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School News

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

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Building Community



Eight-week parent class graduates.

By Gustavo Balderas, D. Ed., Superintendent
Ocean View School District

Ocean View School District has a richly diverse student population consisting of varying cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

One of the focus areas of our Five Year Strategic Plan is to engage all our community stakeholders, including students, staff, parents, and educational, business, and community partners. An important benefit of such engagement will be to ensure the goal of academic success of all students throughout our District.

One example of this effort is at Marine View Middle School, where Principal William Lynch has made noticeable gains involving the Hispanic community. Historically, Marine View has had a challenge in bringing Oak View Elementary School families on campus for a variety of reasons, including the distance between the Oak View area and Marine View Middle School. Several nonprofit organizations have worked with the District in an attempt to provide local children with recreational activities throughout the City of Huntington Beach.

To foster this engaged community, Principal Lynch and Mesa Middle School Principal Randy Lempert began the year by attending the various events at Oak View Elementary School, along with Marine View and Mesa View teachers, to provide communication at the student's elementary site, and within the community. Principals Lynch and Lempert also worked with groups within Oak View to support students on their respective campuses, including weekly visits from Community Service Programs, Inc. staff members, who run a Youth Development Program out of the Oak View neighborhood.

To jumpstart parent participation on campus, Marine View held an eight-week parent class sponsored by Grupo Crecer, which guided parents on how to work positively with their adolescent children. The program graduated 58 parents who participated on the Marine View campus. More importantly, parents were able to establish connections with Marine View staff members that created strong relationships moving forward.

Since the start of the year, Marine View has established a stronger English Learner Advisory Committee that continues to grow. Suspensions that were previously over-represented by Hispanic students have dropped by a full two-thirds. It is fully anticipated that increased academic achievement will also be the result of the parent involvement focus. By working with families, we can reach our goal of academic success for all students in the Ocean View School District.

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Covering the:
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 11th year publishing the excellence from these school districts and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. The good news just keeps coming as the students are focused on their goals for the last half of this school year.

Now put your feet up and enjoy reading the school articles on topics as varied as Astro Camp, Robotics, Civic Responsibility, Saturday School, life outside of school and much more...enjoy!

Our next issues will be back to back May 6 and June 3. Until then have a fun Spring Break!



Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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

Helping Your Child Cope



Lisa Sperry
Director
Pediatrics, PICU,
NICU

When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, it's difficult for parents to explain the situation.

Start by being honest with your child about the illness. Answer questions at a level appropriate for your child's age and development. Explain any treatments or discomfort they may experience. Avoid saying "This won't hurt" if the procedure may be painful - reassure your child that it's temporary and its helping them get better.

Ask your child about the changes affecting their body. Listen to the answers before voicing your own feelings or explanations. Encourage your child to express their emotions through music, drawing or writing, in addition to speaking about them.

It's common for kids to fear that they brought on their illness by something they thought, said or did. Reassure your child that they are not responsible and explain what caused the illness.

If your child asks "why me?" it's okay to say "I don't know." However explain that doctors have treatments for it (if that's the case). If your child says "it's not fair that I'm sick," acknowledge that your child is right. Kids need to know it's OK to feel angry, sad, depressed or afraid about the illness.

If you see signs that these feelings are interfering with daily life, or your child seems withdrawn, and shows radical changes in eating and sleeping habits not to the illness, ask your doctor or the hospital's child psychologist for additional advice and consider taking your child to a professional counselor.

Where does wellness begin?

Does wellness begin with a diagnosis? Imaging?
Results? Physicians? Health care providers?

Does it begin with a commitment to health?
Nutrition? Exercise? Weight loss?

Does it begin with a state-of-the-art facility?
Innovative technology? Or even robotics?

Does it begin with award-winning services?
Highly accredited care? A focus on
better patient outcomes?

To us, wellness begins with Fountain
Valley Regional Hospital and Medical
Center and you – together.



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- A-rated Hospital Safety Score (The Leapfrog Group)
- First accredited Chest Pain Center in Orange County (Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care)
- First accredited Inpatient Diabetes Care Program in Orange County (The Joint Commission)
- Certified Pediatric ICU: One of only two hospitals in Orange County (California Children's Services)
- Accredited Primary Stroke Center (The Joint Commission)



Technology in Special Education Classrooms



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

As you know, the digital revolution has arrived. New forms of technology continue to evolve with great benefits to our schools, especially special education classrooms. The OCDE Special Schools and Services Program has been innovative in the use of technology at every level to improve instruction and student learning. Our Special Schools and Services Program provides technology support and services to both staff and students. Students are provided with individualized technology to effectively meet their needs as 21st century learners.

Web-based instruction utilizing mirroring strategies has increased student engagement leading to increased independence and greater ownership of learning. Schools have implemented the Touch2Learn (T2L) program which uses mobile devices such as the iPod Touch, iPad, and mini iPad. In addition, SMART technology and projection are used to enhance learning. In 2011, the T2L Program was recognized as an Apple Exemplary Program. Since that time, the T2L program has continued to advance instructional technology in each special education classroom.

Ongoing professional development is provided to special education teachers and support staff to implement web-based instructional technology. This year, all the Speech-Language Specialists are completing training as Certified Assistive Technology Specialists. This will provide students and families with expert support for use of Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) at school and home. Students with severe speech or language problems rely on AAC to supplement or replace speech.

Technology enhances every aspect of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) classes, including using sign language via videophone service and interpreting

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Breastfeeding While Working



Terri Nikoletich
MSN, MPH, CNS,
RN, Program
Director, Perinatal
Education,
Lactation Support,
Welcome Baby
Program;
Miller Children’s &
Women’s Hospital
Long Beach

Going back to work doesn’t mean the end of breastfeeding. With some planning, you can continue to provide your baby the best nourishment possible.

During pregnancy, speak with your employer about your desire to continue breastfeeding once you return. You should request a clean, private area near your work space to pump.

Before Returning to Work:


- Purchase/rent a high-quality, electric breast pump. Using a double pump kit, mothers can complete a pumping session in about 10 - 15 minutes.
- Pumped breast milk can be stored in the refrigerator for five days. If you need to keep it longer, label the bottle with the date and store in the freezer. Thaw frozen breast milk under warm water. Don’t microwave or boil it.
- Be sure to provide your child care provider instructions on how to store and handle breast milk.
- Consider speaking with a Lactation Consultant for additional tips to ensure an adequate milk supply.

After Returning to Work:

- To maintain your milk supply, pump as many times as your baby would normally breastfeed.
- Breastfeed your baby immediately before and after work.
- Remember to drink plenty of fluids, eat well-balanced meals and snacks, and get plenty of rest.

Talk to your employer to create a plan that works for you and your baby.





Our specialists are the leaders in mom’s and baby’s health care.

As a busy mother of two children under 5, Melissa was shocked to learn she was pregnant with twin girls, but immediately knew where to go. Her first two children were born at Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach. And even though she lives nearly an hour away, she knows she needs specialized maternity care that only Miller Children’s & Women’s offers. She wants her twins to get the same great start her older children experienced.

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


Follow the leader to Miller Children’s.

MCHLB.org/Maternity 800-MEMORIAL

Our specialty: Maternity Care

Melissa’s specialty: Super Mom

Melissa, Mother of Two & Expecting Twins; Miller Children’s & Women’s Maternity Patient



City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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

What a Difference 15 Minutes Can Make



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor

Since 1998, the Fountain Valley Police Department has partnered with local high schools to present an educational program called “Every 15 Minutes.” Targeting high school teens, the program is designed to educate them on the dangers associated with driving while impaired and texting. The program title reminds participants that someone in the United States dies or is seriously injured every 15 minutes in an alcohol-related traffic collision. This year “Every 15 Minutes” took place at Los Amigos High School on March 5-6, 2015.

This powerful program is designed to create awareness among students that they are not invincible, and it helps open the emotional doors, addressing the problem most teens do not know exist. One of the primary objectives of the “Every 15 Minutes” program is proactive education.

During the “Every 15 Minutes” program, everyone involved is reminded that drinking and or texting while driving is not an accident. These crashes and injuries are predictable and preventable. The Fountain Valley Police Department is very serious in the attempt to eliminate deaths and injuries caused by drinking and driving, which is why “Every 15 Minutes” is scheduled prior to high school prom and graduation activities.

Drivers under 21 are subject to zero tolerance laws. Underage impaired drivers are subject to very strict penalties, such as license revocation, hefty fines, and extended community service. Be smart, DON’T DRINK AND DRIVE!

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

Host Town for 2015 Special Olympics

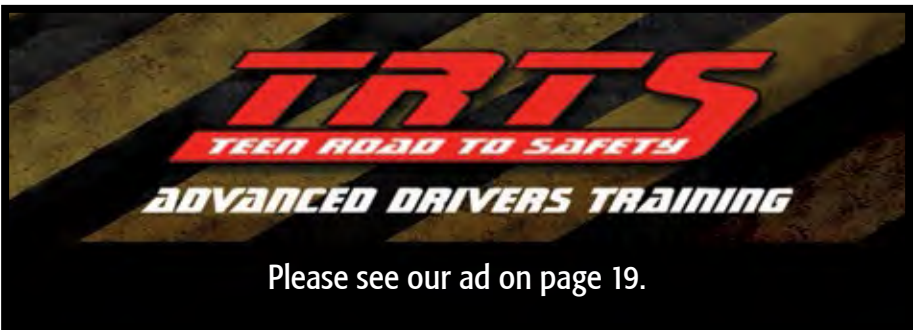


Jill Hardy
Mayor

As Surf City prepares for another busy year with our traditional annual events such as the Fourth of July Parade and US Open of Surfing, this year we plan on being a part of something very unique. This summer, Huntington Beach will participate as a Host Town for the 2015 Special Olympic World Games. The Games will be held in Los Angeles July 25-August 2, 2015 and 177 countries will be represented by 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches from around the globe. Prior to the Games, from July 21 to 24, the city will welcome athletes and coaches from Australia before they head to Los Angeles.

We plan on giving our guests a real “Surf City” experience for three days. Huntington Beach, along with the city of Fountain Valley which will host the Netherlands, will host meals, lodging and provide fun cultural events/activities for nearly 200 athletes and their coaches.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 4.4 million athletes worldwide. Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world. We will be so incredibly proud to be part of this historic event – the largest sporting event in the world in 2015!





Social Host Ordinance

A New Law to Prevent Underage Drinking in Huntington Beach

What is a Social Host Ordinance?

A Social Host Ordinance is a law that prohibits adults from hosting drinking parties for minors. Teen drinking parties are a nuisance and threat to public safety. Recognizing this, the City Council of Huntington Beach adopted a Social Host Ordinance on March 4, 2013.



**UNDERAGE
DRINKING IN
YOUR HOUSE
= \$750 FINE**



Not in our house.
OperationSafeHB.org

Penalties and Enforcement

Violators will be cited and face a \$750 fine. If police are called out a second time within 12 months, violators face an additional \$1,500 fine. The third violation in 12 months carries a fine of up to \$3,000. The Huntington Beach Police Department is conducting party-focused patrols to monitor home parties and respond to community concerns regarding underage drinking.

Why Not Host Parties for Minors?

A recent study of over 6,000 youth found that teens who received alcohol from a parent or a friend's parent at a party consumed more drinks and were twice as likely to drink regularly and binge drink (Foley, et al.). Additionally, teens often have harmful experiences at parent-sanctioned drinking parties and young people may still get behind the wheel or get into a car with someone who has been drinking.

Huntington Beach Police Department is cracking down on underage drinking and enforcing the law.

What You Can Do

Report loud parties where persons under 21 appear to be drinking. If you are hosting a party where alcohol is being served, monitor your alcohol and make sure no minors are drinking. Call the police if minors refuse to cooperate or the party becomes unmanageable.

You will not be cited if you request assistance before someone else files a complaint.

operationsafehb.org



Fountain Valley School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

13th Annual District Art Show Amazing Night for FVSD Families

On March 10, and in true Fountain Valley School District fashion, our students and families came to life at the 13th Annual District Art Show. With the resurgence of the district's Visual and Performing Arts Program and under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent Anne Silavs and all-star coordinators Amelia Terich and Brooke James, students were treated to a night like no other! The festivities included: interactive art stations (with quick make-and-take projects); cookie and art decorating stations;

three food trucks; a photo booth, Music Mobile, a musical instrument station; and numerous displays of our students' artwork. In addition, there were various stations allowing participants to paint school murals, representing each site, to be displayed at the district office.

