

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Fountain Valley, Ocean View, and Westminster School Districts**

**VOLUME 16, ISSUE 95**

**MARCH / APRIL 2020**

## Ocean View's New Central Kitchen Serving Up Fresh & Healthy Food

*By Dr. Carol Hansen, Superintendent  
Ocean View School District*

The Ocean View School District recently opened a brand new 13,000 square foot Central Kitchen. The new facility provides the District the ability to produce fresh and healthy food on-site, from scratch, rather than relying on vendors to deliver pre-packaged product. Complete meal preparation and cooking for high quality breakfast and lunch items takes place in the kitchen with fresh fruits, vegetables, soups, sauces, dressings, bakery items, new entrées and more. But most importantly, our kitchen supports learning. Healthy eating is the foundation to proper nutrition and well-nourished students have higher test scores, increased school attendance, and improved concentration.

Strategic and thoughtful planning went into this impressive facility and an exciting feature of the kitchen are two new Blast Chillers. Food service staff can package freshly cooked products and then "flash-freeze" them in the Blast Chillers. This process locks in the flavor, taste and quality of each item without the need for preservatives. The kitchen also includes a programmable Combi Oven, 30-gallon tilt skillet, 60-gallon kettle, several hi-tech packaging machines, convection ovens and an intuitive, touch-screen hood ventilation system. In addition, a massive loading dock can accommodate up to three full-size semi-trucks to deliver product directly through a large, automated sliding door.



**Deputy Superintendent Dr. Michael Conroy, Superintendent Dr. Carol Hanson, Board President Gina Clayton-Tarvin, Board Vice-President Patricia Singer, HB Mayor Lyn Semeta, and other staff and dignitaries participate in the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Central Kitchen.**



**Food Service Worker Eryca O'Brien preparing for the grand opening**



**Food Service Worker Fidel Jacobo-Ayala testing out a new stove**



**Cary Bourdeau-Rubio, Food Service Worker, placing fresh fruit in containers in the new packaging machine.**



**Food Service Workers Gigi Gendy and Lynn DeWild preparing a fresh fruit salad.**

The nutritious meals that are prepared on-site and delivered quickly and efficiently to our schools are essential but the facility has other notable features and benefits as well. For instance:

- The District will realize a significant cost savings by having the storage capacity to order products in bulk.
- The Central Kitchen will provide learning opportunities for students through field-trips focused on nutrition education and hands-on food preparation.
- There is potential job growth through the staffing of our new kitchen and opportunities for current staff to learn new skills.
- Additional revenue may be generated for the Food and Nutrition Services Department through catering school district events.

We are delighted to be able to support the health and wellbeing of our students with this new kitchen that will benefit our students for decades to come. The development of our new Central Kitchen really exemplifies our District's core values of innovation, integrity and equity. I would like to thank our Board of Trustees, administration, staff, construction company and architects for coming together in the best interest of children and building such an important and vital resource for the District.

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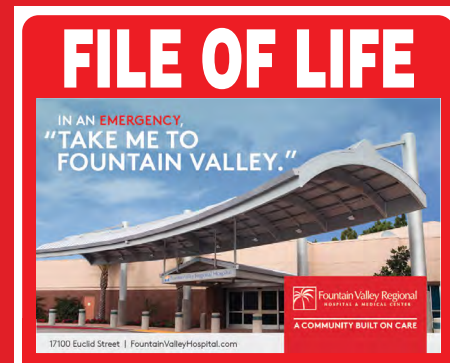
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**Kay Coop**  
 Founder/Publisher



You may want to pull up a comfortable chair and plan to read awhile. This issue is compelling from the first page to the last. Our guest columnists bring you valuable health information from preparing for an emergency, identifying a cold or flu and vaping and oral health.

The school district article topics range from healthy food choices, the excitement of learning to read, the value of music, celebrating cultures, the kindness challenge, and so much more...enjoy!

Our next issue is May 6.

## Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

17100 Euclid St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/966-7200 • [www.fountainvalleyhospital.com](http://www.fountainvalleyhospital.com)

### When an Emergency Strikes, Will Your Family be Ready?



**Santiago Chambers,**  
 CHSP, CHP  
 Hospital Safety  
 Officer  
 Fountain Valley  
 Regional Hospital

You may not be able to predict fires, earthquakes, or medical emergencies, but you can prepare for them. Ready.gov recommends identifying what type of disasters could affect your area and making a plan for each of them. You should carefully consider the specific needs of your household, such as the different ages of members within your household, pets, locations frequented, dietary needs, and medical/disability needs. You can get planning information for a variety of scenarios at Ready.gov/plan. Once you have a plan in place, practice it. Planning and practicing for potential emergency scenarios can help you react quickly when seconds count; so you can better protect yourself and your loved ones when an emergency arises.

Want to learn more about emergency preparedness?

Join Hospital Safety Officer, Santiago Chambers, Certified Healthcare Safety Professional, Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional, at one of two upcoming Emergency Preparedness Events:

**Thursday, April 9, 2020 – 2 to 3:30 pm**

Founders Village Senior and Community Center, Fountain Valley, CA

**Saturday, April 18, 2020 – 10 to 11:30 am**

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Fountain Valley, CA

Learn more about how to better prepare your household in the event a fire, earthquake or medical emergency. The event will include resource materials, interactive activities and hands on instruction to ensure development of muscle memory for an enhanced learning experience.

Event is free, but space is limited. **Call 833-925-0075** to register today!

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## Is It a Cold or Allergies?



**Inderpal Randhawa, M.D.**  
medical director,  
pediatric asthma  
and allergy  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Your child's nose won't stop running and they're constantly sneezing. You may blame the common cold, but it could be a telltale sign of allergies, especially as seasons change. While colds and allergies share common symptoms, there are certain differences that may help you distinguish what your child is experiencing.

**Allergies** — Allergies occur when your child's immune system reacts to a foreign substance (allergen)—such as pollen or pet dander. Symptoms include:

Shortness of breath, wheezing, itchy, watery eyes, runny or congested nose, swollen sinuses, sneezing

The severity of allergies varies in children and can range from minor irritation to anaphylaxis — a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to an allergen.

**Common Cold** — The common cold is caused by a virus, which spreads through the air and close personal contact. Cold symptoms include: Sore throat, runny nose, coughing, sneezing, headaches, body aches and fever.

**Telling the Difference** — The difference is in a few key distinctions.

Colds are more likely to cause sore throats, fever, headaches and body aches, while itchy, watery eyes are a classic sign of allergies.

Most people recover from a cold within 7-10 days whereas allergy symptoms continue with exposure to the allergen. Allergy symptoms also respond better to over-the-counter antihistamines.

The Children's Pulmonary Institute at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach uses several types of allergy tests to identify allergens that may be causing your child's symptoms. It can then be decided what type of medications or treatments are needed. By identifying these allergens, changes can be made in your home to potentially improve your child's health.



## Orthodontics Matters

### Vaping and Oral Health



**Dr. Andrew Harner**  
Orthodontist

The negative correlation between cigarette smoking and oral health has been established and is well known, but it turns out vaping can also cause similar, irreversible damage to one's oral health. This damage may include death of gum tissue, gum disease and, in some cases, loss of teeth. As such the position of the American Dental Association and the American Association of Orthodontists is that vaping is not a safe alternative to cigarettes or other tobacco products.

