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School News

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

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MAY 2018

Building International Relationships



By John Ashby, Principal
Isaac L. Sowers Middle School

The opportunity to interact with those that live on the other side of the planet is not a normal occurrence for most middle school students in Orange County. However, through a partnership forged between the Huntington Beach City School District and Tianjin Yiyang Meijiangwan International School more

than 150 Chinese students, teachers, and administrators shared in a collective learning experience on Friday, May 30th. It was an amazing day as Sowers students served as group leaders (and translators) for our visitors and led them through 6th grade classes. The day was highlighted with student performances by students from both schools in addition to a cultural exchange between students and adults. It was a great day to be a Viking!

Outdoor Science School

By Carolyn Beck, Principal
Agnes L. Smith Elementary School

Smith School's fifth-grade students have a unique opportunity to learn about science through our Outdoor Science School program.

Recently, 170 students traveled to Arrowhead Ranch Pine Crest Camp for four days and three nights of hands-on science activities.

Students were grouped into cabins with camp counselors and spent the week doing group activities, including seven hikes, a favorite of the students. Their trail leaders taught them about habitats, wildlife, and the importance of hydrating. Their favorite hike was the night hike, where they learn about astronomy and nocturnal animals. Students completed science journals and recorded what they learned during the seminars and hikes. Skit night was a blast! Teachers and counselors performed for the students, and students performed a group skit. This is always a highlight of the week.

Students create a bond and memories at camp that last a lifetime!



Inside: Districts: Fountain Valley pages 5-8, HB City pages 9-12, Ocean View pages 13-17, Westminster pages 18-22
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Every 15 Minutes



Michael Vo
Mayor

Since 1998, the Fountain Valley Police Department has partnered with local high schools to present a program called “Every 15 Minutes.” Targeting high school juniors and seniors, the program challenges them to think about the harmful effects of drinking and driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions. The program title reminds students that someone in the United States dies or is seriously injured every 15 minutes in an alcohol-related traffic collision.

Each year, the program rotates from Los Amigos High School to Fountain Valley High School every other year. Unfortunately, this year’s rainy weather forced a small change to the event. The collision was modified and livestreamed into classrooms for the student body. The two-day event is very dramatic and emotional. Beginning on day one, a simulated collision is staged in front of the high school. It begins with a prerecorded 9-1-1 call that triggers emergency responses by law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and the coroner. One the second day, the student participants return to school to attend a student body assembly to view the video of the previous day’s events and share with their classmates what it felt like to die without being able to say good-bye.

During the “Every 15 Minutes” event, everyone involved is reminded that drinking and driving is not an accident, that these crashes and injuries are preventable. The Fountain Valley Police Department is very serious in working to eliminate deaths and injuries caused by drunk driving.

Drivers under 21 are subject to zero tolerance laws. Underage impaired drivers are subject to very strict penalties, such as license revocation, fines, and community service. It does not pay to drink and drive.

Town Hall Meetings



Mike Posey
Mayor

I’m sure many of you are anxious for the school year to finish and ready to start summer!

As your Mayor, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you through special events, meetings and other city engagements. I have been activity meeting with my Huntington Beach constituents through my series of monthly, Saturday morning coffees and Town Hall meetings. I’m pleased to announce my May coffee is scheduled for May 12 from 9am to 11am at Monkey House Café at 18862 Beach Blvd. All are welcome and no topic is off limits!

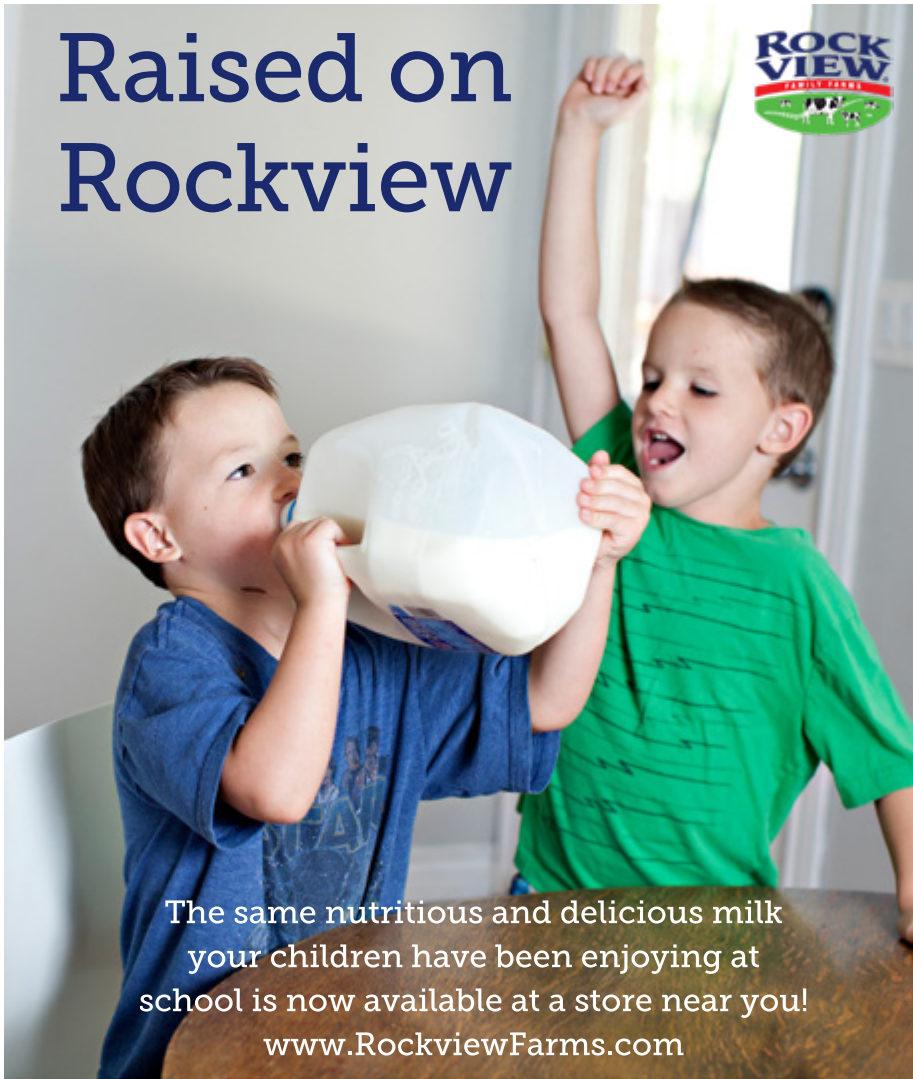
In addition, I will schedule another Town Hall meeting at City Hall on an upcoming Saturday in July featuring a discussion on PERS. Our April 28 Town Hall meeting, which focused on crime, was heavily attended and I thank those that came out to listen and ask questions.

Lastly, I’m excited to kick off the 2nd Annual Citizens Academy this month. The Academy is a nine-week program designed to teach residents and business owners about the City and the services it provides.



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Covering the:
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



It is hard to believe May is here already and the end of this school year is in sight. Flowers are blooming and birds chirping to remind us Spring is here. The articles in this issue remind us the students are still very focused on their academic goals.

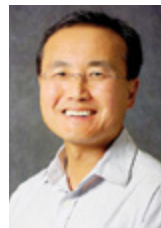
Our next issue is June 6.



Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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

Stroke Can Occur at Any Age



Kenneth Kim, M.D.

Medical Director,
Pediatric ICU

Most people picture an adult when thinking about stroke. Sadly, this is not always the case. Strokes remain one of the top 10 causes of death in children. According to the National Stroke Association, stroke occurs in one in 4,000 live births. The risk of stroke from birth to age 18 is almost 11 in 100,000; though slightly more common in children under 2.

Risk Factors: Adult risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat and/or a hardening of the arteries. Pediatric stroke risks are different, and include:

- Congenital heart defects • Sickle-cell disease
- Abnormal blood clotting • Head or neck trauma

- Maternal history of infertility
- Maternal infection in the fluid surrounding an unborn baby
- Pregnancy-related high blood pressure in the mother

Signs & Symptoms: Recognition of stroke is often delayed or missed in children. The most common signs and symptoms of stroke in newborns and infants are:

- Seizures, including repetitive twitching of the face, arm or leg
- Apnea (pauses in breathing) associated with staring
- Extreme sleepiness • A tendency to use only one side of their body

With children and teens, look for:

- Weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg, usually on one side of the body
- Severe dizziness or loss of coordination
- Severe sudden headache, especially with vomiting and sleepiness
- Difficulty speaking or understanding others
- Vision loss or double vision
- New onset of seizures, usually on one side of the body

For more information about pediatric stroke, talk with your pediatrician.

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Don't Play With Toy Safety



Danny Luna
injury prevention
coordinator, Injury
Prevention Program,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were an estimated 166,300 toy related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments, and seven reported fatalities of children 12 years of age or younger during 2016. Many toy related injuries and fatalities can be prevented by taking some precautionary steps when buying new toys for your child:

- Purchase age appropriate toys recommended by the manufacturer.
- Read and follow all warning labels, especially for electric toys.
- Avoid toys with small parts that may become a choking hazard for younger children.
- Be cautious of toys with small batteries and magnets because they can cause serious harm if swallowed.
- Be aware of toys that may contain lead.
- Ensure that toys with movable parts do not trap or jam your child's finger.
- Be sure your child can breathe comfortably in toys they can enter, such as a tent.
- Register your toys to stay up to date with any recalls.

The Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach wants to keep kids safe in the community by providing safety education to children and families. For more information on childhood safety education and resources, visit millerchildrens.org/injuryprevention.



Orthodontics Matters

Does Invisalign really work?



Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

With the esthetics and the convenience of Invisalign, I frequently have new patients come to the office specifically requesting Invisalign treatment. But, I also have many new patients convinced that Invisalign doesn't produce great results – they insist upon treatment with braces. So why are there such differing opinions about using clear aligners?