We are extremely lucky to have such passionate and gifted students and teachers in our district, and it was a wonderful evening for our all! A special thank you goes out to all who gave their time, energy and talents to making this experience extraordinary. Mrs. Terich and Mrs. James are to be commended for organizing an engaging event for our district families, celebrating the artistic talents of our students, and providing some amazing activities for all attendees to enjoy.

I look forward to the joining our students, staff, parents and community members at the district's Monster Concert at Fountain Valley High School on May 5, 2015 at 5 p.m.



Students and their families enjoy art and activities during last year's Art Show. The 13th Annual District Art Show was another great night in FVSD.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jeanne Galindo
President Pro-Tem

Twilight Education Program

David meekly entered my son's kindergarten classroom where I was volunteering. He was led to my learning station. A tear slipped down his cheek, so I sat close to him as we engaged in learning that day's letter. As I left, I whispered to my son to include David in play at recess.

Assimilating into a new country, community and school can be a fearful experience for immigrants. When you consider language and cultural differences, it becomes even more difficult for parents to support their children.

The Twilight Education Program, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington Valley, gives such families tools to succeed in their new community. Three nights a week, families board school buses with convenient pick-ups in Fountain Valley School District parking lots. They are transported to Golden West College. There, school-age children receive help with homework and English literacy. Younger siblings participate in an accredited preschool program focusing on literacy. Close by, parents learn speaking and reading skills, helping them with safety, medical, transportation and work-related issues.

Fountain Valley School District families are benefiting from this multi-faceted program. Help is there for new citizens. To get involved, contact the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington Valley directly or talk to your home school.

Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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Success!



Judy Edwards
President

The Taste of Fountain Valley raised over \$10,000 for the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation, earmarked for stronger arts and music education!

Great support from businesses and community leaders! Supporting both PTA/PTOs and the Foundation are important. A PTA/PTO improves a specific school. Our Fountain Valley Schools Foundation focuses on community-wide needs for enhanced curriculum for ALL schools. We've adopted two areas – arts and music, and STEM and robotics — strengthening education at the appropriate grade levels across the entire community. Support student success! Sign up for our newsletter, support your specific cause, and help us meet the greatest needs of our students! Visit FVschoools.org!

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

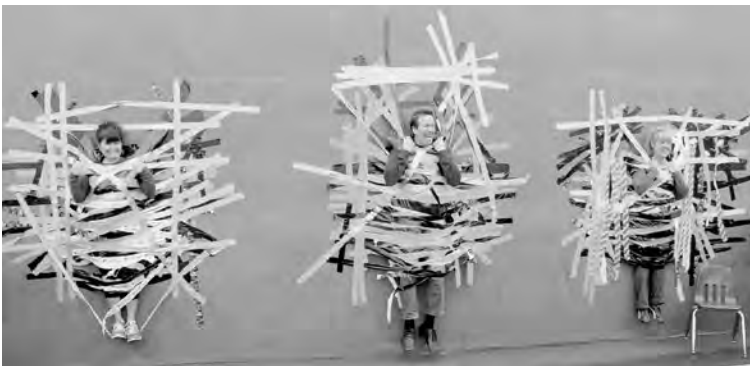
18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courreges.html



Chris Christensen
Principal

Got Tape?

Congratulations to Courreges students and families for raising nearly \$48,000 at their recent Jog-A-Thon. The top classes won the opportunity to tape their teacher and principal to the wall. This year's winning classes were Mrs. Ostovarpour (1st Grade) and Mrs. Naughton (4th/5th Combo). Great job Courreges!



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

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



Kevin Johnson
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

A Busy Time of Year

Springtime at Fulton promises to be one of the busiest times of year yet. As students begin preparing for SBAC testing, several exciting extra-curricular opportunities have

recently taken place including the annual Spanish Club's trip to Olvera Street in Los Angeles where students immersed themselves in local history and culture. On-campus, Ms. Hogrebe's 2014-15 Peer Assistance League class recently took on the "Pennies for Pasta" challenge and is proud to announce that Fulton shattered the original goal of \$1,500 nearly doubling last year's donations taking in a total of \$2,809.24 over the two-week homeroom competition. Every day Falcons continue to make an impact on their community and those in need.



(Front) Lauren Stewart, Tristine Lam, Linda Nguyen, Jessy Nguyen, Ms. Hogrebe; (2nd row) Liz Ordonez, Jenny Nguyen, Hailey Tran, Ellie Peterson, Isabella Purdy, Ashley Consoli, Michael Bell, Julie Cavanaugh, Tina Vu, Delaney Hoenig; (Back) Emma Maytorena, Ashley Griffin, Taylor Tran, Cindy Tran, Lauren Le, and Ava Clark.

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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Our Amazing PTO

The PTO at Cox Elementary School gets it! This great group works tirelessly to help support and enrich the learning experiences of each of our students. They empower our classroom teachers, support science and art, and even provide our students with direct lessons on technology application. On Afterschool Mondays our PTO volunteer of the year, Mr. Stephen Schwarz, works with the fifth-grade students to apply media technology programs in the computer labs. The PTO also provides learning opportunities and assemblies in the arts, music history and performance (with Music Legacy and Chorus), and science. They also strongly support the Outdoor Science Camp, as well as numerous science and social studies field trips for all grade levels.



Read at home book giveaway.

Literacy is a top priority at Cox, and our PTO purchases enough materials so that every student has an opportunity to choose books and novels of their very own to take home. Thank you, Cox PTO, for everything you do!

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.regs-fvdsd-caschoolloop.com



Erin Bains
Principal

Valentine's Day

Gisler 4th grade students got super creative this Valentine's Day! They were told to think outside of "the box" while creating their Valentine's Day card holder. There were themes of Plants verse Zombies, Legos, cupcakes, Ninja Turtles, and even a full sized football player! The only rule was each box needed to have a cavity to hold Valentine's Day cards. Students found whatever they could at home to create these incredible contraptions. Some even had complicated journeys for their cards to go through until they reached the inner cavity such as levers, slides, and tubes! Students shared their process and final product through an oral report.



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

In February, Masuda Middle School recognized some of our outstanding students: Masuda's Monarchs on the Move. At the School Board meeting held on February 19, 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: Cielo Chavarria and Justin Hsieh, sixth grade; Anh Nguyen and Nelson Tran, seventh grade; and Hoangsa Nguyen and Martin Pham, eighth grade. The entire school staff is extremely proud of their accomplishments—not to mention incredibly



thankful for the opportunity to work with such stellar students. Also honored at the Board recognition were outstanding parent volunteers April Bollinger and Alaina Knight-Hougen, who 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.

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

A National Blue Ribbon School

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced that Newland Elementary was named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. Only three Orange County schools were named as National Blue Ribbon Schools this year. Newland was also one of only 48 schools nationwide that were designated an "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School."

Secretary Duncan remarked that, "National Blue Ribbon Schools are models of consistent excellence and a resource for other schools and districts. We celebrate them for their tireless effort and boundless creativity in reaching and teaching every student." Superintendent Dr. Marc Ecker emphasized that, "We are very pleased that Newland Elementary has won this highly prestigious award. We join the staff and parents of Newland in celebrating this first National Blue Ribbon award



for our school district. The Fountain Valley School District has been consistently one of the highest-achieving school districts in Orange County. With this award, Newland Elementary is now being recognized nationally."

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Wolfpack Hall of Fame

While all students in California are being challenged to have a deeper understanding of problem solving in math, students at Oka Elementary School strive to excel and stay ahead of their peers. Oka students have been fortunate to have access to Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math for five years. One of the pillars of success in the Wolfpack is for students to complete the entire ST Math program at their grade levels during the course of the school year. Although the goal of ST Math is to have students reach a 75-percent completion rate, Oka challenges students to make it all the way to 100 percent! This is a daunting task to achieve, but Oka students are all about doing their best. Over the past two years, the number of students to achieve the 100-percent rate has grown tremendously. In fact, last year half of Oka's entire student population made it, and this current school year has even more students on track to earn their way into the ST Math Hall of Fame.

ST Math is a computer-based program that provides problem-solving opportunities through math games to students in a format that challenges them to look for solutions using spatial-temporal reasoning. When students reach the 100-percent level, their names are recognized for all to see in our learning lab, and they are celebrated at the final end-of-year awards assembly.

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Our Awesome Scientists

Plavan's fifth-grade classrooms have had the opportunity to participate in the Ocean Institute's Watershed Education Program. This year, more than 2,000 children from throughout Southern California were able to take valuable field trips to learn about our local watersheds.

This learning has continued in the classrooms, because our students have been planning and implementing their own local watershed research projects. The three fifth-grade classes have chosen individual research projects on this very topic. Mrs. Terich's class chose water quality in the local watershed, Miss Moothart's class chose biomass and biodiversity, and Mrs. Rutter's classroom chose pollution.

After analyzing their collected data, our fifth-graders then created a special presentation of their findings to share at the Ocean Institute's annual Kids' Conferences on Watersheds. Each Plavan fifth-grader had a speaking part that followed their very thorough PowerPoint presentation. This was an opportunity for our students to share their knowledge of the scientific process and overall conclusions. The students were outstanding, and I am very proud of their hard work.



Mrs. Terich's 5th grade class getting ready for their final presentation at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point.

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

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

Exploring the Ocean

At Talbert Middle School we always go to great lengths to make sure that our students are not just learning, but are also actively engaged in the material, as well as committed to excellence beyond just competency in the subject matter.

Our school has recently teamed up with Explore Ocean of Newport Beach to create a positive educational experience that is based upon the seven principals of ocean literacy. Students meet afterschool on Thursdays to design, build, create, and test their own science projects.

In this class they can choose from a variety of topics. One of the most popular subjects is bio-engineering. The opportunity to make plastics out of plant-based materials allows our students to use scientific methods to help develop "greener" solutions to modern day problems.

The students can also build their own machines with electric motors to perform a variety of tasks and procedures. These robots are then put on display in an innovation showcase. Students also have the opportunity to delve into the world of classic biology. Dissecting squid, cow eyeballs, and octopus provides a well-rounded approach to science, and can prepare our students for further courses in high school. All of these opportunities are available to our students, and are helping to create a wealth of experience and memories.

These special science classes will continue on through June. They are a great way for our students to receive a strong Common Core education, as well as lay a foundation in the sciences that goes well beyond the classroom.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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Kathy Davis
Principal

Lunar New Year

Once again Tamura celebrated with a grand festival for the Lunar New Year. Families, friends, staff, alumni and neighbors came together to honor the traditions of our Asian community!

We had over 40 adults helping the Tamura community with this exciting daylong event. All of the Tamura students are able to go through a number of stations that include art, math, food, games, cultural display and reading/listening activities. Most of students and staff and all of our helpers wore traditional Asian attire.

Tamura is very thankful for the outstanding support that our community provides. They are very generous with the funding, time and ideas that help make this a spectacular festival of learning and growing to help make Tamura a very special place to be!



Huntington Beach City School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Hauk

How Can I Help?

We are very fortunate in the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) to have such caring staff members, parents, and community members. Because of that caring, we often hear, “How can I help?” We are pleased to let parents know that there are many ways to help, and all you have to do is ask. Whether you are able to help on a regular basis, or even if it is once a month, we can use your time and talents to benefit our students.

However, now there is an even more exciting way to help our district as a whole. With the passage of Proposition 30, HBCSD is beginning to get back some of the money that was taken from schools during our recent economic downturn. Those funds are given to schools to help improve instruction and must be spent through the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which each district develops. This is an exciting process that requires input from our community, and, because of that, it creates another way for each parent and community member to help our schools.

What is great about your school? What current program would you like to see expanded? What new learning opportunities would you like to see in our schools? These are just some of the questions we are asking our parents, staff members, and community members in meetings to help us continue the development of our LCAP. We have two more LCAP meetings on March 4 and April 1 at 3:30 p.m. at the HBCSD District Office. We invite everyone to attend and share ideas and thoughts. If you cannot make the meeting in person, we would still like to hear your ideas. We have made a comment page available on our Web site at www.hbcsd.us; under the Quick Links you will see the link for the LCAP Comment Form. Providing feedback is very easy and only takes a few minutes. We value your input in regards to our schools.

