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

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MAY 2015

It's a Pride Thing

By Joe Fraser, Principal,
Westminster High School

The 2014–2015 Westminster High School (WHS) Academic Decathlon team once again demonstrated their ability to rise to the top. The theme for this year's Academic Decathlon competition was energy, particularly how energy is used and what policies exist to control and regulate energy. This year's team studied 10 academic subjects, all pertaining to the theme. Students read Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* as their novel.

All told the team collected 64 individual medals at the county competition. Through their efforts, they earned first place in all of Orange County—the sixth win in nine years—and earned a trip to the state championships for the ninth consecutive year. No other Orange County team has done this within the last two decades!

The team that went to the state competition was composed entirely of seniors, and they ended up 13th



2014-15 Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) Champions:
Joseph Nguyen (S), Diana Che (V), Robert Le (H), Katherine Ho (H), Andrew Ly (H), Alan Pham (V), and Jaime Cruz (S).

overall; only 66 out of a total of 400 schools in California were invited to the competition. They were incredibly close to cracking into the exclusive top 10!

The decathletes were led by two-year decathlete and senior Andrew Ly. There were three teams with different grade-point averages. Andrew Ly, Robert Le and Katherine Ho, with alternates Nina Ho and Katherine Ly, formed the Honors Team. The Scholastic Team was composed of Jaime Cruz and Joseph Nguyen, and the Varsity Team was composed of Alan Pham and Diana Che. All but Robert and Joseph competed last year.

There are 10 coaches who donated their time, free of charge, starting last June and continuing through the competition in March. However, they felt very well rewarded when the WHS team showed again that Westminster has a lot of win in it.

It's a pride thing.

Spring-Summer Scene!



Jill Hardy
Mayor
City of
Huntington Beach

Thank you to all the high school students who recently participated in the city's Youth in Government Day! This is such a special event for me personally, and I was so pleased with the more than 150 students that came to learn about city government.

Surf City is cruising through spring with some amazing events. Recently, we announced our Special Olympics Host Town Delegation—Australia. We are proud to receive this beautiful country that happens to be home to one of our Sister Cities—Manly, Australia. We eagerly anticipate our athletes' and coaches' arrival July 21. For more information, visit our Facebook page, Host Town Huntington Beach, or the city website.

I am thrilled to announce Huntington Beach Open for Business Event, a business expo hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and City, Thursday, June 4, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall. The event is free and open to the public. This will be a great opportunity for the community to check out local businesses, hear from various city departments, and do a little shopping. Visit www.hbchamber.org for information.

In addition, the 23rd annual Duck-A-Thon, a Huntington Beach tradition, will be held Saturday, May 16 at 3 p.m. But be sure to come down for an entire weekend to not only see the rubber duck release but also to enjoy sunshine, vendors, community togetherness and tons of prizes! Visit www.duckathon.org.

Summer is almost upon us!

Summerfest is Coming!



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor
City of
Fountain Valley

The City of Fountain Valley in conjunction with the Fountain Valley Summerfest Committee is proud to once again host Fountain Valley's largest annual event, Summerfest! This summer, June 25–28, the Fountain Valley Sports Park will transform into a four-day carnival experience with rides, food, concerts, dog dock diving and more. As always, the Fountain Valley Community Foundation will be presenting the Fountain Valley Classic Car and Truck Show on Saturday, June 27. New this year, Summerfest will include a Teen Night on Thursday, June 25, to go along with \$1 rides on preview night and Inflatapalooza on Sunday, June 28th. Inflatapalooza will turn two entire soccer fields into endless bounce houses and inflatable games!

Local nonprofits and school groups are encouraged to submit applications to become food vendors at Summerfest. To get more information or to obtain a food vendor application, go to FVSummerfest.org.


And April marked the return of the Fountain Valley Market in the Park and Food Truck Frenzy at the Sports Park, until Sept. 24! Come out and enjoy great food and good people this summer in Fountain Valley. Parks make life better!



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WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Summer is around the corner. If you are making plans for your child's summer activities, there are many to choose from in our AHA Section on pages 24—24. Also, the library articles bring you up to date on their programs on pages 9, 22 & 29. The F.V and H.B. Mayor's articles on the front page inform you of summer fun. And the City of Garden Grove Strawberry Festival info is on page 5.

In this issue you will read more about the Common Core Standards, New Web-Based Assessments, and so much more.

Our next issue is June 3rd.

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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

When Your Child Has Diabetes



Laura Garcia
MSN, BSN, RN,
PHN, CVN, CDE,
CPT

Diabetes Program
Coordinator

Type 1 diabetes is a condition in which the pancreas no longer produces insulin and commonly diagnosed in school-aged children. A growing number of children also are developing type 2 diabetes that either causes the body to become resistant to insulin or the pancreas does not produce enough insulin.

The exact cause of diabetes is not known. Risk factors include a family history of type 1 diabetes and the presence of certain genes. If not well controlled, it can cause disabling or life-threatening complications, such as heart and blood vessel disease, skin problems, osteoporosis, and damage to the nerves, kidneys, eyes and feet.

Warning signs tend to develop quickly, often over a period of only a few weeks. Parents should talk with their child's pediatrician if they notice these symptoms:

- Increased thirst
- Extreme hunger
- Changes in vision
- Irritability
- Frequent urination
- Sudden weight loss
- Fatigue or lethargy

The primary test to diagnose diabetes is the random blood sugar test. Test results of 200 mg/dL or higher confirms a diagnosis of diabetes. An A1C test also can be done to show an average blood sugar level over a two to three month period. An A1C level of 6.5 percent or higher on two different tests indicates diabetes.

Diabetes cannot be cured and requires lifelong blood sugar monitoring, insulin, healthy eating and regular exercise. If a child experiences symptoms of low blood sugar, such as sweating, shakiness, dizziness, nausea or headaches, he or she should be given fruit juice, hard candy, or other source of sugar. For more information talk with your child's doctor or visit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation website at www.jdrf.org.

Where does wellness begin?

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

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

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

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Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL • MillerChildrens.org/Pulmonary



Eli Nussbaum, M.D.
Medical Director,
Pediatric
Pulmonary Center

Green Clean Your Home Using Non-Toxic Products

Many cleaning products contain ingredients and fragrances that can cause irritation and inflammation in the lungs for children with conditions like asthma and cystic fibrosis, and some may cause allergic reactions.

If your child has a lung condition, it's important to consider using non-toxic cleaning products, especially when cleaning their medical devices.

You can create simple recipes for household cleaning using non-toxic products, such as baking soda, distilled vinegar, borax, hydrogen peroxide and Murphy's Oil Soap®

General Household Cleaning Tips:

- When using a spray product, spray solution onto a cloth to contain the spray.
- Keep windows/doors open and fans on when cleaning.
- Use two pairs of cleaning gloves:
 - One for the bathroom
 - One for the rest of the home
- Add fresh lemon juice to all cleaning recipes for a pleasant smell.
- These recipes may require extra scrubbing.

Household Cleaners:

Bathroom and kitchen sinks and toilet

- Mix 1/2 cup borax and 1 gallon of water.
- Mix 3 cups water with 1/4 cup Murphy's Oil Soap®, pour on clean cloth/ sponge.
- Wipe down the cutting board and countertops with distilled vinegar.
- Mix baking soda & Murphy's Oil Soap® as a paste, baking soda alone for scrubbing.

Ovens (Do not use on self-cleaning ovens)

- Mix 1 cup of baking soda with water to make a paste.
- Spread inside oven walls, and let set for 30 minutes before scrubbing.

Wood, tile, linoleum or vinyl flooring

- Mix 2-3 capfuls of Murphy's Oil Soap® in 1 bucket of warm water.



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Orange County Department of Education

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New Web-Based State Assessments



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Next-generation assessments are coming soon to a classroom near you.

Over the last few years, California has introduced new instructional standards emphasizing critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical writing in addition to subject knowledge. And with those new standards comes the need for fresh assessments to determine what students know, how well they're learning and what supports they'll need to succeed in college and beyond.

Modernized exams created by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium were designed to do just that, and this spring they will replace some of the older paper-based, multiple-choice tests that have reigned the world of public school accountability for decades. The new assessments will be taken online in grades 3 through 8 and 11, measuring student knowledge of English and math standards. And they'll use adaptive technologies that offer a customized experience for test-takers while providing precise data to indicate which skills and content areas have been mastered.

For more information about Smarter Balanced assessments, and to take a practice test, visit <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>.

The Smarter Balanced tests will provide critical feedback to show whether students are on track to pursue colleges and careers after graduation, and teachers and schools will be able to access the results quicker than ever. But, because they are fundamentally different from previous exams, they won't initially allow for any reliable year-to-year comparisons. Instead, this year's scores will serve as a baseline for measuring progress over time, according to Christine Olmstead, the Orange County Department of Education's assistant superintendent of instructional services.

The Smarter Balanced tests may look different to students and educators, and early performance expectations should be tempered as the first scores establish baselines for measuring growth. But the results will present immediate opportunities for identifying the strengths and focusing on the needs of each student.

In 2014, California suspended its older standardized testing program to give teachers more time to prepare for this year's roll-out — and to focus on Common

Core implementation. In the meantime, a number of districts in Orange County and across the state helped field-test the new assessments.



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Crystal Olson '11, M.A.Ed. '12
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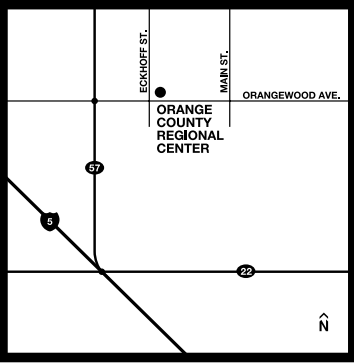
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Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Join Us: School Connectedness Abounds in FVSD

For years, the Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) has been known for its academic success. In fact, for the last several years, FVSD has been the highest performing elementary district in Orange County. As we move forward with the new set of Common Core State Standards and the new Smarter Balanced Assessments for students in third through eighth grades, it is critical that we continue this tradition of distinction.

In FVSD, our desire is to be the best at what we do: educating young minds and developing each student's talents. It is this passion for excellence that pushes us to look for additional ways to help students thrive, not only while they are with us, but well into their futures. As we begin these conversations about continuous improvement, student motivation is becoming an increasingly common topic of discussion. John Hattie, educational researcher and author, argues that altering a student's motivation to succeed, or expectations of self, just might be the strongest variable in helping all students achieve academic success.

As we look at ways to improve student motivation, research is clearly showing that school connectedness is a great place to begin. School connectedness has been defined as the students' belief that "the adults in the school care about their learning and about them as individuals," (Blum, 2005). Some of the important factors for feeling connected include academic rigor and high expectations, as well as supports for learning, strong adult-student relationships, and physical and emotional health/wellbeing. Additional thoughts on connectedness involve opportunities for students to participate in activities that go beyond the core academic program, such as clubs, service to others, peer mentorships, athletics, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and the arts.

As a newcomer to FVSD, I am proud to have already observed that connectedness is thriving in our schools! Our teachers, support staff and administrators work tirelessly to provide an environment and academic program that is nothing less than exceptional. In addition, students have countless opportunities to be involved beyond their traditional academic program. In fact, our schools, with the help of organizations like our PTAs and PTOs, offer students an extremely rich program. Some of these activities include, but are in no way limited to: the District Art Show; Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and robotics programs; Monster Concert; multi-cultural days; middle school athletic and cheer programs; Associated Student Body (ASB); plays; Lunar New Year; Walk-Through History events; Boom Town; and wax museums. And while FVSD will always be about continuous improvement, it is inspiring to see the vast number of opportunities for school connectedness that currently exist.

We hope to see you at our next event!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sandra Crandall
Clerk

Vision for the Future

It is often said that to understand the past is to understand the future. Dr. Beaubier was Fountain Valley School District's superintendent in the 1960s. Vacant land was being developed, and school-aged children were in need of schools.

Nineteen schools were built within a 10-year period. Dr Beaubier's vision for facilities was a large room, called a learning center, surrounded by six classrooms. The created spaces were open, with moveable walls, allowing students to flow in and out to work with learning coordinators. This design drew visitors from all over. Dr. Beaubier embraced collaborative teaching, and the facilities were built to support that concept.