I find the difference between the two types of patients described above is what they have seen and researched online and amongst their friends. In the cases that didn't work, what happened? There are really only three reasons Invisalign doesn't work and none of them have to do with the aligners themselves, but rather the doctor and the patient:

(1) The movements that were planned by the doctor are biologically impossible. Most patients don't realize that Invisalign is manufactured based on what tooth movements the doctor prescribed and in turn what tooth movements the doctor thinks will happen. (2) The tooth movements were too complex or difficult for clear aligners to perform. In these cases, it is important to be in treatment with an orthodontist who can recognize this early on so partial braces or other strategies can be used for the few difficult teeth (see my prior article where I talked about combination braces/Invisalign cases). (3) The patient isn't compliant – to get the desired tooth movement with Invisalign, the patient really has to wear the aligners 21-22 hours per day. Quite simply, clear aligners should only be taken out of the mouth when eating, drinking, brushing and flossing.

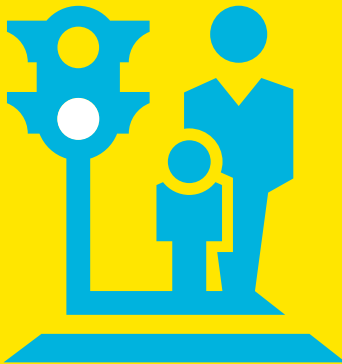
So at the end of the day, if you are contemplating straightening your teeth and perfecting your smile, but you aren't sure how easy or difficult your case really is, do yourself a favor and see an orthodontic specialist.

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.

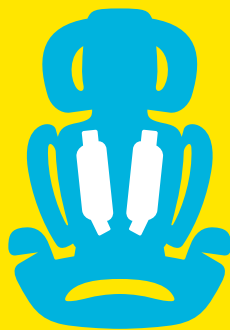
Teaching Kids to Stay Safe



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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

#WeHeartTechnology

For the last several years, school districts across the country have been using technology to improve the learning outcomes for students. In fact, recent national studies show that 31 percent of middle school and elementary students have access to a school-issued device. At the onset of the technological movement, the push for more technology was simply about equal access and student engagement. However, as we have learned more about its effective uses and ability to truly impact achievement, the conversations have shifted from using technology to consume information to using technology as a tool for creation and production. It's not good enough to simply have devices and ensure students are using them. Instead, students need to be creating more content...writing more, imagining more, collaborating more, and evaluating and analyzing more. In addition, we want students engaged in authentic and relevant research, as well as solving real-world problems.



In FVSD, students create more, are engaged in authentic and relevant research, and solve real-world problems all through technology.

In FVSD, I am proud to share how we are using technology to enhance and improve learning for all of our students. Currently, our schools have a ratio of one device for every 1.2 students. Furthermore, we are using these devices as a vehicle to allow students to write more, create more, collaborate more, and problem solve in new and thoughtful ways. Some of the primary resources we use include: Google Classroom, Edulastic, Turnitin.com, and ST Math. These tools allow our students greater access to a world of discovery. For example, in our middle school English program, each teacher is equipped with a Chromebook cart that, when paired with programs like Turnitin.com, provides targeted support and increased levels of feedback for students, one of the strongest variables in learning. Moreover, integrating technology into the classroom nurtures increased student confidence and higher levels of engagement. And, building technology into lessons encourages our students to approach problems differently, which strengthens their critical thinking skills and provides a more personalized learning environment.

So, while you know that #WeHeartFVSD, in FVSD #WeHeartTechnology, too!

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Jeanne Galindo
Clerk

School Safety Remains a Priority in FVSD

As school board members, we set the vision and priorities for the District. The safety of our children is a top priority in order to provide an environment for learning. And, it is encouraging to report that FVSD has strong safety protocols in place.

Proactively, we partner with both Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach Police Departments, as we have schools in both cities. We have one liaison officer from each department who is available on a moment's notice. That officer aids in taking the report and investigating when required.

We promote positive behavior in our schools. We teach and expect it. We reward it and model it. We focus on kindness and discourage bullying. Involving children in learning to think and behave in a positive manner is a very proactive way of avoiding serious negative behavior.

We are a faith-based community and we receive children who have strong family roots, where positive values are taught.

We promote a strong sense of connectedness between teachers and students. Warm, loving and caring teachers provide a safe and trusted place for students to share concerns. Children coming from challenging home lives gain a high level of comfort with a teacher who is approachable.

Reactively, we are also prepared. Drills are consistently conducted. Lock down, shelter in place and, run, hide and fight drills are examples of types of drills our students practice. The severity of the situation dictates which procedure would be used.

Please be assured that safety is a top priority in FVSD as we are both proactive and have strong procedures in place to be reactive.

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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

Courreges Teacher of the Year

Courreges Elementary School is proud to select Michelle Sprague as our 2018 Teacher of the Year. Michelle has been teaching in the FVSD since 2009 and is currently teaching kindergarten at Courreges for the 2017-2018 school year.

Tracy Belsito (K Teacher) has this to say about Michelle:

“Michelle Sprague is an exceptional educator in every way. She is truly a gift to the world of teaching. She instinctively knows how to effectively meet the needs of every student who crosses her path, regardless of their level. It is truly an epic experience to watch her in action in her classroom. She makes the hardest of teaching tasks look effortless. What a natural talent!”

We are truly honored and privileged to select Michelle Sprague as Courreges Elementary School's 2018 Teacher of the Year!



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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Niki Buck, Superteacher!

We proudly announce Niki Buck as both our own and our district's Teacher of the Year! Ms. Buck is third-grade team lead; second-and-third-grade writing program director; a master teacher, setting a high bar for incoming teachers; our Social Committee president; and a balanced-literacy expert!

Her colleagues describe Ms. Buck as a collaborator and a mentor, holding conferences and collaboration meetings with them and thus helped them grow professionally. She shows



Ms. Buck (right) with her long time teaching partner, Mrs. Carrasco (left).

parents her true concern for and understanding of their children and understands the strengths and needs of each one.

Ms. Buck also is a community leader, joyfully serving on FFFN, Family Math Night, Science Nights, dine-outs and the FV Parade. She has served as Social Committee president, encouraged healthy after-school exercise programs like Zumba with her peers, parents and me—I'm willing to try it for Ms. Buck—served on the FVEA, and helped develop district benchmarks, just to name a few things.

Ms. Buck truly deserves this outstanding recognition. Cox community and students are blessed to have her on our staff!

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Fallbrook High School, College and Career Counselor: Tony Morrow '11, M.A.Ed. '12

Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Kevin Johnson
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

Hair-Raising Success!

Fulton Middle School has participated in the Pennies for Patients fund-raiser for the past 10 years, donating over \$50,000 for blood-cancer research during this time. Money goes to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which funds the research to cure these diseases. At Fulton, PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) seventh- and eighth-graders run this schoolwide charity drive, which ran through March. PALs set a schoolwide goal of \$4,444.

To promote giving, PALs made posters showing totals for each homeroom and grade-level “thermometers” to show overall progress toward the school goal. Other enticements included rewards for reaching weekly schoolwide “stretch” goals. The week-one goal was \$2,500, and the Falcons blew it out of the water with over \$3,000! The reward was Principal Kevin Johnson having his hair dyed pink and Assistant Principal Jennifer Kajdasz getting hers dyed blue!

By the end of week 3, Fulton students had far surpassed the original goal, raising over \$8,000 for cancer research! In recognition of the students’ amazing effort, the entire Fulton staff wore wigs for the final week!



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Teacher of the Year

Masuda Middle School is proud to honor Ms. Frieda Lim, a math and intervention teacher, as our Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lim’s nominating peers have all used the same phrases to describe her: kind, innovative, and willing to share her time, curriculum, and wisdom! She always puts learning first, and, in her classroom, every student is continually growing and reaching her or his potential. Ms. Lim 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/school! We are blessed by Ms. Lim’s positive energy and outlook.



Ms. Lim’s students are not the only beneficiaries of her excellence; the parent community and her teaching peers benefit immensely from all she has to offer! We are proud to present her as our Teacher of the Year on the basis of her outstanding contributions to the lives of the children (and adults) whose lives she touches daily.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

Teacher of the Year

Gisler School is proud to nominate Kate Dillon as our 2017–2018 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Dillon has been teaching for six years at Gisler; prior to coming to Gisler, she spent 16 years at Moiola

School.

Kate has dedicated her life to the children and to the classroom. She is an amazing teacher. According to a nominating peer, “I can’t think of another person on our staff who exhibits warmth, professionalism, and a can-do positive attitude each day more than Kate! As a colleague, she is caring, approachable, and always willing to plan, collaborate, and problem solve. She is encouraging and supportive of both the staff and her students.”

The nomination process made clear how respected Kate is by her peers. Another colleague commented, “Kate has fully embraced best practices in her classroom, using Readers’ Workshop, Fountas and Pinnell, and Thinking Maps to engage her students in critical thinking. Additionally, Kate creatively incorporates art into her teaching to allow all students to access the curriculum using multiple intelligences.”

As a principal, I consider it a joy and a privilege to have Kate Dillon on our staff. Congratulations, Kate!



William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvdsd.us



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Newland Hosts Annual Jog-a-thon

Newland recently held our annual Jog-a-thon. Students collected a little over \$13,000 dollars for the PTA. All of Newland students were running at the same time on two different tracks; which made things a little crazy but a lot of fun. Newland’s Jog-a-Thon is a wonderful opportunity to bring the entire school as well as family and friends together. This year, PTA has funded different enhancements to our music programs. Music continues to be an essential part of Newland enriching all areas of our school. Additionally, PTA continues to supported art programs, field trips, new technology, and classroom libraries. Newland’s PTA is an essential part of what makes Newland great!