As I shared earlier, at HBCSD we are very lucky to have such caring staff members, parents and community members, who often ask us, “How can I help?” This is our opportunity to ask you, our parents and community, how can we help you to continue to make our schools the best possible place for your students to grow? I strongly encourage you to help us in this process. I would like to thank our community for the help. Without you, we could not offer the same programs and services we are able to provide on a daily basis. Now let us help you!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Shari Kowalke
President

An Opportunity for All of Us

In July 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that dramatically revised how California funds its schools. This new system, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), is designed to be more equitable and transparent. It will direct more funds to districts with low-income students, English learners and foster children and shift more authority to local districts to decide how to spend the money.

In return for greater control over how each district spends state funds, the new funding law requires districts to involve parents and the public in setting academic goals and in linking expenditures to those goals. These details will be spelled out in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Districts must share data on whether the spending achieved the desired results at the school site and district levels for all students and for student subgroups receiving additional dollars. This requirement, that instructional and budget goals be tied together through a community process, marks a fundamental shift in budgeting in California.

It is important to note that the LCFF is a mechanism for redistributing funding, not a source of new funding. This new system does offer school districts more control than they have had in the past to run schools as they deem best. The LCFF requires School Boards and local education leaders to be more transparent, provides parents and the community with new opportunities to educate themselves, and actively helps shape spending decisions and academic priorities.

In order for this process to achieve success, we are soliciting and incorporating ideas and priorities suggested by the district advisory committees, school site councils, parents and the public at large. The following dates are your opportunity to be a part of this valuable process in the Huntington Beach City School District: March 24, 2015—LCAP Public Hearing at 6 p.m. at the district office and April 1, 2015—LCAP Committee Meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the district office.

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

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



Dr. Morgan Smith
Principal

Discovering Dwyer

Dwyer Middle School recently opened its doors to the community and celebrated our accomplishments and programs to present and potential parents in the community at our annual Open House on February 26. Food trucks with delicious choices were available prior to our classrooms being open for visitation. Dwyer also hosted a book fair in the library and a future student presentation for prospective parents. Representatives from PTSA, teachers and staff members were available to share wonderful things about the experience at Dwyer. Potential families were

able to see courses available, speak firsthand with the teachers, and find out more about why Dwyer is the best middle school in Huntington Beach.

If you missed it and would like to schedule a meeting to find out more about the possibilities of enrolling your student, please schedule a meeting with Dr. Smith as soon as possible.



Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



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President



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School News
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Please see page 35

Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

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



Renee Polk
Principal

A Library for the Future

Perry Elementary School is very excited to welcome our new library/media-technology specialist, Ms. Julie Prager! Ms. Prager joins Perry from the Tustin Unified School District, where in 2014 she was selected as a Classified Employee of the Year. We are very proud to have Ms. Prager with us!

Ms. Prager has 10 years of experience as an elementary school library/media-technology specialist, and she has already begun transforming our library/media center into a model for 21st-century teaching and learning. Ms. Prager has been ordering informational nonfiction texts to meet the instructional shifts that are a part of the Common Core State Standards. Additionally, our new technology room has all new netbooks, and Ms. Prager is incorporating technology, information



literacy, and media instruction into library time for each class. Working in collaboration with the great teachers and students at Perry, Ms. Prager is helping to provide students with 21st-century skills.

John R. Peterson *Elementary*

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



Dr. Constance
Polhemus
Principal

Kindergarten for All!

Our district believes in educational choice for parents. Choices begin at age 3 with our fee-based Preschool Academy for 3- and 4-year-olds at Peterson, Perry and Eader elementary schools.

Children who turn 5 between July 1 and Dec. 2 can enroll in our Preppy Kindergarten program at Perry Elementary School, starting in September. Preppy K provides students with a year of preparation before beginning kindergarten.

Children who turn 5 between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2 may enroll in our new Extended Kindergarten program, which starts in late January or early February of each year at Peterson Elementary.



Extended Kindergarten is a 19-week developmental program to prepare students for kindergarten in the fall.

Children who turn 5 on or before Sept. 1 may enroll in our full-day kindergarten program. Enrollment is open now at all elementary schools. Parents are encouraged to enroll early for our standards-based academic-kindergarten program by visiting their home school for an enrollment packet.

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

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



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Developing Leaders

Smith School is very proud of its Student Senate program. Children in the fourth and fifth grades have a wonderful opportunity to represent their class through this group.

To qualify, each student is required to give a one-minute speech about why they want to represent their class, and how they will support the needs of their fellow students and school. Each student who gives a speech then has his or her name placed in a special drawing for selection as class representative. The fourth- and fifth-grade classes then choose one boy and one girl.

The Student Senators meet monthly with Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Spencer to share ideas from their classrooms about how to improve our school and community. For example, during the past holiday season the Senators led a drive that collected 200 coats for the Orangewood Children's Home, the Colette's Children's Home, and Someone Cares Soup Kitchen.

The Senators are also in charge of our weekly recycling program. They spend the first part of their recess collecting recycling baskets from each classroom to bring to the recycling bin. The school receives a donation from this recycling, which helps the environment. The students recently increased their recycling efforts by collecting the cardboard trays from our very large lunch program.

The Senators will also be working with a representative from the Claremont Graduate School's Sun Safe program. This group will be educating our students on the different ways to be safe in the sun. This is a very important topic in our beach community!

Finally, to help promote physical fitness, our senators will also be hosting a basketball tournament during recess and lunch for all interested students. The Student Senate Program is a great opportunity for each student to develop their leadership skills and help their school and community.

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

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



Dr. Cynthia
Guerrero
Principal

The Power of Creativity

One of the life skills we always talk about is creativity. But what exactly is it?

The Chuck Jones Center for Creativity recently formed a partnership with Sowers Middle School to help tackle this issue. A family event that we had in conjunction with the Center was held at our school in October. It was open to families within the Huntington Beach City School District so that they could release their inner creativity, genius, and passion.

Artists from the Center also held master classes in January. Here the students and adults could unleash their creative side by



finding inspiration, producing drawings, and learning to discover.

Creativity is a soft-skill that is needed in the 21st-century workforce. By trying out different approaches we can help our students learn to innovate, invent, and create. At Sowers Middle School we are so fortunate to have experts and partnerships lead the way.

John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall
Principal

STEM in Preschool

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education starts early with the Eader Elementary School Eagles! To keep at the forefront of 21st-century learning and our rapidly changing digital future, students are being exposed to the STEM foundations of learning, and they are being given opportunities to apply those disciplines to real-life applications.

STEM education encourages thinking outside the box, questioning, collaborating, and creativity. In Eader classrooms, one will see student-built skyscrapers in the preschool classes and elaborately designed shopping mall models, complete with dollars per square foot equations, in the fifth grade. This is all standards-based learning and a lot of fun for students.

STEM starts in our preschool with creative play, lots of building opportunities, and a pilot math electronic tablet program. Our four-year-olds are learning the Spatial Temporal Math (STMath) computer program, which utilizes computer math games which correspond to the brain's spatial-temporal area to enhance learning of math concepts. Students' science instruction is supported with many after-school programs, such as: Bricks for Kids, which teaches engineering and physics concepts; Science Fun, which offers labs and experiments; and Chess Masters, which develops scientific thinking.



Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Being Green

Huntington Seacliff Elementary is working towards being 'Green.' We are using less paper, and we are energy efficient. In addition to these efforts, we have a wonderful PTA to support our "Green Team," who work together to understand gardening and sustainability. This school year started with one of our community's Girl Scouts who worked to get the garden ready in August. There were weeds and over growth to be tackled first before the plan for planting could begin. Now, our "Green Team" meets during lunch to weed, plant, and sample the delicious garden vegetables. Our upper grade classrooms help the garden

grow by following a watering and maintenance schedule. When I walk by the garden, students are so proud to show me the vegetables and flowers, and the mud on their shoe from watering that day!



Taylor Barbee with Friends Going 'Green.'

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

A Technology Adventure

With Common Core State Standards, technology is more embedded into our instructional practices each day. From kindergarten through fifth grade, our students demonstrate their proficiency with technology and applications by doing research, thinking critically, create, innovating, collaborating and communicating.

For Hawes Elementary School, technology is becoming more ubiquitous! Every classroom has a SMART Board, a document camera and six computers. Weekly, students visit both of our computer labs (PC and Mac), and we have mobile carts with laptops, netbooks and iPads that travel into the classrooms. Through our Bring Your Own Device policy, students can bring their e-readers, tablets and electronic devices to school to provide more opportunities to use technology as part of the learning process.

Students can be seen developing their understanding of number sense through ST Math, a visual-spatial, Web-based learning program, and their reading skills through Accelerated Reader, Imagine Learning, Earobics and more. As our students' skills develop, we can see them researching, creating iMovies, publishing wikis, writing blogs, and researching explorers, missions, the life cycle of plants, bees and more. We see them learning to use applications appropriately to demonstrate their learning and to cite sources to support their arguments. By embedding technology across the curriculum, we have seen students create models using Minecraft, iMovies on social issues, interactive maps, animated characters to share information on a book read and more!

To help our students gain a better appreciation of the ethical issues surrounding the use of technology, our digital citizenship program, spearheaded by two Hawes parents, begins in kindergarten with age-appropriate curriculum and continues into fifth grade with assemblies focused on social media and the impact of posts.

We are excited to see where our students take us on this technology journey! We are Hawesome!

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Reading is Fun

In February, Moffett was able to share all of the hard work of its students and teachers at the school's annual Open House event. The turnout was excellent, and everyone was impressed with the significant learning effort that was being displayed in the classrooms.

Concurrent with Open House, the Moffett PTA also held a book fair where materials appropriate to each reading level were available for purchase. This is one of the events that our students most enjoy during the year. This year's theme was "Under the Sea." Mrs. Kari Cone led the team that worked with the publisher to help generate interest in the materials.



Kari Cone shares a book with Moffett Mustangs Audrey Cone, Kenneth Taylor, Sadie Kent, and Dylan Cawley.

Our Gallery was decorated in a nautical theme, which added to the enjoyment of being able to visit the fair and purchase the available books. A huge thank-you goes to our PTA. We are so grateful for how they support our school and reading program by providing this great service!

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

beautiful.
smiles
bright futures

Changing lives, one smile at a time!



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Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gustavo Balderas, D. Ed.

Smarter Balanced Assessments

In schools across the country, teachers are implementing new academic standards, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which provide consistent guidelines in English and math at each grade level and help prepare students to graduate high school ready for college and the workplace. These new Common Core State Standards challenge students to develop a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically, and apply what they are learning to the real world. The CCSS are challenging; these standards set a high bar for performance.

In order to assess student achievement on these standards, students in third through eighth grades will participate in the online Smarter Balanced Assessment this spring. This computer-based assessment was piloted across California last year, with no scores given to parents, schools, or districts. This spring, our students will be tested in both language arts and math with the computer assessments. Our fifth- and eighth-grade students will be taking the paper/pencil California Standards Tests in science.

There will be scores reported to parents this spring. The first year or two of test scores will serve as a completely new baseline of data. We fully expect our students to gradually show improvement over time on these assessments, as they get more accustomed to utilizing online assessments, as well as the new curriculum.

If you would like more information about Smarter Balanced, please visit the Web site at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>. If you have questions about the assessment, please contact your child's school.

Circle View *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

Astrocamp!

Circle View's 5th graders had the experience of a lifetime this February at Astrocamp! Located just outside of Idylwild, Astrocamp is a 3-day overnight outdoor science camp that focuses on hands-on science experiments and experiences! Our 152 students had the opportunity to participate in exciting activities such as rocket-building and launching, ziplining, rock climbing, and experience building a satellite in near-weightlessness in the heated indoor pool! Students participated in experiments involving planetary gasses and even got to blow

things up! This 3-day experience has proven to be an unforgettable time of team-building and science exploration. Through the commitment of our parents and community, Circle View 5th graders continue to experience the wonder of Astrocamp year after year!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President

A Warm Welcome

I am proud to introduce the two newest members of our governance team, Joseph Gaglione and Jack Souders. As new Board members, both are committed to taking action to provide direction, align resources, and ensure accountability for the Ocean View School District.

