also proud to be the only school within the Fountain Valley School District hosting Early Entry Kindergarten. The teacher, Kristy Stadlman, has been hard at work getting her

classroom prepared and ready for students. Families and incoming students were invited to attend an early welcome the week before school started as well, to help ease the transition.

Although just recently into their new school year, this classroom already has students engaged and learning in small groups. Oka looks forward to helping these students get a jump-start as they get prepared to enter kindergarten in September.



**Oka's newest students hard at work.**

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

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



**Chris Mullin**  
Principal

### Students Present at Watershed Conference

Newland Elementary School's fifth-grade classes recently presented during the Watershed Conference at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, funded by a grant through the Ocean Institute. The grant allowed the fifth-grade class to attend different field trips centered on water science and the scientific method.

Students traveled to the institute to experience hands-on science, such as fish dissection, water testing, and learning about the importance of keeping our watershed healthy. Newland's fifth-graders then went to the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and the Talbert Marsh to test the water quality and investigate the health of the soil. Students recorded the data collected from the watersheds and made determinations on the health of our wetlands. Finally, they created a PowerPoint from this data.

In January they headed back to the Ocean Institute to present the data to other schools, scientists, and professionals. Our fifth-graders were quite impressive with their depth of knowledge about our watersheds.



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

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



**Julie Ballesteros**  
Principal

### Welcome Visitors

Plavan School was fortunate to welcome nine Chinese students and two Chinese educators from the primary school attached to Xi'an Jiaotong University in the city of Xi'an. This visit was arranged through the Pasadena-based American Education Federation, which helps facilitate such exchange activities by bringing together American and Chinese educators to share valuable perspectives of benefit to schools in both countries.

The goal of the visit was for Chinese educators and students to learn about our instructional practices, learning strategies, and the way our American teachers manage their classrooms and interact with students. For two days the fifth- and sixth-grade students and educators joined the classrooms to observe and participate in daily activities.

It was wonderful to see how intrigued both the children and adults were with our teaching styles and classroom routines. Our Plavan students and staff members were also amazed to learn about Chinese culture, and how classrooms are conducted in China. This experience gave our students an opportunity to open their hearts and minds to different perspectives, and develop an appreciation for a different culture.

It is my hope that this experience, and the friendships the students made during the visit, will inspire our children to learn more about other cultures, and prepare them for a bright future.

Samuel E. Talbert

Middle School (6–8)

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



Cara Robinson  
Principal



Jennifer Morgan  
Assistant Principal

We Need Your Vote!

Talbert Middle School, and the Fountain Valley School District Education Foundation, are proud to announce science teacher John Wood as this year’s candidate for Mr. Fountain Valley. Mr. Wood is representing the STEM Academy (science, technology, engineering and math) at Talbert Middle School.

The seventh-grade cohort of the STEM Academy has done some amazing things in its initial year; the end of the year will culminate in a design of its own Remote Operated Vehicles for testing on the ocean floor. Mr. Wood hopes to raise funds to expand the STEM program to a seventh- and eighth-grade cohort.

He remarked, “I really believe in the STEM Academy. Students are offered unique opportunities to participate in real-life applications of science and engineering in the classroom. Incredible field trips extend the learning outside the classroom as well.”

The more votes Mr. Wood receives, the greater the chance he has of raising money for STEM. All donations will benefit Talbert’s STEM to a certain extent, but if Mr. Wood wins the title of Mr. Fountain Valley then the funding that is awarded will really help the program.

Log on to vote at <http://fvcommunityfoundation.org/mr-fountain-valley>. At \$1 a vote, Mr. Wood is asking for your support! You can vote as many times as you like.

Seats to attend Mr. Fountain Valley can also be purchased. The event will be held on Friday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Saigon Performing Arts Center in Westminster. Talbert students and teachers thank you for your support!



Hisamatsu Tamura

Elementary (K–5)

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



Kathy Davis  
Principal

Taking a Walk Through California

Eureka! The Tamura Elementary School fourth-grade students have discovered a unique, exciting way to learn about California history. It’s Walk Through California. This interactive presentation uses a skillful facilitator to guide the students through the history of California, using games and activities that encourage active participation. The four student teams earned points for their knowledge as “experts” about California history and geography. Extra points were given for memorization and answering questions in complete sentences. The students also enjoyed dressing up as historical figures.

During the second half of the program, the students were able to learn about the geography of California by placing objects related to specific regions, cities, attractions and natural wonders on a large California floor map. The winning team received a first-place certificate, and the other students received special participation certificates.



Football 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 subject line)

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

- |              |               |               |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Clipping     | Kicker        | Scrimmage     |
| Coach        | Linebacker    | Special Teams |
| Conversion   | Loss of Down  | Super Bowl    |
| Cornerback   | Offsides      | Tackle        |
| Defense      | Personal Foul | Tailback      |
| Field Goal   | Possession    | Touchdown     |
| Flanker      | Quarterback   | Yardage       |
| Goal Post    | Roughing      |               |
| Interference | Safety        |               |

Congratulations to Julia Navarro and Anastasia Levenets  
Winners of the January Contests!





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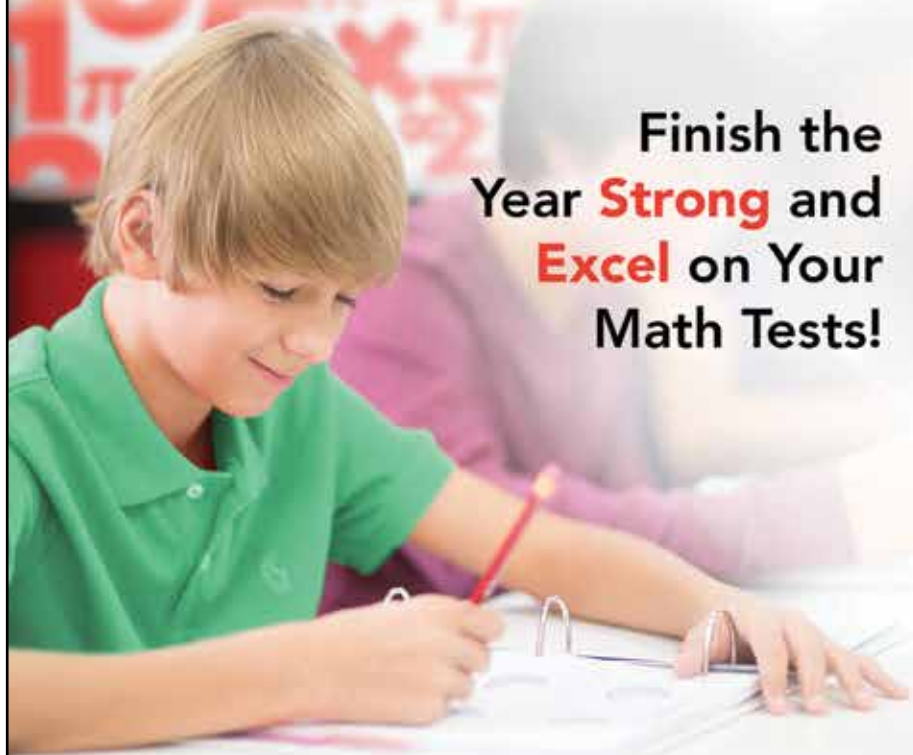
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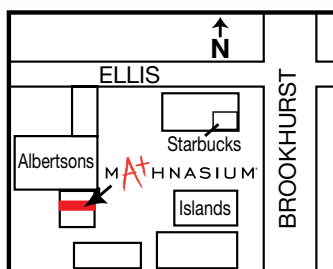
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## Note-ables

### Grammaropolis



**Kate Karp**

I don't often review multimedia, but this assemblage is exceptional. If you cringe at grammatical and usage errors and want your children to use language correctly—a key to future success—send them to Grammaropolis.

Grammaropolis is the hometown of the parts of speech. There's even a mayor—his name's Coert Voorhees, and he built this town. Mayor Voorhees is a former seventh-grade language teacher who found that his students had more fun personifying parts of speech than memorizing them. They learned them thoroughly, too, which is the idea.

"Sure, you can memorize the fact that an adverb modifies a verb," the Mayor said. "But if I show you a video of an adverb pulling a verb over for speeding and giving him a ticket, not only are you going to connect more deeply with that information but you're also going to have more fun doing it."

The CD, produced by indie-rock artist Dr. Noize and performed by the Mayor and other vocalists, is your Grammaropolis guidebook. Meet Roger the Pronoun who has this indefinite feeling about himself. Power couple Vinny the Action Verb and Lucy the Linking Verb rescue nouns from inaction and link up insecure ones with states of being. Interjections, the lives of the party, get invited everywhere. And there's Slang, spouting street stuff and stealing the show. Children—and you—can interact with them all through the website's games, e-books, quizzes, entertaining slide presentations, and hilarious, clever videos starring the sentence builders themselves.

Grammaropolis's website, [www.grammaropolis.com](http://www.grammaropolis.com), has a number of subscription options. Go play for a spell—or an entire paragraph.

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



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## Huntington Beach Central Library

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**Barbara Richardson**  
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While many people know about the library's eBook collection and have downloaded eBooks onto their mobile devices, they don't know that the library also carries electronic magazines. Huntington Beach Public Library is proud to announce that it now offers Zinio digital magazines. Issues of magazines such as National Geographic, US Weekly, Country Living, Newsweek, and more can be downloaded onto a library card holder's mobile device or computer at no charge. Users can read magazines through a web browser or on apps for Apple, Android and Windows smartphones and tablets. Visit the library's databases page at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org), select Zinio and follow the instructions. Once you have downloaded a magazine, it is yours to keep. You never have to return it and it's never late or lost. Discover the many interactive features and links that eMagazines are able to offer that the traditional magazines cannot. Try out Zinio. You'll be amazed.

