

FREE

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



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

**VOLUME 13, ISSUE 78**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**MAY 2017**

## OVSD Boosts Arts Programs



**Student performers from the award-winning Marine View Middle School Jazz Ensemble sing and dance as participants in the Ocean View School District's annual Music Festival, which includes over 350 middle school performers.**

*By Julie Jennings, Public Information Manager—Ocean View School District*

The Ocean View School District (OVSD) is a longtime proponent of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA). One of OVSD's top priorities is offering families a choice in education through innovative learning programs like these. This year, OVSD's four middle schools expanded their VAPA offerings. Just recently, OVSD learned that it is one of only three school districts in Orange County selected to receive a \$50,000 OC Music Matters grant to enhance efforts to increase student access to music education in Title I schools. Funding from the grant, provided by a partnership between Encore for Education and the Orange County Community Foundation, is designed to assist districts in purchasing instruments to defray the significant initial costs of launching new band or string classes.

OVSD is proud to announce the launch of its new VAPA Academy at Westmont Elementary School, which will also be the home of the district's first elementary band program, thanks to the OC Music Matters grant. Westmont's new academy and band program will begin in the fall of the 2017–2018 school year.

According to Dr. Carol Hansen, OVSD Superintendent, "The Westmont VAPA Academy will offer families an integrated curriculum, with the same rigorous standards as all of our schools but with an emphasis on music and the arts."

Westmont's work in arts education began many years ago. Its partnership with The California Arts Project (TCAP) provides extensive professional development in the field of visual arts. TCAP is a statewide network of classroom teachers and university scholars with the mission of improving teaching and learning in dance, music, theater, visual arts, media, and entertainment. Westmont currently participates in three visual arts modules, giving its teachers approximately 11 days of training.

Selected two years ago as a Disney Musicals in Schools recipient by Disney and the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, Westmont had the rare opportunity of deepening its theater and music programs. The year-long

program provided training for students and teachers, as well as an end-of-the-year, professional-level production hosted at Segerstrom Concert Hall.

"Our teachers enjoyed learning from their professionals, and our students had a taste of behind-the-scenes experiences as they prepared for their production of 'The Jungle Book,'" said Westmont's principal, Sue Broderson. "We are now ready to take it to the next level with our VAPA Academy."

OVSD places a high priority on its rigorous academic curriculum and holding high expectations for all students in order to prepare them for high school and beyond. This is supported by the proven benefits of a strong arts education. Beginning in the primary grades, students receive regular music education. By the time students reach middle school, they have been exposed to music and the visual arts. In fact, for the past three years, OVSD is proud to be a partner in the Huntington Beach Art Center's annual student art exhibit. This year, OVSD had 500 preschool to middle school students exhibiting their work.

OVSD's four middle schools, serving students in sixth through eighth grades, continue arts education with offerings ranging from dance and drama to band and choir. Each year, the district hosts a music festival for families and community members, featuring over 350 middle school performers. Several middle school VAPA programs have gone on to win awards and perform for state and county organizations. Marine View Middle School is home to a competitive dance team and a highly acclaimed show-choir, Jazz Ensemble (photograph). This select group of seventh- and eighth-graders sings and dances throughout the community as "arts ambassadors." The award-winning group has been invited to perform at Disneyland's California Adventure for the past 15 years as part of Disney's Community Arts Showcase.

Like the up and coming Westmont VAPA Academy and new elementary band program, the potential of all students in the Ocean View School District is limitless. For more information about OVSD's innovative education programs, visit [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org).

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## School News

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



In this issue you will see how the students are making every minute count in the classroom. You will read about Teachers of the Year, Outdoor Science Camp, the California School Dashboard, from Trash to Art, Increasing Family Engagement, Physics and Fun, S.C.O.R.E., and so much more...

As always, thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is June 7 just intime to congratulate the Class of 2017.

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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

## Teaching Your Child About Sun Safety



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

All children, regardless of skin color, need to be sun smart, but some need to take extra precautions, including those who have fair skin, spend a lot of time outside, have a family history of skin cancer or have certain diseases such as lupus.



Everyone needs some sun exposure because the body produces vitamin D when it is exposed to the sun. Vitamin D is important for maintaining stronger, healthier bones. However, too much sun exposure can lead to premature aging of the skin, cataracts, a weakened immune system and skin cancer. Since an estimated 80 percent of a person's lifetime sun exposure does occur before the age of 18, it is important to teach children how to protect their skin for the future.

Here's how:

- Apply plenty of waterproof or water resistant sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outside and then again every two hours. Make sure it is broad spectrum (protects against both ultraviolet (UV) A and UVB rays) and has a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30.
- Cover up with protective clothing, such as a long-sleeve shirt, pants and a hat that shades the face, scalp, ears and neck.
- Have children wear sunglasses to protect their eyes from UV rays. Choose sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100 percent of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.
- Try to avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when rays are strongest. Don't forget that children can still get sunburn even if they are in the water or it is a cloudy day.

ER WAITING IS NO FUN.

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### THE SMARTER WAY TO ER.

At Fountain Valley Regional Hospital & Medical Center, we understand that waiting in the ER is no fun. That's why we're offering an online check-in service at [fountainvalleyER.com](http://fountainvalleyER.com) to reserve your time online and comfortably wait at home. It's quick, easy and you'll be seen by a healthcare professional within 15 minutes of your scheduled time.



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HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

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MAY 2017 **3**



## Safety Tips to Teach and Protect



**John J. Collins**  
Mayor

April was Child Abuse Awareness Month. This column has general and specific child abuse prevention ideas. Keep this in mind as you read: 90 percent of people who abuse children are known to the child, and the average child abuse victim is between 8 and 11 years old.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children suggests the following basic rules for safety be taught to children:

As early as possible, all children should know their own phone number, how to reach their parents or guardians at any time, which relatives and neighbors to call when help is needed, and how and when to call 911.

Please discuss with your child who the “helping” adults are in the neighborhood and how they can be contacted.

A “check first” policy requires your child to ask your permission to go places and do things (even with people they know).

The buddy system reminds children to stick with others when they are out in public and going to and from places.

Your child should learn that it is OK to say no to physical contact that makes them feel uncomfortable, confused, embarrassed or frightened. They should be told to say no and then go and tell if they are bothered by inappropriate contact. No one should touch the parts of the body covered by a bathing suit, nor should anyone else ask to be touched in those areas.

Sometimes children are tricked into keeping inappropriate touching a secret. Children may not confide in adults because they do not want to “tattle” or because they are afraid their parents will be angry or will not believe them.

Please let your child know that you will listen if they need to tell you about something that made them uncomfortable. Reassure your child that you will always love her or him no matter what happens.

## Calling All HB Citizens!



**Barbara Delgleize**  
Mayor

The City of Huntington Beach will soon proudly offer its first, citywide Citizens Academy. Championed by myself, the Citizens Academy is a nine week program designed to teach residents and business owners about the City and the services it provides.

Each week from 6 to 8pm, participants will meet with City Council members, department head and staff to learn about how decisions are made, how city funds are allocated, and how each department operates. The program will also incorporate tours of city facilities, discuss future plans for the city, and conclude with a graduation acknowledgement at a city council meeting.

Set to launch this summer, the program will encourage public involvement and will be free of charge. Space is limited to 20 participants. For more information, contact Antonia Graham at 714.536.5537 or visit our website at [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov) for an application.



## The Dangers of DIY Orthodontics



**Dr. Andrew Harner**  
Orthodontist

Some of you may have seen some of the recent news coverage discussing the increasing trend of teens and pre-teens using rubber bands, string, paperclips and other items ordered online to try and straighten their own teeth. Good Morning America featured this dangerous, do-it-yourself trend on their show by highlighting an individual who used rubber bands to try and close a gap between his front teeth. After he put the rubber bands around his teeth at night, he couldn't find them in the morning and thought they were simply falling off while sleeping. Unfortunately, they weren't! Instead the rubber bands were

working their way under his gums unnoticed and eventually caused both of his front teeth to fall out. Stories like this are increasing rapidly due to Youtube videos of other youngsters encouraging their peers to try and straighten their own teeth. Moving teeth without a thorough examination of the overall health of the teeth and gums could result in permanent tooth damage and/or loss of teeth which can result in lifelong dental problems and expense.

So, for all the parents out there, please advise your children of the potential risks of attempting do-it-yourself orthodontics. Also, have conversations with your children to see if they are self-conscious about their smile and teeth, as this could be the impetus for attempting at-home tooth movements. For anyone, regardless of age, if they want to straighten their teeth and improve their smile and bite DO NOT try to do it yourself, see a specialist!

Dr. Andrew Harner is the President of the California Association of Orthodontists. He is an orthodontic specialist and maintains a private practice in Huntington Beach. He has served on the Board of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists, and is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists. (714) 842-9933.

## Bike and Helmet Safety: Myth vs. Reality



**Aileen Imai**  
Injury Prevention  
Coordinator,  
Kohl's Cares Injury  
Prevention Program,  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), millions of American rides bicycles, but less than half wear helmet, and only 48% of children ages 5 – 14-years old wear bicycle helmets when riding.

At Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, pedestrian-automobile incidents are the No. 1 reason kids are rushed to the trauma center.

Learn about common bike and helmet safety misconceptions with the Kohl's Cares Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's.

**Myth:** Only small children need to wear helmets.

**Reality:** California law requires anyone under 18-years-old to wear an approved helmet when riding a bicycle.

**Myth:** A helmet does not help prevent a head injury.

**Reality:** According to the CDC, wearing a properly fitted helmet decreases your child's risk of head injury and is an important injury prevention method.

**Myth:** Any helmet is safe to wear.

**Reality:** You should only wear a helmet with a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission label, which certifies that a helmet meets or exceeds safety standards.

**Myth:** Vehicles will always stop for pedestrians.

**Reality:** Vehicles may not always stop for pedestrians. It's important to follow the rules of the road: Ride with the flow of traffic (in bike lanes when possible); Obey traffic signs; Stop at red lights and signals; Stop and look both ways; Always wear a helmet

Kohl's Cares and Miller Children's care about the children in our community.

For more information on pedestrian, bike and helmet safety, visit [MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares).

## Be Part of the Largest National Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives - including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.



Receive up to \$150 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!

# UCLA

### What will participants do?

There are 1-2 visits in the first year. During these visits, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan!

If interested, contact us:  
**ABCD Study @ UCLA**

**Phone:** (310) 794-0089

**Email:** [abcdstudy@ucla.edu](mailto:abcdstudy@ucla.edu)

**For more info, visit: [AbcdStudy.org](http://AbcdStudy.org)**

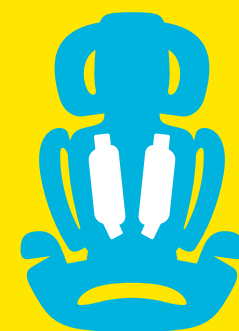
## Teaching Kids to Stay Safe



**Bike & Helmet Safety**



**Pedestrian Safety**



**Car Seat Safety**

Miller  
Children's & Women's  
Hospital Long Beach  
MEMORIALCARE HEALTH SYSTEM



Join the Cause:  
**[MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares)**



# Fountain Valley School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Mark Johnson**

### Designing for Success in FVSD!

In Fountain Valley School District (FVSD), we are exciting to share our steady progress in regards to Measure O and our modernization efforts! After a highly competitive and inclusive process, the Board unanimously approved Rachlin Partners to begin architectural design for Measure O. Rachlin Partners is a well-respected architectural firm with a focus on K–12 education design and a depth of experience in school modernization projects.



As the community is well aware, Measure O will provide the necessary funding to implement aspects of the district’s Facilities Master Plan, specifically related to infrastructure and air climate and air quality upgrades. These efforts will significantly change the learning environments for our students and staff, which will, in turn, allow us to continue our drive toward improved outcomes for ALL students!

In addition, on April 13, the Board took action to approve the issuance of the first series of Measure O general obligation bonds, which will produce an estimated \$20 million for district facilities. It is anticipated that FVSD will issue bonds sometime in mid-May.

With architectural design underway and a clear plan for bond issuance, the district anticipates beginning construction on schools in the first phase in summer 2018. We continue to be grateful to our community for their generous support of our students and staff through the passage of Measure O. It is because of you that we are able to continue this district’s longstanding tradition of excellence!

## Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



**Sandra Crandall**  
*President*



**Lisa Schultz**  
*President Pro-Tem*



**Jim Cunneen**  
*Clerk*



**Ian Collins**  
*Member*



**Jeanne Galindo**  
*Member*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Jim Cunneen**  
*Clerk*

### Excited to be in FVSD!

It is an exciting time to be a Trustee in the Fountain Valley School District (FVSD)! With the clear support of the community through the passing of Measure O in November, 2017, the Board of Trustees has embarked on a journey of facilities betterment in our district.

Since January, our Board has participated in more than 10 meetings, five study sessions, and multiple discussions regarding construction delivery options. After careful analysis and numerous conversations regarding the best delivery of the district’s construction projects, the Board unanimously agreed to a lease-leaseback construction delivery model. In addition, our district conducted a thorough and competitive selection process to determine the right architectural firm. After panel interviews and site visits, staff recommended Rachlin Partners to our Board with unanimous approval, confident that this firm is the best fit for both our district and the projects at hand. With a quality design partner in place and best construction delivery method selected, the Board was able to put forth a request for proposals for a contractor.

Each step of the process has offered the Board an opportunity to research, study, evaluate, and deliberate in order to make the best decision for not only our students and staff, but also our community. It is their support of Measure O that has enabled the district to make improvements to the air climate and air quality in our classrooms. And we are excited about the steps that lay ahead.

