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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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Riding a New Wave in OVSD

By Carol Hansen, Ed.D., Superintendent
Ocean View School District

On February 1, 2016, the Ocean View School District (OVSD) proudly reopened the main building at Oak View Elementary School in Huntington Beach. It was a celebratory morning, as Principal Rosa Mendieta, teachers, office and custodial staff, and district administrators greeted students and parents. There was an atmosphere of excitement and looks of anticipation as everyone arrived to see the freshly painted exterior, newly landscaped front lawn, and beautiful new classrooms. The Oak View staff, the maintenance and operations team, and many district employees worked diligently to ensure the swift reopening of the school, after the entire campus was closed in late 2014 for abatement and reconstruction.

As the new superintendent of OVSD, I wanted to be there on that Monday morning to personally thank the staff for their patience and dedication throughout the entire endeavor. In fact, the entire executive cabinet was at the celebration to share their appreciation and support for all those who contributed to Oak View's rebuilding.

This past fall, we were thrilled to bring students and staff back to Oak View, using temporary



Ocean View School District Superintendent, Carol Hansen, Ed.D.; Oak View Kindergarten Teacher Brit Moorhead; Oak View Principal Rosa Mendieta; and Ms. Moorhead's Kindergarten class.

See **A GREAT STEP** • Page 15

Innovation Has No Limits at Edison High School

By Alyssa Griffiths,
Public Information Coordinator HBUHSD

"We will educate, prepare, and inspire our students to change the world," is the 2016-2019 mission statement for the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD). Take one step into the Edison High School (EHS) Innovation Lab, and you'll see teachers doing just that – educating, preparing, and inspiring students through Project Based Learning.

The Innovation Lab is equipped with multiple aquaculture aquarium systems, advanced robotics equipment, state-of-the-art 3D printing materials, aquaponics structures, and much more. Even more impressive than the equipment inside, are the high school students of all grade levels you'll find participating in tasks such as testing ammonium nitrate (NH₄NO₃) levels in water samples, building catapults to understand the relationship between force, mass, and acceleration, growing various types of plants without soil, identifying the gender of adolescent fish, and that's just the beginning.

A large majority of the lab space serves as the school's grounds for the active aquaculture program in which students continuously raise three species of fish,



two of which are native to California – White Sea Bass and Rainbow Trout.

In conjunction with the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute and the science exploration program, Get Inspired, EHS students learn about responsibly raising White Seabass in an effort to help boost its declining numbers locally. In December, EHS students transferred 46 "lab-raised" White Seabass into the Huntington Harbor.

See **HBUHSD** • Page 31



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Kay Coop
 Founder/Publisher



This is our 12th Anniversary publishing the excellence from the FV/HBC/OV/WEST/HBUHS Districts. We know you are busy and have many choices and appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

We had a record number of entries in our Word Search Contests last issue. The contests are open to all ages and I enjoy all of your messages in your emailed entries! (page 32)

Each article in this issue will make you wish you were a student again. Enjoy!

Our next issue is May 4.

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Spring is an exciting time when we receive an additional hour of sunlight. While the annual "spring forward" offers more sunlight in the evening, it also means that we lose an hour of sleep. This time change can disrupt normal sleep patterns for children.

Tips to ease the time change transition and promote healthy sleep:

- Routine is key – maintain your child's regular bedtime routine and naps
- Don't try to wear your child out to get them to fall asleep earlier
- Move bedtime earlier in 20 minute increments each night starting three days before the time change
- Ensure your child's room is dark
- If your child is not falling asleep as quickly after bedtime, don't give in to excuses they may make to get out of bed. Keep them calm, but preserve the bedtime routine
- Don't compensate for the lost hour of sleep in the morning. Wake your child up for the day based on current clock time
- Expose your child to light at morning wake up time
- Be patient if your child is sleepy for a few days. Try not to let them nap if this is not their usual practice

Teenagers may take longer to adjust to the new time change.

This year's daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to mark your calendar to set your clocks forward one hour. Here's wishing you and your family healthy sleep.




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Brush Up On Your Childs Oral Hygiene!



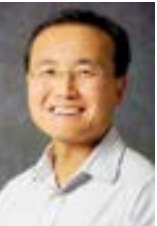
Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

- Although many parents have taught their children how to brush and floss, many are unsure of the latest recommendations and/or if their oral hygiene routine should be the same as their child's. This guide will help parent's teach their children lifelong oral hygiene habits that will keep everyone smiling!
- Help your children brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes of total brushing time. Parents should assist/closely monitor their children until they are 8 years old.
 - Angle the toothbrush 45 degrees towards the gumline while brushing. Be sure to use only gentle pressure and go back and forth with short toothbrush strokes.
 - Help your child brush all surfaces of their teeth (the outer surfaces, the inner surfaces and the chewing surfaces) and the top of their tongue.
 - Use only a soft bristled toothbrush, and replace it every 3-4 months or sooner if the bristles appear frayed.
 - Use a flouride toothpaste with the ADA seal. Make sure especially with toddlers and younger patients that they don't swallow.
 - Floss daily to clean between teeth. This helps remove food and plaque that the toothbrush bristles cannot reach between the teeth.
 - Avoid sugary and sticky foods and soft drinks.
 - Schedule regular dental visits for your child (typically every 6 months).
 - The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends a child's first dental visit when their first tooth erupts or by the age of 1.
 - The American Association of Orthodontists recommends a child's first orthodontic screening at the age of 7.

Oral hygiene guides and videos showing brushing and flossing techniques can be found on our website: www.harnerorthodontics.com. Dr. Andrew Harner is an orthodontic specialist and practices orthodontics in Huntington Beach. 714-842-9933

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Childhood Sleep Problems



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

- The amount of sleep children need gradually decreases as they mature. Newborns usually nap about 16 hours through the day and night, while teenagers need about nine hours of sleep per night. For many parents, getting their children to go to bed and stay there can be quite frustrating Here are some simple steps to follow that can help put a stop to bedtime troubles:
- Stick to the same bedtime every night, even on weekends.
 - Turn off the television, video games and computer at least one hour before going to bed. Have a consistent routine that includes brushing teeth, going to the bathroom and maybe reading a short story.
 - Keep a low noise level in the house while the child is asleep.
- Some childhood sleep problems called parasomnias, include night terrors, sleepwalking and sleep talking. Night terrors involve episodes of fear, flailing or screaming that can last a few minutes while the child is asleep and affect only a small number of children aged three to 12. Sleepwalking typically starts between the ages of four and 8. Sleepwalkers may look like they are awake, but actually they are sleeping and may be at risk for injury by falling down stairs or opening windows. When sleep talking, speech is mumbled and unintelligible. Parents should not try to wake children up. Instead guide them back to bed or gently reassure them.
- Not getting enough sleep for children may lead to difficulties in school, anxiety disorders and behavioral problems. For more information about childhood sleep problems, talk with your doctor.



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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.



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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



City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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

Tree City USA



Cheryl Brothers
Mayor

You will soon see signs sprouting all over Fountain Valley proclaiming our status as a 'Tree City USA'.

The city qualified for this recognition in 2015. Tom Eynon is a certified Arborist in the City Landscape Department and he put together our application for the designation. To qualify he submitted a count of trees in the city parks and parkways; hosted an Arbor Day event in March 2015 when volunteers and city staff planted new trees in Helm Park. Rainbow Environmental Services provided compost for the day and Fountain Valley residents were invited to take home bags of free compost.

As a 'Tree City' we will be holding an Arbor Day every year, so look for announcements.

In an effort to increase our urban forest, the city will be part of an Arbor Day event on March 5th with Boy Scout Hank Caprini. Hank chose to reforest his neighborhood by planting up to 20 trees. Then he canvassed his neighborhood and talked to homeowners who did not have a parkway tree. Armed with a list of trees approved by the city, he found 15 people who accepted his offer of a free tree. His fundraising was so successful; he was able to purchase 35 trees! If he doesn't find homes for all 35 trees, he will donate the trees to Plavan and Ellis Parks for the city's Arbor Day activities on March 10th.

Find more information on this Arbor Day event and how you can obtain a parkway tree; look on the city's web site www.FountainValley.org

I LEAF you now to help improve the quality of the air and beautify the street scene in Fountain Valley by planting and caring for a tree.

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Jim Katapodis
Mayor

It's hard to believe 2016 is flying by and the summer season will be here before you know it.

If you haven't already heard, the City owns two Guinness Book of World Records for "World's Largest Surf Board" and "Most People on a Surfboard." Now, the "Big Board" has now made its home just outside the Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum in Downtown Huntington Beach. Make sure come visit and take a 'selfie' with it!

Congratulations to all the runners and walkers in the recent 20th Annual Surf City Marathon. I was especially proud of HB's own Jami Goldman-Marseilles – a mother, teacher, athlete, speaker, mentor, and author – also a double-amputee who will now conquer the Boston Marathon!

Our numerous event plans are shaping up - including the 112th Annual 4th of July Parade with this year's theme "America the Beautiful" will sure to be a crowd pleaser! The Vans US Open of Surfing returns July 23 through 30 featuring the top surfers in the world competing for prizes.

You can also visit our city website for the latest news around town at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov. Hope to see you at some of these fantastic events!

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Dr. Sandra Kaplan, National Expert in GATE Instruction, Comes to FVSD

It is with great excitement that I announce that Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) recently hosted a workshop with Dr. Sandra Kaplan, University of Southern California professor and national expert in Gifted And Talented Education (GATE). To date, over 40 elementary teachers have participated in training with Dr. Kaplan and her colleague, Dr. Jessica Manzone. As FVSD works to further its implementation of the new California Content Standards, it is critical that the district

continues to work with some of the best and brightest minds in education. The recent training focused on the Prompts of Depth and Complexity, which will help to create and reinforce research-based and standardized academic language for the students in our district, beginning as early as kindergarten.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, stated, “Dr. Kaplan is one of the most well-respected educators in the country. Our work with her will help to enrich our efforts toward continuous improvement, as teachers and administrators tackle the topics of rigor, depth and complexity in every classroom.

This effort is one more example of the extraordinary work taking place in our district! While FVSD remains a top-performing district in the county and state, its drive and determination to provide unparalleled outcomes for students is our highest priority. We are hopeful that this experience leads to additional work with Dr. Kaplan, and we know that our students will continue to thrive well into their futures. And, none of this would be possible without the district’s amazing teachers, support staff, and administrators, all of who are committed to our students, families, and community!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sandra Crandall
President Pro-Tem

A Time of Great Rigor

Our district is home to seven elementary schools and three middle schools. The middle school population is approximately 2,300 students. Each of these middle schools has earned a Gold Ribbon Award for effective programs for their students. To ensure continued growth for our middle school students, lead teachers in math, science, history and English language arts are being released for both site and district-wide collaboration.

Math teachers are discussing the newly adopted curriculum, pacing, assessments, and placement criteria. They are parsing the California Assessment of Student Progress and Performance (CAASPP) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) results, contemplating virtual collaboration and articulating with our local high school district.

Research on Next Generation Science Standards and professional development, built and led by our Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) teachers are the topics for our lead science teachers.

Our English language arts leads are working on lesson design, writing rubrics, and core reading lists. They are all reading *With Rigor for All* in preparation for a professional development day presented by author Carol Jago, dealing with new instructional expectations under our new state standards. Instructional practices and supplemental materials are being unpacked by our lead history teachers.

Simultaneously, potential leadership development offered through the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) for our teachers is being entertained. Pilot programs are in progress for collaboratively taught science classes for our English Language Learners as well as use of electronic tablets in classes without primary language support. Master schedules, interventions, electives, and courses of study are also being reviewed.

This is a time of great rigor for our middle schools, as many initiatives and opportunities abound.

Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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



Judy Edwards
President

Events Support Student Programs

As Fountain Valley Schools Foundation makes the leap into Spring as our volunteers are busy preparing for two events that will bring both recognition to the Foundation. Monies earned provide the extras that we feel the students of the Fountain Valley School District deserve.

April 19th brings the Fountain Valley School District Art Show. This FREE annual event showcases student artwork, music performances, and hands on art activities for students. There will be food trucks so that you can have a family dinner at this event.

The Art Show runs from 4-7 PM at the District Office and on the parking lot on the Slater Ave. side of the building. Please come and support the student artists and enjoy a family evening. The event is sponsored by the Schools Foundation who are replacing old music stands for the middle school bands and buying rhythm instruments for the elementary schools.