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Teacher of the Year

Oka Elementary School is excited to announce that Mrs. Michelle Gutierrez is our Teacher of the Year for 2018. In just her sixth year, Mrs. Gutierrez has already stood out for her unwavering dedication to her profession, for the exceptional instruction her students receive, and for quietly leading by example.

For most teachers, teaching a third- and fourth-grade combination class would fill their entire day. However, Mrs.

Gutierrez also leads and advises our entire student leadership group, comprised of 50 students. In addition, she continues to serve as Oka's English Learner site representative, is on the district's Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) committee, and previously served for multiple years as our site technology coordinator. Also, Mrs. Gutierrez is participating in her first year working with the Cotsen Foundation and the Art of Teaching, with an

emphasis in math.

Mrs. Gutierrez's selfless leadership has such a wide sphere of difference-making influence on students, peers, and parents. Mrs. Gutierrez is the teacher who deserves all the kudos and praise for being amazing, talented, humble, confident, team-oriented, and all about student success!



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

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Mark Holman
Assistant Principal

Talbert to UCLA

At Talbert, a well-rounded education is our top priority. This not only translates to rigor in the classroom, but also to experiences that provide for depth and context to our learning.

One of our focuses at the site is high school and college readiness, and so our Talbert staff members have been preparing students for the A-G requirements in order to facilitate a smooth transition into college.

To allow students a first-hand experience of campus life, the entire eighth-grade class also recently took a trip to UCLA. It was an amazing experience, and caused quite a buzz! For many of our students this was their first time

on a college campus, and the look of pride on their faces when they walked around UCLA was amazing.

We love providing these unique opportunities for our students, and will continue to challenge, motivate, and prepare them with rigorous academics and extracurricular experiences that can spark their desire to become life-long learners.



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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

A True Leader

Plavan is proud to present Mrs. Kelly Rutter as our 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year.

Kelly serves as our lead fifth-grade reading teacher. She has a true love for reading, which allows her to teach on a deeper level, one that is based upon inquiry and collaborative discussion. She makes it seem effortless to have 34 fifth-grade students circled around her engaged in a text, sharing opinions, citing text evidence, and using higher-level thinking skills.

Kelly is always researching the latest strategies,

environmental supports, and effective interventions to address student needs. In addition to her love for reading, she has a true desire to help others. Kelly actively creates a community of scholars in her classroom by developing relationships with each child. She is able to highlight their strengths.

Mrs. Rutter is not only an amazing resource to the children, but also to our staff and district. She truly puts her heart and soul into supporting our school's vision of reaching every child. Throughout my career, I have learned that being a quality educator who truly impacts the life of a child requires more than just being a good teacher.



Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvsd.us



Kathy Davis
Principal

Walk Through California

This March, Tamura's 4th grade had the opportunity to Walk Through California. This informative and interactive assembly is a Tamura tradition. It is packed with interesting facts and entertaining humor. The students are whisked back to the past to visit the early days of California. They even get a visit from explorer Juan Cabrillo and mission system architect Father Junipero Serra! Students had a blast dressing up as their favorite landmark or historical figure. They also enjoyed building a room-sized map of our state. What an incredible way to culminate the

4th grade California Social Studies! The students are looking forward next year when they will get to Walk Through the Revolution.



Huntington Beach City School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Hauk

PTSA and Schools—A Winning Team

The Huntington Beach City School District and our local PTSA volunteers at each of our schools have long been a strong partnership for our students, schools, and families. The numerous family and student functions, opportunities for student enrichment, fieldtrips and school assemblies that are provided by and supported by our PTSA volunteers make schools a wonderful place to spend time. And we must not forget that our schools are also a fun and informative meeting place for our parents and community.

Recently a couple of fantastic events really brought to light how important our PTSA volunteers are to the success of our schools and students. The first event was the celebration of our Reflections art contest winners. The theme of the contest this year was “Within Reach,” and students could submit work in six different categories: Dance/Choreography, Literature, Photography, Film Production, Music Competition, and Visual Arts. The Reflections art contest is a statewide program and has had over 10 million participants since it began in 1969. We are proud that every school in the district participated in every category. The Fourth District Council recently hosted a lunch where the student winners in each category at lower elementary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school and their parents were celebrated for their achievements. Once again, the Huntington Beach City School District swept all of the awards in each category and at each level our students participate in.

The second great PTSA event recently held was the Fourth District Administrators Dinner. This event celebrates the fantastic work done at each of our schools by our PTSA volunteers and the teamwork they share with our school administrators. As we hit spring time and have made it through about three quarters of the school year, it is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work done by our teams to benefit our students, schools, and families. During this event, our own Smith Elementary School Surfers PTSA received multiple awards for increases in parent and community participation and innovation in activities. All of our PTSA groups work hard, but it was great to have the hard work and focus by the PTSA team at Smith recognized by the Fourth District leaders.

If you have not yet joined your local PTSA, it is never too late. Our PTSA volunteers put in a lot of time and effort to provide even more for our students each and every day. We appreciate what they do and wouldn't be as successful without their partnership and help.

PTSA and Schools—A Winning Team

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Rosemary Saylor
President

An Exciting Time for HBCSD

As we moved from winter into spring with Open House events, Read Across America, and our required first Local Control and Accountability Plan community involvement meeting, the school year seemed to pick up speed and move rapidly toward its end! In March, I had the privilege as Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) Board president of presenting for the Robert Mayer Leadership Academy at Golden West College. I was in good company with Huntington Beach Union High School District Board President Bonnie Castrey and Ocean View School District Board President Jack Souders and consider this annual participation by community leaders to be a real perk of being a School Board president. On this particular day, the students toured some of the schools in each district, and, following that, each school district superintendent and Governing Board president shared the basics of our city's public education make-up and, in the case of Board members, the responsibilities of a School Board member as well as how one gets elected to a School Board.

One of the highlights of the second half of our school year was another visit from Tianjin Chinese students, this year at our middle schools (Dwyer Middle School in January and Sowers Middle School in March). This is such an amazing opportunity for students of both the Chinese and American cultures, and it has really become an international partnership of sorts for us. We feel so privileged to have had HBCSD specifically chosen to host these visits, with their students and ours sharing musical performances and our students sharing their curriculum in the classrooms with their new Chinese friends.

Also in March, HBCSD hosted the always-successful opening of the Annual Student Arts Exhibit at the downtown art center with musical performances by our schools and unique displays of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork lovingly arranged throughout the rooms by volunteers. Spring break gave us a brief hiatus, and then we started filling up our schedules with student performances, while the school sites themselves delved into testing.

While I write this, we are still in spring mode, but before we know it, fifth-grade parties and eighth-grade promotions will be anticipated and schools will let out for the summer. That's when the heavy duty first phase Measure Q work will begin on some of our campuses and also when we anticipate the completion of our new Education Center.

It is a very exciting time for HBCSD, and it's not over yet!

Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



Rosemary Saylor
President



Shari Kowalke
Vice President



Ann Sullivan
Clerk



Bridget Kaub
Member



Dr. Paul Morrow
Member

school administrators. As we hit spring time and have made it through about three quarters of the school year, it is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work done by our teams to benefit our students, schools, and families. During this event, our own Smith Elementary School Surfers PTSA received multiple awards for increases in parent and community participation and innovation in activities. All of our PTSA groups work hard, but it was great to have the hard work and focus by the PTSA team at Smith recognized by the Fourth District leaders.

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Educational Services

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



Carolyn Wertheim
Director
Early Childhood
Education

Free Developmental Screenings

Huntington Beach City School District proudly supports children 0 – 5 years of age through our School Readiness program.

Free School Readiness developmental screenings are available. If your child attends public preschool, they will likely receive a health screening in their classroom during the school year. If your child does not attend preschool or attends a private preschool, contact the School Readiness Nurse to schedule a health screening during the school year. The free health screening includes: Vision, Hearing, BMI (body mass index-height and weight calculation), Dental screening, and Developmental assessment.

Our School Readiness Program also provides free educational presentations, parent education programs, and referrals to resources.

For a free health screening or questions regarding your child's development, please contact the School Readiness Nurse in your home school district. To reach the School Readiness Nurse in Huntington Beach City School District, please contact 714-962-3348 extension 2345 or email bremland@hbcasd.us or dmontano@hbcasd.us.



John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



An Abundance of Hope

The Eader Eagles know that “Sharing is Caring,” and they take pride in building character by helping others.

Thanks to this wonderful local philanthropic organization, many of our Eader parents as well as others in HB and other local cities recently got a little help this year for their springtime family celebrations. HOPE founder Yolanda Montoya-Graham and her volunteers visited many of our schools to donate goodies and baskets to local families.

Our Eader students and families are very conscientious and caring, which makes it a priority to be kind and compassionate to them. In collaboration with this community organization, at the beginning of the year

many of the students were also provided with stylish backpacks filled with appropriate age-level school supplies. These volunteers also provided women in shelters with purses filled with toiletries, jewelry, scarves, and goodies for Valentine's Day.

We are proud of this partnership and its giving, caring spirit! There is certainly an abundance of HOPE in our community!



Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

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



Christa Glembocki
Principal

Freak Flag Flies High!

Dwyer Middle School's Academy of the Performing Arts Junior performed their mainstage show, *Shrek the Musical Jr.*, the last week of March. The upbeat production was full of catchy songs and dances to carry the show's message of “Let Your Freak Flag Fly,” the title of one of its biggest songs—in other words, what makes us special, makes us strong.

Chappell Brock, our musical theater teacher and choreographer, created pictures through choreography and color to reinforce the message. Mr. Mationg and Mr. Reyes, our music directors, created vocal harmonies that filled the room.



The show was performed by 51 energetic and spirited sixth-through-eighth-graders who delighted in adding fresh improv during each show to keep it fresh and funny. Over 10 students also ran all the tech for the show!

Dwyer's APA Junior Program couldn't be more proud of the cast and crew of *Shrek the Musical Jr.* and looks forward to future productions with these talented, hardworking children!

