

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



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

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MARCH / APRIL 2021

## Truly Connected in FVSD's Virtual Program

By Dr. Mark Johnson  
Superintendent  
Fountain Valley School District.

The students in Fountain Valley School District's FVSDConnected program are thriving! With classes completely online and supported by more than 60 teachers and 15 classified staff, FVSDConnected offers its more than 1600 students a dynamic and engaging educational experience during a most challenging time.

Many who have not had the opportunity to see inside a Connected classroom may wonder why our Chameleons (their mascot) are doing so well. And yet, those who know the FVSD Family are not surprised at all. Our Connected teachers continue their commitment to teaching and learning while engaging every student in a virtual format. Connected teachers are intentional about giving students breaks from the screen, and encouraging device-free moments throughout the day. More so, exciting electives have also allowed these virtual students the opportunity to enjoy tech-free learning, like home economics and art. Students in these classes still participate with their peers online, but also enjoy a sort of guided studio time while they paint and draw on canvas and paper.

In addition, technology has allowed Connected students to interact with their peers socially. For example, many middle school Connected teachers allow students to log in early in order to chat with their friends. And homerooms often include breakout rooms for students to get together and socialize online. As FVSDConnected Principal Erik Miller explains, "Classes are the most successful where students are given the space to interact." So many of the engaging elements of traditional in-person school have been



FVSD Connected teacher Britt Hughes and her 4th grade students enjoy a guided art lesson. They are truly chameleon strong!

translated into our FVSDConnected classrooms. Mr. Miller explains that at the elementary level it is not uncommon for students to enjoy fun Fridays, with breakout rooms for students to participate and share Lego builds with their peers, or enjoy online games with classmates. More so, Connected students have the unique opportunity to share their talents in way they may not be able to in an in-person setting. In one elementary class, students who play instruments at home are able to join in chorus to serenade a classmate on his/her birthday,

ukuleles and all! Lastly, virtual field trips offer a rich experience for our Chameleons, with middle students benefiting from a partnership with the Ocean Institute.

In a year where so many search for the chance to still feel a part of something, our Chameleons are leading the way, connecting through the screen in ways that are truly meaningful! A giant thank you to all of our FVSDConnected Family who go above and beyond to serve our students, families and community.

### Fountain Valley School District



Recently, Congresswoman Michelle Steel toured Gisler Elementary with Principal Teri Malpass and Board President Sandra Crandall. (page 5)



Outstanding students Lincoln Vina and Cosmo Boehm honored by the Fountain Valley Rotary Club. (page 5)

### Superintendents

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# School News

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher

562/493-3193  
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This is our 17th year publishing *School News* covering these three districts. Of course we all agree this year has been like no other; however, one constant has been focus on academic excellence.

In this issue you will read how teachers are meeting the challenges of distance learning and continuing to be innovative and creative. Hopefully, by our May 5th issue we will be celebrating students back in school and the return to normalcy. In the meantime, we have much to celebrate.

**MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach**  
2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • millerchildrens.org/Orthopedics

**Anna Acosta, M.D.,**  
*pediatric hand surgeon,*  
*Orthopedic Center,*  
*MemorialCare*  
*Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital*  
*Long Beach*

## Specialized Care for Delicate Hands

A jammed finger is one of the most common hand injuries a child can experience. It can occur not only in sports, but also during play or regular daily activities. A jammed finger is a condition that happens when the finger is quickly forced back into hyperextension. Sometimes a jammed finger is no big deal and can get better on its own. But other times there is a more serious and deeper injury that needs to be addressed in a timely manner.

A jammed finger causes a lot of swelling and often stiffness of the finger. Usually this is due to a ligament sprain or partial tear. However, sometimes it can be due to a complete ligament tear or even fracture of the bone or joint.

In most cases, a jammed finger will heal well with nonsurgical treatments. However, for the more serious injuries that include fractures, surgery may be required to realign the pieces of broken bone.

Because the hand is such a delicate balance of working parts, even minor injuries may cause a significant decrease in hand function or changes in appearance. And because children’s bones are still growing, they need specialized care from physicians and therapists who understand the complexities of a still growing body.

MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach has an Orthopedic Center dedicated to treating orthopedic injuries and abnormalities in kids. We specialize in treating congenital and acquired hand and arm conditions and deformities, as well as the everyday kid injuries. Advanced surgical techniques are used to restore hand function and to correct hand and limb differences. We have a specialized team that includes a pediatric hand surgeon and pediatric hand therapists, that work together to create the best functional and cosmetic results for each child we see.

Learn more at [millerchildrens.org/Orthopedics](http://millerchildrens.org/Orthopedics).



# We’re on Kevin’s level at the highest level.

Many children’s illnesses are rarely seen in adults or affect kids differently, which is why a children’s hospital is so important. And you are fortunate enough to live close to one. Since every child is unique, we offer more than 600 board-certified pediatric physicians, covering 40 specialties in locations from the South Bay to Orange County. This means Kevin can get precisely the specialized care he needs.

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# Huntington Beach Public Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org)

## Lots of Choices

By Melissa Ronning, Senior Librarian for Youth Services.

I am happy to be back to the The Huntington Beach Public Library where I served as the Children’s Librarian until last March. I am working very hard to make sure the Children’s Library is ready to serve the Huntington Beach community when we return to being fully open again.

Currently the Huntington Beach Public Library is open for our Grab & Go Services and Holds Pickup Service only. You are welcome to come into the Children’s department and browse the collection, but the reference desk is not open.

Programming at the library continues to be virtual this spring. Look for your storytime favorites on our Huntington Beach Public Library YouTube page. A new storytime is uploaded daily, Monday – Friday at 10:00 a.m.

We will be celebrating “Read Across America” the first week of March in the lobby of the Children’s dept. Kids can go on a Dr. Seuss Scavenger Hunt, and participate in a Dr. Seuss Battle of the Books display. Dr. Seuss Take and Make bags will also be available!

One of our favorite spring programs is our Fancy Nancy Tea Party. Since we are not able to be together for this fabulous event, we are creating a take home version. We are calling it “Fancy Nancy Tea Party to Go!” Online Tickets will go on sale April 24 at 9:00 a.m. Each bag will be filled with craft supplies and snacks for two! Ooh la la! The Fancy Nancy Tea Party to Go bags will be available for pick up May 6-8.

Find all the information about our Read Across America activities, Fancy Nancy to Go and all Youth Services programs at: <https://hbpl.libguides.com/kids>

Currently the Huntington Beach Public Library is open for our Grab & Go Services and Holds Pickup Service only. You are welcome to come into the Children’s department and browse the collection, but the reference desk is not open.

# Westminster Library

8180 13th St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-5057 • [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

## Check Us Out Online While We’re Closed

By Tim Scott, Librarian IV/ Branch Manger Garden Grove Chapman Library

The Westminster Library is closed for refurbishment until further notice. While the Westminster Library is being refurbished, please check out OC Public Libraries’ virtual programs (<https://ocpl.org/elibrary/virtual-programs>) including our weekly Zoom storytimes (<https://ocpl.org/zoomstorytimes>). Sign up for the storytimes by sending an email to [ocplstorytimes@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocplstorytimes@occr.ocgov.com) and let them know which storytimes you wish to sign up for.