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# Ocean View School District

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### Campus Visits

Every year, Ocean View School District Board members are invited to join the superintendent and his cabinet on visits to all of our 17 schools. Each school showcases what they do best: instructional practices, school climate, team-building, and collaboration.

We usually start in the morning, meeting and talking with the principals and staff members before the students arrive. Then we start our classroom tours; it is here where we see learning in action! We hear about different learning models all the time, but as we visit the classrooms, we actually see the students using these strategies in all subject areas. It is so inspiring to see them actively engaged with their teachers, as well as each other, as they discuss the fine points of an award-winning novel or construct a space ship out of building blocks. Pride in their work is evident, as they excitedly share with us what they are working on.

The visits are also informative. We learn about all of the different activities occurring at each campus and specific initiatives each campus is undertaking. A major focus in the district is educating our students and providing them with the tools they will need to be successful, productive citizens. It is evident through our school-site visitations that great work is being done to achieve this goal!

## Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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## Circle View *Elementary*

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



**Carol Furman**  
*Principal*

### Students Think About Their Thinking

As part of the new common core standards, students at Circle View have been building their critical thinking and literacy skills during mathematics! Students are learning how to solve problems in writing, explain their thinking in words, and provide evidence using tools when solving math problems. More time is being spent teaching students these mathematical practices, which require

students to “think about

their thinking!” Mrs. Pouelsen’s first graders recently practiced adding 2-digit numbers by using models of tens and ones before adding and subtracting using paper and pencil. By engaging students in hands-on math activities and teaching them how to explain their thinking, we are providing our students with the skills to be successful mathematicians in the 21st-century and beyond!!



## College View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Smith**  
*Principal*

### A Huge Success

Three hundred family and staff members attended our Family Math Night on January 23. Fifth-grade teachers Mrs. Caryn Keller and Mrs. Kathleen Young were the masterminds behind this exciting project.

In addition to over 15 challenging math activities for our kindergarten through fifth-grade students, the computer lab was also opened so that they could all share the ST Math, Moby Max and Education City programs. Pizza was sold at the event so that our families could leisurely browse the activities and enjoy a sit-down meal. There were many staff members and PTA representatives who helped run this two-hour event, and I want to thank them for their participation.



The Family Math Night was the first of three evenings designed to increase parent involvement at our school. We far exceeded our expectations, and are looking forward to a Family Science Night planned for April, as well as a Family Movie Night in May.



# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

## Our Wonderful Transitional Kindergarten Program

February is time for kindergarten registration, and our “Transitional Kindergarten,” or TK, is a wonderful option that many parents may not know about.

Golden View’s TK class is an exciting educational opportunity for children with birthdays between September 2 and December 2. If your child is turning five by June 30, 2014, then he or she is automatically placed in regular kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten provides a wealth of benefits for the other, younger students. It delivers a developmentally appropriate curriculum that is aligned with the kindergarten standards, and bridges the path between preschool and kindergarten. It gives children a head start that can yield huge payoffs in future academic success. TK also provides the gift of time, one that helps build a strong foundation for success in elementary school.

Kindergarten today is far more academic than it once was; it is similar to what first grade used to be. The youngest children in kindergarten can often risk struggling academically, emotionally and/or socially. At their young age some may have limited experience in interacting with their peers and teachers, while others may not yet know how to listen or follow a structured class schedule.

TK can help prepare many children to succeed in school, and it can lessen the likelihood of at-risk or retention concerns. It gives families an additional option to make sure that their children can enter kindergarten with maturity, confidence and the skills they need to excel.

Thank you to our wonderful TK teacher, Wendy Ulrich, for providing us with such valuable information!

# Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

## The Buddy Bench

Harbour View second-grader Quincy Aisch mentioned to his mom that sometimes he can’t find anyone to play with at recess, and it makes him kind of lonely. Together they went on the Internet and looked for some ideas that might help Quincy and others with this problem.

Their search led them to Christian Bucks, a York, Pennsylvania second-grader who had noticed that some of his classmates didn’t have anyone to play with either. So he came up with a way to help them. Quincy and Christian began emailing each other, and he told him about the “Buddy Bench” that was installed on his school’s playground.

A Buddy Bench is a special place where students can sit if they are feeling bored or lonely. Other students can go to the bench and ask if they would like to play or talk. We are so proud of Quincy for bringing the Buddy Bench to Harbour View!



# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

## An Awesome Author’s Day

Hope View Elementary School students gained firsthand experience through interaction with three amazing authors as they shared their journeys in the writing and publishing of their books.

On Author’s Day, our kindergarten and first-grade students were mesmerized to have creative author and illustrator Kevin Gard share his experience of how he developed the character Sully in his book, *Oh, Sully!*

We were fortunate to have yet another astounding author, Debra Garfinkle, share her book, *Stuck in the Seventies*, and her experiences as an author. Our second- and third-graders were interested to learn how she gathered information and ideas to write and publish her books.

Amy Friedman, a children’s book author, enthralled our fourth- and fifth-graders through the reenactment of her tales. Our students participated in acting out the stories as Amy Friedman narrated. Our students loved the books and author!

It was truly a wonderful and exciting day! We thank our PTO and Mrs. Bielicki for their sponsorship and organization, along with our lead teachers, Mrs. Banchiere, Mrs. Kliem and Mrs. Dixon. Many thanks to our volunteer docents, authors, and students for making our Author’s Day a tremendous success!

# Marine View *Middle School*

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



**Shelley Morris**  
*Principal*

## ASB Brings It Home from Conference

*By April LeMense, ASB Advisor*

ASB students participated in a January leadership conference along with student leaders from middle schools across Orange County. The conference, sponsored by the California Association of School Leaders, featured motivational speaker Scott Backovich, who spoke about having the courage to be a catalyst for change. Students were challenged to step up and help their peers feel welcome and accepted for their individuality. Students also participated in spirit activities they could implement in spirit assemblies and at lunchtime at their own schools. These included “repeat after me” songs, relay races and water-balloon baseball, which was a big hit!

After an outdoor catered lunch, the final part of the day was spent with “The Kindness Campaign.” Students learned ways to promote kindness on campus, and our ASB Leaders did just that! We all learned so much from this amazing day and are working very hard to bring all these strategies to life at Marine View! Go Mariners!



# Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

## Project-Based Learning

Lake View students have been learning through engineering! As a STEM (science, technology, engineering math) model school, Lake View is using a nationally acclaimed program called “Engineering is Elementary. Fourth- and fifth-grade students are working through an engineering unit each trimester. The focus for the first trimester was on environmental engineering. Students worked collaboratively with teammates building a student-designed basic water filter. They asked pertinent questions, imagined and brainstormed possible solutions, wrote a plan, and created and then improved their filters.

Students extended their research to test the quality of water from a pond in Huntington Central Park. They ran several water-quality tests before and after running water through their filters to see if it improved. The project reinforced the scientific method, and students learned what goes into a well-engineered product.

Fifth-grade students traveled to the Ocean Institute in Dana Point to present their findings to 10 other Southern California schools. This is project-based learning at its best!



# Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Laura Dale-Pash**  
*Principal*

## Amazing Authors Celebrated

Congratulations to Gerardo Flores, Juan Medina and Natalie Camacho! These students wrote winning essays for the “Something Different” contest sponsored by the Huntington Beach Public Library.

Gerardo, Juan and Natalie were honored at an awards ceremony in January at the central branch of the library during the Author’s Festival. In attendance at the ceremony were Ms. Dale-Pash, Oak View Principal; Mrs. Berkers, third-grade

teacher; Mrs. Salas-Yoshii, fourth-grade teacher; and Mrs. Kozlowski, second-grade teacher as well as the students’ parents. Gerardo won the Third Grade Award of Merit for “An Odd Day;” Juan won honorable mention for “Wolf Blood;” and Natalie won Fourth Grade Best Plot Twists for “The Switch.” Their winning essays will be on display for the next month in the children’s section of the Central Branch of the Library. Oak View is very proud of Gerardo, Juan and Natalie, our amazing authors!



# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Dr. Stephanie Henry**  
*Principal*

## Academic Language

The Common Core State Standards define general academic vocabulary as powerful words frequently encountered across disciplines and informational, technical, and literary texts. These words are often used in academic discourse and have been identified from a corpus of academic texts. At Mesa View Middle School, our teachers and families have embraced a shared responsibility for our students’ literacy development by implementing a comprehensive approach to teaching and supporting the use of academic vocabulary each month.

Our goal is to promote the use of common academic vocabulary in all classes and subject areas. The first week of each month, 10 academic terms are explicitly taught in the students’ English/language arts classes. Structured opportunities are then created in all of their other classes to identify and use these words. Our PTSO has also supported our efforts by sending the monthly academic word list to Mesa View families to be reinforced in conversations at home.

We have seen a measurable increase in the use of academic language as students discuss and write about what they are learning. Our hope is that students can transfer these skills as they develop subject-matter literacy and demonstrate their knowledge on the online assessments this spring.





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## Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
*Principal*

### A Model Program

The Oak View Preschool staff and kindergarten teachers are learning how to support the social and emotional competencies of young children. They are participating in a training program called CSEFEL, or the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning.

Staff members attend Saturday workshops conducted by instructors from the WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies. The following components are part of the program: training on all tiers/modules of the Teaching Pyramid, external and internal coaching support, and a leadership team that meets regularly to guide implementation. It will take three years to fully implement this program.

Thank you to Cindy Reichenthaler and Margaret Friedmann for representing our kindergarten team. Along with our preschool staff, they are helping to build a bridge between the preschool and elementary grades. This collaboration has prompted the Orange County Department of Education to identify Oak View as a model site for the rest of the county!



