

**FREE**

# School News

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

**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 63**

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**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014**

## Teenagers These Days

*By Elliot Skolnick, Administrator – Edison High School Special Abilities Cluster and Special Programs,*

People my age like to tell me how much teenagers have changed since they were in school. I quickly agree and say “I know. They are so much more tolerant, patient, accepting, generous, and kind.” Walk with me through the classrooms and playing fields of Edison High School (EHS), and you will see the difference.

Edison, well known for its academic and athletic excellence, is also home to 214 Special Education students in the Special Abilities Cluster (SAC). SAC, often described as a school within a school, is unique on a comprehensive campus. It is through the opportunities created when students with autism, cerebral palsy, and intellectual and physical disabilities are integrated with their “typical” peers that you are able to see how much students have changed in one generation.

Stroll with me through guitar, foods, art, or ceramics classes and you will observe students learning from each other. Walk through SAC classes, and you will see over 25 teenage student aides demonstrate patience and perseverance as they guide SAC students through their daily lessons in reading, math, science, social skills, independent living, cooking, recycling, physical education and swimming.



**Edison High School Pep Squad with Cheer and Song at Bell Game.**

Tour the Adapted Physical Education (APE) class and watch Jeovany Guillen and Vicky Chen in their second year as peer mentors. The Peer Mentor program, developed by the APE staff, allows up to 12 students per class to volunteer with SAC students during physical education. Jeovany feels this experience has allowed him to become less judgmental. Vicky was reluctant at first, but now guides SAC students through exercises and games like a seasoned veteran. Vicky shared, “I

don’t know why, but I just love it!”

Ramble into the APE room at lunch and admire the more than 75 Best Buddies members. Best Buddies pairs typical and non-typical students in one-to-one friendship. Twin Sophomores Jacob and Noah Gane stand out as model Best Buddies. Like all Best Buddies, they meet for lunch twice a month, but they go above and beyond, taking

*See **TEENAGERS THESE DAYS** Page 28*

## Dr. Marc Ecker Retires

*By Rina Lucchese, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent—Fountain Valley School District*

**Ninety percent of anything is showing up. I have learned a lot from Dr. Ecker, but this is the lesson that I remember daily and will pass on to my daughter.**

In December 2014, Dr. Marc Ecker will retire as superintendent of the Fountain Valley School District, a position he has held more than 18 years. With more than 42 years dedicated to public education, Dr. Ecker has impacted generations of students and their families, not just in Fountain Valley but throughout the state. He has tirelessly worked for children through his dedicated to California School Boards Association, California League of Middle Schools, Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), where he currently serves as past president.

Dr. Ecker’s passion for student learning and public education is apparent, as he has built his career on doing what is best for students and encouraging others to do the same.



**Dr. Marc Ecker will retire in December 2014 after 18 1/2 years from his position as superintendent of the Fountain Valley School District.**

Whether it is a new teacher at one of our sites, an upset parent calling the district office or a community member stopping him at a coffee shop, he always takes the time to make them feel welcome, listening to their concerns and suggestions. Not everyone may have agreed with his approach over the years, but his advocacy for student learning and academic achievement is hard to argue with. Under his leadership, the Fountain Valley School District has enjoyed being the top-performing elementary district in the county, with 10 California Distinguished School honors and most recently the recognition of Newland School as a National Blue Ribbon School. His impact on our district and this community will be felt long after he leaves. He has shown us the importance of the connection between a community and its schools—that “excellent schools can mean a strong, vibrant community,” as he explained in a recent ACSA article.

Dr. Ecker, it has been an honor working with you and a pleasure seeing this district thrive under your leadership. As I will fondly remember you saying at the close of each day, good-bye and good luck.

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Kay Coop  
Founder/Publisher



Congratulations to Dr. Mark Ecker as he retires as superintendent of the Fountain Valley School District. I founded *School News* 16 years ago and remember the day I met with Dr. Ecker to discuss covering his District. His passion for education was contagious and easy to see why the District was top-performing under his leadership.

Our next issue is January 14, 2015. Until then Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed forces.



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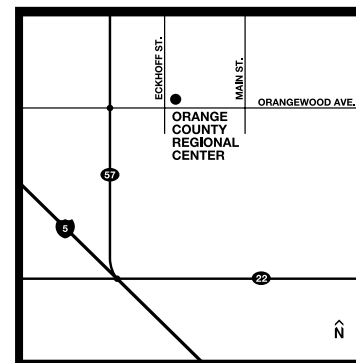
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## New "Normal" After a Diabetes Diagnosis?



**Mario Brakin, MD**  
Medical Director,  
Endocrin,  
Diabetes &  
Metabolic Center

Having a child diagnosed with diabetes is a major event, but it's important to keep everything in perspective. Managed properly, diabetes shouldn't prevent your child from doing anything other kids do.

**Think ahead:** Form a consistent schedule, and carry around diabetes supplies, such as snacks and treatments for low blood glucose.

**Take an active role in their health care:** Arrange for routine follow-up visits, call your child's doctor if you have questions and become an advocate for their health.

**Stay organized:** Put your child's diabetes routine on the refrigerator or carry around an organized kit, labeling the items inside, and keeping spares on hand.

**Communicate:** Develop a system to help you and your child remember when and who gave medicines. Determine ways of keeping in contact with your child, their school and other caregivers. Post emergency numbers in a visible location. It can be helpful to others caring for your child.

**Take care of yourself:** When possible, share the load and try to do things together (e.g. draw insulin, discuss solutions). Parents need time to themselves, so educate other caregivers, such as babysitters, grandparents and older siblings, so you don't have to be with your child at all times.

Living with diabetes can be scary, especially at first. Diabetes has been added, but nothing about your child has been taken away. Sometimes diabetes can even be a positive change. If everyone improves their diet and exercises, this can be a healthy change for your family.



## Greetings



**Matthew Harper**  
Mayor

This year has gone by so fast and sadly, my time as Mayor is coming to an end. It's been my honor to serve the residents of Huntington Beach as Mayor this past year. So many great events, milestones and accomplishments to be proud of!

This year the city celebrated 100 Years of Surfing – the year was 1914 when Henry Huntington invited George Freeth to perform a surfing demonstration as part of the celebration of the opening of the city's first concrete pier. More than 15,000 on-lookers watched as he rode the waves and the rest is history.

Our city celebrated this major milestone in more than one way – the Rotary's Surfboards on Parade raised \$100,000 to eradicate skin cancer by having professional shapers and local artist design one-of-a-kind surfboards that were recently auctioned. In addition, we celebrated by commemorating our pier with a special ceremony that included historic voices from the past and present.

Our 4th of July celebration was truly spectacular! The 110th "Waves of Freedom" parade showcased our city beautifully and was captured live by KABC-TV, Channel 7 and broadcasted all over the southland from Santa Barbara to the Inland Empire to northern San Diego County.

In addition, Vans not only sponsored the successful US Open of Surfing competition, but opened the city's first free skatepark. Thousands of our local youth have enjoyed the park since it opened this past Spring. I'm very proud of this accomplishment, as I have been part of the process since serving as a school board member.

It's been an outstanding year serving you as Mayor. I thank you for the opportunity to have served my city and I look forward to seeing you at the beach!



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**Marcelino Jr., 4-years-old,**  
Miller Children's Diabetes Patient  
is supported by a strong foundation:  
**Marcelino Sr., his father**



# The Dreaded Drought



Michael Vo  
Mayor

As many of us are aware, Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in California on January 17, 2014. California’s water resources have been affected by the ongoing and serious drought, due to lack of rainfall and snowpack. California is in its fourth year of a drought; it’s the driest year since 1977 and the worst conditions in the history of the state.

The city’s water conservation ordinance, Section 14.18 of the Fountain Valley Municipal Code, was adopted in 2009 and contains a number of permanent water conservation and water-use efficiency measures, such as limits on watering times, vehicle washing, and fountains and decorative water features. It also prohibits excess runoff and hosing down of hardscapes.

To support and encourage water saving, the city staff has developed a water-conservation, public-awareness campaign to promote water conservation. The campaign includes information on the city’s Web site and provided through letters and door hangers to make people aware of any violations that might have occurred.

A wide range of programs and incentives are available to city residents to help reduce our water usage. Both the city of Fountain Valley and the Municipal Water District of Orange County offer rebates on water-efficient devices, including smart sprinkler timers and nozzles, as well as rebates for replacing turf with California-friendly landscapes. Other water-saving tips can be as simple as turning the water off when you brush your teeth, shortening your showers by a couple of minutes, fixing those leaky faucets, washing only full loads of laundry, and installing high-efficiency toilets and low-flow shower heads. These are just a few ways we, as residents, can do our part in conserving our precious water resources. Let’s be water wise and do our part to help conserve water!

# Basic Facts About Enterovirus D68



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

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), which causes a respiratory illness, seems to be much more prevalent this year than in the past. It can affect people of all ages although infants, children, and teenagers are more likely to become ill from the virus. Some children, especially those with prior history of asthma, have become quite ill.

EV-D68 can range from mild illness requiring minimal treatment to severe illness requiring hospitalization. Symptoms may include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing and sneezing
- New onset wheezing
- Muscle aches
- Racing heartbeat

If you or a family member develops coughing that comes on quickly, wheezing or difficulty breathing, contact your healthcare provider. Some people with underlying medical conditions may develop severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 and may need to be hospitalized to receive intensive supportive therapy.

EV-D68 appears to spread through close contact with infected people, when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or touches surfaces or other people when they have the germs on their hands. An infected person can spread the virus even if they don’t feel sick.

There are no vaccines or anti-viral medications currently available for EV-D68. The best protection against EV-D68 is using standard good hygiene precautions: washing your hands frequently, keeping environmental surfaces and objects disinfected (toys, door knobs, etc.) and avoiding close contact with those who are ill.

It’s also important to get your flu shot. The vaccine will boost your immune system and better protect you from the flu, which is much more common than EV-D68.

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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marc Ecker**

### It's the People!

It is hard to believe, but after 18 and one-half years, I will be soon passing the mantle of our district's leadership to our newly appointed superintendent, Dr. Mark Johnson. Mark spelled as you note with a "k" rather than a "c", hails from the Los Alamitos Unified School District, the same district from which I came way back in 1979. I applaud our Board for their committed work in securing a strong leader with tremendous potential to continue taking our school district to new and uncharted heights.

When asked what I will most miss from a job I dearly love, I reflect on a common answer. It's the people! We are a people business, and success means changing behaviors to the positive with the help of friends and colleagues along the way. Nothing I personally have been able to accomplish could have been done without the support and encouragement of those around me. Yes, it is a cliché, but it is really the truth.

I think of our district's incredible run as the top-performing elementary school district in the county. I reflect on the incredible instructional paradigm change that has occurred over the past three to four years focusing on the Common Core State Standards, new assessments, small-group differentiated instruction, and systemic professional development. I revel in the collaborative relationship we have with our bargaining units and the dynamic young leadership at our school sites. I gaze with wonder on our beautiful schools, our district office in city center, the maintenance and operation center, and the unique property portfolio, which soon will provide the district with a much-needed alternative revenue stream.