Vaping simply means smoking an e-cigarette. We say vaping because, unlike traditional cigarettes where smoke is created by burning the cigarette, e-cigarettes produce an aerosol, or vapor that delivers nicotine into the lungs. From an oral health perspective it is the nicotine that is the biggest problem for the oral cavity because nicotine reduces blood flow, which in turn affects your teeth and gums. Without enough blood flowing through your veins, your gums don't get the oxygen and nutrients they need to stay healthy. In this way, vaping causes the death of gum tissues, which in turn causes gum recession. Severely receding gums lead to tooth sensitivity, increased risk of cavities and, in some cases loss of teeth. Nicotine from e-cigarettes also reduces the saliva in your mouth. Lack of saliva leads to dry mouth, plaque buildup, increased bacteria, and ultimately tooth decay.

The aerosol produced by e-cigarettes contains the nicotine and also ultra-fine particles of toxic chemicals and heavy metals - many of which are linked to cancer, respiratory disease, lung injury, and heart disease. It is a misconception to believe that e-cigarettes are healthier than tobacco cigarettes, or that vaping isn't bad for your teeth. The best advice I can give is simply don't try any form of smoking – why risk your smile?

Dr. Harner is a board certified orthodontist and Past-President of the California Association of Orthodontists. He maintains a private orthodontic practice in Huntington Beach. He has served on the Board of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists and is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists.

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**Dr. Andrew Harner & Dr. Nicole Starkey**

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Cheryl Brothers  
Mayor

Decisions

From the moment we wake in the morning, deciding what to wear or have for breakfast, until we retire in the evening, we are making decisions. Some decisions are easy to make. They usually involve right or wrong. Some decisions are more difficult to make. These usually involve a choice of right-versus-right. Tough choices don't always center on major headline issues, involve professional codes, or even criminal law. They often fall outside the jurisdiction of regulations and laws.

The council members in Fountain Valley are faced with decisions that mirror those that each of us makes — some simple and some tough. As leaders, our focus is not on organizational procedures or administrative details. Instead our task is to steadily move forward on visions that result in a positive future for the city of Fountain Valley. Though we don't always agree on the means, we join forces in achieving what is agreed to be the highest goals for our city.

One component of a successful community is the participant's ability to put aside individual differences for the good of the whole, making decisions without causing fragmentation. Fountain Valley is a successful community. And we, like you, will continue to make decisions — some simple and some tough...but always with the good of the community as a whole.

Kitchen Items – Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, email that word to:  
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com  
Please put FV/OV/WEST in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by April 15, 2020**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble  
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B	X	N	I	P	G	N	I	L	L	O	R	T	S	S
H	L	R	N	S	P	A	T	U	L	A	A	N	P	S
F	A	U	C	E	T	P	R	F	O	D	S	E	I	P
D	Q	B	M	V	D	O	M	B	B	Q	E	S	C	S
C	R	E	M	I	T	F	P	H	Y	N	T	T	E	Q
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M	D	D	M	F	E	I	X	U	K	Q	E	N	H	K
T	J	S	W	P	X	E	U	A	N	M	Q	X	O	S

**Congratulations to Jordy Radilla and  
Nathan Aguilar, Sandra Mendez, and Vy Phan  
Winners of our January Word Search Contest!**

Next Generation Science Standards



Dr. Al Mijares  
Superintendent

When California adopted the Next Generation Science Standards in 2013, the goal wasn't simply to generate more doctorates in chemistry, physics and biology.

The intent was to create a more scientifically literate society, where people better understand the world around them and are able to think critically to find solutions to everyday problems. The shift was also designed to ensure that U.S. students remain globally competitive in careers reliant on science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

Seven years later, these new standards are showing a lot of promise in a world transformed by technology. Still, plenty of work lies ahead.

If you're not familiar with the Next Generation Science Standards, they were developed by states in collaboration with the National Research Council, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and other partners to map out the scientific knowledge and skills that all K-12 students should possess — and they differ quite a bit from their late '90s predecessors.

Rather than calling for lectures and step-by-step instructions to find the one "correct" answer, NGSS standards were written to inspire students to launch their own investigations and to develop scientific models to explain different phenomena.

For example, third-graders still study how plants start off as seeds, how animals in the forest adapt to their environment and how weather changes with the seasons. But NGSS dives deeper by empowering students to ask their own questions, analyze data, collaborate, take intellectual risks, defend their findings and communicate what they've learned.

Research shows students not only prefer to learn this way, they remember these lessons better and are more willing to embrace rigorous content. They're also more likely to pursue careers in STEM fields.

The Next Generation Science Standards also demonstrate the interconnectedness between subjects that were once taught in silos. Moreover, there are certain "cross-cutting concepts," such as patterns and the notion of cause and effect, that have applications across all domains. Cross-cutting concepts are in fact one of the three dimensions of science learning, along with disciplinary core ideas and science and engineering practices.

With a special emphasis on both environmental literacy and the application of technology, NGSS is engaging students of all abilities by nurturing their innate curiosity. It's rewarding work for both students and educators, but that doesn't mean it's been easy.

Science teachers in California have had to dramatically transform their lessons, and because NGSS leverages the interconnectedness of science, some have had to re-learn disciplines they haven't studied in years. For example, under the preferred integrated middle school model, a teacher who had been teaching eight-grade physical science for 15 years must integrate all of the disciplines, including physical, life, and Earth and space science.

Another challenge is that elementary schools in some districts extend to grade six, meaning they now have to bolster their science offerings to meet more rigorous sixth-grade science standards. Then there's the fact that changing any standards across multiple grade spans is a bit like remodeling an airplane mid-flight.

The Orange County Department of Education recognizes these obstacles and has an all-star team in place to address the needs of our local districts. Since the NGSS adoption, OCDE's staff of educational leaders has traveled to schools and districts across the county to lead trainings and offer resources. The department has also hosted NGSS workshops, along with a rollout event and a materials fair, at our campus in Costa Mesa.

Our work will evolve as we continue to track results from the new California Science Test, or CAST. First piloted in 2018, this assessment will give us a better idea of where we're at and how we can improve each year.

In California and throughout the country, science instruction is moving away from the old paradigm of telling students what to do and what to see. Students are instead engaged with more open ended questions like, "What do you see?" and "What can we do with that?"

Today, it's not just about knowing science. It's about living science, understating our place in the world, and embarking on the journey of curious discovery and problem-solving that will continue throughout our lives.

# Fountain Valley School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Mark Johnson**

### FVSD Goes Gold for Pediatric Cancer Day!

On February 18th, Fountain Valley School District, once again, went all in as students and staff dressed in gold to show support and raise awareness for pediatric cancer research on International Pediatric Cancer Day! This is the second year that FVSD has championed our students and staff to Go Gold, and we are extremely proud of the outstanding participation from all of our families. Across the District, from preschool through middle school, everyone proudly showed their true color. In



**Students and staff from Gisler Elementary School join thousands across FVSD and GO GOLD for International Pediatric Cancer Day.**

addition, we raised thousands of dollars to support the Irvine-based Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation. Many people may not be aware that cancer is the number one cause of disease-related death in children under the age of 15 in the United States. And, one in four elementary schools has a child with cancer, making this something that sadly impacts one or more students in our community each and every year.