When reading about what a 21st-century classroom looks like today, Dr. Beaubier was certainly a visionary. Many current descriptions read as follows: "four to six classrooms with glass walls, clustered around a centralized studio work area for multipurpose activities."

With implementation of Common Core State Standards, where engagement, problem-solving, communication and collaboration are key, furniture is designed to be flexible, expandable, versatile, and mobile. Much of it is on wheels, with interesting names such as huddle desks, café tables, and desk fences, to be placed in called collaboration incubators or learning plazas. One article concluded that visitors might feel like they are in an art gallery or a high-end bookstore or café rather than a typical classroom. Should facility changes be desired in Fountain Valley School District, Dr. Beaubier's facilities vision may still serve us well as a starting point.

Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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



Judy Edwards
President

Making a Positive Difference

The Fountain Valley Schools Foundation continues to grow, thereby expanding its ability to make a positive difference in the education of the 6,000 students in our schools!

It is that time of year where we look to find those who will be leaders in helping us grow in the year to come. In particular, we are looking for business people and community leaders willing to join our Advisory Board, and parents willing to serve as Foundation Ambassadors for their individual schools. Or perhaps you have other ideas as to how you can help the Fountain Valley schools? In any of these cases, please contact us today at (714) or by emailing info@fvschools.org.

We are busy organizing a Golf Tournament honoring our retired Superintendent Marc Ecker, who is well known statewide among school administrators for his strong advocacy for public education, as well as for his love of golf. Please save Monday, October 19, 2015 to join us for a round of golf at the Mile Square Golf Course!

Go to <http://www.fvschools.org/golf.html> to sign up to be kept informed of the tournament. Your early enrollment will help us market this event to others! All proceeds go to improve local schools and help neighborhood kids.

Support student success! Sign up for our newsletter and help us better prepare our Fountain Valley students for their futures! Visit FVschoools.org! Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FVschooolsFoundation>.



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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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Chris Christensen
Principal

Congratulations Danielle Dennis

Courreges Elementary School is proud to select Danielle Dennis as our 2015 Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Dennis has had a tremendous impact on both students and staff members at Courreges. As a special education teacher, Danielle goes above and beyond to meet the individual needs of her students. She differentiates her instruction to meet all levels of students in her class, as well as gives special attention to those students in most need of educational and emotional encouragement.

Outside of her regular teaching duties, Danielle is always willing to step-up to volunteer whenever needed. Her dedication to students and Courreges, as a whole, is both admirable and inspiring.

Congratulations Mrs. Dennis!



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

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



Kevin Johnson
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Athletic Prowess

While Fulton is always proud of our strong history of high performance with regard to academics, we are also quite proud of the athletic prowess of our Falcons! Recently in the district-wide tournament, Fulton boys captured the cup! Pictured are: Severo De La Riva, Brandon Krause, Austin Hoang, Brad Knipe, Cole Jiannino, Mateo Wilson, Jackson Ouellette, Tanner Sonoda, Kishaun Sykes,

Warren Cha, Jake Brooks, Bijan Hassanzadeh, Tyler Huang, and Jacob Bixler. Recent record mile times include: Kishaun Sykes at 5:57, Coltin Dowland at 5:54 and Kristopher Anderson at 6:17. Recent girls records are Hannah Farrow at 7:06, Sophie Lopez at 6:30 and Kalealoe Nakashima at 6:40. Current Boys Cross



Country records are Cory Taylor & Jackson Ouelette tied at 5:44, Coltin Dowland at 6:08 and James Templin at 6:37. Girls Cross Country records are Emily Olson at 7:10, Sophie Lopez at 6:41 and Alex Beck at 6:58.

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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Multicultural Day Cox Elementary

Cox Elementary celebrates the wonderful diversity of our student population. Cox school is very special in that we have students from all corners of the globe. It is a beautiful and common

sight to see our student from diverse cultures and ethnicities playing and collaborating together in the classroom and on the playground. Our 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Hopkins and Principal, Mr. Patrick Ham helped coordinate the Multicultural Day celebration day this year. It is a 35 year old tradition which includes the "Across the Globe Fashion Show" along with the Ane Thanh Lion Dancers. Our celebration represented more than 100 students and 30 countries. We celebrated the wonderful diversity that is Cox Elementary School!!!



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

Rich Instruction and Learning

Gisler and the Fountain Valley School District are proud to honor Mrs. Knobel as our school's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year.

According to a nominating peer, "Joanna is a leader and a mentor to our staff in the area of math. She is extremely knowledgeable, highly driven, and always willing to share and train others in her areas of expertise. She wants what is best for the students, and is always looking for ways and strategies to make her lessons purposeful. Working with her is truly amazing. She not only pushes herself, but also those around her!"

Another colleague states, "She is creative, passionate, and strives to be the best in her profession. If an idea pops in her head, Joanna will follow it through until it is done, and not just done but perfect! Her passion comes from wanting what is best for children, and they are at her heart in all of this. She isn't just teaching children to love math, but to excel at it. She deserves to be recognized for all of her efforts."

In addition to working well with students, Joanna Knobel is also a mentor to others. Through her work with teachers we have implemented Counting Collections, Number Talks, Kathy Richardson's Developing Number Sense, and most recently, Factwise that support the CCSS. Videos are watched, and rich discussions of math instruction are held.

Joanna has extended these math meetings to the teachers at our other District schools. With its support, she has also held staff development meetings for anyone who is interested. Joanna has an open door policy that allows teachers from Gisler and other sites to come and witness the amazing instruction and learning that occurs every day in her classroom.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

Teacher of the Year

Masuda Middle School is proud to honor Mrs. Jill Crooks, an English/language arts teacher, as our Teacher of the Year. Her nominating peers have all used the same phrases to describe her: dedicated, loved, respected, and outstanding! She is touted as an amazing team player who shares best practices and always shows professionalism. She often collaborates with coworkers and is always open to change, create, and share. Mrs. Crooks is also “for the students!” She helps students gain responsibility and is always on their side to help them succeed.

We are blessed by her “will-do” work ethic. Not only her students, 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.



Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Annual Spring Sing

By Jennifer Kajdasz, Interim Principal

Plavan panthers sang their hearts out to a standing room only audience. Each grade level wowed their family members and guests by singing or playing an instrument that helped showcase the Spring season or curriculum they are learning in class. The teachers and students have been working hard and logged in many practice hours and it sure paid off because the show knocked our jaws off! The performance warmed hearts and made many smile as the efforts of the teachers and students were evident. After the performance, students were able to join their guests for photo opportunities along with a well deserved snack courtesy of the PTO. Our Plavan panthers should be proud of their mighty program.



Mrs. Kha's 1st grade class.

William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal

Teaching With a Smile

Newland Elementary School recently announced our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Kitahara. Mrs. Kitahara exemplifies the virtues of a wonderful teacher. She truly loves her students and has a deep respect for the profession. She is always smiling, has a fresh, positive, and balanced approach in all she does for the school, and is a tremendous resource for the entire staff.

Mrs. Kitahara is passionate about educating her students and always seems to have the highest amount of energy when she is



with them. She has a classroom management style that is hard to explain but amazing to witness, and it is definitely all her own. She just has this way with students that is infectious. She has this “It” quality that makes everyone of her students love to learn! She is a part of everything that makes Newland great.

In other words, Mrs. Kitahara is an exemplary teacher, and Newland is proud to have her as our Teacher of the Year.

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Congratulations, Mrs. Hopkins!

Recently, Mrs. Heather Hopkins was selected as the Oka Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2014–2015. While Mrs. Hopkins has always been an outstanding teacher, there is something different about her this year. Although she has been in the discussion of Teacher of the Year previously, this year it was clear that her focus was to take students to higher levels of learning that they had never known to be possible.

Mrs. Hopkins has unparalleled precision in delivering instruction that is all about ensuring transformational learning.

Her use of Depth and Complexity icons is woven into the core of student learning and is common vernacular for her fifth-graders. Mrs. Hopkins has her students bridging connections between what they’re learning and their own life experiences to better support student understanding and meaning.

Another unique part of Mrs. Hopkins’s classroom is the Adopt-a-Pilot program, supported by an international airline. Captain Scott Biedermann has spent half a dozen class sessions helping students bring math, science, space, and engineering to life. This continued annually because of the work Mrs. Hopkins has done to provide and maintain learning in a truly unique way.

As a teacher who quickly adopted Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) in prior years, she has helped embed the successful use of technology in her classroom as a foundational part of learning, not just an ancillary tool to have fun. Students can routinely be found working collaboratively to complete projects across all curriculum areas. The many students who may have had some challenges before entering fifth grade are now thriving under the care and instruction of Mrs. Hopkins.

On behalf of the Oka Wolfpack, congratulations on being recognized for making such a positive difference in the lives of your students.

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

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

Being the Best

The energy is audible, the enthusiasm is unmatched, and the dedication to craft is second to none. Our Talbert Middle School band and orchestra members are truly music to the ears, and this is proven at every performance.

Our school's musicians dedicate themselves to being the best, and have been wowing audiences from Fountain Valley High to this

year's Talbert Open House. They continue to improve too, and are currently preparing for the district-wide monster concert. From Another One Bites the Dust to music from Harry Potter, our musicians continue to “up” the level of complexity in their pieces.

Kristin Robertson, Talbert's music teacher, recently commented about the program. “What's great about the classes is that you don't have to know anything about music to start.”

What makes this all a pleasant surprise is how quickly and early on in the school year our students at each level have worked together in perfect harmony!



Fountain Valley Library

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

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

A Teacher's Purpose

Katie Mullen has been teaching at Tamura for four years. She has taught first grade and kindergarten. She is the site art rep for Tamura, helping to execute the District Art Show and coordinate the arts for the school site.

Additionally, Ms. Mullen is the FVSD teacher representative and speaker at Kindergarten Readiness Night. She works collaboratively with her grade-level team, bringing many new ideas and implementing the new Common Core Standards.

Of course, all teachers know that the most important component of the many-faceted jobs as an educator is what happens inside the four walls of the classroom, and this is where her strongest commitment lies. She never underestimates the impact that her actions and words have on her students. She truly feels that each child is placed with her not by happenstance but with purpose.

With her constant smile and compassion, Ms. Mullen is loved by her students and peers alike. Tamura is proud to have her as our Teacher of the Year!



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

End-of-Year Events

The Fountain Valley Library continues to have a storytime for toddlers from ages two to five every Wednesday, from May 6 through June 10 at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories, songs, crafts and coloring! The Library also continues to offer Kids Craft for children from ages three to 16 every first Tuesday of the month, from 3:30–4:30 p.m. We will also be having a children's movie on Monday, May 18 at 3:30 pm. Call the Library at 714-962-1324 for more information.

Every third Saturday of the month we invite and encourage children to increase their skills by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. You can sign up at the Fountain Valley Library Information Desk.

Our Summer Reading Program begins on June 22. Teens interested in volunteering can pick up an application beginning on May 11. Teen volunteers are available to assist elementary and middle school students with their homework, or act as reading buddies. Students are restricted to 15 minutes of help when others are waiting. This service continues through May 28.

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

Teen Movie Saturdays are every first Saturday of the month at 2:15 p.m. Our Teen Activities Board selects movies rated PG or PG-13. The Teen Advisory Board also invites children, teens, and parents to enjoy the various board games available during “Game Time” on Saturday, May 23, from 2–3 p.m.

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

Huntington Beach City School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Haulk

The New Math Materials are Coming!

In the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD), we are excited to let you know that, as part of our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), we are in the process of purchasing Common Core materials for mathematics.

After a very thorough process, which lasted a majority of this school year and involved many of our teachers piloting available materials from many different publishers and then comparing both their data and information from the California Department of Education, we have made the decision to purchase

the materials from McGraw-Hill. Starting next year, our kindergarten through fifth-grade students will be using the McGraw-Hill My Math program, and our middle school students will be using the California Math program for courses 1–3, as well as the McGraw-Hill materials for accelerated math in seventh and eighth grades and our algebra course. All of these materials have been used in multiple classrooms this year during the pilot programs, and the committee overwhelmingly agreed that the McGraw-Hill materials were best for HBCSD.