Any of these accomplishments involved the talent, expertise, care, and dedication of the people that I see each and every day. The greeting of my executive assistant each morning, the skills of our educational leaders, the commitment of our teachers, the support of our Board, the care of our support staff, the involvement of our parents, and the partnership of our business community make these successes possible. But, most of all, without any question, the people I will miss the most are the children I see each day in our classrooms. I will miss their quips, their genuine comments, and the laughter they bring to my heart. However I will forever continue to advocate for them, so as to assure that their hopes and dreams are realized and so that our own future is assured.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Jimmy Templin**  
*President Pro-Tem*

### Grateful for the Opportunity to Serve

As my days as a School Board member come to a close, I find myself reflecting on the last four years. I can still remember my first Board meeting, sitting on the dais, unsure of the adventures that lay ahead. Little did I know that I would be involved in situations that would force me out of my comfort zone and empower me to grow personally and professionally. From the couch in the living room of a family I'd never met before, where we discussed the difficult topic of school closure, to discussing Common Core State Standards on the sidelines of my child's soccer game, these experiences and many more provided me with such a wonderful opportunity to learn from those around me. I have not only grown as a public servant and educator, but also as a person, and for this I am extremely grateful.

In addition to the personal and professional growth that I've gained as a Board member, I've also developed a deeper appreciation and love for the world of public education and the myriad of people who make it happen. Whether it is a School Board member, superintendent, district or site administrator, teacher, instructional aide, school secretary, librarian, custodian, parent, or student, they each play such a vital role in making public education successful. It is not a perfect system, but it is dynamic, always evolving, and an extremely important part of our world today that helps shape our tomorrow. I am truly grateful to be a part of it.

### Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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*President*



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## Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • [www.fvref.org](http://www.fvref.org)

## Change in Name But Not in Goals



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

Our Foundation focuses on one thing: enabling our community to support our local schools by providing funds that enhance and enrich our students' experiences. To clarify this, we secured the right to be the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation, a name that we hope will clarify to community members precisely what we do.

Last spring, the Foundation granted money to fund the materials required to offer a robotics program at each of our middle schools so that every child in our district has robotics as an option when he or she gets to middle school.

More recently, the Fountain Valley School District has expanded musical instruction to every elementary school grade. Providing additional equipment and materials to support enriched music instruction for students is a Foundation goal. And we need our entire community to get behind these efforts. Assuring successful schools in our community is essential to maintaining attractive, safe neighborhoods and a strong local economy!

We invite you to visit our website and make a donation to join our Foundation. Remember that we receive \$150 less per pupil than the next-best funded school district in Orange County—FVSD is second lowest.

We also invite you to join us at the Fountain Valley Senior Center for the Taste of Fountain Valley on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015 at 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$45, and various VIP options are available. Visit our website or search "Taste of Fountain Valley" on Facebook for details and to order tickets.

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

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**Chris Christensen**  
Principal

### Dictionaries Donated

Members of the Huntington Beach Elks Lodge 1959 visited Courreges Elementary School in Fountain Valley CA to donate 120 dictionaries to the school's third grade classes. Led by Lodge member Ron Courreges, whose pioneering family the school is named after, staff passed out the dictionaries to all 3rd grade students. Mr. Courreges also personally autographed each dictionary.



**Third graders at Courreges Elementary School display their new dictionaries. In the back row standing are Kyle Courreges, Lodge Exalter Ruler Greg Neneman, Ron Courreges, school Principal Chris Christensen and Lodge member Walter Boskovich.**

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

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



**Kevin Johnson**  
Principal



**Matt Ploski**  
Assistant Principal

### Collaboration for the Community

Helping Hands Club at Fulton Middle School is a service club that organizes, coordinates, and participates in projects to better our school and our community. Helping Hands is open to all students and meets every Wednesday at lunch. This school year, Helping Hands is working collaboratively with the Fulton Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) members.

Helping Hands Club and PAL members select which activities the club will organize and conduct. In September and October, Helping Hands, along with PAL, planned Red Ribbon Week activities. This annual drug-awareness week was a success. For the first time, PAL was able to extend drug-awareness activities with Courreges Elementary School students. The November activity was a canned food drive. December brought our annual toy drive. Generous donations to both drives were due to the hard work of the Helping Hands Club and PAL members.

After winter break, Helping Hands and PAL students began designing 200 valentines for the Fountain Valley Senior Center. The valentines will be given to the seniors at their annual luncheon. Helping Hands and PAL will soon start collecting formal and semi-formal dresses in the Dresses for the Dance donation. This helps the annual Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) prom, where girls who are too sick to attend their own proms "shop" from the donated dresses so they can attend a dance. Shortly after spring break, Helping Hands and PAL will begin collecting pop-tops from beverage cans. The pop-tops will be donated to the Orange County Ronald McDonald House, which recycles them and uses the money to help with the expense of running the house.

Overall, Helping Hands and PAL are having an exciting, action-packed year of collaboration. Fulton students are working hard to make a difference in their community, and the Fulton family could not be more proud of them!

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

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • [www.jhces-fvvsd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.jhces-fvvsd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Patrick Ham**  
Principal

### Noon League Homeroom Sports: Flag Football

At Cox Elementary School, we believe in training up our students in the areas of teamwork, sportsmanship, and student collaboration. To promote these traits as well as healthy exercise, our upper grade students have worked together to create their very own lunch time homeroom sports leagues. We are scheduled to have 3-4 events for the 2014-2015 school year:

Flag Football (October to December), Dodge-ball (December to February), Soccer (February to March), and a potential fourth event!!! Noon League is a student coordinated event. Katie Chawke, Elena Vanderveen, Brandon Nguyen, and Kenny Chao serve as commissioners, referees, and participants for their homeroom teams. Participation is encouraged for all upper grade students who exhibit good character, behavior, and work completion. The Championship Trophy goes to the winning Homeroom!!!



**Ms. Klusmeyer's 5th grade Homeroom team huddles before the play.**

## Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • [www.regs-fvvsd-caschoolloop.com](http://www.regs-fvvsd-caschoolloop.com)



**Erin Bains**  
Principal

### Student Council

The 2014-15 Student Council elections were held in October. We had a tremendous group of students run for office this year, and they should all be very proud of themselves!

Each student made a campaign poster and delivered a speech to the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders during an election assembly. Our new Student Council is made up of the following students: President RJ Frechette, Vice President Lucy Dowdy, Secretary Megan Puckett, and executive board members Ethan Exequiel, Jacob Baker, Lila Crosett and Kane Cross. In addition to our new Student Council officers, each class in third grade, fourth grade and fifth grade has a room representative that attends all Student Council meetings.



The Student Council has gotten right to work planning theme days for Red Ribbon Week and organizing a canned food drive for the holidays. Student Council is off to a great start, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year!



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

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • [www.masudams.fvdsd.ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.masudams.fvdsd.ca.schoolloop.com)



**Jay Adams**  
*Principal*



**Jennifer Kajdasz**  
*Assistant Principal*

## Noon Leagues Are a Hit

To promote health and a sense of family amongst our homeroom students and teachers, Masuda Middle School runs noon leagues year-round at lunch time, with each grade level competing against the others. We started off the season with soccer, to be followed by flag football. And the year would not be complete without the ever-popular...dodgeball!

Students do not need any experience to play, just the right attitude. Teachers have also been joining in the fun and helping their teams to victory! We are grateful to our student referees, since noon leagues could not happen without their help; they volunteer their knowledge of the games while sacrificing their own play time with friends.

At the end of each season, homeroom champs get to brag and lift their rotating trophy high...but they can't get too comfortable, since the next season is just lurking around the corner, and there are other homerooms waiting for their turn to be at the top.



# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • [www.ioes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.ioes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Erik Miller**  
*Principal*

## Pride of the Wolfpack

During the past few months, Oka Elementary School has benefitted from two incredible campus transformations. Through the generosity of the Gerhardt family and their Most Valuable Grandparent, Jennifer Taylor, the backdrop wall behind our events stage was turned from a drab canvas into the mural seen below. This is now known as our Pride of the Pack. Hand painted over a few weeks, this represents a vibrant new look in the center of our campus.

In addition, Oka was able to transform our Best Foot Forward (BFF) Library with a facelift, thanks to the work of alumnus Noah Eley. Now a senior in high school, Noah enhanced a part of our school that needed plenty of attention as an Eagle Scout project. With newly painted bookshelves, shadow boxes to display interesting books, and student-friendly beanbags, the BFF Library has been brought to life! In addition, Noah helped to raise over \$400 for the purchase of new books in the library!



**Pride of the pack.**

Oka appreciates the generosity and support of those who share their individual talents for the benefit of others. Thank you for being the Pride of the Wolfpack!

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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • [www.wtnes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.wtnes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Chris Mullin**  
*Principal*

## A National Blue Ribbon School

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced that Newland Elementary was named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. Only three Orange County schools were named as National Blue Ribbon Schools this year. Newland was also one of only 48 schools nationwide that were designated an "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School."

Secretary Duncan remarked that, "National Blue Ribbon Schools are models of consistent excellence and a resource for other schools and districts. We celebrate them for their tireless effort and boundless creativity in reaching and teaching every student."

Superintendent Dr. Marc Ecker emphasized that, "We are very pleased that Newland Elementary has won this highly prestigious award. We join the staff and parents of Newland in celebrating this first National Blue Ribbon award for our school district. The Fountain Valley School District has been consistently one of the highest-achieving school districts in Orange County. With this award, Newland Elementary is now being recognized nationally."



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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • [www.uhpes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.uhpes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## Above and Beyond

It is a pleasure to introduce Plavan's new librarian, Erin Spivey. We welcomed Mrs. Erin in the late fall of 2013, and in such a short time she has made a tremendous and positive impact on our students and staff.

Mrs. Spivey is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara. She has a Masters in Library Science and a current teaching credential. She previously served as a high school English teacher, and is currently in her sixth year as a librarian.



**Mrs. Erin Spivey introduces kindergarten students to the adventures of Mother Goose.**

When Mrs. Erin joined our staff we added another great educator. Every day she goes above and beyond to make the library a vital environment where our students can come to learn, read, research, and receive encouragement.

Each of her library sessions is a true lesson that supports what's happening in the classrooms. She takes the time to dress in character and identify with our children's interests and learning styles. We are extremely thankful for her hard work, dedication, and love for literature.





Jennifer Morgan  
Principal



Mark Holman  
Assistant Principal

### Noon Leagues

Talbert T-Birds have started the 2014–15 school year off right and are on track to make 2014–15 a huge success! Lots of new ideas and fresh faces have added to the buzz of excitement around campus and continue to keep students engaged and focused on achievement.

One consistent has been the enthusiasm and spirit students hold for noon leagues. Noon leagues are a favorite with students and help

give them a sense of pride in and ownership of their school. This year, we have started with soccer and with the help of some enthusiastic students have glided through the first week of the sport relatively problem free.



Noon leagues are always a great way to see students in a different light while giving them a chance to compete for their homeroom and ultimately the sacred homeroom trophy. Two more sports are on the agenda for this year—football and dodge ball—and if they are half as successful as soccer, it will continue to be a productive and exciting year.



Kathy Davis  
Principal

### JiJi Has Arrived!

On October 14, the Tamura School staff was notified that we were receiving ST Math, which was created by MIND Research Institute. All Tamura students will have access to this computer program, which uses spatial and temporal reasoning to present and teach mathematical concepts using JiJi, the Penguin.

What is K-5 ST Math? This grade-leveled instructional software is designed to help all students reach math proficiency through self-paced, language-independent, mastery-based objectives. It is closely aligned to Common Core State Standards

and integrates with core instruction. The ST Math software games use interactive, graphically-rich animations, which visually represent mathematical concepts to improve conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills. Through a one-to-one learning environment, the games gradually increase in difficulty and provide immediate feedback.