The second event in April is our signature event; The Taste of Fountain Valley. This will be held on Saturday evening April 23 at the Center at Founders Village. The evening will provide interesting restaurants from the local area and beverage tasting for your enjoyment. There will be some contests that should make for a fun evening. There will be music, a photo booth and raffles. This event also funds music, arts, science and robotics for the students of the Fountain Valley School District. The co-chairmen of this event are Edwardo Haguchi and Chelsea Seivers. They have been working for months to make this a spectacular evening. For tickets go to TOVF@FVSchool.com. The tickets are pre sale \$55. And \$70 after 3/23. Save yourself some money and order your tickets early

The events listed above and only a small part of what the Schools Foundation does in its fund raising efforts. We will also be involved with the Summer Fest, Home and Garden Show in June and are planning our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on October 10, 2016. Join the fun and help enrich the students of Fountain Valley.



Jeanne Galindo
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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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Chris Christensen
Principal

"May The Force Be With Courreges..."

On January 22, 2016 Courreges held a special Star Wars themed "Lunch on the Lawn" to reward the school for reaching their PTA membership goal for 2015/16. Students, teachers, and parents dressed as their favorite Star Wars character.



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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Playing Together

To promote teamwork, collaboration, and exercise for its students, Cox Elementary School has successfully implemented the Lunch Time Noon League Program for all children in grades three to five.

Under the supervision of Principal Patrick Ham, every homeroom creates their own team to compete against other homerooms during their lunchtime recess. The fifth-grade student-leaders serve as commissioners and referees at each game in order to help promote sportsmanship and teamwork. The Lunch Time Noon League at Cox Elementary School is an example of a creative way to integrate exercise, student collaboration, teamwork, and organized sports.

In the first event, flag football, Mrs. Smith's third-grade classroom did amazingly well against their older counterparts. In the end, the fifth-grade

students from Mrs. Schlosser/O'Rourke came up just short against the eventual champions from Mrs. Klusmeyer's fifth-grade homeroom (21 to 14).

Great job to all participants, and thank you to our commissioners and referees for your leadership!



Mrs. Klusmeyer's 5th Grade Flag Football Champions!!!



David Vannasdal, Ed.D. '16
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Kevin Johnson
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Athletic Prowess

While Fulton is always proud of our strong history of high performance with regard to academics, we are also quite proud of the athletic prowess of our Falcons! Recently in the district-wide tournament, the Fulton boy's team took first over all! Representing Fulton in the girls division with a second place overall were: Sadie Templin, Grace Volkert, Natalie Levesque, Julie Cavanaugh, Srah Holbrook, Jenna Peterson, Emma Maytorena, Maddie Krause, Julia Lehr, Erin Min, Koral Newman, Shelphy Giuntoli, Lauren Mena, and Loa Nakashima coached by Ms. Jenny Rose.



(B) Jake Brooks, Abraham Alhanna, Austin Hoang, Tyler Huffmire, Nicholas Horn, Blake Anderson, Austin Pennella, Bryan Yoon and Coach Curtis;
(F) Tanner Ciok, Matthew Tran, James Templin, Chris Ouellette, and Kailer Wesley.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

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Jay Adams
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

Future Stars!

During the month of February, Masuda Middle School recognized some of our outstanding students: Masuda's Monarch Academy Award Winners for the 2015–2016 school year. At the School Board meeting on February 11, we honored these fabulous students for their exceptional contributions to our school. We are proud to applaud: sixth-graders Alycia Paradise and John Klug; seventh-graders Dana Abascal and Benjamin P. Nguyen; and eighth-graders Margarita Diaz Cortes and Alvin Duong. We are 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 Debby Falcon and Dao Tran. These two PTSO members have spent countless hours going above and beyond for the students and faculty of Masuda. There aren't enough thank yous in the world to show our appreciation for these two moms and the rest of our phenomenal PTSO.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.rges-fvsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Erin Bains
Principal

Making Connections

Each day Gisler students are required to interact in numerous ways. They interact with their peers, teachers, staff members, devices and text on many different levels. More and more our students are asked to interact with text at a deep level. Post-it notes and readers' notebooks are must haves for students to process what they are reading and to make connections. For example, students are taught that Great Readers interact with text by asking questions and recognizing text features to help them better understand what they are reading. Helping students learn to become better readers is an exciting journey, one that our entire staff is thrilled to be on together. Their hard work and dedication can be seen every day through the success of our students.



William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal

10 Years with the Ocean Institute

Newland's fifth-grade classes just completed their 10th annual Watershed Conference at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point. Thanks to a grant by the Ocean Institute, the fifth-grade classes were able to attend three different field trips that were centered on water science and the scientific method.

Our first trip took us on a trip to experience hands-on science through dissecting fish, water testing, and learning about the importance of keeping our watershed healthy. Our second trip was to our own watershed, the Huntington Beach Pier and the Santa Ana River Jetty, to test the water quality and the health of our soil. Students then created a PowerPoint with this data and headed back to the Ocean Institute to present the data to other schools, scientists and professionals. Newland students were quite impressive with their depth of knowledge about watersheds, science and especially our Talbert Watershed. This is a learning experience every student will remember!



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

It's Early Entry Kindergarten!

To start the month of February, Oka Elementary School welcomed a new classroom of young students to our campus. Early Entry Kindergarten is designed for students who have recently turned five years old and are looking to be better prepared as they enter kindergarten in the fall. Oka is proud to be the only school within the Fountain Valley School District hosting Early Entry Kindergarten.

Teacher Mrs. Melissa Coyle has been hard at work getting her classroom ready for students. Families and incoming students were invited to attend an early welcome the week before school started, to help ease the transition. Although these students have just started their new school year, this classroom already has them engaged and learning in small groups.

Oka looks forward to helping these students get a jump start as they prepare to enter kindergarten in September.



Oka's newest students!

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

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

Noon Leagues

The Talbert Middle School T-Birds have started 2016 off right and are on track to make the year a huge success! Lots of new ideas and fresh faces have added to the buzz of excitement around campus and continue to keep students engaged and focused on achievement.

One consistent has been the enthusiasm and spirit students hold for noon leagues. Noon-leagues are a favorite with students and help give them a sense of pride in their homerooms and their school.

This year we began in October with soccer. With the help of enthusiastic students, we glided through the sport with positivity and a spirit of good

sportsmanship. We are now in the midst of football playoffs and will soon be having a sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade super bowl! In the spring, students will participate in a three-on-three basketball tournament and dodge ball.

Noon leagues are fun and action-packed and are always a great way to see students in a different light.



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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Writing Contest

Plavan School believes that written expression is a valuable skill. As such, we hope to provide our students with the tools and inspiration they need to become great writers.

The students were recently invited to participate in a writing contest sponsored by the Huntington Beach Public Library. They were asked to use their imaginations to share what they would do if they were ever "Locked in the Library Overnight..."

We are proud to announce that two Plavan Panthers –

kindergarten student Ryan Yeung and second-grade student Madison Sato – were each awarded "Most Original Story." Judges described Ryan's story as "crazy good" for a kindergarten entry. Madison's story scored high on originality, providing readers with wonderful nonfiction detail about an ocean night.

Each child was honored with a certificate and a gift card. We are extremely proud of their efforts, and look forward to more exciting stories in the future.



Plavan students Ryan Yeung and Madison Sato celebrate their writing awards with Plavan librarian Mrs. Spivey.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

Taking a Walk Through California

Eureka! The Tamura fourth-grade students have discovered a unique and exciting way to learn about California history. It's called "Walk Through California."

This interactive presentation uses a skillful facilitator to guide students through the history of California by using games and activities that encourage active participation.

Our four student teams earned points for their knowledge based on preassigned cards, as well as their knowledge as "experts" about California history and geography. Extra points were given for both memorization and being able to answer questions in complete sentences. The students also enjoyed dressing up as historical figures.

During the second half of the program, the students learned about California geography by placing objects that were related to specific regions, cities,

attractions and natural wonders onto a large floor map of the state. The winning team received a first-place certificate. The other students received a special Walk Through participation certificate.



Huntington Beach City School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Haulk

The LeBard Property

At the February regular Board meeting of Huntington Beach City School District, the Board of Education held a discussion regarding the attempt to sell the LeBard facility as part of the plan to renovate Kettler Elementary School as the new district office. Unfortunately, at the January meeting, the district's first attempt to receive a bid on the LeBard property ended with no responsive bids. At the February 16 meeting, the Board of Trustees spoke with both the land development firm the district is using and the legal counsel to identify the potential barriers to

receiving a responsive bid and how the next resolution might be structured to make the process more consumer friendly. After a robust discussion where many ideas were offered, the Board voted to adopt a new resolution, which keeps many of the components of the first resolution but changes the price structure, the timelines, and the necessary money needed to open escrow on the property.

The new resolution is available on the district Web site as is information on the LeBard property that the district is selling. The majority of the property has already been sold to the city of Huntington Beach to retain the little league fields that are on the facility, leaving just over three acres that have been mapped as a 15-unit housing development to match the surrounding neighborhoods. The district will be accepting bids for the property during the regularly scheduled March 15 Board meeting.

During the Board meeting conversation regarding the LeBard site on February 16, it was noted that the process the Board had taken is exactly how we ask students to deal with their mastery of concepts. A path of action was determined, taking into consideration all of the variables that the Board knew prior to their first resolution. After the January meeting, it became apparent that the original plan needed some changes. During the February meeting, the Board held conversations regarding the outcome, made changes with the new variables that were introduced, and moved forward with another plan of action. As one parent stated, "This was an excellent job of modeling the educational process in action!"

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bridget Kaub
President

The Power of Art and Music Education

For years, as schools have struggled to maintain quality academic programs despite the erosion of funding, in many districts the art and music programs were limited or eliminated altogether. I am very proud that our district continues to have robust art and music instruction at every school and every grade level. We have implemented a district-wide music and art instruction curriculum so that every child in the district receives the opportunity for art enrichment to our excellent academic instruction.

Multiple studies confirm that children who study music and art tend to have larger vocabularies, possess more advanced reading skills, work better in teams, and express enhanced critical thinking skills. Further, a study out of Stanford University has shown that music and art engage areas of the brain which are involved with paying attention, making predictions, and updating events in our memory.

You can see and hear music and art in all our schools and classrooms. Our middle schools have robust art, industrial arts, orchestra, band, drama, musical theater, choral, and animation programs, and the list continues on. Our elementary campuses are preparing all of our students to continue to learn, grow, and advance forward through middle school.

Huntington Beach City School District is a wonderful place to learn.

Educational Services

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



Jenn Kinkel
*Director
Early Childhood
Education*

Tangible Experiences for Young Learners

Through early childhood programs, we have the unique opportunity to lay a strong foundation for future learning. And what a big job that is! In order to ensure that our children can have experiences that will truly resonate, it is imperative that the curriculum be designed so that it is relevant to their interests and authentically connected to their previous experiences.

For example, children are often drawn to the small bugs and insects they encounter every day. In many local programs, collecting roly polys (also known as pillbugs, woodlouse, or isopods) can be an incredibly captivating catalyst for learning about habitats, environments, care of living things, fine motor skills, literacy, vocabulary, and cause and effect.

Even more important than planting the specific knowledge of roly polys is the idea that children can begin to learn "how to learn" when they are exposed to content they find interesting. They soon begin to understand where to find additional information through interviews, books, experts, and observations. They also begin to make connections from previous knowledge to information that is new to them. It is in these moments where intrinsic motivation, curiosity, and wonder can take hold, and when the very youngest of children can find the opportunity to become lifelong lovers of learning.

To quote John Dewey, "The belief that all genuine education comes about through experience does not mean that all experiences are genuinely or equally educative." For our earliest learners, genuine learning does not happen at a desk. Genuine learning happens when they use their senses to construct learning in every area, such as social/emotional, language and literacy, English language, mathematics, visual and performing arts, health, history/social science, and regular science.

Those very small children who initially study roly polys in their preschool years will be well-equipped to make these vital educational connections in their later studies.

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

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



Darren Platt
Principal

The Dangers of Social Media

The most important tools we use have so much power. But along with great power comes the possibility of great danger. For our young people, nothing fits this description better than social media. As educators, it is our duty not to only help students learn core curriculum but also to teach them the skills to harness these powerful tools and use them for their benefit.