Virtual Teen Lounge: Join us on Zoom for games and the chance to meet other Teens in Orange County. All attendees must have permission form signed by parent/guardian. Space is limited. For Teens ages 12 to 18 (Still in High School). To sign up, contact Ben Abeltin via email: [Ben.Abeltin@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:Ben.Abeltin@occr.ocgov.com) Upcoming dates and times: March 20, April 17, and May 15, 2021, from 3:00pm-4:30pm.

If you are missing the Library while it is closed, check out our WiFi on Wheels initiative (<https://ocpl.org/news/wifi-wheels>). Library staff will set up a booth at five locations in Westminster and Midway City each day. You can get free WiFi, check out a Chromebook, get a library card, talk to library staff, and even check out a selection of library materials. Make sure you click on the link for the upcoming WiFi on Wheels stops to see where we will be that day! Weather may affect the schedule.



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**Contest!**

This Mr. Ruler is hidden somewhere in this issue. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Please put FV in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by April 15, 2021. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations Tracee Mueller**  
**winner of our October contest!**



# Fountain Valley School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Mark Johnson**

### FV Rotary Celebrates Outstanding Students in Special Way

Fountain Valley School District has always had a fantastic community partner in the Fountain Valley Rotary Club. Their support of our staff, students and programs is unwavering. And with the return of their Most Improved Student celebrations, Fountain Valley Rotary allows us the opportunity to celebrate some amazing students in a truly special way.

Starting in January, Fountain Valley Rotary has invited a student from one of our middle schools to join students from Fountain Valley High School and Valley Vista High School, along with their families, to be honored for their unique ability to overcome diversity and face challenges with determination and grit, through its Most Improved Student celebrations. These students are celebrated for their extraordinary efforts in the face of great obstacles. And while holding these celebrations via zoom may not seem ideal, a screen can't hide the pride of these students and their families. Parents cheer while their student's teachers, principal and assistant principal sing their praises. It is by far the best start to any Tuesday morning and it is all because of Fountain Valley Rotary.

In challenging times, we look for ways to celebrate our successes and the students honored by Rotary's Most Improved Student celebrations are an undeniable cause for applause!



**Outstanding students Lincoln Vina and Cosmo Boehm were recently honored by the Fountain Valley Rotary Club.**

## Board of Trustees



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### Highlighting Our Staff, Students and Programs

*By Jim Cunneen, Board Clerk*

Recently, FVSD had the pleasure of hosting U.S. Congresswoman, Michelle Steel, at Gisler Elementary School to share some of the many successes and challenges of reopening schools. Congresswoman Steel sits on the Subcommittee for Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and it was wonderful to highlight the programs/services we continue to provide for our students and families, even during this pandemic. Joining Congresswoman Steele were Trustees Sandra Crandall, Jim Cunneen and Jeanne Galindo, Superintendent Dr. Mark Johnson, and Gisler Principal, Teri Malpass.



**Congresswoman Michelle Steel tours Gisler Elementary with Principal Teri Malpass and Board President Sandra Crandall.**

We so appreciate of Congresswoman Steel's visit, as it allowed us to showcase the amazing students, staff, families, and community who have worked together to ensure the safest and highest levels of learning environments possible. I am extremely proud of our District's efforts and want to thank everyone for continuing to exemplify the true meaning of the FVSD Family as we continue to face these challenges together.



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# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Chris Christensen**  
Principal

## Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Courreges Elementary School's 2021 Teacher of the Year, Jaymee Shute! Jaymee has been teaching in the FVSD since 2010, and is currently teaching kindergarten at Courreges for the 2020-2021 school year.

"Jaymee is an easygoing, yet absolutely amazing teacher," noted her kindergarten team. Jaymee has taken on a leadership role in this past year's virtual learning program. She has been leading her team to plan curriculum, communicate with families, and is also lending her technological skills to assist our teachers, students, and parents.

Beyond the classroom, Jaymee has taken on additional duties, including providing for staff celebrations as the school's resident "social chairperson." She does it in a way that makes people feel so appreciated, because she puts so much thought, heart, and beauty into all that she does.

Finally, one of Jaymee's most admired attributes is her ability to always remain so positive on campus; cheering people up with a simple smile, compliment, or kind comment. Jaymee is a true professional and a unique "gem" both as a person and educator.

Courreges is honored and privileged to select Jaymee Shute as its 2021 Teacher of the Year!



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

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



**Cara Robinson**  
Principal

## Lunar New Year at Cox

The students and staff at Cox Elementary celebrated the Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day on Friday, February 12th. Students were invited to dress in traditional clothing to demonstrate their cultural pride. Additionally, each classroom competed in a valentine's day door decorating contest.

With each week, we find new ways to celebrate and promote fun and connection amidst the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. We strive each day to, "make it a great day!"





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

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • [www.fulton.fvdsd.us](http://www.fulton.fvdsd.us)



**Erin Bains**  
*Principal*



**Julie Gonzales**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Protocols for PE

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year definitely means a different way of thinking and that is no exception for our PE Department.

Following safety guidelines is first and foremost in our teachers' minds but so is creating meaningful activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. Our team is designing activities that use individualized equipment but also incorporate teamwork. Our students have participated in lacrosse, soccer, fitness stations, over the line baseball, hockey, and pickle ball, not to mention numerous fitness activities utilizing hula hoops, jump ropes, and more. With the help of our custodian sanitizing equipment in between periods, hand sanitizer, and hand washing stations students are able to participate in many of the sports and fitness activities like they did in years past. Thank you to our teachers for being creative and students for following protocols and having fun. Don't worry, they still run the mile, too!



**Students enjoying a competitive game of Pickle Ball**

# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Teri Malpass**  
*Principal*

## Fresh Air & Phonics Reading Club in the "Gator Outdoors"

Gisler's reading lab intervention is in full swing and outside! Jen Muschetto and Maura Marbut are leading the way and helping to support the Gators in grades K-2nd with reading and phonics. When Mrs. Muschetto and Mrs. Marbut

arrive, you will see easels on wheels and moveable carts moving to the lunch tables. PPE equipment is a must on the carts and a priority used during instruction and between each group of no more than three students.

Kindergarten students who initially attended reading lab focused on letter recognition and letter sounds. Most of these students are now focusing on sight words. First graders are focusing on phonics and reading strategies with Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention kits while second graders are focusing on reading skills using LLI. We are lucky to have this intervention back as we have seen great growth and students exiting the program!



**Mrs. Muschetto and Mrs. Marbut leading the intervention way!**



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

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • [www.masuda.fvds.us](http://www.masuda.fvds.us)



**Jay Adams**  
Principal



**Matt Ploski**  
Assistant Principal

## 2021 Teacher of the Year

Masuda is proud to honor Mrs. Amy Jara, English and Intervention Teacher, as our 2021 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Jara's nominating peers love how she "works

wonderfully with parents, administrators, and staff to do what is best for struggling students and honors students alike!" Mrs. Jara is touted as being "an excellent teacher who is our school's go-to person...in any times of need." She is undoubtedly an indispensable member of the Masuda family.

We at Masuda are blessed by Mrs. Jara's positive energy and outlook. Not only the kids, but the parent community and her teaching peers benefit immensely from all that she has to offer! We are proud to present her as our Teacher of the Year on the basis of her outstanding contributions to the lives of the children (and adults) whose lives she touches daily.



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

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



**Christopher Mullin**  
Principal

## Congratulations Mr. Mullin!

We at Newland are so excited that our principal, Chris Mullin, has been named FVSD 2021 Administrator of the Year.