ST Math features embedded assessments, detailed reporting of student learning patterns and whiteboard integration. Teacher-guided instruction integrating ST Math software activities in the classroom rounds out MIND's blended learning model. In addition to accessing the software on desktop or laptop computers, teachers and students can access ST Math on many mobile devices, enabling anywhere, anytime learning. With touch functionality, ST Math will further immerse students in a richly interactive, hands-on and gesture-based learning experience.

We are happy to have our students actively engaged in this wonderful addition to Tamura. We look forward to seeing where JiJi will lead our students as they work towards obtaining higher and higher math skills!

## Lacrosse–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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put FHOW subject line)

### Word Search by Kai Coop

Entries must be received by December 15, 2014  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

ATTACK	HEAD	SCORE
CLEATS	HELMETS	SHAFT
COACH	MIDDIES	SIDE LINES
CREASE	MOUTH GUARD	STICK
DEFENSE	NET	TEAMS
FIELD	PLAYERS	UNIFORMS
GOAL KEEPER	RULES	

**Congratulations to  
Courtney Maddox and Alexia Ventura  
Winners of the September Contests!**





# Huntington Beach City School District

20451 Cramer Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com)

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Best First Teaching

There is a great deal of truth in education that you can always count on. “Good teaching is always good teaching.” It is so simple and yet so true. Regardless of the classroom, the grade level, the subject, the curriculum or any circumstance, a good teacher who teaches well will always move students forward.

This is especially important during this school year and the past couple of years considering all the changes that have taken place in education. We have a new funding formula after the last one was in place for over 40 years. We have new assessments,

which have been taking place over the past year and will be fully utilized in the next couple of years. And we have the Common Core State Standards being implemented in our schools. In the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD), we are focused on Best First Teaching. We have some of the best teachers in the state, who for years have been excellent teachers and who always teach well despite the changes that happen around them. These teachers move with change, constantly monitoring what is going on in their classrooms, their schools, their communities, and the state. They incorporate the required changes and continue to educate their students.

Our focus in the HBCSD during all of these required changes is how to assist our teachers in continuing to improve their craft and always providing Best First Teaching for every lesson. We are doing this through professional development, peer coaching and assistance, and providing time for our teachers to meet and determine the best course of improvement. It may look effortless from the outside, but an incredible amount of work is taking place to make sure that we hold true to good teaching because...good teaching is ALWAYS good teaching.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Rosemary Saylor**  
*President*

### HBCSD: Looking Forward

Here at Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD), we are very excited to be embarking on a new educational adventure along with other school districts as we move toward the light at the end of the long dark tunnel of budget cuts and once again focus fully on curriculum and student learning. We will not only watch history unfold over these next few years but contribute to it as well, tracking the progression through Common Core State Standards implementation and documenting the successes of Local Control Funding Formula. The last major revamping of public school funding in California was over 40 years ago—plenty of time to know that the process of revenue limit and state-dictated dispersing of monies was not working.

How very gratifying it has been, however, to see lights shine through even the darkest times. With the support of our staff and the understanding and contributions of our parents and local businesses, HBCSD has weathered a recession that regularly and systematically gouged programs and facilities funding. Adversity truly brought this community together with ready assistance when we needed furlough days from employees, donations to our Education Foundation, PTA fund-raiser volunteers, and grants from local corporations.

But I must reiterate that this is more than just about the cessation of budget cuts and the anticipation of full local control of the funding that is slowly being restored. Most of our excitement comes from the current educational transformation known as Common Core State Standards, which promises to bring energy and real learning to the classroom. I have been fortunate enough to witness this in many classroom visits already this year. Our Orange County Department of Education stated, “The foundation for success in the 21st century will be the ability to think critically, solve problems creatively, and communicate and collaborate effectively. The Common Core State Standards will provide opportunities for students to acquire and perfect these 21st-century skills.” At HBCSD we are embracing and offering these opportunities and will do our utmost to ensure that our students are “guaranteed a rigorous educational experience.”

## Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/dwyer](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/dwyer)



**Dr. Morgan Smith**  
*Principal*

### Getting Involved

Dwyer Middle School is all about bringing opportunities to students and supporting their connections to their school. With our new classes and clubs offered, we’re doing just that. Dwyer is accelerating its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs for students. STEM Robotics is a hands-on experience where students learn to build and program their own robots for different science experiments. Our marine biology class is gearing up for the oceanography unit, which includes a trip to Catalina Island. Students learn the science

behind oceanography and environmentalism. Partnering with our community of experts has allowed Dwyer access to some of the most innovative programs in Southern California. Dwyer will also continue to support the EcoTech Club, designed to introduce students to underwater robotics. Last year students built submersible robots with waterproof video cameras and navigation systems to explore our underwater universe.

Dwyer’s Club Rush event brings even more opportunities for students and allows all students to find a place to belong. Students are encouraged to come up with clubs they are interested in recruit teachers as facilitators. Dwyer has amazing teachers, who donate their time before school, during lunch and after school so that students have a safe way to explore their interests and build relationships with their peers. This year, Dwyer had 25 different student led clubs available for all students to join.

## Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



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

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# John H. Eader *Elementary*

9291 Banning Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-2451 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/eader](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/eader)



**Debbi Randall**  
*Principal*

## Here Come the Buddy Benches!

A caring and creative second-grader from the East Coast was concerned about his peers feeling left out and friendless. He had an idea to help them by building a “Buddy Bench.” He spoke to his peers and his school’s student body, and ventured into social media to share his idea.

His speech and Buddy Bench idea went viral on YouTube. An Eader Cub Scout, Forest Bradeen, came up to me one day last year and told me about the Buddy Bench and asked if we could have one at Eader. I shared that I had heard about them and that

I would love to have Buddy Benches. I was so proud of Forest for caring so much about his peers’ feelings.

We had the good fortune of having a former Eader student, Blake Pierce, come to meet me for an idea for his Eagle Scout project, and voilà! The Eader

Eagles Buddy Benches came to fruition! Our wonderful fifth-grade leaders, the Student Ambassadors, bring out three Buddy Benches during recess and lunchtime so that our students in each of the three play areas could have a place to go if they needed a friend. The benches are very popular, and our caring students always go to the students in need of a friend to be their buddy!



**Student Ambassadors, Madison Signor and Katie Barnett, with one of our Buddy Benches!**

# Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

6701 Garfield Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/841-7081 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/seacliff](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/seacliff)



**Dr. Monique Huibregtse**  
*Principal*

## A Special Honor

Seacliff Elementary School is proud to have been selected as a California Distinguished School for 2014. This award is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work and vision of the school’s educational community, especially under the leadership of the recently retired Ann Sullivan. It is my honor to be the new principal of such a fine school and to be able to continue this excellence.

Seacliff was chosen for this award because of two exceptional programs. First, our math program is exemplary and unique. It is the result of the systematic integration of the Music Intelligence

Neural Development (MIND) Spatial Temporal (ST) and Music program, Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), MIND’s ST Math Fluency program, Number Talks, and “Math Walls.” The students develop a strong conceptual understanding of math as opposed to rote computation. In turn, this supports the use of a variety of strategies to help solve problems in the context of real-life situations.

The second practice that was recognized for excellence was our integration of technology within the Common Core Standards. For example, the dynamic 1:1 iEngage iPad program in the fourth and fifth grades allows students to increase their engagement through a variety of applications. As a result, students demonstrate high levels of critical thinking skills, the ability to communicate ideas effectively, how to collaborate with their peers, and how to creatively solve problems that demonstrate essential learning.

The result of these two highlighted practices is that Seacliff students are becoming well prepared for the demands of the 21st century.

# Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

9682 Yellowstone Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8302 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/hawes](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/hawes)



**Julie Jennings**  
*Principal*

## Proud, Distinguished—and Many Strong

Last year with the recognition of a California Distinguished Schools award, we reflected on the strengths within the Hawes community. From this process, it was evident that we embrace the importance of instilling creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking into teaching and learning on a daily basis in an integrated way. Additionally, the strength of our school community and our partnerships ensure that we were and are able to provide enriching opportunities to all of our students. Through this process, the bond of Team Hawes strengthened to support the achievement of all students.

With our 40th-year anniversary, we want to salute our partners! On any given day, you will see volunteers assisting with the morning valet service and organizing the 100 Mile Running Club. Volunteers are busy working on bulletin boards in the hallways, setting up for various events, copying and preparing materials in the workroom, assisting students in the computer lab, and filing papers in the mailroom. They can be seen working with small groups of students to support instruction, helping students in the Wooly Garden, gathering materials for recycling, encouraging readers in the Accelerated Reader room—a second school library solely supported by PTA and run by volunteers, enhancing the PE program, taking pictures for the yearbook, supporting special events and activities, and giving above and beyond to ensure the mental well-being of our staff! We are 40 years strong. We are Hawes, Proud and Distinguished!

# S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

8800 Burlicrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/moffett](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/moffett)



**Michael Andrzejewski**  
*Principal*

## Learning by Sharing

As part of their Common Core instructional work in mathematics, the staff at Moffett School used two development days in October to help integrate three supplementary programs. Over the last eight years our efforts with Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) have helped our students develop mathematical thinking skills by sharing various problem-solving approaches. Information gleaned from CGI guides our teachers’ instruction and allows the students to learn from their peers.

To support this problem-solving approach, Moffett teachers also conduct “Number Talks” in their classrooms. In observing CGI and Number Talks, one could note a similarity in the approaches. However, Number Talks supports mental computation and encourages a structured conversation about mathematical reasoning and shared problem-solving strategies.

We have also been implementing ST Math (Spatial Temporal Math) in which our students learn through problem solving. Students are presented various digital problems that help to build mathematical mastery through the development of strategic thinking approaches, conceptual understanding, perseverance, and practice.

This latest work gives our teachers the ability to make connections between the three programs, and design lessons that can connect the three strategies of CGI, Number Talks, and ST Math. We have also identified new methods that support the Common Core instruction by integrating these strategies into the regular classroom practices. It was deep and complicated work, but the programs have now become a seamless part of our instruction. Making the connections seemed not only logical but also necessary, both in order to ensure student success in mathematics and to help support 21st-century learning practices.

## Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

19231 Harding Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-3348 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/perry](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/perry)



**Renee Polk**  
*Principal*

### PAWS-itive Behavior

The 2014–2015 school year at Perry Elementary School is off to a great start! The Perry community is embracing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system that we kicked off this year! Students and teachers are modeling Problem-solver, Always respectful, we're Responsible, and Safe (PAWS) behavior. If the staff observes a student modeling good PAWS behavior, students are rewarded with PAWS slips. Students who earn 10 slips are recognized at our weekly PAWS-itive assembly!



**A September movie night.**

We are also very fortunate this year to have a wonderful PTA that has great school and community activities planned! On September 26, our Perry PTA planned a Friday night movie night for students and families, which took place on the Perry field. The movie, “Monsters University,” was shown on a large, outdoor screen. We had a huge turnout, and it was a great community event! We are looking forward to more fun school activities and a school year full of Perry Panther spirit!

## John R. Peterson *Elementary*

20661 Farnsworth Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-1515 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/peterson](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/peterson)



**Dr. Constance Polhemus**  
*Principal*

### The 100 Mile Club

The philosophy of the 100 Mile Club is simple. We believe that every single student has the ability to achieve true personal success and a new level of physical fitness by accepting the challenge of running—or walking—100 miles at school during a single school year. These feelings of true personal success and fitness are ones that will carry a student to new levels of achievement in all areas, including academics and athletics.