As your Board of Trustees, we are confident that the competitive processes in place and the collaborative and thoughtful decisions we make will serve to enrich our students’ and staff’s classroom experience, furthering our district established tradition of excellence. We are honored to have this opportunity for our district, are pleased to serve a community as supportive as that of FVSD, and are advancing closer to beginning these important projects for our students and their educators.

## Fountain Valley Schools Foundation



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

### Showing Their Stuff!

Spring is always the time for letting the students of the Fountain Valley School District “show their stuff.” This year is the same, with many events to help the students showcase their talents.

In April, we had the Art Fair. This is an event that has grown into a much-loved experience for both students and their parents. There was a gallery of student art displayed in the board room and great hands-on activities outside for all ages. To complete the family event, there were food trucks to allow for a fun family dinner while listening to music provided by the middle school band. A perfect evening!

The next event was the Monster Concert held at the Fountain Valley High School gym in May. This was an amazing way to see and hear the music students perform for their families. This concert had everything from beginning band through the advanced band and orchestra. There was also a chance to hear the Fountain Valley High School Royal Regiment. This was a treat that gave the older students a chance to see where music can lead them.

The above events are underwritten and supported by the FV Schools Foundation. Music has always been the primary focuses of the organization. We are thrilled to be able to provide stronger support both now and in the past few years. Recently, the Foundation has provided new musical instruments for the upper grades. Last year, we provided rhythm instruments for the primary grades and music stands and special chairs for the bands.

The Foundation is thrilled to announce that we will help support the new pilot after-school music program for students in grades six through eight. More information about this program will be available in the near future.

The Foundation supports all of the above by holding two major fund-raisers each year: the Taste of Fountain Valley, which was held in April this year, and our annual Marc Ecker Golf Tournament, which will be held in October. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization that is here to provide support to the students of the Fountain Valley School District. We are dependent on donations and hardworking volunteers. www.FVschools.org

# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Chris Christensen**  
*Principal*

### Outdoor Science

5th grade Courreges students just recently returned from their week-long trip to the Arrowhead Ranch Outdoor Science Camp on March 28-March 31. The students enjoyed a week of outdoor science lessons, day/night hikes, astronomy lessons, and Thursday night’s traditional skit program. Courreges students enjoyed their trip meeting new friends, learning more about science, and of course, eating the camp’s “amazing food!”



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

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



**Kevin Johnson**  
*Principal*



**Matt Ploski**  
*Assistant Principal*

### A Huge Success

Fulton Middle School has participated in the “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser each year for the past 10 years. Monies raised go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, an organization that funds research to cure cancers of the blood.

Fulton’s Peer Assistance Leadership class (PAL), composed of our seventh- and eighth-grade students, has taken on this school-wide charity drive. This year the fundraiser ran from March 6 to March 24, and our PALs set a school-wide goal of raising \$3,800.

To promote giving, the PALs made posters showing the total amounts raised by each homeroom, and a “thermometer” to show their progress toward the school’s overall goal, which kept them all up to date. Other enticements included rewards for reaching school-wide “stretch” goals for each week.

The Week One stretch goal was \$1,500 (40 percent of the total). That goal was more than met. The following Monday our yearbook advisor Mr. Brignardello lost his goatee, and Mrs. Hogrebe gained a Sharpie goatee!

The Week Two stretch goal was \$2,850, or 75 percent of the total. Our PALs organized an event in which the students could buy water balloons to toss at their favorite teacher. This event was a huge success, and by the second week there were two Fulton students who had raised over \$3,100. Assistant Principal Ploski also had his head shaved in front of the school during lunch!

By the end of Week Three, our Fulton students had easily surpassed the original goal to raise nearly \$4,200 for cancer research. The top class was Ms. Negro’s sixth-grade, which saw donations in excess of \$685! Since Fulton first began participating in this annual charity drive, our students have donated in excess of \$35,000 for blood cancer research.

# James H. Cox *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

### 5th Grade Science Camp

The 5th Grade Teachers, Cox staff, PTO Executive Board, and the terrific parent community of James H. Cox Elementary School have successfully sent another promoting class of 5th grade students to the week-long Science Camp at Arrowhead. Students learn Earth, Life, and Physical Science as well as collaborative skills, lasting friendships, organizational skills, and responsibility of being a team. Science Camp is a rite of passage for our promoting students before they head off to middle school. Parents may shed a tear the first night, but students shed a tear

the last night of camp because they don’t want the experience to end. Thank you staff and parents for your help to make Science Camp Week a tradition that continues here at Cox Elementary School.



**Students take a break from their snow hike.**

# heal

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Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*  
18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.gisler.fvdsd.us



Erin Bains  
Principal

**A Great Honor**  
Gisler is proud to nominate Allison Vamvas as its 2016–2017 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Vamvas has been teaching for 16 years at Gisler. She has dedicated her life to the children and to the classroom. Allison is an amazing teacher. According to a nominating peer, “Allison continually strives to provide the best education by being open to new programs and ideas. She collaborates with others to make sure they are on the same page, and encourages her colleagues to push forward in their endeavors. She has also done a wonderful job presenting at staff meetings and serving on the reading committee. Allison is deserving of Gisler’s Teacher of the Year Award.”

Mrs. Vamvas has always been a conscientious and hard-working teacher who is respected by our students, families, and the entire staff. She sets high expectations for her students and accepts only the best from them. She has built strong relationships with the students and families, which has created a positive effect on their success and achievement. We are honored to have Mrs. Vamvas represent Gisler.



William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*  
8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvdsd.us



Christopher Mullin  
Principal



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*  
9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.oka.fvdsd.us



Erik Miller  
Principal

**A Well-Deserved Honor**  
Oka Elementary School is proud to announce Mrs. Doyle as our 2016–2017 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Doyle has been part of the upper-grade team for the past decade and, during that time, has solidified herself as an extremely important part of our overall school success. Some teachers are more vocal and out in front in leading the charge. Others have that quiet resolve to lead from behind the scenes—and to do it with grace, consistency, and a steadfast determination to support the learning of students. Mrs. Doyle embodies the latter.

Mrs. Doyle’s colleague Jeanie Moussa-Zahab (Mrs. M-Z) describes her fourth-grade team-teaching partner as “a real professional in all aspects of her job. She is firm, consistent, loving, and expects greatness from her students. She is an undercover workhorse. If she says something will get done, you know she will make it happen. Mrs. Doyle is easy to work with and is always willing to share resources. Her positive attitude has earned the respect of her colleagues, and she is dedicated to making the children we work with polite, problem-solving, smarter participants in this world.”

On behalf of Oka’s students and staff, congratulations, Mrs. Doyle! This honor is so well deserved!



Newland’s second- and fourth-grade classes recently performed two musicals for our school and community. The fourth grade’s *Gold Rush or Bust* and the second grade’s *Aesop’s Fables* were a roaring success! Performing musicals requires a large amount of teamwork, because the students have to learn how to work together and build camaraderie.

We are now looking forward to the musicals of our third- and fifth-grade classrooms, as we continue to provide a well-rounded curriculum to all of our students.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*  
17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masuda.fvdsd.us



Jay Adams  
Principal

**Teacher of the Year**  
Masuda Middle School is proud to honor Mrs. Dawn O’Neal, an English and history teacher, as our Teacher of the Year. Mrs. O’Neal’s nominating peers have all used the same phrases to describe her—kind, considerate, willing to share of her time, curriculum, and wisdom! She always puts learning first, ensuring that every student is growing and reaching his or her potential continually. Mrs. O’Neal is touted as a learning leader—a knowledgeable thinker whose love for learning is contagious! She loves teaching, she loves learning, and she loves her students and our school!



Mrs. O’Neal with students Cielo Chavarria and Kaia Adams

We are blessed by Mrs. O’Neal’s positive energy and outlook. Not only the students but also 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 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.plavan.fvdsd.us



Julie Ballesteros  
Principal

**Our Mrs. Craig**  
Plavan is proud to present Jessica Craig as our 2016–17 Teacher of the Year! A quality educator that truly impacts the life of a child takes a lot more than just being a good teacher. A quality educator must be a learner, a team player, selfless, humble, resourceful, patient and loving. Jessica Craig is a perfect display of all these characteristics. As our resource specialist, Mrs. Craig is unique in the way that she understands the children and takes the time and effort to truly address their individual needs. Her kind and supportive personality allows her to develop relationships with the children. When they are in her presence, they are filled with a sense of confidence and calmness. She instills in them a positive mindset of being capable of whatever they put their minds to. Each day, she is presented with students from extreme varying levels and needs. Mrs. Craig never complains or makes excuses. When a child presents a need, she challenges herself to find a strategy or a method that will support them. Mrs. Craig always puts the children first, giving up her recess and lunch breaks to work with them.

Mrs. Craig defines *resource specialists* because she is not only an amazing resource to the children but also to our staff and district. She has spent countless hours with individual teachers to create interventions and strategies that will assist children in the classroom. She has also built an incredible resource library to help teachers address the various needs in their classrooms.

Mrs. Craig is the teacher that her students and I will remember forever. Her supportive and positive attitude helps mold Plavan into a positive place for children. Mrs. Craig is a true educator that cares, and the world is a better place because of her.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*  
17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvdsd.us



Kathy Davis  
Principal

**Teacher of the Year**  
Jennifer Moore has been teaching for 27 years, but she’s been in the Fountain Valley School District for longer than that. As a student at Cox Elementary School, she had some incredible teachers, who helped to steer her toward a career in education by allowing her to give spelling tests, correct math papers, and run the coveted ditto machine. The rest, as they say, is history. Jennifer began her career at Newland Elementary School, where she taught all grade levels for seven years, until her mentor encouraged her to try her hand at teaching middle school. She taught algebra and math at Talbert Middle School for three years before coming to Tamura Elementary School to teach fifth grade.

Since Jennifer joined the Tamura family, she has been a part of many district committees, served as a math mentor, became a Cotsen Fellow, and is currently a member of the leadership team. She dedicates her time through volunteering at PTO events and serving as 504 coordinator and Students of Success lead teacher. She also directs the annual Tamura Talent Show. Most of all, she works very diligently with her colleagues to prepare meaningful and thoughtful lessons that promote learning using various styles and a multitude of projects. She prides herself on having good rapport with her students and nurturing a fun-loving, safe classroom.

Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School (6–8)*  
9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbert.fvdsd.us



Jennifer Morgan  
Principal

**Rainbow Run**  
The third annual Talbert Rainbow Run was a smashing success and an all-around amazing event. Students, parents and staff were able to show their school spirit while getting in shape and having lots of fun. The event took place in March and brought with it the opportunity to fund-raise for the Talbert PTO, with the goal of purchasing more Chromebooks for our English language arts classrooms. Each week leading up to the Rainbow Run, fund-raising targets as well as the incentives for those targets were posted. After meeting our goals and hitting the fund-raising targets, every student received a Rainbow Run T-shirt as well as an extended lunch for their hard work and effort in supporting the programs at the site.

We look forward to the Rainbow Run next year and greatly appreciate all the support from the Talbert community.



Mark Holman  
Assistant Principal





# Huntington Beach City School District

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/964-8888 • <http://www.hbcsd.k12.ca.us>

## SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Hauk

### New Accountability System in Place for School Districts

Previously, school and districts in California have had their success measured by the Academic Performance Index (API), which was indicated by a three-digit number. The API number system was based solely on the standardized test scores. The state of California has now come out with a new accountability system for schools and districts called the California School Dashboard.

The new California School Dashboard system measures a school in multiple areas: mathematics, English language arts,

English learner progress, suspension rates, graduation rates, and college/career preparedness. Each of these areas will be measured both on the school's or district's current status, where they are now, and also their change from the previous year. Accountability will no longer be reported to our communities by the three-digit number; instead, schools will be assigned a place on a color scale that begins with red for poor and increases to orange, yellow, green, and then, hopefully, to blue, which is the top of the scale. The purpose behind these changes was to move to a multiple measure system and report these findings in a manner that is more easily understood by parents and the community alike.

The goal of a student report card is to report a student's current status and then begin or continue a conversation to help the student become better at that specific task. The same is true for the California School Dashboard system and how we respond in the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD). We are very proud that, once again, our schools and district excel in the areas of mathematics and English language arts. The hard work of our students and teachers and the support of our parents and community are reflected in a blue score and a green score in these core content areas. However, the data also shows that as a district we need to take a look at our suspension rate for students, determine trends and outcomes, and develop a plan of action to improve these numbers.

The California School Dashboard system is new, as is the data that is currently generating the colors that are reported out. The expectation is that this system will continue to improve, telling the important story of how our schools are performing and meeting the needs of our students and community. In HBCSD, we are committed to continuous improvement and have already begun the work of utilizing this system to help us improve.

If you would like to learn more about the California School Dashboard or our plans to improve HBCSD, please feel free to contact your school office or the district office.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Paul Morrow  
President

### The Power of Presence

Working in the field of education is one of the most amazing and fulfilling careers a person could ask for. As the former principal of two schools in our district and now serving on the Board of Trustees, I've been given an opportunity to view our district in a very unique way. I remember, while at Moffett Elementary School, sharing a schoolwide motto, "When you have a job to do, you do it the best you can, whether you feel like it or not!" Back then, I didn't really realize the impact we had on our students with that phrase. Now about 30 years later, I have been absolutely blessed seeing its impact. Former students from that

school now have children attending schools in our district. Since coming back to the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD), I've been so amazed by the number of former students who now are moms and dads of students in our schools today. Almost every one of those now parents in our schools have taken the time to tell me how much that simple phrase impacted their lives, their families, and their outlook on life in both good and bad times.