This past month, Dwyer Middle School and Smith Elementary School combined their efforts to reach and teach more 1,500 students and their parents. The schools hosted four assemblies and a parent night to share information about the vulnerability of young people regarding social media.

There are plenty of good things about social media. It can help people stay

connected with friends and family and meet and interact with others who share similar interests. Through social media, people can also volunteer for or get involved with campaigns, nonprofits, or charities and enhance their creativity through the sharing of ideas, music, and art.

The flipside is that students don't always make the smartest choices when they post on social media, and this can lead to problems. Social media can be a hub for cyberbullying and questionable activities. Seventeen percent of teens say they've been contacted online by someone they didn't know in a way that made them feel afraid or uncomfortable. Thirty percent say they've received online advertising that was inappropriate for their age. Thirty-nine percent admitted to lying about their age to gain access to Web sites. These statistics highlight the dangers of social media.

Parents can help keep their children stay grounded in the real world by putting limits on media use. Keep computers in public areas in the house, avoid laptops and smartphones in bedrooms, and set some rules on the use of technology. And don't forget: Setting a good example through your own virtual behavior can go a long way toward helping your children use social media safely.



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John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall
Principal

Keyboarding and Vocal Music

Along with a curriculum rich with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) opportunities, Eader Eagles enjoy a plethora of on-going Art experiences, including both Vocals Music classes each week and Keyboarding classes! Students learn to sing and appreciate music in Vocals, and they learn to read music and play instruments in Keyboarding. The program supplements MIND Institute's STMath program which has been proven through extensive research to have a positive

effect on learning, and in particular, in learning mathematics. Eader has been implementing the STMath program for many years under the direction of Ms. Nelda Alvarez. There is a computer-based program which works alongside the music instruction, as well.



Eagles play keyboards and read music each week!

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

New Technology

At Hawes, and with the implementation of the Common Core Standards, technology is being embedded into our instructional practices every day. From kindergarten to the fifth grade, our students demonstrate their proficiency with technology and applications through research, thinking critically, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and communication. Every classroom has a SmartBoard, a document camera, and at least six desktop computers.

Students visit both of our computer labs every week, and we also have mobile carts with laptops, Chromebooks, and iPads that travel into the classrooms. Through our "bring your own device" policy, our students can also 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 also be seen developing their understanding of number sense through ST Math, a visual-spatial web-based learning program; as well as their reading skills through Accelerated Reader, Earobics, and more. As our students' skills develop, we see them researching, creating iMovies, publishing wikis, writing blogs, researching explorers, the life cycle of plants and bees, and more. We also see them learning to use applications to demonstrate their learning, and to cite specific sources to support their arguments.

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

By embedding technology across the curriculum, we are now seeing our students create models using Minecraft, iMovies about social issues, interactive maps, animated characters to share information on a book read, and more! Technology is embedded across our school, and we are excited to see where our students will be taking us on this journey! We are Hawesome!

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Providing Invaluable Help

Huntington Seacliff Elementary is grateful for its many volunteers, as our students are the direct beneficiaries of their help. We have a very dedicated parent population who donate generously of their time to assist our students in the classrooms and on the playground.

For example, we have a core of parents who donate their time to be a "Kinder Coach" to help run games during kindergarten lunchtime. We also have a wonderful father who comes in each week to organize a soccer game for the upper-grade students. He brings in all the equipment they need to make the game look just like the World Cup!

We also have many parents who are part of our dedicated and hard-working PTA. They actively support our school by providing various family activities, assemblies, and funds for field trips, technology, and enrichment materials. When we have a specific need – such as replacing old playground equipment – a jog-a-thon is held and the funds are raised.

And when the rain comes down, or when it is too hot for the students to play outside, a special email is sent out. In the blink of an eye we have parents ready to cover the altered lunch period!

Who runs big school events like the Scholastic Book Fair, the annual Gala Night, or our Harvest Festival? Our parents! We also have a very generous business community that donates funds, gift cards, and underwrites costs for the Gala. Parents also serve on the School Site Council to make sure our goals are met.

At the end of each school year, the PTA collects the volunteer sign-in sheets that contain hundreds of parent signatures. They add up each page and calculate the total amount. We are so proud to have over 10,000 volunteer hours each year! Thank you, volunteers!

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Open House and Book Fair

Moffett School was able to share the hard work our students and teachers completed during the year with our families at our annual Open House in February. The turnout was excellent, and everyone was impressed with the significant learning displayed in our classrooms.

Concurrent with Open House, our Moffett PTA held a book fair where books appropriate to all reading levels were available for purchase. This is one of the events our students enjoy most throughout the year. Parents Brandi Johnson and Jill Tague led the team that worked with Scholastic to present this year's



Brandi Johnson shares a book with Jill Tague and Moffett Mustangs Chase Johnson and Avery and Ella Tague.

theme, "Feel in' Groovy," to generate interest in the materials. Our Gallery was decorated in the theme, which added to the enjoyment of getting to visit the fair and purchase the available books. A huge thank you to our PTA for supporting our school and reading program by providing this service!

Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

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



Dr. Renee Polk
Principal

A Moo-velous Day!

In January, the Dairy Council of California paid a visit to Joseph R. Perry Elementary School. They brought two very special visitors with them: Cocoa the Cow and Snickerdoodle the baby calf. We had two assemblies facilitated by the Dairy Council of California. One assembly included students from preschool through second grade, and the second assembly included students from third through fifth grades. Both assemblies taught students how milk and dairy foods are produced and how they contribute to healthy eating. The assembly also discussed the anatomy of a dairy cow, how milk goes from a cow to their school or home, agricultural technology used on dairy farms, and the many different foods made from milk



Last, all of the students at Joseph R. Perry Elementary School had the opportunity to pet the baby calf, Snickerdoodle. It was a fantastic educational opportunity that brought farm life to Perry school!

John R. Peterson *Elementary*

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



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

It Takes a Second to Make a Difference

Peterson Elementary School's motto of "One individual can change the life of a child" is derived from research of the Search Institute and its framework on the 40 Developmental Assets.

In the 1990's, the Search Institute identified a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. Over the following two decades this Developmental Assets framework and approach to youth development became the most frequently cited and widely utilized one in the world. Data collected from these Search Institute Surveys of more than 4 million children (from all backgrounds and situations) has consistently demonstrated that the more Developmental Assets young people acquire, the better their chances are of both succeeding in school and becoming happy, healthy, and contributing members of society.

The framework has been adapted to be developmentally relevant from early childhood through adolescence, and the role family and community play at each stage of development. The staff at Peterson is continuing their development and implementation of interactions, interventions, opportunities, and adult mentoring to support students with not only acquiring the internal assets, but also accessing family and community involvement to increase the external assets.

Building assets is not a program, but a way to interact with young people. Everyone is molded by the many people, places, and events that were part of their childhood. As staff members of Peterson Elementary, we all have a positive and formative impact on the students who attend our school. It is the hope of the Peterson community that Developmental Assets will begin a movement in Huntington Beach which includes school staff, community residents, and the local business community; all of whom are all focused on making a difference in the life of a child. It truly does take just a second to make a difference!

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

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



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Outdoor Science School

Smith School's fifth-grade students have a unique opportunity to learn about science through the outdoor science school program.

We recently had 128 students travel to Arrowhead Ranch Pine Crest Camp for four days and three nights of valuable, hands-on science activities. Students are grouped into cabins with a camp counselor and spend the week performing group activities, which includes seven hikes. Their favorite one is the night hike, where they learn about astronomy and nocturnal animals.

The teachers enjoy outdoor science camp as well. Mrs. Greyshock remarked, "I absolutely love Outdoor Science School for all that it helps develop in our fifth-grade students: quality content, science knowledge, interpersonal social skills, self-reliance and confidence, collaborative thinking, and work ethic; all



combined in a gorgeous outdoor environment that exemplifies the importance of being good caretakers of our Earth!" At camp, students can create a bond and memories that last a lifetime!

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

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

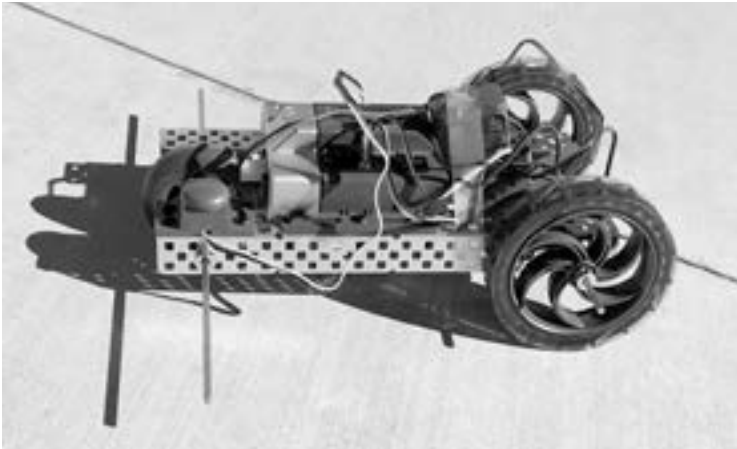


Dr. Cynthia Guerrero
Principal

Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration

There has been growing attention to the critical role that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education has in the U.S.'s global competitiveness and future economic prosperity. At Sowers Middle School, the STEM elective is taught in conjunction with our rigorous academic curriculum. Each unit requires students to: work together on a project; think critically about the design, coding, and contribution of the project to a real-life problem; create objects from their design; and communicate their project design and challenges to colleagues.

"This class has personally influenced me in a positive way," Max said. "Now, whenever I look at something, I question how it was made. I also feel like I have



Robot Drag Race Project created by Alexander Valenti, Easton Laird (Mechanical Engineers); Peace Vongvarayuth (Electrical Engineer); and Teo Nguyen (Computer Engineer)

become more creative."

"Before this class, I wanted to be a detective or a teacher," Jackie said, "but after the design unit, I think it would be super cool to work in three-dimensional

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

OVSD Is Taking Intentional, Deliberate Steps to Rebuild

“If you don’t have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?” -- John Wooden, American basketball player and coach

I recently took time to thank the employees of the Ocean View School District for their daily contributions, support, perseverance, and patience as our district rebuilds and refocuses its efforts on providing the best possible education to all of its students. Positive change and real progress take time, and I am committed to this process now and in the years to come. I am continually in awe of the important work we are doing as I regularly visit classrooms, witness learning activities, and greet our staff and students.

Thus far, I am pleased to report that we are making significant progress in several areas:

- My Executive Cabinet and I are proud of the cohesive working relationships we have forged to support stability in OVSD, especially the strong relationship established with our Board. Our team of assistant superintendents, directors, principals, supervisors, and assistant principals continues to build professional, collaborative relationships, as well.
- Our schools are in full compliance with the safety requirements of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and with the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Under Dr. Michael Conroy, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, we are in control of our construction budget and have secured funding to complete remodeling projects at Hope View (reopened fall 2015), Oak View (reopened February 2016), and Lake View (scheduled to reopen fall 2016).
- We judiciously analyzed our district’s fiscal condition and received a “positive budget certification” from the Orange County Department of Education.

Along with my Leadership Team, I am taking intentional and deliberate steps to help bring back pride, credibility and open communication to OVSD; however, we still have much work to do to stabilize our finances and to support and improve our facilities, communication, engagement, and employee benefits and compensation. We aim to do it right.

A GREAT STEP • From Page 1

classrooms and restrooms. It was the first time since the closure that everyone was together on the campus. Although it was a celebration in itself, the journey home continued, as reconstruction of the main building moved forward. With careful planning and a stabilizing financial plan in place, OVSD was able to complete the Oak View reconstruction project. There were final touches being made to the campus throughout February, as we removed the temporary buildings and repaired the grounds at those locations. In the meantime, we planned a Grand Reopening Celebration for Oak View families.

What does this mean for OVSD? It signifies not only a rebuilding of Oak View’s main building but also of a school district. In the fall of 2014, OVSD was forced to close Oak View, as well as Hope View and Lake View Elementary Schools, for abatement and reconstruction. The process was abrupt and financially threatening. OVSD leadership was changing, and the future looked unsure. However, with a new leadership team in place as of last summer and a sound financial plan, OVSD has reopened Hope View and now Oak View. The Lake View reconstruction plans have been approved by the Board of Trustees, and the campus is anticipated to reopen in the fall of 2016.