**OCDE Coach, Elizabeth Watters, presents Conflict Resolution strategies from Module 2 of the CSEFEL program**

## Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
*Principal*

### Spring View is Multi-Talented

As a principal, there aren't many things more satisfying than having your teachers or students get recognized for the fantastic things they do. Recently, two of our Spring View students were recognized for their talent and hard work.

On January 28, Dylan Holt's Christmas story was selected for an honorable mention at the Huntington Beach Central Library. The mayor of Huntington Beach presented Dylan with his award. Dylan was one of only six students out of over 550 to be recognized for outstanding writing.

In addition to Dylan's accomplishments, we also had another student recognized for her talent. Robbie Alvarez auditioned for and was selected to be a part of the Southern California Vocal Association's Honor Choir as an alto.

Both Dylan and Robbie represent the kind of well-rounded students that Spring View is blessed to have on its campus.



**Dylan Holt**

## Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

### Summer Program

Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is excited to be offering a summer program for 2014. Located on the Pleasant View School site, Camp OVPP will follow a nine-week program for children ages three to five years.

Our highly motivated and enthusiastic teachers have designed their lessons by using the same academic curriculum that follows the California Preschool Learning Foundation's. Along with academics, the students will also enjoy a more playful camp schedule of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water play days, special visitors, special events and more.

At Camp OVPP, our students will make new friends, learn new concepts, and have fun in a safe and nurturing environment. Camp OVPP will begin on June 30, 2014, and will consist of the following weekly themes: America Rocks, Super Heroes/Fairy Tales, Under the Sea, Incredible Insects, Fitness Fun, Space Explorers, Mad Scientists, Everyone is Different, and Luau Week.

Come join us for a summer that we guarantee will keep your students learning, laughing and enjoying the season.

## Star View *Elementary*

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



**Jamie Kinder**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating the Year of the Horse

On January 30, Star View Elementary School held its annual Tet Festival to celebrate the Vietnamese New Year. As first-grade teacher Audrey Tran presented to each grade level, she spoke about the year of the horse and Vietnamese customs and traditions.

The most exciting part of the festival is a complete presentation by the Westminster High School Vietnamese-American Culture Club. This year, they brought a group of drummers to open the show and build suspense. The high school students then put on a fashion show with traditional dress (ao dai), contemporary Vietnamese music, and a live singing performance by one of the high school students. Lastly, the lion dance began. The drummers entertained the crowd as Star View students fed the acrobatic lions red envelopes (li xi) for good luck in the new year.

The day concluded with fun games and crafts for the children.



# Sun View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## Spring Has Sprung!

February was a busy month! We began registering new kindergartners for September. Fourth- and fifth-graders raised money for the American Heart Association through their annual “Jump Rope for Heart” event. Congratulations to the top three fund-raising efforts of fifth-graders Catrina Thomen, Jaden Hernandez and Makayla Covert!

The Student Council collected Pennies for Prevention to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We were visited by dragon dancers from CSUF in recognition of the Chinese/Vietnamese New Year; and we hosted a visiting children’s author, Lori Polydoros!

Sun View is offering parent education on Internet safety. A 10-session parenting series on Wednesday mornings from 8:15– 10:15 a.m. is running through May 7.



We look forward to our partnership with OneOC’s Spirit of Giving Earth Day 2014, the annual Jog-a-thon and Parent Conference Week, which helps meet our goals *and* our families! We continue to thank the many helping hands who continually make Sun View a wonderful place to grow and learn!

# Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Amy Kernan**  
*Principal*

## We and Our Shadow!

Vista View held its annual Junior Achievement Reverse Job Shadow Day in January. Business and education leaders came for an all-day event to emphasize résumé building, employment requirements, college and career readiness and 21st century skills. Students participated in engaging conversations and activities including creating a résumé and answering interview questions.

After the Reverse Job Shadow, students attended an assembly by the Fab4, a celebrity basketball team. In a not-so-close game, the Fab4 beat the Vista View staff 34–2, proving that our staff needs to stick to teaching! But even though we lost, everyone had a great time, and several students had the chance to play basketball games for great prizes.



The entire event was filmed for the nationally televised Fox TV show *Elizabeth Stanton’s Great Big World*. Students and staff were interviewed and filmed by the camera crews throughout the day, showing the entire country what an amazing place Vista View is!

# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Tryon**  
*Principal*

## Plan Ahead and Be Prepared

Did you know that we plan for disasters all year long? Our staff and students practice monthly drills that help build routines for evacuations and various types of emergency situations. Our school has been surveyed by the Huntington Beach Police Department, and we have revised our lockdown procedures annually. Our School Site Council gives much-needed input to our school safety procedures and helps us define areas of need. Our staff has training on drills and procedures throughout the year.

Our health technician, Mrs. Shelly Fernandez, has worked diligently and passionately to revamp our emergency bin. Mrs. Fernandez, along with several key PTA volunteers, has inventoried our disaster supplies, purchased new supplies, and put together kits for every student and staff member. Her team has reorganized and color-coded all of our supplies to allow for easy access and use for all of our emergency teams. With the generous support of our PTA, our supplies are all up-to-date and comprehensive.

As you know, it is the details that make the difference in any situation. With the combined efforts of all of our staff and parents, we are well-prepared and trained for emergencies. Practice makes perfect, so ask your child about the last fire drill. Our next one is scheduled for April 17. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our efforts.

# Westmont *Elementary*

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



**Karen Sandors**  
*Principal*

## The Write Stuff

January 28 was an exciting day at Westmont Elementary School! We were pleased to welcome authors Deborah Turner and Dan Roddick to our school.

Ms. Turner did a wonderful presentation for our students. Her books tell the true story of Willy, a rescue dog who overcame a spinal injury. The students were delighted by her presentation and with Chibi, the therapy dog she brought to meet our students.

Mr. Roddick is the author of many hobby-driven books. He did an outstanding presentation and even taught a creative writing session for some fourth- and fifth-graders.

After school the fun continued at the Huntington Beach Children’s Library, where an author’s reception and awards ceremony took place for the winners of the Friends of the Children’s Library writing and illustrating contest. We are so proud of winners Ashley Mochado, Kaiser Gibbs, Mark Nguyen, Isaiah Lane, Jarret Spurlock, Kayla Jerez, and Monique Miller!





# Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7311 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

### Succeeding Despite Challenges

Recently, I had the privilege of attending one of the most poignant and heartwarming awards ceremonies of the year. The Westminster Educational Leadership Association (WELA) annually honors students who have succeeded against all odds, exceeded expectations, or simply won the hearts of the educators who helped them achieve their goals. WELA recognizes students who have made a special effort to succeed and triumph over obstacles such as: overcoming physical and mental barriers; changing their attitudes; improving their grades; improving their attendance; or resisting bad influences. In addition, they are active in school programs, student conflict resolution, cross-age tutoring, community activities, and peer mediation.

Many of these students have overcome extreme adversity. Several of our winners have been battling serious physical challenges, such as leukemia and hearing loss, but they have not let these difficulties hinder their accomplishments. Conquering these types of obstacles takes both mental and physical toughness.

Each of these students has shown tremendous courage and determination. They set very lofty goals for themselves and have met or exceeded them. These winning students are an inspiration to us all.



### Every Student Succeeding Award Winners:

(Top) Alex Tran, Finley; Carlos & Bryan Zarate-Herrera, Anderson; Destiny and Ashley Hagberg, Schroeder; Daniel Lopez, Schmitt; Preston Htay, Eastwood; Peter Do, Webber; Sarkis Avakian, Hayden  
(Front) Blanca Mendez, Stacey; Matthew On, Fryberger; Joshua Cisneros, Willmore; Alexander Lewis, Sequoia; Michael Tonthat, Clegg; Ammy Luong, Warner, Daniel Mena, Johnson; Dr. Marian Phelps, Superintendent. (Not pictured Angel Gil, Meairs)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Mary Mangold**  
*President*

### Employees of the Year

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Westminster School District (WSD), I would like to salute our staff members who have been recognized as outstanding employees this year. All of these people go above and beyond the call of duty in performing their jobs, and they demonstrate a dedication and commitment to children that is second-to-none. Congratulations to our 2014 Classified School Employees of the Year!

### Lizeth Cortez, Special Education Caseworker at Land School Paraeducator and Instructional Assistant

Lizeth was hired in 2005 as a Special Education caseworker. She is dependable, dedicated, and trustworthy. She works well with her students and with her peers. Lizeth always does her work with a positive attitude regardless of the situation and is very receptive to changes and new challenges. She is a take-charge person who can easily handle difficult situations and manage challenging behaviors. She is very knowledgeable about autism and the discrete trial teaching curriculum. Lizeth is always very eager to help in any situation and handles everything with complete confidentiality. She is an employee who can always be counted on.

### Michele Ezzo, Lead Food Service Worker at Finley Elementary School Child Nutrition

Michele began her career with WSD in 2004 as a substitute food service worker. Shortly thereafter, she was hired as a permanent food service worker, then a salad bar monitor, and then she earned her current position as a lead food service worker. Michele is tenacious, steadfast, reliable, incredibly detail-oriented and a joy to be around. She is known for her positive attitude, integrity, and leadership. Rather than talking about things that need to be fixed, Michele takes the initiative to help find solutions that help her entire team. She is an asset to the district as well as the community. Michele and her son volunteer at a local food bank and have participated in beach clean-up days. When she had a chance to visit the Ronald McDonald House, she was so inspired with how the organization was helping families that she volunteered to bake cookies for the families and donated clothing and food. For many years, she has demonstrated dedication, an outstanding work ethic, attention to detail, and a heart of gold!