Why did they choose to raise their families and have their children go to school in our district and in many cases the same elementary and/or middle schools? The answers remind me of just why the HBCSD is a school district that makes a difference in the lives of its students and families, answers that define what great schools are really all about. We measure so many things in our schools today to determine effectiveness and excellence, but the things we really have no way to measure, the things that influence life, future choices, families, and relationships are sometimes as simple as a pat on the back to a child who is finding the day hard to manage, a hug to someone who is having a rough day, or that special award we give that makes a kindergartner smile from ear to ear as Mom and Dad watch and remember who they were in that same school so many years ago!

While academic achievement is important and a hallmark of excellence in education and in our district, let's always remember "the power of presence" we have in the lives of our students and families, that the power and influence we have to make a difference in the life of a child is also one of those hallmarks of excellence.

Here in the HBCSD, you can see the importance of our focus on the "whole child" through the actions and hearts of our teachers and staff members in each of our schools and throughout our district: custodians giving friendly advice to a child; teachers greeting their classes as they enter their rooms; a principal hugging a student who just got his first A on a test; or a parent smiling as she watches her child while volunteering in the classroom. As I visit our schools and watch through the eyes of a Board of Trustees member now, I still see those acts of kindness and compassion that make positive memories possible, that help moms and dads remember why they came back to the HBCSD to raise and educate their families, that remind us that excellence means all of the above and is right here in our small little school district, right here in the Huntington Beach City School District!

### Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



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## Educational Services

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



Carolyn Wertheim  
Director  
Early Childhood  
Education

### Full STEAM Ahead!

Our recent HBCSD Early Childhood Family Engagement program featured STEAM opportunities. We partnered with a Fountain Valley classroom-supply store and provided young children and their families access to hands-on activities in the areas of science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. Children explored multiple demonstration stations that offered ideas and developmentally appropriate materials, including magnifying glasses, magnets, blocks, measuring tapes and puzzles.

The next free HBCSD Early Childhood Family Engagement



program is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, at the store. This event is available for Huntington Beach-area children up to 5 years of age and their parent or guardian. Register to attend either the morning or afternoon session at <https://goo.gl/forms/fRSIhf02hY93ia6y2> as we highlight summer-fun activities families can enjoy together.

Join us as we explore hands on and child-centered activities together!

## John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall  
Principal

### We Were Captivated!

Students couldn't stop laughing when New Zealand children's author James Russell presented an assembly about his native country and how he became a writer. He captivated students with his funny sense of humor by interacting with the children. He started by having students read funny questions that he brought along to set the tone. Then, he showed pictures of his upbringing and his own two children, who inspired the main characters of his new book, *The Dragon Hunters*, and their following selections.

Mr. Russell emphasized the writing process and how the majority of his efforts were editing and revising, and then he read his book enthusiastically to the crowd. He showed the student a special app that brought his book to life by making the pages three-dimensional, complete with floating clouds, dragons and sounds of birds! It was very innovative and captivating!

Mr. Russell's books can be purchased at the nearby megabookstore that sponsored the free event!



First Grader, Breann Castro, participates in the Author Assembly.

## Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • <http://dms.schoolloop.com>



Christa Glembocki  
Principal

### Junior Oilers Love History

The National History Day Contest is held every year in March for schools in Orange County. This year's theme was, "Taking a Stand in History." Dwyer was represented by two students who each spent over 100 hours researching and creating their exhibit. 7th grader, Nicholas Dumesnil, chose Jackie Robinson and 8th grader, Hayden Melkonoff, chose Ruby Bridges.

Their exhibits included visual sources, quotes, and analysis that showed how their

subject had taken a significant stand and how it impacted history. Nicholas and Hayden were also required to write a process paper and an annotated bibliography that included citing primary and secondary sources. Nicholas and Hayden competed against 28 other students from middle schools in Orange County. Hayden was 1 of 5 finalists and was recognized at a ceremony, receiving 4th place. Way to go to all our Junior Oilers who participated in this great event!



Hayden Melkonoff and Nicholas Dumesnil proudly displayed their exhibits at National History Day.

## Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

9682 Yellowstone Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8302 • <http://hes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com>



Julie Jennings  
Principal

### "Hawesome" Inspiration

As the year draws to a close, students at Hawes Elementary School are still learning. During this time of year, our students apply their knowledge in project-based activities that demonstrate integration and mastery of Common Core State Standards.

In fifth grade, students take the math and social studies standards to a new level with Market Day. Student sellers create products, and buyers use "money" they have earned to make purchases. In another project, fifth-graders integrate their knowledge of science and math using creativity to create water rockets.

Fourth-graders are involved in creating projects that make a positive impact on our school and beyond through the Genius Hour. In third grade, our students create a passion project iMovie that depicts one of their passions.

Second-graders have applied their learning through the presentation of a musical. These students have learned songs, lines, actions, and more, creating amazing productions complete with scene changes, costumes, and choreography! To culminate a yearlong project in animal adoption, our second-graders will travel to the San Diego Zoo to make a donation to the animal adoption center and get some behind-the-scenes learning about their chosen animal.

All of our students participate in our grade-level Spring Sings and demonstrate their skills in choral music and keyboarding. In June, our entire school will perform in our Class Act Bravo Assembly to demonstrate their learning of Mozart and the magical journey that music provides. As part of this assembly, our students will dance, sing, create their own lyrics to Mozart's tunes, display artwork, and use rhythm sticks to perform!

At Hawes, the learning never stops—and the inspiration is "Hawesome!"

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S. A. Moffett *Elementary*  
8800 Burlcrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • <http://www.moffettschool.com>



**Michael Andrzejewski**  
*Principal*

**Sharing a Passion for Reading**

The week of February 27 to March 3 was an exciting one here at Moffett School. It was filled with fun and creative learning activities oriented towards honoring Dr. Seuss' birthday. Mary McCalment, our PTA parent coordinator, created a week-long event that celebrated both Dr. Seuss and our students' love of reading.

As part of the celebration, our students brought from home gently used books to share with their classmates through donation to our school's "Best Foot Forward" early reading program. They also committed to turning off their television and electronics for a night. In exchange for these efforts, the students received Dr. Seuss-themed awards.

Barbara Richardson, our city librarian, helped kick off the week with a reading of The Sneetches at our Monday morning flag assembly. As a shared school activity, each student also created a mini-book cover with their favorite Dr. Seuss story on the front. These "books" were then displayed in our Gallery's large-group meeting area for all of our visitors to see. We also shared a theme for each day of the week, which included activities like "Mismatched Clothing Day," or "Green Like a Grinch Day," and "Read Me Day."

Our entire school community joined in on the celebration. Not only did we have a lot of fun, but we also reinforced one of our school's goals of building strong readers who share a passion for and love of reading.

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*  
6701 Garfield Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/841-7081 • <http://seacliff-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com>

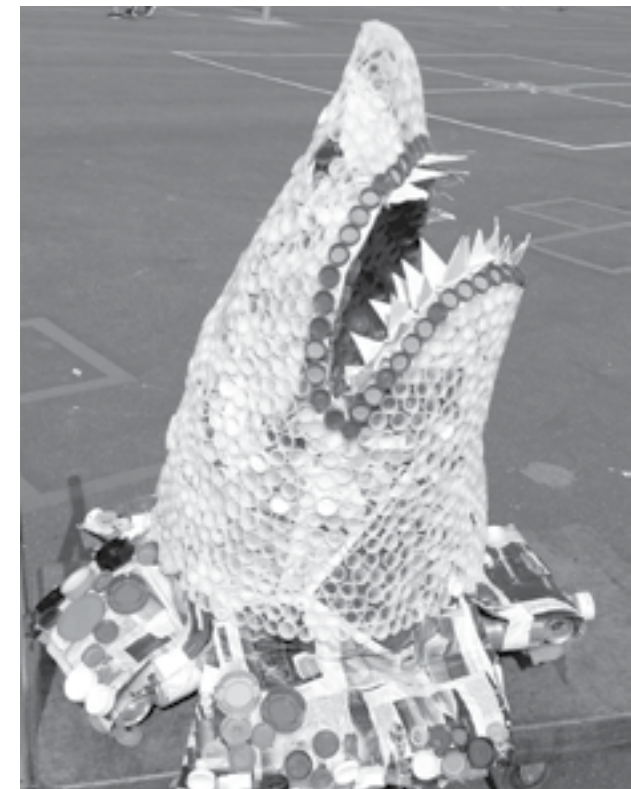


**Dr. Monique Huibregtse**  
*Principal*

**From Trash to Art**

In April, Huntington Seacliff Elementary School students and parents attended the Muzeo's TrashARTist Challenge. This county-wide art contest promotes zero-waste recycling by encouraging students to turn trash into art to promote a message of creative conservation and sustainability.

In the fall, parents and students brainstormed what they could make using recycled items that would catch people's attention. They asked the school community to keep their bottle caps and other trash items to be recycled into their art project.



They collected the necessary items for months, and Mr. Sharkie was born!

The artists hope that people seeing Mr. Sharkie will think about recycling and be inspired to learn more about sharks. They felt that sharks, who are often portrayed as ferocious animals, are an important species that needs clean water to survive. If you look closely at the picture, I think you can see why Mr. Sharkie won the People's Choice Award!

Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*  
19231 Harding Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-3348 • <http://perry-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com>



**Dr. Renee Polk Johnson**  
*Principal*

**Family Science Night**

On Thursday, March 16, Perry Elementary School hosted its first Family Science Night. We had a huge turnout, and we loved seeing students and families participate in the hands-on science stations and all of the activities.

Some highlights of Perry Science Night included: fourth- and fifth-grade students engineered designs and tested them in the Fluor Challenge; third-grade students engineered and designed buildings to withstand earthquakes, which were then tested at different magnitudes on the "earthquake table"; kindergarten and first-grade students engineered straw rockets and tested them; and second-grade students designed and engineered egg-catching contraptions, which were tested that evening. We also had a dance component to the event in order for us to show the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Chemistry graduate students from University of California, Irvine provided a demonstration and conducted experiments as well.

It was a magical night of students, families, science, and STEAM fun!



Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*  
9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • <http://isrms.schoolloop.com>



**John Ashby**  
*Principal*

**A Proud New Viking**

I am thrilled to be the principal at Sowers. In my first few weeks here, I have experienced students engaged in their learning, teachers who are passionate about their work as educators, and a truly supportive school community. I have also begun to immerse myself in the culture of Sowers. Based upon my initial observations, I truly believe that this is an excellent school.

Therefore, my hope for Sowers is that we will continue to build on the foundation of this great school by having an appreciative eye to our past and current successes, while also keeping a keen eye to the future. I am committed to fostering a school of excellence, where all of our Vikings can discover, embrace, and enhance their abilities through passion, pride, and purpose. I believe that our Vikings are capable of discovering their strengths and weaknesses, accepting them, and then making a concerted effort to improve on each.

While I could give a list of the great things that are happening daily here at 9300 Indianapolis Avenue, I would like to invite you to see them for yourself in real-time by following us on Twitter and Instagram at @SowersVikingsHB.

I appreciate all of our students, staff, families, site administration team, district leaders, and the surrounding school community for making me feel at home. I look forward to working with you all in the years that lie ahead to help support our Sowers students. Go, Vikings!



Changing lives, one smile at a time!



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**Dr. Andrew Harner DDS, MS**  
*President, California Association of Orthodontists*







**Dr. Constance Polhemus**  
*Principal*

**The Sound of Music**

On a recent Friday afternoon, the Peterson Elementary School community enjoyed a wonderfully unique outdoor flash performance by the Young Americans. Recently back from touring the United Kingdom, this group of college students, one of four world-renowned touring groups, sang and danced in two locations on campus as students were dismissed from school.

The Peterson community was excited to learn that the Young Americans will be in Huntington Beach this summer to perform and host a camp for local students at Dwyer Middle School. The group believes in sustaining and supporting music programs in the communities they visit each summer, so they donate proceeds from ticket sales to local music programs.

Under the direction of dedicated teachers Kevin Heyden and Jennifer Sandoval, music is a significant part of the education experience at Peterson. Our inspiring special guests reminded us how valuable music is in the education experience. t was also a great way to sing and dance into the weekend!





**Carolyn Beck**  
*Principal*


**Celebrating Reading and Creativity**

On March 2, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America Day, Smith Elementary School students and staff enjoyed our first-ever Book Character Dress-Up Day. Students were able to dress up as their favorite book characters and share their passion for reading and books with their classmates and friends. The teachers and principal participated as well, and students enjoyed guessing which book characters they represented. It was such a hit that we will definitely continue to foster and engage our students' interest in reading by conducting this event annually.

We also had our fourth annual library-sponsored bookmark design contest. Students who created bookmarks to promote reading were entered for a chance to win a new book. Our students showcased their creative writing and artistic talent with amazing entries. We had five winners and eight honorees. It was a fun and creative day for all!



SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Carol Hansen**

**English Language Arts and Language Development Adoption Process “Takes A Village”**

The proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” is based in African culture and refers to the need for family and community, a “village,” to actively participate in the process of raising children. As an education professional for more than 30 years, I would say that it also “takes a village” to adopt instructional materials for school districts. The process is long and often complex. It involves decision-making and training at the state, county, and local levels, as well as among Board members, teachers, administrators, and parents across a school district.