Peterson  
Elementary  
School

started this year's 100 Mile Club in September. This is the fourth year for the club at Peterson. Students in grades kindergarten through 5 have already run over 22,543 miles this year. Over 150 students run each morning before school for 20 minutes while PTA members count their laps on the field.

Thirty students have received their 100 Mile Club T-shirts for running 25 miles. We can't wait to hand out medals in June to students who run 100 miles or more.



## Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

770 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-1469 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/smith](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/smith)



**Carolyn Beck**  
*Principal*

### Preparing for the Future

Technology is an integral component of the instructional program at Smith Elementary School. Our supportive PTA has purchased computers for two computer labs, and a mobile computer lab of Chromebooks, so that our students can access some highly engaging web-based programs.

Our students enjoy learning math concepts with the program ST Math (JiJi). ST, or Spatial Temporal reasoning, is the innate ability to visualize and manipulate images through a sequence of steps in space and time. It is a process that is critical to solving problems in math. These interactive activities provide students with experimental applications to help deepen their conceptual understanding.

Our students can access JiJi math at school or at home. At our Student of the Month assembly, each grade-level class also has the opportunity to win a JiJi trophy to proudly display in their classroom whenever they attain the most progress in a one-month period of time.

The students work towards high academic achievement in reading by using the programs Ticket to Read and Accelerated Reader. Ticket to Read is a self-paced, student-centered online program. Students complete tasks in the areas of foundational skills, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. In Accelerated Reader the students read books at their own reading level, and then take a comprehension test.

Our students are motivated to do well and earn points to reach their individualized reading goals, and then be recognized at our Student of the Month assembly. By using these programs our students will be well-prepared for the SBAC test in April.

## Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/sowers](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/sowers)



**Dr. Cynthia Guerrero**  
*Principal*

### Making Middle School a Welcoming Experience

How many of us remember our middle school years? Each of us remembers feeling like we weren't sure where we belonged. At Sowers Middle School, we have developed an environment of inclusiveness that can help create a more positive and welcoming experience.

Our WEB leaders are comprised of eighth-graders who are trained in leadership skills that can help bring the sixth-graders together. Throughout the year these leaders keep in contact with their sixth-grade buddies to make sure they feel comfortable and can find the resources they need to succeed, as well as get invited to school events. They also serve as role models and ambassadors for our new students, our parent nights, and our community leaders.

During the first week of school, our Peer Assistance Leadership class (PAL) leads the students in learning about behavior expectations through the use of various videos, class discussion prompts and assessments. Staff and students also recognize and give “Viking Vouchers” to those students who demonstrate the “ISMS Way,” such as displaying integrity, safety, making responsible choices, and showing respect.

Throughout the year our staff also selects students to be recognized as Viking of the Month, as well as those who best exhibit our Character Trait of the Month.

Our PALS and ASB class also organize events that involve all students, such as World Bullying Prevention Day, Red Ribbon Week activities, service projects at school and within the local community, and lunchtime activities that help bring the school community together. A recent example was our “buddy class” in which the PAL students buddy up with another class to act as role models and make our large school feel smaller.



# Ocean View School District

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

## Superintendent



**Gustavo Balderas**  
*Superintendent*

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## Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

### Developing Character

At Golden View, the development of pro-social skills is something we value. Our students learn Golden View's Golden Rules – which are to be respectful, responsible, and safe – and then they practice their skills throughout the campus.

During September, our students review each Golden Rule as a class and through grade-level lessons. They also learn how to follow the Golden Rules in non-classroom settings. Each month we then celebrate at grade-level assemblies where students are recognized as Super Citizens for following the Rules.

We have also developed our Golden Rules even more by focusing on character building. Each month our students learn about a specific trait. They

focus on what each character trait means, what it looks like, sounds like, and then they put it into practice. For example, we learn respect in October, responsibility in November, self-control in December, personal best in January, honesty in February, compassion in March, cooperation in April, and friendship in May.



**A few first grade Super Citizens, Atlantis Rivera, Sarina Rizvi, and Ethan Jimenez.**

## Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

On September 11, Harbour View honored the fallen heroes of 9/11 by having our annual Patriot's Day assembly in front of the school around the flag pole. We honored our local heroes by inviting the HB Police and Fire Departments as well as our wonderful local Veterans. In addition, we

invited Mr. Dennis Hashin of the HB Police Officers Foundation to come speak to us about the 9/11 memorial that will be constructed at City Hall incorporating pieces of steel that were received from the World Trade Center Towers. As a school we decided to help with the fundraising efforts, setting a goal of \$1,000.00 during our two week effort. I am proud to report that we raised \$1,013.00 that we will proudly present to the HB Police Officers Foundation at an upcoming HB City Council meeting.



## Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

### Planting the Stem Seeds

Lake View is going schoolwide with our successful grade 4–5 STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program! All students will receive a rigorous, relevant and exciting educational experience through project-based learning.

Engineering is Elementary (EiE) is a research-based, standards-driven and classroom-tested curriculum created by the Boston Science Museum. It integrates engineering and technology concepts and skills with elementary science. The lessons promote K–5 STEM learning and a strong connection with literacy and social studies. Each unit introduces students to an engineering problem through an engaging literary text featuring children

from all over the world who present real-world problems in life, earth and physical science. The students will solve the problems by following the engineering design process—Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve.

Our new Science and Engineering Lab, connected to a new Google Chrome Book Lab, facilitates our STEM program. Teachers are receiving professional development in the skills needed to teach the curriculum and thereby continue to “Plant the STEM Seeds” and watch them flourish!



**Working together to build a bridge.**

# Marine View *Middle School*

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



**William Lynch**  
*Principal*

## A Positive Approach to Behavior

It has been a wonderful start to the year here at Marine View Elementary School. Our students, teachers, and parents are a tight-knit group that embraces the collaborative spirit. As a staff, we have decided to take a second look at our system of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The school has embraced PBIS strategies for a number of years now, but collectively teachers and administration wanted to renew their focus and reexamine current practices and procedures.

There are a number of ways our staff has chosen to do this. We've analyzed the usefulness of the behavior matrix, reviewed current rules and practices, and reevaluated both our positive incentives and disciplinary measures. We have also taken an active and deliberate focus on using more data to drive our decision-making and then using that information to make decisions with our PBIS committee.

We look forward to the process ahead, and we know that it will continue to make Marine View a rewarding place to learn and work.

# Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
*Principal*

## A New Playground

The staff and children at Oak View Preschool have begun the 2014-15 school year with a beautiful new playground. The Orange County Department of Education provided a Physical Activity Specialist, Arlene Turner, to help develop active play areas. Arlene and Oak View Preschool are part of a grant program, Child Signature Program 3. She brought stencils, paints, and cones to develop and define new play areas in various parts of the playground. The stencils include alphabet letters, numbers, shapes, a snake, a shape swirl, a sunflower and more. Staff

members chose the figures they liked best and the stencils were put in place with electrical tape and cones. The staff used colored chalk to trace the shapes. District painter Derek, worked many hours to complete the job. Children are enjoying creative ways to interact with shapes, colors and patterns. Teachers and parents will be participating in classes presented by Arlene Turner so that they can learn ways to help their children become more active, and interactive, at school and at home.



# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

## Setting the Trend

Mesa View's WEB and ASB students kicked off our school year by welcoming the sixth-grade students. During this special orientation day our newest students were also given an energetic welcome by the seventh- and eighth-grade school leaders.

The day included a spirited assembly, fun-filled challenges, an opportunity to meet new faces, and a chance to learn new strategies about how to be successful at Mesa View. Led by Ms. Croal, Ms. Callohan and Ms. Breyer, our seventh- and eighth-grade students took the lead in setting the tone for a positive school year.



During this school year our Mesa View WEB and ASB students will demonstrate their commitment to mentoring new students and making a difference. Each Wednesday our Mesa View WEB students can be seen in their spirited shirts sitting with the sixth-graders during lunch. Our ASB students continue to set the trend by hosting dances and spirit days, thus encouraging a positive school culture. Mesa View is grateful for this amazing group of young leaders!

# Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

## Back to School Night

On Wednesday, September 17, 2014 Pleasant View School/OVPP held our annual Back to School Night for our parents. Our staff of talented teachers led our parents in presentations about each of their classrooms. Topics included the California Preschool Foundations, curriculum/instruction, classroom environment, center time, classroom management and discipline, daily schedules, ABA topics, and much more. It was great to see so many of our parents attend and show their support of our programs at Pleasant View/OVPP. All of our teachers worked extremely hard and dedicated many extra hours of time to make our Back to School Night a huge success. Pleasant View feels very lucky and fortunate to have such a great staff. Many thanks to our teachers Cynthia Atkinson, Michelle Wall, Elke Day, Kathie Favazza, Marie Schools, Katy Nachbaur, Christina Llata, Theresa Crockett, Kim Hunter, Genie Peterson and our support staff of Anne Fujiwara, Melanie Fenger, Anh Mai, Vicki Kincaid, Anne Lang, Kara Gehersky, Patty Mulcahy, Linda Still, and Lynn Trittipo who help make each day a special journey for our students to learn.



# Star View *Elementary*

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



**Jamie Goodwyn**  
*Principal*

## Bully HEROes

During the month of October, Star View Elementary School students participated in Bully Prevention Month. The Star View PTO is dedicated to ensuring each child is safe at Star View, so they organized the Bully Helping Everyone Respect Others (HERO) campaign. Star View parent Melissa Woolley is passionate about the safety of students at Star View, and she dedicated many hours to planning this great campaign during the month of October.

To start the Bully HERO campaign, the principal, Mrs. Goodwyn, shared information with the students, teachers, and parents about the definition of a bully and what to do if you or someone you know is being bullied. During the following weeks, students listened to two guest speakers at the weekly flag assemblies, a martial arts expert and a Westminster police officer. Inside the classroom, teachers read books and did activities to help students further understand how to deal with bullying. To conclude the month of activities, the students were able to dress up as super heroes.

The PTO provided Bully HERO necklaces for all students, and each student was encouraged to sign the school-wide pledge to be a Bully HERO. At the end of the year, the PTO will be giving out prizes to the students who are able to recite the pledge and still wear their necklaces. The PTO wants to continue to prevent bullying throughout the entire year and hopes the campaign will be successful!

# Sun View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## Hard Work Pays Off

The Sun View Elementary School staff and community were greeted with good news regarding the resolution and financial restitution stemming from a former (2010) embezzlement case involving a PTO president. We extend our appreciation to the Huntington Beach Police Department detectives who worked diligently on this tedious case and the district's governing Board of Trustees, who loaned us funds to pay off our debt. This is a huge victory for our students and community, who worked tirelessly to support the education of all students during

financially tough times. Justice prevailed, and we are forever grateful!

In addition, Sun View enjoyed a wonderful fall family night of "trunk or treating," thanks to PTO Chair Shoni Bryant and the many local businesses who supported the event.

Lastly, in the spirit of the season, we join hands with the many volunteers from OneOC, among others, who continue to serve the needs of our amazing school!



# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Tryon**  
*Principal*

## Lots of Exciting Changes

Village View Elementary School has had a fantastic start to the 2014–2015 school year. Our staff has really worked hard to prepare curriculum, communicate with families, and implement all of the new and exciting changes that have come about as a result of the Common Core State Standards.