As the new materials are implemented next year, you will start seeing more relevant materials and real-life applications. The materials have a technology component, which will not only support our students through available tutoring of each concept but will allow parents to understand the concepts and materials their students are learning and be a part of the education team.

The purchase of new math textbooks and materials is the beginning of a multi-year process, which will be bringing new textbooks and materials in English/language arts, English Language Development, and science. Along with the textbooks and materials, HBCSD will continue to strengthen and expand our technology infrastructure and make available even more technology tools for our students to use on a daily basis.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our Educational Services Department for their tremendous work over this past year to ensure our trial process was collaborative and transparent, and a special thank you to the teachers who gave their time, energy, and expertise.

Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



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Shari Kowalke
President

Successful Transition

This school year has been exciting as our students experience the current educational transformation known as Common Core. The Orange County Department of Education states, “The foundation for success in the 21st century will be the ability to think critically, solve problems creatively, and to communicate and collaborate effectively. The Common Core State Standards will provide opportunities for students to acquire and perfect these 21st century skills.” In the Huntington Beach City School District, we are embracing and offering these opportunities, and will do our utmost to ensure that our students are guaranteed a rigorous educational experience.

As part of the transition to new standards, California has implemented a new testing system, called Smarter Balanced, which is meant to evaluate student achievement in a more meaningful way by leveraging technology that tailors questions to responses.

These evaluations are well beyond the bubble tests. The new standards and tests will:

- Reflect that California has raised the bar significantly regarding its expectations of all students;
- Promote students to think more deeply and critically about the content they learn in school across disciplines;
- Encourage educators to provide deeper learning opportunities for students;
- Measure student progress toward college-and-career readiness, enabling educators to diagnose any problems and intervene accordingly; and
- Test student achievement in a more meaningful way by leveraging technology that tailors questions to responses.

There are several types of assessments used in each of our schools, including benchmark assessments administered throughout the year, as well as a year-end assessment. These tests allow teachers to check on student progress.

To make these assessments worthwhile, they should:

- Be high-quality. Assessments should measure students’ ability to think critically, synthesize material from multiple sources, and analyze problems. High-quality tests are aligned to standards that prepare students for success beyond high school.
- Measure what matters. Tests should cover what students learn in class and help predict their performance at the end of the year.
- Provide meaningful results that inform instruction. Results from assessments should identify students’ strengths and weaknesses, allowing teachers to improve instruction.
- Go beyond multiple-choice. Tests should include a variety of questions not just multiple-choice. Writing prompts and math questions that require students to formulate equations or explain their reasoning demonstrate that students truly understand the content.

If you would like more information about Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), I encourage you to visit the HBCSD website at www.hbcasd.us/. You may also wish to visit the websites of the California Department of Education at www.cde.ca.gov or the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>.

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Jenn Kinkel
*Director
Early Childhood
Education*

Self-Regulation in Early Childhood

Picture yourself in a classroom with 24 three-year-olds, and it is easy to understand the importance of self-regulation.

Self-regulation helps children gain an awareness of their own feelings, needs, and impulses. It allows them to calm themselves, control their behavior, and focus on tasks. Children with developed self-regulation skills find it easier to make friends, concentrate in the classroom environment, internalize school routines, effectively navigate through conflicts, and delay gratification.

Another compelling reason for developing a strong sense of self-regulation is that children will then build the capacity to make intentional choices, whether or not an adult is watching.

In high-quality early learning environments, a large portion of the day is dedicated to child-led play, which facilitates the development of self-regulation skills. Perhaps Lev Vygotsky said it best. “In play, a child always behaves beyond his average age, above his daily behavior. In play, it is as though he were a head taller than himself.”

Children who have ample time in their day to play have many chances to feel their big feelings and to learn appropriate outlets. They learn how to comfort a friend, ask for help, and understand and comply when it’s time to transition within a structured classroom environment.

Preschool instructors working with young children play a key role in developing self-regulation. It is their responsibility to create an inviting and enriching environment that can act as an open invitation to play. They are there to help children define their feelings and to vocalize them -- to scaffold the new ideas and tasks. Instructors can develop curriculum from the interests of the children to enhance learning in all domains of development.

Self-regulation is closely tied to a child’s later academic success in kindergarten and beyond, and it begins in the early years!

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

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



Dr. Morgan Smith
Principal

A Gold Ribbon School Success

Our Dwyer Middle School teachers have a lot to be proud of these days!

As a vital school community, we have two programs that our students have

discovered a strong connection to: visual and performing arts, and physical education. Dwyer was also recently invited to apply for California’s Gold Ribbon School program, an official recognition that evaluates various qualitative data to determine the strength of a school.

Dwyer students have the opportunity to follow a progressive pathway of elective classes, from introductory to advanced, which allows them to move onto more advanced courses in the high school district. For instance, Dwyer’s physical education program uses cutting-edge technology with iPads, custom-built apps, and outdoor Wi-Fi to increase student engagement and teacher efficiency.

Our teams recently demonstrated these programs to the Gold Ribbon evaluation team, and we hope to host tours for other schools interested in modeling these efforts after they’ve seen Dwyer’s success!



Huntington Beach Central Library

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

Summer Fun



Barbara Richardson
*Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services*

Many special Library events, programs and storytimes are being planned for the summer!

Our annual Festival of Folktales, which celebrates the beginning of summer vacation with games, shows, and other fun activities, will take place on Tuesday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Library. This year’s summer reading program is called “Read to the Rhythm.” From June 22 through July 31, children, teens, and adults can keep track of their summer reading by registering online at www.hbpl.org.

Teens and adults can track the books they read and then earn raffle tickets for gift baskets. The children can also choose to keep track of the books they read or listen to, or keep track of the time they spend reading. When they reach a certain amount they can then choose a prize from our coupon box. Those who complete the whole program will be able to choose a prize from the treasure chest and a book.

Our program’s goal is for participants to read at least three hours a week. The children’s reading program will end with a special free event at the Central Park Bandstand. This will take place on Saturday, August 1 at 10:30 a.m. All reading program participants and families are invited to attend. Those children who do will be entered into a special raffle to win a giant stuffed Little Critter doll, as well as other fun prizes.

Teens from ages 12 to 18 who are interested in being volunteers for this summer program may start applying on May 1, also at hbpl.org. Look for the Teen Summer Application button. Teen volunteers will be invited to a pizza party at the end of the program.

More information about our upcoming events can be found on the Library’s Facebook page and Web site.

Contest!!

This reading girl is hidden
three places in
in this publication.
When you find her,
email the
pages number to:



Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put FHOW in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by May 20, 2015
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a
\$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations to Nicholas Tjoa
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!

John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall
Principal

Author-Illustrator Dazzles Students

The Eader Eagles are fortunate to be provided a variety of many art opportunities! On March 9th, the cafeteria was full of laughter and intrigue as local artist, Scott E. Sutton, kept all of the Eader Eagles enthralled with his creative cartoonery. Mr. Sutton had all students on the edge of their seats with his captivating stories, tips for writing, and awesome demonstrations on how to draw his enchanting characters. Students saw drawing come to life and had the opportunity to buy his books and have him sign them after assemblies. He was a delight and the students were anxious to read his books and try their talent at drawing illustrations for their own stories! Thank you, Mr. Sutton!



Local author and illustrator, Scott Sutton, visits Eader!

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Visitors From Japan

We had the honor of hosting an educational delegation from Huntington Beach's sister city, Anjo, Japan. The delegation, as seen in the photograph, was comprised of: Mr. Kazuya Kamiya, President of the Anjo International Association; Mr. Haruki Sugiyama, Superintendent of Education, Anjo City; and Mr. Atsushi Imai of the Education Department. Not shown are Carmen Erber, President of the Sister City Association, and her husband, George. Keiko Kadota was our translator.

We visited many classrooms to show our visitors how we implement technology. We found out the city of Anjo oversees all of their schools; they do not have a separate school district. The Anjo delegation was interested in our math programs, how a school district is organized, and the hiring process for teachers and the principals. They left with their notepads full and headed off to a very Southern California lunch!



Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

Making a Difference

At Hawes, we believe in developing a strong sense of social responsibility in each of our students. This belief is evident in a variety of ways: a student coordinating a "Teens for Jeans" drive and collecting over 500 pairs of pants; another student spearheading a "Locks for Love" challenge; organizing toy collections for the Spark of Love, and more.

One of our structured programs designed to develop a sense of social responsibility is our Student Council. Through the coordination efforts of second-grade GATE teacher Christine Zeutzius, students in grades three to five can now represent their class in this group. This allows students a voice in the creation and implementation of school-wide programs which teach them the importance of giving back beyond the boundaries of the school.

With the mantra of "Keep Calm and Lead On," our Student Council has organized and hosted our school's annual Veteran's Day assembly. They have also presented information about our character traits at the monthly awards assemblies, participated in a beach clean-up day, created and delivered Valentine's Day cards to a local senior center, and implemented recess intramurals and other activities that recognize students for their good deeds.

One recent idea from the Student Council is the formation of a group called the "Hawesome Heroes." These children student-buddy with their special needs friends in order to ensure a full inclusion in recess activities. We are excited by the ideas that our students generate, and know that their contributions will make a difference at school and beyond. We can all make a difference!

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Reading All Week!

We had an exciting week in March at Moffett School, filled with fun and creative learning activities oriented toward the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Theodore Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss. Students brought books from home to share with their classmates. They also committed to turning off the TV and electronics for one night. In exchange for their efforts, students received Dr. Seuss-themed awards. Spirit was also created through activities including Stop, Drop and Read and the clothing-themed Mismatch Day, Green like a Grinch Day and Read Me Day.

To celebrate all the work and creative energies put forth throughout the week, students on Friday participated in Guest Reader Day. Grandparents came



Grandparent Bridgette Furiga with grandchildren Isabella and Tate Shelton, and Read Across America Week coordinator Mary McCalment.

to Moffett and shared some of their favorite children's books with students in our Gallery. The week was an enjoyable learning experience for our students, celebrating both a birthday and a love of reading.

A close-up photograph of two young girls with light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. They are wearing a pink and orange striped shirt. The photo is set within a light blue oval frame.

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smiles
bright futures

Changing lives, one smile at a time!



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Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

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



Renee Polk
Principal

Great Learning Experiences!

The past few months, our Perry students have had the opportunity to have a lot of incredible experiential learning opportunities!

Our kindergarten classes visited Centennial Farms in Costa Mesa. Centennial Farms is a three-acre working farm created to educate youth about agriculture and its importance in daily life. Our first-grade classes visited the Heritage Museum/Kellogg House in Orange County, where they had an opportunity to discover what life was like in Orange County one hundred years ago. Our second- and third-grade students visited ExplorOcean in Newport Beach, where many of them went on their first boat ride and all of them participated in hands-on science activities that are centered on the theme of ocean literacy. Our fourth-grade students attended the UC Irvine Water Education Festival, where they learned about local water issues and about how they can take part in protecting our water supply and the environment.

Our fifth-grade students attended their outdoor science camp at The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center in March. This was an incredible outdoor-education experience that enabled our fifth-grade students to explore the outdoors while developing creativity, leadership and a respect for the outdoors. This outdoor experience was also aligned with science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, physical education, and visual- and performing-arts standards.

And in June, our transitional kindergarten classes are looking forward to the Aquarium on Wheels marine-science education program that will be traveling to Perry for what is sure to be a great day of hands-on learning fun!

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

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



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Outdoor Science School

Smith School's fifth-grade students have a unique opportunity to learn about science through our Outdoor Science School program. Recently, 160 students traveled to Arrowhead Ranch Pine Crest Camp for four days and three nights of hands-on science activities.

Students are grouped into cabins with camp counselors and spend the week doing group activities, including seven hikes, a favorite of the students. Their trail leaders teach them about habitats, wildlife, and the importance of hydrating! Their favorite

is the night hike, where they learn about astronomy and nocturnal animals. Students record what they have learned in science journals. Skit Night is also a blast! Teachers and counselors perform for the students, and then students perform their group skit. This is always a highlight of the week. Students create bonds and memories at camp that last a lifetime!