In FVSD, we are always honored to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. And, it is days like these, with an entire District dressed in gold that reminds us of what it means to come together as a community and take care of one another, because that is truly #TheFVSDWay!

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### From Caterpillar to Butterfly, The Metamorphosis of Readers in FVSD

By Sandra Crandall, President Pro-Tem

She calls me Oma ... German for grandma. Into the house she bound on Christmas morning with a soft-covered book in hand. "Oma, I want to read to you!" She passed the lit tree, the small train running around the snowman and all the gifts under the tree. These, in the past, were the items which captured her attention. But, not this year.

You see, a mere 14 weeks ago, she entered Kindergarten in our school district where she announced she "learned to read."

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, a story which I love to this day, sounded wonderful as she tracked the words with her finger, pointed to the colorful caterpillar on each page and commented on how silly he was to eat so much!

This scenario, I'm confident, it being replicated within the families of our Kindergarten students.

Parents, rarely, doubt that their newborn will learn to crawl, walk and talk. Natural development almost guarantees these milestones. Reading, however, is a different matter and is not inherent just because a child is born.

Reading is a high priority as our teachers focus on the skills necessary for students to become adept at reading. Our teachers possess a skill set that is supported by professional development utilizing scientific research on the process of learning to read. They do so with support from programs which are solid in laying a phonemic awareness foundation and building from there. They do so with the additional support of Teachers on Special Assignment and Reading Intervention Specialists for grades K-5. And, they parse on-going data to better guide their instruction.

Just as the very hungry caterpillar turned into a beautiful butterfly, our students are turning into successful readers!

## Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Chris Christensen**  
Principal

### Courreges Teacher of the Year

Courreges Elementary School is proud to honor Jen Hisgen as our 2020 Teacher of the Year! Jen has been employed in FVSD since 2004 and is currently teaching 3rd grade. Mrs. Hisgen is a highly dedicated and collaborative

teacher at Courreges. She goes above and beyond to meet the individual needs of her students and is such a supportive and helpful teacher to her fellow colleagues. Additionally, one of Jen's many strengths is her excellent communication and collaboration with parents and community members. Outside of her regular teaching duties, Jen is also the school's technology coordinator; assisting colleagues with technology questions/needs. Congratulations to Mrs. Hisgen!



**Mrs. Hisgen celebrates with her 3rd grade students.**

James H. Cox *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Patrick Ham  
Principal

Cox Family Literacy Night

Literacy is the single most important skill that our students can develop during their years here at Cox Elementary. Literacy opens up future opportunities and choices for our students. Educational research in literacy consistently presents the third-grade year as the “critical” one for students. Numerous studies report that 80 to 90 percent of those third-grade students who are not reading at grade level by the end of the year do not catch up to grade-level standard in reading. With literacy being the single most important content in elementary school, it is crucial that a strong partnership exists between the home and the classroom.

To help promote this partnership, our Cox staff members, along with the PTA, hosted our second annual Cox Family Literacy Night on March 5th. Thank you to teachers Sumarlei Martone, Kim Cassidy, Jill Richards, Carrie Desormiers, Niki Buck, Emily Harvest, and Brittany Votendahl for planning and hosting this great event.

A very special thank-you also goes to Mrs. Karen Shay, who coordinated our efforts this year. The decorations, activities, and gifts for our students reflected



the fun “camp out” theme. Keep on reading, Cox Eagles, and we hope to see everyone at next year’s Reading Night in March of 2021!

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Teri Malpass  
Principal

15 Extra Minutes!

Gisler’s TK and kindergarten students are making great gains in learning! Our TKs and kinders begin their day with a “soft start.” Though school starts at 8:20 a.m., students may arrive at 8:05 a.m., allowing them to build, pretend, color, explore, and socialize with peers and teachers before the day begins. Their teachers have found this time to be especially helpful for students who have difficulty with separation and

for those who have stories they can’t wait to tell them before the day begins. Throughout the day, these Gators are busy learning phonics to develop their reading and writing skills, becoming mathematicians, and exploring science. In the area of math, they are working with hundreds boards to build number sense and math academic vocabulary, using Chromebooks for ST math, developing a repertoire of strategies to help solve math word problems, and exploring robotics while coding their robots’ pathways.



Ella, from Mrs. Gonsowski’s kindergarten watching her robot after coding their pathway.

Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Erin Bains  
Principal



Julie Gonzales  
Assistant Principal

Volleyball Tournament

Fulton Middle School hosted our district-wide volleyball tournament on Wednesday, February 5. Along with Fulton, teams from Talbert Middle School, Masuda Middle School, and Mariners Christian School competed in the full day tournament. Each school fielded one girls and one boys team. A big thank you goes to Mr. Vivar who coached our boys’ team and Mr. Templin and his daughter, Sadie, for coaching our girls’ team. We were impressed with the effort of both of our teams who practiced after school for weeks leading up to the tournament. Our cheerleaders did an outstanding job getting our school in the spirit at the pep rally as well as cheering our teams on.



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Jay Adams  
Principal



Matt Ploski  
Assistant Principal

Teacher of the Year

Masuda is proud to honor Mr. Jeff Siemens, science teacher and coach, as our Teacher of the Year. Mr. Siemens’ nominating peers have all used the same phrases to describe him: He is positive and genuine in every interaction with his fellow staff members and students. He always puts in extra time and effort without expecting a dime or even a thank-you.

Mr. Siemens is also touted as being the preeminent coach. His focus is equally on the mechanics of the sport and on good, positive sportsmanship. His goal is for each and every player to learn, grow, participate, and have fun.



We at Masuda are blessed by Mr. Siemens’ positive energy and outlook. Not only the children, but also the parent community and our teaching peers have benefited immensely from all that he has to offer! We are proud to present Mr. Siemens as our Teacher of the Year on the basis of his outstanding contributions to the children (and adults) whose lives he touches daily.

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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • [www.newland.fvdsd.us](http://www.newland.fvdsd.us)



**Christopher Mullin**  
*Principal*

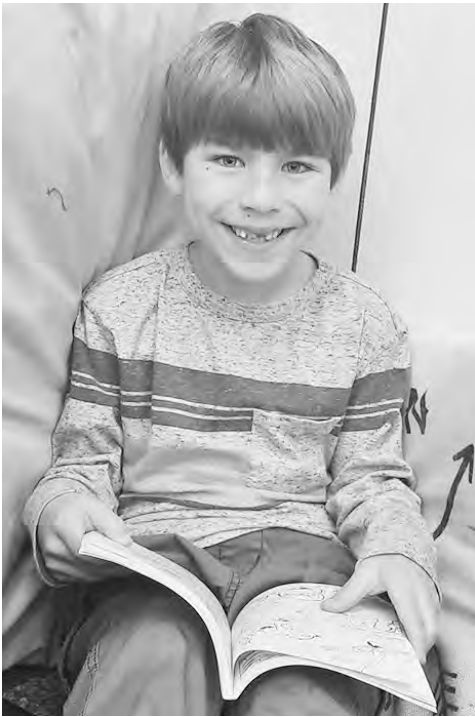
## Our Focus on Reading

Reading is an exercise for the mind. It helps children calm down and relax, opening doors of new knowledge to enlighten their minds.