Our goal is to prepare students for 21st-century learning. Our teachers are now working in grade-level teams to review curriculum maps, develop lesson plans, and implement an instructional program that is rigorous and relevant.

We have found that there are eight key survival skills needed for success: critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurialism, effective communication, accessing and analyzing information, curiosity and imagination, and innovation. We are working very hard to incorporate these skills into our lesson plans.

Our children also need to be able to ask relevant and specific questions, and then show evidence of their learning in a variety of ways. Village View staff is proving their commitment to continuous improvement by working in collaborative teams to assure the highest levels of student achievement.

# Westmont *Elementary*

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



**Susan Broderson**  
*Principal*

## Schoolmates to Look Up To—Literally!

Westmont is proud to introduce a new cross-age tutoring program aimed at supporting struggling readers. Karen Talbot, a reading and intervention teacher, introduced the new program to third- and fourth-grade students. Students filled out an application and shared why they thought they would make a good tutor. They agreed to devote 20 minutes of their recess four days a week to help younger students practice reading.

When Bryce LuVisi was asked why he wanted to be a tutor, he replied "I think it's really fun, and I like helping people." Brianna Almazan said, "I like it because you can help kids be smart at reading."

Our tutors have made a commitment to helping encourage positive reading strategies so our younger students will gain a love of reading. Ashley Hernandez summed it up by saying "I like helping little kids read because it helps them be better readers." We couldn't agree more!





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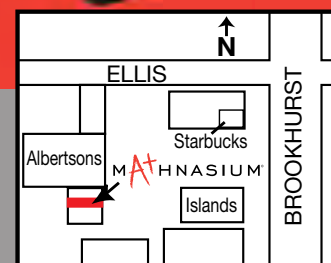
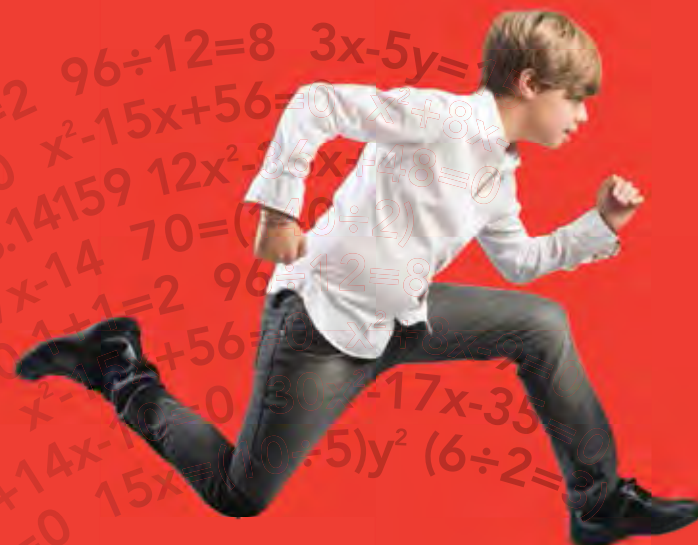
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**Inside the Outdoors**



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

José was struggling in school. He knew he needed to complete his core classes to graduate from high school, but could not imagine how he would ever need those skills outside of school. José needed an experience that would help him grasp the connection between classroom learning and real life. Recognizing that hands-on lessons would make the difference for students like José, his teacher signed-up for Orange County Department of Education's (OCDE) Inside the Outdoors field program. As part of the field program experience, José performed water quality tests and biological studies in the foothills of the Cleveland National Forest. He used science to identify plants, mathematics to document results from experiments, and language arts to record his observations. José felt successful and inspired to learn more.

Jose's situation is not unique. The evidence is clear: Project-based learning creates a platform for academic success. In the book *Getting Ready for College, Careers, and the Common Core*, author David Conley shares that "in many cases, learning never goes beyond what and how," so students often lack the ability to conceptualize how to apply what they have learned to real life situations. Conley contends that activities that encourage students to engage actively in learning and provide them with opportunities to process and integrate what they have learned are more effective and sustainable. Hands-on activities allow students to develop deeper learning skills that connect knowledge (what) and procedures (how) to the appropriate conditions (when) and concepts (why). For José, that meant figuring out which science, mathematics, and language arts skills he needed to use to find and articulate what he discovered during his field studies.



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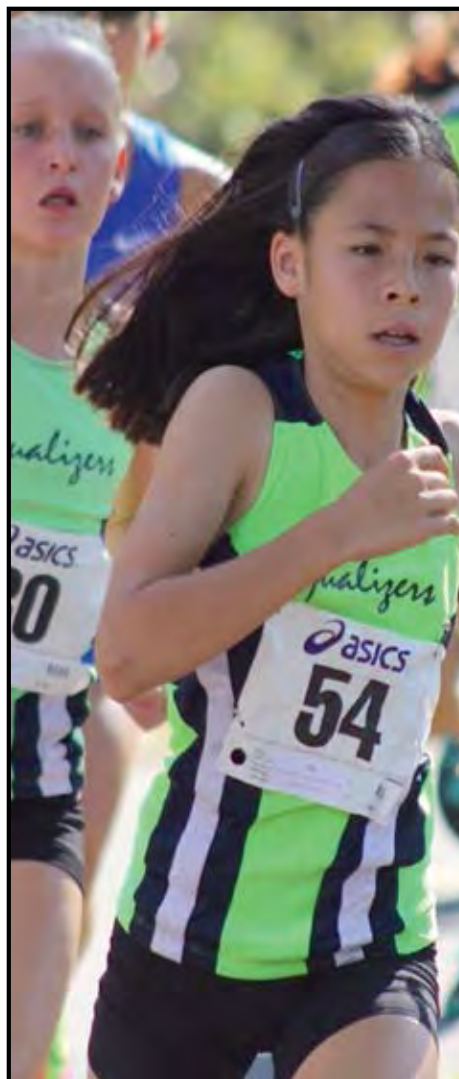


Deeper learning is an essential element to college and career readiness. The mission of OCDE is to ensure that all students are equipped with the competencies they need to thrive in the 21st century. We achieve our mission by providing students with hands-on learning opportunities through programs such as Inside the Outdoors. An important part of OCDE's portfolio since 1974, Inside the Outdoors offers a variety of programs.

- Field Programs: Daylong STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) outdoor education K-12 programs that use nature's classroom to bring textbook lessons to life
- Traveling Scientist: hour-long classroom programs that engage K-12 students in a variety of hands-on labs
- Service-Learning: In-depth multiple experience programs that allow students to apply what they have learned to community-based action projects
- Teacher Trainings: Webinars and in-person trainings that provide teachers with strategies to integrate Common Core Standards into classroom lessons
- Community Programs: STEM-focused family activities designed to support student college and career readiness and parent engagement

Inside the Outdoors' programs support Common Core and other relevant academic standards, as well as 21st century skill development. I invite you to learn more about engaging Orange County students in Common Core experiences through an Inside the Outdoors program. For additional information, visit [www.insidetheoutdoors.org](http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org) or contact Stephanie Smith at 714.708.3885 or [ssmith@ocde.us](mailto:ssmith@ocde.us).

For more information, visit [www.ocde.us/EdTech](http://www.ocde.us/EdTech).



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# Westminster School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

### Schmitt Elementary Hosts Monthly Farmers Market

Did you know that children are going hungry here in Orange County? In fact, one in five children here are at risk of hunger every month. About half of the children in our county rely on the government's Free and Reduced Lunch Program and about 65% of all food stamp recipients are children. This is a serious issue. Research indicates that even mild malnutrition experienced by young children during critical periods of growth impacts the behavior of children, their school performance, and their overall cognitive development.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County selected Schmitt Elementary to participate in their School Pantry Program this year. The mission of the School Pantry Program is to help alleviate child hunger through the provision of food to children and their families at school. On the second Monday of each



**Schmitt Principal Orchid Rocha admiring the red peppers at the Farmers Market.**

month, Schmitt Elementary will host a free Farmers Market for its families. Second Harvest will stock the Farmers Market with fresh produce and other nutritious food.



**Schmitt families enjoying picking up their fresh produce at the Farmer's Market.**

We held our first Farmers Market on October 13th and it was met with great enthusiasm and appreciation. Our community was able to hand-select apples, oranges, pears, carrots, peppers, potatoes, onions and tomatoes. The event was a big success and we were able to provide fresh produce to almost 200 families which would feed approximately 800 people. Schmitt Elementary was one of only a handful of schools throughout Orange County that was selected for the School Pantry program and we'd like to thank Second Harvest Food Bank for providing this wonderful service to our school community.

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**Mary Mangold**  
*President*

### A Technology Transformation!

Our Technology Department has been incredibly busy bringing our district to the forefront of 21st century learning! The roll out of our 1:1 device initiative has been truly exciting to see. We have received 8,000 Chromebooks along with 175 Chromebook carts this fall and we are pleased to announce that every elementary student in grades 2-6 has received a Chromebook. Middle school students will receive their Chromebooks in January. In addition, the District is now using Haiku, which is a technology platform and learning management system that will support administrators, teachers and students. Haiku will house vital district content as well as benchmarks, units of study, web based programs and report cards. But that's not all, we have made additional technological advances that include:

- All schools and classrooms now have Wi-Fi.
- Hired an Executive Director of Educational Technology and four educational technology teachers to support our teaching and train our teaching staff with technology.
- Teachers and staff now have access to Google Apps for Education.
- Teachers and staff now have accounts for Discovery Education.
- We have improved bandwidth so that teachers can now stream content aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
- We are in the process of revamping our website.

We are fortunate that we have been able to fund this initiative through Common Core funding which can only be used for technology, professional development and instructional materials. Our new technology directly supports

the implementation of Common Core and SBAC testing. The Ed Tech Department has conducted numerous trainings for staff and students on the Chromebooks, Google Apps, Haiku and more.

Upon receiving a Chromebook, a student was heard saying, "These are awesome! I can't believe we get these at school!" I couldn't have said it better myself.



**Students using their new Chromebooks.**

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# Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

### Parents are Key

A new school year is always a time of beginnings. At Anderson Elementary School we start this new school year with the expectation that it will be the best yet. We know that parents make the difference. Encouragement and support from parents is key for children to succeed. At Anderson we encourage parents to follow these steps.

- P – Participate in your child’s learning.
- A – Accept only the best your child can do.
- R – Read to your child & with your child every night.
- E – Exemplify those behaviors you would like your child to copy.
- N – Nurture the attitude in your child that he or she can & will learn.
- T – Talk to your child, and listen.
- S – Snuggle. Have you hugged your child lately?

Participate and be active in school events and activities. Join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Attend an English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) meeting. Enjoy in a Family Movie Night. Participate in a parent education opportunity. The partnership between the home, the school, and the child is an important part of your child’s success in school.

# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx)



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

### Focus On the Possibilities-Chromebooks are Here!

These are exciting times filled with many changes as we prepare our students for the 21st Century. One big change is the integration of even more technology. The WSD Technology Department was busy this summer! They received 4,225 Chromebooks. Third-sixth grade teachers participated in Chromebook training, and each student in grades 3-6 has received a Chromebook! Students are motivated to use the Chromebooks. Sixth grade students state, “They are fast, good for learning, and you can learn from them in a fun way” and “This kind of technology is a next step for our school.

The Chromebooks are portable. We don’t have to go back and forth from the computer lab to our classroom. We can use them everyday.” Second grade students will be receiving Chromebooks soon. DeMille School is eager to focus on the possibilities as we explore and learn with our new Chromebooks!