John R. Peterson *Elementary*

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



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

Fun Run

The Peterson Elementary School Dolphins laced up their running shoes on March 20 to raise over \$17,000 for their school. Over 700 students from preschool and fifth grade ran laps on the school's field during 25-minute sessions throughout the morning as part of the school's PTA Fun Run.

The school's principal, Dr. Polhemus, who ran the Boston Marathon on April 20, ran with each of the six grade-level groups. Students were challenge to calculate the distance Dr. P would run during the morning. Danielle Sparks, a third-grader, calculated 13.89 miles and came closest to the actually mileage of 13.92. Gianna Ioja, a second-grader, raised the most money and won the chance to be Principal for the Day. Fifth-grader, Isabella Gruber collected donations from 40 individual donors.

It was a great day at Peterson Elementary School!



Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

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



Dr. Cynthia Guerrero
Principal

Addressing NGSS and Common Core

Interdisciplinary science projects, such as the Roller Coaster unit, not only address the Next Generation Standards in scientific and engineering practices – cross-cutting concepts such as energy/matter and structure/function – they also go across disciplines to include the physical sciences, engineering, technology, and the applications of science.

In addition, interdisciplinary projects integrate other content areas such as language arts, math, history, and electives by having portions of the project taught and assessed in those content areas. Electives such as marine biology, animation,

computer literacy, and study skills support science education through its application of technology. Each science class incorporates hands-on learning activities each week with research and inquiry based learning, while incorporating technology to gather and present data and research.

Models, simulations, research projects, field trips, and labs show students how the scientific method can be applied to everyday life, while increasing problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Illuminate, our online assessment program, is used to create standards-based assessments that match the rigor with a variety of Depth of Knowledge and Bloom's Taxonomy performance tasks and questions.

Each science standard is correlated to the cognitive demands of both English Language Arts standards and math standards. Conversely, the Common Core Standards are noted in the architecture of each individual science standard. Therefore, integrating science across all disciplines and content areas increases school-wide achievement by providing students with opportunities to develop the cognitive demands and competencies of the 21st century; thus improving student achievement and underrepresented subgroups. It provides a high level of engagement so that students may attain emotional, social, behavioral, and academic success.

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gustavo Balderas, D. Ed.

The Value of Learning Outside the Classroom

Outdoor education is a phenomenal experience for students. These opportunities can support and reinforce curriculum in the most interesting and engaging of settings. Students working together in small, professionally-facilitated groups deal directly with concepts such as leadership, inclusiveness, the value of working toward a common goal, and the recognition of the unique attributes each individual can bring to a team. The outdoor education experience is designed to stimulate minds, build character, and create excitement about science and an appreciation for nature.

Ocean View School District offers various outdoor education opportunities at several schools. Some providers, such as Tiger Woods Learning Center in Anaheim, offer day camps that provide many interactive and innovative learning experiences. Others, such as Riley’s Farm in Oak Glen, offer overnight experiences for students and focus on content-specific themes. Both opportunities provide students with a deeper understanding of the curriculum, the environment, their community, and their roles within each. Students learn concepts not easily taught in a classroom setting. Some of the activities included at the various sites include hands-on science experiments, such as fingerprinting, DNA analysis, squid dissection, marine-life classification, stations that focus on the American Revolution, and a mock battle recreation. Outdoor education experiences provide lasting memories for students that they will cherish for a lifetime!

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



Paul James
Principal

Builders of Future Generations

There is a children’s book titled What Do People Do All Day? The stories in the book discuss the important roles that people have each day and describe the process of each component of these jobs and how things are made in our world. Stories such as “Building a Road,” “Constructing a House,” and “Making an Airplane” explain in intricate detail the step-by-step process. Here at Pleasant View Elementary School/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool, our chapter of the book would be “Who Are the Builders of Builders?”

We are fortunate to have a team of builders who provide the foundation for children to learn, explore, and grow in a nurturing and caring atmosphere. This fantastic team of teachers plans, prepares, and creatively thinks to help our students succeed each day. They magically work their craft to perfection and reflect on each child’s needs to build their students so that they can be the builders for our future generations.

We are thankful to have Cindy Atkinson, Christina Llata, Kathie Favazza, Marie Schools, Elke Day, Katy Nachbaur, Michelle Wall, Kim Hunter, Genie Peterson, Caroline Rodriguez, and Theresa Crockett as our builders, and we look forward to seeing the amazing chapters they are building in the lives they touch each day.

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Gina Clayton-Tarvin
President

Outstanding Orators

I am pleased to report that the First Annual Surf City Optimist Club Oratorical Contest was a resounding success for the students of Ocean View School District! On Tuesday, March 24, 2015, students from Mesa View and Vista View Middle Schools gave well-prepared and masterfully orated speeches, addressing the topic “How My Optimism Will Help Me Press On to Greater Achievements of the Future.” Medallions and cash prizes were awarded to winners, with first-place recognition going to Julian Falagan of Mesa View and Kelly Nguyen of Vista View. These two winners will move on to the Optimist Club district-wide contest, which will occur in May in Long Beach.

Mesa View Principal Randy Lempert and teachers from both Mesa View and Vista View were in attendance to support their students. The contest was hosted by the Surf City Optimists at Rancho Del Rey Clubhouse near the Huntington Harbour.

Gordon Briggs, Surf City Optimist President, Ocean View School District Board Member Jack Souders, and I were honored to serve as judges for the event. A special thank you to Fred Clayton for coordinating this wonderful opportunity!



Surf City Optimist Club Oratorical Contest participants with Board President, Gina-Clayton-Tarvin, Principal Randy Lempert, and OVSD teachers.

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Circle View *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

Taking On Technology

Thanks to the diligent fund-raising efforts of our wonderful PTO and community, the students of Circle View Elementary School are exploring the world of netbooks! Our third- through fifth-grade students are actively using our new set of netbooks weekly in their classes, with our primary students coming on board soon!

Circle View students have their own Google Apps for Education accounts and are learning how to use technology to create, save, and share their work in the “cloud.” Students can start projects at school, finish them at home, and collaborate with their peers, all without worrying about losing their flash drives!



The teachers are amazed at the technology skills of our students, and roles have even been reversed lately! Students are acting as teachers to their peers, showing off their latest technology know-how!

We are so grateful to our community for their support of our initiative to increase student access to technology at Circle View School!

College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Literacy Night

Approximately 250 students, parents, and staff members attended the College View Elementary School Literacy Night held on Thursday, February 12. Children and their parents participated in language arts activities led by College View teachers, including: Wonderful Words, a sight-word game; Musical Books, a version of musical chairs (pictured); Site Word Bingo; Reader's Theater; Story Web; and a puppet show presented by Meadow Griffin.



In addition, our PTA opened the book fair for some late-night purchases, and we sold over \$2,400 worth of books! Pizza combo meals were sold, and families enjoyed dining under the stars and listening to music in our courtyards. It was a fantastic venue for parents and children to spend a fun and educational evening together.

Thank you to all the teachers, staff, and parents who made our Literacy Night possible.

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

We Love Our SELF

At Golden View Elementary School, our Student Environmental Learning Facility (SELF) has been an integral part of our community since its inception in the 1970s. Although it has undergone many transformations over the decades, there are some things that have never changed. Students have an opportunity to study plants and animals and explore nature. Students in fourth and fifth grades have the unique opportunity to help maintain the farm during weekly SELF work rotations, and all classrooms also have garden plots.

SELF is also available to community organizations, such as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America. Our wonderful presidential turkey enclosure was built by a dedicated Boy Scout earning his rank of Eagle Scout. Recently, local Girl Scout troop 1167 earned their bronze award designing and building a gate to keep the goats and sheep out of the duck shelter. We very fortunate to have the SELF.



Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Upcycling Event

To earn their Bronze Award, Harbour View Girl Scout Junior Troop 1982 planned and executed a spirit wear “Upcycling” event, held on campus in March and April. Interested students were invited to bring their outgrown but still wearable spirit wear to school so they could trade it for shirts that were a better fit. The girls collected, organized, and distributed the spirit wear as part of their efforts to earn the Bronze Award, which is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. In addition, they requested that students go through their home libraries and donate books

for the classrooms of our kindergarten and first grade friends from Lake View. We are so proud of the efforts of these wonderful 5th graders!



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Hope View Strong!

On behalf of the Hope View staff, a very heartfelt thank you to all our stakeholders for rallying together to offer support, resources, time and energy as we all worked together throughout the relocation process to our various sites. Our dedicated staff, understanding families, phenomenal children and generous community and business partners lent their help and resources to keep us, “Hope View Strong.”

This has been a year we will never forget. In speaking with staff, students, families and community members, the same positive aspects of our relocation have become a theme. We are grateful that the outreach of understanding, support and compassion has come in so many different forms. We are thankful for the generosity of businesses, church groups, individuals, agencies, organizations, educational partners and corporations for helping us through this transition while we continued to support our children with the best education possible.

Safety, academic achievement and emotional support for all our students and staff continue to be our highest priority. We are truly grateful to be a part of such a caring and committed community. Throughout this experience we have seen our school motto, “Hope for the Future, Make a Difference Today” modeled through the outreach of support we continue to receive.

Marine View *Middle School*

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



William Lynch
Principal

Spring Events

This year’s annual Science Fair at Marine View Middle School was a huge success!

Every eighth-grader investigated a topic of their choosing, and have been conducting research and collecting data since October. Their hard work paid off at the annual event, where the students presented their findings to the teachers, parents, district personnel, and community members.

At the end of the fair, the sixth- and seventh-grade students were able to tour the projects and get a preview of what’s to come when they are in the eighth grade.

This year the school was able to send their top 17 projects to the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. The student representatives for the 2015 school year will be Kyle Ando, Josh Beckham, Sophie Busher, Emily Davenport, Shaun Diem Lane, Morgan Halsey, Charlotte Hennessey, Jacob Jackson, Ethan Lee, Danielle Leuer, Jenna Nighswonger, Quinn Ragan, Rachel Rohrbacker, Madeline Sandstead, Shyann Singleton, Sejal Spicely, and Allison Stauffer. We wish these students all the best at the Fair!



Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

STEM Night

To celebrate our STEM program with our families, Lake View recently held a special “STEM Night” event. Here our fourth- and fifth-grade students were able to launch their rockets in the field and compete for the titles of Highest Altitude, Longest Flight Time, and Best Decorated.

We also showcased our robotics program. As part of our new “Green City” course, the teams demonstrated how their robots have mastered tasks like plugging the dam, mounting the solar panel, and activating the trash bins. We are one of the few elementary schools with a thriving robotics program, and we were happy to show it off!



There were also several fun family engineering activities set up in the multipurpose room to help guests view the engineering design process in action. This was a wonderful opportunity for our school to share the many exciting aspects of this STEM program. We are celebrating a successful year with our Lake View families!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

Open for Business

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers and donors who have helped make the Mesa View garden expansion a true community project!

A year-long vision finally came to fruition after we received a \$5,000 grant (and additional donations) from our Mesa View families and staff, which totaled an additional \$4,000. Over a three-day period, approximately 60 students, staff members, parents, volunteers, and local businesses devoted their time and energy to help complete this project.

From demolition and grading, to building raised planter beds and a potting demonstration table -- and culminating with adding irrigation and fruit trees -- the expanded Mesa View garden is now open for business.



Our Nutrition through Gardening teacher, Mrs. Manz, is thrilled about the garden expansion. “The extension of our garden represents our flourishing program and supportive community,” she recently remarked. This project has given us an extraordinary opportunity to create healthy, knowledgeable organic gardeners.

Oak View *Elementary*

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



Francesca Ligman
Interim Principal

TCM Reads Across Oak View

March 2nd is always a special day for educators. It's Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America events are initiated. This year, Teacher Created materials gave our Oak View Students a truly memorable day Oak View students were showered with 70 volunteers in each classroom and a generous backpack giveaway. Each classroom from TK to 5th grade had TCM employees lead a reading activity. These activities ranged from Reader's Theater to matching rhymes that Dr. Seuss is famous for. Then each student was awarded with a backpack full of nonfiction books to promote the Common Core shifts. Out students are building home libraries to promote literacy for themselves and siblings to follow. The students were elated and proudly still wear the backpacks to school.



Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Thank You, PTSA!

It's hard to believe that as I write this article, there are fewer than 50 days of school remaining in the 2014–15 school year! As we begin to round the home stretch, I would like to thank our wonderful PTSA. They are a small but powerful group of dedicated individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty.

This year, the PTSA donated over \$25,000 to help replace outdated SMART Boards and SMART Board projectors and also update computers in the computer lab. In addition, they help to offset the cost of many other field trips and activities that benefit our Spring View Students.

I would like to personally thank Ginny Bates, PTSA president; Andrea Legrand, Open House and Silent Auction coordinator; Pam Jones, vice president of membership; Jerry Falbo, treasurer; Jill Proodian, parliamentarian; and Ann De Young, secretary. These fantastically giving individuals have a tremendous impact on the Spring View Campus and often go unrecognized for their efforts and sacrifice.

Are you looking for this library girl
for the contest on page 11?
You'll need this page number
for the contest entry.



Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Preschool Trike-a-thon

Our Oak View Preschool families have big hearts!

In late March, over 250 preschool and TK students participated in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Trike-a-Thon. Two weeks before the event, our children, families, and staff members collected a total of \$1,705.39!

The biggest contributor was a child from Miss Yezmina's afternoon class. David Metts collected \$383.70 all by himself! His mother, Jessica Ortega, said that David wanted to help the sick

children, and so he asked each of his family members and friends for a donation. We are very proud of David's efforts, and the large donation he made to the hospital.

Congratulations go to the entire Oak View community for helping to make a positive difference in the lives of the children who depend upon St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for their care.



Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Safety First!

Star View had a great time at their first rodeo—actually, a Bike Rodeo! In March, the Westminster Police Department's Bike Team came to the school to educate the students on proper bike safety.

The first day was an informational day for all students in first through fifth grades. At assemblies, the police officers presented the rules and safety tips for when the students ride their bikes around town. Then, on March 20, the students in third through fifth grades were able to bring their bikes to school and ride through an obstacle course with the police officers. The obstacle

course included turns, stops and hand signals. All the students who brought bikes were able to pass with success and receive a brand-new helmet for participating.

This was a memorable event for Star View, and we appreciate the Westminster Police Department's dedication to our safety!



Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

A History of Excellence

Sun View Elementary School congratulates fourth-grade teacher Sharon Campbell, who was honored as Ocean View School District Teacher of the Year. Sharon is a knowledgeable, passionate, resourceful, and thoughtful teacher, who has dedicated the past 19 years to making a difference in the lives of students.

Mrs. Campbell's contributions extend beyond the classroom walls. Her efforts have focused on literacy development, and she has been instrumental in establishing the district's strong foundation in literacy.



Mrs. Campbell has enriched community relationships through coordinating family events and parent education evenings and by continually reaching out to families to ensure a collaborative partnership. She serves on the PTO and the School Site Council and coordinates the student council. Her service extends to volunteering in the community and at the high school as well. She consistently demonstrates curriculum innovation, creativity, and perseverance. She is a strong advocate for children and is an outstanding Teacher of the Year!

Vista View *Middle School*

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



Joe Santos
Interim Principal

Vista View Poets

April is National Poetry Month, so the seventh-grade Honors language arts classes at Vista View Middle School held their first annual Poetry Slam. This was part of a project-based learning unit for poetry. Students studied different forms of poetry, types of figurative language, rhyming, and repetitive sounds.

Students in Taryn Stock's classes participated in a read-around competition, where small groups of students listened to each other's poems and provided constructive feedback in order to help their peers with their public-speaking skills. As a group,

they collaborated to select a few students to perform their original poems in front of an audience comprised of other students, teachers, and administrators.

Student Angela Andrade said, "I liked listening to my friend's poems and how they expressed their creativity."

Students were completely engaged and excited to share their creativity. We are looking forward to next year's Poetry Slam!



Village View *Elementary*

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



Tracy Goodspeed
Principal

Seeing Stars!

Village View Elementary School's third-graders were seeing stars recently! They learned about the position of the sun and how the Earth revolves around it. Our junior astronomers discovered that stars can be seen in different seasons and that the patterns of stars stay the same in the night sky. They discussed how Native Americans told legends about the various constellations and that Greek and Roman mythology can be connected to constellations. They learned how light is reflected

and how it can change direction. They observed visible light rays seen as the colors of the rainbow and learned that the color of the light that bounces off an object gives the object its color. A discussion of light bulbs even came up, and they learned that incandescent light bulbs use a filament and fluorescent light bulbs use a gas.

All in all, our third-grade astronomers enjoyed every moment of their scientific day!



Crawling in for a world of wonder!

Westmont *Elementary*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

Ship a Chip!

How do you get a single potato chip through the U.S. Postal Service without breaking? That was the engineering problem that Westmont and Lake View fifth-graders tackled recently. In small groups, the students were to design and test a package to safely mail a chip. The packages could be no bigger than three to five feet. Students also had to calculate the cost of the materials used in developing the packaging. Each school then sent its packages to the other.

On the big day, packages were passed out and students were assigned scores in three categories: mass, volume and intactness of the chip. The multiple layers of masking tape were carefully unraveled and the edges of

the packages unsealed. Most had multiple cotton layers and an occasional cotton swab or toothpick to strengthen the walls.

Amazingly, several teams had their chips arrive undamaged. What a great day for STEM at Westmont!





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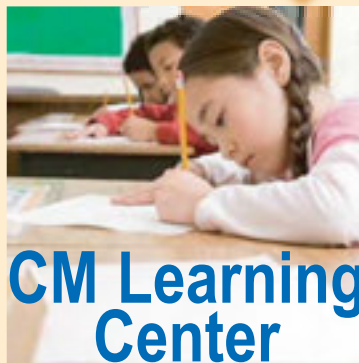
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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps

Multicultural Celebration at Warner

An amazing Multicultural Day was held at Warner Middle School recently, and students, staff, parents, and community members joined in the festivities. The purpose of the event was to promote cultural recognition and respect. We encourage students to be open-minded about the world around them, and we try to help them develop an appreciation for each other by learning about one another. At the celebration, students showcased different cultures through delectable food, international music, and eclectic performances.



At Warner Middle School, attendees were treated to performances by a variety of groups from Westminster High School, including the Vietnamese American Dancers, the Polynesian Club, the Hip Hop Society, the Glee Club, and the Steel Drums/Jazz Band.

The Warner Multicultural Day was a huge success. Everyone had a great time learning about and experiencing many different cultures. It was a wonderful way to enhance cultural awareness and to educate people about the similarities and differences between cultures.



2015 School Site Teachers of The Year

Anderson, Juliann Dodosh
Clegg, Stacy O'Reilly
DeMille, Wendy Sorce
Eastwood, Melissa Cirelli
Finle, Christine Sisneros
Fryberger, Claudia Parker
Hayden, Janel Carpenter
Johnson, Nicole Alvarado

Meairs, Kara Houlihan
Schmitt, Tonya Fedorchek
Schroeder, Phyllis Trgo
Sequoia, Erica Schmeer
Stacey, Dana Faulkner
Warner, Jeffery Bruland
Webber, Andrew Carr
Willmore, Gail Becker

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Mary Mangold
President

Webber Elementary Teacher Wows

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Andrew Carr, a third-grade teacher at Webber Elementary School, has been named the Westminster School District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Carr has been a teacher in the district for 14 years and has had an incredibly positive impact on the lives of hundreds of children. While he is known among his colleagues for his expertise in technology, he is known among his students for making learning fun.

Mr. Carr's philosophy on teaching and his commitment to his students is eloquently revealed in an excerpt from his application for Teacher of the Year. Here he describes the attributes of an outstanding teacher and, without a doubt, he is describing himself:



"Creativity is the foundation of all educational endeavors. Intertwined with creativity are many of the attributes of an outstanding teacher. When creativity is embraced, students and teachers have the courage to take risks and the license to make mistakes. When creativity is cherished, students and teachers have the freedom to express and share their gifts and strengths with others. Acceptance of individuality is how a learning community grows. Creativity breathes life into a classroom, bringing with it flexibility and the organic synthesizing of knowledge. When creativity is the goal, we guide gently and with purpose. When creativity is fostered, the door is open for students to develop their own understanding and intellect, along with memorizing facts and learning information. A creative teacher embraces the continual changes in education. We adapt and adjust naturally to the changing of the tides. We use the ever-changing technological tools to enhance the learning process and prepare students for the unwritten future."

Mr. Carr exhibits all of the attributes he mentions are necessary to be an outstanding teacher. He is beloved by students, staff, and parents, who not only think of him as an exceptional teacher but as a role model, team player, and mentor as well.

We are very proud to have Mr. Carr represent the Westminster School District in the Orange County competition for Teacher of the Year, and we are also proud of our Teachers of the Year who represent each one of our school sites. Congratulations, Mr. Carr and all of our exemplary Teachers of the Year!

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Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Thinking Maps

By Mitch Snyder, Assistant Principal

“They help my brain get ready to write,” is just one of the many comments made by Anderson students when asked why Thinking Maps are important. Others have shared how Thinking Maps can help provide organization, increase understanding, and allow students to show how they learn.

Thinking Maps are visual representations of common brain processes such as defining, classifying, and sequencing. All Anderson students and staff members can use Thinking Maps in each subject every day to help simplify complex information in preparation for other tasks.



Anderson teachers feel that Thinking Maps create more active and engaged learners who can speak a “common language” which will help promote a deeper understanding of their studies. Our mission at Anderson is to have students know Thinking Maps so well that they can apply them in a way that they become a powerful tool for lifelong learning.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Deborah's Delightful Dog!

The students of DeMille School got a special treat when author Deborah Turner visited the campus for Author's Day!

Ms. Turner has authored several books, including her popular How Willy

Got His Wheels. The students loved hearing about Willy, who was disabled when Ms. Turner adopted him. But once he was outfitted with his own wheels, Willy was off and running and never looked back!

Ms. Turner's presentation was engaging, informative and fun, especially when the children got to meet ChiBi, Ms. Turner's current rescue dog who is also a trained therapy dog. Sadly, Willy is no longer with us, but his memory will live on in Ms. Turner's wonderful books.

Author's Day is an annual event designed to inform and encourage students about creative writing and illustration. The students are left with helpful and hopeful information about becoming authors and illustrators. Perhaps the next Roald Dahl or Beverly Cleary is walking our halls now!



Author Deborah Turner with 3rd Grader Brenda Mendoza and ChiBi, the Chihuahua!

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Happy Campers

Clegg Elementary School fifth-grade students had the opportunity to go to Outdoor Science Camp at Camp High Trails in the Big Bear area last week. Students received science and ecology classes taught from thoughtful and detailed lesson plans in interactive and experiential ways, and they enjoyed three activities and one experiment per class. Students also took classes such as rock climbing and archery and did other team-building exercises throughout the week.



Many years there has been an abundance of snow for the campers to work their way through as they do their day hikes. However, this year the ground was clear, and snow could only be seen on the ridges above them. Students slept in cabins and had meals in the dining hall as a group.

Camp was a great experience for all of our fifth-graders, and they all came back happy to see Mom and Dad on Friday. The trip is something they will all remember for many years to come.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Dolphin Details

Eastwood School is proud to recognize Melissa Cirelli as our 2015–16 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Cirelli received her Bachelor of Science degree and teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach and has been teaching for 18 years. She taught in Connecticut for one year and has spent the remaining 17 years in the Westminster School District at both Sequoia and Eastwood in grades one through three.

Mrs. Cirelli's classroom is a warm, purposeful learning environment where students are encouraged to take risks and extend themselves academically. She sets high academic and behavioral standards and treats all students with respect and dignity. She loves teaching writing and finds the challenge of taking students through the process from beginning to end energizing. This year, she is excited about the improvement she is seeing in her students' abilities to write across the curriculum.