Working with our Board, leadership team, and a dedicated staff of education professionals, I am committed to building a cohesive, communicative, and

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President

What the New Federal Education Act Means for Us

This past December, President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the reauthorization bill of the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Under ESSA, changes are being made to address the long-term consequences of the expired No Child Left Behind Act, which has seriously impacted our education system over the past 14 years.

ESSA signifies a historic change in national education law. It includes new measures and targets, which that will be decided upon by our states instead of the federal government. This means California now has the support of federal law to explore innovation in its educational initiatives and programs. As we in the Ocean View School District learn more about ESSA and its many provisions, we will pass that information along to our parents and communities, so that we all have an understanding of how it will impact education in California and in the Ocean View School District.

The Every Student Succeeds Act is anticipated to usher in welcome changes for public education. It keeps the best aspects of the original intent of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, while removing the outdated and burdensome provisions. Under ESSA, funding to support schools and children is a high priority. Also noteworthy is that ESSA reduces the stakes and the amount of student testing, while still providing important assessments and information about our schools to parents and students.

We will be following closely as our new federal education law makes its mark on local education.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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John Briscoe
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Debbie Cotton
Member



Joseph Gaglione
Member

credible organization focused on providing high-quality education to all students in a safe learning environment. The completion of Oak View is one of many ways we are demonstrating this commitment to our families, fellow employees, and communities.

The recent reopening of the entire Oak View campus is a reason to celebrate. The school is a thriving educational center and enjoys many local partnerships, which support and enhance the educational experiences of its students. With a majority of its students designated as English Learners (EL), Oak View is pleased to have OVSD’s EL Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA), Francesca Ligman, to guide the efforts of the school and the district and to train teachers to help students acquire the English language. Ms. Ligman’s leadership in EL is invaluable for the teachers. Oak View students have access to a computer lab and netbooks in the upper grades. Google Classrooms are forming at the school, so students will be equipped to transition to middle school with 21st-century skills. As part of their science studies, fifth-graders are now embracing coding, robotics, and engineering.

With the reopening of Oak View and continued momentum to complete Lake View this coming fall, the Ocean View School District is taking one more step in the right direction.

Circle View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Back to the Colonies!

The fifth-grade Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) classes at Circle View Elementary School held a spectacular fair modeled after United States Colonial times last month. The Colonial Fair was a culmination of our fifth-grade students' extensive study and work during the past few months of school.

After researching and learning about the first 13 American colonies, our students worked collaboratively to further learn about colonial trades and build colonial storefronts modeled after those trades. Their booths included the trades of blacksmith,

butcher, cobbler, baker, candle maker, alchemist, dressmaker, soap maker, carpenter, clock maker, silversmith and wig maker. Our students dressed up as though they lived during that time period and passed out appropriate trade-related items they had crafted, baked, or bought.

The learning process and fair are great examples of innovative learning at Circle View School!



After learning about the 13 American colonies, students worked collaboratively to research colonial trades and build storefronts based on those trades.

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Brett Hardy
Principal

The '4 C's' and Chromebooks

With the addition of two new Chromebook carts, technology at Golden View Elementary School has taken on a whole new meaning. Our students in grades 3 through 5 now have the opportunity on a daily basis to get their hands on this great technology.

At Golden View, our staff often refer to the "4 C's" of the Common Core—communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. When students use Chromebooks to create assignments and projects, they are using the 4 C's to truly enhance their learning experience in a 21st century learning environment.

Students can collaborate and communicate with their classmates and teachers by using their Google accounts to share documents in real time while getting immediate feedback. Critical thinking and creativity can also be

accomplished through online research and the development of projects, using new media such as digital presentations or the development of videos. The opportunities are limitless!



College View *Elementary*

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



Katherine Smith
Principal

STEM Fun

Science instruction is a strong focus at College View Elementary School. The impetus for this is the Defined Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program, which was recently purchased by our PTA. For several years, our teachers have been incorporating project-based learning with STEM activities. In addition, for the past four years, our fourth- and fifth-grade classes have conducted collaborative science experiments.

This year our students will be able to share their experiments during College View's STEM Night on Wednesday, April 27.

Family and friends are invited to this special event to explore STEM through interactive activities. Mrs. Corriere's class recently made tonoscopes to experiment with pitch, amplitude, volume, and vibration. The students proved that STEM learning can be fun!



Students from Mrs. Corriere's class, who recently enjoyed a S.T.E.M. classroom activity where they made Tonoscopes.

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Something for Everyone at Recess

In an effort to provide both fun and a big variety of opportunities for our students during recess time, Harbour View Elementary School has purchased a special "activity cart." We are filling the cart with a variety of options for those students who are looking for something to do at recess that goes beyond handball or swings.

The activity cart has tubs of Legos which were generously donated by our families and students. It also has jump ropes, oversized chess and checker games, hula hoops, card and board games, and much more.

So far our students love having a variety of choices on the playground. As one third-grade student shared with me, "Now there's something for everyone!"



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

'No Place like Hope...'

As a way to commemorate Hope View's return to its campus this year and to add excitement to its walls, students, families and staff are in the process of designing and decorating tiles to be prominently displayed for both current and future Hawks to enjoy. The overall theme of Tiles for Technology is "There is no place like Hope View!" The painted tiles provide a way for us to creatively communicate our love and interests related to school, family, friends, animals or hobbies. The money raised from the project will be used to purchase technology for Hope View students.

On designated days, participants come with preapproved completed designs, and they begin to create their tile. Tiles for Technology is a PTO-sponsored



event under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Redmond, with artistic talents and support provided by kindergarten teacher Mrs. VonDulm and her assistant Miss Tintle. Under their direction, our artists are flourishing!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

Putting the Spotlight on ELD

This past month, students in Mrs. Joslyn's seventh- and eighth-grade English Language Development (ELD) class sharpened their interviewing skills by interviewing staff members, including: our custodian, Mr. Ortiz; our assistant principal, Ms. Haag; our Area Learning Center attendant, Mrs. Kaufman; and some of our teachers, Mrs. Marmolijo, Miss Marley, and Ms. Barham.

The staff members were impressed by the students' listening and speaking skills. After weeks of research, students had facts and follow-up questions to guide their interviews. Paired into teams, our students interviewed two different staff members, compared their findings, wrote speeches, and then presented their speeches in class. Students heard a variety of answers and opinions.



Students interview Mesa View staff members and impress them with their techniques.

We are proud to announce that, due to the hard work put forth by our ELD students and teachers, Mesa View Middle School has 20 students in sixth through eighth grades reclassifying this year!

Marine View *Middle School*

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



William Lynch
Principal

Positive Behavior in Action

Marine View Middle School is a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school and has been for several years. Our staff participated in training through the Orange County Department of Education years ago, but we are in the ongoing process of reinvigorating our program. We started by streamlining our referral process so that we will be able to generate better data using Google Forms to monitor student discipline for both major and minor behavior infractions.

We have also expanded the referral process to support our positive-incentive efforts. Students who exhibit Marine View's behavior expectations have always received what we refer to as Mariner Money.

Thanks to donations and support from our PTSA, students can now cash in



their currency for a variety of gift items at a student store operated by our ASB students and parent volunteers. Through improvements in our data-driven process and a strong partnership with our parents, we have made Marine View a place that supports all students.

Oak View *Elementary*

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



Rosa Mendieta
Principal

A New Look!

Oak View Elementary sure is looking great these days! In February, all kindergarten through second-grade classes, one third-grade class and our support staff all moved back into our beautiful, newly remodeled main building. Our entire staff worked tirelessly to get the classrooms ready to welcome back our students and to continue to provide them with the quality education they deserve. Staff and community volunteers pitched in to lend a hand, putting up bulletin boards and helping set up classrooms.

The students have been so excited to walk the hallways and get acquainted with our new main building, and the parents have been thrilled to see their children enjoy their new classrooms. The front of our building has been newly landscaped, making our school stand out as a beacon of light in the neighborhood.

Our teachers are maximizing every minute of the remaining months of instruction for every child! No stopping us now!



Oak View students, families and staff are welcomed to the newly reopened main building by Huntington Beach Lt. Kent Ferrin, Principal Rosa Mendieta, School Clerk Lolly Garcia, Office Manager Oscar Hernandez, and EL TOSA Francesca Ligman.

Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Winter Science Studies

Preschool children have a sense of wonder and natural curiosity. Just like scientists, they seek information and actively explore the world around them. Preschool science is about active learning, not memorizing science facts or watching the teacher perform science demonstrations. Preschool science provides opportunities to observe, explore, and inquire.

Oak View Preschool students are learning about the characteristics of animal behaviors and habitats. As part of our winter science studies, students don't just learn about hibernation; they actually act it out! Imagine what a rich learning experience it is to read about bears in winter and then pretend you are a bear, eat a lot of food, and crawl into your cave to hibernate. It is a science learning experience that will not be forgotten!

At Oak View, we lay the foundations for our students' educational future—and we are having a lot of fun doing it!



Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Celebrating Tet

On February 5, Star View Elementary School held its annual Tet Festival to celebrate the Vietnamese New Year. As first-grade teacher and event planner Audrey

Tran presented to each grade level, she spoke about the Year of the Monkey and Vietnamese customs and traditions. She also recognized the winners of the monkey art contest.

The most anticipated part of the festival was a complete presentation by the Westminster High School Vietnamese-American Culture Club. This year, the students brought a group of drummers, which excited the audience beyond belief. The high school students put on a fashion show with traditional dress (ao dai) and performed a dance to contemporary Vietnamese music. Lastly, the Dragon Dance began. The drummers accompanied the "dragons" as Star View students fed the acrobatic lions red envelopes (li xi) for good luck in the New Year. The day concluded with fun games and crafts for the children.



Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



Paul James
Principal

Incredible Health Team

Has your son or daughter ever come home with an "Ouch Report" about an incident that happened at school? How about a scraped knee with a bandage? Or, perhaps you received a phone call informing or updating you about an injury or illness that happened while your child was at school? When it comes to the health of the students and staff at the Pleasant View School/OVPP, we are fortunate to have Mary Clayton and Caroline Ishino as part of our health team.

This dynamic duo performs a myriad of duties from assessing students for health needs, administering medicines, determining appropriate first-aid interventions, applying specialized medically necessary procedures, updating health records, communicating with our staff and parents about health alerts, and a variety of other health-related topics. They provide ongoing nurturing service to our students and share their expertise with our staff on a regular basis. When there is a situation that needs immediate attention they always lead the way to ensuring our students are safe and given the proper care. Pleasant View/OVPP feels very fortunate to have both Mrs. Clayton and Mrs. Ishino as part of our staff and thanks them for their dedication and the pride they take in keeping us healthy.

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Spring View's Got Talent!

Spring View Middle School wants to congratulate four of its own talented students. Under the direction of music teacher Marcelo Martinez, students Marbella Bolognese, Kyle Hope, Alexander Martinez, and Hinna Tran have all been selected to participate in the Southern California Vocal Association Honor Choir.

The students were required to sing various scales and triads, as well as perform rhythmic and melodic sight-singing. Students from Los Angeles County, Orange County, the Inland Empire, and as far away as Santa Barbara and San Diego Counties were also able to audition.

The concert will be held at Lincoln Middle School in Santa Monica at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2016. This is an outstanding achievement for which the Spring View community can be extremely proud. A special thank-you goes out to Mr. Martinez for his tireless dedication to our students, and for continuing to build the Spring View music program.



Under the direction of music teacher Marcelo Martinez, Spring View students Alexander Martínez, Kyle Hope, Marbella Bolognese, and Hinna Tran were selected from among hundreds to participate in the Southern California Vocal Association Honor Choir.

Sun View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Celebrating Reading!

At Sun View Elementary School, our students love to read. In January, we had two wonderful opportunities to celebrate reading.

Our incredible PTO sponsored a Winter Wonderland Night in which students and families gathered to listen to teachers and the principal read interactive books aloud. Arriving dressed in their pajamas, students enjoyed tasty treats and hot chocolate as they listened to stories, shared predictions, and read along with the reader. At the end of the evening, students received a book to keep and appreciate over and over at home.

Sun View was also excited to have author Derek Taylor Kent come to share his books for Author's Day. His book *El perro con sombrero* is written in English and Spanish, which our students loved and found interesting. The Scary School Series, about the fun and spooky things that happen at Scary School, prompted lots of questions for Mr. Kent.



Students at Sun View enjoyed listening to teachers and Principal Burney read stories aloud.