Mr. Mullin has been a part of the FVSD Family for nearly forty years! He attended Moiola Elementary from kindergarten through eighth grade, and he graduated from Fountain Valley High School. He has been a teacher at Masuda Middle School, an Assistant Principal at Fulton and Principal at Masuda Middle and Newland Elementary School.

Chris embodies everything that is good about the FVSD Family. He is kind, compassionate, dedicated, humble, driven, and wants everyone - students, staff and parents - to be connected to one another. He believes strongly in shared leadership and collaboration, both of which have added to Newland's caring, rich and successful school culture. During his tenure, Newland has developed a tremendous reputation as a school of excellence, earning California Distinguished School, Gold Ribbon and a National Blue Ribbon awards over the last several years.

We at Newland are thrilled in congratulating Mr. Mullin as FVSD's Administrator of the Year for 2021!



**Mr. Mullin with his wife, Andrea, and two children, Delaney and Will.**



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Julie Ballesteros  
Principal

Teacher of the Year

Oka is proud to present Mrs. Randi Hubbard as our 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year. Randi has been in the field of education for over 12 years, and has blessed our school and district with passion and dedication in her roles as a primary teacher, leader, and mentor.



**Congratulations to Randi Hubbard!**  
**Oka's Teacher of the Year!**

Mrs. Hubbard is the perfect example of an educator who is a learner, team player, selfless, humble, resourceful, patient, and loving. Her colleagues describe her as a “treasure” whose patience and commitment to her team and students are unparalleled.

Randi understands children, and takes the time and effort to truly address their individual needs. Her kind and supportive personality also allows her to develop strong relationships with the children and their families. When they are in her presence they are filled with a sense of confidence and calmness. She instills in her students the positive mindset that they are capable of what ever they put their minds to.

Randi is also a true leader who is reflective and open minded. You can always depend on her to put in the work and heart it takes to make a difference in the lives of her peers and students.

Not only does Randi’s love of learning and educating children shine in her classroom every day, she also inspires everyone around her to stay passionate and excited about the impact we can have on the lives of our children. Her supportive and positive attitude helps mold Oka into a positive place for children.

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

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



Jennifer Morgan  
Principal



Molly Kuykendall  
Assistant Principal

Not Skipping a Beat!

Talbert T-Birds continue to move Full STEAM ahead, even during a pandemic. The Talbert music program has made some changes because of safety restrictions. Mr. Adamiak, the department chair, has not skipped a beat. He teaches band, orchestra and four periods of music appreciation.

Since Talbert is currently a hybrid school, band and orchestra classes meet only one time a week in person. That is just enough time, so Mr Adamiak connects with his students during his office hours via Zoom. He provides breakout rooms for students to practice, where he assigns section leaders to run the show. Before winter break, students were responsible for recording their own pieces of work, and Mr. Adamiak put together quite the show with the students’ recordings. His goal is to have three virtual performances a year. The band class is working on making Flipgrid recordings on their asynchronous days while studying songwriting, music theory and rhythm in class.

A week before school started back in September, Mr. Adamiak was asked to create a music-appreciation class. He did not waste any time. If you were to walk into his music-appreciation class, you would find students learning music history from the Jazz Age to the present, basic songwriting techniques and rhythm/pitch reading skills. Students also have the opportunity to pick which area—history, songwriting or performance—to specialize in for the end of the trimester.

The class culminates in a showcase project that differs based on each student’s focus area. Students also have the option to learn a variety of instruments that include traditional band/orchestra instruments, ukulele, guitar, bass, keyboard and drums if they choose the performance focus.

Music appreciation is currently the favorite elective on the Talbert campus!

Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Patrick Ham  
Principal

2020-2021 Plavan Panthers of the Year

Each year, The FVSD Board of Trustees recognizes one student from each grade level from Plavan Elementary School as our “Panthers of the Year.” Students are carefully selected by the Plavan staff for demonstrating one or more of

- the following characteristics:
- Extraordinary effort
  - Consistency in achievement
  - Most improved

After careful consideration, we are proud to recognize our “2021 Panthers of the Year!” Congratulations!!!



**TK - Elijah Perez**  
**(Mrs. Spenser)**



**K - Bella Tran**  
**(Ms. Andrews)**



**1st - Christian Brady**  
**(Mrs. Kha)**



**2nd - Avyn Stambuk**  
**Mrs. Query)**



**3rd - Vy Nguyen**  
**(Mrs. Traw)**



**4th - Khloe Rabideau**  
**(Mrs. Booth)**



**5th - Rubi Nguyen**  
**(Ms. Spenser)**



# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kathy Davis**  
*Principal*

## Recess.....Some Things Never Change

Tamura's Elementary School's reopening plan included the very important topic of recess. We had to be sure that safety protocols were adhered to. Plans included rotating zones by class and disinfecting equipment. We planned for what-ifs like students not adhering to masks or not staying in their zone. It turned out that recess has been the most normal, joyful time of the day. Students independently follow all the protocols. They love the rotating zones and getting to try new things. We've added new equipment as the year has gone on. Students' creativity has blossomed as they come up with their own new games to play in their zones. Recess is my favorite time of day. I love to go out and soak up the normalcy of our students' laughter as they immerse themselves in the joy of play. Kids being kids. A lesson we could all learn for sure!



## FVSD Connected *(Virtual TK 5/6—8)*

[www.fvdsd.us](http://www.fvdsd.us)



**Erik Miller**  
*Principal*

## FVSDConnected Going Gold!

Although this past year has given all of us challenges, FVSDConnected was honored and excited to Go Gold, on February 16. Many students and staff chose to fill the zoom screens across our virtual program with as much gold (and yellow) as they could, showing their support for furthering the awareness of pediatric cancer, and the need for additional research. Every child is special and unique, and the opportunity

to bring light to a topic that is full of darkness, by wearing gold and yellow was a welcomed positive! Pediatric cancer has directly impacted our FVSDConnected family, and we want to continue working toward the day when no child has to experience it. Staying connected and being reminded that we are all in this together, never alone, and Chameleon Strong, are all part of our foundation in FVSDConnected. Thank you to everyone for your support, and helping bring more attention toward further research and funding the fight against pediatric cancer.





# 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**

### Set Your Child Up For Success – Choose OVSD!

Choosing where and how to educate your child is one of the most important decisions a parent will ever make. I invite you to get to know us and what we have to offer. Come take a look at Ocean View School District, Where Achievement and Relationships Matter!

Students in Ocean View School District experience a rigorous learning environment that is rooted in effective teaching practices and high-quality instruction. Our goal is to nurture every child's imagination, intellect, and sense of inquiry. We also promote social/emotional learning and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) to foster a caring and encouraging school setting.

- OVSD offerings that promote student success:
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math)
- Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)
- Environmental Science with a 2.5 acre Farm
- Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)
- Spanish Dual Language Immersion
- Virtual Academy
- Modernized Campuses
- Before and After School Child Care Program

I am proud of the strong leadership team we have assembled, the progressive programs we have launched, and the \$169 million modernization program that is well underway, with safety as our number one priority. Three schools will have been completely transformed by the time we open for the 2021-22 school year and an additional school will be modernized each year moving forward.

[Enrolling in OVSD schools and programs is simple. Visit www.ovsd.org.](http://www.ovsd.org) If you would like to speak with me to discuss how our innovative programs can fit the unique needs of your child, you may reach me at (714) [847-2551, ext.1309](tel:7148472551).