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Dr. Monique Huibregtse
Principal

Parent Partners

A strong partnership between school and home is a value that drives our work toward student success here at Huntington Seacliff Elementary School. What does that mean exactly? Well, for our parents, it is everything from getting their children to school each day, on time and ready to learn, and helping with homework to assisting in the classroom, participating in fund-raisers, and being part of committees, such as School Site Council and the PTA. Our parents do a wonderful job in all of these areas, but I want to focus on our PTA. They are a stellar and supportive organization, and we would not be the high-performing school we are without them.

Through the PTA's hard work in fund-raising, we are able to support many enrichment programs, including Art Masters, assemblies, classroom enrichment, materials, and field trips. Our annual PTA-sponsored gala just raised over \$100,000! PTA also rallies everyone to join in the fun activities—from the Harvest Festival, Family Art Night, and Spring Fun Run to our community nights at local restaurants.

PTA also coordinates our volunteers and room moms so that every class is supported. In addition to all of this, PTA pays for an extra noon-duty supervisor to organize games for the students during the lunch hour. You can just imagine what a success this has been! If it rains during lunchtime, guess who comes to help us?

We also have parents helping with district-level committees, such as the Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) committee, the Measure Q committee, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), District Advisory Committee/District English Language Advisory Committee (DAC/DELAC), and the Safety Committee.

You can see that our parents do so much to support our school and the district—and our students are reaping the benefits. Thank you, Seacliff parents and PTA!



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



Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

School and Beyond

At Hawes Elementary School, we believe in developing a strong sense of social responsibility within all students. This belief is evident in a variety of ways.

One of our structured programs to develop social responsibility is our student council. Through the coordination of Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) teachers Christine Zeutzius and Jenn DeStefano, students in third through fifth grades can represent their classes in student council. This allows them to have a voice in the creation and implementation of school-wide programs that not only teach our students about the importance of giving back but also extend beyond the boundaries of our school.

In November, the student council hosted and organized our annual Veteran's Day program, which included inviting veterans and active military to our presentation. Each month, our student council shares information about our monthly traits from Wooden's Pyramid of Success. They perform small skits, sing songs, and share words of wisdom to inspire all.

In February, they spearheaded our school's participation in the Great Kindness Challenge. All of our students were challenged to complete at least 50 acts of random kindness that week! Our student council made daily announcements about being kind and collected acts of kindness for the One Billion Acts of Kindness challenge at the county level.

At their monthly meetings, student council members consider school issues and brainstorm ways to tackle those challenges. These conversations equip them to lead class discussions on those topics as they make a difference across our school.

As the year comes to an end, this group of dedicated students will have an active role in our Class Act Bravo Assembly. We are excited by the ideas that our students generate and know their contributions will make a difference at school and beyond!

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

For the Love of Reading

The week of February 26 was an exciting one at Moffett School. The week was filled with fun and creative learning activities to celebrate the birthday of Theodore Geisel, who is better known as Dr. Seuss. PTA parent coordinators Sara Owen and Jaime Koenig created a week that celebrated both Dr. Seuss and our students' love of reading.

A local author, Laura Planck, kicked the week off with a reading of her book *Big Cheeks at Squirrely Beach* at our Monday morning flag assembly. Students and staff enjoyed hearing the work that goes into developing a story from original idea to final product. We also celebrated with a theme for each day of the week, including Mismatched Clothing Day, Green Like a Grinch Day, and Crazy Socks Day.

During the week, students brought gently used books from home to share with their classmates through donation to our Best Foot Forward early reading program. They also committed to turning off their televisions and electronics for one night. In exchange for their efforts, students received Seuss-themed awards.

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

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

770 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-1469 • <http://www.smithelementary.com>

Outdoor Science School (please see the front page)

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • <http://isms.schoolloop.com>

Building International Relationships (please see the front page)

John R. Peterson *Elementary*

20661 Farnsworth Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-1515 • <http://pes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com>



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

School Safety

There are many aspects to school safety. However, they all start with two common principles: planning and training. At Peterson Elementary School, the entire staff is trained on how to respond to any type of school emergency. Direct staff-development and practice drills are held on a regular basis. Staff and students become familiar with the procedures and appropriate responses to fire, earthquake, intruders, and natural and man-made disasters. The school follows the same protocols as first responders to ensure that staff and first responders are speaking in the same terms and responding in the same way. The protocols rely on the Incident

Command System, also known as ICS. ICS is a standardized approach to the command, control and coordination of emergency response, providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.

Research indicates that school staff will respond more successfully and ensure the safety of students to a higher degree when they practice these standardized responses many times throughout each school year. It is also important that students of all ages understand before an emergency occurs what to expect when a situation requires immediate response. Again, practice is key.

Parents play another important role in the response to emergency situations. Patience, although hard, is important to allow the school staff and first responders to ensure the safety of all students and staff before parent-child reunification can occur. Peterson Elementary works closely with the Huntington Beach Police Department through our school resource officer (SRO) to develop efficient methods for quick and easy parent-child reunification following an emergency situation. The school also uses many forms of parent communication from automated phone calls, Facebook and Twitter to inform parents when emergency drills are held and parent training opportunities are available, and provide updates on emergency situations at the school.

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 15th, Perry Elementary hosted its second annual Family Science Night. We had a huge turnout, and loved seeing our students and families participate in the hands-on science stations and all of the activities.

Some highlights of Science Night included four/five students who engineered designs and tested them for the Fluor Challenge; third-grade students who engineered and designed buildings to withstand an earthquake, and were tested at different magnitudes on the "Earthquake" table; kindergarten and first-grade students who engineered straw rockets and tested them; and second-grade students who designed and engineered egg-catching contraptions that were actually tested during Science Night.

We also had the OC STEM Mobile Fabrication Lab (or FABlab) present in order to help teach our students how to be creators rather than consumers of technology. And lastly, we also had chemistry and biology graduate students from UC Irvine to provide a demonstration and conduct experiments. It was a magical night of students, families, science, and S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fun!



Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Celebrating Our Successes

Students and employees in the Ocean View School District (OVSD) are achieving great things, so I want to share with you some of their successes. Our most recent good news comes from the California Department of Education. Circle View and Star View Elementary Schools are being honored as 2018 California Distinguished Schools for their exceptional gains in implementing academic content and performance standards adopted the by the state Board of Education. This achievement reflects a monumental team effort by the students, staff, families, and communities of Circle View and Star View, and we are all very proud of their hard work. These schools will be honored at a special awards ceremony to be held at the Disneyland Hotel in May. Detailed information about the performance of our California Distinguished Schools is available on the state's California School Dashboard.

In March, Marine View Middle School eighth-grader Amy Arenas won first place for her artwork “Believe,” and Vista View Middle School eighth-grader Nicole Nguyen won second place for her artwork “A Streetlight of Hope” in the 19th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, hosted by Chapman University. Our Board of Trustees recognized all 12 OVSD participants in the contest.

Also in March, we co-hosted the Surf City Optimist Club Oratorical Contest, which featured 15 students from our four middle schools speaking about “The Roots of My Optimism.” First-place winners Brooke Foreman, an eighth-grader from Mesa View Middle School, and Matthew Quach, also an eighth-grader from Mesa View, took home medals and cash prizes. Every participant demonstrated outstanding public speaking skills.

Mesa View eighth-grader Roger Gonzalez was recently honored at Bowers Museum by Region 17 of the Association of California School Administrators as a 2018 Every Student Succeeding award winner. Principal Randy Lempert described Roger as a role model on campus and a positive contributor to his school's academic environment.

Also this quarter, we announced our top employees among teachers and classified staff. Our two Teachers of the Year are Sandi Lewis from Lake View STEAM School and Niki Hoang from Vista View Middle School. Our 2018 Classified Employees of the Year are: Arthur Camarena, Head Custodian at Harbour View Elementary School; Laurie Gorham, Lead Food Service Worker at Spring View Middle School; Ryan Keel, School Office Manager at Lake View STEAM School; Jason Kina, Speech and Language Assistant at Lake View and Westmont Elementary Schools; and Thomas Wroniak, Bus Driver. We recently learned that Harbour View's Art Camarena is one of only six Orange County Department of Education Employees of the Year and will now compete in the statewide competition!

Congratulations to all of these incredible schools, students and staff members and to those who demonstrate commitment, perseverance and positivity each and every day!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jack C. Souders
President

Welcome Our Board's Newest Member

There is a new face on the Ocean View School District (OVSD) Board of Trustees. Mrs. Patricia Singer, a parent of two children in our district, was recently selected to serve as provisional appointee at a special Board meeting on March 27, 2018. She fills the vacancy created following the resignation of Trustee Joseph Gaglione earlier this year. Her provisional term will be completed on December 7, 2018.

It was an honor for me to serve, alongside Vice President John Briscoe, on the special Board subcommittee to receive and verify all provisional appointee applications prior to the public interviews and vote held on March 27. As a Board, we interviewed three applicants, received public input, and then selected Mrs. Singer by majority vote. The oath of office was administered at the regular Board meeting on April 10, and all powers and duties of a governing Board member were conferred upon her. It was nice to see her family members in attendance for the ceremony, and I look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

Mrs. Singer is a longtime resident of Huntington Beach and a parent of students at Vista View Middle School and Lake View Elementary School, where she is the current PTO president. As a parent leader, she provides oversight and planning responsibilities for a variety of school-wide committees, activities and events, some of which are open to the surrounding community. In previous years, she served consecutive terms as the president of our district's PTA/PTO/PTSA/PTSO Roundtable, which consists of parent leaders from 17 schools throughout Ocean View. Additionally, Mrs. Singer volunteered on the Measure R bond committee in 2016 and supported our district's updated volunteer policy.