Children who read grow up to have better cognitive skills. For three years now, Newland's staff has been focusing on reading. Teachers at Newland have worked on better understanding the ELA standards, are using the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark

Assessment Systems, have trained in teacher workshop models, and have every student read 20 minutes every day. As educators, we know—and long-term studies have indicated—that students who were not proficient in reading by the end of third grade were four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers. In fact, in one study, 88 percent of students who failed to earn a high school diploma were struggling readers in third grade.

At Newland, we will continue to push academic excellence, especially with reading, while encouraging all students to develop their maximum potential.



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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • [www.plavan.fvdsd.us](http://www.plavan.fvdsd.us)



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## Panthers Practice Mindfulness

The staff at Plavan is committed to educating the mind and the heart of all our children. All Plavan Panthers recently had the opportunity to participate in a fun, interactive, and impactful assembly that introduced them to Mindfulness and Breathing Meditation.

Each child learned strategies and techniques that will help give them the freedom to be who they are, and the ability to be present and engaged in the moment. This experience taught us that breathing meditation is not just about being calm and relaxed, but also about practicing awareness and mindfulness.

Teaching our children empathy and compassion provides a safe space for them to thrive and support one another. Our Plavan staff will continue to support the use of these strategies and techniques in the classroom and the home. Our hope is to maximize the benefits of mindfulness, and continue to add to our children's toolbox of healthy coping mechanisms.



**4th Grade Panthers practice breathing meditation.**

# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • [www.oka.fvdsd.us](http://www.oka.fvdsd.us)



**Erik Miller**  
*Principal*

## Being the "I" in Kind

The Wolfpack Way is a mantra that students see and hear throughout our campus. It is the foundation for what we try to instill in students: be safe, responsible, and respectful. While these are outstanding character traits that complement academic

learning, they really set the foundation for what we need the most—kindness.

At Oka Elementary School, we want students to feel connected, develop a sense of ownership over their learning, and, most of all, understand how each individual plays an important part on a successful team. When we share and bestow kindness on others, it makes caring and compassion more apparent around campus.

A huge shout-out of appreciation goes to Mrs. Randi Hubbard for her artistic creativity in helping to bring this project to life at Oka! We are excited about the piece she created to showcase kindness. Covered with the handprints of hundreds of Oka students, it is a great symbol of what we strive to help develop on a daily basis: choosing kindness through our actions toward others!



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

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • [www.talbert.fvgsd.us](http://www.talbert.fvgsd.us)



**Jennifer Morgan**  
*Principal*



**Molly Kuykendall**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Our Racing Team

The Talbert Middle School Fuel Cell Car Racing Team (TFCR) is off to a speedy start. Mr. Wood and Mr. Damon recruited a group of 15 students back

in October to create Talbert's first-ever fuel-cell car team. The TFCR meets a few times a week after school with the help of mentors from Edison High School, who are supporting, encouraging, and assisting Talbert's students.

Marketing, building, and telemetry are the three parts that make up TFCR. All three of these divisions play such an important role on the TFCR team. The marketing team found sponsors, created T-shirts, and designed the body of the car. The building team not only built the car, they are also part of the pit crew. The telemetry team monitors the battery voltage, lap time, and number of laps.

TFCR just completed their first competition in North Hollywood, where they qualified for a regional race.



# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • [www.tamura.fvgsd.us](http://www.tamura.fvgsd.us)



**Kathy Davis**  
*Principal*

## The Lunar New Year

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

We had over 40 adults helping Tamura with this exciting daylong event. All of our Tamura students were able to go through a number of stations that included art, math, food, games, cultural displays, and reading and listening activities. Most of our students and staff members and all of our helpers also wore traditional Asian attire.

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



# Ocean View School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Please see our article  
on the front page.

## Early Learning Preschool

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



Nicole  
Baitx-Kennedy  
Director of  
Child Development  
Programs

### Early Learning

Through our Ocean View Early Learning Preschool programs we strive to provide an effective curriculum for the whole child. We not only have a quality educational program, we also consider the needs of each child both socially and emotionally.

All of our early learning educators are participating in district-wide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) professional development. Being able to help children identify their emotions helps support self-regulation. Our program also highlights the advantage of having school readiness nurses. They provide screenings for the children, educational programs for the parents, and community outreach to private preschool programs.



Three of our Early Learning Preschool Students  
who received new glasses this year through the OVSD/UCI collaboration

The health screenings include dental and vision. Students who are referred by our school readiness nurses can also receive further visual evaluations through our partnership with UCI Vision Mobile. Over 167 students received visual screenings this year, and 18 of these have received free appointments and glasses through this partnership.

Getting an early start on a healthy mind and body is key to being ready to learn in the classroom. We are honored to be serving the youngest population of the Ocean View School District.

## Board of Trustees



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## 2020 Classified School Employees of the Year

By Gina Clayton-Tarvin, President

I am proud to announce our 2020 Classified School Employees of the Year. Three outstanding individuals were selected by their peers to represent the “best of the best” among Ocean View’s more than 500 classified employees. These exemplary employees routinely go the extra mile in performing their jobs, and they demonstrate a dedication and commitment to children that is second-to-none.

### Flo Epperson, School Office Manager, College View Elementary School

Flo possesses a “can-do” attitude and always takes time with anyone who needs her attention. Flo manages the office with enthusiasm and a smile while showing that she genuinely cares about staff, students and the community. She is a delight to work with and is appreciated for her high level of professionalism and dedication.

### Joe Sejuitt, Sprinkler Mechanic, Facilities Department

Joe has made a significant impact in the Facilities Department for 25 years by seamlessly combining his love of all things mechanical with his passion for serving the District and community. Joe communicates positively through both his actions and his attitude, and he is a respected team leader.

### Mailieu Thornton, Special Education Instructional Assistant, Lake View Elementary School

Mailieu works with severely disabled students and she works tirelessly to ensure that every student receives the individual attention they need and that they fulfill their educational goals each day. She is well versed about each student’s special needs and her kind, compassionate, and patient manner is invaluable in the classroom.

Classified employees play an integral role in the success of OVSD. Their jobs support the education of our students and the operations of the District. Classified jobs include school office managers, bus drivers, food service workers, instructional assistants, administrative assistants, maintenance and facilities workers, and more. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express my deep appreciation and thanks for these unsung heroes.

Celebrating

20

YEARS

School News 

Join our sales team working from your home.  
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[kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

# Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • [www.ovsd.org/circle](http://www.ovsd.org/circle)



**Jessica Haag**  
Principal

## Circle View's Stanley Cup!

Circle View is so proud to be a National Blue Ribbon School! We officially received our award in November, but we are still celebrating. Each class has taken a turn with the award, which is our version of the Stanley Cup.

We have been highlighting different classes on social media, and will continue to do so until our award has made it around to all 30 classrooms on campus. Some classes took a picture with our award, some treated it to some free play, some did math with it, while others danced!



**Mrs. Balsillie's class watched a Stanley Cup travel clip and built contraptions with our National Blue Ribbon Award.**

Mrs. Brasie's Eagles recently did some research and discovered that out of 132,853 K-12 schools in 2019, only 362 schools received the National Blue Ribbon Award. That means only about 0.27 percent of schools received the Blue Ribbon this school year. Check out all the fun on our Instagram @ Circle\_View\_Eagles.