## Board of Trustees



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### Kindergarten Builds the Foundation for Student Success

*By Patricia Singer, President, Board of Trustees*

Going to kindergarten is an important step for you, and your child, setting a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Kindergarten furnishes your child with an opportunity to learn and practice the essential social, emotional, problem solving, and study skills that they will use throughout their schooling. Children learn so much more than academics in their early schooling. They learn to share (self-sacrifice), they learn to wait their turn (respect), they build academic stamina (diligence), and they learn how to navigate new and difficult situations (courage).

Ocean View School District offers several dynamic kindergarten programs to allow children to become confident learners in a safe and supportive environment while providing experiences for them to grow and develop through play and interaction. You can choose the right fit for your child depending on their age, development and interest.

Kindergarten (5 years old on or before September 1, 2021): Provides a rich, meaningful, balanced, academic program of foundational skills to prepare children for 1st grade.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion Kindergarten (5 years old on or before September 1, 2021): Students learn in English and Spanish and begin their journey to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. For more info visit [ovsd.org/dli](http://ovsd.org/dli)

Transitional Kindergarten (5 years old on or between September 2 – December 2, 2021): Kindergarten standards are spread out over two years allowing students additional time to mature. It honors a child's developmental pace and progression of learning while focusing more on the process of learning and less on the product of learning.

Early Kindergarten (5 years old on or between December 3, 2021 – March 1, 2022): This half-year program begins in January and ends in June and provides students a jumpstart in developmental readiness skills prior to entering Kindergarten. This modified TK experience helps children develop the academic, social, and emotional skills necessary to be successful in Kindergarten.

For more information, please visit [ovsd.org/kindergarten](http://ovsd.org/kindergarten)

## Early Learning Preschool Program

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*

### Phenomenal Educational Staff

Ocean View School District Early Learning Preschool Programs have phenomenal educational staff. There is over 80 years of experience at the Oak View Preschool location alone!

The Oak View Preschool Educators were asked, "What is the best part of your day?" Here are their responses;

"It is so rewarding to see my students grasp what I'm teaching. Their minds absorb so much information and I love to teach, support and challenge them."  
–Ms. Theresa

"The best part of my day is watching a child's face light up when they have accomplished something or understand a concept." – Ms. Kathy

"My favorite part of the day would be during small groups. I am able to work more one on one with my students and have meaningful and deep conversations." – Ms. Kim

"I love providing opportunities for the children to explore their environment and have new experiences." – Ms. Rekha

Oak View Preschool Educators love what they do!



**Oak View Preschool Educators Rekha Powar, Kim Hunter, Kathy Blythe, Theresa Crockett, not pictured Debbie Chiong**



# 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

## I'm an Eagle!

Our littlest Eagles have been busy this month. Our kindergarten students have been learning about famous people in history including: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington. They have also been working on their art skills by making Valentine's Day cards and gifts for their families. They have become experts at knowing their letters, sounds, and math skills. But what is most impressive about this group

of Kindergartners is the kindness and love that they show to their classmates every day. Their sweet words, gestures, and friendships are what makes Kindergarten so special. We are looking forward to making many more fun Kindergarten memories this year including dressing up as 100 year olds for the 100th day of school! It's fun to be an Eagle! Check out our school website or Instagram to lean and see more.



**A kindergarten student working at her desk**

# 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 Learning Support is Alive and Well

College View's high standards for supporting social-emotional learning (SEL) is alive and well. Weekly, students SEL capacity is enhanced by learning about the importance of self-awareness and management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Additionally, we value the importance of building character with monthly lessons around our five focus traits: Be Responsible, Kind, Respectful, Have Perseverance and Integrity. We focus on building relationships with our students based on trust, teaching them respect for themselves, others, and school property. We also emphasize empathy for others, and building a sense of belonging and community in and out of the classroom. Not resting on our laurels, this year we are also implementing a staff Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) matrix to ensure staff actions are aligned with student school-wide expectations. The matrix also serves as an official protocol of procedures to train new staff members on the importance of our outstanding SEL and PBIS program at College View.



# 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)



**Elaine Burney**  
Principal

## Growing Together with Hydroponic Gardens

At Golden View, we value our partnerships and teaming with community members, especially when it comes to our farm and garden. A long-standing tradition remaining alive and well is when local Eagle Scouts complete their projects at Golden View.

This year, former Golden View alumni, James Bledsoe and his team, came and created fully sustainable hydroponic gardens. This is a type of gardening that uses oxygenated, nutrient-supplemented water as a growing medium by using storage tubs, plants, small pellets, and solar-powered water pumps. Whereas traditional agriculture can involve a process of eroding soil and depriving it of nutrients.

Having first-hand experiences, involvement, and opportunities with projects like this, supports and enhances our Environmental STEM focus at Golden View. We are proud of the continued expansion of the environmental science offered. We're thrilled James created six separate gardens offering one for each grade level!





# Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

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

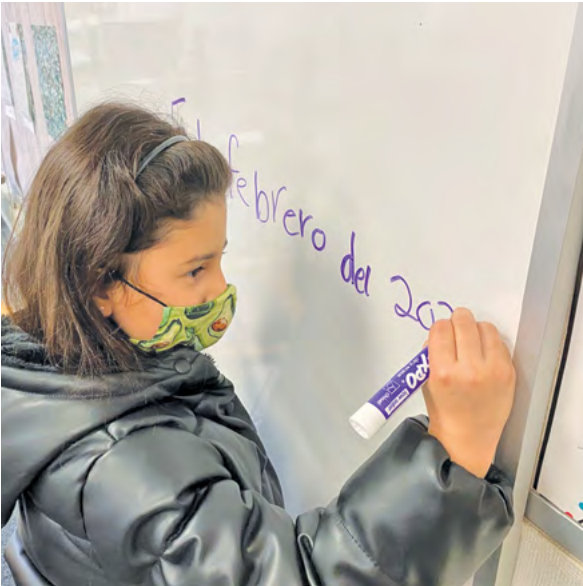


**Dr. Joy Harris**  
*Principal*

## Off and Running Again!

After several weeks in temporary distance learning, we welcomed our students back on campus to resume our hybrid schedule in February. Off and running, our learning community has been actively making sure that our students keep on track while having fun.

Kindergarten enrollment is upon us, and we excitingly welcome new 2021-22 families to Harbour View. With our own special version of OVSD's Kindergarten Night, prospective families will join us on March 4 for a preview at our Harbour View Kindergarten Information Night. For more about the great things you can expect at Harbour View, please see our website; our Facebook page, @harbourviewelementary; or our Instagram page, @harbourviewelementary.



Speaking of great things, our Harbour View Dual Language Program is off and running again, as we soon will enter our second year of the program. Interested families attended our DLI information Night in February, when they got a glimpse of how we are teaching bilingualism and multiculturalism. Did you miss it? Not a problem! We are now taking applications for the incoming kindergarten DLI class! For more information, call our office.

# 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*

## Surfboard Signing

Though things look different this year we continue to keep school traditions moving forward. From TK through fifth grade our Hawks know that at the end of each trimester a Principal's Effort Award recipient is selected. Each recipient signs

their name on this year's surfboard to be displayed in the front office. This award has been in place for over 15 years and the students take great pride in pointing out their signatures when they enter the office. This year we took the surfboard signing to recess. As soon as the students saw the surfboard on the playground the energy and excitement for this tradition could be heard from the wonders of who got the award. Keeping up with traditions, we are not going to let distance affect our moments of connectivity. Go Hawks!