### Glen Hanson, Senior Custodian at Sequoia Elementary School Maintenance and Operations

Glen began his career in the district in 2002 as a custodian and was promoted to senior custodian at Sequoia Elementary in 2010. Glen is an amazing and vital part of the Sequoia team. Every day he comes to work and always does his very best. Glen can be counted on daily, is always effective and efficient, and is always positive about his work. He goes above and beyond as well. For example, he often comes in on the weekends to help with projects that need to be done, such as lowering all the desks for a teacher in a classroom. This past month he came in on Saturday to get everything ready for the third annual Andrew Brumback carwash. Each day he is a key part of the Sequoia lunch team. The students at Sequoia love to help Mr. Glen, and he always rewards them with Eagle Bucks. Glen is an amazing day custodian, and the Sequoia Elementary family feels fortunate to have him on their team.

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 20

## Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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*President*



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**Classified School Employees of the Year: Wendy Thompson, Sandy Humphrey, Glen Hanson, Michele Ezzo, Lizeth Cortez, Dawn Negri (not pictured)**

**Sandy Humphrey, School Office Manager at Sequoia Elementary School Office and Technical**

Sandy has been with the district for 18 years. She began as a library media assistant, then became an instructional media technician and was hired as the school office manager at Sequoia in 2003. Sandy has the unique ability to break down language and cultural barriers by making everyone feel like part of the Sequoia family. Colleagues have watched in awe as she simultaneously welcomes parents and advocates for an Individualized Education Program meeting, soothes a student with a stomach ache, helps a teacher with a technology problem, processes payroll, and graciously helps a family register their children. Her work performance is top-notch. She helps staff members to be successful in their jobs and inspires everyone to do their best. Her dedication to the school community is evident by the students who bring her pictures, sweet letters, and special treats. Her principal says, “Sandy is our rock, and she keeps us anchored on a daily basis. I couldn’t ask for a more dedicated, honest, hardworking, warm, and committed person to work with every day.”

**Dawn Negri, Bus Driver – Transportation**

Dawn has been a bus driver in the district for an impressive 23 years! A beautiful smile, a cheerful “hello,” and a helpful hand greet students every morning and afternoon as Dawn drives up in her big, yellow bus. She is dependable and consistently goes beyond her routine duties. On many occasions, Dawn has waited with a child at a bus stop or in the office to make sure the parent and child connect. Dawn always encourages her students, especially those with special needs, and she helps them feel safe and cared for to and from school. She creates a safe and positive environment and can be routinely heard saying, “Look at what a great job you are doing,” “I am so happy to see you today,” and “Have a great day,” to the children. While she does not tolerate improper behavior on her bus, she encourages safe behavior in the most positive of ways. She models appropriate behavior and explains the dangers of unsafe behavior. Dawn has formed close relationships with the students she transports, which has earned their trust and the appreciation of their parents and teachers.

**Wendy Thompson, Community Liaison at Sequoia Elementary School Support Services and Security**

Wendy has been a community liaison with the district since 2003, and she also substitutes for school office managers, clerk typists, and health assistants. Wendy is a master at keeping Sequoia families informed and involved, and one of the ways she does this is by building long-term relationships with them. She will go above and beyond to help aid students and their families with the resources they need for students to be successful. Promoting school pride is also very important to her. Wendy creates all of the fliers for every event on the campus. Not only does she create beautiful fliers, but she keeps the front office looking very chic. In fact, she and her husband designed and built the desk in the health aide’s office and re-covered all the chairs in the health aide and principal’s offices on their own time. Wendy regularly attends after-hours functions, such as Family Fitness Night, Soup Night, the annual Sequoia Carnival, and many PTA activities and fund-raisers. She amazes her colleagues with her ability to consistently anticipate the needs of everyone she works with, which makes all of their jobs easier.

Anderson *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Jan Sneathen**  
*Interim Principal*

**Real-Life Science**

How can classroom learning relate the real world? To discover some answers, teachers and students are engaging in project-based learning. First-grade classes had observed and recorded their discoveries about the weather, using their five senses. To enrich learning, a truck of snow was brought to the school in January. Each student touched, tasted and smelled it and discovered they couldn’t hear it! Teachers followed up the experience by teaching students to record their information, write about it, and ask more questions!

Kindergarten classes have made a number of discoveries through the project-based-learning unit “If It Blows, It Goes.” Students have discovered and graphed ways in which wind can be helpful or harmful. Teachers brought in a small sailboat to illustrate how wind makes it “go.” Students will build and fly kites in their culminating learning experience.

Real experiences make learning come alive.



# School News

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# Clegg School

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



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

### Fun & Fit

Clegg students in grades one through five have a great opportunity to be involved in our Fun & Fit Club. Clegg Elementary's Fun & Fit Club was created six years ago and is run entirely by our PTA at Clegg every Wednesday directly after school for one hour.

A big thank-you to Lisa Rodden and the large group of volunteer parents that set up the activities and provide instruction to students for a great afternoon of fun and exercise. Students are provided a chance to run, jump rope, and participate in a number of sporting games for one hour every Wednesday after school. There are two fields set up for soccer or field hockey, and another field is set up for kickball or flag football. The blacktop area offers paddle ball, basketball, handball, jump ropes, Hula-Hoops and aerobics.

There are currently over 250 first- through fifth-grade students enjoying Fun & Fit Club this year. We would like to thank everyone that makes this program possible for our students.

# Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Maria Gutiérrez-García**  
*Principal*

### Building Character: Perseverance

Students at Finley School begin each day with a celebration of the Westminster School District Project BOLD (Building Overall Leadership Development) character-education curriculum as part of the morning announcements. Perseverance is one of the key attributes of the month that is emphasized throughout the year by all staff members. To this end, with the support of Joan Hansen from the local Kiwanis Club, Finley School is able to recognize students who have demonstrated a deep commitment to hard work, relentless determination and self-improvement by celebrating their accomplishments with the BUG (Bringing Up

Grades) award at special assemblies. These are held at the end of a grading period at a schoolwide assembly. This was done to debunk the myth that good grades are the result of luck, as we often heard these comments from our students.

Teachers at Finley regularly involve students in the goal-setting process and report results to students to support them in their quest for self-improvement.



**The principal, Mrs. Gutiérrez-García with Finley kindergarten through grade five students holding their B.U.G. award.**

# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

### Our Dazzling Dolphins

DeMille Elementary is very fortunate to have such a hard-working and dedicated PTA! Parental participation in our school's activities and fundraising has seen positive growth over the past two years. This has enabled DeMille to purchase some much-needed supplies, as well as provide educational field trips that can expand student learning beyond the classroom.

The wonderful benefit to having an active and supportive parent group is the way they also inspire individual parents to take personal action and lend their talents to help teachers, students, grade levels and classrooms.

One example of this is the generous offer that came from a father of two DeMille students, Mr. Silva. Seeing that our preschool and kindergarten tricycles were rather sad looking, though still sturdy after 20+ years, he took them home, completely disassembled and repainted each one, and then added our school's name and mascot!

They are now a new, dazzling DeMille Dolphin Blue! Thank you, Mr. Silva!



# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Donna Brush**  
*Principal*

### Garden Buddies

Eastwood Elementary School's garden thrives due to the joint efforts of primary and upper-grade students. Mrs. Slingerland's fifth-grade class and Mrs. Korn's kindergarten class have joined forces and are sharing the duties and upkeep of the garden.

The students planted seeds in the fall and have been harvesting produce from the garden all winter. Twice, the two classes have gathered together to share salad feasts. The salads included cucumbers, radishes, lettuce, snow peas, broccoli, and spinach, all of which were grown in our school garden. The students have also worked together to harvest, weed, water, and tend to our own school compost bin. The compost provides rich nutrients for the garden

and has resulted in some of the largest vegetables seen by students. In the spring, the students will plan for and plant new seeds for their summer crops. In addition, the two classes meet regularly with their "garden buddies" to read and share books.

Our students are excited about what they have learned and accomplished.



**Off to the compost bin.**

# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Paula Mills**  
*Interim Principal*

## Extending Kindness a

*By Stacey Gerogetti, Teacher, Second Grade*

For seven weeks, the second-grade students at Fryberger School worked towards answering a driving question: how can we, as humanitarians, provide assistance to each other and to those less fortunate in the community?

While being encouraged to engage in 21st-century skills, our students were given a choice on how to answer this question. The second-graders worked towards showing kindness to each other by using messages called “bucket fillers.” They also wrote and performed public service announcements to encourage their peers to extend kindness to others, made holiday place-cards for the elderly, and led a school-wide fundraiser for the American Red Cross.

On December 19, the second-grade students held a Kindness Expo in the MPR to culminate the unit. Parents, staff members and students attended this event, where Ms. Terry Gaines from the American Red Cross was presented with a check for \$1,122.90.

This prompted a \$200 check from a parent, and another \$200 from a local business. Our students also performed Michael Jackson’s *Man in the Mirror*, and received a standing ovation for their efforts. The parents were then invited to view reader’s theater performances and humanitarian oral presentations in the classroom.

These activities were a great celebration of our students’ hard work and deep understanding of kindness.

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Andre Illig**  
*Principal*

## Creating a Successful Pathway to the Future

One of the many components that contributes to students’ success at Johnson Middle School is parent involvement and parent education. This year, we have increased our focus on partnering with local resources to help our parents support and prepare their children for a successful, career-ready future.

In recent communication within our parent community, it became clear that many parents needed crucial information to help support their children. On February 27, we held a dynamic Parent Conference in partnership with numerous local agencies.

The parents started their day attending classes with their children. They then moved to their first educational session, which covered the dangers of drug use. Parents then moved to their second session, addressing good decision-making skills for adolescents and the pitfalls of joining gangs and not attending school regularly. After a wonderful lunch sponsored by the PTA, the parents ended by discussing positive parenting strategies. They also learned ways to advocate for their children to remain college-bound, including social and interpersonal skills, techniques to improve grades, and enrolling in college-bound, higher-level courses.