In her application packet, Mrs. Singer described her reasons for wanting to serve on our Board of Trustees as the following: ensuring that quality education is always a priority; serving as a voice for parents and community members; assuring that tax dollars are spent wisely and transparently; and helping to set high expectations and accountability to ensure all of our programs, or curriculum, are meeting the needs of all of our students. She noted that our district's teaching staff and leadership team are some of the best around.

It is my hope that you will help me welcome Mrs. Singer as the new provisional appointee on the OVSD Board of Trustees!

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



Paul James
Principal

Superstar Specialists

Pleasant View/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 one another and dissect the strengths and unique needs of each student to make sure our students are progressing socially, emotionally and academically throughout the year. We are fortunate to have Linda Still, Lynn Trittipio, Anne Lang, Melanie Fenger, Anh Mai, Vicki Kincaid, Kim Tong, Bryan Leipper and Jen Hwang as part our staff, and we thank them for their dedication and unwavering work ethic they show each day to help our students succeed.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



Jack C. Souders
President



John Briscoe
Vice-President



Gina Clayton-Tarvin
Clerk



Patricia Singer
Member



Norm Westwell
Member

Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Pi Day

On March 14, Circle View Elementary School students in kindergarten through fifth grade celebrated Pi Day—as in the mathematical equation, not the dessert—exploring a variety of new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) resources. These resources were recently purchased thanks to Mrs. Brasie, our Circle View Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) teacher. Mrs. Brasie’s successful efforts to attain a \$5,000 educational grant from a local credit union provided new

STEM materials for all of our students.

On Pi Day, Mrs. Brasie’s third-grade class served as learning docents in each kindergarten through fifth-grade classroom for the entire morning, instructing other students how to use these incredible new learning tools. Students explored a variety of activities, including light blocks, circuits, structures, lens and prisms, electric modeling dough, levers and pulleys, snap circuits, simple machines, contraptions, bridge building materials, and physics! It was a great day of learning and fun!



Golden View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Brett Hardy
Principal

Environmental Science School

In the fall of 2018, Golden View will launch as an Environmental Science School. We are very excited about the new learning adventure that our students and staff will embark on!

As a foundation of the program, our students will participate in many unique learning experiences. For example, our school will promote a farm-to-table concept that requires students to plant, tend, harvest and cook nutritious foods. Students will work collaboratively to determine which crops will grow best during certain seasons and will monitor growth patterns on a daily basis.

Students will also use the science behind composting to help improve growing conditions for each harvest. Finally, students will use their math skills to determine the correct portions and ratios of ingredients as they make healthy and nutritious meals for all to enjoy.

Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!



College View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Katherine Smith
Principal

ASL Opportunities

In March, students from the American Sign Language (ASL) 3 Class from Huntington Beach High School joined the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students at College View. High school teachers Cody Moran and Jenny Malone accompanied the Oilers while they provided meaningful and purposeful interactive activities for our DHH students. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience while being challenged to apply what they have learned in ASL.

As an added bonus, our fifth-grade general-education students enjoyed collaborating and learning about opportunities in ASL. Our students learned that ASL is considered a foreign language and that this can be a future option to satisfy their foreign-language requirements for high school. Also, college and career paths were discussed for students who may have an interest in pursuing ASL as a future career.



Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Boosting Learning Opportunities

At Harbour View Elementary School, we are fortunate to have a PTA that works together with our staff members to provide assemblies that can extend and enhance the work we are doing in the classroom.

Our fifth-grade students recently participated in the “Walk through the Revolution” program. The students were given an opportunity to dress in character, become the character, and display their expertise and knowledge of events leading up to and including the Revolutionary War. Later this year our fourth-grade students will have the good fortune to participate in the program.

The students are asked to create skits while role-playing various aspects of California history. They can also earn points for their teams along the way. Many parents come to watch (and learn!) as their children bring to life many of our most significant historical and geographical events.

All students in grades K-5 also participated in hands-on science workshops. Our kindergarten students explored the fascinating world of bees and constructed their own beehives! Second-grade students studied fossils from long ago. In the fifth grade, the students participated in a Starlab assembly, exploring the mysteries of chemical reactions.

We are also thankful to our PTA for sponsoring and organizing many wonderful after-school enrichment programs such as painting with Timree, coding, FSEA, and our Running Club. Our volunteers invest many hours fundraising for and organizing these amazing enrichment programs. They truly benefit our students!

Hope View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Paul Kraft
Principal

Entertaining and Enriching Opportunities

In early March, Guide Dogs of America visited Hope View Elementary School. Fifth-grade teacher Holly Sjogren and her guide dog in training, Luka, hosted fellow guide dogs for a learning tour of the campus, including a visit to classrooms and recess time with the students. The visit was beneficial for our students and for these guide dogs, exposing them to a busy school as part of their training.

Also in early March, our kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten classes invited their families to partake in the annual Reading with Relatives event. Parents and grandparents spent time with their children in a fun, cozy reading environment.

There were several assemblies designed to enrich the learning experience of our students, including the Imagination Machine performers. Students were thrilled to see the stories they had written performed by the actors.

Third-graders enjoyed a visit from the Huntington Harbor Philharmonic's Music Mobile. Musicians entertained our students with a live musical performance. Fourth-graders participated in a Miners Day celebration as a culminating activity for their unit on the California gold rush.

Our first-graders traveled to the La Mirada Performing Arts Center, where students viewed a live performance by professional musicians. Second-graders visited the Garden Grove Don Walsh Auditorium for a Disneyland Band concert. And, finally, our fifth-graders attended a performance at Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, where they enjoyed live music by the Orange County Philharmonic Society.

We are so grateful for these engaging learning opportunities!

Marine View *Middle School (6–8)*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org



William Lynch
Principal

Our Marine View "Anchors"

Marine View Middle School staff members continue to focus on new ways to improve the school climate for our students, and reduce suspensions. We are seeing the positive results of our efforts, too. We have successfully reduced suspensions by nearly 85 percent, and are increasing connections with those students who may feel lonely during the school day.

In the spring of 2017, our sixth- and seventh-grade teachers chose students who were interested in helping others feel comfortable at school. After initial training with the Orange County Human Relations Board and the Walk in My Shoes Conference at UCI, the students were then trained in understanding conflict resolution and different points of view.

As the 2017–2018 year started, Marine View was one of only 10 schools in Orange County selected for the Youth-Led Violence Prevention Campaign grant offered through the Orange County Department of Education. With this grant, they had further training on conflict resolution, and received funds to use towards team-building activities. Working with seventh-grade English teacher Amanda Wilkes and recently retired teacher Carolyn Lloyd, these student volunteers then agreed on a name for the group: The Mariner Anchors.

As the year took off, the Anchors students focused on connecting with new middle school students in grades six to eight. They had ice cream socials and sent them notes of connection. They also have a classroom open on Wednesdays and Fridays during lunch for the students to have a safe haven, play games, do homework, or just hang out.

A small group of Anchors students are currently working with the sixth-graders in their language arts classes on understanding different points of view. There are also offering team-building games for the sixth-graders at lunch. This spring our Anchors are working on our "Kindness Weeks" and continuing to connect with our students.

Lake View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Plastic Footprints

Do you know your plastic footprint? Lake View Elementary School's second-, third-, and fourth-graders discovered their plastic footprints through a Project Based Learning (PBL) unit designed around the guiding question "Why do people need to recycle?"

First, our students learned about recycling by researching the "what" and "why" of recycling. Then they explored the world around them to discover which types of waste were most frequently found. Our students went on two field trips to local beaches to collect evidence, plus they collected waste on our own playground.



Students observed that plastics were the most frequent form of trash littered on the ground. From that point on, they conducted a plastics recycling program, created visual art using recycled plastics, researched the impact that plastic has on the earth, and wrote public service announcements to present to the entire school to increase awareness of proper plastic disposal.

This amazing student-led project made an impact on our earth and on our school!

Mesa View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

Live Your Story

Cultivating a positive experience for our students is something that we are committed to at Mesa View. With the support of our PTSO, each year we work together to bring in speakers who will motivate and inspire our students. This year our ASB and WEB students had the opportunity to hear Tyler Durman at a leadership conference, and they came back fired up to share his wisdom with our entire school.

Durman is passionate about helping students and families live better stories. His goal is to give our students a new way to think about their lives as individuals and as a unified family so that there is less negativity and more kindness.

To say that our students were inspired by his words of wisdom would be quite an understatement. Everyone I spoke with was motivated. Seeing that we have embraced the "Dude. Be Nice" mentality here at Mesa View, Durman's message of creating a family environment fits hand-in-hand with our core values and goals.

We also had the wonderful opportunity to share Tyler's talk with our parents following a school-wide assembly. We opened the night up to the entire OVSD community, since we knew what a profound impact his message would have for everyone who attended. With a gym of more than 250 people, he gave a new framework to families to help them understand their roles, guide their relationships and interactions, and bring more laughter and less worry.

We all have a story to live. Tyler Durman inspired each of us to be purposeful in what we do, how we treat others, and how we reach out to our support systems. Our "Ohana" at Mesa View is to build one another up and help each of us live a better, more purposeful story.

Oak View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Rosa Guerra
Principal

Steps in Right Direction!

Last year, our teachers agreed that they would add another program to their already full plates for the new school year to support students schoolwide with social-emotional needs and being proactive citizens in our school and community. Our teachers have chosen to teach the Second Step program beginning in January and have made a schedule to share the use of their grade-level kits to ensure that all students have received the curriculum by the end of the year.

Third-graders learned about paying attention to others and what that looks like in terms of being respectful, keeping their eyes on the speaker, and waiting for the speaker to finish speaking without interrupting. Fourth-graders in Ms. Anderson's class learned about passive, aggressive and assertive communication. They watched a video with a typical playground conflict and identified inappropriate behavior and assertive behavior to resolve the conflict. Way to go, Owls!