For more than a year, the Ocean View School District has been in the process of an English Language Arts (ELA)/English Language Development (ELD) adoption for Transitional Kindergarten through eighth grade. Our process aligns with the ELA Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the instructional shifts we are experiencing as a result of newly adopted state standards. At a recent Board meeting, our Educational Services Division presented an overview of CCSS in OVSD and described the instructional shifts. I'll give you an example: The state's new ELA standards focus on evidence-based writing and the ability of students to inform and persuade. This is a significant shift from current ELA practices. Our new instructional materials must align to these standards and practices in order for all students to be successful today and as they progress through high school and beyond.

OVSD's teachers began trainings at the state and county levels last year in preparation for the ELA/ELD instructional materials pilot program. For the past year, our elementary and middle school pilot committee has been carefully reviewing publisher materials and piloting ELA programs in their classrooms. All of OVSD's TK–5 and 6–8 schools have participated in the pilot program, including special education, and sample sets of the materials were available to our teachers and the public for preview in our OVSD Instructional Resource Center.

This spring, our pilot teachers painstakingly discussed, voted, and made their recommendations under the guidance of our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) which sets the course of the District and the actions we take related to student instruction and achievement. The next step is for the committee's ELA/ELD adoption recommendations for grades TK–5 and 6–8 to be presented to our Board of Trustees for approval and funding. If approved, the materials will be ordered and teachers will have the opportunity to plan and participate in professional development trainings in the late spring and over the summer using our new materials.

I want to extend my gratitude to our Board of Trustees, the Educational Services Division, the ELA/ELD Adoption Committee, parents, and the participating teachers for their expertise, forethought, and diligence as they near completion of this important process. Adoption Committee members included three teachers from each elementary school, three teachers from each middle school, special education teachers, district Teachers on Special Assignment, and administrators. The instructional materials adoption process works, but it does “take a village” for the best possible results for OVSD's students.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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**Continuing the Collaborative Work of Our District**

School Boards must make tough decisions to accomplish goals and overcome adversity. The Ocean View School District has been faced with and resolved many difficult challenges over the past several years. It was not easy, but through an intentional focus by our Board of Trustees and our district's leadership team, we have collaborated and improved communication with our families, staff, and community on important decisions. In just two years, we successfully modernized and reopened Hope View, Lake View, and Oak View Elementary Schools, passed a \$169-million school general-obligation bond, settled a multi-year lawsuit with Republic Environmental Services, and created a comprehensive online Facilities Master Plan.

This same approach will guide us as we begin discussing bond modernization projects, school consolidation, and fiscal stability, from now through the 2018–2019 school year. We are in the process of keeping our constituents informed and gathering information and input, with the support of district staff, as we move forward. Note that modernization projects will not begin until the fall of 2018.

I want to provide some factual information that will help make sense of the important decisions we now face as a Board.

The overall student enrollment for OVSD has declined from 9,600 students in 2009 to a current enrollment of approximately 8,700 students. This significant decline impacts everything we do—including district income, staffing, facility usage, categorical funding, and class configurations in our schools.

Our district received positive certification from the county for its 2016–2017 budget and must project the same solvency for the upcoming two fiscal years, despite our declining enrollment. This decline negatively impacts district income and will now impact other practices, such as maintaining very small school sizes. As a result, we must analyze our overall efficiency, staffing ratios, school enrollments, and school sizes.

Sun View Elementary School currently enrolls only 250 students; Westmont Elementary School enrolls 330 students; and Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP)/Pleasant View enrolls 240 students—very small enrollments for a typical elementary school. However, these schools require the same level of teachers and support staffing that is often found at larger schools.

The complexity of these issues requires a clear strategic solution. Our Board is committed to modernizing school sites in OVSD to the same level of quality found in the modernization projects at Hope View, Lake View, and Oak View Schools. Of course, changes of this scope may not be implemented quickly because they impact entire school communities, and some aspects are governed by collective bargaining agreements with our employees.

Two School Consolidation Task Forces were formed to provide a forum for questions and concerns from families, employees, and community members as we move forward with the exploration of temporary housing and school consolidation. There is one task force for the Sun View Elementary School consolidation and another for the OVPP/Pleasant View consolidation. These groups will advise our Board and district administration prior to any school consolidation in 2018, and they will contribute to a comprehensive Board report prior to a public hearing on any formal action by our Board.

As your Board president, I will continue to provide updates on the modernization projects and our fiscal responsibilities. Our recent district achievements reflect the support and collaborative work of our families, employees, and students throughout the district, and I intend to uphold that spirit.



# Circle View *Elementary*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5035 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

game using arrow keys to control R2D2. They also learned to capture bots designed by their sets of rules. Students will continue to learn computational thinking through coding in multiple languages, including Blockly, Scratch games/animations, HTML/CSS Web development, and Javascript Web apps. According to third-grade student Kristof Petervary, “We are smarter than the computer. We get to tell it to take blocks, the computer reads it, and we specify what we want it to do. It’s awesome!”



**Students gather around during an enrichment class at Circle View to code using a variety of digital tools.**

# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Brett Hardy**  
*Principal*

**Arbor Day Celebration**  
Our Golden View Elementary School Farm was the focal point of a wonderful Arbor Day celebration in March that was hosted by the Huntington Beach Tree Society. Through hundreds of volunteer hours and generous donations, the Huntington Beach Tree Society has worked tirelessly to clean up and enhance our orchard and garden area. Yes, we have an orchard! Trees planted include Valencia orange, Washington orange, kumquat, Fuji apple, Red Baron peach, and Goldmine nectarine. Golden View was also thrilled to receive many new fruit trees for the orchard. Students from Mrs. Fox’s class got involved in the celebration by sharing numerous facts about trees and explaining how they can benefit the environment. Our students also participated in a composting activity to learn the value of recycling and reusing materials. We are fortunate to have so many partners who donate their time and resources to the Golden View Farm.



# College View *Elementary*

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



**Katherine Smith**  
*Principal*



**Presenting Mr. Vincent Saporito, OVSD’s Elementary Teacher of the Year!**

# Harbour View *Elementary*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-6602 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

**An Exemplary Educator**  
During teacher Vincent Saporito’s short tenure at College View Elementary School, he has won the hearts of our students, staff and community. He leads by example and always goes the extra mile to assure that his students receive the highest caliber of education, and in turn, his students strive for excellence each and every day. As a Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) individual himself, Mr. Saporito has empathy for and an understanding of the struggles our DHH youth encounter in their lives. He has dedicated his own life, inside and outside the classroom, to teach children and adults American Sign Language (ASL). In fact, he is currently teaching all 440 of our College View Wildcats ASL so that they will be able to sign the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem. Mr. Saporito is an exemplary employee and an inspiration to all of us. Congratulations!

**What ‘Sup? ReSUP!**  
At Harbour View, we had the privilege of having SUP champion, environmentalist and motivational speaker Tom Jones share his message with our fourth- and fifth-grade students about the importance of keeping our environment clean. Mr. Jones is the creator of ReSUP, which stands for “Rethink Single-Use Plastics.” The students learned how single-use plastics are damaging our environment. Mr. Jones’s powerful message to students was this: You are the generation that will inherit this Earth, so you need to be a part of solving the problem of pollution. Students were engaged and eager to start helping. Mr. Jones then gave them the ReSUP Challenge, inviting students to track their families’ consumption of single-use plastics and to make decisions about how they can do things differently. It is our hope that this challenge can be shared with children nationwide and eventually worldwide. In addition, Mr. Jones is a world-record holder in long-distance stand-up paddling, and he plans to break his own record in spring 2018 by paddling from San Francisco to Oahu to help bring awareness to the issue of pollution in our ocean. Good luck, Mr. Jones!



**Harbour View Principal Cindy Osterhout with Re-SUP creator Tom Jones and a Harbour View student, ready with her ReSUP kit.**

# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Paul Kraft**  
*Principal*

**Student and Family Learning Opportunities**  
Hope View Elementary School dashed into spring with many engaging activities for students and their families. Our Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students conducted two cannonball experiments in March as part of a weekly Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) class. As adult volunteers launched the slingshot “cannonballs” over 100 feet in the air, students took measurements to determine the projectile height and initial velocity, and, from this data, the strength of the Earth’s gravity. Our entire school participated in a walking field trip to Marine View Middle School to attend their amazing “Seussical Jr.” production. We even had our own escorts across the busy streets—members of the Huntington Beach Police Department! On a more serious note, our Hope view families were invited to attend a parent education class led by school counselor Sheila Hansen. Mrs. Hansen shared strategies and tips for supporting children who are dealing with anger and frustration. Our school librarian, Clare Shweyk, was recognized as the Orange County Para Educator of the Year. The entire school, along with Superintendent Carol Hansen and her executive cabinet, threw a surprise assembly in her honor. Congratulations!



**Hope View GATE students conducting the cannonball experiment.**

# Marine View *Middle School*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-0624 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**William Lynch**  
*Principal*

**Seventh Grader Receives ‘Award of Excellence’**  
Marine View Middle School students participated in The National PTA Reflections Art competition this year. The 2016-2017 theme was “What is your story?” Seventh grade student Mary Sheldon submitted a beautiful Visual Arts entry for the Huntington Union Council (HUC) of the Parent Teacher Association. The title of her submission was “Together We Can Make Our Earth Beautiful.” Mary was awarded the Award of Excellence for Middle School, and we are so proud of her! She was recognized on Feb. 24th at the HUC PTA Founders Day luncheon at Mile Square Golf Course in Fountain Valley. Congratulations Mary!



**Student Mary Sheldon, seventh grader, receives her Visual Arts award from Huntington Union Council Parent Teacher Association President Joy Moyers.**

# Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Jamie Goodwyn**  
*Principal*

**STEAMing It Up, Seuss Style**  
On March 2, many elementary schools across America celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday, a day we all call Read Across America. This is a day for holding read-a-thons, creating poetry in the rhyming style of Dr. Seuss, and hosting special events for family members to read to students. At Lake View Elementary School, we participated in Read Across America activities and added our own Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) spin to the day. From our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) class creating mathematical Cat in the Hat artwork made from shapes to our fifth-grade students designing and engineering a crazy contraption, our celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday was filled with wacky STEAM activities that enhanced our traditional STEAM-integrated curriculum. In fact, our second-grade class completed a great activity about cleaning up an oil spill based on the book The Lorax. The message of the book and the project reflected our 2017–2018 school-wide focus: how humans impact the environment.



# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

**Learning Spanish**  
Mesa View Middle School is proud to offer a rigorous and challenging Spanish curriculum. Many eighth-grade students at Mesa View are enrolled in the year-long Spanish elective. With a passing grade in eighth-grade Spanish, our students can enroll in second-year Spanish for their freshman year in high school. This gives them a head start on meeting the A–G college entrance requirements that high school students use as guidelines to decide their course schedules. In Spanish, we encourage active participation, so students often engage in regular partner conversations to practice using new vocabulary and language concepts, while developing listening and speaking skills. Students also use whiteboards for daily practice. Many students like having choice and creative freedom in the Spanish mini-projects. Students apply what they learn into these required mini-projects, which they present in Spanish to their peers. For example, students recently created cartoons with basic conversations in Spanish. Some drew cartoons, while others created computer-generated cartoons. Also, picture books about what students like to do and what they do not like to do came in all sizes and a variety of mediums. Some students made weather reports using posters, while others made PowerPoint presentations. Most recently, students have been working with partners to write scripts about the foods they eat at different meals and what they do to stay healthy. While most pairs will present skits in front of the class, some students have opted to create videos to show in class instead. As our seventh-grade students look toward their elective choices for the 2017–2018 school year, I encourage them to take the opportunity to enroll in the year-long Spanish course. We are confident students will enjoy being challenged and engaged in a learning a second language.



# Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Rosa Guerra**  
*Principal*

## A Partnership for Success!

At Oak View Elementary School we have a long-standing and valued partnership with CSP. They have been supporting our students and delivering an anti-bullying message with a focus on students in grades 3-5 since the beginning of the school year. They are an essential component of our Bully Prevention focus and complement our Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) program that we have in place at Oak View Elementary. We actively seek to recognize appropriate behavior and set-up students for success! In the photo, students from Mrs.

Loomis' third grade class are attending to CSP Counselors Jonathon Santiago and Evelyn Betancourt as they provide students with strategies to use when they witness or are confronted with a bullying situation. We are proud to be "UPSTANDERS" at Oak View Elementary!



# Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/843-6938 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

## Learning about Generosity

Our Oak View Preschool families modeled the spirit of generosity when their students participated in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Trike-a-Thon on Friday, March 24.

The students are learning about bike safety, and they were able to demonstrate it on their trikes. With parental permission,

they brought trikes, bikes, and scooters (and of course, helmets) to school and raced around the track on our playground. An audience of parents and friends cheered them on!

Along with learning to ride, the students also learned how to give. Congratulations goes to our Oak View Preschool community for helping to make a positive difference in the lives of children who depend on local hospitals for their care.

Thank you to our preschool parents for modeling to their children the importance of giving from the heart to those less fortunate. We teach a lot of lessons at Oak View Preschool, with empathy and caring being two of the most important!



# Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
*Principal*

## Congratulations, Mr. de Lachica!

Spring View Middle School is proud to announce that Mr. Jared de Lachica has been selected as the Middle School Teacher of the Year for the 2016–17 school year. Although it is Mr. de Lachica's job to teach seventh-grade social studies and leadership, it is the extra little things he does that

make a world of difference for our Spring View students.