Joseph Gaglione graduated with a master's degree in management and has extensive experience in managing government contracts. His experience with budgets and organizational efficiency will enable him to ensure that every dollar spent is used to improve the educational quality for all students in Ocean View. Mr. Gaglione's goal as a Board member is to guide Ocean View toward attracting the finest, brightest, and most dedicated teachers in order to provide all students with the opportunity to become successful, productive, and responsible citizens.

Jack Souders holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish with an emphasis in second language acquisition, and a multiple subject credential. Mr. Souders began his teaching career in 2000 in the Long Beach Unified School District. He now teaches at Tincher Preparatory School, a K-8 Distinguished School in Long Beach. Jack has been an active part of the Ocean View School District for 18 years; his two oldest children attended Ocean View schools, and his youngest daughter is currently attending Mesa View Middle School.

I am pleased to welcome our two new trustees to the Ocean View School Board and look forward to working together to benefit the students, staff, parents, and community that make Ocean View strong!

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President



John Briscoe
Clerk



Debbie Cotton
Member



Joseph Gaglione
Member

Jack C. Souders, Member (picture unavailable at press time)

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 offer a summer program for 2015. Located on the Pleasant View School site, Camp OVPP will follow a nine-week summer program for children ages three to five. Our highly motivated and enthusiastic teachers have designed their lessons using the same academic curriculum that follows the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Students will also enjoy a more playful camp schedule that will consist of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water-play days, special visitors, special events and much more, all of it embedded in the curriculum.

At Camp OVPP, our students will make new friends, learn new concepts, and have fun in a safe, nurturing environment. Camp OVPP will start on June 29 and 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.

College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Fun, Creative, and Innovative!

Mrs. Keller, a visionary fifth-grade teacher, wrote and received a Fuel Your School grant for a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) project through Donorschoose.com. Many dignitaries were in attendance for the presentation of the STEM grant materials, including Hector Infante and Armando Rosado, from the international oil company that sponsored the grant, Julie Jackson, from another international oil company, and Alica Berhow, from the Orange County Business Council. Lou Correa, a former state senator, spoke to the students about the importance of STEM.

Students were really surprised when the Angel's Cheerleaders presented each student with a mini car keychain, an autographed picture, a T-shirt, and sunglasses. The biggest surprise came when the cheerleaders presented boxes to the students with the STEM project inside. Each box contained the mechanical parts for teams of students to build their own "beetle bots." The project was a huge success, and every student enjoyed the collaborative experience.



Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Ragtime Revelry

Please join us for our 21st Annual Casino Night, "The Roaring '20s...Ragtime Revelry!" which will be held at the Huntington Harbour Bay Club on Saturday, March 21 from 7-11 p.m. This fun-filled night features fabulous teacher donations, amazing silent auction items, and an incredible live auction featuring vacation getaways, sporting event tickets, and signed memorabilia, among other items.

Casino Night is our biggest fund-raiser of the year, and this year promises to be another memorable and successful event. As a result of last year's fund-raiser and through the incredible generosity of our community, we were able to continue to enhance and upgrade our technology program and support classroom technology. This year's proceeds will keep us on the forefront in our technology offerings for students as well as providing support for necessary instructional materials and programs affected by the current budget issues we are facing.

So grab some friends, and scat on down to the Huntington Harbour Bay Club. It's sure to be the "bee's knees!"

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Enjoying Reading

At Golden View, our students love to read, and we love to celebrate their reading success! Growing Readers is an at-home reading program that encourages all of our students to become motivated to read every day.

Once the students complete their daily reading they can track it on a monthly calendar. At the end of each month the students then turn in their reading calendars. They celebrate their success by having their names added to a leaf on our "Growing Readers Tree" in the library.



Golden View is also fortunate to participate in the Accelerated Reader Program, where students earn points for each book they read. At various point levels they can win prizes for meeting their specific reading goals.

Whether they read at home or at school, the students who complete a book at their level are able to take a quiz on the computer. Student celebrations are held at every library gathering.

Marine View *Middle School*

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



William Lynch
Principal

Congratulations Sara!

Marine View Middle School students participated in The National PTA Reflections Art competition this past October. The 2014-2015 theme was "Our World would be a Better Place if..." Sixth grade student Sara Shimabukuro submitted a Visual Arts entry for the Huntington Unified 4th Council. The title of her submission was "Together we can make our earth Beautiful". Sara was awarded the Award of Excellence for Middle School, and we are so proud of her! She was recognized on Feb. 6 at the HUC PTA Founders Day luncheon at Mile Square Golf Course. Congratulations Sara!



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Ready to Read

Hope View Elementary School was awarded approximately 600 books thanks to a grant written by Lorrie Smith, a former Hope Views second-grade teacher. Upon receiving notification of the book grant, Mrs. Smith contacted the Foundation and explained the relocation of three schools in the Ocean View School District and explained the relocation of kindergarten, first and second grades to Willmore Elementary School in the Westminster School District. The Foundation, working with Mrs. Smith, extended the grant to include Willmore, Oak View Elementary School, and Lake View Elementary School.

The books were picked up in the parking lot of Downey High School on Saturday, December 13 by the principals from Hope View and Willmore. A very special thank you and a deep appreciation goes out to Lorrie Smith for her efforts and follow through in procuring this book grant and sharing the opportunity with four other elementary schools. Hope View plans to use the books to build libraries in our temporary locations, build home libraries, restock our book giveaway, and support classroom and school libraries.

Through this grant, children and families are given access to the books at no charge. The Foundation's signature program, Book Buddies, "builds a love of reading in low-income communities by providing new books for children in need." Since 2004, the foundation has have distributed nearly 3 million brand-new children's books through Book Buddies. We are grateful to the Foundation for providing this wonderful opportunity to support our literacy efforts.

Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Engineering + Recycling = Fun!

Lake View School may be closed, but our engineering program continues! Students recently learned about a new and important type of engineering. Green engineering is used to solve problems in a way that prevents harm to the environment. This can be applied to any engineering problem by using the engineering design process Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve.

Students learned about the large recycling culture that exists in Senegal, West Africa. People find ways to use materials from scrap markets to engineer small toy racing cars and compete at the annual Dakar Race Rally.



From trash to treasure!

Students found some very innovative ways to use CDs, plastic bottle lids, straws, craft sticks, cardboard, egg cartons and clay to engineer their own Lake View Recycled Racers. They learned vocabulary words like axles, wheels, push/pull and force and put those words into action, guaranteeing that they won't be forgotten. If it's meaningful, it will be memorable!

Mesa View *Middle School*

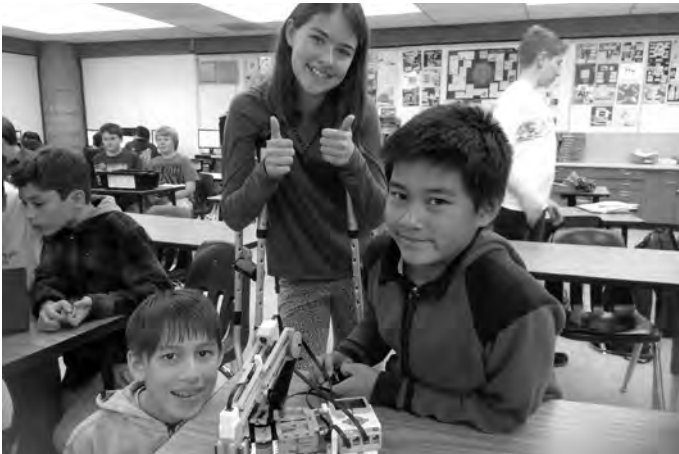
17601 Avilla Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org



Randy Lempert
Principal

Robotics Class

Mesa View is excited about kicking off the first year of offering a robotics class. The class is designed to use the motivational effects of robotics to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts. Students are introduced to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. Students are involved in the development, building and programming of a LEGO Mindstorm robot. Students collaborate and work in teams to design, build, program and document their progress.



Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems.

Oak View *Elementary*

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



Francesca Ligman
Interim Principal

Anti-Bullying Campaign

One day during lunch recess, five passionate fifth-graders approached me and asked if they could do something to stop the bullying at our school. Each had been bullied in some way and wanted to help others so they wouldn't go through what they did. I was very moved and inspired by these young girls. We shared all their ideas on a circle map and then devised a multistep action plan to accomplish their goal.

With support from El Viento and Student Council, they began the campaign with posters to raise awareness. The students are currently working on skits to demonstrate what it means to be an "upstander." Bracelets stating "I'm an upstander" will be awarded to students that sign a pledge promising to stand up to bullies.

These five students will truly make a difference and leave a mark on Oak View and all the students now and in the future.



Alondra Garcia, Marisabel Alcaraz, Amber Ruiz, Jocelyn Cantu and Kelsey Maldonado.

Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Parent-Child Activities

Children, parents and staff have had a great start to the new year with a variety of parent-child programs to support the classroom curriculum.

The Traveling Nature Class was our first visitor. Sunny Dallafior brought interesting animals to share with the children: frogs, lizards, snakes, tarantulas and even a pig! Each preschool class spent time with the animals, learning how to handle them gently and appreciate their differences.

Later in the month, program coordinator Nancy Wikes from the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP) Program presented a cooking class. She showed the families how to prepare a healthy snack. Ms. Wikes talked about alternative ways to prepare traditional fast-food meals and gave ideas for more nutritious snacks.

The final class of the month was Fit Fun, led by Miss Arlene. Parents and children play with pool noodles, beach balls and sidewalk chalk. All activities help young children with developmentally appropriate skills.



Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Sun View + Oak View = "Sunny Owls"

February was a busy month! We began registering new Kindergarten students for September (2015); hosted a Winter Wonderland reading night; fourth and fifth grade students raised money for the American Heart Association "Jump Rope For Heart" during their our annual P.E. Jump-a-Thon; we recognized Chinese/Vietnamese New Year; Kid Council began the annual "Pennies for Prevention" campaign honoring students with Leukemia and best of all, we welcomed our first grade friends (4 classes) from Oak View School who will remain with us until June. We couldn't be happier!



Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Making a Positive Difference

The facts don't lie. Based upon parent and student feedback, discipline data, and a California Healthy Kids Survey that was given to our seventh-graders in 2014, Spring View Middle School has soundly established a positive and safe environment for all of its students. With a focus on student success, we now see that our school community provides good social, emotional, and academic support, as well as intervention services for students with needs.

The children appreciate this concern as well. The percentage of students who reported levels of caring relationships with a teacher or other adult was 90 percent in 2014, up from 67 percent in 2012. The percentage of students who reported that a teacher or other adult believes that they will be a success was 93 percent in 2014, up from 77 percent in 2012. And the percentage of students who reported that they feel the things they do at school can make a difference was 71 percent in 2014, up from 37 percent in 2012.

Spring View staff members have always prided themselves on holding high academic standards. At the same time they also seek to develop well-rounded student/citizens who can make a positive difference in the community. By modeling what we expect of the students, Spring View has been creating an environment where every child is both valued and encouraged to become their best.

Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Student Council Stars

Star View Elementary School is doing its part in creating the leaders of tomorrow. We seek out every opportunity to allow students to take on responsibility and become independent citizens. The Star View Student Council is one way that our upper-grade students start to learn about leadership.

The fourth- and fifth-grade students elected by their classmates meet regularly to plan activities, spirit days, and fund-raisers. The teacher leader, Mrs. Kakimoto, is enthusiastic about building leadership capacity amongst these students through service activities and school-wide events. Currently, the students are planning a paper drive for our school. Also, the students are planning to sell Bunny Grams in the spring to support their efforts to buy new equipment for the multipurpose room. They have already raised money selling Jingle Grams before winter break.

The teachers and staff are very appreciative of the student leaders and encourage their drive to make Star View an even better school.



Village View *Elementary*

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



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

New Year, New Beginnings

As the New Year rolled in at Village View Elementary, so did a new principal! Village View welcomed Tracy Goodspeed as their new principal at the start of the year. Mrs. Goodspeed has been a member of the Ocean View School District family for 19 years and is looking forward to her new role at Village View. The students, parents and staff members all gave her a warm welcome as the New Year began. Plans are underway with the PTA for some exciting future events and the teachers are busily preparing the students for the upcoming Smarter Balanced Testing. It takes a village to raise a child! Parents, teachers, support staff, community and administration all play a part in helping our students meet and exceed our expectations of them. We are off to a great start to the year!