Oak View *Preschool & Pre-K*

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



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
*Director of
Child Development
Programs*

Trike-a-Thon

Oak View Preschool recently collaborated with St. Jude Children's Hospital for our 2018 Trike-a-Thon in March. Our students brought in their tricycles and scooters to ride for a great cause, raising funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital cancer research.

The week prior to the Trike-a-Thon, our students watched a video about some of the children they were supporting with their fund-raising. Our students and their families raised over \$700 for the hospital, which made us all feel good.

Our classrooms also took this opportunity to talk about healthy habits and regular doctor visits. It was also a time of reflection for all of us, reminding us to be appreciative of the healthy family members in our lives.

Our students were so proud of their civic engagement and the chance to give back. We are looking forward to next year!



Start your engines! Oak View Preschoolers are ready to roll in this year's Trike-a-Thon.

Spring View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

A Powerful Team

It is hard to believe that we are almost finished with the 2017–2018 school year! As we head into the home stretch, I would like to thank our wonderful PTSTO. They are a small but powerful group of dedicated individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. This year, our PTSTO raised over \$20,000 to augment our learning programs, including field trips and other activities.

Some of the funds we received were used to purchase a new woodworking machine for our woodshop—yes, a woodshop! The new machine allows students to create designs on a computer that are then “carved out” using the machine. Students can create some truly amazing products!

In addition, our PTSTO funded new physical education equipment that far surpasses anything we have had in the past. The new equipment gives our students opportunities to be in the best physical shape of their lives and to build healthy, lifelong habits.

I would like to thank our PTSTO officers: Leslie Sheridan, President; Libbie Knobbe, Treasurer; Kathy Fuller, Secretary; Andrea Anderson, Vice President of Fund-raising; Julie Anderson, Vice President of Membership; and Jennifer Lane, Parliamentarian. These tremendously generous women have made a huge impact on the Spring View Middle School campus and deserve recognition for their student-focused efforts.

Star View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

4th Graders Create the 22nd Mission

Upon completion of an in-depth study of the California Missions, our fourth grade students in Mrs. Olquin's class presented their reasoning and justification as to where and why the 22nd Mission should be constructed. They addressed in their research and presentations specific details of construction, water sources, food sources, trading, and transportation. The students worked together to address various obstacles involved with the location and construction of their Mission. They designed and built their models, and then shared them as a design proposal.

As Principal, it is truly refreshing to be a part of the deeper thinking, detail, justification, and planning that our learners are experiencing as part of these projects.



Sun View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Enjoying Reading

At Sun View, our students and staff members love to read and celebrate books. So it was only natural for the students to participate in Read across America Day on March 2nd. In fact, they were able to celebrate reading all week, and ended the period with a fun-filled reading day on Friday.

Each class enjoyed their special time in the library. This was where the students could share their favorite books and why they were their favorites, as well as an illustration from them. Now as visitors walk into our library they can enjoy all of the students' book recommendations and illustrations displayed throughout the room.

To add to the celebration on that special Friday, various students also received their Growing Readers award. The goal of the Growing Readers program is to encourage all students to be motivated to read at home every day. At the beginning of each month the students who meet their goal levels are recognized and celebrated.



Vista View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Scott Mooney
Principal

Pennies for Patients

Vista View Middle School is a proud participant in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. Each year, we begin with a presentation from representatives who teach our students about the science behind blood cancers, along with personal stories of children who have benefitted from research and the organization's tremendous volunteer efforts.

During this year's assembly, our students helped to demonstrate how oxygen transport works in the circulatory system and how diseases can interrupt those processes. Our school set a goal of raising \$750 to help fund research and patient support programs, and we quadrupled our goal. We were proud to send a check for almost \$3,000! This would not have been possible without the dedication of Vista View's students and their desire to help others in need. It is a testament to our culture of respect, commitment, and compassion.



Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Safety Always Matters

With school safety on everyone's mind, our Village View staff members want to share with our families the comprehensive safety plan and thorough training our teachers and other staff have completed in order to ensure safety during an event.

We recently held two Parent Education Sessions for our families to learn more about earthquake and lockdown procedures. Fifth-grade teacher Jeanne McGregor shared that her students use a special knock and will not under any circumstance open the door on a regular basis. When it comes to drills, our students and teachers have age-appropriate discussions about what to do in the case of an on-site threat. Our students know to remain calm and listen to their teacher's direction.

Kindergarten teacher Sharon Clark talked about adjusting her language for students as part of her presentation. Miss Shelly, our school health technician, also presented about our school's earthquake shed.

Thanks to good preparations, we are prepared with food and water for three days for all of our students and staff members. We also regularly review our safety team roles and equipment. As the principal of Village View, I feel it is important to share this information with our families. We want to reassure everyone that our school is prepped and equipped in the event of lockdowns, earthquakes, or critical events.

Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

VAPA Academy Means Art is Ongoing

Art is always happening at Westmont Elementary School thanks to its Visual and Performing Arts Academy. Students in Marsha Sipkovich's class recently enjoyed an afternoon of "Painting with Punch." Student teacher, Vanessa Show, guided fourth and fifth graders through a painting lesson. Everyone painted palm trees and a sunset, while they enjoyed sipping punch and eating a healthy snack. Although all students painted the same scene, each artist brought his or her own aesthetic to the canvas. All paintings were then displayed in the classroom gallery. As a working professional artist, Ms. Show shared her expertise and these students truly benefitted from a positive, enjoyable visual art experience.



Westminster School District

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

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



Sheri Loewenstein

40 Years & Going Strong!

I recently had the distinct pleasure of attending a party honoring Mrs. Vicki Elwood for an amazing 40 years of service in the Westminster School District. “Mrs. Vicki,” as she is known to students and parents, has been the Office Manager at Schroeder Elementary for 20 years and prior to that was a secretary at Clegg Elementary for 20 years.

Simply put, Mrs. Vicki is the heart and soul of Schroeder Elementary. She greets everyone who walks through the door by name and with a warm smile. Her welcoming demeanor immediately makes people feel at home and at ease. She is committed to excellence and works hard each day to ensure that the office and school run smoothly. She has put systems in place so that paperwork is completed correctly and efficiently, students and staff are taken care of and parents’ questions and concerns are addressed quickly. Mrs. Vicki makes sure that the Schroeder office is a supportive place for students, staff and parents. In a nutshell, she provides a great customer experience!



Mrs. Vicki Elwood and Interim Superintendent Sheri Loewenstein

asset to the school. Her welcoming demeanor enables her to build strong relationships with staff, students, families, and community members.”

“Mrs. Vicki makes Schroeder a ‘home away from home’ for both students and staff members!”

“She welcomes everyone with kindness and a smile. I truly believe this is why families want to be part of our school...because of the love she shows.”

“I soon realized that Schroeder was an amazing school because Mrs. Vicki creates a warm environment in the office and enthusiastically welcomes all that come in through the front door.”

“Mrs. Vicki is known for her smile and hearty laugh. One of the most endearing things about Mrs. Vicki is that she takes her job seriously but she doesn’t take herself seriously.”

Students describe Mrs. Vicki as “nice, funny, kind and cool!”

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire District, I want to thank Mrs. Vicki Elwood for the commitment, dedication and passion she has demonstrated throughout her 40 years of service. She leads by example and has certainly made the Westminster School District a better place!

Mrs. Vicki’s talents have not gone unnoticed. The District honored her as a Classified Employee of the Year while the PTA presented her with the prestigious Honorary Service Award as well as the Very Special Person Award. Her colleagues designated her as the CSEA representative for Schroeder and she also serves on Schroeder’s School Site Council.

Here are some things people have to say about Mrs. Vicki:

“Mrs. Vicki is a tremendous

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Penny Loomer
President

Warner Teacher Receives Top Honor

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mrs. Colette Gregorio, a math teacher at Warner Middle School, has been named the Westminster School District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Gregorio has been a teacher for 10 years and is extremely talented at making math fun and easy to understand for her students. She is highly regarded among her colleagues for her expertise in math and her passion for helping students succeed inside and outside of the classroom.

Mrs. Gregorio’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:



Westminster School District Teacher of the Year Colette Gregorio and her proud students.

“Outstanding teachers inspire, encourage, motivate and empower students to reach their fullest potential in education, character and success in life. Excellent teachers devote themselves to lifelong learning and professional development; build healthy relationships with staff, students, parents and community members; provide opportunities for exploration and discovery in the classroom; and equip students with the skills they need for the careers of their future. The classroom environment is a place where learning is fun, students are engaged, and the atmosphere is positive and inviting. The culture that the outstanding teacher creates consists of a place where mistakes are expected, risk-taking encouraged, differences are celebrated, and everyone has a sense of belonging. When students leave the classroom feeling valued, excited, and curious to learn more, it serves as evidence that their teacher has kindled the educational flame. Outstanding teachers accept the calling on their life, and live their passion every day. They love what they do and look forward to the challenges and joys that each new day brings.”

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

We are very proud to have Mrs. Gregorio 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 that represent each one of our school sites. Congratulations Mrs. Gregorio and all of our exemplary Teachers of the Year!

Westminster School District Board of Trustees



Penny Loomer
President



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Mary Mangold
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Frances Nguyen
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Jamison Power
Member

2018 School Site Teachers of the Year

Anderson, Denise Greene; Clegg, Megan Kresge; DeMille, Susie Edwards; Eastwood, Andrew Nakatsu; Finley, Valentina Mestroni; Fryberger, Jeffrey Nakano; Hayden, Kimberly Ugarteche; Johnson, Valerie Cason; Meairs — Sasha Tucker Schmitt, Tanya Wu; Schroeder, Kimberly Baer; Sequoia, Nicole Lagmay; Stacey, Kim Thach; Warner, Colette Gregorio; Webber, Keith Tracy; Willmore, Michelle Magpile;

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

“Egg”ineering

Each year our Anderson sixth-grade students participate in an engineering challenge called “The Egg Drop.” In self-selected small groups, students design contraptions that will keep a raw egg safe when thrown off the top of a scissor lift.