It is the extra time he devotes to his students at recess and lunch. It is creating a skit with his leadership students for parents on Back-to-School Night. It is coaching basketball after school. It is working through difficult situations with students and their families. It is creating a ball-checkout system at recess and lunch so that our students can stay active. It is having conversations with students and encouraging them to be their best.

Ultimately, being a great educator is not just about being an excellent teacher in the classroom; it is caring about all students' well-being and doing everything in your power to create an environment in which every student has an opportunity to succeed. Congratulations, Mr. de Lachica!



# Star View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

## S.C.O.R.E.

As a S.C.O.R.E. school with the Anaheim Ducks, Star View Elementary School is host to some wonderful hockey events. We were honored with a visit from the NHL's Centennial Museum Trailer earlier this year, including an opportunity to have the Stanley Cup on

campus. More recently, Canadian-born Willie O'Ree, the first black hockey player in the NHL, came to our school to speak with fourth and fifth grade students about diversity. He shared some of the intense experiences that made him the man he is today. He also told our students how he did not let adversity stand in the way of his dreams.

O'Ree was accompanied by Steve Carroll, the "Voice of the Ducks," who interacted with our students and explained the Hockey Is for Everyone Initiative. Mr. Carroll, who has called over 1,000 Anaheim Ducks' hockey games in his career, is considered one of the best announcers in the business.

In his parting words, Willie O'Ree shared with the Star View students, "If you think you can, you can. If you think you can't, you're right."



**Hockey is for Everyone: History-Making Hockey Player, Willie O'Ree, visits.**

# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Francesca Ligman**  
*Principal*

## Farewell to Grandma Pam

Village View Elementary School values its volunteers. One of our beloved volunteers, Pam Potter, who began when her first grandchild went through Village View 10 years ago, left us unexpectedly this spring.

Throughout her 10 years with Village View, she came into our classrooms, helped countless students, coordinated PTO events, and befriended the teachers and staff. When students saw her, they often stopped to give her hugs. They called her "Grandma Pam." The entire school community has been deeply affected by her loss.

Volunteers like Pam are rare and deeply cherished. Her dedication to our school was unlike any other. As a community, we came together to support one another and honor her memory and inspiration. Students and staff created beautiful tributes through letters, journals, and art,



allowing our community to grow closer and stronger as we embraced lessons on the precious gift of life. Many attended her services.

Goodbye and thank you to our wonderful volunteer and friend Pam Potter!





**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

**Humpty Dumpty Egg Launch**

In April, Sun View Elementary School held its much-anticipated annual Humpty Dumpty Egg Launch for the first-grade class.

Each first-grader started with a raw egg. They then designed and built protective cases for their individual eggs. With all of the projects complete, the eggs were launched one at a time from the roof of the school by our own K–2 Pathways teacher, Chris Syfers.

After the launches, protective covers were opened by each student-designer to see if the egg had survived the fall.

Students and parents watched with anticipation for obvious signs of failure, such as drippy egg whites oozing from the protective case. The success rate for survival was amazing, with over 75 percent of the Humpty Dumpty eggs landing without a crack! We are so proud of our exceptional first-grade engineers.



**Susan Broderson**  
*Principal*

**Westmont’s Food Pantry**

Did you know that one in five children in our community is at risk of hunger? Or that most of the hungry are working poor trying to do their best to provide for their families?

These statistics are taken directly from one of the leading food banks in Orange County. Westmont Elementary knows that some of its own families are in need of temporary assistance as well. As a result, working closely with a community partner, we created our Westmont Food Pantry.

Student helpers in Mrs. Haugh’s fourth-grade class are responsible for packing the weekly food bags for distribution. When asked about why the food pantry was started, our students shared in unison: “So that the people who don’t have enough money to buy food can get food.” Each student is responsible for a specific food item to pack. For example, Alexa packs cereals and black beans, Mitchel packs fruits and vegetables, and Anthony packs toilet paper and treats.



**Westmont students enjoy organizing the food pantry and preparing the donation bags with the help of our community partners and parents.**



**Scott Mooney**  
*Principal*

**Art, History in Depth**

Vista View Middle School staff members are always finding ways to engage students in meaningful learning activities that provide new experiences and connect to the world outside school. One project we recently completed is the Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, sponsored by Chapman University. All eighth-grade students selected a Holocaust survivor or rescuer testimony and created an original work of art, film, prose or poetry in response. This year’s theme was “Telling it Forward,” which encouraged students to consider how they make memories matter by sharing with others.

Vista View’s three winners were submitted to Chapman University’s international competition: Kathy Dao for poetry, and Christine Nguyen and Vanessa Nguyen for art. Vanessa’s artwork, titled “Stolen from Safekeeping,” was selected as a finalist. All three students traveled to the awards ceremony at the college campus in March, where Vanessa was able to meet Fela Gipsman, the Holocaust survivor whose story inspired her work.



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

**Home to Superstar Specialists**

Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is a comprehensive preschool with a variety of educational programs. Within our school we have many specialists who spend countless hours assessing, teaching, planning, observing, researching, and providing additional support for our teachers, students, and family members. Each specialist plays a vital role in providing input and insight into each child’s program to help them become successful.

Throughout the day, these highly dedicated individuals share their talents and knowledge with our students, staff, and parents. They collaborate with each other and dissect the strengths and unique needs of each student to make sure that they are all progressing socially, emotionally, and academically throughout the entire year.



**Anne Lang, Lynn Trittipo, Linda Still, Vicki Kincaid, Anh Mai, Melanie Fenger**

We are fortunate to have Linda Still, Lynn Trittipo, Anne Lang, Melanie Fenger, Anh Mai, Vicki Kincaid, Kim Tong, Bryan Leipper, and Jen Hwang as part our staff. We want to thank all of them for their dedication and unwavering work ethic on behalf of our students.

**SUPERINTENDENT**

**Grateful for the Opportunity**

As many of you know, I have accepted the position of superintendent of the Poway Unified School District. This was a very difficult decision for me, as being the superintendent of the Westminster School District (WSD) has been the highlight of my professional career. But the decision was ultimately made in the best interest of my family. It has truly been an honor to serve as superintendent of this wonderful district.

I’d like to reflect for a few moments on some of the things we have accomplished in the last three and a half years: we established the first Vietnamese dual-language immersion academy in California, a Spanish dual-language immersion academy, a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) magnet school, and a Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) academy, and this fall we are launching Orange County’s first computer science magnet school. WSD was one of only 13 districts (out of 1,000) throughout California to be named an Honor Roll District, a national program recognizing high-performing schools that improve the outcomes for students, and we were honored as a White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics Bright Spot in Hispanic Education. We were one of the first districts to implement a one-to-one Chromebook device initiative for K–8 students, and last year we received the prestigious Golden Bell Award for our amazing i4 Blended Learning Initiative.

I am incredibly proud of our achievements, and I am confident that the programs we have in place will continue to thrive and grow. I am excited to take on the new challenges that are ahead of me, yet, at the same time, very sad to be leaving WSD. I will be forever grateful to have had the opportunity to lead such a great district and to work alongside such remarkable people.



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

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2017 School Site Teachers of the Year	
Anderson — Ann Bui	Meairs — Leslie Johnson
Clegg — Napoleon Dinh	Schmitt — Cheyenne Garvey
DeMille — Lisa Williams	Schroeder — Donna Hilts
Eastwood, — Elizabeth Williams Ross	Sequoia — Elaine Mizuo
Finley — Melanie Rafkin	Stacey — Jordan Woodruff
Fryberger — Elisabeth Clarke	Warner — Sheila Peck
Hayden — David Hubbard	Webber — Kateline Vu
Johnson— Phil Hunter	Willmore — Greg Van den Oordel

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Sequoia Elementary Teacher Shines**

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mrs. Elaine Mizuo, a kindergarten teacher at Sequoia Elementary School, has been named the Westminster School District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Mizuo has been a teacher in the district for 13 years and has had an incredibly positive impact on the lives of hundreds of children. While she is known among her colleagues for her expertise in Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) and education technology, she is known among her students and parents for making learning fun.

Mrs. Mizuo’s philosophy on teaching and commitment to her students is eloquently revealed in an excerpt from her application for Teacher of the Year. Here she describes the attributes of an outstanding teacher and, without a doubt, she is describing herself:



**Penny Loomer**  
*President*



**Celebrating Elaine Mizuo, Teacher of the Year**  
**James Jimenez, Asst. Supt. HR; Michelle Watkins, Sequoia Principal;**  
**Elaine Mizuo, Teacher of the Year; Dr. Marian Kim Phelps, Superintendent; Kim Bui, WTA President**

“An outstanding teacher exhibits proficiency in best practices and is one who is always a student himself or herself, keeping abreast of current educational trends and one who actively seeks to keep current on educational research findings. An outstanding teacher makes learning fun and, in the process, provides multiple opportunities for success, offering a rigorous program in which the students are capable of succeeding. An outstanding teacher provides a program with built-in student engagement and successes, along with encouragement and support. Students need to view school as a safe haven; therefore, an outstanding teacher develops a culture of positive interactions among the students and teaches them to celebrate the achievements of others as well as their own. An outstanding teacher is a student of his or her students and makes personalized connections with each child’s family. An outstanding teacher instills a growth mindset in his or her students and views each day with a growth mindset. An outstanding teacher has a lasting positive impact on his or her students’ lives.”

Mrs. Mizuo exhibits all of the attributes she mentions that are necessary to be an outstanding teacher. She is beloved by students, staff, and parents, who not only think of her as an exceptional teacher but as a role model, team player, and mentor as well.

We are very proud to have Mrs. Mizuo 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, Mrs. Mizuo and all of our exemplary Teachers of the Year!



# Anderson *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

### Helping Others

During the month of March, our Anderson Tigers joined up with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to participate in their Pennies for Patients program.

During the course of three weeks, our community collected spare change to support both finding a cure and helping others obtain access to treatments for blood cancers. In addition to collecting donations, our students also kicked off the event by wearing red in support of those who are fighting these illnesses. The school spirit continued with Team Up Against Leukemia, Be a Hero, and Crazy for a Cure.



**Team Up Against Leukemia, Mrs. Breckenridge, George Alam and Mrs. Guerrero**

The top primary and upper-grade class contributors were able to participate in a special silly string event. Over 50 students went down the line and sprayed Principal Mrs. Breckenridge and Assistant Principal Mrs. Scheiber with silly string. Needless to say, it was a very successful event!

Anderson is proud of our community. Everyone came together for a chance to help those less fortunate.

# Clegg School

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



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

### Change For Hearts Drive

*By Michelle Manley – 4th Grade Teacher*

“We must become the change we want to see in the world.” Clegg held its third annual Change for Hearts drive at the end of February. Students smiled as they brought in bags of money to donate to a wonderful local charity, Hopeful Hearts Clegg was able to raise \$3,115.21. This year, we were grateful to receive a \$1000 donation from MIA HOME REPAIRS, LLC The founders of the foundation, Terra and Adam Chez, have become an important part of the Clegg community. Students look forward to this donation drive each year. Hopeful Hearts always takes the time to visit our site and express their gratitude for what our school does but they also share how it helps children and families. This non-profit organization helps families with children suffering from congenital heart disease by providing financial support. They also strive to raise awareness of CHD along with funds for research, with the end goal of improving the outcome for those affected by CHD. This foundation delivers care packages to the local hospitals and works directly with leading physicians on their research projects. Clegg’s Change for Hearts drive has brought in over \$8,000 for Hopeful Hearts since it was started in 2015. By giving back, Clegg students build character, learn compassion, and understand the importance of helping others. The top 2 classes that raised the most money enjoyed a delicious spaghetti and breadstick feast. “It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us.”

# DeMille *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

### Happenin’ with Hip Hop!

“Locking”, “Popping”, “Breaking”, what do those words mean to you? Well, if you ask a DeMille student they will tell you that those are all types of hip hop dance styles. The dance group, Universoul Hip Hop took DeMille students on a walk through the history of hip hop by sharing information and providing a demonstration of dance moves. The presentation even included a break dancing “battle”, and the students were the judges to determine the winner. Both dancers were so skilled and talented, the student judges deemed it a tie. Several students were chosen from the audience to show off their own freestyle dancing skills as well. DeMille students can really bust a move! The Students really enjoyed learning a bit more about this style of dance and how it is a universal language that is recognized around the world.



**DeMille students dance off with Universoul Hip Hop.**

# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Jason Kuncewicki**  
*Principal*

### Westminster PD Valet for Safety

Eastwood School had visitors from the Westminster Police Department in early spring to promote student safety. Three uniformed officers supported safe drop off and egress from the school by opening car doors for students and their parents when they arrived at Eastwood. The officers shook the students’ hands and also passed out stickers. Each time the officers thanked the families for making wise drop off choices and working with the school on safety. The officers promised to be back in the next few weeks to continue to promote early drop off and safe choices. The school gates open for all students to enter towards their playgrounds at 7:40. Warning bells ring 15 minutes later and school begins promptly at 8:00.



# Finley *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Raul Olivas**  
*Principal*

### Coding for Our Future

Finley Elementary School has started preparing for our computer science magnet school implementation, which will begin at the start of the 2017–2018 school year. Each staff member spent two days training and working with our partners from Code to the Future in order to address important concepts needed to ensure an effective model is put into place.

During the professional development, teachers in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade were guided through the logic of coding and the use of critical thinking to sequence commands using programs such as Scratch and Light Bot. Finley teachers have begun implementing 30-minute coding sessions for their students with the



support of the Code to the Future computer science coach. These engaging activities will foster a level of engagement that will lead our students to discover, problem solve, and become college and career ready.