Young people at this age show a good number of contradictions and conflicts, which is normal. There is no “model adolescent.” However, when parents are actively involved in their children’s education, their students do better at school. At Johnson Middle School, we are building strong parent partnerships to empower parents to take an active positive role in their children’s education and pathways to college.

# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Our Differences

At Hayden Elementary School, we appreciate and celebrate our different cultures every opportunity we have. Last month we celebrated the Chinese New Year, with the help of our fabulous PTA and our Extended School Program (ESP).

The celebration started during the day, when students had

the opportunity to take a New Year picture in a beautiful and festive setting. After school the celebration continued with some beautiful traditional dancing under the direction of Peter Barajas, Hanh Nguyen, and her daughter, Eva. The students practiced for many weeks leading up to the celebration, and all that hard work paid off in a beautiful ceremony honoring the New Year. The highlight of the celebration came when the dragon dance was performed by some Hayden students.

Hayden always looks forward to celebrating our diversity in many ways, and the Chinese New Year is always a great opportunity to bring our community a little closer.



# Land School

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



**Beverlee Mathenia**  
*Director Child Development Programs*



**Reagan Lopez**  
*Administrator Student Services*

## In Good Hands

At Land School, our focus is on the care and nurturing of our future kindergarten students. One important part of preparing our preschool population for success is making sure that they have access to proper

resources. Cathi Hacker, R.N., is one of those staff members who make it a top priority to see that all of the preschoolers are on the path to good health.

But don’t just take our word for it! Mrs. Hacker was recently recognized as the Orange County School-Readiness Nurse of the Year. She was singled out from a group of over 40 other school-readiness nurses from throughout the county. Her advocacy for our preschool students is evident in the screening services she conducts, the parent education classes she presents, and the insight she provides to her teachers about any medical, dental or developmental concerns of the children.

Land School is truly in good hands with our Nurse Cathi!



**Cathi Hacker.**

**Happy Read Across America!**





# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Outdoor Science Camp

The fifth-grade students had an opportunity to go to Outdoor Science School in January. After spending four fabulous days at Creekside they took some time to write about their experiences. Here are some of their thoughts.

“On the first day we went on the bus and drove to Science Camp. We got to know the Science Camp staff, and found out our cabin buddies and went on a night hike. On the second day we went on our educational hikes and started to play some of the games. At night we went on an astronomy hike.” By Danny Tran.

“In a very busy beginning we all had to get ready, check our temperature and wait for everyone who was coming and taking off. After that we got to meet some really cool staff and we ate a delicious lunch and had a really good dinner with cookies!” By Angela Le.

“There were so many memories to be remembered at Science Camp. I loved going to Science Camp. I slept in a cabin and ate great food. I slept with my friends and with some friends I met from Myford School. The dance was fun and the instructors dressed in weird costumes. I saw deer for the first time and ate s’mores for the first time.” By Kelly Bui.

“We went on geology, ecology, and wildlife hikes. We panned for gold, broke rocks. We learned about science and wildlife and so much more. We also had a night hike.” By Katherine Kim.

# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Paul Andre White**  
*Principal*

## Schmitt Lions are showing they have all the WRITE moves

Since the beginning of the year there has been a school wide effort to develop and deepen the writing of our students. In every classroom students are writing with a purpose and their writing is being expanded on and woven into the curriculum in a subjects.

With all the extra practice and exposure, students are developing the tools which allow them to express what they have learned at a much deeper level. This focus also exposes them and gives them the opportunity to practice writing across all disciplines. There is no doubt all this hard work is preparing

them for the rigor of the Common Core Standards but more importantly it is laying the foundation for successful careers after they have completed their educational journeys.



Some of Mrs. Nguyen’s 4th grade authors pictured with their imaginative fairy tales.

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

## The Power of Cross-Age Tutoring

At Schroeder Elementary School, every student has the opportunity to help another student learn. With cross-age tutoring, an upper grade classroom is paired with a primary classroom. The older

student becomes a “big buddy” to the younger student, the “little buddy.” Buddies meet a few times a month to work on reading, writing, math, and hands-on projects. Academically, cross-age tutoring provides little buddies with extra practice on skills they have already learned, as well as direct guidance and help completing more difficult tasks. There are other benefits too. The bonds of friendship are built, school connectedness is improved, and students feel proud and successful. Way to go Mustangs!



# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Shay Reardon**  
*Principal*

## A Night of Eagle Excitement

Every year in the Westminster School District six classified employees are recognized and honored for their contributions and hard work. Sequoia Elementary is so proud of four of its wonderful classified employees. Sandy Humphrey, Wendy Thompson, Glen Hanson and Lizeth Cortez were four of the six district employees who were honored on this special evening.

Sandy Humphrey is the office manager of Sequoia Elementary School. Every day she helps our students, parents and staff members with any need which might arise. She always does so with a smile on her face and a warm and wonderful attitude.

Wendy Thompson is Sequoia’s community liaison. She goes above and beyond to help keep Sequoia organized and running smoothly. She is a vital part of the office team.

Glen Hanson is Sequoia’s day custodian. He is always willing to help with any situation. He keeps our campus immaculate and extremely well maintained.

Lizeth Cortez is a caseworker who works at Sequoia with students from the SUCES program. This program is for those students who have moderate to severe autism. She is extremely patient, calm and caring with each student.

Congratulations to these wonderful individuals. Sequoia is so fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated staff!



# Stacey *Middle School*

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



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## Tet Celebration

One of the great things about Stacey Middle School is our students' willingness to teach each other about their culture. With the Tet New Year, a group of students got together and planned a Tet celebration during both of our lunches to share the Tet traditions and food, as well as dance. These students under the direction of Ms. Milinda Valverde, a Stacey teacher, choreographed a Tet dance and set up games and information about the Tet New Year celebration. In addition, they invited parents to attend and to help with the celebration as well. All students were able to participate and enjoy the live performances during each lunch. Our dedicated students took the initiative to bring an understanding of cultures to Stacey and everyone had a great time.



# Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## Honored Speaker Honors Our School

Dr. Reuben Martinez visited us in December as the guest speaker for one of our parent Latino Literacy workshops and was a great inspiration to everyone. Because the workshops are intended to teach parents the importance and power of reading to their children, Dr. Martinez's story was ideal in reinforcing our message about the power of books.

Dr. Martinez shared his personal story and successes; he also educated our parents about the importance of attending college, biliteracy, the arts and family. He challenged us to raise the bar for our children and to never settle for mediocrity.

Dr. Martinez had humble beginnings but overcame great obstacles to keep the passion for reading and learning alive. If you ever have the time to research his story, I highly recommend it. His many degrees and honors include a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and Genius Grant recipient, two honorary doctorate degrees from Chapman University and Whittier College, a Distinguished Service award from the New York Authors Guild, a Golden Apple Award for small-business of the year, and commendations from Congress, the state of California and the city of Los Angeles for his entrepreneurial efforts and social activism.

I am proud to have had such a special guest for Webber's families!

# Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Matthew Skoll**  
*Principal*

## Game On!

*By Vanessa Escobedo, Lauren Nguyen, and Cindy Pham, Journalism Students*

The Warner Wildcats show their school spirit by participating in Warner sports. Warner sports consist of volleyball, football, softball, soccer, golf and martial arts. Last season, the boys' football team was undefeated against Stacey and Johnson!

This season, Warner's boys' volleyball team won all four games against Stacey at Warner Middle School in January and repeated that victory the following week.

In addition, Warner is also the home of former basketball students who have continued the love of the game at the college level, including Trina Vargas and Lisa Tran from Santa Ana College and Maggie Dumphy from Azusa Pacific. Our Westminster High School girls' basketball team has won three Golden West League titles with the help of former Warner students, including top players Cheyann Pendergrass and Vickie Vo.

With a history of triumphs, Warner continues its athletic legacy. Game on!



# Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Rob McKane**  
*Principal*

## Healthy Choices

*By Ms. Becker and the 5th-Grade Team*

Every week fourth- and fifth-graders at Willmore Elementary School get ready for Friday Fitness, a program created to get our students to be more health conscious. It incorporates physical education standards and teaches students perseverance and endurance.

The program consists of three rotations. One station is jogging for 20 minutes. Our goal is that they run at least a mile. The next station is calisthenics. Students perform a variety of exercises to build their core and balance. The final station is an organized game station, where they learn techniques and rules of new games monthly.

Our students are now more conscious about their food choices and are setting healthy goals for themselves. We also hear them talking about doing calisthenics on their own time. It's great to see our students choosing healthy lifestyles that will follow them beyond their years at Willmore.





# Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**

*“What do you want?”  
“Give it away!”  
“You’ll get it back!”*

I want to take this time to heartily thank all of our many community supporters! As we point towards the spring I continue to be so pleased and humbled to see the diverse, balanced, and quality programs our district is offering students. The humility is so vivid with the amount of engaged support that surrounds our students, and the way they are coated with thoughtful community outreach for each adventure they tackle.

As an educational community we should feel proud of the many diverse opportunities our young people have to engage their lives and passions. Award winning arts programs, consistently recognized athletic programs, as well as leadership and academic activities allow our work to extend beyond the traditional four walls of an educational environment. The concept of “college and career readiness” had strong and deep roots of tradition in the Huntington Beach Union High School District long before becoming today’s national and state focus.

In an era when we have successfully strived to reach high marks with so many of our traditional assessments, our district and community have partnered to provide a balance for our students. If we looked deep into history, it would be a “renaissance” of sorts that had the “whole child” as its focus. The evidence around our community and the stellar impression our students leave beyond school is impressive. That long-term school and community influence is on regular display with the number of young people who return to our community to serve and raise their families.