Following the scientific process, the students first complete background research and plan their designs. They can use a variety of materials to keep the eggs safe, including balloons, parachutes, bubble wrap, boxes, and cylinders. They are also required to keep within a \$100 classroom budget for the supplies.

For example, balloons cost \$15 each, and cotton balls cost \$3 each. The students then test their contraptions and revise their designs.



In the final experiment, the principal and custodian throw the students’ contraptions off the top of a scissor lift. Once they hit the ground, the student-experimenters check to see if their eggs have survived. This year only three of the eggs exploded. Great job, sixth-graders!

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Celebrating Student Success!

DeMille Elementary School recognized and celebrated third-through sixth-grade students who met all of the criteria to be reclassified as fluent English proficient. To be reclassified, students must receive a CELDT overall score of Early Advanced (4) or Advanced (5); demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency; demonstrate grade-level proficiency in writing; and have the teacher’s recommendation, parent consultation and administrative approval.

At a student-recognition assembly, students and parents learned about what it means to be an English learner and what it takes to become fluent English proficient. In Westminster School District, there are 4,072 English learners. At DeMille, there are 360 English learners. We are very proud that 40 of these students were reclassified as fluent English proficient. Students were presented certificates of achievement and celebrated with a pizza party.

Congratulations to our recently reclassified students! We are proud of you and this great accomplishment.



40 DeMille students celebrate being reclassified as Fluent English Proficient

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Fun and Fit Club

Clegg Elementary School students in first through fifth grades have a great opportunity to be involved in our Fun and Fit Club. Clegg’s Fun and Fit Club was created nine years ago and is run entirely by our PTA volunteers. Currently, there are 300 students having fun and getting exercise as part of this club.

Every Wednesday after school, students run, jump rope and participate in a number of sporting games, including basketball, soccer, flag football and kick ball. There are two fields set up for soccer or field hockey, and another field is set up for kickball or flag football. The blacktop area offers paddle ball, basketball, handball, jump ropes, hula hoops, and aerobics.

A big thank you to Mrs. Chamorra Flores and the large group of parent volunteer who set up the activities and provide support to students. We are grateful to everyone who makes this program possible for our students on an annual basis.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Raul Olivas
Principal

Taking In a Movie

One Friday evening in March, our Finley Computer Science Magnet School community got together to watch a movie in our MPR. During that time, our families had the opportunity to enjoy time with their loved ones while taking in some entertainment that included face painting, the movie and having some yummy snacks provided by our Finley PTA.

At Finley, we strive to incorporate the family into the learning experience, and we believe that we must enjoy all facets of being part of a community. The most enjoyable part of the evening was seeing all the smiling faces and providing a forum for our community to be able to spend time together. We are excited to do this again soon, and we are proud to continue to welcome our families in being part of creating a special environment.

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Amy Pham Kwon
Principal

We Rock Physics!

By Sony Kim and Nguyet Nguyen, WMS Journalism

In February, our eighth-grade science teachers hosted a trip to a local theme park for Physics Day. Students and teachers enjoyed a fun-filled day with over 150 rides, shows and attractions in four themed areas, with fun for all ages.

One of our favorite rides was the Log Ride. On the Log Ride, the passengers start uphill, building potential energy as they reach the top. Potential energy is stored energy and has the capability to become working kinetic energy. When the log descends, the potential energy is turned into kinetic energy as gravity pulls the log and the passengers back down to their seats. If you’re scared of big drops, then the Log Ride would be a great preference for you.

In the end, the trip was super-entertaining and we learned a lot about the physics of each ride. Warner rocks physics!



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Jason Kuncewicki
Principal

A Winter Wonderland

The sixth-graders at Eastwood experienced outdoor science school in a whole new way this year. Whether it was the 33-degree temperature, snow on the ground, or the icy roads, the Pali Institute was a definite winter wonderland!

Our students were able to become archers, science experts in dissection, launchers of water rockets, and strategy makers on how to save an egg from a two-story fall. But this experiential learning could not have taken place without the hard work of their teachers, parents, and the Eastwood family as a whole.



One of the main aspects of camp that we felt was most important was the socialization and day-to-day experiences that our students could have as young adults. This was the first time that many of them had been away from home for more than a day, but they quickly grew as both learners and individuals.

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Dena Kiouses
Principal

Literacy Skills

*By Alan Pham, Student – 3rd Grade
and Haley Calderon, Student – 4th Grade*

Literacy skills build the foundation for all student learning. Fryberger School is committed to student literacy and increasing student awareness of why literacy is important. Our school also works hard to make the process attainable and fun for all students.

Fryberger students have many opportunities to improve their literacy skills. In addition to our classroom materials, we have the Imagine Learning and Accelerated Reader programs, complete with fun rewards for meeting our goals. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and enjoyed Lunch on the Lawn to promote reading with our families.



**Author, April Halprin Wayland (left)
School Library Clerk, Lindsey Glennan (right)**

Recently, students in preschool through second grade had a literacy assembly and learned about the importance of reading. The whole school was treated to a visit by author April Halprin Waylan, who shared about the writing process.

Are you looking for more books to read? Did you know Overdrive is an electronic district library? You can check out books at <https://westminstersdca.libraryreserve.com/10/45/en/SignIn.htm?url=Default.htm>.

Happy reading!

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Congratulations, Kim Ugarteche

It is with great pleasure to announce that Kim Ugarteche has been named our Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Ugarteche has been part of the Hayden family for 12 years and has taught first and second grades. She is truly passionate about getting the best from her students and is continuously looking for ways to improve on her already vast knowledge of instructional strategies.

Mrs. Ugarteche is the consummate professional who perfectly blends rich engagement activities into her warm and inviting classroom. She was born to teach—the connection she makes with each and every one of her students is extremely impressive, and the growth her students make is amazing. Her caring ways stretch into her personal life as well—she and her husband have two beautiful children and over 15 animals!

Congratulations to Kim Ugarteche for being Hayden's Teacher of the Year!



Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

Partners in Support

As we speed toward the end of the school year, Johnson Middle School continues to provide wonderful learning opportunities for all students.

Johnson recently was honored to host a major health-management corporation's Education Theatre presentation of "Someone Like Me." The health education performance has been offered by this corporation for over 30 years. Through theater and performing arts, the project educates, engages and inspires audiences to make healthier life choices. The "Someone Like Me" presentation focuses on bullying and the devastating effects bullying can have on a child. This adolescent bullying-awareness program was well received by Johnson students and was presented in a way that truly engaged students and got them talking about the struggles they deal with every day. The story presented involved four middle students who find themselves growing apart and dealing with depression and thoughts of suicide. The play addressed the issue of relational bullying—gossip, rumors and cyberbullying—and encouraged dialogue between students and teachers.

Our AVID students were also lucky enough to work with a science-education center that provided a three-day STEM-project-based learning experience on campus. This experience was offered as part of Johnson's Destination Graduation grant through the Orange County branch of a global support organization. Students were able to have hands-on experiences that focused on Next Generation Science Standards provided by engaging and knowledgeable instructors from a foundation associated with the center.

The support Johnson receives from these corporations and organizations as well as many other community agencies is vital in prompting overall student success, and we look forward to providing even more opportunities to inspire and educate Johnson Warriors.

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

Rhyme Time

Land School, which serves nearly 300 preschool children, is getting kids ready to read! The early years are the best time to lay a foundation for strong reading skills. This process starts with developing phonemic awareness, the ability to hear the individual sounds that make up words. Once students have developed this understanding, they begin manipulating the phonemes to learn how the meanings of words change as their sounds change. In preschool, that comes in the form of rhyming and word games.

Helping preschoolers understand these concepts works best when they physically respond to the sounds they are hearing. Teachers set up learning activities such as tapping sticks to isolate the sounds within words, rolling a ball between students in a circle as they identify words that rhyme, singing rhyming songs with specific gestures to



show the different meanings of similar sounding words, and using rhyming chants with student names to personalize their understanding.

At Land School, as a rule, we think rhyming is cool!

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • <http://schmitt.wsd.k8.us>



Orchid Rocha
Principal

After-School Math Games

Children love to play games that are fun and motivating. Games give students opportunities to explore fundamental number concepts such as the counting sequence, one-to-one correspondence and computation strategies.

Our third-grade teachers—Ms. Roh, Ms. Becker and Mrs. Luman—provided an opportunity for parents to join their children after school to play math games. We know how important it is to provide repeated opportunities for students to play games and then let the mathematical ideas

emerge as students notice new patterns, relationships and strategies. Games are important tools for learning in elementary-school mathematics classrooms. Playing games encourages strategic mathematical thinking as students find different strategies for solving problems and deepen their understanding of numbers. Games support a school-to-home connection. Parents can learn about their children's mathematical thinking by playing games with them at home.



We had a few outstanding parents join us as well as many of our after-school students from the PRIDE program. We hope to inspire many more parents to join us in the future. This is a valuable activity that not only promotes the mathematical thinking that our students need to be successful in mathematics but is also an opportunity to bond as a family.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • <http://meairs.wsd.k8.us>



Kathy Kane
Principal

Parents Go To School!

At Iva Meairs Elementary School, it is not just children that go to school. Parents go to school, too! Every Tuesday, a dedicated group of parents has been meeting all year long to expand their knowledge about multiple topics.

They started the year with the Parenting Partners curriculum. Parenting Partners teaches skills to improve interactions between parents and their children. After that, they did a book study and read *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Dr. Carol Dweck.

Now they are participating in School Smarts, a PTA curriculum that helps parents understand all of the ins and outs of the public-school system and brings out their creative side with a weekly art project. Many of them come additional days to take a Zumba class taught by one of the moms.

These parents are wonderful role models for their children. Their children know that it is never too late to learn something new.