Our staff is excited to implement the rigor behind computer science in order to provide each student with the opportunity to learn coding, robotics, and Java throughout elementary school.

# Hayden *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

### It Happens Overnight!

Creating experiences and memories for our students is something we work hard at Hayden to achieve. One of the best experiences we offer our fifth-grade students is going to an overnight science camp

This was the second year that we have sent our fifth-graders to camp. Last year, we sent 32 students to camp, and this year, we were very excited to extend that number to 92 students. The camp is located in Running Springs and gives our students an opportunity to experience the thrill of seeing, touching,



and learning about the world around them. Our students had an amazing time. Whether it was on the rope course, during a night hike or in the interactive science classes, our students were making lifetime memories they will never forget.

A big thank-you to the staff that accompanied our fifth-graders: Becky Winn, Kaisa Johnson, Kelly Hernandez, Kristen Flores and Stacey Barajas.

# Fryberger *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Dr. Dena Kiouses**  
*Principal*

### A Special Visitor

*By Fourth-Grader Paulina Espino Cervantes, in collaboration with Ms. Collins’ class.*

Author, illustrator, artist, and songwriter Barney Saltzberg came to our school and filled everyone with joy. He taught students about writing and the editing process. He also taught that a mistake doesn’t mean that it has to stay a mistake. By using a little imagination, a mistake can become a “Beautiful Oops”!

Mr. Saltzberg shared that when he was a child he didn’t write as well as he does now, and that he had a learning disability. Over the years, through persistence, he got better and better and started writing about his experiences in life. He used all of those ideas to become an author. Not only is he a great writer, but he is a wonderful musician as well.

Barney Saltzberg was an inspiration, and we would love to have him back at Fryberger School.



**Author Barney Salzberg signing books for Fryberger students.**

# Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

### An Innovative Class

Johnson Middle School prides itself on being able to offer a variety of opportunities for its students to explore and experience the latest and greatest in technology. And so we are excited to now have a Drone Piloting Class as a zero-period opportunity.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), more commonly known as drones, are one of the fastest growing technologies in the world, with uses in film making, promotions, and even the military. Drones are also being tested by delivery services to make package and mail delivery even faster.

Drone piloting, design, and maintenance may be a future profession for our Johnson students, and so this class can equip them with the basic knowledge they need to start on their path to college and career. We are one of only a handful of schools in the country to offer an elective that focuses on the technology surrounding drones and aerial videography.





# Land School

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



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



**Reagan Lopez**  
*Executive Director, Student Services*

### Supporting Early Literacy

At Land School, we are preparing our early learners to become early readers!

Our preschool day is full of literacy building activities, from phonemic awareness through chants and rhymes, to recognizing and identifying the alphabet and letter sounds, to comprehension and vocabulary skills gained through reading and discussing books. The children also extend their understanding by acting out the stories they have discussed during dramatic play. They even create art based upon the books they have enjoyed, or use the writing

center to write letters to the characters.

Throughout the year, Land School participates in various events that celebrate literacy. One of our favorite literacy celebrations is Read Across

America, when we remember Dr. Seuss and his contribution to early readers. Our classes enjoy reading many Dr. Seuss books. They also make crafts to go along with them, or sing songs about the stories. They even have guest readers share their favorite Dr. Seuss books!



## Meairs *Elementarty (K-5)*

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



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

### Choir Really Rocks

The Meairs Elementary School choir, under the direction of Mrs. Carratello, Mrs. Zaragoza, and Mrs. Freleaux, has been working hard all year to be performance ready. They practice every Wednesday after school.

These third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students give up participating in other activities to be a part of this wonderful group.

Throughout the year, they perform for their fellow students, friends, and families. They ring in the holidays with a Christmas performance. They perform at a Spring Concert. But, the big event is the district choir performance, where they sing with several other school choirs from the district.

These choirs meet for the first time that day. After rehearsing the same songs at their school sites, they arrive early and rehearse together. It is amazing what they can do without ever having met before. These kids are really talented! Who knows? We may have a star among us!



Meairs choir participated in the district choir performance on April 4th.

## Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Carrie Hernandez**  
*Principal*

### ESP Open House

Our Extended School Program (ESP) showed off the exciting, science-based units they have been learning about multimedia and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) at our recent Open House. Students created a race car derby and learned about motion, cause and effect, and force. Other students learned about rocket design, which included physics, stability, aerodynamics, flight, and engineering. A third group created the Schroeder Airport and learned how to design airplanes while learning about gravity and air resistance.

The third- and fourth-graders learned how to create pixel art through the use of software and editing images at the pixel level. They correlated this to video games and other devices, including cell phones and digital cameras. Finally, our upper-graders created the ESP Land of Adventure roller coaster! Students explored the physics exploited by engineers in designing today's roller coasters and learned about potential and kinetic energy, friction, and gravity. These students designed, built, and analyzed model roller coasters they made using construction paper and marbles. It is always an exciting time to learn and think in Schroeder Elementary School's ESP!



## Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

### Jog-A-Thon Teamwork!

The Schmitt Family raised over \$5,000 in this spring's Jog-A-Thon! However, I am most proud of how we came together as a community to

collaborate on the success of this event.

We had staff, parents and student council come together to coordinate the advertisement and the behind-the-scenes work for this fund-raising event. Schmitt's student council created the posters and helped the younger children during the event. Schmitt staff members donated a variety of gifts that were put together by one of our paraprofessionals, Karen Urbano. These baskets turned out to be beautiful! In addition, one of our community businesses donated two bicycles for the two students with the highest collection of donations. Our parent



volunteers spent several hours keeping the event organized, spritzing our students with water, and cheering on the runners. Many also participated in walking or jogging along with their children.

It was indeed teamwork!

## Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Michelle Watkins**  
*Principal*

### Leaving a Lasting Impression

At Sequoia Academy, we strive to provide strong leadership opportunities for our scholars. Over the past few months our Student Ambassadors have been leaving lasting impressions with the parents who come to tour our campus. During the tours these Ambassadors explain our amazing programs, showcase student work, and answer questions. The feedback from the parents has been wonderful!

Public speaking and presentation skills are an essential piece in preparing our students for the future, and the parents seem to agree! As part of our Academy rotation, students are finding the courage and confidence that comes from practicing public speaking skills. It gives them the opportunity to overcome their fears, build confidence in communication skills, and present or perform in front of peers and families.



Student Ambassadors leading parent tours.

We, and our Student Ambassadors, would like to invite parents to come see what our school has to offer.

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# School News

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Heidi DeBritton  
Principal

**Shoutout!**  
*By Delaney Powell and Justin Pham, “Cougar Chronicle” staff/student writers*

Stacey’s AVID students hosted a Shoutout for both students and teachers in March. Many students and staff members visited the booth before and after school and during first and second lunch periods.

All the materials were provided for students and staff to write a nice note to their fellow students or teachers. Many teachers visited the booth as well, including Mrs. Cleckler, Mrs. Valverde, Ms. Thach, Ms. Walters and Mrs. Ortega.



“I think we should do this more often,” said Mrs. Cleckler, a science teacher here at Stacey.

“I think that this is a nice thing to do. It makes people feel better, and it helps AVID too,” said eighth-grader Lillian Thai.

The positive sticky notes were left up behind the amphitheater so students could check them out in between classes and before or after school. The notes are meant to represent Stacey’s rules of kindness.



Kevin Whitney  
Principal

**Spellebrity**

The Webber Wolf Pack is proud of our 6th grade student Tony Nguyen. Tony competed in the Westminster School District Spelling Bee. He challenged other elementary 6th graders along with 8th graders from our three middle schools and Tony placed 2nd.

This was an awesome feat! It is a rare occasion that an elementary student is able to out spell 8th graders. Tony is a fine orthographer. He went on to represent Webber and the Westminster School District at the 2017 Orange County Spelling Bee in February. We are P R O U D of Tony Nguyen.



Tony receiving his certificate from the superintendent



Greek Master of Spelling



Amy Pham Kwon  
Principal

**Strings and Things**  
*By Warner Journalism Students Cody Nguyen; Kurt Reisig, editor-in-chief; and Cody Nguyen and Andy Vasconcelos, Videography*

Each Thursday, Warner Middle School hosts a class called Strings and Things, led by teacher Jeff Bruland. Students learn how to play guitars, ukuleles and any other instrument with strings that they choose to play. Mr. Bruland, along with the assistance of teacher Phil Luth, teaches students basic chord patterns, rhythm and notation as well as analysis of various



musical styles. One of the students has even performed with a musical group as a guest in Costa Mesa.

In addition to being introduced to songs to play as a group, students also bring in their own songs for analysis and collaboration.

Mr. Bruland, who is also a sixth-grade language arts and history teacher, brings decades of musical expertise to this program, which he introduced to the school years ago. Together, these teacher and students create a musical energy that contributes to the spirit of Warner. Warner rocks!



Dr. Nicole Jacobson  
Principal

**Increasing Family Engagement**

On March 22, families and teachers joined together at our first Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Family Night. Families enjoyed various stations, which generated excitement about learning. This evening was both educational and entertaining, allowing students to explore, build, and solve problems using logic and flexible thinking.

Teachers incorporated technology through the use of games on digital tablets, fostering problem-solving, coding, spatial-relational skills, and creativity. Over 100 people attended and participated in the STEM stations, which included technology, card games, building, creating shape puppets, logic games, estimation stations, and other stimulating activities. STEM activities and games were raffled off at the end of the evening. This event propelled student curiosity, making learning fun for our families.



Numbers, Coding, and Tangram at Family STEM Night

We value the opportunity for families to actively participate in their children’s learning, understanding how important it is to build this home-school connection. We are looking forward to continuing to increase parent involvement at Willmore Elementary School!

**SUPERINTENDENT**



Dr. Clint Harwick

**Teachers of the Year Embody District’s Mission**

At the end of February, the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) surprised its 2017–2018 Teachers of the Year, Edison High School’s (EHS) Greg Gardiner and Ocean View High School’s (OVHS) Roger Keating.

As an annual tradition, the district honors two outstanding teachers who exemplify dedication, practice effective instruction methods, and have an overall passion for the art of educating students. This year’s teachers are no exception, as both Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Keating consistently go above and beyond for their students in and out of the classroom.



Deputy Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Carolee Ogata, Superintendent Dr. Clint Harwick, Roger Keating, and Ocean View High School Principal, Dr. Courtney Robinson.

Mr. Gardiner diligently serves the Edison Chargers as a science teacher, instructing an array of courses, including biology, Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science, and Special Abilities Cluster (SAC) science. Mr. Gardiner also acts as a specialist in the Innovation Lab, a space unique to Edison that allows students to learn through project-based learning.

For over 17 years, Mr. Keating has served as a crucial component to the success of the Ocean View Seahawks. As the school’s Business Academy (BA) coordinator, Mr. Keating ensures that students gain the skills needed to be successful in life following high school. When Mr. Keating isn’t teaching his courses in Microsoft skills and entrepreneurship, he spends his time organizing professional growth opportunities for his students, such as community service events, public speaking engagements, and fund-raising campaigns.

On any given day, both Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Keating truly embody the district’s important mission of educating, preparing, and inspiring students to change the world.

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**College and Career Readiness**

Starting next year, students in the Huntington Beach Union High School District will be able to concurrently attend Golden West College and receive credit. In October, 2015, the Governor approved AB 288 – College and Career Access Pathway Partnerships. The purpose of the bill is to increase student access to college education and to assist a broader range of students as they transition from high school to college. The bill authorizes local School Boards to enter into agreements with community colleges, allowing high school students to attend community college as part-time students and receive credit from both schools.

Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) staff members, especially Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Owen Crosby, have worked with representatives from Golden West College (GWC) to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would allow HBUHSD students to receive dual credit for completing various community college courses. The courses that have been discussed as part of our agreement include health, visual and performing arts, college readiness, and Career Technical Education (CTE).

By entering into a partnership agreement with GWC, the HBUHSD is providing additional opportunities for our students to demonstrate college and career readiness as CTE pathway completion, A–G course completion for University of California and California State University admission, and dual enrollment are all new metrics under the California Department of Education’s proposed College and Career Indicator Model. Not only will this program improve students’ college admission potential, but it will also help to ensure the students’ ability to graduate in a timely manner by accumulating college credits while in high school.



Nancy Pham  
Student Representative

**Nothing Empty Here!**

All of the high schools across the district have been hosting, energizing, and revitalizing events to kick off the new season of spring! This time period usually gets called the “dead period,” but not at the Huntington Beach Union High School District. Every school has been working hard in executing something purely fun and rewarding for their campus!

Fountain Valley jumps into spring with a Baron Games Spirit Week where the students can dress up with spirit days, such as warm-up clothes on Wednesday and theme park attire on Thursday. Similarly, Marina hosted an international week with performances for each day, including Pacific Islander Day and Latin America Day! Coast is also having a spirit week with the theme of Hawaii, featuring Hawaiian pizza on Monday and shaved iced on Friday. Lastly, Ocean View is holding a “What If” spirit week, kicking off with paper hand-cutouts of students’ names hung up all together.

Besides spirit weeks, some of the high schools have hosted exciting events such as Westminster’s newly annual dodgeball tournament sponsored by the Class of 2017, attracting over 200 students and 15 teams to the gym every day throughout the week. On the same hand, Huntington Beach hosted a Pie Day on March 14, where the students “pie-d” their favorite teachers for \$1, and with all of the proceeds going to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Similarly, Edison threw a pie day activity with many participants, but instead raised money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Also donating to their community, Valley Vista just wrapped up their Pennies for Patients fundraiser.