Vista View *Middle School*

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



Scott Mooney
Principal

School Safety Specifics

At Vista View Middle School, student and staff safety is a top priority. We are fortunate to have collaborative relationships with our local police department and with our community members. As part of a recent staff meeting, Officer Derek Young from the Huntington Beach Police Department provided a valuable training for our staff on lockdown procedures and the new "Run, Hide, Fight" guidelines from the Department of Homeland Security. In February, retired police officer and task-force commander David Baroway spoke with our students about online safety and cyberbullying. Students participated in assemblies tailored to their grade levels about how to stay safe online. That evening, Officer Baroway also met with parents to provide tips on how to keep their children safe online and from other threats.

Some of the key safety tips for students are never share personal information such as your real name, address or phone number; do not post photos without your parent's permission; never meet someone in real life that you met online; and remember that anything put online is there forever for anyone to see.

Some of the key safety tips for parents are talk with your children about what they are doing online and what is acceptable online behavior; surf the web with your children so that you understand their perspective; know who your children are contacting online; and establish rules for device use. Children are often more adept at technological tools, so it is crucial to engage them in the conversation.

Village View *Elementary*

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



Julie Alba
Principal

Walking Through the American Revolution

History is alive at Village View Elementary School!

For two days in February, our fifth-grade students participated in an exciting and interactive learning experience called "Walk Through the American Revolution." This presentation, put on by *California Weekly*, was designed to allow our students to actively participate in an exciting retelling of our nation's beginnings. They became the stars!

Through games, music, imagination, and storytelling, our students were transported back in time to witness the people and events of the past. Each student became an important Colonial figure that taught the others about how they participated in the causes and events of the American Revolutionary War. The students were given the opportunity to be the "experts" in this interactive presentation.



Westmont-Lake View *Elementary*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

Building Robots and Engineers

Westmont-Lake View is dedicated to enhancing its students' education to produce college- and career-ready achievers.

One way we do this is through our fifth-grade robotics program. All fifth-graders have the opportunity to join this challenging and fun elective program that fosters problem-solving and self-actualized learning through the building and programming of LEGO Mindstorm devices.

The students are currently working to build an energy efficient city in the LEGO Green City Challenge. They are creating robots that can block a dam, lift a solar panel onto a house, power a wind turbine, and raise a clean smokestack. Their next challenge will be to build sumo robots that can be used in a competition with local middle schools.

Robotics is a STEAM-focused elective program that allows for student collaboration and engagement. By using hands-on activities, and solving real-world problems, our Westmont-Lake View students are developing into real engineers.



Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian
Kim-Phelps**

Exemplary Employees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the district, I would like to salute our outstanding staff members, who have been recognized as Classified School Employees of the Year. These people go above and beyond the call of duty in performing their jobs, and they demonstrate dedication and commitment to the children that is second-to-none. Our honorees were nominated by their peers based on their work performance, school community involvement, leadership, and commitment. Here is how their supervisors describe them:

Veronica Chapple—Child Nutrition Category

Veronica started working for the district in 1998 as a noontime supervisor and became a food service worker in 2004. She has an incredible work ethic and goes the extra mile for the students at Willmore Elementary School. Veronica runs a clean, safe, and efficient kitchen, and she only knows one way to do things: the right way. Veronica doesn't cut corners; she does everything by the book. She trains new staff for the Nutrition Services Department, and they can depend on her to teach new employees how to do things the right way. Veronica not only gives her best for Nutrition Services, she volunteers her time at our schools to help our students succeed. Veronica has chaired Red Ribbon Week, jog-a-thons, and end-of-the-year picnics, in addition to being very involved in her school PTA. She acts as a Spanish translator at teacher conferences and Back-to-School Nights, and she reads to students during Dr. Seuss Week. Veronica is a strong leader, and her feedback often enhances and improves operations in the Nutrition Services Department.

Victoria Elwood—Office and Technical

Swami Sai Baba said, "Our relationships are heart-to-heart relationships. Ours is a business of caring, not a business of money and materials." This quote epitomizes Schroeder Elementary School's School Office Manager, Vicki Elwood. She is the first person every family encounters when they arrive at Schroeder. From that first moment, she begins building a relationship with each and every family, student, employee, and community member. A few more trips to the office and Vicki will know the parents' names, their children's names, and who their teachers are that year. She guarantees that every person feels welcome! Vicki goes above and beyond in her work at Schroeder. She is a team player who not only prioritizes her regular duties, but also helps out wherever she is needed. Be it helping students in the nurse's office, making copies for teachers, helping our PTA parents, or staying late to help search for a lost student, Vicki is there. Students describe Mrs. Vicki as nice, funny, kind and cool, and parents extol her virtues as well. Vicki Elwood deserves to be honored as the Classified Employee of the Year for Office and Technical Support. She truly is the heart and soul of Schroeder School. She ensures that every person who enters Schroeder becomes part of our family, and that family relationship begins with her.

Harvey Sissoev—Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

Harvey was hired as a skill maintenance-grounds equipment mechanic in 1997. He is an exemplary employee who always strives for perfection. Harvey is an innovative and motivated employee with a skill set that exceeds his job description. Harvey maintains equipment that has surpassed its life expectancy and maintains it in pristine order. When most schools districts would surplus equipment, Harvey restores it to its original condition, saving valuable resources for our district. Harvey is not only a reliable employee; he is an employee who gives back to his community, volunteering countless hours through his church. It goes without saying that employees like Harvey make the Westminster School District a proud family.

Shawn Henley—Para-Educator and Instructional Assistance

Shawn Henley has worked in the district as Sequoia Elementary School's library media assistant since 2002. According to her co-workers, she makes Sequoia a better place for the students, staff, and community. She handles daunting tasks with tremendous grace, patience, and enthusiasm. Shawn goes above and beyond for our students at Sequoia. She leads our student council, recycling program, and yearbook club, just to name a few. She truly loves her school and community and will do whatever it takes to make it a better place for everyone. Shawn is a perfect example of what a leader is. John Quincy Adams' definition of a leader describes Shawn Henley perfectly: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."

Diep Vu—Support Services and Security

Being a district translator is a very challenging position, and Diep Vu has distinguished herself as an exemplary translator with her knowledge, skill, and compassion. The responsibilities of a district translator are very critical to ensuring that students and parents have access to information and programs for student success. Diep is very knowledgeable about the educational system, from preschool to college graduation. She works with new families to help them understand how to navigate health and social services as well as the school requirements. Translators require different higher-level verbal, writing and interpersonal skills, depending on the support needed in each instance. Diep navigates the many demands of the job very well. The most challenging circumstances arise when staff and parents are in conflict and need to problem solve together. Diep is skilled at being the conduit to support all of the people involved and help them understand each other's perspectives. She is very sensitive to the cultural differences and similarities when working with all stakeholders. Once written translations are published, they are scrutinized by many and reflect the professionalism of the entire district. Diep ensures that all written translations pass the highest level of review before releasing them. Diep Vu is dedicated to serving the families of the Westminster School District.



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Power**
President



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jamison Power
President

Westminster Honors Inspirational Students

Recently I had the great honor and privilege of attending my favorite event of the year, the Every Student Succeeding Awards Breakfast at the Westminster Rose Center. Each year, at this heart-warming event, the Westminster Educational Leadership Association (WELA) honors students who have succeeded against all odds and have showed courage and poise in the face of tremendous adversity. Many of the students who were honored have overcome physical barriers such as severe illnesses or disabilities, lingual and socioeconomic barriers, the death of an immediate family member, and other seemingly insurmountable adversities. Yet, despite it all, they have succeeded and, in so doing, they have inspired their teachers, their peers, the Board of Trustees, and our entire district. Many of these students have even gone on to take on leadership roles at their schools, become active in school programs, and participate in cross-age tutoring and community activities.

Conquering these types of obstacles takes both mental and physical toughness, true grit, and an indomitable spirt. Through these awards, WELA celebrates all of these students' incredible achievements. These students are truly an inspiration to our community. We applaud them for all that they have done and look forward to celebrating their continued success.



2016 Every Student Succeeding Winners

Reese Smith-Tejeda, Anderson Elementary; Mathew Nguyen, Clegg Elementary; *Daniel Juarez, DeMille Elementary; Angel Rodriguez, Eastwood Elementary; Esmeralda Martinez, Finley Elementary; Alexa D'Annuzio, Fryberger Elementary; John Tu, Hayden Elementary; Nicholas Yearout, Johnnson Middle School; Kimberly Aguilar, Meairs Elementary; Natalie Vidal, Schmitt Elementary; Ricky Jimenez, Schroeder Elementary; Dominic Lyons, Sequoia Elementary; Isabella McGookin, Stacey Middle School; Romio Ramirez, Warner Middle School; Thomas Rivera, Webber Elementary; Loan Luu, Willmore Elementary.

*Daniel Juarez at DeMille Elementary School has been selected to represent the district and to be honored at the regional level of the Association of California School Administrators.

Anderson Elementary (K-6)

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Every Student Succeeding

By Erika Bradley

Each year, Anderson school recognizes one student who has succeeded despite obstacles. This year, we proudly honored third-grader Reese Smith-Tejeda. Before attending Anderson, Reese was home-taught because of severe health impairments and numerous surgeries. When Reese started here, she rolled up in her wheelchair with a dolly full of supplies. Her smile was infectious, and the whole staff fell instantly in love with her personality.



Reese has progressed by leaps and bounds since coming to Anderson. She doesn't use her wheelchair anymore and is walking on and off the bus and around school all day. She greets every staff member and student with enthusiastic hellos and hugs. Her vocabulary is growing every day—once she didn't talk, and now she doesn't stop talking!

Reese has flourished with the strong support from her caring and loving family and the Anderson staff. We couldn't be more proud of Reese because she's truly the epitome of success.

DeMille Elementary (K-6)

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

The Year of the Monkey

Happy New Year! On Friday, February 5th, DeMille School celebrated Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

It was a very festive celebration. Many students came dressed in colorful ao dai, a traditional Vietnamese dress. The office and campus were decorated to help welcome in the New Year as well.

We were honored to have the Vietnamese-American Culture Club from Westminster High School come and perform a number of dances and teach us more about Tet. The lion dancers and drummers were especially exciting. Students from DeMille's Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program performed a

song, and students from the Extended School Program performed a lovely dance as well.

The festivities continued into the evening with a Tet Festival and potluck hosted by the ESP and PTA. It was a very fun day!



Members of the Westminster High School VACC sound the drums.

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Fun and Fitness

Clegg Elementary School students in first through fifth grades have a great opportunity to join our Fun & Fit Club, which started at the end of February. Students do aerobic activities and participate in sports for an hour every Wednesday right after school.

This club was created and is run entirely by our PTA. Parents set up the activities and provide opportunities for students to have a great afternoon of fun and exercise. There are fields set up for soccer, field hockey, kickball, and flag football. The blacktop area offers paddle ball, basketball, hand ball, jump ropes, hula hoops, and aerobics.

As many as 275 students enroll in Fun & Fit Club each year. It is an amazing program that the students really enjoy participating in. We would like to thank everyone on the Clegg PTA and in our community for making this program possible for our students.



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Jason Kuncewicki
Principal

Farm to Desk

Eastwood School's garden is pumping out fresh produce. This fall, the fifth-grade students in Mrs. Slingerland's and Miss Hartloff's classes cleared the area designated for the garden patch, which is next to the kindergarten playground. They amended the soil and measured out their garden plots as part of project-based learning. Each team created a team name for their vegetable and planned out what they would plant and grow in their own garden plots.

For the past few months, students have been harvesting fresh organic radishes, lettuce, spinach, peas, beets, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, and enormous heads of cauliflower. The students are excited and enjoying the fruits of their labor. In the process, students are trying new foods, producing informative text, sharing, learning about life science, and practicing teamwork.

The next project is to plan and plant our spring gardens, which will produce and abundance of learning and fun!



Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutiérrez-García
Principal

Exploring Dioramas

Finley fifth-graders from Ms. Perry's and Ms. Bosworth's rooms recently researched a pre-Columbian nation from either the Southwest, Midwest, Northeast, or Southeast region of the United States.

They identified the geography, climate, and available natural resources for that nation, and then evaluated how the geography and climate of their region influenced the way these pre-Columbian peoples lived. The students then applied the descriptive text structure to compose informational text about a pre-Columbian society.