# College View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
Principal

## Social-Emotional Awareness

This year at College View Elementary School, staff members have been focusing on providing practices and tools that support student growth in social-emotional awareness. Students are learning specific vocabulary focusing on emotions so they can more accurately speak to how they are feeling. Each morning upon entering class, students go to their Mood Meters and express their feelings. Teachers and peers can then use Restorative Practices to help students in need.



In teacher Chrissy Salvati's class, students are engaged in yoga meditations and breathing work to help clear their minds, calm down, soothe themselves, and even cool off. For example, students have learned breathing through the left nostril helps when they need to settle down after recess or calm down in general. Conversely, breathing through the right nostril is energizing. Students have also learned different hand and finger positions, otherwise known as mudras, which they can employ to activate their brains and set the appropriate mindset when needed.

# Golden View *Environmental Science School*

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



**Lori Florgan**  
Principal

## Environmental Showcase

The students at Golden View are hard at work producing environmental science projects. To help showcase their efforts, our families recently had a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch with the students at our "Lunch on the Lawn" event in January.

After enjoying lunch with their families, our students demonstrated their knowledge by showing the visitors around the farm and telling them all about the projects they had worked on. Students used lessons from Project Zero Waste, the EEI curriculum, and PEAK education to demonstrate their knowledge.



The families also had a chance to tour the farm with their children while engaging with our new goats, along with our sheep, chickens, roosters, and, of course, Mr. Tortelle, our tortoise. The students had created products using re-purposed and recycled materials, built solar ovens, used the scientific method to demonstrate plant needs, baked sourdough bread to demonstrate microorganisms in the human world, and built water filtration and purification systems.

# Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • [www.ovsd.org/harbour](http://www.ovsd.org/harbour)



**Dr. Joy Harris**  
Principal

## Thank You, PTA!

Our Harbour View Pelicans have been busy, busy, busy! We participate in many extraordinary assemblies, field trips, and activities that make our school unique. Funded by our big "Fall Spooktakular" fundraiser, and by our upcoming Spring Jogathon fundraiser, we raise tens of thousands of dollars to provide our students with hands-on instruction that extends beyond the classroom.

From the fifth-grade pig heart dissection activity to the third-grade Native American basket weaving event, our Harbour



students are engaged and loving learning. And thanks to the support of our hard-working PTA and community partners, our students are provided with classroom Chromebook carts, quarterly Meet the Masters art, and a full-time computer lab aide. After-school painting programs, robotics, running club, FSEA science-engineering club, and many other programs sponsored by our PTA also enhance our learning in the classrooms and beyond.



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# Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Christina Luckey**  
*Principal*

## Starting the Next Chapter

Exciting times continue to be shared with the students at Hope View Elementary.

The past couple of months have been very busy, as we have enjoyed the opportunity to listen to two great authors, Rod Davis and Adam T. Newman. They recently shared their stories about how their books came to be. Our students were very engaged in this learning.

Our after-school enrichment programs have kicked off, and we also recently wished success to “Harry” our guide dog at one of our Wednesday Flag Assemblies as he went off to college. He is wearing his 2020 graduation cap here in the photo. Harry will be missed by many, but he is ready to set off and start the next chapter of his training and preparation to help those in need. He is the best!

Many thanks go to Mrs. Sjogren for bringing a guide dog to Hope View, and we are now keeping up with “Keeper”!



# Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jamie Goodwyn**  
*Principal*

## Superwomen of STEAM

Lake View hosted a special family event to highlight careers in the five content areas of STEAM. To make the evening even more significant, the speakers were all successful women in their fields. A veterinarian, a video game artist, an environmental engineer, an abstract artist and a finance director all provided an overview and reasons for why they love their job. Each speaker had the opportunity to talk about their journey to their career of choice because of their passions in elementary school.



**Students get an autograph from Belinda Lam, one of the speakers.**

# Mesa View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Jadyn Grunbaum**  
*Principal*

## The Value of Music

According to a recent study in *The Journal of Psychology*, “Learning to play a musical instrument and playing in an ensemble is very demanding...[musical] learning experiences, and more, play a role in enhancing the learner’s cognitive capacities, executive functions, motivation to learn in school, and self-efficacy.”

Is this groundbreaking? Maybe not, because not many people doubt the value of a music program in school. However, when we consider the positive effects on academic performance, and the social-emotional learning skill-sets, the value of music in schools goes from important to crucial.

Mesa View is proud to showcase an abundance of musically talented students in a robust music elective offering. It is no wonder that we also have such high-achieving and highly motivated students! Students can explore their talents or challenge themselves with courses like chorus, strings, band, and advanced band.

About a third of our students are taking a music class this year. Here they can engage in collaborative performances where they are given choice and freedom, which truly allows for their own innovation and creativity to flourish.

Our music students are able to show off their talents twice a year with school performances. One is coming soon in the spring. They also perform at community events. For instance, as our students have for years, the band students performed during the Surf City Marathon, providing runners with some encouraging melodies as they pushed through the course. A few repeat runners enthusiastically shouted with smiles about how, “You’re here every year!” as they passed our students.

We are so proud of our music offerings at Mesa, and we are also thankful for the hard work that all our students and Mr. Nicolosi are putting in to continuing to strengthen the program.

The most significant commonality was that each woman spoke about how she collaborates with her colleagues and solves problems on the job every day. The children had the opportunity to ask the panel questions about their careers and get autographs.

Dr. Jennifer Kumar, Lisa Anderson, Arlis Reynolds, Salina Mendoza and Belinda Lam were very inspirational and made a lifelong impact on the families who came to the event.

# Marine View *Middle School (6-8)*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • [www.ovsd.org/marine](http://www.ovsd.org/marine)



**Sara Schaible**  
*Principal*

## Memory Matters

For the third year in a row, Marine View Middle School’s eighth-grade students are participating in Chapman University’s Annual Art and Writing Contest. This year’s theme is Memory Matters: Whose Story Will You Tell?

In order to prepare for the contest, our eighth-graders listened to testimony of survivors who used their difficult memories to carry on a message of hope, acceptance, and compassion through works of art, poetry, and prose.

The eighth-grade class then extended their experience with the opportunity to visit the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, where they participated in a tour. Our students learned about the impact the Holocaust had on human rights and social injustice. Students listened to and watched several survivor testimonials, which shed insight on how living through such a challenging and devastating time allowed some survivors to become ambassadors of hope and tolerance.

## Oak View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Jenna Landero**  
Principal

### Sisters in Science

Oak View Elementary School is “snapping the gap” in science achievement! In February, fourth- and fifth-grade girls started an amazing afterschool science program featuring robotic kits for each student, and some “big sisters” in science joined them. These incredible young female mentors, or Big Sisters in Science, are from Ocean View High School’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

The Big and Little Sisters in Science meet each Thursday under the guiding eye of Ms. Patricia Schraff to learn and have



fun with robots! This 10-week program focuses on developing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills in order to ignite the passion for STEM before middle school.

Many of the high school mentors are taking physics and engineering at Ocean View High School. They are terrific role models!

## Spring View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Randy Lempert**  
Principal

### Complete Musical Education

The school is alive with the sound of music! Spring View is proud to have a robust and vibrant music program. Led by the talented and dedicated music teacher Mr. Martinez, Spring View is excited to have a growing music program that includes two sections of the instrumental band, a beginning choir and a talented vocal ensemble.