Vista View *Middle School*

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



Joe Santos
Interim Principal

English Learners Are Soaring!

Vista View Middle School's English Language Development (ELD) classes are soaring! Almost 50 percent of our English Learners (ELs) are currently being considered for reclassification due to their interactive participation in our new ELD support classes! With the implementation of a 30-minute daily ELD period, and through targeted lessons, students are learning how to use strategies and routines to improve reading, writing, listening,

and speaking skills across the curriculum. Students work cooperatively and engage in analyzing and discussing high-interest topics and themes. Vista View EL students are thriving due to all of the support systems in place. In addition to our ELD support, EL students are also supported with reading intervention classes, bilingual aid support, after-school homework clubs, access to technology in every classroom, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) elective courses. This past month, we celebrated 67 of our EL students who improved one or more levels on the California English Language Development Test! Way to go, Falcons!

Westmont *Elementary*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

Bike Safety

Officers Harvey and Aioki from the Westminster Police Department Bike Patrol came to Westmont School in January to present a bike safety program to our third- through fifth-grade students. The children listened intently as the officers showed them a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions. At its conclusion, the officers announced that a free bike would be awarded to the student who wrote the winning essay about bike safety.

The next day, seven officers arrived to coordinate a bike rodeo for our fourth and fifth-grades. The students brought their bikes to be inspected before participating in an obstacle course. Afterwards they were treated to a free bike helmet and certificate of completion. Our students thanked the police department with letters. Natalie K wrote: "Thank you so much for having the bike rodeo. It was so much fun. I was in the rodeo, and I got a helmet, but I kept messing up by riding through the cones!"



You!



Susan D. Marshall

One of the things colleges allow to get to know you better is a Brag Sheet. Yes, you heard correctly. The Brag sheet!

It is also known as the College Admissions Resume. It is an opportunity to show the admissions committee what distinguishes you from every other applicant they are reviewing. The Brag Sheet communicates not only how unique and amazing you are, but reveals to the reader a deeper understanding of who you are: your character and your personality.

Beginning as early as the summer of your freshman year:

You are going to want to keep a record; basically everything you do outside of the classroom. You will want to keep your honors and awards including: newspaper articles, playbills, certificates all in one place.

One quick, easy tip:

Simply take a three ring binder. Fill with plastic sheet protectors and begin filling you're your awards, honors, poems, playbills, newspaper clippings etc. You can get fancy later with scrapbooking or even scan and create an electronic file adding additional photos or videos.

This Brag Book will be invaluable in the future. You will be surprise how many ways it will be useful. Use it when you create that resume; to help jog the memories of those who will write glowing letters of recommendation for you. Use it to make your applications come alive. Stand out from the crowd.

Be Ready... You will need to...Brag - Brag - Brag... The colleges want to know who you are.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com



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Parent To Parent

Confidence for Beginning Drivers

Jodie Lynn

Question: Our son is planning on getting his driving permit this summer. This means he will be able to drive on his own without supervision. What are some easy guidelines to make him feel more comfortable about driving that we could set up for him so we don't constantly nag him or make him feel uncomfortable?

From Jodie: When our teenagers got their license, we had already let them drive around our neighborhood high school parking lot when there were no other cars. We practiced parallel parking, backing up, going around soccer cones, and in and out of them, while they were still new drivers. However, when it came time for driving in real traffic, even though they knew most of the traffic signs and procedures, it was clear that they simply needed more experience with real-life driving situations. They needed to understand what was required of them while driving in rain, sleet, snow and ice. They also needed to become comfortable with busy streets, highways, overpasses, etc. Driving schools, pretty much meet the requirements needed to give them the confidence that they lacked in these specific areas. The one-on-one attention with an adult who wasn't going to be grading or nagging them was exactly what was missing. Of course, in today's society, making sure that teens do not text and drive, is also one of the missing elements. SnapSecure created an infographic to illustrate the dangers of texting and driving and offer a driver's safety app which disables texting, calling and internet functions of a phone when you are driving over 15mph. Helpful for parents who are worried about the safety of their teens, the motion activated technology also alerts parents if the block is removed.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, *Inside Parenting Success*.

Car Parts Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put FHOW in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2015

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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

Congratulations to Jenny Dao

Winner of the January Word Search Contest!

20
WWW.SCHOOLNEWSROLLCALL.COM

A Bit of History

The Jazz Age: The Roaring Twenties

By D.H. Coop

In American social history, the 1920s period is often overshadowed by the Great War, Prohibition and the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Yet, it was a period of sudden change in the home, on the road, in the economy, in attitudes, and in behavior. These changes seem so second nature to us today that we think they have always been around.

Starting in the home we can see changes in workload, entertainment, and travel spread across the social environment. Prior to the '20s, the housewife scheduled her work according to the days of the week. Washing was done by hand and took all day, along with preparing the meals and caring for the children. Her workload was lightened with new time-saving devices, such as the electric vacuum cleaner, the electric refrigerator and stove, and the electric iron.

Also, the radio changed home entertainment. Before the radio, communities were informed of the local news by the newspaper or gossip at the market or pub. Now it was broadcast (a word from farming for scattering seeds by hand) right in their front rooms, along with other programs. Family entertainment then shifted from board games and singing to sitting and listening to the radio. As the price of the radio dropped, the children moved off to their own rooms with their very own radios. During the day, the programs were centered on housewives and sponsored by soap companies, thus the birth of the “soap opera.”

Availability of the automobile changed all aspects of life. It provided the housewife with more independence and a more convenient way to do her shopping. Automobiles required better roads and better roads cost money, which caused a shift from railroads to automobiles being the force driving the economy. Restaurants became roadside cafes, hotels became motels, and crime became more mobile. To get the car into everyone’s hands, Henry Ford produced the Model T from 1914 to 1927 with the sales pitch of “in any color (black).” Ford outsold all other carmakers until 1927. General Motors allowed credit and sold cars in multiple colors, finally overtaking the Model T in sales.

Credit shifted the sales pitch. Advertising became more scientific, with research and studies. Slogans and sayings were rooted in the '20s, such as “Say it with flowers” and “Don’t light three cigarettes with one match.” Advertising was given a boost with the Silver Screen and the images it portrayed in dress and style.

Finally, the '20s saw the development of sports and entertainment on a mass scale. Baseball became a national spectator sport. The local bar became a speakeasy that respectable couples could go to and have a drink. The new drink to appeal to women was called the “cocktail”—drinks with decorations. The drinks required illegal alcohol, which was provided by bootleggers in fast cars, which gave birth to the modern race called National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

All in all, the 1920s changed the modern home, transportation, the economy, and social life.

O.C. DEPT. OF ED.— • From Page 4

services when needed. The DHH program is currently previewing web-based programs to enhance instruction across the curriculum. The program also uses specialized technology for testing and analyzing students hearing and amplification devices. Every classroom includes a teaching workstation, computer, sound system, document camera, iPad mobile cart, and interactive White Boards. All classrooms are fitted with audio and visual alert systems for emergency notifications. Most classrooms are equipped with sound field technology to assist students with residual hearing. DHH students enrolled in general education classes are provided real-time note taking services via classroom technology.

OCDE is committed to supporting our teachers in order to integrate technology and enhance teaching and learning for all students. Through innovative teaching practices, there is no limit to what technology in special education classrooms can accomplish, especially to assure that our students are college and career ready and successful.



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Not Your Grandfather's Card Catalog



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and Youth Services

Have you used the Huntington Beach Library's online catalog to find books lately? It has changed. Unlike our old catalog, our new catalog, called Enterprise, corrects common misspellings and auto-completes search terms, just like Google. Once you have selected a book title you will also find suggestions for other books and authors that you might enjoy based upon your selection. Book reviews and series information are offered as well.

The catalog also links to the Accelerator Reader, Lexile Level, and Reading Counts Web sites. Click on your account and you can make "to read" lists, check what items you've borrowed, or place holds. This can be done at the library, or at home at hbpl.org. Give Enterprise a try. You never knew that looking for books could be so easy and informative!

Did you know that our HelpNow online database (powered by Brainfuse Homework Help) isn't just for children? Students up through college can get free help with their homework every day from 1 to 10 p.m. They can also take practice tests and practice their writing skills.

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Just getting your driver's license, or need to renew it? Take our free practice tests for the DMV. Click on our research databases button and look for the green DMV Free Permit Test button.

Don't forget that the last Sunday in April is the Taste of Huntington Beach event, from noon to 4 p.m. Please go to www.tasteofhb.com for more information.

Westminster Library

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

Library Events



Cathy DeLeon
Branch Manager

A good book is just a few clicks away with Bookflix, a new online database that is available on our Web site at www.ocpl.org, under the eLibrary link.

Bookflix offers animated versions of classic children's picture books, as well as options for independent readers to practice their skills with full-text books

for beginning readers. Aimed at children from preschool through the third grade, this is a fantastic resource for you and your child to explore at either home or library.

Beginning on Tuesday April 7 at 10:30 a.m., please join us for Book Babies, a new program at the Westminster Library. Children from birth to age two (and their parent or caregiver) are invited to participate. This group program includes song, dance, play, and a chance to read with your newest booklover.

Check out too our weekly storytimes! Each program includes stories, songs, and a fun craft. Preschool Storytime, geared towards children age two to five, takes place every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Family Storytime happens on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets every month. Teenagers who are interested in contributing their ideas for programs and materials should contact the Library for dates and times. There will be VolunTEEN Orientations at 3:30 p.m. on March 20, as well as on April 3 and 17. New volunteers should pick up an application prior to attending. Teens from age 12 to 18 are invited to apply.



Note-ables

Build It Back Again



Kate Karp

I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks. *Build It Back Again* by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking "Monkeys Driving Cars" tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, "Moment of Noise" seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in "Hairy," "Maybe Maybe Not" and "What Kind of Bear Are You?"

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.



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Current Activities



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

The Fountain Valley Library continues to have a storytime session on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. for toddlers age two to five years. Please join us for stories, songs, crafts, and coloring! The Library continues to offer “Kids Craft” in the afternoon on every first Tuesday of the month, on April 7, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

We have also added another day for our Homework Help, which is now being conducted every Wednesday and Thursday from 4–5 p.m.

Every third Saturday of the month we invite and encourage children to increase their reading skills and self-confidence by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. This will be on March 21 and April 18. Sign up at the Fountain Valley Library Information Desk at 714-962-1324. Children’s movies are every third Monday at 3:30 p.m., on March 15 and April 20.

Teen volunteers are available to assist elementary and middle school students with their homework, or act as reading buddies. Students should bring their homework or book, and are restricted to 15 minutes of help when others are waiting. This service continues through May 28, 2015.

We also have a “Shelving Program” for teens age 16 years and older who need community service hours for graduation requirements, honor society, or college preparation. Teens may pick up an application from the Library.

Teen Movie Saturdays are every first Saturday of the month at 2:15 p.m. The Minute-to-Get-It program on Saturday, April 25, hosted by the Teen Activities Board, is a fun activity where contestants can test their skills in a series of one-minute challenges. Call to register.

The Friends of the Library Bookstore sells gently used books for all interests, including children’s fiction and nonfiction. Donations are also accepted. The Friends hold movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1 p.m., with refreshments.

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Westminster School District

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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, beyond expectations or have 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, increasing 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 cancer, blindness, and hearing loss, but they have not let these difficulties hinder their accomplishments. Conquering these types of obstacles takes both mental and physical toughness.

Every one 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.

2015 Every Student Succeeding Winners

- An Phan—Anderson Elementary School
- Sean Lucero—Clegg Elementary School
- Guillermo Arias—DeMille Elementary School
- Nicole Pratt—Eastwood Elementary School
- Catherine Castellanos—Finley Elementary School
- Sergio Ascencio—Fryberger Elementary School
- Andru Contreras—Hayden Elementary School
- Kody Vu—Meairs Elementary School
- Carissa Bailey—Schmitt Elementary School
- Joseph Dunphy—Schroeder Elementary School
- Colin Valdez—Sequoia Elementary School
- Jacob Rodriguez—Webber Elementary School
- Lawrence Schuster—Willmore Elementary School
- Yareli Lopez—Johnson Middle School
- Rachel Sparks*—Stacey Middle School
- Karen Fierro Mendoza—Warner Middle School

*Rachel Sparks, an eighth-grader at Stacey Middle School, has been selected to represent the district and to be honored at the regional level of the Association of California School Administrators.