They had already learned that descriptive text organizes information by the feature/characteristic/category/example of the topic, and so they wrote four paragraphs summarizing four different categories of their tribe's lifestyle; including how their tribe used available natural resources for food, shelter, clothing, and/or tools, and how nature was represented in their tribe's culture.

Once their writing was complete, the students then created four-sided dioramas that they mounted on bases. Each side of the diorama represented one feature of their pre-Columbian nation's lifestyle. They then glued the paragraph they wrote for that feature onto the pedestal below a 3D depiction of it.

The students were encouraged to be creative with the materials they used. Many students created things like water, buffalo hide, clothing, canoes, fires, and shelters using painted felt, pipe cleaners, tissue paper, Popsicle sticks, and even bark and leaves that they collected outside. Many students even included small figures, toy food items, and other artifacts.

Both fifth-grade classes displayed their dioramas in one classroom as a kind of gallery installation. Finley's fourth- and fifth-graders then had the opportunity to walk through the room and view their classmates' work.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Turning Over a Leaf

In February, Hayden School officially opened its brand-new Reading Garden. The garden was designed and created by an amazing local Girl Scout named Alicia Pippert, whose mother works at Hayden. Alicia and her family took a regular patch of grass and turned it into a reading oasis for our students and staff. She came up with this idea to help promote reading at our school, and her garden has already inspired many students to come out and read in our beautiful garden.

Alicia started with an idea, and with a lot of hard work and many dedicated people, her idea will be a part of Hayden forever.



We would also like to thank the whole Pippert family, the Hayden PTA, the Hayden staff for recycling to help fund the garden, and the WSD maintenance crew. It was really exciting to see so many people willing to pitch in to help create Hayden's amazing Reading Garden!

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Dena Kiouses
Principal

February Celebrations

A new parent group met weekly to learn ways to increase literacy at home. This theme continued with Family Literacy Night. Teachers created a fun and educational event based on literacy games and activities. Take-home activities were provided so that families could continue the educationally based fun at home.

Fryberger PTA sponsored a Family Valentine Dance. Students competed in hula-hooping, and more than a few parents showed off their dance moves. The admission was canned food items to be donated to a local food bank. Families had a great time while supporting the Westminster community.

Staff, students and parents participated in the 2016 Tet parade with the Westminster School District. Tet is the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Feast of the First Morning of the First Day. For many Fryberger families, Tet is an important cultural celebration, and some are new to the holiday. It is especially nice that this First Morning of the First Day could be shared together.



Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



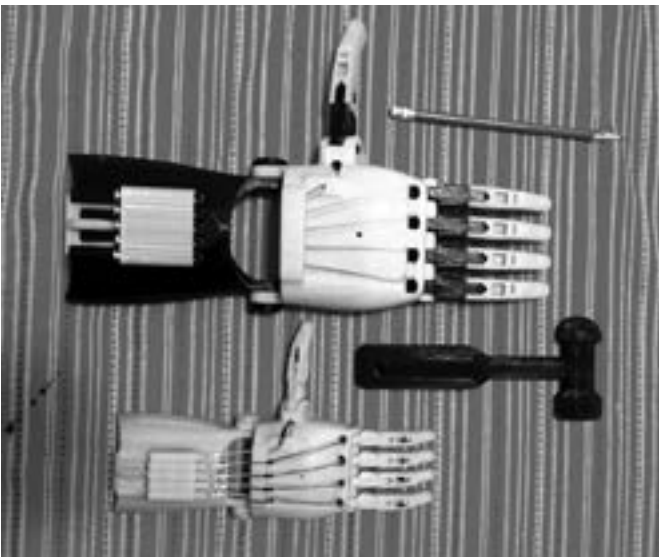
Daniel Owens
Principal

3-D Helping Hand

Johnson Middle School has started a 3-D printing and design class, taught by Mr. Coatney. Besides learning the ins and outs of the actual 3-D printers, the different printing filaments and the computer software, the students are learning the basics of CAD (computer-assisted drafting) and CAM (computer-assisted manufacturing). The students have been designing and printing out different everyday objects as well as some of their own designs and creations.

One of the most exciting aspects of this STEM-based class is our new affiliation with Enabling the Future, a nonprofit organization that provides free prosthetics to people around the world. The class printed up a Raptor Reloaded prosthetic hand, assembled it, and mailed it in to Enable,

and now they have been approved to make hands for any matching recipients in our area! The original test hand will be given to a person in need, and the class is very excited to see who will get it and how it will change his or her life. It's a fun, innovative and exciting time at Johnson Middle School in the 3-D Printing and Design class!



Land School

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



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



Reagan Lopez
*Executive Director,
Student Services*

Literary Characters Come to Life

As part of the PBIS program at Land School, our students get to participate in a regular monthly rewards assembly and activity.

This month the children dressed up as their favorite book character for the mid-year rally. The children were asked to share what character they were and what story they were representing in the classrooms.

Literacy skills, such as retelling and connecting to the text, are a key part of language and literacy foundations in the preschool

environment. Dressing up as actual characters helped the children connect to the stories, which improves their comprehension ability and interest in literacy.

The classrooms also sent home promotional items to encourage reading between parent and child. Developing a love for reading at this young age, both in the home and at school, will help set our children on the path to school readiness and success.



Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • <http://meairs.wsd8.us>



Kathy Kane
Principal

Lunar New Year

The Westminster High School's Vietnamese American Culture Club (VACC) came to Meairs Elementary in early February to celebrate the Lunar New Year, and welcome the Year of the Monkey!

Many of our students celebrate TET, the Vietnamese celebration of the New Year. The VACC dressed in beautiful costumes and performed traditional dances, drumming, and an energetic dragon dance in front of teachers, parents, and students. The entire school then went to the blacktop for a

school-wide assembly to share the Vietnamese culture and language.

Many of our students also dressed up in traditional Vietnamese attire to share their culture with their peers. Additionally, many of our classrooms sampled Vietnamese and Chinese food in their classrooms. In Ms. Nguyen's first-grade class, parents joined in on the celebration and shared their holiday traditions with books and stories.

Everyone had a great time, and we are looking forward to continuing this tradition next year!



Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • <http://schroeder.wsd8.us>



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Saturday Academy

Schroeder's last Saturday Academy in January was a huge success with over 70 students participating!

During each Saturday Academy students are able to participate in

enrichment activities such as art, music, dance, computer time and more! So far this year, primary students learned about the Fibonacci sequence and looked for examples of it in nature while discovering our wonderful garden and decorating pine cones. Upper grade students participated in science activities and showed their learning during some very competitive games of Kahoot on a variety of topics. They even challenged Mrs. Hernandez to show her skills and knowledge!

Future Saturdays will include learning about our new solar panels, how they work and more! The dates for the rest of the year are: March 12, April 30, and May 21. Saturday Academy at Schroeder is always a lot of fun and we hope to see more students who need to make up an absence attend it in the future!



Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • <http://schmitt.wsd8.us>



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Every Student Succeeding

By Joseph DeLuca, Fourth-Grade Teacher

It is my professional opinion that Natalie Vidal is, without a doubt, one of the strongest young ladies I have ever known. She is only nine years old, and has more courage than most adults.

We all know how hard it is to be the new person in any setting. It is exponentially more difficult to be the new child at school. But Natalie wasn't just any new student at a new school. Born with a cleft palate, she has undergone several corrective surgical operations, including having a bone fragment removed from her hip and placed into her jaw.



However, Natalie has risen above, and is excelling both socially and academically. She was recently chosen to be a part of the Leadership Council, and continues to perform above and beyond expectations.

It is my sincere wish that all children could have the strength and courage that this young lady possesses.

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • <http://sequoia.wsd8.us>



Michelle Watkins
Principal

Enrichment Creates Inspiration

Students at Sequoia extend and enrich their learning inside and outside the classroom at Saturday Academy. Our last Saturday Academy had over 60 students that were excited to participate in activities that emphasized enrichment in the Arts.

The goal of our Saturday Academy is to inspire students to find an interest and appreciation in areas that they may not always have the opportunity to experience. This past Saturday Academy, students were led in rotations that included: Art



Appreciation, Yoga, Gardening, and Nutrition. Students were engaged and excited. We look forward to our upcoming Saturday Academy dates: March 21, April 23, and May 21.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."— Maya Angelou

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Garden Learning

Last school year, Mrs. Thach started the Garden Club. We had such a large turnout that the club was held twice a week to accommodate the additional students. The Garden Club started growing vegetables in a planter, but they soon found that they needed to improve the quality of the soil and reorganize the space.

Our club was fortunate enough to receive a grant to help with soil costs and the purchase of cinderblocks to use in the garden. Garden Club members have also painted pots and sold succulents to raise additional funds.

Today the club is growing broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, and tomatoes, just to name a few! We have also hosted two successful farmers' markets.

Stacey Middle School is excited to watch the Garden Club grow over the next year!



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kevin Whitney
Principal

Wolf Pack Honors Thomas Ramirez

Each year, Webber recognizes one child who is doing well in school despite prior academic and behavioral struggles. Sixth-grade student Thomas Ramirez is being recognized for succeeding against the odds. Here is what RSP teacher Mrs. Gary wrote about Thomas.

"When I first met Thomas, he was a third-grader who came to my classroom for small-group reading intervention. His fluency assessment score was 20 wpm, and he scored Far Below Basic on the Language Arts Benchmark assessment.

"Thomas was determined to improve. He came in every day with a smile, a good attitude and the desire to work hard. Today, Thomas has made incredible improvements. This is evidenced by his fluency assessment score being 112 wpm, and he scored Proficient on his Language Arts Benchmark! The Wolf Pack is proud of Thomas. He has shown that with the right attitude and the will to improve, every child can succeed!"



Thomas Ramirez "A Leader of the Pack."

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

Warner Rocks After School

By Andy Ho and Tony Pham, Warner Journalism

Clubs are one of the many ways where cooperation, friendship, and innovation can grow, and our Warner's clubs represent these traits.

Arts and Crafts is advised by Ms. Browning, Ms. Laidow, and Ms. Maxwell. In this club the students create crafts such as bracelets and origami. Strings and Things is another club, advised by Mr. Bruland. He and the students collaborate together to play songs of their choice.

The Gardening Club, advised by Mrs. Ahn, shows new methods of producing more crops with garden beds. They donate the crops to Warner's PTA. The Choir Club, advised by Mrs. Gregorio, rehearses hit songs with vocal techniques and



choreography. They will be performing at the Rose Center with the Westminster Choir Foundation.

Some other clubs at Warner include Computer Design Club, NJHS, Golf Club, and many others where the students can interact with each other.

Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Kindness Matters

Our Willmore community recently took "The Great Kindness Challenge."

Started several years ago with a few schools in the Carlsbad School District, this effort has grown to over 5,000,000

participants. The purpose of the exercise is to inspire everyone to go out of their way to perform a kind act for someone, their school, or the community.

Willmore students took the challenge seriously. They decorated the school with encouraging posters and performed kind acts all over the neighborhood. These ranged from holding the door open for another student to staying in at recess to help their teacher, and so much more.

The students not only enjoyed the feeling of pride that one gets from helping others, they also gained a deeper understanding of how these acts can inspire others to behave similarly, creating a virtual whirlwind of kindness!

We are all very proud of this effort, and intend to make it last throughout the year and beyond.



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Smart and Healthy

2016...the pace of each year continues to amaze me. As we begin our new calendar year and embark into the second semester, I wanted to share a few thoughts about schools and families, both smart and healthy.

Frequently in conversations with others, we find ourselves discussing our families and we are all too proud to do so. Most of us share that our families are more important to us than work and in fact report that families are our first priority. I actually have never had anyone tell me that work was his or her first

priority in life. And yet, I think that for many – including me – we would have to admit that we spend an inordinate amount of time at work, or thinking about work or work related things. When we look a little deeper at our families, we sometimes find that we have less time with them and that life at home can be reactive, frantic and unfocused. The digital pace of today’s world excites us on one hand, and can exhaust us on the other...all the while challenging our value of “family-first.”

Successful organizations, such as schools, are both smart and healthy. They are smart because they are focused, organized, financially prudent, and have a defined mission and core values. They are healthy because they have a minimal amount of confusion and politics, are productive and have high morale.

Successful families are also smart and healthy. They are smart because they focus on education and engage in well-rounded activities. They are healthy because they spend time together, and there is laughter and positive interaction that builds memories that last a lifetime. Home is a welcoming and safe place.