Mrs. Cirelli is a consummate professional. Her dedication and passion are an inspiration to everyone. She is a lifelong learner on a quest to continuously improve her lesson design and delivery; her love of learning helps her acquire whatever skills and strategies are needed to meet the needs of her students.

Outside the classroom, Mrs. Cirelli spends time with her husband and two sons, ages 8 and 10. She is a runner who has competed in marathons and a mom who spends many hours on the soccer field and basketball court watching her boys play.

Eastwood students, parents and staff members are thrilled to honor Mrs. Cirelli.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutiérrez-García
Principal

Collaboration Session

Finley Staff members are truly lifelong learners who continually seek ways to increase their knowledge and efficacy with the students they serve. On March 18, 2015 during a scheduled Half Day Professional Learning Collaboration Session Finley Upper grade teachers arranged to have Genise Battaglia, District Instructional Support Specialist, demonstrate a Close Reading lesson based on a primary source document by John Smith. All third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers met in Sarah Bosworth's fifth grade class to witness the lesson that included Guided Language Acquisition Design strategies such as a Process Grid. With support from student teachers, our Second and first grade School Leadership Team Representatives joined in on the fabulous learning opportunity that featured rigor and cognitive academic language.



Genise Battaglia, Westminster School District Instructional Support Specialist, modeling a close reading lesson as Finley teachers observe during their Half Day Professional Learning Collaboration Session in Sarah Bosworth's fifth grade classroom.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Learning from the Community

We are always striving to connect with our community here at Hayden.

This past month we had the privilege of being visited by the Orange County Fire Truck 64. The firefighters came to talk to our students about fire safety, water safety, helmet protection, and even physical science. The students were very excited to see the different parts of the fire truck along with how they work.

A special thank-you goes to Chief Acosta for making sure we were able to have Truck 64 visit us. Another big thank-you goes to Christy Watson, who is the OCFA Educator. She has been working with Hayden School for the past seven years. All of the programs being offered by the OCFA are free, and so if you are interested please contact Christy at 714-573-6176.

We would also like to thank fifth-grade teacher Mr. Archer for working with Christy over the years to help bring these opportunities to our school.



Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Dena Kiouses
Principal

Falcons Take Flight

The 2015 Fryberger Elementary School Open House was a celebration of education. Students, staff, and parents started the night dancing to the Cha-Cha Slide. Students from the Potential, Responsibility, Innovation, Determination, Excellence (PRIDE) program showcased their extended learning opportunities, and the Girls Scouts and Boys Scouts contributed presentations. While shopping at the spring book fair, students were surprised by the appearance of Ariel, the Little Mermaid.



The highlight of the evening was seeing students presenting their classroom accomplishments. Students demonstrated their reading, math, writing, science, and social studies knowledge through embedded technology skills. Thanks to the one-to-one netbook program, students in second through fifth grades shared electronic portfolios. Artwork was on display from the Art Masters program, which is made possible thanks to our generous PTA.

Hardworking students, committed parents, a supportive district, and a dedicated staff make the well-rounded education of Fryberger students a priority.

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

How We SEE

Johnson Middle School was honored to host members of the USA/Russia Social Expertise Exchange (SEE) as they observed Cindi Heinle's robotics class. The SEE is committed to sharing ideas and best practices to produce positive changes in the lives of citizens in both countries.

Students were able to show the visitors the wonderful things they have been doing in the robotics class, from design to build. Ms. Heinle's class was able to show the computer-programming logic and reasoning skills, using the robotics engineering context.

Visitors saw that the activities involved real-world project-based context that allowed students to think about patterns and structure of not just robotics but also solving problems more generally.

The Russian visitors were extremely impressed with Johnson's facilities, technology and the level of knowledge that the Johnson students exhibited.



Land School

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



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



Reagan Lopez
*Administrator
Student Services*

Practical Nursing!

As the preschool hub for WSD, Land School alone serves approximately 300 preschoolers. Part of preparing preschoolers for kindergarten success includes physical and developmental screenings.

Through a partnership with the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, WSD has two school-readiness nurses who conduct these screenings on all of our preschool students. Cathi Hacker, R.N., M.Ed., and Gloria Sonoda, R.N., B.S.N., are the two credentialed school nurses who coordinate and conduct the screenings for all preschoolers in the district.

These screenings include dental checks, vision and hearing checks, and developmental progress. When the nurses find a child who has needs in any of these areas, they connect the family with resources for physical or mental health and cognitive or developmental needs as indicated by the screenings.

Additionally, the nurses regularly teach classes to the preschoolers and parents on such topics as dental care, hand washing and preventing communicable diseases, to name a few. They also work closely with teachers and staff to ensure that safe practices are in place for students with a special need like asthma, seizures, diabetes or severe allergies. The nurses also check the immunization history of every child to make sure they are all up to date in accordance with state guidelines.

Why spend so much time on these needs? Research indicates that unhealthy students miss more school and have a harder time focusing and accessing the curriculum. Catching any problems early and finding resources to help fix them get our preschoolers on the track for school success. That's what school readiness is all about!

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

During the last couple of years at Schroeder, we have been implementing a school-wide behavior plan known as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a system of behavior management that proactively teaches our students the kinds of appropriate behaviors and rules which can lead to a more positive school environment.

Several elements of PBIS include a school motto, a school-wide teaching of rules and appropriate behaviors, and a strong reinforcement plan for those students who exhibit positive behaviors.

Our Mustang Motto is to, "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe." Whether they are on the playground, working in the computer lab, eating in the lunch area, or sitting in the classroom, our students are taught to exhibit behaviors that follow our Motto. For example, it is respectful, responsible, and safe to help clean up at lunch.

Staff members hand out Mustang Money when they witness a student exhibiting these positive behaviors by following the Mustang Motto. The students can save the money and use it to purchase items at the Schroeder Shop. The Shop contains pencils, highlighters, double lunch passes, notebooks, movie tickets, snack or lunch with the principal, and more. The students are very excited on Fridays when the Schroeder Shop is brought out at recess!

The environment at Schroeder School is truly positive, and provides a great place for our students to learn. Ask your student about the Mustang Motto, how much Mustang Money they currently have, and what they have purchased at the Schroeder Shop this year!

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Our Spring Garden

Spring is here, and the garden is in full bloom. The winter vegetables and greens are gone, and a whole new crop is being harvested.

First- and second-graders have been working away pulling weeds, planting and picking. They are growing lettuce, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, strawberries, sunflowers and more. The strawberries barely have time to turn red before they are picked and popped into someone's mouth, and the students have eaten salads made from the lettuce they have grown.

In March, tiny green footprints and gold rocks were discovered all around the garden. Leprechauns visiting for St. Patrick's Day must have stopped by to admire the flowers growing along the fence.



Special delivery from the garden.

A second garden plot has been created on campus, and we are looking forward to many more classes getting involved in the math, science and nutrition lessons that go along with growing your own food. Yum!

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Family Reading

Schmitt Elementary School is proud to announce that the Latino Literacy Workshop Series has started this school year. Our community liaison, Doris Redgrift, uses books that are appropriate for first- through fourth-grade reading levels and match the students' individual literacy levels. She teaches parents the importance of establishing a family reading routine with their children and how to share the books.

The program helps both parents and school-age children learn English vocabulary, verbs, grammar, and conversation. It teaches parents the skills they need to share literature and to be involved in the school process with their children. The family books are written in both English and Spanish, and they are checked out by parents on a weekly basis to be read to their children.

Another part of the program includes the family scrapbook project. Each parent has homework activities to promote parent-child bonding opportunities at home. One of the many elements is creating a family tree, which includes photos. At the end of the workshop series, parents complete their family albums and are able to share their special stories with the group.

The program takes place every Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. in the English as a Second Language classroom.

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shay Reardon
Principal

A Night to Remember

Sequoia Elementary School recently hosted its first Multicultural Event in February. This family fun activity featured games, food, and entertainment from around the world.

The event was made possible by a \$1,000 “Take Your Family to School Week” grant funded through the AXA Foundation. Westminster High School helped support the event as well by providing dancers from the Vietnamese Cultural Club and the Advanced Choir. Additional entertainment was provided by the Mexican Folklore Dancers, a Polynesian dancer, and our Sequoia ESP students who performed the Mexican Hat Dance.

During the program, National PTA President Otha Thornton Jr. greeted our school community along with members from the Orange County PTA and the Westminster Council PTA. President Thornton highlighted the importance of a strong school and home connection.

Family engagement and supporting student success – specifically with events that welcome our families and build positive relationships – make up a huge part of the Sequoia PTA’s mission.



Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

Emily Describes Kindness

Warner’s Theme of the Month for February was “Kindness.” Warner students participated in activities promoting kindness that were coordinated by the Peer Assistance League, an elective course on campus. The activities included Knock Down the Haters, Fishing for Compliments and Words of Encouragement.

Student Emily Dinh is a member of Warner’s after-school program for the Boys and Girls Club, called PRIDE: Potential, Responsibility, Innovation, Determination and Excellence. The following is Emily’s reflection about Kindness:

“Something that I have realized is that kindness is something some people need in their life but don’t have. Kindness is a thing almost everyone looks for in a friend. Like the saying ‘You can’t judge a book by its cover,’ PRIDE says the same. Kindness includes being caring, giving and never giving up on a friend or even yourself. In PRIDE, students are taught to be kind to peers and learn that giving up is never the answer. Finding kindness in a friend is a treasure, something that should not be taken advantage of. One time, a student had shown kindness by stepping up to the plate and helping out the janitors pick up trash in several locations such as the field and lunch area. Helping is an act of kindness in a way because this made it more convenient for the janitors and was helping keep the school environment clean.

“PRIDE has always been striving to reach the goal of helping students find the good and look for a goal in life.”

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Kindness Week,

By Claire Do Nguyen, Darlene Nguyen, and Delilah Ramirez

The week of February 10th was the highlight of the month at Stacey Middle School.

During this week our students expressed kindness to one another and were rewarded for their great citizenship. The days were called Give a High Five or Hand Shake Day, Give a Compliment to a Stranger Day, Pick Up a Piece of Trash Day, and Write a Thank You Note to a Teacher Day.



Throughout the week, student spies distributed raffle tickets to students they caught doing amazing deeds. These tickets were entered into a drawing where students could win prizes. This week showed that we could all work together and be kind, not just for a week, but that we could work together and create a non-bullying environment every day.

Seeing everyone smile at one another was a wonderful feeling, especially knowing that people had a positive day.

Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Helping Students Succeed

Ms. Gail Becker was recently selected by her peers as Willmore Elementary School’s Teacher of the Year for 2015–2016. Ms. Becker has been a teacher for 13 years, 12 of them at Willmore. She is currently teaching fifth

grade, but she has experience in fourth and sixth grades as well. She works hard to support her students, the school, and the community. She serves on the Student Success Team, as an assessment coordinator, and on the Accelerated Reader Committee. She says her favorite thing about teaching is, “watching the students grow and succeed and having them visit long after being in my class.”

Ms. Becker attended California State University, Fullerton as an undergraduate, and she earned her teaching credential at Chapman University. She also holds a master’s degree in education from Walden University. Beyond that, she is an avid Angels fan and an animal lover, and she enjoys traveling.

We are very proud of Ms. Becker!





Kevin Whitney
Principal

A Deserved Honor

Congratulations Mr. Carr for earning the title of Westminster School District Teacher of the Year!

To be a WSD Teacher of the Year means that Mr. Carr is an excellent educator. Yet, there are many exemplary teachers at Webber, and so I will briefly share why Andrew is most deserving of the title.

Like all great teachers, Mr. Carr has dedicated his heart and mind to ensure the successful academic and life-skills growth of

all his students. He has truly redefined what it means to teach.

His use of technology has also brought our school into the future. His students use their own Chromebooks to compose and problem-solve in each subject area every day. Mr. Carr has integrated the best teaching practices with this use of technology, and his students are now learning at exponential rates.

One student recently remarked, “Last year I hated writing. Now I just finished a five-paragraph essay. Learning is fun!”



Congratulations to the Westminster School District Teacher of the Year!