The Spring View music classes are offered to all grade levels as yearlong electives, where students learn to sing and play in a variety of styles as well as read and notate music. Throughout the school year, music students explore music outside the four walls of their classrooms. Students participated in field trips to Cal State Fullerton’s Music Department and the SCSBOA Festival and the SCVA Festival. This December, the students gave their first school and night performance to our Spring View families. The song selection included festive winter music.



**Spring View students are enthusiastic about music!**

Beyond performing at Spring View, the Spartan musicians will be performing at the Ocean View School District’s Art’s Festival in March and participating in a workshop at a theme park in the spring. We are excited that our students can showcase their talents through band and choir. Spring View’s music program is another excellent example of the incredible opportunities for our learners!

## Star View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Paul Kraft**  
Principal

### January Fun

Star View Elementary School had a fantastic start to the new year. In January, Star View students and families attended a family night at a local restaurant. Families enjoyed socializing and supporting Star View. Over 150 students and their parents attended an exhilarating skate night, where students showed their school pride dressed in their favorite sports jerseys.

To support the students’ desire to become lifelong readers, the entire student body was entertained by professional writers Lori Polydoros and Caroline Arnold, who shared inspirational stories about their passion for writing on Authors Day.



Finally, in late January, the entire school and members of the community participated in Star View’s annual Tet Festival. Vietnamese culture and traditions were the focus of many special activities and demonstrations coordinated by volunteer Audrey Tran, a former Star View teacher. The highlight of the day was the dragon dance, performed by Westminster High School students.

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# Vista View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Dr. Rasheedah Gates**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Cultures

One of the many benefits we have as Southern Californians is enjoying such a wide range of cultures. At Vista View Middle School, we have the privilege of educating students representing various ethnic backgrounds, and we seek to celebrate all students on our campus. For example, from the middle of September to the middle of October, Vista View's students and staff celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month.

To kick off 2020, we began a celebration Lunar New Year and Asian cultures. On January 24, students dressed in traditional garb from various Asian cultures, including Japan, Korea, Vietnam, China, Singapore, and Laos. Most of Vista View's Asian American students are from Vietnam, and celebrating Tet with them was a joy. Students received *hongbao* (red envelopes) for showing school spirit. The day ended with an assembly that included a lion dance.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate cultures that may be the same or different from their own. At Vista View, we look forward to many more moments learning and celebrating with one another.

Go, Falcons!



# Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Francesca Ligman**  
*Principal*

## Depth of Knowledge

Village View teachers have committed to engaging our students in deeper learning with projects and presentations known as Depth of Knowledge Level 4 (DOK 4). Today's world requires critical thinking and complex application of skills. Students need to research and apply this information to create and design solutions to relevant situations in collaborative settings.

This preparation for the real world is starting in kindergarten. Our kinders designed a house for the three pigs that could withstand the powerful wolf's blow. The teacher used an actual blow-dryer to simulate the wolf. After researching and studying the National Parks, fourth- and fifth-grade students were tasked with establishing a new National Park, justifying through a presentation why the area needed to be protected and preserved.



**First Graders designed a new playground for Village View. Student's presented their map to the Principal.**

These engaging DOK 4 demonstrations of learning require students to work together, think outside the box, and be solution oriented. Village students are attaining the skills needed to be successful citizens in our society.

# Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Sue Broderson**  
*Principal*

## Attendance has Its Rewards

Did you know that students chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read proficiently in third grade? Multiple research reports indicate that students with high rates of absenteeism are less likely to be able to read at grade level by the end of the third grade, are more likely to drop out in high school, and are less successful in college. Knowing this critical information only fuels our desire to get students to school every day.

To support student attendance, Westmont has created several positive-incentive programs. Our first program focuses on all students coming to school on time and staying the whole day. Classes that have 100% attendance are able to color one letter of the slogan "Beat the Bell." When a class has all the letters colored, they get a prize.

Our second program allows students that come every day and stay the whole day to get an extra recess on Friday afternoon. This supports an immediate benefit for students. Teachers also reach out to families when a student has been absent because we know that the student-teacher relationship is vital to a student's well-being.

We cannot forget our parents who play a large part in getting students to school on time and ready to learn, so we created a family reward of a themed prize basket filled with goodies donated by our wonderful PTO. This month's theme featured a movie basket with movie tickets, DVDs, snacks, a blanket, a popcorn maker and other treats. A lucky family was thrilled to be the first recipients of the family reward basket.

# Westminster School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Cyndi Paik**

### Warner’s Every Student Succeeding Award Student

This year, we are proud to announce that Angel Garcia has been awarded ACSA’s Every Student Succeeding Award. He represents Warner Middle School and has also been selected to represent Westminster School District for making special effort to succeed and overcome his challenges. Angel has been separated from his father from an early age due to his parents separating. Just last year, he was reunited with his father, whom he had respected and missed. He stated “In spite of my father being gone, I knew there were things I just had to get done. My dad always improved himself despite his circumstances and I have always done the same”. Angel wants to go to college because he wants to be prepared for what life presents him and believes that education is the way to do this. We are extremely proud of Angel’s perseverance and positive outlook on life.



## Clegg School

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



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

### STEAM Showcases

Students in grades TK–5 recently had the opportunity to share their STEAM projects with their parents and the community at our grade-level STEAM Showcases. From the end of November through January, each grade level held a showcase and had a large number of people come to see the amazing work the students at Clegg are doing in the area of STEAM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

The projects the students worked on combined these areas, and items were on full display, showing their knowledge about the topic focused on. One example is the fifth grade, which did their projects around the themes of water conservation and weather. Displays were made, as were digital presentations by students, using green screens that made them look as if they were real weather reporters. Students at Clegg also participate in our STEAM lab every other week, working on coding and activities with robotics.

We are very excited about our second showcase of the year at our schoolwide Open House on the evening of April 9, as we are consistently doing innovative and exciting things here at Clegg!

## Board of Trustees



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*Member*

### Hayden Elementary Receives California Distinguished School Award

*By Frances Nguyen, President*



Hayden Elementary School has been recognized as 2020 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education for providing outstanding educational programs and practices. They have increased student achievement through the dedicated work of their teachers collaborating weekly in their Professional Learning Communities, designing and planning lessons to ensure all instruction generate high engagement levels for all students. Additionally, staff has developed a systematic schoolwide use of Write from Beginning and Beyond, a researched based writing program to help all students develop crucial writing skills which prepares students for the global economy. Additionally, parents actively engage in strategies that help improve their child’s reading and comprehension by maintaining reading routines at home. Students demonstrate their eagerness to learn every day by demonstrating their school’s best practice of being “Responsible, Respectful and Ready to Learn and Achieve” as they soar to success! We are proud of our Hayden Hawk students, staff, parents and community.

# Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

## Family Night Fun

Anderson Staff and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) host family nights several times a year. These events promote a sense of community at school by bringing together many families to share a common activity. These activities include game night, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities and much more.

For the

first time, Anderson hosted a family tile night on February 12, 2020. With the goal of painting 200 tiles, dozens and dozens of families came to decorate their own tiles. All 200 tiles will then be framed together to make one collage that will be hung on campus to beautify the school. Not only was it fun, but it created a legacy that families will enjoy for years to come.