Dedicated Meairs parents enjoy learning together

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • <http://schroeder.wsd.k8.us>



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

PTA's Lunch on the Lawn

On March 8, Schroeder's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) held their bi-annual family event - Lunch on the Lawn. All Schroeder families were invited to eat lunch with their children during the regular lunch schedule. The lawn turned into a picnic area with benches, lawn chairs, and blankets. Many of our family members and loved ones joined the student body in

this wonderful event! The PTA's mission is to "work diligently to provide continuity between students, families, and staff to improve education by supporting staff, encouraging students, and creating a sense of community." Creating community is a win, win for everyone – parents, families, staff, and most importantly the children. Thank you to everyone who joined us and for always supporting Schroeder! Our community is the best!



Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Michelle Watkins
Principal

Perseverance, Dedication and Teamwork

A teamwork environment promotes perseverance, dedication, friendship and loyalty. Sequoia Academy’s family, staff, district and community involvement play an essential role here, and we want to give them all heartfelt thanks for voting daily for the ScholarShare Scholar Dollar grant. Thanks to our teamwork, Sequoia Academy will receive \$10,000 for STEAM and the arts. We are beyond excited to be able to enhance next school year’s programs.

Our team is dedicated to promoting a growth mindset in our scholars while implementing rigorous GATE and AVID programs focusing on STEAM and the arts. Our ultimate goal is to provide the most effective learning environments for all our students to find their place to shine. We’re grateful for the continued support of our community and look forward to celebrating and using the grant to enhance our programs.

As the young poet Mattie Stepanek wrote, “Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kevin Whitney
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead!

On Friday, March 30th all Webber Elementary Children had a full STEAM experience. Our PTA paid for children to experience science, technology, engineering, arts, and math through a program called the STEAM Museum. Students were encouraged to explore the museum at their own pace and manage their time between stations that appeal to their individual interests. Adult supervision from the Mobile Ed presenter and Webber parent volunteers were present at some of the stations to focus



the students and to positively enhance the experience with small group instruction.

The STEAM Museum had something for everyone! From building an arch, to programming a robot, and to 3D printing. Webber students were highly impacted by the experience. Some students shared...“It was unforgettable”, “I want to be an engineer”, and “Thank you Webber PTA”.

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Construction Commotion

By Student Author Maddie Fracassa

The construction on Stacey Middle School’s new gym has been going on since last year. Originally estimated to be done by December, the construction was extended to April because of the rain throughout the 2016–17 school year. Current estimates are now early May. The construction team has worked double time to finish before the end of the school year. Students and staff have their fingers crossed for eighth-grade graduation in June.



Because of the construction, student pickup and drop-off has been challenging. Over spring break, the construction workers made a path leading to the park, which makes it easier and safer for parents and students. In addition, the back parking lot was expanded to make a new bus drop-off/pickup. This will alleviate congestion on the street.

All in all, the construction at Stacey has been pretty crazy and will thankfully be coming to an end very soon!

Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Nicole Jacobson
Principal

Players Read About Character

Excited students recently welcomed the Cal State Fullerton men’s soccer team to Willmore as they read the *Todd and the Talking Pinata* book series. Through these books, the importance of character traits such as courage, bravery, kindness, perseverance, and sacrifice were shared by all.

The students and soccer players had the opportunity to discuss their own experiences in seeing or exhibiting character. Chip Fuller, director of operations and author of the series, shared his motivation for writing the books.

The illustrations and exciting text kept our students highly engaged and ready to read. The athletes talked about the importance of having a good work ethic and positive attitude on and off of the field. They also exhibited their soccer skills by juggling and showing their best tricks with the ball!

We are looking forward to learning more from these role model college students and Head Coach George Kuntz a few more times this spring!



CSUF Men’s Soccer players with Willmore students

Many Choices



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and Youth Services

While the Huntington Beach Library is a great place to check out books, it is also so much more. Explore our website and discover all the library has to offer. Did you know that you can stream videos and take online classes at hbpl.org using your library card? Kanopy is our new streaming video service which offers over 30,000 independent and classic films and documentaries. Lynda is an online learning platform that helps anyone learn business, technology, and creative skills.

Find out what events are happening in the Children's Department by clicking on Kid's Stuff. Click on the Children's Digital Library button to access children's eBooks and more. Click on Beanstack and you can register your children in our year round and seasonal reading programs. Your children can earn reading rewards and keep track of what they are reading. You can also subscribe to have weekly reading recommendations based on your child's interests and grade level emailed to you. Have teens who want to volunteer? Click on the Volunteer button on the Kid's Stuff page so teens can find out what opportunities are available and to register. Want to find out what stories and crafts the storytellers are using? Click on our Storytime Corner button. Subscribe to our weekly Storytime Corner Newsletter.

Did you know that you can check out seeds from our Seed Library at the Central Library? Seeds can be checked out by anyone with a Huntington Beach Library card in good standing. You can check out up to 3 seed packets per month. We have a variety of vegetable and flower seeds to choose from; plus we have large growth chart showing the best months for planting. All we ask is if you could please donate back some of the seeds from the plants you grow.



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Fountain Valley Library

17635 Los Alamos St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-1324 • ocpl.fountainvalley@occr.ocgov.com

Programs for All Ages

By Sarita Dangond, Youth Services Librarian

The Fountain Valley Library has many ongoing and upcoming Storytime and crafts for toddlers and preschoolers is on Wednesdays at 10:30. Play and Learn is at 11:00. Play and Learn is a program which features educational and fun toys which engage children in social interaction and physical activity. No Registration required. The Spring Session is April 4 through May 30.

Library users can learn how to download e-books and more by appointment on Tech Tuesdays.

STEAM Club meets Thursdays at 3:30 and allows children to have fun and learn by doing hands on activities about science, technology, engineering, art and math! Suggested age: 8+

The Makerspace Open House on Saturday, May 12 at 2:00 invites community members to find out how the Fountain Valley Library's makerspace can help them to tinker, experiment, build, fix, take apart, investigate, invent and/or craft.

Sit 'N Stitch on Wednesday, May 16 is a casual social knitting and crochet group which meets monthly. Adults can drop in and bring their knitting, crochet, or other yarn project to work on. They can trade tips, patterns, troubleshoot, or make new friends. All skill levels welcome. Some starter supplies may be available.

Tech Social on Saturday, May 19 and Saturday, June 16 at 1:00 is an intergenerational program which brings together seniors and teens to mingle and get help with modern technologies.

The Book of the Month Club meets at the Fountain Valley Senior Center at 1:00. Tuesday, May 22 will be a discussion about Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson.

The Terrarium Workshop on May 26 at 2:30 gives participants the opportunity to learn how to build a terrarium.

All library programs are free!

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Lots of Choices

Anna Dress, Children's Services Librarian

Book Babies every Tuesday at 10:30am

Get your littlest one started early with songs, dance, play, and books!

Recommended for children 0-2 years old.

Preschool Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30am

Family Storytime every Saturday at 10:30am

Help encourage early literacy skills in your children—and have fun—with stories, songs, and a craft. Preschool Storytime is recommended for children 2-4 years old, and Family Storytime is for all ages.

Art Lab every Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm

You are invited to join us for a different process art project each week!

Children of all ages are welcome (ages 4 and under require parent supervision). We'll probably get messy, so play clothes are recommended!

All children's programming will be on break in June to prepare for Summer Reading!

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

We have many other programs for kids and teens throughout the year. Please come to the library for a full calendar, or check online. Library events are always free! The library is an excellent, FREE resource for children and teens during the school year. Your library card gives you access to our books, magazines and computers—and even eBooks and databases you can access from home!

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An Enjoyable Read



Lucy Davis

Brooding YA Hero: How to Become a Main Character (Almost) as Awesome as Me

Author: Carrie DiRisio

Broody McHottiepants had always been the protagonist — it was who he was.

So when an Author tells Broody that he can't be in anymore novels, something in him changes. That couldn't be right.

He was Broody McHottiepants, the par excellence. Then, an idea hits: what if

he could write his own book, telling the world how to become main characters like him? Yes. That was what he would do. And nobody — not even his evil ex girlfriend — could stop him.

Reading this book was definitely an experience for me. At first, I disliked Broody's personality, because he was shallow and conceited. However, as the story progressed, his character arc was interesting to observe. Through his experiences, he realized that change can be good. Overall, it turned out to be a enjoyable read that left me with a new look on the young adult genre. Four out of five bookworms.



Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

Interesting Mystery



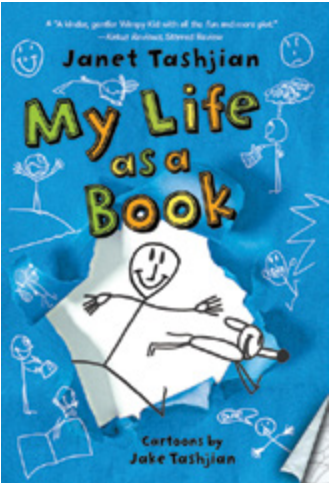
Richard J.

My Life as a Book is about a kid named Derek Fallon.

All Derek wants to do this summer is goof around and hang with his friends. But his parents have other ideas. They signed him up to a summer reading camp. Derek hates reading! Nothing in the world could be duller to him

than reading a book. So he hid in the attic, and found an old newspaper there about his babysitter who drowned when he was a baby. He wants to learn more about her and finds that the story is she saved him from going into the rough seas but drowned ... But then with more digging he finds out that wasn't the case at all!

My Life as a Book has an interesting mystery and is relatable to someone who doesn't like to read. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.



Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

Fruits & Veggies 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)

Your entry must be received by June 15, 2018.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

- LETTUCE
APPLES
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KOHLRABI
ONIONS
PEPPERS
ORANGES
- LEMONS
LIME
CELERY
POTATOES
TOMATOES
KIWI
GRAPES
- BERRIES
CHERRIES
CARROTS
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BROCCOLI

Congratulations to Cheikh Sarr
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!



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