**Mya Hanoian, 3rd grade student signing the School surfboard for the Principal Effort Award.**

# Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jill Van Der Linden**  
*Interim Principal*

## Highlights of Learning!

Learning is always happening at Lake View. Let me share just a few highlights!

In first and second grades, students have explored the essential question "What do plants need to survive?" by using seeds and examining plants' external parts. They are learning how animals' external parts help them survive in their unique habitats. They have drawn conclusions about the human impact on nature and are learning about the problems that a growing population causes to the environment as well as their solutions.

Our special-day students in grades one, two and three are learning about how to show kindness to friends and what they can do to help others. Students have just completed a Unique Learning System unit on being a good neighbor. Math and ELA lessons have been centered around the idea of kindness.

Students in third grade focused on animal adaptations for life science. They completed a project-based learning unit researching a specific animal and its adaptations to its environment. Then, they had to pretend the animal moved to a different climate and had to adapt to the new place. They engineered a shelter that would protect the animal until adequate adaptations were made.

Students in fourth grade focused on Native Americans in California for social studies. They researched a specific tribe and wrote about how those people used the natural resources of California to survive. They also engineered a mock home that a person from that tribe might live in.



Lake View is a STEAM school. Lessons and activities are centered on one or more aspects of science, technology, engineering, art or math.



# Marine View *Middle School (6–8)*

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • [www.ovsd.org/marine](http://www.ovsd.org/marine)



**Sara Schaible**  
Principal

## School Garden

In education, lessons are not always taught within the four walls of the classroom or virtual classroom. This year, two of our teachers decided to take their lessons outside and created a school garden. When we moved to the interim site this fall (while Marine View is under Modernization) Mrs. Tompkins, Ms. Hughes, and students took the opportunity to create a school garden at the interim site. Students reached out for donations to get our garden started and have since gained interest and support of other staff and students who have contributed to the garden. As part of the continual learning process, students tend to the garden and discuss the growth of the various vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. This garden continues to provide learning opportunities and much needed social emotional support during this time and will return to the Marine View campus with us after Modernization.



# 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

## Music with Masks!

This year, our amazing choral and instrumental students are singing and playing wearing specialty masks! Our teaching staff researched the most ideal masks for both students and instruments to limit air particles and increase flexibility while playing and singing. Since guidance allowed it, our music classes—Strings, Instrumental and Choral—have been singing and playing outside!

At the direction of Dennis Nicolosi and Angela Greer, our students have been practicing and preparing for the District Music Festival and have created virtual musical concerts to share with their peers. We are looking forward to a uniquely amazing Virtual Music Festival in April and an end-of-the-year virtual concert highlighting all the amazing efforts this year. In this altered environment, students have been practicing at home, which includes videoing themselves and sending in videos for feedback. When in person, classes are practicing together while socially distanced.

We are so proud of the beautiful music they have created and will continue to create!



**Mesa View students practice musical harmonies in cohorted groups outside.**



# 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

## Positivity and Grace

The word we use to describe our youngest Owls, our kindergartners, is "resilient." These young students have taken their first flight into education during a time period that none of us have ever seen before. They have persevered so far by successfully navigating between distance

learning, hybrid, and there and back again! Each time they have done so with positivity and grace. Whether online or in person, our youngest Owls have come to class each day with smiles on their faces and are eager to learn.

As we continue to work each day building their foundational skills, we also approach each new lesson with a sense of encouragement and excitement. Not only are we working to teach and strengthen their skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, we also seek to spark their curiosity and build knowledge in other subject areas such as the arts and sciences. We strive to instill in our students an overall love for learning so that they may grow into strong, life-long, independent learners.

This year our little Owls continue to spread their wings and venture further into the world of education with enthusiasm. They have reminded us that with courage and perseverance, we can all face what ever is ahead. Our kindergartners are truly inspiring, and we will



continue to be dedicated to their success so that they may continue to soar elegantly through their school years. We look forward with excitement to having our future Owls join us next fall!

# 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

## Our Musical Showcase

Spring View Middle School music students have the opportunity to showcase their talents in a virtual music performance. While this school year has not been an ideal one for practicing our instruments and singing our voices, our musicians have overcome the COVID adversity to produce a spectacular musical performance.

Led by Spring View Music Director Mr. Marcelo Martinez, our class has continued to pivot and make the appropriate adjustments. Earlier this fall, our Spartan musicians were excited to be able to practice safely on campus. If you walk past our campus in the morning hours you will be able to hear our musicians practicing outdoors.

The Spartan musicians were soon able to put their hard work on display in a virtual concert that is now showcased on the Spartan Instagram account (@springviewspartanshb), and on our YouTube Channel. Edited by Mr. Martinez, the students individually performed their unique part in the music, and the individual videos were then merged to become one masterful piece of music.

Though we are all eager to have a live concert again, this was a unique experience. We highly appreciate the opportunity that was created by our music team to showcase grit, innovation, and musical talents!



# 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

## Being Courteous

Star View School began the new year with high quality distance learning following the winter break. In early February, the incredible students were welcomed back to campus as hybrid instruction resumed. The staff was thrilled to greet the excited students who were ready to participate in engaging instruction and activities.

Mr. Tung, Ngo, our school's bilingual community liaison and translator, was selected as the classified employee of the year. Mr. Tung was surprised with a small ceremony to honor him

at school and was publicly recognized at a school board meeting in February.

The students practiced being courteous, which was the character trait for the month of February and is part of the school's strong PBIS program, where positive behavior, words, and actions are taught and reinforced, school-wide.

Also in February, the entire school participated in classroom activities to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. Students participated in fun and engaging activities including making lanterns and other beautiful art projects.



**Mr. Dybas Welcoming Back his Students**



# 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*

## Keeping Traditions Alive

One of the most special traditions at Village View is our Friday Flag Ceremony. For over 20 years, Village View Community gathers every Friday to salute the Flag, sing a patriotic song, honor a character trait of the month and celebrate our Village Family. Even as school closed, we never stopped this tradition. We just found safe ways to keep it going. Thursday filming with staff, our mascot Splash the Dolphin with masks and social distancing. When we opened for in-person learning in late September, we involved students; our fifth Grade Spirit team led by Ms. McGregor. Fostering a culture of compassion, community is at the heart of every ceremony.

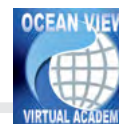
Friday we honored our Fifth Graders, as it is their last year at Village View. A heart was placed into the lawn with their name on it, honoring their final Valentine's Day and to show them the love we have for our students and their families!



**Our Fifth Grade Spirit Team**

## Virtual Academy *(TK-8)*

[www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



### Virtual Clubs

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

Socializing through the web has been a significant focus for the Virtual Academy teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. With OVSD's focus on Social-emotional learning, part of adolescents' emotional health is by socializing with their peers. Teachers in grades 3-5 have provided multiple opportunities a week for the children to interact, make new friends, and simply just talk to others their own age. Structured clubs have been created for students to grow in the areas of Chess, Drama, Book, Comedy, Coding and Art Clubs. There are more unstructured opportunities for interaction where the students share their pets, talk about video games, or play board games. Providing the additional time for students to interact with their classmates has become a great joy for the Virtual Academy teachers. The camaraderie and spirit that these socialization times have brought is helping to make this school year the best year yet!