**Edwin Hopkins**

# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating the Year of the Rat

Happy Lunar New Year from DeMille!

This year we celebrate the Year of the Rat. DeMille had a wonderful time learning about and celebrating the Lunar New Year at our recent school-wide and community events. At our Lunar New Year culture day and celebration, students had the opportunity to participate in fun and informative stations set up in the multipurpose room.

Our students learned how to use chopsticks, work with tangrams, play traditional games, make a dragon puppet, and more. There was also a beautiful display of artifacts and information about Vietnam, Korea, and China. Our Vietnamese

Culture Club performed, and the Westminster Public Library attended. The whole school was also treated to a wonderful performance by members of the Westminster High School's Vietnamese American Culture Club.

This is always such an exciting time of year. Thanks to all who made it such a special celebration.



**Students from the DeMille VCC perform at the UVSA Tet Festival**

# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Jonathan Edelman**  
*Principal*

## Champions of Change

Champions of change—pennies, that is. Eastwood Elementary School teacher Brandi Robinson has worked with the Eastwood community and Pennies for Patients to raise over \$50,000.

Pennies for Patients, which is sponsored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, collaborates with 27,000 schools across the United States to raise money for cancer research. Mrs. Robinson originally started the campaign at Eastwood in honor of her father, a three-time cancer survivor, and has continued to increase participation over the past 10 years.

Every year, students empty their piggy-banks and search high and low, under couch cushions and car seats, to collect pennies to be the top raisers in their class. Rewards for these top earners have included movie days, extra recesses and water-ballooning the principal. The program has truly become an integral part of the Eastwood fabric this year, with students raising over \$8,000. Mr. Snyder's class brought in the most during the three-week campaign—over \$800. With such a great cause at the forefront of this fund-raiser, it is inspiring to see that young students truly care to be the champions of change.



# Finley *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



**Pam LeMuiex**  
*Principal*

## VEX IQ Robotics Challenge

Finley Computer Science Magnet School's Robotics Team wrapped up their first VEX IQ Robotics Challenge, along with 40 schools from across Orange County. The team of fifteen 4th and 5th graders at Finley Computer Science Magnet were the school's first team to participate in the challenge, hosted by the Orange County Robotics Consortium. Students built a robot designed to stack blocks and spheres in an attempt to earn points in a series of 60-second matches. The Robotics Team is part of Finley's Computer Science Immersion program, the first in Orange County. Beginning in Kindergarten, students at Finley learn coding and robotics, using Scratch, Lego Robotics and Minecraft. The Robotics Team allows students to use their knowledge about robotics and the engineering design process they have gained by competing in a robotics competition.



# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Michelle Scheiber**  
*Principal*

## Project-Based Learning

Students at Fryberger are mastering reading, writing, math, social studies, and science standards while also becoming independent learners. They are also creating a passion for learning through project-based learning.

In order to foster communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and community, our project-based learning units are now highlighting environmental science. Why environmental science? According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in the environmental sector are expected to grow 12 percent in the next several years. This is faster growth than any other occupation.

Each grade level is focusing on one or more of the environmental principles and concepts that are outlined in the California Science Framework. Each of our grade levels, from transitional kindergarten through the fifth grade, are spending the next couple of months reading, writing, and researching their environmental topic.



Students are researching topics from organic gardening, pollution in the ocean, natural resources, to energy. Our student project-based units will include a culminating event that correlates with their learning.

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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

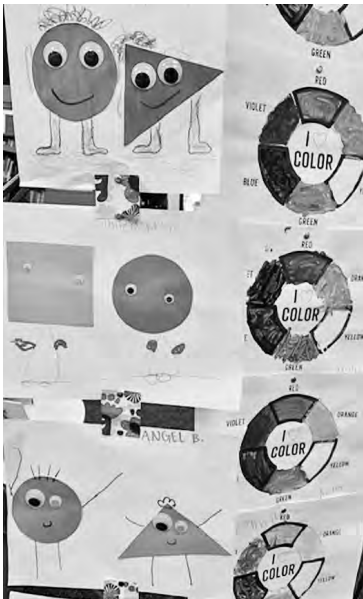


**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

## Amazing Art Exhibit by our Special Education Students

Johnson Middle School is proud to highlight the amazing work of our special education students and their work with VSA California of Orange County. VSA provides arts, education and cultural opportunities by, with and for people with disabilities, making the arts accessible to people of all abilities. This special program was Funded by the Kennedy Center and provided 7 weeks of lessons to our students and taught them about the seven elements of art. It was truly amazing to see the growth of our students and the confidence that was fostered during

the process. Special thanks to Mrs. Marjorie Schubert and the entire Special Education staff for helping the students and creating an amazing art exhibit in our library for all to see.



# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

## Great Kindness Challenge

Last month Hayden School participated in the Great Kindness Challenge, a proactive and positive bullying-prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The Great Kindness Challenge is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus.

Under the leadership of Mr. Perez and Mrs. Goldbrunner, our students completed a kindness checklist, created a kindness sticky-note tree, wrote thank-you letters to our local police officers, and made kindness posters. Some of our students created videos to demonstrate what kindness looks like around our campus.



It was amazing to see how hard our students worked to be so kind throughout the week. The students had a terrific time showing kindness, and all of that kindness helped to boost our already terrific school culture to another level.

Way to go, Hawks!

# 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*



**Darek Jaronczyk**  
*Executive Director,  
Student Services*

## Ringin in the Lunar New Year

Land School celebrated Tet, the Lunar New Year, in a big way on January 23, 2020! Children took part in the cultural event by making traditional red and yellow lanterns and fans. They also made rat headbands to recognize the beginning of the Year of the Rat.

All classes met in the multi-purpose room for a parade, which included a dragon made by one of the classrooms that was carried by the preschoolers from that room. Drums and gongs accompanied the children as they marched in a circular fashion around the school. Not to be left

out, our newly formed infant and toddler classrooms also participated in the parade, waving red and yellow scarves and playing drums and cymbals. The new infant/toddler program is a Spanish Dual-Language Immersion program, where staff speak with the children in Spanish for half of the day and English for the other half, in order to build their language skills in both languages.

We love our multicultural opportunities at Land!



# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Happy New Year

The students and staff at Meairs recently celebrated the Lunar New Year. The last two weeks in January were filled with fun activities. The first graders learned the dragon dance. Reading, writing and art activities were centered around the history and culture of the Lunar New Year. Meairs students and staff participated in the city of Garden Grove’s TET parade along with families from all around the district. The activities culminated with a beautiful performance by the Westminster High School Vietnamese American Culture Club. They amazed the students and families with their dancing, singing, drums and lion dancers. Many students and their families dressed in traditional dress to watch the performance. It was a great way to end our celebration. Happy New Year!



# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Carrie Hernandez**  
*Principal*

## Our Garden

At Schroeder, our upper-grade students have the opportunity to be a part of our Garden Club. Students meet weekly with Miss Carlson to care for our garden. They learn about how to grow things organically and help weed and care for the plants that are growing. At harvest time, the students get to enjoy the fruits of their labor by enjoying an organic salad!

Our garden is also a wonderful place to sit and relax. Benches encourage students to sit and read, talk with a friend, or just enjoy the nature around them. Our garden is a wonderful place to just be!