Stacey Principal Heidi DeBritton with 8th grade student Rachel Sparks, her family and Stacey Counselor LeAnn Mondt.



Every Student Succeeding winners with Superintendent Dr. Marian Phelps and Board Members Jamison Power and Khanh Nguyen.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mary
Mangold
President

Employees of the Year

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I would like to salute our staff members that 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 2015 Classified Employees of the Year!

Virginia Tse-Horiuchi Para-Educator & Instructional Assistant Category

Virginia began with the district in 2009. Her colleagues and supervisors describe her as a consummate professional who treats every task with the attention and focus that is required. She handles daunting tasks with tremendous grace and patience. Virginia has provided computer training for the staff, students and parents. She also ran the Script Program that raised \$30,000 which funded a second computer lab. Virginia is a person that loves her school and community and will do whatever it takes to make it a better place for the students, teachers and parents. Virginia’s warm and caring personality makes her a joy to work with.

Dave McGovern Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Category

Dave McGovern has worked with the district since 1985. According to his co-workers, he makes Schroeder a ‘home away from home’ for the students, staff, families, and community. He is a true professional and wonderful role model for our students. Dave takes initiative and continually works to ensure the campus is safe, clean and inviting. His personal touch makes all the difference, not only in the work he completes, but also in his positive and upbeat attitude. Dave is not only committed to students but has exhibited tremendous leadership within the California School Employees Association and works to create a positive job atmosphere.

Monica Munoz Support Services & Security Category

Monica began her career with WSD in 1987. Her supervisors and peers say they can always rely on her professionalism, attention to detail, sound judgment and commitment to the parents, students and staff of the district. School and district personnel often call upon Monica to translate something urgent. She is flexible and able to rearrange her schedule to meet the needs of the moment. Monica has been a mentor to her team members by supporting them as they learn new duties. She is also a member of the Orange County Department of Education Multilingual Consortium.

Donald Pogue Office & Technical Category

Donald has been with the district since 2000. Donald is able to analyze situations and take appropriate action in a variety of matters without immediate or direct supervision. Donald routinely demonstrates initiative, responsibility, and effectiveness. He has a strong sense of duty and takes his job seriously. Everything he does, he does with a sense of selflessness and humility. Each school site has unique issues and needs, but Donald knows the sites well. Due to his knowledge and skill in the area of technology, the district has made significant advances at all levels of the organization.

Sondra Vaxmonsky Nutrition Services Category

Sondra has worked for the district since 1996. According to her co-workers and supervisors, Sondra always has a smile and a “can do” attitude. She is a dedicated team worker who can be depended upon to handle whatever situation confronts her throughout the day. Sondra shows initiative and commitment to the Nutrition Services Department in a variety of ways. She is responsible, a problem solver, and takes change in stride. She is never late and rarely misses work. Sondra also volunteers her time and resources to help with Westminster community youth sports.



The Board of Trustees and Superintendent honor the 2015 Classified Employees of the Year.
(F) Dave McGovern, Donald Pogue, Monica Munoz, Sondra Vaxmonsky (Virginia Tse-Horiuchi not pictured).

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Every Student Succeeding

Each year, Anderson School awards one student with Every Student Succeeding certificate. Sponsored by the Westminster Leadership association, a breakfast is held to honor the student and his or her family. This year, Anderson honored An Phan. An is a sixth grade student who started at Anderson in second grade. He struggled when he first started at Anderson. Since then, he has grown by leaps and bounds. He has now started using American Sign Language to communicate. He is learning to use a cane to move around the school and surrounding neighborhood. He can finish tasks and allows other to help him. We couldn't be prouder of An's accomplishments. We look forward to seeing him continue to shine.



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Beyond the Classroom

Our Outdoor Education field trips provide Eastwood students with wonderful learning opportunities and lifelong memories.

The fourth-graders recently experienced an overnight adventure in the Cleveland National Forest in February. Beginning at Mission San Juan Capistrano, and continuing on to the Lazy W Ranch, our students also investigated the cultural eras of California's history. They stepped into the lives of the Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo people to learn more about their daily routines, customs, and cultural practices.

These activities included building a Native American shelter, making tortillas and candles, and panning for gold in a mountain stream! Our students, parents, and teachers enjoyed every minute of this experience.

The sixth-graders also recently spent a week in a beautiful California mountain environment. Through the wonders of outdoor classrooms, our students were able to gain a greater understanding of the world around them. They learned about adaptation and engaged in a hands-on learning experience. They dissected a squid, located its organs and appendages, and gained an understanding of its physiological design.

Our students were also introduced to the discipline of aerodynamics as they examined the science of flight as it applies to both airplanes and rockets. In one practical application they utilized the scientific method to design, build, and launch rockets. Using basic triangulation, our students even determined the altitude of their launches. Their goal was 100 feet!

By engaging in outdoor group cooperation, team-building activities, and goal setting, our Eastwood students forged strong friendships, learned mutual respect, learned to appreciate diversity, and dealt with peer pressure. Through this event our students gained the kind of essential interpersonal skills that will help them through their lives.

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Fun & Fit

Clegg Elementary School students have a great opportunity to be involved in our Fun & Fit Club. The Fun & Fit Club was created seven years ago and is run entirely by our PTA every Wednesday after school for one hour. A big thank you to Mrs. Lisa Rodden and the large group of volunteer parents who set up the activities and provide instruction for a great afternoon of fun and exercise.

Students participate in a number of sports and exercise activities. 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 paddleball, 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 who makes this program possible for our students on a yearly basis.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Vietnamese Academy

DeMille Elementary School is very excited to announce that we will be the home for the first Vietnamese Dual-Language Immersion Academy in the state of California in the fall of 2015! Our school has received tremendous support and encouragement from the community, School Board, and district office. We are also grateful to have a partnership with the National Resource Center for Asian Languages at California State University, Fullerton.

Beginning in September, we will be opening two Vietnamese Dual-Language Immersion kindergarten classes. Students will spend half of their day receiving instruction in English and half of their day learning in Vietnamese. The students enrolled in the program will continue receive a rigorous curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards while learning language skills with the goal of becoming biliterate.

There are many benefits to being in a dual-language immersion program. In addition to high academic achievement and a sense of self confidence, students who are biliterate are equipped with skills to be more successful in a global economy. Enrollment for this outstanding program has already begun. Don't miss this amazing opportunity. Enroll now!

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Dena Kiouses
Principal

Come Join the Fun

Parent involvement is continuing to build this spring. Our staff, student council, and school PTA are all working hard to help increase parent partnership opportunities.

In March, the opportunities focus on literacy. Our school celebrated Read Across America during the first week of the month, and we want to thank our over 30 community volunteers for participating. The Imagination Machine was a big success too, highlighting writing while also bringing our students' stories to life through drama.

During Yellow Ribbon Week the students celebrated their commitment to friendship, and pledged to be bully free. Our "Kids Run the Orange County" participants (KROC) continue to train for their May 2 victory lap at the Orange County Fair Grounds.

On March 16, the PTA is sponsoring Razzle Bam Boom, a student assembly. The Spring Book Fair will be held during the first week of April, and our Fryberger Open House is on Wednesday, April 1 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

There are many opportunities to become involved in our school, but we need your help. You can join the PTA, help with the School Site Council, or volunteer in a classroom. Are you a Fryberger parent and want to get involved? We welcome parent partnership, so please join us!

You can stay connected and receive texts from Fryberger School. Just text the message "@fryberger" to this number: 81010.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutiérrez-García
Principal

Civic Responsibility

Civic responsibility was in the air in February at Finley as part of the Westminster School District BOLD character development program. To celebrate the character trait of citizenship, students in third through fifth grades launched their annual campaigns for Student Council. The brick walls were filled with carefully crafted handmade posters made by candidates running for Safety Control Captain, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President, and President. The campaign speeches were held in the school's Multipurpose room on February 13, 2015 as students, teachers,



Finley Fifth Grade student, Angel Avalos, candidate for President receives help from Lisa Tarkanian, Student Council Moderator and 4th grade teacher.

and parents were spellbound by the heartfelt speeches as candidates stepped up to the podium and spoke into the microphone to share their vision. Upper grade students constructively participated in student government by exercising their right to vote for those candidates they felt would best represent them. It was truly inspiring!

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Arts and Science

Hayden Elementary has been chosen to participate in the Equitable Science Curriculum for Integrating Arts in Public Education (ESCAPE) project, an innovative and exciting program that combines dance and visual-arts techniques with science instruction. The lessons were developed by a team of researchers and educators from the University of California Irvine, the Orange County Department of Education and the Segerstrom Center of the Arts.

The project is funded by the National Science Foundation, with one of its main goals being the identification of effective new ways

of teaching science concepts to students.

All 12 upper-grade teachers have agreed to take a week out of their summers for the next three years to be trained in the lessons. The project includes pre- and post-student assessments, implementation of science lessons and a visual-art piece. Hayden School is looking forward to this opportunity and is extremely proud to have teachers so dedicated to their craft.



Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

Business and Education Link

The students at Johnson Middle School recently had the privilege of experience presentations from the Vital Link Organization. Vital Link's mission is to be the link between business and education to prepare students for the successful transition to a meaningful career. Students got hands-on information about several science based careers. All of Johnson's students were able to walk around the 13 exhibits and talk to the Vital Link Representatives about their career goals and see



the wonderful opportunities in such fields as Engineering, Design and Medicine. The students were able to experience cutting edge tools like a 3-D printer, robots and wind tunnels. Johnson Warriors want to thank Vital Link and the United Way for the grant that made this wonderful day possible.

Land School

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



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



Reagan Lopez
*Administrator
Student Services*

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

By Carolyn Hunter, Director, Student Services

Approximately 650 WSD preschool students will be graduating to transitional kindergarten or kindergarten during the 2015-2016 school year. Many of these students attend Land School.

Members from the Early Education and Expanded Learning Department met with school office managers in early February to review the steps for this special evening. The parents who attended were given an overview of the kindergarten and TK program, and the registration process, including what information

is required at each school site. A PowerPoint presentation was also made available via flash drive, and posted on Haiku. If a parent was unable to attend this Information Night they can go directly to their home school and receive a packet.

A new step in the transition process this year is that there will be mandatory MAT testing for incoming students with a birthday between July 1 and September 1. The MAT testing will help place these students appropriately before the start of the school year. State preschool teachers will also meet with TK and kindergarten teachers during the last PLC of the 2014-2015 school year to help with student program placement.

Another transition activity is that many preschool students are able to attend kindergarten visits with their preschool teacher. Since Land School does not have a kindergarten class located on campus, there is no pre-arranged tour. Parents may contact the school site directly to arrange a visit.

Preschool graduation will be held in June at Land, or at the elementary school sites where preschool classes are offered. Each site has an individualized ceremony where the children typically perform and receive a certificate.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Unique Learning

Last September, Westminster School District Special Education teachers working with the moderate to severe population attended a one-day training put together by the

West Orange County Consortium for Special Education and ny2. This training was to inform, train, and prepare teachers to implement their first-ever curriculum specific to Special Education, Unique Learning System (ULS). This specially designed program for students with significant special needs is correlated with the core curriculum. The program's monthly themes address reading, math, and writing relevant to the students' leveled needs and include supplementary materials, such as visual icons, cooking lessons, and a library of reading materials. Students also participate in bi-monthly benchmarks to help teachers determine areas of student success and areas needing further development.

So far, students at Meairs Elementary School are enjoying working with the new curriculum and are always eager to share what they've learned with school staff!



Students in Ms. Murphy's Special Day Class share monthly books created with the ULS curriculum.

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Every Child Succeeding Award

By Fifth Grade Team Will Gerlach and Cheyenne Garve

The Schmitt Elementary School fifth-grade nominee for this year's Every Child Succeeding Award is Carissa Bailey. This student shows school spirit in participating in every possible activity. For example, she has attended every single Skate Night since she was a kindergartener and always rocks the most colorful outfits for Red Ribbon Week. She is helpful to students in her class and younger students on campus. She always has a positive and

cheerful attitude in class. Carissa is also very diligent and persevering in her efforts to learn. She is not shy about asking clarifying questions when she struggles with a concept. She responds well to teacher feedback and accepts it with tremendous grace.