The Ford Motor Company used the tag line, “Quality is Job 1,” and the quality of students we are producing would be a walk-aroundable definition to that phrase. We are proud, and rightly should be, as the investment by our communities is withstanding one of the most valid assessments we know...time!

So, as we head into the spring season, I want to thank all of our supporters for their consistently thoughtful efforts. We are grateful, and will continue to pursue levels of excellence that will define our communities and our futures.

*“What do you want?”  
“Give it away!”  
You’ll get it back!”*



**Jazmine Ruiz**  
*Student Representative*

### Talented Students

With the school year half over and graduation creeping up, the senior student-athletes are beginning to prepare for the future by committing to colleges. February 5th was National Signing Day for all student-athletes who have committed to colleges and signing to confirm their spot on the college team. On the February 5th, the Huntington Beach High School District had 68 students sign to different colleges for all types of sports including: soccer, basketball, rowing, and volleyball.

Many of the students in the district are extremely talented in the performing arts category and have been given opportunities to show off their talents. Recently the district’s Academy for the Performing Arts (APA) program has showcased their incredible dancers in their show “Fusion,” which had a large audience. The students of Marina High School had their spring musical, “Crazy for You,” on February 20-22 which allowed the community to all come together to watch the students perform at their best.

The second semester had just begun; however, the end of the school year is fast approaching and it is time for the students to make the most of the school year.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Kathleen Iverson**  
*President*

### “What Did You Learn See in School Today?”

For more than 1,000 years, humans have been illustrating books. Since the publication of McGuffey’s Readers in 1836, school teachers have relied not only on text but on illustrations. When I was young, my teachers surrounded their blackboards with posters and occasionally used filmstrip projectors to enhance their lessons. My most vivid memory of “educational technology” was a film.

“Hemo the Magnificent” is the only film I remember before high school. Made in color in 1957, human characters interacted with animation, and clips of actual cells and tissues were used for emphasis. “Hemo” made science come alive for me. As I continued my schooling, I loved films: black and white, sepia or color, I loved them all. In the ’70s and ’80s films were expensive, so school districts and counties worked together to create film libraries for optimal use and distribution. Teachers developed lessons that were illustrated by a Friday film. Using a film took planning to get the right one at the right time, but teachers also had to plan for backups in case of a “technology meltdown.” The development of small and inexpensive VCRs in the 1980s made it much easier, for every teacher was able to show a freeze frame or pieces of “film” without the fear of damaging or burning this expensive film. The versatility of videotape allowed teachers flexibility and creativity. No longer did videos demand a whole class period; instead they could be used in small sections to punctuate or clarify a lesson visually. By the ’90s, DVDs improved the quality and flexibility of the “video,” but it was not until the development of the Internet and YouTube that the utility and expanse of the “clip” format indicated possibilities for the future.

Teachers now have seemingly unlimited audiovisual resources on their laptops and tablets that can enhance their lessons for the visual learner. They have thousands of videos available from publishers, government, and nonprofit Web sites. A simple Internet search for a video on “the Challenger explosion” yields over 4 million citations, and YouTube reports that more than 100 hours of new video are uploaded each minute. Now a teacher’s problem is not acquiring videos but managing their content and use. School districts are purchasing software to help teachers make their lessons exciting and accessible to our students, both in content and learning style.

Canvas is a learning management system introduced to all teachers in the Huntington Beach Union High School District this year. It will be used more and more by our teachers as they are trained, develop course content, and put this content on-line. Videos can and will be included in many Canvas-based lessons, and students and parents will be able to access lessons and homework at home together via the Internet. Parents will continue to ask, “What did you learn in school today?” But now they can also ask, “What did you see in school today?” Sometimes, with their children, they can find and share the videos together.

## Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

**Developing New Strategies**

When it comes to being an educator, good professional development is always a priority. This year the need for professional development has grown to levels that I have not seen in many years, if ever.

This includes professional development for teachers, support staff and administrators. I am happy to say that with the help of the HBUHSD district staff members, our own staff has been able to receive the kind of professional development they need to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing environment. Below is a quick summary of what our teachers are doing to provide better instruction to our students.

More than any other topic, the new Common Core Standards have been a major driver of professional development. Without a doubt, they have created a need to teach our students how to go deeper into their understanding of subject matter. To this end, our Coast teachers have participated in a number of after-school and full-day workshops at the district office and sister high schools.

Here they have learned what the Common Core Standards ask of our students, and how they differ from the previous norms. From there our teachers have moved on to learn new strategies that they can use to help their students go deeper and become more critical thinkers. This includes strategies like Close Reading, developing academic language, expository writing, and Checking for Understanding.



**Best Practices**

In order to support students who are struggling, Coast teachers have received training in the use of the Common Formative Assessments, as well as Response to Intervention strategies and the implementation of Executive Skills. These strategies will help our teachers identify those students who are struggling, as well as learn how to respond in ways which can help them build up their academic skills for current classroom work and classes in the future.

And the training keeps on coming! Just about every other week there is an opportunity to receive training in other identified best practices. The great thing about this is that most of these practices have been identified here within our district, and even within our school, so that our teachers don't have to travel far.

We all know that technology is ever-changing, and the speed at which it changes continues to increase every year. This creates a major challenge for teachers, because they have to keep up with the hundreds if not thousands of technological products that might be of classroom benefit.

Fortunately, we are in a district that embraces technology. We have hundreds of teachers who are constantly trying out new gadgets or software in order to teach their students in the methods that they naturally understand. Just this year, Coast teachers have participated in training for a new curriculum delivery system, learned how to use Chromebooks, received training on Turnitin.com, attended workshops on Google Docs, and engaged with many different Web sites and software in order to discover the best resources for their students.

Needless to say, our teachers have worked hard to keep their skills up to date so that they can deliver the best instruction possible. The work is difficult, but the outcomes are well worth it.



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

**Beyond the Books**

For a small school, CDS does big things. I'm always amazed at how our staff and students manage to "do school" just like a large campus, and yet still retain the small school feel.

Our students here are busy. The staff is busy. And I try to keep up! Truly, CDS is a special place where students are cared for, both for their academic success as well as their social and emotional wellbeing.

CDS is proud of the many strong community relationships we have created with outside organizations. They help provide our students and staff with the kind of educational experiences that go beyond what you'd find in a book. Three students from Whittier Law School recently began teaching a 20-hour "Legal Awareness" class at our school. This program has been in place for 11 years, and is a partnership between CDS and the School.

As you can imagine, our students are very interested in what the law says and doesn't say, especially when it comes to their individual rights. They ask great questions, and appreciate hearing about the real world (in terms of the law) from someone other than their parents or teachers. Go figure! The Whittier Law School students also get to hone their understanding of our legal system. It's been said that you don't really know a subject until you try to teach it.



**Online Classes**

Since last summer, CDS has embarked on a major mission to bring online learning opportunities to our students. This has involved substantial training for our staff, a significant financial investment by the HBUHSD, and countless hours from the teachers who are reviewing the courses to see that they are good for our students.

In just a short time CDS has significantly increased the number of online classes that our students are offered. Learning at their own pace helps them to stay motivated and move at a faster rate. Online classes also expose students to subject areas that would not otherwise be available. Our teachers benefit, too, in that they can see exactly where their students are deficient in their learning, and can then target instructional efforts in those areas.

An area of mixed emotion for our CDS staff is the eventual departure of a student to their home school. CDS had several students return to their home schools after the first semester. Although we count this as a success for both the student and school, it is always sad to say goodbye. Fortunately, we have enrolled many new students since the beginning of the second semester. They come from schools throughout the district, and are a great new addition to our campus.

We look forward to building a strong relationship with our new students. We want to see them successfully return to their home school, or if they so choose, stay and graduate with CDS.





**Dr. D'Liese Melendrez**  
*Principal*

**The Future Is Bright!**

Have you ever wondered what our students are capable of outside of the classroom? Students at Edison High School in Tim Floyd's history classes helped answer that question. Using the 20-percent model popularized by a search engine company, where employees are given 20 percent of their time to work on their own ideas and products, Floyd challenged his classes to pursue personal passions or to get involved in community service efforts. "I always knew that my students possessed talents and skills that I was unaware of, and I also really wanted to expose them to issues within their local community," said Floyd.

His sophomore world history classes were given the chance to pursue their personal interests and his junior US history classes embraced the community service project. A reflection component of the project involved each student creating a blog where the student posted updates on progress and reflected on successes and failures. "The blog aspect was a way to incorporate writing into the project, but more importantly it allowed the students to write for a larger audience than just their teacher. They were creating something that could be shared around the world and could also be accessed years from now," Floyd said. A final component of the project was a three- to five-minute presentation held in the Edison cafeteria, in front of peers, parents, teachers, and administrators. Twenty students were chosen to present their projects in front of the audience of more than 100 people.



**Juniors Kelsea, George and Danielle pitch their 20% Projects to an audience of students, parents and community members.**

Some of the things these students did over a two-month span were absolutely amazing! They raised money and awareness for pediatric brain cancer research, cleaned up our beaches, volunteered at an Alzheimer's home, built a skateboard from scratch, painted a masterpiece on a canvas, and developed a video game. These are just a few of highlights from these 20-Percent Projects. Students, when given an opportunity to shine, are capable of doing great things in this world, and these projects proved just that. As we focus our efforts on college and career readiness, we must allow students time to explore creative and engaging opportunities that interest them. This project allowed them that opportunity and much more. The future is bright with these students as our future leaders.



**Chris Herzfeld**  
*Principal*

**The FVHS Garden: Fertile Ground for Learning**

*By Armida Gordon, Teacher – Consumer/Family Studies and Lisa Battig, Teacher – Science*

Three years ago, the Fountain Valley High School (FVHS) Consumer and Family Studies/Science Sustainable Garden was a small vacant plot of land that was rescued from being paved over. We started with four enthusiastic teachers who had a vision of a garden that would serve as "fertile ground" for teaching lessons about the environment and nutrition and cooking with the vegetables and herbs they grew themselves. In the beginning, it didn't look as if much could grow on this 30-foot-square piece of land.