Most of our pain centers on the healthy side in both organizations and in families. In the movie “Parenthood” Steve Martin reminds us “life is messy.” And in fact this is true.

I recently read a book by Patrick Lencioni titled *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family*. In his book, Patrick outlines three questions every family should ask themselves as they go through life together.

1. What makes our family unique? He reminds us that when we try to compare ourselves to others we usually fall short in our own mind’s eye. He reminds us that every family is unique, and we will gain both perspective and peace when we know who we are as a family and what our core values are. As a strategy, he suggests that we identify what is true about our lives, the decisions we make and the way we live. As we do this, when decisions come up, families will begin to make the decision based on their values and uniqueness instead of other criteria.
2. What is our top priority – rallying cry – right now? Patrick reminds us that we worry about too many things. We are easily distracted and sidetracked. When we identify our top priority, the area that is the most important, we are less likely to commit to activities that may be overwhelming or result in a crisis. Instead, we can be crystal clear about the decisions we make and remain committed to our goals. Again, the family fabric grows stronger.
3. How will we talk about and use the answers to these questions? In question three, it is critical that a family keep the first two questions alive by using them in daily decision making. When do we discuss and decide things? Where and how often will we put our choices into action?

Sadly, it’s often not until people actually face the possibility of challenges, or even loss, in their families that they finally come to realize the importance of being purposeful, strategic and proactive. This is obviously not a cure-all but if we can achieve a little more sanity in the midst of our adventure in life it’s worth our efforts.

Thank you for your continued family and community efforts on behalf of our students. Our year has been overwhelmingly positive and productive so far. You do make a difference, and our students appreciate your investment in their future!

Adopted with permission from *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family* by Patrick Lencioni

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Dr. Duane Dishno
President

The Hidden Injury

As long as students participate in athletic programs, there will be the danger of concussions occurring from time to time. Part of the problem is the tendency of students to sometimes downplay their symptoms in order to stay in the game or because they just don’t think it’s serious. They do not realize it can be dangerous to continue playing and instead choose to hide their injury.

But we know better. Concussions are a type of traumatic brain injury often triggered by a jolt to the head or a quick hit to the body, causing the brain to bounce or twist in the skull. You can’t see a concussion. Signs may appear immediately or might not be noticed

until weeks later. Typical warning signs may include difficulty concentrating, headaches, nausea, sensitivity to light or noise, confusion, fatigue, and dizziness. Symptoms often disappear after a week or two, and students are often affected differently. Most recover quickly with rest, but sometimes the symptoms last for weeks. Just like any other injury, brain injuries need time to heal.

It’s not just our male athletes who are at risk for concussions. Female sports are just as “rough and tumble.” Participation in active contact sports such as soccer, lacrosse, and even cheerleading places these young women in the same kind of jeopardy. Not surprisingly, medical studies reveal that high school athletes are more susceptible to concussions than older athletes and are three times more likely to experience a second concussion in the same season.

And how many times have we all heard a parent pressure a son or daughter, exhorting him or her to “stay away from the trainer” or “just stay in the game?” Concussions are serious and need to be dealt with as such.

In the Huntington Beach Union High School District, we take this matter very seriously. Last year, the Board approved a policy regarding the care of students suspected of having sustained concussions. This year, each high school instituted a concussion-testing program for all students participating in athletic programs, and all athletes underwent baseline testing. Our Board policy requires that “any student athlete who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from practice or competition at the time of the injury...and shall not be permitted to return to any activity until he/she is evaluated and cleared by a Licensed Health Care Provider (LHCP) trained in the management of concussions.” During the first semester of this school year, our schools were able to support healthcare professionals and our families with the data from baseline testing in more than 70 instances. Board policy and administrative regulations can be viewed on the district Web site.

Every concussion is unique. Decisions to permit students to return to participation in their activities are made on a case-by-case basis, which that involves consultation with the student’s LHCP, the credentialed school nurse, and the athletic trainer. Students who participate in any activity that requires physical clearance are subject to this policy. We urge parents to encourage their student athletes to tell the coaching staff if they experience symptoms of a concussion. Our students’ safety and well-being is our highest priority.

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Different Kind of Love

In February, students from all over the district prepared for the month of love. Usually, when an individual thinks about Valentine's Day, that person will visualize couples and the romantic aspect of life. Adults—and even more commonly nowadays, students—go outside their comfort zones to create something special for their significant other.

There are others like Westminster High School (WHS), which celebrated the Lunar New Year through wishing others good luck and a happy new year through festivities and parties with their loved ones and family members. WHS's Vietnamese American Culture Club (VACC) performed for Chinese New Year at multiple schools and various restaurants.

Love: Thinking Beyond Oneself

And lastly, we have other schools that think beyond themselves. Edison High School's Associated Student Body (ASB) celebrated Valentine's Day by giving students the opportunity to send other students or even teachers and staff members thoughts of how much they appreciate one another through personalized messages and beautiful carnation flowers. Fountain Valley High School's (FVHS) ASB put in all their efforts for a new event that was created last year, called Share the Love. Each ASB member in the student council worked hard and cut out a heart for each of the 3,600 students with their names on them as well as a sweet message to brighten their day. On top of that, FVHS also brought in a motivational speaker, Richard Kuo, to speak about his life and how love affected him in many ways and expressing the thought to spread kindness and love toward others.

Love is in the air. It spreads around like an aroma of sweet cookies that people cannot help but smile at. Students this year in the Huntington Beach Union High School District are beginning to create a generation in which they place others before themselves. It is a symbolic message to not only spread world peace, kindness and love but also a reminder to every person that even when tough obstacles get in one's way, anyone can overcome them with a focused mindset and an optimistic attitude.

Coast High School

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Valuable Reflection

Have you ever looked back on a period of time and thought about the things you've accomplished or wish you would have done? I would bet that most of us have done this at least once in our lives. The result of this self-reflection can be quite positive, as we can learn from our mistakes or realize there are some parts of our lives that we need to work on. What can make this self-reflection even more beneficial is when we have someone we trust who can agree with our thoughts or point us to new discoveries about ourselves. At the end, we hope to set clear goals

for ourselves, such as: "I'm going to work out three times a week" or "I'm going to spend more time with the people I care about."

Coast High School has had the opportunity to do a school reflection, with many of these same results. This process is referred to as a self-study and is guided by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the major accrediting agency for West Coast schools. Our school has spent the past two years looking at student data, processes, funding, teaching, curriculum, culture, and even school facilities to see where we can improve the overall learning process and environment for our students. Led by Francene Kaplan, a teacher and our WASC Coordinator, our team of teachers and support staff has taken that close look at our school and developed goals. Their labor was extensive and the resultant fruit is good.

Coast has set a goal to increase the number of students who are college and career ready and prepared for post-secondary options. We will develop, implement, and refine interventions that support the achievement of all students, with an emphasis on at-risk students. We will increase elective offerings, particularly in Career Technical Education (CTE). We will also improve communication for students and all other stakeholders to enhance the student learning and social environment.

Fountain Valley High School

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



Dr. Morgan Smith
Principal

Increasing Participation

Fountain Valley High School is leading the charge when it comes to instructional excellence.

For the past six years we have been a model program for Instructional Rounds. Our Instructional Rounds coordinator plans meetings to discuss what the focus of an upcoming instructional round will be, and also coordinates which teachers on campus will participate during each period. Over the years nearly all of our teachers have participated as either a host classroom or a touring teacher.



The touring teachers first meet and then walk from designated classroom to designated classroom. At the end of the period the touring teachers meet to debrief on what they have observed in each classroom; along with what worked, what could be done differently, and how they can incorporate what they saw in each room.

Our mission is to increase campus-wide participation and provide meaningful feedback. We have also started the Teacher Challenge on campus to increase the number of successful participants and support a positive environment. In February, the teachers were greeting all students at the classroom doors. The result is that our students are developing positive connections to the adults in their lives. Some teachers can use the technique to prompt students to begin working as soon as they enter the classroom.

Another area of focus for the entire semester is called Teacher Feedback. Each week, teachers and staff members are given articles that cover the urgency and importance of providing feedback that is timely, specific, and constructive. Our department chairs will participate in activities designed to increase participation in these school-wide instructional strategies.



**Dr. D'Liese
Melendrez**
Principal

Visiting the Big Apple

Edison High School's Center for International Business and Communication Studies (CIBACS) is a unique four-year program that offers students an enriched and integrated curriculum enhanced through competitive projects, job shadowing, and internships with business partners.

For her senior project, CIBACS student Courtney Anderson recently planned an educational field trip for 40 students and four teachers to New York City in January. Courtney's work on this project provided her with a rare opportunity to develop a wide array of valuable business skills. In addition to the lessons

she learned, her classmates had the opportunity to learn from representatives of a prestigious NYC law firm, upper-management professionals at Toshiba, and the publishers, editors, and marketers at Penguin-Random House.

Courtney's responsibilities included meeting with parent boosters, fundraising, organizing all of the transportation and lodging, arranging sightseeing excursions, and setting up the aforementioned meetings with business professionals. CIBACS lead instructor Lori Chlarson noted that, "Real-life opportunities for students to gain business career awareness in an experience like this cannot be replicated in the classroom."

For her part, Courtney says that she learned much about leadership, communication, and "directing a group of people in the city that never sleeps." One final direction that Courtney made was getting the group out of NYC one day ahead of their scheduled departure in order to avoid the delays caused by a mid-January blizzard. Fortunately, every participant made it onto the last flight that departed NYC before the storm hit.



Edison HS CIBACS students meeting with TOSHIBA executives in their Times Square office.



Edison HS CIBACS students on Liberty Island.

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Daniel Morris
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead!

While educating students in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math (STEAM) prepares them for life, it can also prepare them for college and career. Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) is fortunate to have a STEAM program led by a dedicated teacher, who enables students to explore and prepare for the post-secondary world. Mr. Crossett has built and continues to enhance the student-centered STEAM program that connects student learning with colleges, the community, and industry to ensure our students have access to the latest in technological advances.

HBHS has started a new robotics program in partnership with an international aeronautics innovator. Mr. Crossett's students are currently building and testing a robot to compete in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competition in March. Thanks to this close partnership, students have consulted with experts in the field for suggestions on design, construction, and implementation to meet the requirements of the competition.

A partnership with University of California and some film and animation innovators has allowed students to design and implement a project based on the idea of inflating foil balloons in space. This cross-collaborative partnership may help put the Death Star in space! Stay tuned!

Students currently have a satellite orbiting the equator, which is collecting data to prove (or disprove) a hypothesis. Only 15 schools in the United States were accepted to assist with the research as part of AstroSat Challenge. Students are writing code that is uploaded to a satellite orbiting the Earth, which then sends data back to prove the hypothesis and develop simulations of movement.

Thanks to the students of HBHS, we have truly gone universal!



Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Three New Positions

As HBAS continues to align our school with the goals of the Coast Adult Education Consortium and the Adult Education Block Grant, the months of February and March have been significant for the family at HBAS. In February and March, we added three new positions to our school that will help us better meet the goals of getting students into postsecondary schools, our career tech programs included, or getting students into a job after completing training at our school. The three positions being added are adult education grant coordinator, job developer, and college and career specialist. To help better understand what each position involves, the following includes a brief job description for each. Together, these positions represent one giant step toward improved student outcomes and a school focused on college and career transitions.

Position Descriptions

The adult education grant coordinator will help coordinate our school's efforts toward improving college and career transitions. The coordinator will work with the job developer and college and career specialist to develop processes that support and track students transitioning to postsecondary

education or a job. This person will also be involved in developing reports that include the data our school needs in order to be compliant with grant-performance requirements so that we can continue to receive funding.

The job developer will work closely with instructors to help develop the skills necessary to obtain a job and, even more important, the skills necessary to keep a job. This person will also reach out to the community to build relationships with local employers and industry leaders to create a clear pipeline for employment. Finally, the job developer will work closely with students to ensure that they are ready for their transition and have the confidence in the education and training they received at HBAS to become successful contributors to our local workforce.

Our college and career specialist will also work closely with teachers and students to ensure that our school is preparing students for success in postsecondary education settings. With more of a focus on postsecondary education, this person will meet regularly with community colleges and other postsecondary schools to make sure our transitioning process is effective on both our end and theirs. Students will benefit from knowing that someone is watching out for them as they set foot on a large and often overwhelming campus.

Thank you for reading *School News*!