Additionally, Carissa is active in the community through her work in Girl Scouts. She has a well-developed sense of empathy toward others. This young lady genuinely loves her family, her friends, and her school.

Congratulations to an inspiring student!



Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

History Comes to Life

Each year, our fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders are able to experience history in a unique way through a PTA-sponsored program called Walk-Through History. The fourth-graders walked through California history and became experts on different aspects of our state's history and important vocabulary. Our fifth-graders participated in their walk through the American Revolution, where history came to life! The presentation allowed the students to actively participate in an exciting retelling of our nation's beginnings. Through the use of games, music, imagination, and storytelling, our fifth-graders were transported back in time to witness the people and events of the past.

The sixth-graders walked through ancient civilizations. They researched daily life, education, government, and other areas, creating skits that illustrated life in ancient times. Students acted out scenes as a variety of historical characters and brought to life vocabulary words that helped everyone



understand history from a dynamic perspective. An audience of parents and community members applauded the students' efforts.

We want to thank our PTA for supporting this wonderful program and helping history come alive for our students!

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shay Reardon
Principal

Saturday School

Sequoia Elementary hosted its second Saturday School of the year on January 24th.

Our students enjoyed many different activities during the event, such as reader's theater, yoga, music appreciation, and an engaging art project. They not only got to experience enriching activities and visit with their fellow classmates and friends during Saturday School, they were also able to experience other teachers from the campus.

The students were divided into a primary and upper-grade group. For the first half of the schedule the students went to one teacher's classroom. They then went to the multipurpose room at 10 a.m. to receive a nutritious snack. At 10:15 the students rotated to the next classroom for a different set of activities.

The level of excitement was contagious for those students and teachers who participated. Our next Saturday School is scheduled for March 14. We are looking forward to another exciting Saturday morning!



Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Chromebooks

The chromebooks have arrived for all of the Stacey Middle School students and students are actively using them in their classes. In math class, students have been working on a google assignment involving point-slope form. Students used their google drive to access word problems and then learned how to insert pictures and equations to demonstrate knowledge. They found slope in many “real items” and had to determine what the equation was for the slope of the line in the picture. They are able to scan in documents to use them in various ways as well.

Students also worked on a data and statistics assignment to write meaningful sentences in math to develop a google slide show for a presentation, All students felt empowered by the use of technology.



Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Kevin Whitney
Principal

Family Stories

By Joceline Carmona

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.
—Emilie Buchwald

Webber is pleased to offer Family Stories, a class that assists parents with making their children great readers. This program helps establish a family reading routine at home by providing families with beautifully illustrated bilingual books and tips on how to read with their children.

During the first class, we pinpointed some of the obstacles faced in establishing a reading routine, such as lack of time, language barrier and distractions from TV and cell phones. Parents discussed how to overcome these obstacles and instill in our children a love of reading.

It is exciting to see parents take an active role in their children’s education. All parents long for their children to become lifelong readers, but some may lack the tools and training. This class definitely provides them with both!



Joceline and parents reading together.

Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

Saving Sea Bass

By Diana Contreras, Yazbeck Muro, Myly Nguyen, Ocean Picarello, Tina Truong, Ana Vazquez and Michelle Vu, Journalism Students; Travis Garwick, Guest Contributor

Recently, Warner Middle School had the opportunity to work with researchers from SeaWorld Research Institute and Get Inspired! Inc. via Warner’s science department chair, Mr. Garwick. Researchers brought 12 96-day-old sea bass to Warner in January.

Mr. Garwick’s students helped restore five acres of healthy kelp which, in turn, parented 20 miles of kelp forest along our county’s coastline. The students are also nurturing green abalone, a threatened species that lives and relies on the kelp forest ecosystem. They are also nurturing *Atractoscion nobilis*, a white sea bass species. The goal is to reverse the trend of their dwindling population.



Students took turns in groups measuring, weighing, and then placing sea bass in a saltwater tank while Mr. Garwick collected data in a graph.

Experimenting with white sea bass was very interesting and fun, and these helpful and caring Warner students participated in a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Celebrating Culture

Willmore School takes great pride in the diversity of our students and staff members. A good portion of them come from Vietnam, and they have brought many aspects of their culture with them. One of the most recognizable events on the calendar is the Lunar New Year, or for our Vietnamese families, Tet.

For years we have been fortunate to have our local high school’s Vietnamese Club come and perform the Dragon Dance. This year we will also be treated to a serenade of Vietnamese music played on a string instrument called the dan tranh, which is related to the Japanese koto. Our students always enjoy this event, even the former Willmore students who are in high school performing.

We know that celebrating one holiday does not make a school culturally proficient, but this exhibition and celebration of culture through art is a wonderful experience for us all.



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

A Focus on Wellness

The second semester of the school year is in full swing, and with that timely marker, it is good practice to take a moment and reflect on the amazing work being done by our students, teachers, and staff.

Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) began the school year with a thematic emphasis on student and staff wellness. Research points to a direct correlation between school community wellness and the success of its students...and we are quite proud of our excellent tradition in that area. Yet,

with the complexity of teenage life, we recognize the importance of a continued focus on wellness and a healthy learning environment. As we step back and take an even wider perspective, our work this year has also warmly extended to each of our four feeder elementary school districts. We are thankful and appreciative of the high-quality instruction our students receive in preparation for their high school years...and HBUHSD wants to continue those professional conversations and actions.

With an even sharper focus, we have been able to use specialized state funding to add two new counselors to our HBUHSD team for the second semester. The counselors will have a critical emphasis on supporting student wellness. Anxiety and depression are two of the greatest contributing factors to the lives of teens. The counselors will work directly with teachers and staff to help identify students struggling specifically with those challenges and then create small-group opportunities for students to share and help build wellness strength.

Wellness extends beyond the classroom, and the past six months have seen an investment in the safety and wellbeing of our student athletes. HBUHSD was one of just a handful of districts across the state to begin this school year with a concussion testing program for all its student athletes. An important factor in diagnosing and recovering from head injuries is the value of a concussion “baseline test,” administered when the student athlete is healthy. Beginning this past July, all of our athletes received baseline testing, with the optimistic hope it would never be needed. During the first semester HBUHSD was able to support healthcare professionals and our families more than 70 times with the timely data from protocol testing. The fabric of our wellness is stronger!

The second semester will move at what often seems like an unbridled pace and culminate with the celebration our seniors on the graduation stage. Over the coming months, I look forward to sharing many of the other wellness projects your schools are leading, many of which are in the hands of our teachers, psychologists, administrators, classified staff, and, yes, our capable students as well.

Best wishes and “be well” as we start our journey into the spring.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry
President

A Well-Functioning Board

Many people ask me, “What does a School Board do?” I find it a very interesting question. Upon reflection, there are many ways to answer. From the school community’s perspective, the work that School Boards do is seen and felt on a daily basis. Our programs, facilities, and staff carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the district’s strategic plan to prepare our students for life after high school. The general public, about 28 percent of whom have school-age children, sees the School Board in the ballot box every two years (if they vote) and in the news when things aren’t going well. And yet, the public feels the quality of a school district in their property values, graduation rates, and the quality of the work force.

The Board of Trustees of the Huntington Beach Union High School District knows what the public expects from us. They want us to be collaborative and connected, be effective and show results, use creative solutions, and show a return on investment. Accountability is what the public needs and deserves from its locally elected governing boards, and it is what we, at HBUHSD, strive to deliver.

The work of a School Board is visible by our presence at many activities, from arts and athletic events to public meetings and graduations. But there is so much more that school trustees do that makes them effective leaders. I would say that 50 percent of the work of a school trustee is in preparation: reading meeting materials, attending conferences, reading e-mails, analyzing data, reading plans and studies, seeking clarification, and did I mention there’s a lot of reading? A well-functioning board, like HBUHSD, does its homework, is prepared, and serves our community well.

There are many ways to demonstrate what a School Board does, but the best answer to the question is that we are accountable: to our students, to our staff, and to the public. A well-functioning Board, like HBUHSD, delivers that accountability every day.

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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Huntington Beach’s Got Talent

Now that the first semester has ended, high school is inevitably coming to an end for the Class of 2015, with graduation a few short months away. While generally seniors hear back from colleges they applied to sometime in March, the most talented student-athletes in the school district committed to their respective colleges on February 5, National Signing Day. From state schools to the Ivy League, the Huntington Beach Unified School District (HBUHSD) is incredibly proud of the young men and women who committed to their colleges for a variety of sports, including rugby, volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball, and football.

While some students excel on the courts or the playing fields, there are many students in the district who showcase their talents in an array of performances. The district’s own Music Media and Entertainment Technology Department at the Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) performed “Playlist 2015,” in which APA’s most musically-gifted students performed popular, trending music as well as beautiful, original compositions. The district-wide talent show on March 5 and the Surf City Student Film Festival on March 6 at the HBUHSD Historic Auditorium provided another venue for students to highlight their talents.

Although the second semester has hardly begun, the finale of the 2014–2015 school year is imminent and will arrive in the blink of an eye.

Coast *High School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • www.coasthighschool.com



Steve Curiel
Principal

Time to Reflect

There are times when we need to take a close look at ourselves and see where we are, where we've been, and where we're heading. Sometimes, we stay the course, and sometimes, we decide to adjust course. Many schools go through such a process. For Coast High, the process is incorporated into our accreditation, which is up for renewal next year through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

In preparation, Coast High School is taking a close look at itself as a school that was established in 1980 as an alternative school of choice. We're closely considering the direction given us by our Huntington Beach Union High School Board of Trustees and our students. This is a critical process that will set the direction and major priorities for the next few years.

Looking back, we can see a robust program develop and adapt to the various changes and needs in the community. We were originally known as Huntington Beach Alternative High School, under the umbrella of the Huntington Beach Adult School. In the early 1980s, Coast was a general-fund independent-study program employing one full-time teacher and one full-time instructional aide. The core academic classes were offered with limited space and funding. Over the years, Coast has grown and shrunk and moved several times. It has employed as many as 20 personnel and has shrunk back down to less than half that during the recent recession. Its role as one of the components of the district's safety net continues and in fact has recently broadened.

Presently, Coast is experiencing a significant structural change as it has combined two instructional-delivery models, independent study and direct instruction, to reach a broader spectrum of students and make better use of limited resources. Indeed, Coast has become an even more integral part of the district's safety net for students at risk of dropping out of school. With the addition of a daily attendance program that provides direct instruction in a small classroom setting, Coast can meet the needs of students who find the large comprehensive high school setting uncomfortable and who lack the academic skills and discipline to function in a fully independent-study learning environment.

It's apparent to us that Coast will need to navigate and adapt to a number of challenges. Just as any family or corporate merger goes through a process of learning and cultural development, so will Coast. This will happen at a time when curriculum and teaching are adapting to the new state college and career standards critical to a high school student's preparation for the world. Our goal as always will be to ensure that our students are prepared academically and socially for the world of college and work.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Classes for Everyone

We at the Huntington Beach Adult School are not all about academics. We also understand the importance of a healthy and vibrant community. That's why our school offers a variety of classes to help promote a healthy mind and body.

With about 1,000 students enrolling every year, we are proud of the work that our instructors do to help sustain a healthy community. We seek to offer a number of popular classes throughout the communities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, and Westminster.

Our "Brain Fitness" classes are designed for adults 40 years of age and older. Developed with extensive research and testing, Brain Fitness is comprised of classroom activities and two software programs called Sound and Sight. Results have shown that this class can result in a lower "brain age" by as much as 10 years, with documented and extensive gains in memory, vitality, and visual and auditory processing speeds.

Yoga classes are appropriate for all levels of adults. Beginners too are welcome! Yoga helps to create a vigorous and well-functioning body, and an alert mind. It is energizing and restful, cleansing and calming, and helps to bring agility and vitality to the body. In each class our students work on different postures and parts of the body to develop strength, flexibility, and balance.

Our Dance Aerobics classes perform more complex steps and patterns to a variety of music and tempos. Students can learn up to 100 combinations and increase their physical fitness and brain power. Each level requires increased aerobic fitness and memorization of patterns. Students must first take Introduction to Dance Aerobics prior to enrolling in these more advanced courses.