All of the schools in the district have been enjoying a truly pleasurable time with entertaining events and spirit weeks for their staff and student bodies. The term “dead period” simply does not exist in the Huntington Beach Union High School District!



## Coast *High School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-5160 • [www.coasthighschool.com](http://www.coasthighschool.com)



**Dr. Angela Harding**  
*Principal*

### Physics and Fun

On Thursday March 9, thousands of students from approximately 60 schools from Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties gathered together as Knott's Berry Farm was transformed into one huge physics learning laboratory for the annual Knott's Physics Day extravaganza in Buena Park!

Throughout the fun-filled day, Coast High School students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of physics-based activities, including the exciting build-your-own roller coaster competition, rubber-band car drag races, tallest paper tower with minimal supplies, and the paper airplane challenge, where students attempted to glide self-made paper airplanes through a hula hoop target about six meters away.

Student knowledge and understanding of physics was put to the test through numerous project-based learning competitions focused on a variety of physics concepts. These concepts included gravity, force, acceleration, velocity, vector, momentum, and transformation of energy from potential to kinetic energy.

Our students' roller coaster projects were designed and constructed at the school site under the guidance of science

teacher Ms. Darla Merrill and math teacher Ms. Betty Tran. The coasters were then set up at Knott's Berry Farm for judging. Categories included Best Roller Coaster, Technical Merit, and Most Fun to Ride. Coast High School students Dylan Snow, Pedro Lopez, and Riess Rouser were honored and thrilled to earn second place for Best Roller Coaster, which featured an Egyptian pyramid design and a record number of loops.

The overall experience proved transformational for Coast students, who are already looking forward to next year!



## Edison *High School*

21400 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-1356 • [www.edisonchargers.com](http://www.edisonchargers.com)



**Jennifer Graves**  
*Principal*

### Off to Spain!

We are so proud of our Edison Model United Nations seniors! In late February, Edison MUN took 23 seniors to Spain for a conference. The conference was much different from their usual conferences in California, the biggest difference being that nearly half the committees were conducted entirely in Spanish. A handful of brave students competed in these Spanish-only

committees, thanks in part to the help of Edison

AP Spanish teachers JP D'Brot and Maria Caballero, who also came on the trip. The Edison MUN students were able to quickly adapt and excel; this was highlighted by student Cameron Rahkshani, who won the Best Delegate award for the entire conference.

The trip concluded with three days of sightseeing in Barcelona. The students visited amazing sites like La Sagrada Familia, Park Guell and Camp Nou, where the entire group attended a FC Barcelona game. The students especially enjoyed the bicycle tour of the city and the group cooking class, where they learned to make paella.



Overall, the trip was a great way to culminate four years of participation in Edison MUN. It helped to bring the students closer together as friends and also provided the opportunity to see a beautiful country with rich culture and rooted history. Congratulations, Edison Model United Nations and teacher Brenden Patch!

## Fountain Valley *High School*

17816 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-3301 • [www.fvhs.com](http://www.fvhs.com)



**Dr. Morgan Smith**  
*Principal*

### A Special Event

Fountain Valley High School will be hosting its inaugural Academia and Arts Gala on Saturday June 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. here in the Fountain Valley High School Cafeteria.

This event will be the first ever of its kind here at FVHS to promote and support the many groups on campus that compete academically and artistically. Oftentimes the high schools will provide the opportunity for student groups to compete locally and nationally against other high schools. These groups often have strict limits on the number of students who are able to participate, which in turn means that it is difficult for the groups to fund raise on their own. Teacher-coordinators receive little to no support, but are committed to providing these opportunities because of the tremendous value it provides the high school experience.

## Huntington Beach *High School*

1905 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-2514 • [www.hboilers.com](http://www.hboilers.com)



**Daniel Morris**  
*Principal*

### Trade Up!

It is never too early for high school students to think about what they want to do after their graduation from high school. Today's society offers students many opportunities: college, military service, or immediate employment in the workforce. For those students who decide to pursue a college education, completing the admissions and financial-aid application, or just trying to make housing decisions can be a daunting task. For those students entering the workforce after graduation, the mere research-and-interview process can be overwhelming. Thanks

to the Huntington Beach High School PTSA and the HBHS College and Career Center, the task became a little less overwhelming.

In March, students were given the opportunity to attend the Trade Up! career fair held in the HBHS student center. Students spent their time discovering information related to their college and career interests by visiting booths staffed by representatives from business, industry and postsecondary

Our represented groups at the Academia and Arts Gala are the Academic Decathlon Team, Math Olympiad, Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, Model United Nations (MUN), and the Virtual Enterprise Team. Of the competitive performing arts, the vocal music program, the FVHS Royal Regiment music program, and the theater program will also contribute to the gala and be supported through its fund-raising efforts.

We urge the city of Fountain Valley to participate in this event. We are also looking for community organizations and businesses to donate gift baskets for a silent auction. Each group represented will pursue basket donations to be auctioned off and have the funds benefit their group specifically. The Gala will also facilitate auctioning off donated baskets, services, or resources donated to benefit all participating groups.

learning institutions so that they could understand the connection between school-based learning and the skills required for workplace success. Employers from across the county and state were on hand to represent a variety of careers and skills necessary for career success in their industries.

Teachers were able to bring students from classes to ask questions, gain insight, and understand the process of seeking employment as they investigate their postsecondary opportunities. The event continued through the lunch hour, so all students had the opportunity to explore and ask questions of the professionals. The energy in the room was inspiring, and the professionals were engaging and responsive to the students.

When all was said and done, over 400 students took the opportunity to engage with over 30 industry and educational professionals to ensure their success once they leave our caring environment. Thanks again to the HBHS PTSA and College Career Center for a great opportunity for our students. We look forward to a bigger event next year!

## Huntington Beach *Adult School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4227 • [www.hbas.edu](http://www.hbas.edu)



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating Our Learners

Our adult education students achieve tremendous growth in learning while also facing various personal obstacles. Many desire to become proficient in English, living in a competitive English-speaking society and often managing a family and working while they learn. Many recognize the need for ongoing training to enhance their workforce skills.

Adults enjoy our classes because of their love of learning and their desire for personal development and expression. Adult students often proceed to more challenging levels as they achieve their initial goals and discover new interests. Their desire to learn continues to grow, and they continue to overcome life's challenges.

These students become models of lifelong learning for all of us, young and not so young. Our instructors recognize them for their dedication, their willingness to be selfless in class, and their commitment to using their new skills to help better the lives of those around them. These are the students we are identifying here tonight as our Lifelong Learners.

This year, our HBAS staff have recognized the following students as our Lifelong Learner awardees. You can read their amazing stories on our web site at [hbas.edu](http://hbas.edu):

Mrs. Chanh Phan, ESL Program; Mrs. Ruth Lopez, ESL Program; Ms. Brianna Johnson, High School Diploma Program; Mrs. Cynthia Aquino, GED Program; Mrs. Sherry Mancini, Career Technical Education Program; and Mrs. Ida Rodriguez, Community Enrichment Program.





## Marina *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/893-6571 • [www.marinavikings.org](http://www.marinavikings.org)

### We're Going to the World Championship!

For the second year, Marina's Robotics team, 4276, has qualified to attend the FIRST World Championship in Houston. The competition will take place in April during Spring Break.

Each year, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition establishes a theme and a series of challenges. During a

six-week period, students and mentors build a robot that can meet the requirements and accomplish the challenges. This year's theme was "Steam Punk" and the robots were challenged to shoot 5" wiffle balls and place 11" gears on a human player station. During the match, the robots must operate autonomously for the first 15 seconds. Students drive and control the robots for the remaining 2:15. In order to achieve this, team 4276 developed prototypes and did a great deal of testing before settling on their final designs for shooting, gear manipulation, and climbing.



**Jacob Wiedner, Mathew Kriesel, Martin Lee, Dean Fitzpatrick, Alec Whyte, Arthur Ho, [mentor: Andy Cappon], Grant Haber, Carlos Guerrero, Dylan Sebourn, James Whitten, Ryker Barthold, Brian Chung.**  
**Kneeling: [mentor: Eric Gever], Daniel McKenzie, Jordan Murray, Me, Kyle Serrano, Avery Levin**  
**Front: [robot: Forseti]**

## Ocean View *High School*

17071 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-0656 • [www.ovhs.info](http://www.ovhs.info)

### Core Values

Before a school can take on a new program, implement policies, or develop strategies to help all students succeed, it is important to think about what you believe in as a school community. At Ocean View High School, the entire staff took time to develop a set of core values, which drive everything we do as a school. Before we begin anything on campus or in our classrooms, we make sure it touches on at least one of our core values.

The Core Values we adopted are:

**Character and Excellence**—We believe in leadership through example, integrity, moral and academic excellence, and hard work.

**College and Career**—We understand the importance of preparing for life beyond high school, and we strive to provide the training and guidance required to enter into that life with confidence and success.

**Family and Relationships**—We believe in positive interactions, self-discipline, responsibility for actions, and acceptance.

**Learning and Instruction**—We know that instruction, driven by learning, adapted to the individual, and presented with care, will lead us toward mastery of self-learning, our ultimate goal.

**Opportunity and Access**—We believe that everyone has the right to achieve his or her current and future goals, and we will provide the support, skills, and opportunities needed to see that these goals are met.

We want all students to succeed, and we feel the best way to do that is by following our core values in all we do.

OVHS' slogan...Everything begins and ends with love.

## Valley Vista *High School*

9600 Dolphin St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/964-7766 • [www.vvhs.info](http://www.vvhs.info)

### Acting's the Thing!

Students are often required to play many roles. VvHS teacher Kristin McDaniel wondered if a structured role-playing opportunity might be another way to help our students succeed. Students responding to a survey were interested in an acting class, and it is now a reality. It's a wonderful addition to our curriculum and our community.

An elective course that supports and encourages student creativity is so right for VvHS. Kristin McDaniel teaches life-management and parenting-teens courses and directs the NEST, our child-development center. She has personal experience in theater arts, has directed children's theater, and sings in an adult choir. Ms. McDaniel wanted to teach a class "where students could connect with each other, have fun, and express themselves." She recognized that "we have some highly creative students at Valley Vista" and knew that an acting course would help students better integrate into the VvHS community, make new friends, and grow their confidence and expression skills.

Most of the students in the acting class were uneasy about performing. Students have gained confidence through mime, improvisation, performing in a one-act play, and researching and writing their own monologues.

A senior in the class, Hank, likes that there are many different types of students who probably wouldn't have gotten to know one another without the class. Victoria, a junior in the class, said it took about two weeks to feel comfortable and trust her peers. She likes that Ms. McDaniel encourages creativity and personal expression. She is pleased that "we have all gotten to know each other well, and it's okay to be yourself."

At VvHS, academic and personal success is the goal. The confidence to be able to express yourself, to be "wacky," to "act out" in a heartfelt but positive way, and to have your teacher and peers accept it and even appreciate it are invaluable experiences for many of our students. Although new to our 2016–17 curriculum, the acting class already seems to be contributing to student success. At VvHS, acting is the thing!

## Westminster *High School*

14325 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-1381 • [www.whslions.net](http://www.whslions.net)

### A College-Going Culture

After five campus visits and tons of hard work by the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students and the AVID site team, we are proud to announce that Westminster High School has the distinguished honor of being selected as an AVID National Demonstration Site. To be chosen as a demonstration school, an AVID program has to not only have an elite AVID elective program but it must also have made a huge impact on the college-going culture of the entire campus.

That is exactly what Gordon Mosher, the AVID Western Division program manager, Robin Kisinger, the AVID California program consultant, and Carrie Barnett, the AVID K–12 California program manager, discovered as they toured the Westminster campus on March 23.

They saw a school that has been transformed into an environment of

inclusion. Every student has a choice and a right to take any Advanced Placement course he or she chooses. There are college-readiness tools being used across the campus, including Cornell notes, Socratic seminars and philosophical chairs. The team praised the leadership of administrators and the AVID team in developing this culture. They loved that Westminster celebrates academics as much as they celebrate their sports programs. The most common words heard as the validation team interviewed parents, students, community members, and staff members were "family" and "support."

As one of only 150 schools out of over 5,600 AVID campuses worldwide chosen to be a National Demonstration Site, Westminster High School is honored by this recognition. We are looking forward to mentoring other AVID schools and helping them create campuses where the college dream is for any student who wants to put in the effort!





## Engagement Driving Education



Dr. Al Mijares  
Superintendent

When you close your eyes and picture a public school, what images come to mind? Do you see chalkboards, workbooks and rows of wooden desks? Or do you see iPads, STEM projects and collaborative learning spaces? If you have children in school — or if you're a student — chances are it's the latter. That's because public schools have undergone a transformational shift in recent years, and the advancing trajectory is worth taking a moment to consider. Since the 1990s, educators and policymakers have talked a lot about standards, assessments and accountability, and justifiably so. These are important components of a first-rate school system. But it is our ability to engage students with real-world applications, collaborative assignments and project-based learning that is proving key to success in college, career and life. Indeed, research around the psychological concept of “flow” shows how overall learning is enhanced when students are absorbed and energized by their work. This engagement, perhaps more than anything else, is what's driving education forward, and examples abound in Orange County. At Nicolas Junior High School in Fullerton, four students recently partnered with their teachers and industry professionals to build a smartphone app prototype that can identify poisonous plants in nature. As a prerequisite, they first had to learn coding and the programming language of JavaScript. In the Tustin Unified School District, a Beckman High junior was just honored through the Young Innovators to Watch program after developing a drone-based system to help emergency responders locate disaster victims. Our students are demonstrating remarkable ingenuity, and central to these success stories are elementary, middle and high schools that are changing the rules, disrupting the status quo and serving as proving grounds for innovation. Lake View Elementary School in the Ocean View School District recently adopted a STEAM focus, embracing new technologies and flexible learning spaces while adding engineering, robotics and arts labs. Edison High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District boasts an Innovation Lab that encourages students to conduct real-world research in biology, chemistry, physics and robotics. Canyon High School in the Orange Unified School District offers popular aviation courses that pair flight lessons with science, technology, engineering and math instruction. The list goes on of Orange County schools and programs that are finding new ways to connect the interests of students with real-life experiences and pathways to 21st-century careers. And whether they take credit or not, the teachers, administrators and support staff behind this work are strengthening our future workforce and changing lives. In doing so, they're also changing the way we think about public education.