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dr. Courtney Robinson
Principal

Business Academy

The Ocean View High School (OVHS) Business Academy is a three-year program that is studied in addition to a student's regular high school program. The academy includes three contemporary business courses, workplace experience, community service, field trips, career speakers, portfolio development, and workplace skills. Students apply for the program during the spring semester of their freshmen year, and the courses are taken during their 10th- through 12th-grade years.

OVHS is proud of the academy and the students who participate in the program. Roger Keating, the program advisor, has done an outstanding job growing the program over the years. Currently, we have 207 students enrolled, and this is the first year we have had more than 90 sophomores in the academy. For over 21 years, the academy has provided a business-focused education with amazing opportunities for our students. The graduation rate for students in the academy is 99 percent, with 97 percent attending college after graduation.

Roger encourages all ninth-graders to apply for the OVHS Business Academy. He accepts anyone who is interested in working hard in high school and is willing to prepare for the future in college and the workplace. The academy offers a "family atmosphere," which helps students grow academically and socially in a supportive environment. The OVHS Business Academy students are active in the community, and we look forward to all of the amazing things they will do in their lives.



Business Academy Students participating in a neighborhood clean-up project!

Valley Vista *High School*

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



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

'Getting' the Getty

When is a museum more than just a museum? How does it become a truly memorable experience? Recently, VVHS art teacher Michelle Delanty and her Art2 students found the answers to these important questions during their trip to the Getty Museum in Malibu.

Preparation for the trip began in class sessions that explored the cultural, historic and artistic contexts of a variety of artists. The students especially took note of the clues in historic paintings that described the current world of the painter and his or her subjects. The class focused on clothing, setting, facial expressions and gestures in chosen artworks and was challenged to critically analyze the reason behind each detail. The beautiful setting of the Getty Museum, a re-creation of an ancient Roman country villa with stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, really impressed the students. A friendly and informative docent who carefully

listened to student questions and responded directly added greatly to the experience.

The students did notice details. Some liked the fossil images in the marble and stone carvings. Others liked the stories told on the wall-size tapestries. The war and battle scenes depicted in paintings were also favorites. For others, the best part of the trip was the Getty's architecture and landscape.



Most of these students who had never visited a museum now want to visit other museums. Perhaps the most enduring lesson of the trip was the hands-on experience of art as a social medium that can communicate so much insight, emotion, detail and symbolism. The larger lesson was learning that a museum can be a place and an experience that they will enjoy and appreciate. The students really "got" the Getty!



Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Jessie Marion
Principal

Collaborating for Student Success

Marina High School (MHS) is proud of the work we do with our English Learners (EL). Our EL students, who do not speak English as their first language, come from all over the world, speak many different languages, and have vastly different backgrounds. However, these students come together in our Limited English Proficiency (LEP) program to receive language support, learn about our culture, and develop connections to the school.

In a recent presentation to the Board of Trustees, Marina student Mark Gaber was able to share his story about being an English Learner at MHS. Mark is currently a junior, but he began attending Marina as a freshman, when he moved to California from Egypt. He knew very little English when he enrolled, and he shared the many of the challenges of his transition to a new country and school system.

Just two years later, Mark has come a long way! He is no longer in language support classes and is currently enrolled in a college-level Advanced Placement

class. Mark is involved in many activities on campus and even served as a mentor for incoming ninth-grade students this past summer.

Mark shared that being involved in Marina's LEP program gave him a place to receive help and bond with other students in a similar situation. He also expressed his gratitude for the patience and care he has received from his teachers throughout his time at Marina.

Mark has been able to grow so much, and we are very proud of his success and the success of all of the EL students we serve.



Mark Gaber

Westminster *High School*

14325 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-1381 • www.whslions.net



Joe Fraser
Principal

A National Demonstration Site

The Westminster High School AVID program is one of the oldest and most successful AVID programs in Orange County. This year the school has decided to take this model to a whole new level as they prepare to become an AVID National Demonstration Site.

The steps to being crowned Demonstration Status involve a rigorous two-year process that consists of multiple site visits where the school's instruction, AVID tutorials, and college-going culture as a whole are heavily scrutinized. The school has revamped its elective and site team, hired and trained more tutors, and even developed what they call AVID University, which is the strategic home for the AVID team.



The academic results have been impressive. Westminster High has significantly decreased the number of D's and F's, making college access for students an even greater reality. Their actions have been noticed too, as the AVID visiting team in charge of validating and moving the program forward to Demonstration Status has been impressed with what is going on at the campus.

Specifically, they have applauded all of the school's AVID students, instructors, and the amazing tutors who have built a community of respect, hard work, and focus on attending a four-year university.

The team is looking forward to a final visit of the school year, and is excited as they ramp up for the final visits next year. Becoming an AVID National Demonstration Site would be a huge win for our Westminster High School students, and the entire community as a whole.

HBUHSD • From Page 1

Also that month, students moved 162 adolescent Rainbow Trout from their home at Edison, to a much colder, natural habitat – Big Bear Lake. Similar to the programs that sponsor the White Seabass, the Orange County Fly Fishers Club and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife support Edison in their trout-raising endeavor with a program called, Trout in the Classroom (TIC). In this program, students nurture trout from eggs to fry, monitor tank water quality, engage in stream habitat study, learn about ecosystems, and much more.



Through each and every one of these programs, students gain the skills to maintain water quality conditions within intricate tank systems, understand complex nitrogen cycles, and the science behind breeding fish populations within confined systems.

Also happening in the lab, accelerated Biology students recently conducted a 2-month STEAM project with Wisconsin Fast Plants. This included students planting seeds, growing plants, cross-pollinating between different varieties, and collecting seed from the offspring of the cross. As a result, the process helped students determine the genetics of the original plants.

Additionally, the EHS Chemistry team recently started using the space to create a lab centered on rates of reaction. At the conclusion of the lab, students will be tasked to research a current event, issue, or phenomenon and compile a final presentation for their chemistry course.

This unique laboratory environment provides EHS students with the proper space to participate in Project Based Learning throughout their science and math curriculum. In order to keep up with the students needs, staff members are always looking ahead to what's next for the Innovation Lab.

"In our next phase, we plan to add alternative energy sources to support the facility and provide students with the experience of learning how alternative energy can be used to sustain our systems within the lab," District Science Facilitator and EHS science teacher, Greg Gardiner stated.

In conjunction with grants from the California Department of Education, private donations, the HBUHSD, and extraordinary Edison staff members, the Innovation Lab can continue to expand in support of students being educated, prepared, inspired and most importantly, innovative.



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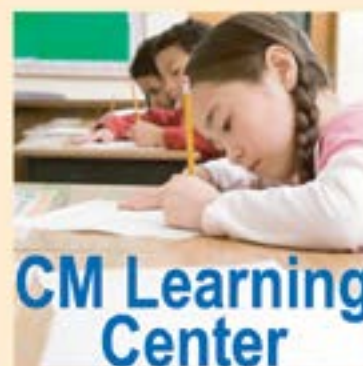
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Under the Sea – Word Search Contest

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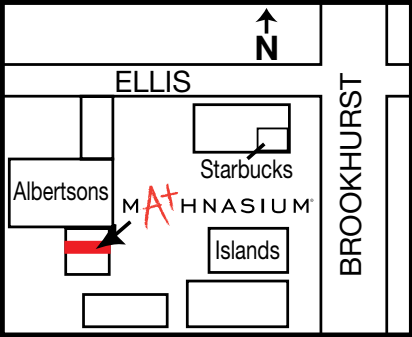
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www.Mathnasium.com/FountainValley

Huntington Beach Central Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • www.hbpl.org

Up the ‘Beanstack’!



Barbara Richardson
*Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services*

The Huntington Beach Library is now offering a year-round online reading program for children ages 12 years old and under, called “Beanstack.” Register online at hbpl.org. Having a hard time finding books for your child to read? Once you register your child, you will start receiving weekly book suggestions based on your child’s age, interests and reading level. You will also get updates on monthly children’s programs and events. Children will be able to earn digital badges and other rewards by keeping track of their reading efforts throughout the year. When it comes time to register for one of the library’s other seasonal reading programs, all you have to do is click a button. Why have your children read only during certain times of the year when they can be encouraged to keep on reading all year long? “Beanstack” is free and easy to use. Watch your children start stacking up with books when you register them for “Beanstack.”

Registration for our spring program is quick and easy once you have registered for “Beanstack.” Our Spring Reading starts March 28 and ends April 30. Children will earn a virtual raffle ticket for every hour read—up to five tickets for a chance to win a fun surprise! Children who read five hours during the program will be invited to HB Tree Society’s Garden Party behind Central Library on Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 17, Conor Grennan, author of the bestselling book *Little Princes*, will speak at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Theater. This HB Reads event is free and open to the public.

The Taste of Huntington Beach is Sunday, April 24, from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Sports Complex. It is our annual fund-raiser for the children’s library. For more information, visit tastehb.com.

Westminster Library

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

Library Events



Cathy S. DeLeon
*Regional Branch
Manager*

Book Babies is every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Get your littlest one started early with songs, dance, play, and books! It is recommended for children 0–2 years old.

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

Grow with STEM is on Monday, March 14, at 3:30 p.m., with little Bits Electronic Building Blocks. On Monday, April 11, at 3:30 p.m., we have Learn programming with ARDUINO. Children will learn more about STEM principles through fun experiments and activities. Registration is required, so come to the library or give us a call to sign up.

Homework Help is every Saturday from 1–4 p.m. Volunteers are present every week to help students from kindergarten to high school.

If you need volunteer hours for school, church, Boy/Girl Scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the library and join VolunTEENS. You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer.

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

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

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

Orange County Department of Education

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

National Reading Awareness Month



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Whether you’re an educator, a parent, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle or even an older sibling, there is something special about reading to a child.

With each turn of the page, horizons expand, and new shades of the world emerge. With each line of a story, you can practically see the neural connections forming within a young mind.

I bring this up because March is designated as National Reading Awareness Month, and it’s a good time to reflect on not just the importance of literacy, but the benefits of reading aloud to children at an early age.

Research shows that literacy begins long before our kids even enter school—and in fact, critical developmental steps are taken shortly after birth. This is not to suggest the teaching of reading prematurely. But from their earliest months, children gain tremendously when we talk to them, share stories, introduce them to culture and expose them to books with simple pictures and bright colors.

First 5 California, an organization dedicated to supporting children during their developmental years, says reading aloud to babies strengthens their vocabulary skills and stimulates the growth and development of brain cells. Their research further indicates that children who are regularly read to as babies know more words by age 2 than those who do not have this benefit.

Studies also show early literacy is a key indicator of future success.

Among students who don’t read proficiently by the end of grade three, about 16 percent fail to graduate from high school on time — a rate that is four times greater than that associated with proficient readers. And the percentage spikes even higher when you factor in levels of poverty.

Here at the Orange County Department of Education, we are promoting a vision that Orange County students can and will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. But that vision begins with our youngest learners as they take their first developmental steps toward literacy.

Reading to a child doesn’t just establish a foundation for learning; it paves the path to a better life. And it can be pretty rewarding for us grown-ups too.

Fountain Valley Library

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

Book An Activity!

By Jennifer Medina, Children’s Services Librarian

The library regularly offers free programs designed to appeal to different ages and interests. Every week, the library conducts a Wednesday Storytime for young children at 10:30 a.m. For students in grades K through 8, the library offers Homework and Reading Help on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5pm. Children can practice reading aloud to a therapy dog every third Saturday, March 19 and April 16, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. during our BARK program.

On March 26, the Teen Activities Board will be hosting the Spring Egg Hunt. The Craft Program for children is held every first Tuesday, April 5 and May 3, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Board games and Legos will be available for children, teens and parents to enjoy during Game Time on April 23 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy our Teen-Approved Movie, which is shown every first Saturday, April 2 and May 7, starting at 2:15 p.m. or our Children’s Movie, which is shown every third Monday, March 12 and April 23, starting at 3:30 p.m.

A shelving program is offered for teens 16 years and older who need community service hours for graduation requirements, honor society hours or college preparation. For teens 12 to 17, the Teen Activities Board meets every second Friday, March 11 and April 8, to plan programs and help the library as a group while earning community service hours. Teens may pick up an application from the library.

The Friends of the Library Bookstore sells gently used books for all reading interests, including children’s fiction and nonfiction. Donations are also accepted at the bookstore. The Friends hold movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m., with refreshments for older teens and adults.



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