# 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

## Art Really Is Everywhere!

Westmont's Visual and Performing Arts is alive and thriving! This year, with the restrictions of COVID-19, many of our traditional performing arts have been curtailed for the moment. However, our art talent is bursting at the seams. Students continue to be taught the visual-arts standards in all grade levels along with integrating the arts into their daily instruction.

Our fifth-grade students are learning techniques of watercolors, using warm colors for value and blending. Our third-grade students are working on mixing and applying tempera paints to create tints, shades and neutral colors. Students created complementary-colors monster art to showcase their skills. Our kindergarten students are experimenting with various media types to create original art. Even our preschool students are working on identifying elements of art such as line, color, shape/form, texture, value and space. Art is everywhere—it takes time, patience and practice to continue to learn, but that's what makes our students so successful: their commitment to try. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Every artist was first an amateur."



We are excited to return to offering our full variety of activities next year, including our elementary band program, Disney Musical, dance classes and our outstanding music program. Watch us shine!

# 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

## Getting Out of Doors

Spring is in the air at Vista View, and our students are now outside planting and gardening! During a pandemic that can seem like forever for young people, just being outside and grounded in nature has been a bright spot for our Falcons.

Mrs. King's class has led the gardening charge on campus.



Her students all have assigned tasks. Some water, some plant, some weed, and some soak up the California sunshine! They have planted different types of lettuce, kale, tomatoes, and spinach. They are also trying their hand at broccoli and flowers. We cannot wait to harvest and eat our crops!



When our students aren't gardening, the sixth-graders in Mrs. Clancy's science classes use the garden area to have socially-distanced bubble parties. Their bubble wands though are no ordinary plastic hand-held contraption. Her students have designed and created them with 3D printers to make the largest bubbles ever!

It is one of our greatest joys to help cultivate the creativity of our students. The use of technology on campus in instances like this also gives us a great venue to connect with the children, create good learning opportunities, and inspire a passion for innovation. Whether it is growing and sustaining food on our planet, or molding our future creators, our Vista View Falcons are having a fantastic spring.



# 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**

### District Spelling Bee Champions

Our annual District Spelling Bee contest was held in February virtually this year to provide an opportunity for students to compete in this special event. The on-line competition tested not only their exceptional spelling aptitude but their ability to follow directions, multi-task, and learn to work under unfamiliar conditions. It was a successful event and we are excited to announce these outstanding elementary participants and winners in the 4th-5th grade groups: Nathan Vo (Anderson), Jordan Dinh (Clegg), Dan Mac (DeMille), Aneesa Le (Eastwood), Katie Le (Finley), Kevin Nguyen (Fryberger), Justin Nguyen (Hayden), Ruth Le (Meairs), Huy Nguyen (Schmitt), Silvia Aguilar (Sequoia), and Katelyn Nguyen (1st place from Schroeder).



**4-5 Grade  
Spelling Bee Winner  
1st Place: Katelyn Nguyen  
Schroeder, 4th Grade**



**6-7-8 Grade  
Spelling Bee Winner  
1st Place: Taylor Son  
Warner, 7th Grade**

Nine middle school participants and winners in the 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade groups are as follows: Jolie Le (Anderson), Dan Trinh (DeMille), Kristeen Tang (Eastwood), Michelle Shim (Schroeder), Braeden Partney (Sequoia), Emilee Thai (Webber), Jefferson Luong (Johnson), Kaelynn Nguyen (Stacey), and Taylor Son (1st Place from Warner). We are proud of all of our students. The top three spellers of the 6th-8th group: Taylor Son, Jefferson Luong, and Michelle Shim will represent our district at the Orange County Spelling Bee competition on Monday, March 1st, 2021. We wish them all the best!

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### Honor Roll Recognition

*By Jeremy Khalaf, President, Board of Trustees*



Westminster School District (WSD) is proud to have been selected as an Honor Roll District for 2019-2020. Only twenty-eight out of the 1,037 school districts in California were chosen for this distinction. The Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll Award is the only school recognition program in California using student achievement outcomes as the criteria.

We are equally proud of the following WSD schools for being recognized as 2019-20 Honor Roll winners: Anderson Elementary, Clegg Elementary, DeMille Elementary, Hayden Elementary, Schmitt Elementary, Schroeder Elementary, Sequoia Academy, Webber Elementary, Willmore Language Academy, Stacey Middle, Johnson Middle, and Warner Middle School.

Congratulations to the District and our twelve schools named as ERP Honor Roll recipients. At WSD, our teachers, staff, and administrators have worked tirelessly to keep the focus on high expectations, student academic achievement and continuously improving our practices. Thank you all for your focus and hard work.

## Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

### Every Student Succeeding

Anderson Elementary School is proud to announce our Every Student Succeeding Awardee, Axel Soto. One of our favorite things about Axel is how when he smiles, his whole face lights up. Axel is witty and excels at coming up with good ideas and contributions to class discussions. He shows compassion for other students and characters in stories. He has an enthusiasm for learning. For Axel, school did not always come easily. He was a student struggling in several

areas. Once his unique needs were identified, he was given the supports he needed. Axel actively participated and made progress. Within three years, he no longer needed extra support. Axel achieved his goals and improved across the board, including classroom academics and social interactions. He is a true success story and we could not be prouder of him. Axel we applaud and salute you. Congratulations!





# Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsd8.us



**John Staggs**  
Principal

## Fun Events Virtually!

Our Clegg families enjoyed a special Zoom Craft Night sponsored by the PTA on December 16th. The PTA provided our families with a sign-up link prior to the event, and packets with materials. They also provided a packet of hot cocoa to enjoy for those participating in the event.

The materials consisted of items that our families could use to create their own holiday ornaments. Mrs. Kresge, a teacher at Clegg, led the families on how to create these ornament from the materials provided. Our students were excited to see their friends virtually, and they all had a great time in creating their projects. Mrs. Roth, another teacher at Clegg, also volunteered her time to read a holiday story to the group during the event.



We were excited to attend a special event sponsored by our PTA on February 10th, where we played virtual bingo with our Clegg families. We also held another Craft Night on March 2nd for our families to participate in as well.

In April, we will be featuring a STEAM Night where we will have some educational fun with science experiments. We would like to thank the PTA for keeping our families connected during these difficult times.

# Finley *Computer Science Magnet School*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • finley.wsd8.us



**Pam LeMuix**  
Principal

## Bringing Traditions to Life

Keeping traditions alive during distance learning is more important than ever to help keep our young students connected and engaged in school!

This year, students at Finley Computer Science Magnet School tapped into their computer science and tech skills to bring their annual tradition of celebrating the Lunar New Year. Through many virtual lessons and activities, students across all grade levels learned about and celebrated the Vietnamese culture and Tet, the annual Vietnamese New Year celebration.

“Our students are proud of their heritage, and enjoy teaching others about their own family traditions,” explained Ms. Perry, a fifth-grade teacher. As part of their celebration, her students participated in a directed drawing lesson of a dragon, a prominent symbol in the Vietnamese culture. For some students, this was an opportunity to practice developing their digital art skills using drawing tools on the iPad or their Chromebook.

In other classrooms, students learned about Tet through read-alouds, and then used the design process to create their own dragon. Once they created their dragon, they then used their coding skills to animate their dragons and bring them to life with a Vietnamese dance.