Westminster Library

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

Spring Events



Cathy S. DeLeon
Regional Branch Manager

World Book Kids is an exciting resource for curious-minded children to explore, and it is an excellent tool for helping with their schoolwork. This online encyclopedia offers something for everyone, with access to information about science projects, biographies, games, and state and country facts. Access to World Book Kids is available through the Orange County Public Library’s website at www.ocpl.org, under the eLibrary link.

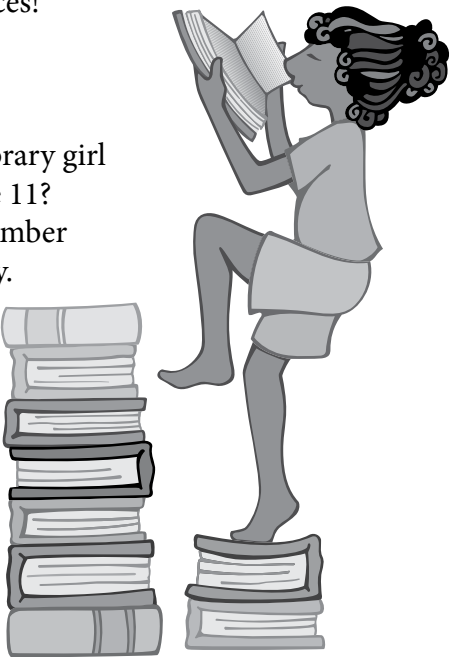
Join us for Book Babies, a new program at the Westminster Library, on May 12, 19, and 26 at 10:30 a.m. Children from birth to age two (and their parents or caregivers) are invited to participate in this group program full of song, dance, play, and a chance to read with your newest book lover.

Check out our weekly Storytimes! Each program includes stories, songs, and a fun craft. Preschool Storytime, geared towards children from age two to five, takes place each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Family Storytime happens on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. There are no Storytimes on June 1 and 4.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets monthly. Teens who are interested in contributing their ideas for programs and materials should contact the Library for dates and times. There will be VolunTEEN orientations at 3:30 p.m. on May 15 and 29. New volunteers should pick up an application prior to attending. Teenagers age 12–18 are invited to apply.

Be sure to include reading in your summer activity choices!

Are you looking for this library girl for the contest on page 11? You’ll need this page number for the contest entry.



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

21st Century Learning...Today

Y2K...then the next 14 years (yes, that does seem incredible) raced by us, filled with energy, bright ideas, new technology, grasping at traditions, all centered on so many impactful world and personal events. It was 14 years ago that, both in public education as well as business and government, the phrase 21st century was attached to so many practices. K–12 education was immediately confronted with defining and building “21st-century classrooms.” Each of those new classrooms needed to be filled with 21st-century learning...and beyond. Each mission-like phrase was empowering and pushed educators across our nation and state to grow in new ways and to meet the smart demands of our students.

Recently, I read an article that shared a frustrated tone that, after 14 years, the working definitions of 21st-century classroom and 21st-century learning should by now both be mature and well-anchored. I certainly understood the author’s intent for defining what “best practices” should look like; at the same time, I would argue, 21st-century instruction and learning should never find a defined “landing spot.” Instead, I would confidently hope our instructional practices and guided learning will continue to evolve and grow by each of the descriptors that opened this article’s first sentence.

During the school year, it is a privilege for me to return to my teaching roots and visit the amazing classrooms in our district. Powerful teaching and learning are truly the guiding light, and I greatly enjoy the opportunity to share with, compliment, and support our teachers and students in that daily exercise of building a future. While I have seen classroom instruction connect with students in new ways, I have also seen so many traditional practices of teaching excellence that ring true today as well. While I hope we never find that landing place for 21st-century learning, I do believe there are some guideposts that mark an effective classroom in 2015.

To begin, the classroom should be a collaborative environment. Students and teachers should be working in concert to find new ideas and integrate diverse views of thinking about the complexity of a literary passage or the equation that might help a small group solve a future sustainability issue. A second area is technology integration. This is more than calendars, to-dos, and e-mail; rather, it is a seamless tool to share, develop, design, and create with their classmates, teachers, and others who make up the powerful learning environment. Next, we should hope to see different forms of reflective writing. Reflective writing allows for students to reinforce their learning in long-lasting ways...and it helps breed a unique brand of creativity and personal expression; your ideas matter!

An inquiry-based approach to learning is empowering. The opportunity for students to approach a new topic or challenge in the context of answering a question is a cornerstone in all best-practice models of teaching and learning. Engaged assessment is another key guidepost in today’s classroom. Students perform better when they have a stronger connection to the material they are studying, even more so if they are able to understand what is expected of them and just how they need to demonstrate their mastery. The use of portfolios, rubrics, and formative assessments are examples of just a few resources for achieving this. Lastly, and quite possibly most importantly, is the teacher serving as the lead learner. The flexibility to impart key fundamentals and then deftly shift to the role of a “side-by-side” guide with their students supports the inquiry model, which challenges and supports a student’s journey. The teacher as lead learner in the classroom is a model that will forever transcend a 21st-century calendar and the expectations of an era.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry
President

A New Look for the Future

It has been 10 years since the voters approved Measure C, the “Neighborhood School Safety/Repair Measure.” In 2004, our high school campuses were in dire need of attention. The general obligation bond program ballot language stated that Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) intended “to repair/upgrade neighborhood schools, classrooms, restrooms, libraries at all Fountain Valley, Westminster, Huntington Beach high schools; install/repair fire alarms/security systems; repair leaking roofs, cracked walls, plumbing, electrical systems; improve seismic safety; stabilize sinking buildings; build new classrooms to replace old portables/reduce overcrowding; and remove asbestos/lead paint.” It was a monumental undertaking. Thanks to the patience of students and staff and a construction management firm, all of our sites received the attention they so desperately needed. The result was a new and improved HBUHSD, with campuses that are pristine and park-like. But that’s not the end of the story.

The Measure C ballot language also included some provisions for “the issuance of \$238,000,000 in bonds, at legal interest rates, with independent audits, citizens’ oversight, and no money for administrators’ salaries.” The tax rate on the issues of these general obligation (GO) bonds was \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per fiscal year. The actual average has been \$27.70. In March of 2013, the district refinanced an issuance of GO bonds, resulting in taxpayer savings of \$31,755,000 and is exploring a future potential savings of an estimated \$1,355,000, for a total of \$33,110,000. Throughout the process, the Citizens Oversight Committee reviewed the process, toured facilities, and met regularly until just recently, when the last of the funds were spent.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and as co-chair of the Measure C campaign, I would like to thank our voters and taxpayers for their continued support of education. The future of the students of the HBUHSD and the surrounding community have benefitted greatly from this investment.



Susan Henry
President



Dr. Duane Dishno
Vice President

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



Dr. Michael Simons
Clerk



Bonnie P. Castrey
Alt. Clerk



Kathleen Iverson
Member

Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Team Competitions

On March 12 I had the pleasure of attending a Physics Day with some of our Coast High School students. As a former high school physics teacher, the event brought back fond memories and reminded me that science is best learned by doing. And that is what our Coast students did, they did physics. Our students participated in a number of events that included the Build Your Own Coaster Contest, rubber band-powered vehicles, a Paper Airplane for Accuracy Contest, and the Paper Tower Building Contest. I was very proud of their performance that day, and even more proud of the work they did in preparing for the competitions. Many evenings were spent practicing different techniques for building the various objects used for competition. We had a couple of amazing roller coasters built that I thought literally defied the laws of physics.

The team was able to place fourth in the Paper Tower Building Contest, and gave a good show in the other contests. Although the park was open to the students, with the many fun and exciting rides calling them out, they remained focused on the competitions and gave their best. It was also great to see their teachers Ms. Merrill and Ms. Tran coaching and cheering on their team. You could see the pride and joy in their faces throughout the event. Of course, the hard work they put in demanded a well-deserved break, and the students were given a few hours to enjoy the “other” attractions in the park.



Edison *High School*

21400 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-1356 • www.edisonchargers.com



Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

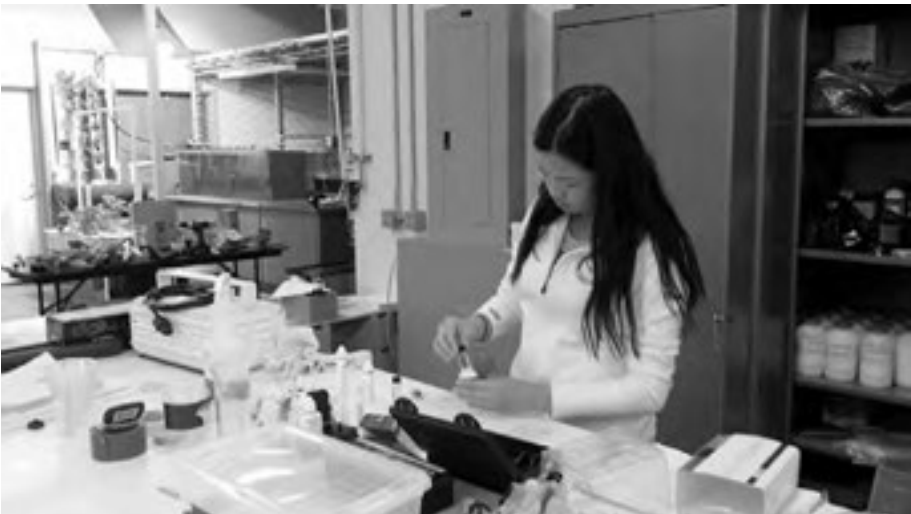
Innovation Lab

Fish! There are fish at Edison High School! Funded by grants, donations and the school district, the empty auto shop was converted into a science innovation lab providing students with real-world, hands-on experiences in aquaculture. The lab was opened in fall 2014 with a few projects and has continued to grow under the direction of Edison's science department, collaboration with other departments and with valuable community partners Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The new lab and the creative lesson plans designed by the teachers give students the chance to work on projects that extend over weeks and months rather than a few days. Students from both math and science classes help staff raise white sea bass, rainbow trout, tilapia, coral and a variety of plant types in aquaculture systems. The students monitor the system's water quality, chart the growth rate of the fish and plants, and learn how to operate the equipment.



The lab space is also used by the robotics club as a design and testing center. Plans for the development of additional projects in genetics are underway, and the equipment is being purchased thanks to a grant from the Edison High School Foundation. The goal is to encourage students to take part in project-based learning activities that will give them the skills they will need for college and careers. EHS is dedicated to providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) experiences to all students. The Charger students are learning to be effective critical thinkers, collaborators, communicators and creative problem-solvers.



Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Kirk Kennedy
Interim Principal

Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS)

By Sharen Tait, FVHS Community Resource Coordinator; and Kirk Kennedy, Interim School Principal

At the beginning of the 2014–2015 school year, our professional development committee selected “Making Connections” as the central theme for the year. We believe it is important for us to collaborate with our parents and community members.

Sharen Tait is the VIPS Coordinator at FVHS. Her role is a key element in the interaction that takes place between our staff and the adults who support our school. Please read what Sharen has to say about our volunteer program, and the impact it has on FVHS:



Marching Band Parents Helping Out.

The high school doesn’t need parent volunteers, right? Many incoming parents share this misconception. The truth is that our students absolutely need parents to help! Right now we have 25 booster clubs at FVHS supporting athletic teams, performing arts, and student programs, and all organized by parent volunteers.



Band parents pushing pit equipment on the field.

Here’s an example of what our football and band boosters are doing behind the scenes at a home game. Need Baron gear? A parent will happily sell you a T-shirt or a hat. How about a program? It was put together by a parent and sold to you by a parent.

Hungry? Head over to the snack bar where parents are selling refreshments. Enjoy hearing the band? There are about 10 parents helping out in the stands, with another 20 pushing equipment on and off the field during the half-time performance. Booster parents have lots of fun spending many hours helping our coaches, directors, and students.

In fact, last year our parents provided over 34,100 volunteer hours, and the number of parents who want to help has steadily increased. We saw an increase of 12.8 percent in the number of hours our volunteers donated to help support the students. Parents are needed, and they do make a difference!