# School News

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## Note-ables

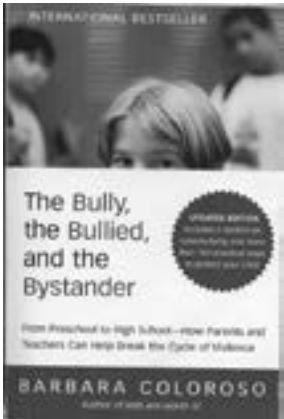
### The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander



Kate Karp

Laying a good foundation for your children or students will help them to take the role of advocate for themselves and others instead of bully, victim or both. We've all heard stories of outliers and outcasts who grew up to be vastly successful as technology innovators, film directors and anthropologists. But for every Bill Gates, Steven Spielberg and Jane Goodall, there are too many horrible, haunting stories of young adults and even children who resort to suicide and violence because they were the only way they knew to express anger over the humiliation they were continually exposed to. Barbara Coloroso has used such case histories to underscore the theme of understanding bullying behavior and breaking the cycle of violence. Her thorough, frank book, *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*, is a standout among the resource books available to adults who want a good, hard look at bullying and are willing and eager to accept the idea that the ways to break the cycle of violence and empower the actors involved in it are not simplistic, and that sometimes, the credits don't roll through a happy ending. That's how Coloroso sees the three participants of bullying: the Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander. They're playing roles, and as actors, they have the power to change them through insightful work and self-awareness. Coloroso stresses that bullying can run in families and that a bully can be created by abuse or benignly ignoring the harassing activity as a natural thing that “kids just go through.” But Coloroso wants to show the difference between teasing and bullying, between flirting and sexual harassment, between toughening up and becoming hard or broken. Her chapter on the Bully advocates throwing off old practices of tolerance (“just leave him alone”) or punishing the bully and instead showing the perpetrator how to look into himself or herself. In one brilliant example, she writes of a teacher who demonstrated bullying and its results by hammering a nail into a piece of wood as she instructed her students to think of times that they've harmed someone either physically or emotionally. She then used the hammer claw to pull out the nail as an example of “I'm sorry.” “But it's not enough,” the teacher said, and then asked her students, “What are we going to do about the hole the nail left in the wood?” Names will hurt you—ask anyone who has had so many holes left in his or her spirit from the constant misery of taunting and shunning—even if there was no physical accompaniment. You'll be told that it's a lie. The chapter devoted to the Bullied child provides amazing insight into that child's soul, and it hurts in every way. But the ways of healing are heartfelt and can be practiced, and Coloroso gives explicit ways to do so. Children who either stand by as the child is bullied out of fear or helplessness or join in are playing the role of Bystander. Coloroso's mission here is to help turn Bystanders into Witnesses. In this chapter, she describes a personal code that a child (or any human) should develop that “guides them to say or do what is right, often in spite of external consequences and never merely because of them.” That, she acknowledges, can be a heavy burden to bear. The remaining chapters put readers to work at becoming activists and advocates for all children, no matter what their role or roles may be. *The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander* is further enhanced with a list of resources, a glossary, and most appropriately, a newly added chapter (the 2008 printing is a second edition) that covers the relatively recent plague of cyberbullying.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



## Fun, Free Events!

By Erik Oviedo, Children's Librarian

Join us at the Fountain Valley Library for fun and free events in May and June! Our Summer Storytime Session runs May 3rd- August 2nd! Reading to therapy dogs (BARK) will take place at 3:30pm on May 20th and June 17th. Come do crafts on May 11th, May 25th and June 15th from 4-6pm. We will have a Star Wars craft day (signup required) on June 1st at 4pm and storyteller Ina Buckner Barnette will present “Design Your Own Story” on June 8th. Please call the library at 714-962-1324 to sign-up for these free events! We hope to see you soon!

### Courtney's Book Review

## Exciting Quest



Courtney M.

*Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan.

Exciting times with Percy Jackson as he goes on a quest to find the golden fleece, in hopes to save talia's tree that protects Camp half blood. Percy also wants to save his best friend Grover that is stuck with a giant Cyclops called Polyphemus. Grover is wearing a wedding dress and a fake eyeball to pretend to be a cyclop, so Polyphemus won't eat him. This book keeps you reading to find out what is going to happen next. Enjoy! I would rate this book as a five star book.



Courtney likes to play softball, football, and volleyball. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

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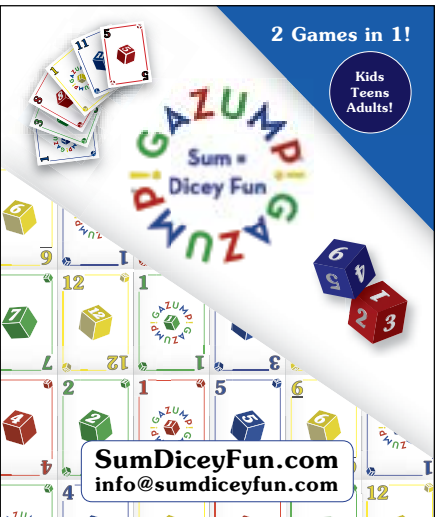
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## Book Review by Abbas

## A Creepy and Fun Read

Abbas D.

*Lockwood & Co.* by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?

This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 5 smiley faces.

Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

## Huntington Beach Central Library

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

## Our Library Website

Barbara Richardson  
Senior Librarian  
Programming and Youth Services

Did you know that you can renew your books online, use our digital resources and take online classes through our website, hbpl.org? Have you tried our newest digital resource, Lynda? Lynda is an online learning platform that helps anyone learn business, technology, and creative skills. Access a variety of training videos for free with your Huntington Beach Public Library card!

Find out when library events are happening, when storytimes are being held, and register for computer help by using the library's online calendars. Go to hbpl.org and click on Event/News. Select what calendar you are interested in. Starting May 1, teens can register with our Teen Volunteer Calendar to be summer reading program volunteers. Our volunteers must be at least 12 years old and those 18 years and older will need to go through our fingerprinting process before they can start volunteering with children.

Want to know what stories and crafts are being done at our storytimes? Once you are on our website, click on the Storytime Corner button. You can subscribe to our Storytime Corner newsletter and get weekly emails. Children can also enjoy listening to and interacting with our collection of eBooks with TumbleBooks. Click on Kid's Stuff and then click on the TumbleBooks button.

Are your children taking part in the library's year round online reading programs through Beanstack? Click on the Beanstack Button on the main page of our website. Children ages 12 and under can register to take part in a variety of programs and earn digital badges and other rewards for their reading efforts. Once children are registered in the program, you can easily enroll them in any other library reading programs with just a click of a button.

Explore our website and discover all the library has to offer and more.

## Westminster Library

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

## Something for Everyone – Every Age

Cathy S. DeLeon  
Regional Branch Manager

**Book Babies** every Tuesday in May at 10:30am (0-2 years old)

**Preschool Storytime** every Wednesday in May at 10:30am (2-4 years old)

**Family Storytime** every Saturday at 10:30am (all ages) (From April 29-July 8, our Family Storytimes will be special STEM Storytimes, featuring a different science theme each week!)

**Art Classes** presented by Art Innovators every Thursday in May at 4:00pm. Create a new work of art each week! These FREE classes are for children aged 5-11. Space is limited to 20 students per class, so registration is required. Sign up today!

**Crazy 8s Club** every Monday at 3:30pm Wacky activities and games that make math fun! For students in 3rd-5th grade. Sign up at the checkout desk!

**Family Movie Days** every other Saturday from 2:00-4:00pm Join us for a family movie followed by a fun craft! Light refreshments are served, but feel free to bring your own, too!

**Homework Help** every Saturday from 1:00-4:00pm Volunteers are here every week to help students from kindergarten to high school! **VolunTEENs** If you need volunteer hours for school, church, boy/girl scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the library! You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer.

**Teen Advisory Board** The TAB is a group of teens who meet once a month to help plan programs and give valuable input about what books and magazines to order for the teen section. A fun way to have a say about what goes on at your library (and get volunteer hours)! **Please come to the library for a full calendar, or check online at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org). Library events are always free!**

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### Lucy's Book Review

## The Other Boy



Lucy Davis

Author: M.G. Hennessey  
What if your brain and heart didn't match the way your body looked?  
Shane Woods is a normal sixth grade boy. He loves baseball, video games, and has a crush on his classmate, Madeline. But Shane has a secret, and his biggest fear is that someone at his new school finds out, especially because he came to this school for a clean slate.



When troubles begin at school, he becomes uneasy. Will his secret get out? To add to his troubles, he wants to start taking medication to change his body - but his parents haven't totally agreed.  
Through all the mayhem, Shane realizes that through life, the people who truly care about you stick by your side. This inspiring story is about finding the courage to express your true self against a sometimes cruel world. This is a brilliant read that definitely deserves five bookworms.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

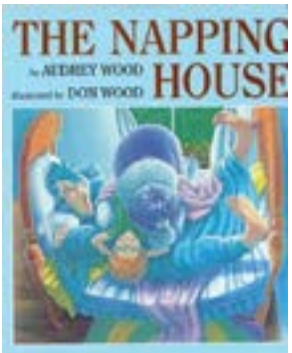
### Richard's Book Review

## Fun Campy Story



Richard J.

*The Napping House*  
By Audrey Wood  
The characters of the rhyming story of The Napping House are the Granny, the Child, the Dog, the Cat, the Mouse and theFlea. One rainy, lazy day all the people and animals in the house climb into grandma's bed and fall asleep, one after another, stacked on top of each other. Then, while everybody is fast asleep, one character — the Wakeful Flea ends up rudely waking everybody up! It bites the Mouse, who scares the Cat, who claws the Dog, who thumps the Child, who bumps the Granny, who breaks the bed, so that nobody is sleeping or napping in the Napping House anymore! The style of this story is similar to the rhyming story of The House That Jack Built. I liked this campy story and with its many pictures on every page by Don Wood. It is a fun, colorful and easy book to read.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

### Book Review By Katrina

## Captivating Read



Katrina D.

*Born Wicked* by Jessica Spotswood is the first in a series about a trio of sisters named Cate, Maura and Tess. Living in a world where their roles in the world are rigidly controlled by a group known as the Brotherhood, the Cahill sisters must strive to stay under the radar of these powerful men or risk being shipped off to asylums as witches. However, the fact they actually are witches puts them at a greater risk than anyone else. Eldest sister Cate takes up the role of leader for her motherless sisters, attempting to protect the three of them from being discovered. But when Cate comes of age to either marry or join the Sisterhood, what choices and sacrifices will she make? This book is absolutely captivating with a Salem Witch Trial feel to it and an enchanting plot. With a touch of romance and a dash of magic, this book is a must read for all YA lovers. This book was given 5 crescent moons.



Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her books from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.



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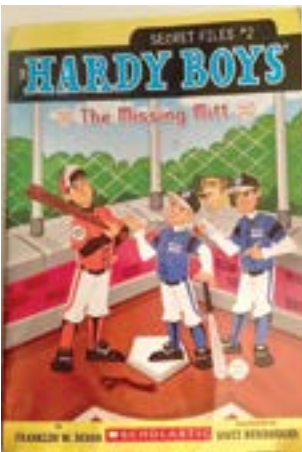




The Missing Mitt



**Michael H.** This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck. Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved. I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

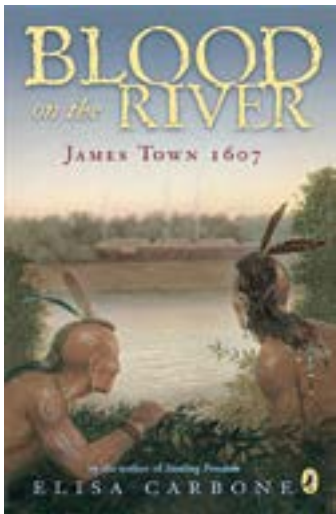


Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

Blood On the River



**Alana F.** By: Elisa Carbone Samuel Collins, a tough and hardened preteen boy, was only a young child when his mother passed away. Now snarky, immature (yet undoubtedly intelligent), and living on the streets of England, he isn't personable in the slightest. But when he's given the chance to have a fresh start in the recently discovered "new world," will he take it? Will he put his aggression, pride, and past behind him, or will he endanger all those that care for him? I'd give this book 5 stars because, while reading this, I couldn't help but compare Samuel to my younger self. Seeing the main character overcome the same social and ego issues that I overcame really made me appreciate this book. Elisa introduces young children to characters with more complex troubles and personalities than those in other children's literature, and that is truly amazing.



Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

Animals Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put FHOW in the subject line)

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