In addition to integrating computer science and coding into these lessons, many students and staff members maintained the tradition of wearing on Zoom their ao dai, the national traditional dress of Vietnam. “These activities brought a sense of familiarity to our students, as Lunar New Year celebrations are a long-standing tradition at Finley and across the Westminster School District,” added Ms. Perry.



**Lynn Nguyen, 5th grader, used the drawing tools on her iPad to create this illustration of a traditional Vietnamese dragon during a directed art lesson. Directed art lessons provide students with the opportunity to develop drawing skills that can be transferred into their own artwork.**

# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • demille.wsd8.us



**Shannon Villanueva**  
Principal

## Celebrating Student Success!

DeMille is pleased to recognize 5th grader Brendan Nguyen as our Every Student Succeeding award recipient. Brendan has been a student at DeMille since Kindergarten, and he has the distinction of being a student in the first class of the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program in the state of California. He has worked hard to overcome speech and language obstacles, a few behavior issues, and academic challenges. Brendan is helpful, caring, and kind, with a wonderful personality. He is a hard worker with a positive attitude.



**Congratulations, Brendan  
We are so proud of you!**

Brendan always demonstrates mutual respect and integrity. He makes good decisions, not for kudos, but because it's the right thing to do. With these outstanding character traits, we know Brendan will continue to thrive. We are so proud of who Brendan is and all he has accomplished. We know he will always continue to work hard and strive to do his best. Congratulations!

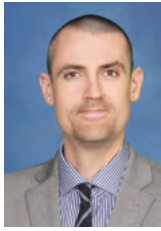
**Psst...over here...  
Are you looking  
for me for the  
contest on page 4?**





# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



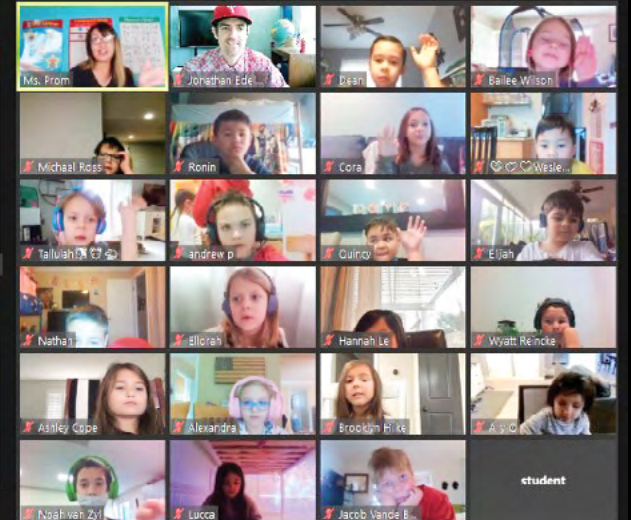
**Jonathan Edelman**  
Principal

## Staying Connected

Did you know that some penguins make nests out of pebbles? How about that penguin parents will work together for several months to take care of their chicks until they are old

enough to go out on their own? Also, different species of penguins range from only ten inches to four feet tall!

These are some of the amazing facts that the students in Ms. Prom's first-grade class learned while taking a virtual standards-based field trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium this month. Students were given the opportunity to learn about these amazing animals by seeing penguins in both their natural habitat and at the Aquarium. Students observed their unique shape, engaged in dialogue about their behavior and characteristics, and were even given a chance to practice waddling and squawking like them. Our students learned that penguin families care for and watch over their young much like their own parents watch over them.



Despite the challenges that our educators at Eastwood Elementary School have faced this year with virtual learning, they have gone above and beyond to search out creative ways to help keep their students connected and enthusiastic about learning.

# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Michelle Scheiber**  
Principal

## 2021 Teacher of the Year

Fryberger recently celebrated our 2021 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Elisabeth Clarke. Mrs. Clarke's teaching career first began when she took a position in Arizona for 3 years. She then returned to California, continued teaching and completed coursework for her Master's Degree. After a couple of years, Mrs. Clarke had the opportunity to work for a mission group. She spent

the next year teaching students on a mercy ship where she taught and traveled the world. She then met her husband and moved to Australia for a couple of years. After missing California, she returned and began teaching at Fryberger Elementary.

Mrs. Clarke has a never ending passion for making learning fun and provides students with a rich learning experience. Mrs. Clarke loves providing opportunities for students to learn while showcasing their creativity. She is always willing to try new things and her excitement is infectious. Congratulations Mrs. Clarke for this well-deserved honor!



**Mrs. Elisabeth Clarke**

# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Mark Murphy**  
Principal

## Congratulations Madyson!

Each school in the Westminster School district presents a special award to one amazing student. This award is called Every Student Succeeding and the purpose is to honor students at all grade levels who have succeeded, against all odds, beyond expectations or simply won the hearts of the administrators and other educators who helped them achieve their goals. Hayden School is very proud to name Madyson

Nguyen as our recipient. Her teacher, Mr. Perez, describes her as a student who comes in each day with a smile and a positive attitude that creates academic and social success. Madyson has overcome obstacles in her life and has continued to make progress with her academics and social awareness. Madyson has continued to have that determination and has overcome obstacles that has helped her persevere in class and recess. I am very proud of Madyson as she always tries her best in all academic and social ways.



**Madyson Nguyen seen here with her teacher, Mr. Perez in 2019.**



# Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

## New Intervention Teacher

We all know how difficult the last year has been for students, staff and families. Education has had to make tremendous changes to make lessons and instruction more engaging and effective, and here at Johnson, that is no exception.

We have been able to bring on an intervention teacher, Miguel Abascal, who has worked with students who have struggled with virtual learning and the self-discipline that comes with keeping up with school requirements from home.

Mr. Abascal and our Social Studies Department were able to identify students who were not performing up to their usual level, including students whose attendance was lacking. Students were then pulled out from their social studies classes and given a chance to receive the same content and curriculum in a smaller, more skill-targeted class environment filled with assignment modifications and incentives. Students were mentored on goal setting and individual growth.

The result of this work has shown tremendous progress for students involved, with most having huge improvements in grades, work completion and attendance. We will continue this targeted intervention during our third trimester with work in our science classes. Students will get specific instruction on how to tackle content-specific vocabulary and skills.

The Johnson staff has been diligently collaborating and working to develop quality instruction. We know that our students will continue to grow and improve thanks to the hard work and support of staff and families.

# Schmitt *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## Congratulations, Ethan!

*By Megan Tossey, Teacher – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and The Principal*

Ethan McMahon has made great strides in the last year. He has shown tremendous growth in all areas, both behaviorally and academically.

Learning can be difficult for Ethan—and in the past, he would often give up very quickly. This year, switching from virtual to in-person learning, he has become more independent in his work. He went from doing very little work to finishing most of his assignments. What has impressed me the most is that he is trying to work on his own. Rather than waiting to be prompted to do each step of a task or for a teacher or an aide to write down his thoughts and ideas, Ethan is completing the work himself. He also went from leaving the classroom whenever he was frustrated to now taking breaks, asking for help, or putting his head down.

Since the beginning of this year, Ethan has shown the grit to persevere through all academic challenges. Ethan now happily participates and tries to do all the work that is presented to him, both virtually and in person. One of my favorite parts of the day is when I walk into the multi-purpose room in the morning and Ethan waves at me to say good morning!