Since that time, we have been awarded numerous grants and received donations from FVHS families. One FVHS dad built the chain link fence that encloses and protects the garden. Eagle Scouts built raised beds that now contain our California-native plants. Materials donated by the FVHS PTSA were used to build more raised beds. Donations helped us purchase a tool shed, benches and tables, soil and mulch for the beds, seeds and seedling plants, garden gloves and tools, and materials for irrigation.

The garden is divided into two areas. One area is designated for science and one for consumer and family studies. In our foods and nutrition and culinary arts classes, students have worked in the garden to prepare it for planting. Lessons in planting included learning about "lasagna layering," a technique that uses composting as the base for a raised bed. Our students have enjoyed lessons that teach about the seasonality of fruits and vegetables and the cost effectiveness of using produce that is "in season." They have had lessons in promoting healthy living through the benefits of locally-grown produce as opposed to foods transported from other countries. These types of lessons help to create an awareness in students about their environment and about what they consume on a daily basis. We further promote healthy living by teaching cooking methods that preserve the nutritional quality of vegetables. Our culinary students have learned the identification and uses of herbs in cooking. They simply go out to the garden and pick fresh herbs for some of the dishes we make. In the fall, the advanced students used tomatoes and eggplant from our garden to practice knife skills.

Recently, students planted a variety of lettuce, cauliflower, peppers, sweet peas, and Swiss chard. By the end of this school year, they will be tasting some of their hard work. Our next goal is a "garden-to-table" community dinner.

The coordinated approach to our garden has been the source of many lessons for the Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science classes as well. During the fall, we were able to take advantage of the less-tended summer period, when a host of native plants and weeds had managed to take over portions of the garden. We worked with niche overlap studies and discussed the various plants that gardeners and farmers consider weeds, but actually have nutritional value for humans. Our compost areas were fodder for another lesson as wild heirloom tomatoes and squash managed to grow out of the compost and reach fruiting maturity.

More recently, we have been able to discuss firsthand evidence of waterlogging, soil salinization, soil types, and chaparral plant dormancy, which is common to the Southern California landscape. We recently carried out soil health studies and were able to report on the soil health of various areas of the garden. As we continue this process, the students will become more intimately acquainted with the environmental factors that contribute to the quality of their food and will gain a greater understanding of the human elements of that story.



# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Determined Student Reaps Success

It is always an honor to see our students graduate from one of our career-training programs. It is an even greater feeling to see a student take the longer road of completing multiple programs in order to reach his or her goal. Huntington Beach Adult School is proud to recognize Yeslie Lima for her dedication to accomplishment as described below by her math instructor, - Ann Cosgrove.

Yeslie Lima attended various schools in Mexico and the United States but never found the right fit until she attended the Huntington Beach Adult School. Once she found that fit, she made the most of the opportunity and never looked back. Yeslie started off in the Computer Center learning about technology. From there, she advanced to the Diploma Program to complete her high school diploma by taking her eight remaining required courses, with a 3.4 grade point average. Upon graduation, Yeslie received the Huntington Beach Administrator's Association Award scholarship for \$150. Once she accomplished the goal of earning her diploma, she immediately began to look at future career options. She decided to stay at the Adult School and enroll in the Pharmacy Tech program because of the strong demand for workers in the health-care industry and also because the Adult School gave her "a friendly hand and a place where I was welcome as part of one of them."

Yeslie graduated last month and has already passed her national board exam, making her a CPhT—a certified pharmacy technician. Her teacher Pamela Canlas voiced strong praises for Yeslie's work, saying, "Yeslie values hard work and she takes the initiative to get the job done. She is adaptive, flexible and easy to mentor. What I find most remarkable about Yeslie is that she persevered through the Pharmacy Technician class despite the obstacles of working full time and caring for her family. I am her biggest fan!"

A mother of small children, Yeslie always worked for her own success but continually provided a role model to other students. Her motto, "In order to help others, you have to help yourself," has gone a long way in helping her to succeed. While some of the students would become impatient and frustrated with their lack of progress, Yeslie worked diligently and patiently until everything was completed and ready to be turned in for grading. She is also a role model for her children. One overarching goal for her education is "to teach my children when they ask me about their homework." With all that Yeslie's learned and all that lies ahead in her future, it's unlikely that her children will have many unanswered homework questions.



**Yeslie Lima**

# Huntington Beach *High School*

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



**Dr. Rocky Murray**  
*Principal*

## Spring Optimism

The 2013–2014 school year is bringing unprecedented times for public educators and, quite frankly, all Californians who have a vested interest in public education. In Huntington Beach we are approaching these sweeping changes with a positive approach, centered on productive outcomes. Two of the major shifts currently being navigated by educators are the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessments, which schools will be issuing for the first time this spring.

Conversations around the Common Core State Standards are fluid. At Huntington Beach High School and in the Huntington Beach Union High School District, efforts are being focused on effective instructional techniques that translate to the demands and shifts presented by the Common Core. The Common Core standards center on promoting and growing critical thinking skills, while increasing students' ability to analytically apply those skills. By focusing on these skills, our students will be better prepared to compete globally, which is unquestionably the right thing to do for our students.

As a district, we have committed to multiple training opportunities for teachers and staff to increase our comfort level and expertise with regard to the Common Core. School sites have been issued funds for professional development, cross-curricular training, and other creative forms of collaboration. We are continuing to evolve over the year and committed to learning and sharing best practices. This statement is further evidenced by the plan created by staff members for a Huntington Beach Summer Institute. One of the goals of the institute is to provide staff-led training and professional development at times requested by teachers and staff members. This approach is another example of our district working together and using our "home-grown" talent to create opportunities for success. The idea of a Summer Institute emanated from meetings that included stakeholders in various roles from all of our schools. This type of inclusive professional development ensures clear communication and solidarity, which will be beneficial for our students and staff.

The spring of 2014 will be the first time students participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessments. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in this round of testing as a sort of trial run. The scores for the Smarter Balanced Assessments will not be shared with the sites this spring, as we have this school year to prepare for the logistics for testing. The school site testing coordinators have met on multiple occasions to share plans, as these assessments are all computer-based. Again, this is a major shift for educators. Fortunately, we have some incredibly talented assistant principals and testing coordinators who are creating the plans and collaborating to ensure a less stressful testing season. Traditionally, testing is stressful, but this year work is being done to paint a clear picture for what the testing will look like and how we need to prepare for this new challenge, both for this year and for the future.

There are various ways we could look at the coming spring and the opportunities it presents. We are choosing to focus on the ways we can collaborate and make ourselves better. Having a healthy and positive outlook on the opportunities ahead will only unite us and make us stronger for our students. That is the work that matters most.





# Marina *High School*

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



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*Principal*

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills...

If you are looking for a school that prepares its students for a success-filled future, take a good look at Marina. The data is clear—the Advanced Placement options available at Marina have increased dramatically over the past few years, from 17 courses in 2011–12 to 21 courses in 2014–15. In 2009, a total of 763 AP exams were passed, compared to an awesome 955 in 2012–13. Last year, 89 percent of Marina students passed the CAHSEE in English compared to the state average of 77 percent, and 91 percent passed in mathematics compared to the state average of 79 percent. With a graduation rate of 96.46 percent as compared to the district average of 93.86 and that of the state at 78.3 percent, Marina is a school that makes a positive difference in student success.

How is it that these great things have happened at Marina? With a focus on the following 21st Century Skills as well as a college and career focus, Marina teachers are making a difference in the lives of students. What are those skills? They include critical thinking and problem-solving, collaboration across networks and leading by influence, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurialism, effective oral and written communication, accessing and analyzing information, and curiosity and imagination.



## ...and Beyond

When it gets down to it, though, there are many other skills our students need to be successful in this world and in this era of learning. Here at Marina, we not only focus on those skills listed above but other 21st Century Skills that are required by our students to achieve personal success as they walk through this world. A few of those addressed here at Marina are as follows:

Grit through helping students create an academic mindset, effortful control of important and long-term tasks and a focus on strategies and tactics in learning; resilience through communicating, caring and support, setting high expectations, and providing meaningful opportunities for involvement; hope



# Ocean View *High School*

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



**Dan Bryan**  
*Principal*

## Why Not Us?

During the Winter Olympics, Sage Kotsenburg won an Olympic gold medal by taking a risk and performing a trick during his slopestyle snowboard competition that wasn't part of his original competition plan. He pulled off a magnificent Backside Double Cork 1620 Japan. Awesome!

Right after winning the Super Bowl, Russell Wilson, the small (by NFL standards) Seattle Seahawks quarterback was talking about his dream of becoming a professional football player and told a story about how his father always said, "Why not you, Russ?" Why not you, indeed, Mr. Wilson?

At Ocean View High School, we gave the ACT Plan test to all 10th-graders, and the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) to all 11th-graders for free. Our students filled out post-secondary interest inventories, which are part of each test. To me, that was the most important information they could fill out, even above the test itself! Why? Because when they received their scores, they had access to the college search engines through the Plan at planstudent.org and the PSAT/College Board through My College Quickstart.

To make the most of these tremendous resources, we decided to do something intentional about using them. Karen Collison, our fantastic school counselor, and Allison Upstill, our amazing college and career specialist, created a schedule for the 10th-graders, which begins next week, to use their netbooks in their English classes to access these Web resources and complete a one-page career/college search. The 10th-graders now have their practice ACT composite score (which serves merely as a baseline score) and their career preferences. They must show their completed searches to Ms. Collison and Upstill in order to exit the class. We will close the loop and help our students to understand their scores are a starting point, and we have armed them with the ability to do a real college search. Win!