Our PTA supports the garden by providing funds for items that need to be purchased to maintain the garden and grow our yummy vegetables. Thank you to Miss Carlson and our Garden Club members for taking care of our garden each week!

# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## Outstanding Achievement and Success

This school-year our exemplary student in the area of citizenship and kindness is Eli Caro. Eli is now a 5th grade student at Schmitt School, and many of us have had the pleasure to experience the outstanding character of this special student. Eli is consistently positive, kind, patient and friendly; he’s shown these noble traits since Kindergarten. He is described by his current teacher as such:

Eli is a ray of sunshine every day. He always greets me and all of his peers with a smile and always has something funny or interesting to talk about. Eli has great academic grades along with a definite creative flair. He often helps others in class and always volunteers to help me. He continuously promotes others and has a contagious, positive attitude. Eli is a great kid that just makes others feel at ease, which is such a rare quality that



**Ms. Kobzeff, Eli Caro and Ms. Rocha**

makes a lasting impression on everyone he meets. His sense of fun makes any task or classroom activity exciting or appealing to the other students. One especially outstanding skill that will be useful through adulthood is that he has the ability to diffuse arguments between his peers through his quick thinking. Eli Caro is an all around outstanding human being. Congratulations Eli on being recognized and being the ray of sunshine we all need.

# Sequoia *Academy*

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



**April Derr**  
*Principal*

## Rock n’ Art

In January, Sequoia Academy’s PTA hosted a Rock n’ Art night to support the “A” in STEAM. Our PTA partnered with some community members to support the arts. Students and their families were able to participate in several musical and visual arts projects. Some visual art activities were rock painting, scratch art, giant pendulum drawing, painting self-portraits, and painting using coding and robotics. Audience members were also treated to a show with live music. Some students performed on the stage playing musical instruments, such as the piano and accordion, and other talented students sang. We are so grateful to our amazing PTA for all their time and effort to bring such a lively and educational event to our school.



**Students using science to make art by drawing with a pendulum.**

# Stacey *Middle School*

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



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## After-School Clubs

*By Wendy Baird, Assistant Principal*

At Stacey Middle School, we value the importance of developing well-rounded students. We offer a variety of after-school clubs where students can pursue their interests. Our clubs are also a great place for students to make connections and build friendships with students who have similar interests.

Additionally, students can form new clubs throughout the school year by following an application process. Currently, we have 19 student-driven clubs that meet after school. Our caring teacher advisors offer support, guidance and encouragement. Ukulele, archery, gaming, badminton, anime and art club are just a few of the diverse clubs that we have to offer.



Our Spartan Club participated in the 2020 Spartan SoCal Super and Spirit Race, where fans cheered them on as they climbed over walls and ran through mud. At Gardening Club, students learn how plants grow, maintain school gardens, and make decorative pots.

# Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Robert Murdock**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating the Tet Holiday

The Webber community celebrated the Tet Holiday by participating in a parade down Bolsa Avenue on January 25th. We had several families join us both in the parade and along the parade route. It was a wonderful celebration.

On January 29th, Webber Elementary School had the pleasure of hosting the Westminster High School Vietnamese-American Cultural Club. Students, teachers and parents came to watch the group perform on the Webber playground. The group performed several songs and skits that highlighted the Vietnamese culture, and celebrated the Lunar New Year. The group included two lion teams that entertained the crowd by dancing and doing stunts. A drum group performed many rousing songs that had the audience dancing in their seats.

# Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Tiffany Harville**  
*Principal*

## ELPAC Success

“I don’t know but I’ve been told, our ELPAC scores they will be gold.” This chant can frequently be heard all around our campus, as our students have been preparing for testing in English Language Proficiency Assessments of California (ELPAC) boot camp.

We started our preparation with a family night specifically for our English learners. During this time, we went over reclassification criteria, and families received past ELPAC and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores for their students. At Warner Middle School, we encourage student agency and want all our families to understand the results of these tests and how to help their students be successful.



Our learners value their education and have been showing up after school to participate in our three ELPAC boot camps focused on speaking, reading, writing, and listening. They have been working hard to improve their skills in hopes of making this the last year they need to take the ELPAC.

Just another example why Warner rocks!

# Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Dr. Nicole Jacobson**  
*Principal*

## Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!

Willmore rings in the Lunar New Year! Willmore School recently brought together community members and families to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, at an elaborate assembly celebrating the Year of the Rat.

Many of our students and staff members were dressed in traditional ao dai dresses and outfits. The performance opened with an inspirational message that encouraged our students to do their best, and to continue to show kindness every day.

The Westminster High School’s Vietnamese American Culture Club (VACC) has continued the tradition of visiting our elementary schools in the Westminster School District to explain why the Lunar New Year is important. They perform numerous dances and amaze their audiences with their singing, dancing, and musical drums.



**Students feeding the lions “li xi”**

One of the highlights of the event is the famous Lion Dance. The students feed the majestic lions with “li xi,” the lucky money that is inside traditional red envelopes. Willmore wishes its families and the community a happy and prosperous new year, and always looks forward to our annual celebration.



## Huntington Beach Central Library

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

## Spring Reading Program and Volunteering



**Barbara Richardson**  
Senior Librarian  
Programming and  
Youth Services

The Library's Spring Break Reading Program takes place April 12 – April 18. Children ages 12 and under who read or listen to 5 stories or read 100 minutes that week will be entered in a raffle to win a prize basket and will receive a scratch-n-sniff bookmark and a Piggy and Elephant sticker. Children can register online at [hbpl.beanstack.com](http://hbpl.beanstack.com) or pick up a reading log at any HB library branch. There will be a Spring Celebration, hosted by the HB Tree Society, on Saturday, April 18, 10 :00 to noon. All are invited to enjoy a Maypole Dance and Butterfly Tent

Make a difference in your community. Become an active member in the Friends of the Children's Library (FOTCL). Volunteers are needed to help plan, organize and staff various children's programs and activities throughout the year. Meetings

are held the first Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Central Library in Room B. Can't come to the meetings? Volunteer to help at the FOTCL's children's events. Help with newsletters. Take part in fundraising activities. Good at web design and social media? Would you like to volunteer? The FOTCL is looking for you. Follow the Friends of the Children's Library of Huntington Beach on Facebook. Also visit their website at [fotcl.org](http://fotcl.org). Membership brochures are available in the Children's Department. You have the choice to have a voice.

## Ask Dr. Shari

## Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

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

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

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

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

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



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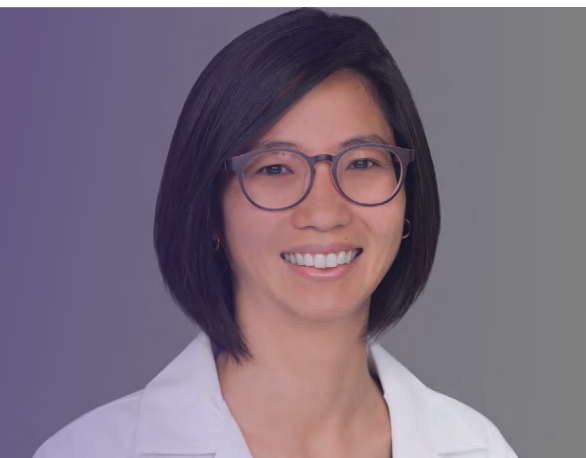
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