In Lap Swimming for Fitness, the students swim laps in the evening at their own speed to build strength and endurance. They can exercise their total body by using a variety of strokes, and with a professional staff to advise them. Students take inches off their waistlines and add vitality to their everyday health. Everyone charts their progress as well, and can see the results. Classes are held at the Huntington Beach High School pool.

There are more classes to see and learn about on our Web site, at www.hbas.edu. You can also keep an eye out for our next schedule-of-classes arriving in late March.

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

One Golden Nugget

Thank you Dr. O'Brien! A college professor of mine was famous for saying, "ABR—always be reading." He said that it's one of the ways to stay engaged and keep up with relevant information. He encouraged us to read as much as possible, with the expectation that if we found one great "nugget of information" that could help us, it was worth the effort of taking the time to read.

The most recent copy of a periodical I subscribe to, WestEd's R&D Alert, arrived on my desk, and I found an article about how some featured schools were trying to turn theirs around.

The leaders found one of the missing ingredients to their students' learning was supportive and positive relationships on campus between both their teachers and one another. The schools featured in the article were middle and elementary schools that were previously low performing but were making significant gains in academic achievement, attendance and behavior. I kept on reading, and there it was—one beautiful golden nugget quoted on page 3 by an assistant principal: "Our vision was for kids, and teachers, to have the best six hours of their day at Sierra Vista."

The best six hours of the day, indeed! We know that during a school week, we can see students for more hours than their parents do, especially since we go for seven hours daily at OV. I laughed at myself because that administrator helped me see every single school day from now on in a different light. I wonder what would change if you tried to make your workday the best seven or eight hours of your day. That thought has some potential to be huge! What would be my first step?

I started taking pictures of the sunrise on my drive in to school. The sun comes up just over Cleveland National Forest, offering a different, beautiful sunrise almost every single day. I take a picture of it and then tweet a message from our OV Twitter account, challenging everyone who subscribes to us—mostly students—to make the school day the best seven hours of the day. It only gets favorited by a handful right now—fewer than 30 people. That's OK. Bigger movements have started with fewer than that. As long as an idea is golden, it's worth mining!



Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

Learning the Business

There are many powerful advantages of being involved in Edison's Center of International Business and Communication Studies (CIBACS). This unique program emphasizes real-world collaborative business experiences, with a focus on communication and public-speaking skills. As freshmen, students give a series of short impromptu speeches; by the time they're seniors, they're fearless, confident and strong public speakers.

The program is interwoven into English and social studies classes, with the addition of yearlong business projects.

Freshman student teams partner with local businesses and develop a marketing plan that includes information gathering, organization, and oral and written briefs presented to a panel of business and community members. Sophomore teams develop a new product or service for their business partner. Teams create an impact-analysis report that includes examination of business operations, production, sales, finance and personnel and present it to a panel of judges in a competition. Juniors focus on individual students' future plans. Each creates a portfolio that includes a résumé, a college research paper, an internship journal and a work sample. The portfolio is presented in interview form to a panel of judges.

Each senior project is designed to reflect the student's unique abilities and talents. The project must center on business, career or community service. Senior Kelcey Bligh utilized her project to spread awareness of cystic fibrosis and raise funds to help fund a cure. Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis as an infant, Kelcey has grown up with daily medications and frequent doctor appointments.



Kelcey Bligh dancing for awareness.

Dance provided an outlet and a developing talent. Last December, she organized, choreographed and performed in "65 Roses, Dancing for Awareness," featuring 10 dances and 30 dancers. It raised \$5,000, which was donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

CIBACS students have the unique opportunity to interact and work with many adults including teachers, parent volunteers and local business people. They develop a sense of professionalism far beyond their years and gain valuable networks that have the potential to assist them in their career searches. They also develop strong bonds of trust, support and encouragement from their peers.

CIBACS is a family with the mission of building strong, confident successful students and professionals.



Kirk Kennedy
Interim Principal

Innovative Theater

I've attended many school plays at Fountain Valley High, enjoying every performance. However, more than the performances and selections, what stands out for me is the developmental process and how our teachers and students overcome obstacles and bring quality productions to our community with passion. The performances always delight the audience.




Although we don't have a theater on our campus, our theater program continues to find and create innovative theater, in my mind. Please read our theater teacher Robert Zick's statement about our program—better yet, attend one of our plays and observe for yourself the talent of our students and the innovative experience the audience enjoys.

"Theater is in us all, and an inherent part of being human. We look to others for examples of how to do things, and we mimic them until we get it right. It's been this way from the dawn of humanity. Any empty space can be a theater, a place for people to come together and see life's stories told. This is why a theater class can be held anywhere there are people. We do not yet have a performing arts space, but we have an administration, a faculty and a staff that understand that theater should be a priority, and we work to create our theater spaces wherever we can.

"Innovation is perhaps the most marketable skill a person can have entering the 21st-century workforce. More importantly, through theater, we teach our students to learn from and about the world and people around them, to dream big and to make big plans. We teach that anything is possible with a vision and determination."



Student theater in the classroom.



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Dr. Rocky Murray
Principal

Helping Those in Need

Schools are arguably the most important part of a healthy community. Cities like Huntington Beach value learning, and insist on maintaining high expectations in regards to the education of their children.

It is difficult to walk around Huntington Beach without seeing a young person wearing either an “Oiler Pride” shirt or some other identifiable piece of clothing that represents HBHS. For this reason, it is a great responsibility to be directly affiliated with HBHS. Many of our students assume this responsibility with

pride, because they are committed to improving both their school and the community.

This year, various student groups have been participating in a number of goodwill opportunities. We call them “goodwill” because they all share the same goal of helping those who are less fortunate. One of our recent endeavors was a school “Can” dance. This was an activity which originated through our Associated Student Body.

Led by Assistant Principal Dr. Angela Harding, our ASB students took the initiative to offer this dance as free entertainment. Entrance to the event involved bringing a can of food for donation to the Irvine Second Harvest Food Bank. This year we were able to donate over 1,000 cans!

Following this activity, we also had another dance that we affectionately titled “Toys for Tots.” As a result of this event, we were able to make the holiday season a little brighter for local families by providing over 200 items for those in need. Again, our students could have paid a small fee for entrance or donated a toy.

Fortunately, many chose the latter.

Most recently, our AVID students participated in a “Jeans for Teens” campaign. Just like it sounds, the goal of this program was to collect jeans for homeless teens. Through the work of our students, teachers, and community, we were able to donate over 870 pairs of jeans to a local clothing store, which will follow through on the distribution.

There are some days when it is difficult to measure the impact we have on the lives of our students. But after events like these, we can see that we are making a positive impact on the community. These very moments and activities are what make me incredibly proud of our school and its students.

We want to share our pride in the efforts of these tremendous young women and men. It is important that we recognize how our students are reaching the desired goal of serving others for the greater good. Our world will be in excellent hands when they are leading it.



Students and the mountain of jeans!

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Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Why Student Leadership Matters

Today I sat with two of our Associated Student Body (ASB) student leaders and asked them to share with me what student leadership meant to them. As we talked, I listened and watched as they thought about its meaning. One stated, “I believe student leadership is being a good role model in your school as you help others see the importance of their involvement.” The other replied, “I believe student leadership is doing the right thing, and having people look up to you, to let all students know you care about them....I think student

leadership has to do with being a trustworthy person, one that others can depend on as you show genuine compassion for others.”

Through ASB, leadership classes, and similar courses and clubs, students are being taught to give time for others, to reach out to their community, and to make a difference. Whether one gives time, an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or just a handshake, showing someone that he or she is important enough to get to know is showing that each person matters. That is what leadership is all about at Marina High School.

Are the only student leaders in high schools today the ones who are in ASB or the ones enrolled in a leadership class? We have over 30 clubs and 23 sports where leadership matters. These students aren't necessarily the ones up at the podium for all the assemblies or the ones leading the crowd cheers at school rallies. These students are the ones you may find talking in the library to a student who feels frustrated with his life or having a conversation in the parking lot with a student who had a bad day. Making a positive impact on a group of people is one thing, but sitting down

with an individual, listening to that person, and showing him or her that you care is what really changes lives.

Marina's ASB embraces all of the above leadership qualities. Whether it is demonstrated through community service at a local soup kitchen, thanking a local vendor for caring about our students, or putting on awesome rallies, student leaders at Marina make a difference. This year our ASB earned a very prestigious award, the Darrel Stillwagon School Spirit Award. Marina's ASB was selected over 56 other schools for this award, which is given to the school that best represents the spirit and integrity of leaders.

So, if you want to be a leader, if you want to give back to your school, and you want to make a difference, come to Marina and experience “A school that has more options, where everyone has a choice!”



ASB Student Leaders at Marina.



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Dissecting U.S. History

Social studies teachers Meghann O'Connor and Lisa Simpson recently collaborated on a revision of our U.S. History course through researching and incorporating the use of primary- and secondary-source documents. This concept was refined and reinforced at a districtwide in-service for all social studies teachers and a follow-up conference on data-based questioning (DBQ). This approach fully engages students in evidence-based writing, develops critical thinking and decision-making academic and life skills, and enhances student relationships, all accomplished with hooks, buckets and thrash-out.

DBQ begins with a “hooking” exercise. Students are presented with a simple choice related to a real historic event, such as Japanese internment during World War II. The next step is “pre-bucketing”: “recognizing and defining key words in the question” and identifying “clues in the question and in document titles,” as stated in “The DBQ Project: Mini-Q’s in American History.” This task involves analysis and categorization skills essential for effective critical thinking. Students then divide into teams based on their initial choice and begin filling their “buckets” with information gleaned from primary sources—actual letters, essays, diaries and newspaper accounts from that time. The use of secondary sources—photographs, charts, graphs, maps and printed flyers—require careful interpretation and a clear understanding of the historic and social context. Students must synthesize their research into concise, logical reasons to support their opinions. The process concludes with “thrash out,” during which students stand on opposite sides of the room and try to convince the other side of the merits of their facts and sources. Students can, and often do, change their opinions during this debate and move to the other side of the room.

Carefully choreographed writing assignments are integrated into the critical-thinking process, including background essays, responses to document-analysis questions, developing theses and supportive logical arguments, and drafting and revising essays. The process also relies on discussion, reinforcing verbal skills, and enhancing self-esteem and peer relations.



Mrs. O'Connor begins class with the “hook” exercise.

The teachers have been impressed with the students’ engagement level and how they begin to enthusiastically represent the facts and information from the period as if they were their own.



Mrs. Simpson and her students participate in “thrash out.”



Joe Fraser
Principal

Cultivating Learners

Cul-ti-va-tor: /noun/a person who grows, tends, or improves (plants, crops, etc.) by labor or attention
Westminster High School teachers are tending to an enormous feat: building a school culture. At the beginning of this academic year, we asked volunteer teachers to join the Cultivators; a group of teachers and staff who are dedicated to building a culture on campus. In August, 26 teachers devoted the first three days to building relationship activities and participated in a name-game contest. By the third day,

15 teachers knew all the names of their students. Throughout first semester, the Cultivators drove Lunch on the Lawn, promoted our SWAG incentive program, participated in assemblies, and led their peers into the future.

The Cultivators took it up a notch to kick off second semester. In January, the 26 teachers and staff took a leadership field trip to a men’s clothing corporate office. There, the Cultivators used the company’s business model as a starting point to identifying what WHS is known for and what we want to be known for. In the last few weeks, the group has continued their work by touring WHS campus, visiting classrooms, and meeting to discuss action steps. It was clear what this group valued most: students first and then community and culture. The goal of this group will be to cultivate—“grow, tend, and improve”—these fundamental values on Westminster High School’s campus.

Education author Doug Reeves states that “cultural change, although challenging and time-consuming, is not only possible but necessary—especially in organizations in which stakeholders use the word ‘culture’ as a rhetorical talisman to block leadership initiatives, stifle innovation, and maintain the status quo. In the last decade, the education standards movement has taught us that policy change without cultural change is an exercise in futility and frustration.”

The Cultivators will continue to be called upon to lead the change, take risks, be creative and innovative, and grow our brand and culture. Check out highlights from our first meeting at <https://vimeo.com/117705561>.



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