We did the same thing with the 11th-graders. They recently used their test data to complete three college searches on our early release days while our teachers were in their professional development classes.

Both groups of students will gain key college knowledge, such as grade-point average ranges, and test score ranges, which are used for admission. They will research universities which offer their majors of interest. They will know how much it costs to live on campus and attend school.

If we don't close the loop, then students merely receive their scores, and if they think they are bad and don't look at them as a starting point, they may never begin a college search!

So, we are going to try this move. This is our 1620 Backside Double Cork Japan. When it comes to ensuring that all students perform college searches for two years and actually use the vast college readiness resources at their disposal, why not us?

Why not us, indeed!

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## MARINA HIGH SCHOOL • From Page 29

and optimism by helping students create a big picture, supporting them in reaching their personal and educational goals, and sharing stories of success; vision and self-regulation through teaching caring and the development of judgment, skill, and attitude; and empathy and global stewardship, which involves the ability to identify with others, be part of a global community, and to lead purpose-filled lives.

At Marina, students experience a broad range of choices. For those interested in technology, industrial arts, art, music, foreign language, consumer skills, fashion, business development, and web design, Marina still provides these experiences. Where many schools have folded up their elective programs, Marina has kept those that made a difference in our lives and brought them into the 21st century. Whether you plan on going to a technical school to develop your own business, become a chef, or a fashion designer or if your goal is to move on to college and discover the next innovation that just might change our world for the better, Marina has what you need: a focus on advanced learning, college, career, and life skills. Yes, the Home of the Vikings has it all! Come take a look and be impressed!



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

**Winning with WASC**

Accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is important. The WASC process at VvHS is a real winner. We are in the midst of that process now. The multiyear process intensifies in the fall before the accreditation team visit in the spring when the entire faculty and staff begin to produce a self-study report. The lengthy, detailed report concludes with an action plan to improve student achievement over the next six years and is forwarded to an accreditation team of four experienced educators prior to their first visit to campus. The accreditation team's March visit will begin with a reception for parents, students and staff and will conclude with a report to the entire school community on the third day.

At VvHS, we have had a great experience with the WASC accreditation process. The accreditation team really understands the alternative-education environment, open entry-exit and variable-credit format, and the at-risk students we serve. The focus of WASC is entirely consistent with our district's and our school's vision: to produce educated, responsible, productive members of our local and global communities. The best parts of the WASC process are the emphasis on self-evaluation and peer review.

**'Report Card from the Students'**

Peter Dang, one of our social studies and PE teachers, and Lang Hurst, one of our math teachers, have served as co-coordinators of our self-study process. They think the student evaluation is the best part of the process. The anonymous survey lets the entire faculty and staff know what's working and what needs improvement and how the students feel about their experience at VvHS. Mr. Dang said that "it's obvious the students are being thoughtful and honest." Mr. Hurst added, "It's like our report card from the students. We take it very seriously."

From my point of view, I really value the opportunity for the entire faculty and staff to work closely together on such an important project. Before the report is finished, teachers are observing one another in the classroom, stopping students to ask them questions about specific issues, participating in animated discussions about what our priorities should be, and brainstorming about effective action items. Our staff meetings are dominated by what we've learned and how we can improve, and reaching consensus on our action plan. The four goals that will guide our WASC Action Plan are evidence that we've listened carefully to our students, parents, the community, our district administration and leadership, and one another: to promote student achievement through the implementation of the Common Core State Standards curriculum model; to embed the use of a wide variety of technology in order to enhance student learning and life skills; to improve processes for collecting and analyzing data for identifying best practices in an alternative setting; and to expand the schoolwide benefits of professional-development opportunities for all staff.

A process that results in such positive, challenging student achievement; focused, agreed upon goals; and concluding with the input of experienced, sensitive peer reviewers is more than just useful and effective. It's a winner.



**Owen Crosby**  
*Principal*

**Learning to Give Back**

Westminster High School Government S Club, sponsored by the Westminster chapter of Soroptimist International, was organized to help students develop and understand the obligations of civic-mindedness and community service. Activities during the year focus on being informed on civic issues, volunteering and performing public service.

This year, the S Club, in conjunction with Westminster, Garden Grove and Huntington Beach Soroptimist clubs, is organizing the "Healthy Girls and Families Conference" that takes place on the campus of Westminster High School on Saturday, April 26. The mission of the conference is to inspire girls and their families to make healthy lifestyle choices. Participants will receive resources and materials designed to elicit advocacy and action.



**Government S Club with Mrs. Harmon, Club Advisor.**

The one-day event will have workshops, vendors and speakers in the areas of cyberbullying, teen dating, educational opportunities, health care, financial literacy, body image, healthy cooking and nutrition, cosmetology, fitness, self-defense, drug and alcohol awareness, and many more. These informative topics will be discussed in different sessions throughout the day.

Because our youth today faces unique challenges unheard of even a decade ago—including the traditional coming of age, social media and new technology—many families struggle to navigate the middle and high school years. Through our partnership with Soroptimist International, we believe that the "Healthy Girls and Families Conference" can provide our families with vital information that can help guide them through these difficult years and inspire young women to become positive role models who are engaged members of their community. Collectively, we can make a difference in the future of these young women.

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# City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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## Honored Heroes Banner Program



Michael Vo  
Mayor

The Fountain Valley Community Foundation in partnership with the city of Fountain Valley is launching the third year of the Honored Heroes Banner Program.

This program was developed to honor and recognize Fountain Valley's active military personnel. Businesses and residents alike enjoy viewing the banners of the residents who are serving.

To qualify, an honoree must be an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces and either be a current Fountain Valley resident or a past resident with immediate family currently residing in Fountain Valley. Banners will be displayed continuously from early May until Veterans Day. At that time, honorees who are no longer on active duty will be presented with their banner at the annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Those still on active duty have the option of having their banner placement renewed for the following year.



# City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

## Summer is Only Months Away



Matthew Harper  
Mayor

It's hard to believe 2014 is flying by, and the summer season will be here before you know it. This year Huntington Beach (HB) celebrates its centennial of surfing with a series of events highlighting this major milestone. With the Rotary Club's Surfboards on Parade and Visit HB's 100 Years of Surfing events, residents, businesses, and visitors alike will ride the wave of special events throughout the year.

A surf art experience, Surfboards on Parade will feature 25 one-of-a-kind surfboards shaped by invited surfboard shapers with the art of invited artists on them. The surfboards will be placed throughout the Huntington Beach community. Wyland created the first board, which is on display at Duke's Huntington Beach at the pier. Look for the unveiling of more creative boards this spring. For more information, visit [www.huntingtonbeachrotary.com](http://www.huntingtonbeachrotary.com).

Visit HB celebrates 100 Years of Surfing, marking the centennial event when surfing legend George Freeth got off the train and rode the waves of Huntington Beach on June 20, 1914. More than 20 events are planned to celebrate HB's rich and vibrant surf culture and raise funds for our International Surf Museum. For more information, visit [www.surfcityusa.com](http://www.surfcityusa.com).

You can also visit our city Web site for the latest news around town at [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov). Hope to see you at some of these fantastic events!

# Orange County Department of Education

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

## Nurturing Healthy Minds



Dr. Al Mijares  
Superintendent

Sylvia is 13 years old and in the eighth grade. She was often sad and angry and felt confused. She did not have close friends and other students would tease her. Her teacher noticed that something was wrong and consulted the school counselor. Sylvia's family was notified, and the school was able to provide resources and support.

Sylvia's challenge is not a rare situation. Between 20-25% of children in the U.S. experience symptoms of emotional distress, such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and substance abuse. From 2000-2005, 3.22 million youth, ages 7-17, were treated for depression; this is more than double the number from the previous five years.

In order for students to be successful in school, they need to be healthy mentally, emotionally and physically. Youth who have problems in these areas are more likely to have high rates of absenteeism and to drop out of school. The annual financial costs for treatment, including lost productivity, are staggering.

In order for students to be successful in school, they need to be healthy mentally, emotionally and physically...

To nurture youth resilience, mental health, and well-being, the Orange County Department of Education leads a K-12 Student Mental Health Initiative.

Educators, families, and community members have a role to play in cultivating wellness and encouraging school and life success for our youth. We can do this by learning how to decrease the stigma associated with mental health issues, build knowledge about mental health risks and protective factors, increase awareness about the signs and symptoms, and offer resources and support to students and families.

To nurture youth resilience, mental health, and well-being, the Orange County Department of Education leads a K-12 Student Mental Health Initiative. This initiative is part of a statewide effort funded by Proposition 63 and the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) through the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). The Orange County initiative focuses on prevention and early identification of youth mental health issues. The initiative provides services and conducts demonstration projects including:

- Training for school staff in prevention and identification of student mental health issues; fostering positive school climate to support academic, social and emotional development; and reducing stigma associated with behavioral health challenges
- *Eliminating Barriers to Learning through the Early Identification of Student Mental Health Issues* train the trainer program
- Collaborating across agencies to enhance mental health services for foster youth
- Providing access to information on age-appropriate, culturally relevant, evidence-based mental health programs, strategies, and resources
- Providing local referral resources and information for parents, educators, and the community
- Providing stress management education for teachers and students
- Developing an online school climate survey for middle school students to gather and assess indicators of student stress, anxiety, and depression

These efforts can prevent and reduce the risk of mental disorders, support the social and emotional health of students, and effectively place students on the path to college and career readiness and success.

For additional information, visit [www.ocde.us/healthyminds](http://www.ocde.us/healthyminds). To access resources that promote the mental health and wellness of students, visit [www.regionalk12smhi.org](http://www.regionalk12smhi.org).



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