**Chromebook roll out-Sixth graders learning how to log into their Chromebook for the first time.**

# Clegg School

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



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

### Way to Go, Readers!

We are off to a great start this school year at Clegg Elementary School. I would like to introduce a few new staff members who have joined our team. Leisa Gac, our new speech pathologist, comes to us from Sequioa Elementary School. Kimberly Kensy, our new school counselor, has joined our team and comes to us with more than 10 years of experience throughout the district. Amy Peconic, joins our third-grade team and comes to us from Hayden Elementary School. We are excited to have them as part of the Clegg family!

A major focus every year is the Accelerated Reader program. Students are encouraged to read Accelerated Reader chapter books and then take computerized tests, which show their comprehension of the books they have read. Students accumulate points with each test passed. The school-wide goal this year has been increased to 10,000 points. The top two earners at each grade level will have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-the-year event. Last year, students had a great time randomly choosing buckets that were filled with things such as ice water, spaghetti and sauce, pudding and more, which they had the opportunity to pour on the teacher or staff member of their choice. It was a huge success! This year’s event is still being discussed but is sure to be a lot of fun.

Our librarian, Mr. Daniel Macri, works closely with our students and has a monthly reward system in place for students who achieve their monthly goals.

# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx)



**Donna Brush**  
*Principal*

### Technology Creates Convenience in Learning

As 21st-century learners, students are facing increased depth and complexity within the framework of the content standards. To ensure college and career readiness and success in our global world, students will have to be able to think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively and creatively with others. Our focus is on all of these skills as well as infusing effective use of technology into the learning environment.

Classrooms are alive with collaborative and critical-thinking activities that include the use of our new Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Teachers are able to create and organize assignments quickly, provide feedback efficiently, and easily communicate with their classes. They can quickly see who has or hasn’t completed the work and provide direct, real-time feedback to individual students. It helps students organize their work in Google Drive, complete and turn it in, and communicate directly with their teachers and peers. Learning is fun!





# Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx)



**Maria Gutiérrez-García**  
*Principal*

## A Whirlwind of Activity

At Finley School it has been a wonderful whirlwind of activity that started out with the annual Parent Power Lunch and an introduction to the Common Core State Standards and 21st Century Learning by Mrs. Gutiérrez-García. One hundred parents were in attendance for the workshop which ended with the unveiling of the WSD roll out of a Chromebook cart. Jason Doan, Finley Computer Tech fielded questions from the parents and demonstrated some of the basic features. Another hundred parents joined in during the picnic lunch on the lawns and benches with families sharing a meal and books to celebrate reading as a community of learners.



The López family enjoying a picnic lunch during the Parent Power Lunch.

# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx)



**Mark Murphy**  
*Principal*

## On the Cutting Edge

Hayden Elementary has always been on the cutting edge of technology in the classroom. Each Hayden room is equipped with a SMARTboard, projector, airliner, document camera, scanner, printer and a talk system. Now we are very excited to add the next tool to help bring our students into 21st century learning. Chromebooks have been delivered and are already in use in every classroom 3rd thru 5th grade, with second grade getting theirs in early November. Every child in grades 2nd thru 5th has their own chromebook assigned to them. The students are extremely

excited and our very engaged having this new learning tool right at their fingertips on a daily basis. Our teachers have been trained on the chromebooks along with Haiku, google docs and google classroom. With this new piece of technology the Hayden Hawks are ready to soar into the 21st century and well beyond.



# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminister, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx)



**Dr. Hiacynth Martinez**  
*Principal*

## Saying Goodbye

It is with mixed emotions and thoughtful consideration that I share a recent decision pertaining to my career and tenure at Fryberger Elementary School. I have begun a new position as the director of personnel in a school district in Los Angeles County. My last day at Fryberger and in Westminister School District was Monday, October 13.

As you can imagine, these are exciting times for me. However, I cannot help but feel a sense of deep sadness about no longer being the principal at Fryberger. This was my eighth year at Fryberger and in the district, and it was difficult to say goodbye because I will miss each and every one of our outstanding students very much. I must say, I feel extremely fortunate to have had the pleasure of watching your children grow, learn, and achieve scholastic and personal success. I will carry all of these wonderful memories with me in my new position as I continue to work toward making public schools high-quality learning environments for students!

Thank you for your trust, confidence, and support throughout my journey at Fryberger. I will never forget the significant successes that we have celebrated throughout the years as I continue being a champion for students!

Again, thank you for allowing me to be the servant leader I always strive to be. Fryberger Elementary School is the best school in this district, and I feel lucky to have witnessed three cohorts of students go from kindergarten to middle school during my principalship!

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminister, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx)



**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

## Hands-On Learning from the Past

Johnson Middle School has had a great start to the 2014-15 school year! The staff and students are excited about the upgrades to the campus, including the newly opened resource center.

Every day at Johnson, students are able to experience content in more creative ways, using hands-on projects and technology. One example is Geoff Thornton's seventh-grade social studies class, where students are learning about feudalism by building their own medieval city. With Design-Based Learning (DBL), the students investigate the curriculum by building models out of recycled materials. Each student gets a piece of land to build on. They are role-playing and exploring concepts like economics and crime and punishment in the Middle Ages. Trading with the other "city"—the other class—is a way to explore Middle Ages economics.

The beauty of the campus and the high-level, engaging learning that is happening each and every day has made Warrior Pride stronger than ever!





# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us)  
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**Beverlee Mathenia**  
*Executive Director,  
Early Education  
& Expanded  
Learning*



**Reagan Lopez**  
*Administrator  
Student Services*

## Making a Difference

Ms. Carolyn Hunter is thrilled to be the new director of student services for the Westminster School District. Prior to this new position, Ms. Hunter began her career in WSD as a school psychologist intern at Finley Elementary and Johnson Middle School. Once her internship was completed, Ms. Hunter was hired as a school psychologist by the WSD.

She then worked as a school psychologist for seven years at Hayden Elementary and Warner Middle School. Ms. Hunter began her new position in August as director of student services.



**Carolyn Hunter.**

Ms. Hunter received her B.A. in psychology from California State University, Long Beach, and her master's degree in education with an option in school psychology from Alliant International University. She also has her administrative credential, and is a licensed educational psychologist.

Ms. Hunter comes from a family of educators, and has had many terrific influences in her career, including her husband and parents. When Ms. Hunter is not working she enjoys spending quality time with her husband, her baby boy, other family members, and close friends. She also loves to read and cook.

Working with students truly inspires Ms. Hunter. She is thankful every day for the opportunity to make a difference in their lives.

# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx)



**Orchid Rocha**  
*Principal*

## Eating Right

I am proud to share the news that our first Schmitt Nutrition Workshop for Parents was a great success, and a lot of fun!

Westminster's Nutrition Network works to improve the health of Californians by encouraging more fruit and vegetable consumption and daily physical activity. Multiple venues like the Workshop are used to facilitate behavioral change in our homes, schools, worksites and communities. They help create an environment that will support healthy choices like fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity.

It was a joy to see so many parents and their children attend the first Workshop of the series, which ended on October 31. During this session our parents learned about the rise in obesity and cholesterol levels in our country's young people.



The presenter brought a variety of visual aids to help bring this information to life. The best part though was learning how to make low-fat vegetable quesadillas! The class concluded by eating this healthy and delicious dish. I look forward to attending more of these sessions of learning, and trying out our new healthy and delicious meals!

# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx)



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Student Cooking Workshops

All of the students at Iva Meairs Elementary School are working on becoming healthier eaters! Recently, instead of focusing on the usual treats associated with a certain October holiday, our Meairs students were instead attending cooking workshops put on by Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP).

The workshops began with a lesson on healthy eating. Students learned about adding more fruits and vegetables to their diets, and then how to eliminate some of the things that are not so good for growing boys and girls. The lesson was followed by a hands-on activity – each student made a Very Berry Banana Split! Using plastic utensils the children carefully split a banana. But instead of using ice cream, they used vanilla yogurt. Then they sliced strawberries for the top and sprinkled it with some whole-grain cereal.

All of the students had a great time creating this healthy treat, and each of them left with a special recipe card to take home so they could make it again with their families.

As the students left the workshop, they were asked what they thought about this healthy version of a banana split. “It was great,” said one student. “I want to make this again at home!” Another remarked, “I thought there was real ice cream in it! Can we do this again?”

During this year our students will continue to focus on healthy eating choices through the “Harvest of the Month” program. They will be able to try out a different fruit or vegetable each month!

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx)



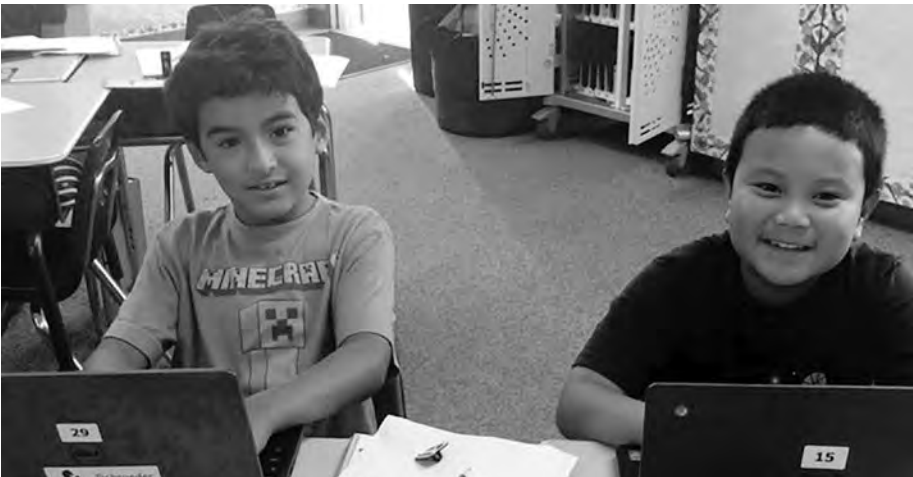
**Carrie Hernandez**  
*Principal*

## Chromebooks are here!

The week of Oct. 13 our 3rd-6th grade students began working with their 1-to-1 Chromebooks! It is a very exciting time and they are already learning a lot! The teachers and students will be using Haiku to house the classroom information. Students will also be learning how to use Google Docs and how to work together on projects. The classrooms will be receiving weekly support from Ms. Nguyen, our technology teacher.

2nd grade students should be receiving their Chromebooks in November!

The theme for our Chromebooks is: “With great power, comes great responsibility.” The students are learning how to care for their Chromebook devices and the importance of Digital Citizenship. Students will be completing I-Safe lessons and learning about how to be safe on the internet and making smart choices using digital media.





# Sequoia *Elementary (K–6)*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx)



**Shay Reardon**  
*Principal*

## Soaring High!

An instructional focus on reading comprehension and fluency is one of Sequoia's three goals this year.

Last year our students were challenged to read 30 minutes a day for five days a week during summer vacation. In September, those who met this number with an accurate log were invited to a Popsicle party with our principal and school librarian, Mrs. Henley. They enjoyed cooling off with a Popsicle and spending time playing outside with friends.

The second- through fifth-grade students have been challenged to reach their individualized Accelerated Reading Goals. The kindergarten and first-grade students also have individualized goals based upon their own reading needs as designed by our teacher teams. Students



who reach these goals by the end of the first trimester will be invited to a special assembly in recognition of their achievement.