What can you do to help? If your child is in a sport or other activity, go to the booster meetings and discover what’s happening. Then see how you can help make that program the best it can possibly be. You can also join other groups that help support our FVHS students, including the Baron Academic Foundation, Bingo, Grad Night, PTSA, and VIPS.

We are grateful for the many supportive parents we have at Fountain Valley High School!

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Dr. Rocky Murray
Principal

Taking On Change

Last year, students and school personnel in California and many other states piloted the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC). A pilot year was needed because the SBAC created a dramatic shift from the way our students have been assessed in the past, from pencil-and-paper-testing to computer-based assessment.

School districts were given a reprieve from actual testing data and accountability in order to prepare for the shifts also created by the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core is pushing teachers and students to work toward more depth, complexity and rigor than ever before. Additionally, districts had to ensure that they had enough computers to manage the testing and adequate infrastructure to operate the computers. Such extreme changes required more time for districts to prepare for great changes in school performance measures.

Spring 2015 is a landmark for educators and students. They’re being challenged to move away from how they taught and learned in the past. Students today are being asked to explain, investigate, analyze and synthesize at a much deeper level, and educators must adapt as well.

Rigor is a term that closely associates with the sweeping changes. This means rigor for all students. Rigor will look different in Advanced-Placement classes compared to English-language learner classes, but teachers will still need to create learning opportunities with rigor in mind and be intentional as to how they promote complexity for their students.

The changes under discussion don’t occur by simply telling people to change. Teachers require adequate training and time to shift their teaching as well. In the previous era, the concepts of deeper thinking and cognition were not highlighted as they are today. Fortunately, the staff at Huntington Beach High is embracing the challenge presented with these changes and is committed to learning and evolving. Our staff has taken the approach of working together and collaborating at a higher level than in the past. This collaboration and leadership is the type of work that will matter the most and make the most impact for our students.

Education is changing and the work is not getting easier, but HBHS is not a school that fears challenges. Our staff is committed to students and to each other. By working and facing challenges together, we are stronger. We will face obstacles together and remain dedicated to our students. Our students will be prepared for the 21st century and will be college and career ready.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Learning Never Ends

Lifelong Learners is an awards program designed to honor Huntington Beach Adult School students whose dedication and perseverance have brought them educational success. The honorees were selected by staff in each program as that program's most outstanding students. We congratulate them for their success and thank them for being part of our school!

At age 60, Arlene Garcia did not let her dream of completing her high school diploma die, but instead she enrolled at the

Huntington Beach Adult School. Arlene is a role model and an inspiration to all of us, whether it be staff or students. She has proven that, with the proper attitude, much can be accomplished, and goals can be achieved.

Nidia Aguillon attends class every single day and sits in the front row, always working diligently to perfect her grammar, conversation, and pronunciation skills. She encourages other students to practice and to do their very best. She is a positive and studious person who understands she must constantly improve her life and work skills to ultimately provide a better situation for her family.

Nancy Trujillo loved the way our school's Medical Assistant Program is set up for working and non-working adults. She took advantage of the fact that classes were offered both morning and evening. Nancy thanks Randa Baird especially for her dedication to the students, not only as a teacher but as a mentor as well.

Frank Diparte says, "Learning never ends!" Even at age 91, with his eyes and ears fading and other physical problems, Frank continues to enjoy learning. Frank is an inspiration to all of our students.

Martin Garisek has been totally committed to the practice of yoga and the benefits of attaining greater self-awareness, and he aims to be more connected with everything he does. During a recent visit, his doctor told him that he had "the body of a 50 year old," which is very complimentary for a man who is 70.

Congratulations to all of our honorees!



Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Moving Forward

Marina High School is a place where learning and students are a focus. As the 2014–15 school year enters its fourth quarter, I would like to share some improvements we have experienced here at the Home of the Vikings. We take great pride in our accomplishments and are excited for the years to come.

Marina has added a number of Advanced Placement and Accelerated courses for students and embraces the concept of Open Access. New courses include AP Computer Science, Accelerated Biology and Marine Biology. Marina has continued to increase its number of courses meeting A-G requirements as well as the number of AP courses offered on campus.

Marina High School led the way this school year in learning about and practicing alternatives to suspension, known as restorative justice. Practices such as individual contracts, school service, counseling sessions, tutoring, mentoring and courses focused on behavior issues were implemented instead of suspension.

As part of a focus on school safety, our staff has participated in city-wide drills and trainings to be better prepared in this unpredictable world.

Marina continues to offer, at no charge to parents, college testing with the PSAT test and this year has offered career assessments as well. Marina also features one of the few industrial-technology programs in our district and area with auto shop, welding, construction, and other career and technical education programs.

In the area of technology, we added eight more Google Chromebook carts with 35 computers in each, bringing us to a total of 17 carts. This has resulted in many classes experiencing enriched and high-interest instruction in a manner in which their students are more accustomed to, using technology as a tool.

Numerous infrastructure improvements have been provided to this campus, including new wireless hot spots switches and other network-focused improvements. The results are a more dependable and fast technology experience for staff and students.

All in all, teaching and learning are on the move! Take a look!

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

Tuning Up

I drive a 1970 Volkswagen Squareback to work every day. It's a fun car to own, easy on the gas, and I can fit in just about any parking space most of the time. That little car was built solidly and is a very efficient vehicle; still, there are adjustments to be made. Once a month, I take the engine cover off (it's located in the cargo area of the wagon) to look around the engine and check for loose wires. Old VWs rattle around a bit, so it's a good practice to poke around. I pull off the distributor cap, check the rotor, and shine it up with some emery cloth. Then I move to the ignition points, clean those up, adjust the points gap, and set the timing statically (with the engine off—a trick that is unique to older cars). Volkswagens love to be statically timed! I check the oil (its life blood), check the generator belt tension, and close the lid.

Most everyone would call all that work a tune-up, and I'll contend that, yes, after all that, the car just got a tune up; but I also got more in tune, too. I saw how things were working and wearing, and what to keep an eye on. We both became more in tune! After I tinker, that car is peppier and gets even better gas mileage. There is also a personal added benefit—working on that car is very therapeutic!

I make the same observation about leadership at our school. It is solidly built, fundamentally sound, and worth checking out to make adjustments, clean things up, and maybe even refresh a system. All that work done up front, a little at a time, just tinkering, builds connections and helps us avoid two things: being surprised and oversteering, because we did not take the time to check in periodically. And checking in is good for our students and staff!





Social Host Ordinance

A New Law to Prevent Underage Drinking in Huntington Beach

What is a Social Host Ordinance?

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



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



Not in our house.

OperationSafeHB.org

Penalties and Enforcement

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

Why Not Host Parties for Minors?

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

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

What You Can Do

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

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

operationsafehb.org



Valley Vista *High School*

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



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Making Magic Happen

They marched in one day in March at 9 a.m., led by Superintendent Greg Plutko, district and site administrators, staff and her husband, carrying a bouquet of colorful balloons. They converged on English teacher Seena Rich's classroom to surprise and honor one of HBUHSD's Co-Teachers of the Year.

It was fitting to notify Mrs. Rich of her honor in front of her students, where, as she puts it, "the magic happens." In her classroom, student desks go where the student is comfortable and move around to form different-size discussion and working groups. The students personalize the environment with class assignments that express their uniqueness and individuality. There's always time to discuss an important current event or social development. Mrs. Rich's transforms these diverse threads into instructive and productive discussions and assignments that explore the effective use of words to express thoughts and feelings.

Mrs. Rich goes beyond traditional English curriculum to use literature as a means to connect to her students' lives. She uses the characters and situations found in literature and the dilemmas, choices and consequences they encounter to mirror the struggles and barriers that our students face every day and to open dialogues, followed by writing and hands-on assignments, about how the characters and thus the students respond to these challenges. She was a campus leader in adopting and adapting to technology, especially the use of social media as an instructional tool, and effectively integrates EL and special-ed students into her classroom. She is also a leader in our district, presenting at our district in-service TechFests and districtwide summer professional-development program.

Mrs. Rich won't let technology get in the way of personal connections. Some days, she and her students turn off all their electronic devices and put them to "sleep" in the doll bed she keeps in the classroom. She is open and honest with her students. She laughs at herself and at life. She'll show appropriate emotion when it's heartfelt.

Seena Rich is an outstanding teacher and colleague who understands and effectively engages our at-risk students. She gives them a chance to succeed in life.

Westminster *High School*

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



Joe Fraser
Principal

Family-a-Fair

At Westminster High School, we believe in building strong community connections. This year, the Westminster High School Government S Club, a group of students whose goals are to develop and understand the obligations of civic-mindedness and community service, hosted its second annual Family-a-Fair in April at Westminster High School, in conjunction with the Westminster chapter of an international volunteer organization.

The mission of the conference was to inspire families to make healthy lifestyle choices. The conference provided resources and materials designed to elicit advocacy and action on the part of the participants for future participation in positive choices and lifestyles.

The one-day conference included workshops, vendors and speakers in the areas of cyberbullying, teen dating, educational opportunities, health care, healthy cooking and nutrition, fitness, self-defense, and drug and alcohol awareness, just to name a few.

Today's families are faced with unique challenges that were unheard of even a decade ago. Along with the traditional coming-of-age challenges, social media and other new technologies exerting pressure and unrealistic challenges on our youth, many families struggle to navigate the middle and high school years.

The volunteer organization and the educators of Westminster High School believe that young people in our communities deserve a world view that is strong and inspiring as they embrace their future. Collectively, we can make a difference in the lives of these young men and women.

For more information, please visit our website.



Ihong Chen, MD
Internal Medicine



Lori DeBold, MD
Pediatrics



Nasrin Damoui, MD
Family Medicine



Lalita Komanapalli, MD
Internal Medicine



Linda Sanfilippo, PA-C
Family Medicine



Laura K. Sayle, NP
Pediatrics



Margaret Zimmerman, MD
Pediatrics

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The tutors are highly qualified and both of
my sons relate to their enthusiastic help."
-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &
Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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Elementary School

Kindergarten – Students should be familiar with all letters and many basic sight words.

1st-3rd - Early elementary students need to become proficient readers and memorize all basic math facts. Any issues with comprehension and phonics can be worked on with our summer reading programs (If students are still counting on their fingers by the end of third grade they will be overwhelmed with the amount of math covered in later grades).

4th & 5th - Extremely important years for future academic success. Students should understand fractions and decimals, and be able to interpret word problems. Students need to draw conclusions when reading and be comfortable writing structured paragraphs.

Middle School

6th - Come October, we will have more 6th graders than any other age. The jump from the friendly confines of an elementary classroom to having more than one teacher leaves many preteens shell-shocked. Most of our sixth graders are overwhelmed with the amount of math covered, and lack the study skills for the transition to middle school. If your student has struggled with any area during elementary school, these deficiencies will become amplified in middle school.

7th & 8th - Writing and Algebra are the two areas 7th and 8th graders tend to struggle with the most. If your child passes into Algebra 1 for 8th grade, it is important to master all core math concepts, as there will be no time for review.

High School

9th & 10th - For some reason all high school students think summer means brain freeze. Maybe we should tell them summer break is three months because most children used to work on the farms for their parents. Now, we allow them to spend endless hours on the beach and hang out playing PS3 and Xbox. Our athletes spend countless hours practicing for the upcoming sports season, but do nothing to help themselves academically. Summer is a great time for course reviews and previews, especially in math and science courses.

11th - Junior year is the most stressful for students planning to go to a four year college. Unfortunately, many 11th graders try to cram for the numerous standardized tests at the end of the year when their classes are the most difficult. The Tutoring Club has individualized test prep for both the ACT and SAT standardized tests. Students who take our classes during the summer can devote all their attention to the tests, and not worry about sports and academic obligations.

12th - If students have not taken any of their standardized tests they have until November of their senior year to complete them. Students should use the summer to prepare for the exams so they can focus on college applications in the fall.

If Tutoring Club can be of assistance,
give us a call today!

Fountain Valley/Huntington Beach (Brookhurst and Ellis)
(714) 965-8886

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE • MATH • READING • WRITING • STUDY SKILLS • ACT/SAT PREP