Ethan is sweet and hardworking, and he is a great friend to all his classmates. We are proud of Ethan, and we cannot wait to see him continue to grow in the future.



# Land School

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



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

## Ring in the Lunar New Year at Land

*By Darcy Spicer, Early Learning Specialist*

Land School celebrated Tet, the Lunar New Year, with music, crafts and fun! Children took part in the cultural event by making hats and fans in the colors of red and yellow, and Ox headbands to recognize the beginning of the Year of the Ox. Celebrations were held individually in the classrooms this year to remain compliant with the health and safety precautions in place that prevent the spread of COVID-19. Within the rooms, children danced and played instruments, while being physically distanced for safety. Many children arrived

in traditional clothing and shared stories about their family traditions with their peers in the classroom. Land School classrooms use the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) to guide the room environment and curriculum of the classes. ECERS encourages multicultural education opportunities for the children through sharing community traditions among the peers. Certainly, Tet is one of our favorite ways to share community cultures!



# Meairs *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Dr. Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Virtual Field Trips

Due to the pandemic we are experiencing almost everything has changed at school. Classrooms are empty but that does not mean learning has stopped or that teachers are not providing their students with new experiences. Field trips are still a part of the school experience. They are just a little different. Instead of getting on a school bus, we log on to our computers to visit places that the school bus would not be able to take us. The entire school went to Central California with the Dairy Council to visit a dairy farm. Kindergarten, first and second grade learned all about water from the Municipal Water District of Orange County on their virtual field trip. One of our fourth grades went to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. All of this from the safety of their own home. There is lots to do and see even if we are not on campus.







Carrie Hernandez  
Principal

**Congratulations to our Every Student Succeeding Recipient – Jasmin Cruz!**

In February, Jasmin was honored as Schroeder’s Every Student Succeeding. Jasmine earned this award for her hard work and perseverance!

Jasmin’s 6th grade teacher said the following about Jasmin: “Jasmin Cruz is one amazing student who leaves a lasting impression upon everyone she meets. She is kindhearted, sincere, and the type of student that every teacher dreams of having in class. Although our only contact has been through a computer monitor, she has shown how much she cares about her schoolwork, and even in the most difficult situations, Jasmin’s commitment to excellence is demonstrated every single day.



Jasmin is a student who meets every new challenge with a determined spirit. She works hard in all areas of her education and does not quit until she is confident in her understanding. Jasmin’s love for learning and a positive attitude make her an absolute joy to have in class. Congratulations, Jasmin. She is very deserving of this award.”



April Derr  
Principal

**Jenell Exceeds!**

We are very proud of Jenell for being Sequoia Academy’s “Every Student Succeeding” Award recipient for the 2020-2021 school year. Jenell’s 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Lagmay, says, “Jenell is enthusiastic, hardworking and ready to learn. She is friendly, kind, and always willing to help others.” Her 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Quan, says, “Jenell cares about doing her best and does high quality work on all assignments. She always has a positive attitude. She shows respect for her teachers and peers, and is always happy to participate in classroom discussions.”



Jenell gets her kind demeanor and passion for learning from her very supportive, close family. She is a shining example of a scholar who always strives to do her personal best. She is a pleasure to have at our school. We are proud of how far she has come! Keep soaring to your best, Jenell! It will take you far!



Heidi DeBritton  
Principal

**Showing Appreciation**

By Wendy Baird, Assistant Principal

At Stacey, we value the importance of giving back, showing appreciation and supporting others. Throughout the year, we offer community-service opportunities based on our students’ interests.

Our students wanted to express their gratitude to ICU medical professionals, so we gave them the opportunity to make thank-you cards for them. We were thrilled by the abundance of thank-you cards that we received—over 140 cards! We were delighted by the heartfelt messages and artistic ability of our students. The cards were full of kind words, inspiring quotes and lovely drawings. The ICU personnel were so grateful that they attended a virtual class meeting to thank our students and offer them advice for going into their profession.

Another positive outcome of this experience was that it helped build a sense of community and promoted connectedness. We will continue to offer more opportunities to give back and show appreciation.





# Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Tiffany Harville**  
*Principal*

## Diversity Reigns!

At Warner, our circumstances do not deter us from the mission we are on. Student learning continues to be a priority in spite of all the challenges the pandemic brings.

Scholars have been preparing for the English Language Proficiency Assessment of California test by attending our virtual boot camp, where they have been working on speaking, writing, reading and listening. We were excited to be able to bring some of our students back to campus safely to take the ELPAC. Students showed up and were eager to demonstrate their English skills. The ability to speak multiple languages is something to be celebrated!

Diversity is valued at Warner, which is why this month our Wildcats have been celebrating the achievements of African Americans while focusing on unity and equality. The celebration of Lunar New Year and of our Wildcat diversity could not be stopped by this pandemic! Our Wildcats brought in the New Year virtually and were still able to safely honor this incredible tradition of new beginnings.



Our unique cultures make us Wildcat strong at Warner and ultimately contribute to our collective success!

# Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Robert Murdock**  
*Principal*

## Using Distance Learning

Webber Elementary School has many innovative educators. One of those teachers, Mr. Tracy, decided to take his students on a virtual field trip to the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

On February 5th, Mr. Tracy opened his classroom's virtual session from the Wetlands. He began the session by going over the shoes he chose to wear, the sunscreen he put on, and the hat he wore to protect himself from the sun. After the preparations, Mr. Tracy then showed the students where to park when visiting the Wetlands. He also explained how to get onto the tour path.

Once Mr. Tracy got out onto the trail, he stopped and asked questions about the wildlife he encountered, and then had his students look up information about the animals they could see. The students readily answered his questions about the flora and fauna of the area. Mr. Tracy had engaged his students with a lesson that not only taught them about the environment, it also showed them a place not too far from where they live that they might visit.

Another amazing Webber teacher, Ms. Coe, took her students on a virtual field trip to her kitchen. She introduced her students to the idea of a cupcake-making contest through video clips of one such contest on television. The students first researched a cupcake recipe of their choice to find the ingredients list and directions. They practiced sequencing the events and turned their ideas into an explanatory paragraph. Ms. Coe then made the cupcakes using the instructions given to her through the students' writing.

Extra credit was given to the students who chose to make cupcakes at home with their families. These exciting ways to use technology and distance learning to bring the world to life really inspired our Webber Wolfpack to great heights!

# Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Eva Matthews**  
*Principal*

## Keeping Connected

Happy 2021! We strive to create strong connections with our students, and continue to celebrate traditions and create great memories.

In February, we celebrated TET, or the 2021 Lunar New Year. We treated our students to a virtual and interactive puppet Zodiac show, as well as participated in the Westminster High School virtual Tet presentation. Our friends from the Chua Dieu Ngu Buddhist Temple across the street from the school had a special Tet message for our students, and we are grateful for this partnership.

Although we continue virtual learning, our students are always in our thoughts and hearts. Kindness Week was another opportunity to keep our community connected, as we launched our new Instagram account. Willmore's Kindness Tree displays the names of all of our students and staff members.

Willmore is also celebrating our Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to fourth-grade teacher Sr. Juan Cortez! While being Teacher of the Year is an accomplishment at any school, when you work at the best school around it is even more impressive!



Sr. Cortez is a beloved teacher at our school. He teaches in Spanish as part of Willmore's Dual Immersion program, and we could not be more proud to have him as a colleague and a representative of Willmore.





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