Our goal is to have every student attend this fabulous celebration. Keep reading, Sequoia Eagles, and soar high!

# Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx)



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## Clubs Make a Difference!

In September, approximately 450 Stacey students and their families waited to sign up for our Club Rush event. Our Stacey leadership students planned this event to provide information and time for

Stacey students and families to learn about the many after-school programs such as sports and clubs that Stacey provides.



Students signed up for sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, RBI baseball and track in addition to Gardening Club, Sewing and Crafts clubs, peer tutoring, drama, Organized Kids Club, Anime Club, Math Breakfast Club and Ukulele Club, just to name a few.

Clubs started the following week, and students have been participating with lots of enthusiasm. We know that when students get connected to school and participate in after-school programs, their achievement goes up and they like school. So get involved—it makes a difference to you!

# Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx)



**Amy Pham Kwon**  
*Principal*

## Warner Wins

With brand new administration and the onset of many changes, the month of September was all about developing the Warner Middle School Wildcat community. On September 24, Warner held its first Spirit Assembly of the 2014–2015 school year. The Leadership Class welcomed all the students back to school and immediately bolstered Warner pride. School spirit was the theme, and each grade level class was taught a class yell. These class yells allowed students to vociferously demonstrate their class pride. The sixth-grade students yelled, “Kitten, kittens,

kittens.” The seventh-grade students yelled, “Kit cat, kit cat, kit cat.” The eighth-grade students yelled, “Wildcats, wildcats, wildcats.” Each class was put to the test, and gym was roaring with school spirit.

The Warner staff was also able to present Warner Wins. Each month, all teachers will identify a student for outstanding contributions to themselves and our community. The students are recognized, and parents receive postcards from the teachers and bumper stickers as recognition for their children's excellent citizenship. The Spirit Assembly was just the right inauguration to a year full of fostering the Warner community of learners.



# Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/webber.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/webber.aspx)



**Kevin Whitney**  
*Principal*

## Making Learning Fun

Albert Einstein once said, “Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.” Webber educators agree with Mr. Einstein; we are creating new approaches to help our students think so that they can truly understand the facts and make their own connections between subject matter.

Our current focus is on enhancing learning environments through the use of technology. Students in grades three to five recently received a Chromebook, and our teachers are being trained in using Google Apps and Haiku to create virtual learning classrooms.



**4th grade students are working in a Haiku classroom.**

Chromebooks are being used in a variety of ways: as research for science, interactive math lessons and tests; English language development lessons; communicating with peers and teachers in a virtual setting; and creating presentations using Powtoons and Prezis for projects. Recently, a fifth-grade boy showed me his virtual work and stated, “Chromebooks are making learning fun. I do more work now!”



# Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx)



**Rob McKane**  
*Principal*

## Building Community

A sense of community is the cornerstone to a successful school. One way we connect with our community at Willmore Elementary School is through our bilingual community liaisons. Myrna Zornoza, our Spanish-speaking liaison, and Ming Hang “Hannah” Nguyen, our Vietnamese-speaking liaison, build relationships between home and school that lead to increased student connectedness and achievement. They also provide information and education to the families of our community.

Based on feedback from our English-Language Advisory Council (ELAC) members, these ladies have developed basic English classes and basic computer skills classes. They have tapped into and are delivering lessons from Parenting Partners and the Latino Literacy Project. Over the five years they have been at Willmore, they have built solid relationships with our families and go well beyond their job descriptions to make newcomers feel welcome and supported.

Because Willmore strives to deliver all information in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, they are often busy translating documents, slide presentations and phone messages. They do so much for our families and deserve to be celebrated! On behalf of our team and our community, thank you for all you do at Willmore!



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## Fountain Valley Library

17635 Los Alamos St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-1324 • [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

## Library Fun



**Mary Ann Hutton**  
*Branch Manager*

The heat has melted away by now, and so we have some exciting activities for fall and winter at the Library.

Our Toddler Storytime fall session runs every Wednesday from September 10 to December 17. There is no Storytime on November 26. Winter session begins on January 7, 2015. We also have stories and songs for the entire family during our Pajama Night Storytime! Bring your stuffed animal and/or pajamas for some cozy fun with the children's librarian.

November 13 and December 18 at 3:30 pm will be our monthly children's craft time. These will be quick seasonal 15-minute glue-n-go projects perfect for ages two to 14. Our Beach Animals Reading to Kids program (BARK) continues every third Saturday on November 15 and December 20 at 3:30–4:30 p.m. These sessions encourage children to increase their reading skills and self-confidence by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs.

Homework Help is conducted on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4–5 p.m. on October 15 through May 28, 2015 (except during school holidays). Volunteers are available to assist elementary and middle school students with their homework, or act as reading buddies.

We have added new activities for Teens! Join us for Teen Movie Saturdays on November 22 and December 13 at 2:15 pm. Kids Movie Monday was fun every week during the summer, and so we have brought it back by popular demand.

Join us on November 24 and December 29 at 3:30 p.m. Family friendly movies rated G or PG are shown for free once a month on Mondays. Storytime with Santa will also be on Tuesday, December 9 at 7 p.m. Join us around the fireplace for a story with Santa. A picture opportunity will be available afterwards.

For more information about our programs at the Fountain Valley Library, please call 714-962-1324 for details.

## Huntington Beach Central Library

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

## Spin Us a Story!



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

The Huntington Beach Central Library is looking for talented writers and illustrators!

Students in Pre-K through the eighth grade are invited to enter our Sand Scribes and FOTCL's annual writing and illustrating contest. The deadline for this event is on December 20. The winners will receive bookstore gift cards at an awards ceremony during our Authors Festival on January 27, 2015.

This year's theme is “Spin us a Story.” Here the children can choose from three different story ideas: a child, a ghost and a car; an alien, a school and a mystery; or an animal, a place and a secret. What will you pick? Will your story or drawing be funny, scary, or adventurous?

So let your creativity flow and spin us a story! Applicants can print out entry forms and rules at [fotcl.org](http://fotcl.org) and [hbpl.org](http://hbpl.org). Entry forms are also available at the Central Library children's desk.

Please visit the Library's Web site at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org), and our Facebook page, for general information and to learn about our monthly children's programs. At our Web site you can also access databases, put books on hold, renew books, research the catalog, and download eBooks and emagazines. By clicking on “Kids Stuff” you can find our Storytime schedules, monthly calendars, and news about upcoming events.

Our Homework Help button also links to various Web sites, including a live tutor database called Brainfuse. Our Booklists button links to helpful booklists, including the Accelerated Reader Book Finder and the Lexile Framework for Reading. And don't forget to “like us” when visiting our Facebook page!



# Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**

### Optimism Abounds

As we head into the holidays, I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous community effort of support for our students, staff, and families. I recently heard someone asked the following short question in reflection and planning, “What was our best year?” After a thoughtful pause, he answered, “The year we are getting ready to start!” That pattern of thought and tone of optimism are essential for the success of our students and the health of our schools...that is who we are in Huntington Beach Union High School District!

As a district, our accomplishments have been many and are a great source of pride and motivation for our future. From our award-winning Advanced Placement and Special Education classrooms, to our nationally recognized art, music, and athletic teams...our staff and students continue to reach new heights! What constitutes that pride are both the small and large individual efforts that become a part of the daily fabric of our work—from the custodial staff and bus drivers who will make their way onto campus before the sun rises, to the dedicated teachers, coaches, and professional staff who are committed to providing an educational environment that creates opportunity and vision for the future of our students. While our strategic plan may point us in a direction to some students, it will always be the mind and heartbeat of our schools and community that accomplish the work of that plan.

Reflecting on our own high school experiences, while we may not always remember a particular author, equation, or time we needed to beat, we surely recall the names and faces of those who built and guided our paths. Many people might forget who won the league title or got the answer correct on the final exam, but we will find a keen sense of memory for the counselor who helped us the day we needed it the most, or the teacher who was meeting us the morning before the test we needed to pass.

As the year continues our focus will be on the mindset of our “best year yet.” We want to acknowledge all of those individuals who sacrifice both big and small to help us provide the educational experiences our students will need for the world we expect them to lead. Good luck to the Edison Chargers, Fountain Valley Barons, Huntington Beach Oilers, Marina Vikings, Ocean View Seahawks, Valley Vista Eagles, Westminster Lions, Coast High School Dolphins, and Community Day School Hornets!



**Blake Diamond**  
*Student Representative*

### The Homecoming Season

With the first two months of the school year behind us, Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) schools are wrapping up October, the month of homecoming. Each student body has been planning this event with incredibly hard work since the summer. Decorations of every shape, size, and color have been ordered, and tens of thousands of posters have been carefully painted.

With a wide variety of homecoming themes across the district, from Edison High School’s “Dripping in Gold” and Marina High School’s “Cirque Du Homecoming” to Huntington Beach High School’s “Oilers in Wonderland,” Associated Student Body (ASB) organizations work tirelessly to prepare for the rallies, assemblies, halftime shows, and dances that their schools put on.

While some homecoming dances are held in school gymnasiums, the off-campus venues for this year include The Grove Theater in Anaheim and K-1 Speed in Irvine. Having said that, you don’t have to leave Huntington Beach to be awestruck by impressive entertainment performances; Huntington Beach High School hosted an impressive halftime show, which included a comprehensive laser system and live performances.

Most people agree that homecoming is a special time of year. While freshmen are introduced to the true high school experience, seniors savor their final homecoming. Keeping that in mind, it is easy to believe the historic surge in popularity surrounding HBUHSD homecoming events.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Kathleen Iverson**  
*President*

### Our Teachers Are Also Dedicated Learners

How would you like to change your e-mail account and office-managing program and get new hardware all at the same time? Yes...I know...me, too. But the teachers in the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) did all of this for the start of school and did it with style.

Our HBUHSD teachers are passionate about their subjects and committed to the students they teach. For the opening of school, the district asked them to master a new student information system, Aeries, and a new classroom learning management system, Canvas, get to know 180 new students and continue to refine of their Common Core State Standards lessons. They have stepped up and are doing a fantastic job.

Let me tell you how this is different from the time before Proposition 13 budget cuts, Proposition 98 and No Child Left Behind. When I started teaching in 1972, each teacher was given a roll book, a stapler, a box of chalk and an eraser and told to “go get ’em.” As long as we kept the students in the classroom, took attendance and sent out grades every nine weeks, the community was happy. Teachers were told to follow the textbook, don’t use too much paper and don’t smile before Christmas (but don’t be mean).

The first job of a teacher is still classroom control, but now it is much more difficult. Teachers must find a way to balance individual learning with group learning, using electronic media as a tool while keeping it from being a distraction. They must increase the rigor of their classes while teaching students with a wider range of abilities and experiences than at any time in the past. We have asked them to do all this while they themselves are expected to master new technology and the programs that go with it. The district has tried to provide for the training needs for our staff, but anyone who has tried to use a new software program or a new technology knows that a two-, three-, or four-hour workshop will require 20, 30, or 40 additional hours outside that training to feel comfortable with the new programs and many more hours to master the new technology. Already 100 percent of our teachers are using Aeries masterfully and about two-thirds are actively using Canvas daily.

Year after year, teaching has become more and more challenging. As the world around us becomes more and more entertaining, teachers become more and more innovative in the quest to keep students engaged, parents informed and the curriculum focused on thinking skills. We expect our students not only to know the facts about the American Revolution but also explain its reasons and its significance for the world today. It is not surprising that we expect more and more from our teachers. As consumers, we “want it all.” What is remarkable is that our teachers not only meet high expectations, they exceed them. Oh, and yes, we still expect them not to be mean.

When you see our teachers, please thank them for all they do and for their commitment to our students.

## Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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# Coast *High School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Focusing On the Best

I'm not sure how many of our readers are fans of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. I would guess that many of you are, since in most surveys it is ranked in the top five of candy bars. Some of you might recall the late 1970s and early 1980s commercials with the slogan, "Two great tastes that go great together."

Take peanut butter and combine it with chocolate, and you have one of the highest-selling candy bars of all time. In my humble opinion it is a simple formula, one where the combination is better than the two parts by themselves.

Why am I talking about candy bars? Well, this is the perfect metaphor for what we have accomplished this year by combining Coast High School and the Community Day School. Two schools each with their own strengths for helping students succeed; two great schools which go great together.

This is the first year of our melding these two programs, and we are already seeing great results. Students are taking more rigorous college preparatory courses and succeeding. Teachers are learning new instructional methodologies and reaching a broader range of students. In just the past six weeks Coast High School has also created its first Associated Student Body (ASB). We held our first bake sale, which made close to \$200 for expanded learning opportunities, and also established a back-to-school night and scheduled our first dance.

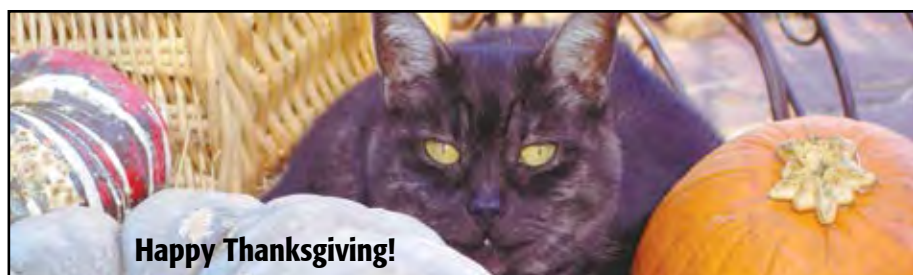
Our staff is also working collaboratively to identify and better support struggling students. Recently our students were able to work with the food services program to create a customized lunch menu just for the school. All of this in only six weeks – that's a lot of new activity in such a short amount of time!



**Coast students working independently in a newly remodeled "Starbuck feel" learning lab.**

A year from now we will be looking back at what we have accomplished, and I know that we'll be amazed. But this start has not been without its bumps in the road. We have had to make a number of adjustments to schedules, develop new operating procedures, experience impacted classes, and handle more student social-emotional problems. But in each case we are working through the challenges as a team of teachers, administrators and support staff.

But throughout this work we have focused on doing what is best for our students. We are building a strong collaborative team that can quickly address the challenges that arise.



# Edison *High School*

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



**Dr. D'Liese Melendrez**  
*Principal*

## Off to a Great Start

I can't believe we are already in the month of November!

The Chargers have been keeping busy in all aspects of school. In August, our varsity football team started off their season in beautiful Maui, Hawaii. Edison students and staff also participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and raised almost \$800. Many of our teachers and staff battled the ice cold water for a great cause. Our EHS Marching Band has also been in full swing since August preparing for the Fall Field Show competitions that began in October. We are so proud of our Chargers!

Being a California Distinguished High school, we take great pride in making sure that our students are college and career ready. So last year we added two new Advanced Placement courses: AP English Language and Composition, and AP Psychology. This year we are excited to be adding AP Art History to the 19 Advanced Placement classes we offer. Next year we hope to add an Advanced Placement course for our sophomores, AP European History.

Our AP students did very well on their exams last year. We gave over 820 exams, and had an overall pass rate of 80 percent.

We now have a brand-new Innovation Lab at Edison which focuses on STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Our science department recently received a \$50,000 SSP grant (Secondary Specialized Program) through the California Department of Education. We are also excited to announce the addition of 61 new "Chargers" to Edison: our 21 new white sea bass and 40 tilapia fish! They are part of the aquaponics and aquaculture program that has been created in the lab, and which our students and teachers are now taking full advantage of.



I would like to wish "good luck" to our fall athletes as they head into the CIF playoffs. Please come out and support our Charger students. Also, check out our Web site at [www.edisonchargers.com](http://www.edisonchargers.com) to help support the upcoming holiday events as presented by our performing arts students. Edison is definitely off to a great start!

We are looking forward to a very successful year. Go, Chargers!





# Fountain Valley *High School*

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



**Chris Herzfeld**  
*Principal*

## Farewell and Thank You to Fountain Valley High School

As you read this, I have closed the Fountain Valley High School (FVHS) chapter of my life, and I am writing a new chapter as principal of another wonderful school in a town not too far away.

I have truly been blessed. My experience at FVHS and in the Fountain Valley community was everything a person goes into education to experience. A few weeks ago, I shared with my FVHS staff the names of 85 people who were on staff at FVHS when I arrived in 2000 who have moved on or, in a few cases sadly, have passed away. There are many others who have also

come and gone since 2000. I am estimating that I have had an opportunity to be involved in the hiring of over 100 people in my tenure as a Baron. Their positive impact will last a long, long time.

In educational leadership, you hope that you have the opportunity to shape the professional and student culture in a way that makes a huge difference for the students and is constantly reinvigorating for the staff. I am fortunate to be able to say I have had that experience. The FVHS staff, students, parents and community have created a very special school environment, which is committed to our students. It doesn't take long when visiting this campus to realize how special it is.

I am doubly blessed as I take what I have learned at FVHS and begin again in another highly-regarded and high-achieving school.

I leave FVHS in the very capable hands of our assistant principal, Kirk Kennedy, an eight-year Baron who will be interim principal for the remainder of the school year. Nancy Peterson, also an eight-year Baron, will continue to share her calm and competent expertise and leadership as assistant principal of guidance. Eva White, a 20-year Baron and first-year administrator, will bring her knowledge of the FVHS history and culture to her new role as assistant principal of supervision, where she is already demonstrating the expertise we knew she would. And two-year Baron Josh Lamar will continue in his role as the assistant principal of activities, building on the legacy of positive student culture for which the Barons are famous. The administration team will also benefit from the assistance of Gretchen Ernsdorf, a retiree from the Laguna Beach Unified School District, who has worked as a teacher, a counselor and an assistant principal.

The Huntington Beach Union High School District is planning to search for the next FVHS principal this spring. The FVHS principal position will attract top candidates from all over the nation due to the reputation of the school, the community and the district.

Thank you, FVHS students, staff and community and Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees and leadership team. My 14 years as a Baron were everything I got into education for, and it has been a privilege to be entrusted with the leadership of the school for over a decade.

## TEENAGERS THESE DAYS • *From Page 1*

their Best Buddies to basketball games, movies and SAC dances, visiting them at home, and hanging out in tutorial. Jacob's buddy, Yanny, can be difficult to understand, but Jacob is so adept he now helps Yanny finish his sentences. Noah told me that seeing the world through Josh's unbridled optimism has given him a new perspective and new friends.

After lunch, students transition to their last classes of the day and enjoy the SAC Pep Squad, their favorite. They pair up with EHS Cheer and Song and learn new routines, which they will perform in front of thousands. As the pep squad entered the stadium at the homecoming football game, the cheerleaders ran over and embraced them. The SAC Pep Squad was staggered between cheerleaders to guide and support them.

We all stood at halftime to watch the crowning of the king and queen. It was fitting that Mr. Huntington Beach Special Needs, Noah's Best Buddy Josh, was crowned the new king. Thunderous applause filled the stadium!

People my age are correct. Teenagers have changed since we were in high school!

# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Strengthening Our Partnerships

As our school continues to grow, projecting more than 10,000 students this year, I have to take a moment and acknowledge that this growth would not be possible without the extensive network of partnerships Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS) has in the community. This network provides more than 50 classroom spaces for the purpose of adult and community education. That is more than triple the class space we would normally have. These partners realize the importance of education and are willing to give resources toward this end.

This year I am excited to announce a new partner, the Simon Youth Foundation (SYF). If you happen to be at the Westminster Mall anytime soon, you will see a level of partnership that is simply put, amazing. Our new 7,500-square-foot learning center space has been donated and remodeled by SYF, a donation of \$400,000 this year alone. The innovative furnishings were purchased through an adult education federal grant. This new HBAS Learning Center will be one of over 20 Simon Youth Academies in the United States. HBAS looks forward to a long, positive relationship with SYF as we partner to give students a second chance at a high school diploma.



**A view of the new Learning Center, part of the Simon Youth Academy family.**

Our Career Technical Education (CTE) programs have also been busy networking and building partnerships with local employers, in order to expand the learning opportunities for our students. This happens in the form of externships, which are now being offered in our medical assistant program, our pharmacy technician program, and our medical billing and coding program. We will soon be offering externships for our administrative assistant program. Through externships, our students are able to apply their newly-acquired skills at a real work setting, a setting we cannot fully copy on our campus. In essence, the classroom expands beyond the normal classroom and into a live work setting.

Our English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program could not serve the more than 2,000 students it does each year if it were not for the strong partnerships we have with our local elementary schools, which allow us to use their classrooms during school and in the evenings. During the school day, parents are able to drop off their students and then walk a short distance right into their ESL classrooms. Parents who work during the day are able to come to the familiar setting of their child's school and attend an evening ESL class. Through these partnerships, we are strengthening the role parents play as lead learners in the family. What better role model could you have?



# Huntington Beach *High School*

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



**Dr. Rocky Murray**  
*Principal*

## Honoring Those Who Keep Us Safe

Last month, Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) hosted the second annual barbecue honoring our local public safety figures. Those groups included police and fire departments and lifeguards. The evening also brought together local government officials along with many HBHS staff members. Through the work of the Associated Student Body (ASB), HBHS Education Foundation President Gina Gleason, PTSA Member Michelle Amaral, and PTSA President Wendy Cendro, the event came together with great success.

The evening began with the ASB students decorating and organizing the Academy of the Performing Arts Square. While the students were setting

up, the parents were shopping and ensuring all of the final touches were in place. With so many moving parts, it was a total team effort of students, staff, and parents working to show respect and appreciation to those people in our community who make us safe. Following the barbecue, staff and guests were invited out to the football stadium to enjoy the game from the sidelines. The proud Oilers were defeated that night, but they played their hearts out and gave a great fight.

Even though we lost on the gridiron, the celebration was awesome. I am incredibly proud of our students and staff for the hard work and commitment they gave to this event. The ASB students were excellent hosts and represented Huntington Beach High School with great spirit and enthusiasm. It is important that we give thanks to our community and also work to bring the community together. There are a lot of other places families and friends could be on a Friday night, but in Huntington Beach there is no better place to be than supporting Huntington Beach High School and the heroes of Huntington Beach!

Go, Oilers!



# Marina *High School*

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



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*Principal*

## A Viking-Like Focus on Education

By the time you read this article, our Marina students will have experienced yet another “focus” on their future college and career goals.

During our recent College and Career Week, the Vikings participated in a number of activities that were designed to assist and concentrate on their future. Just prior to the week, Marina also hosted the Huntington Beach Union High School District’s annual College Fair. During this event over 105 colleges and career programs came to our school to display information about their institutions.

Additionally, a number of information sessions were also provided on topics such as NCAA requirements, financial aid, PSAT/SAT testing, and special education services after high school.

During the week of October 13 our Vikings were provided with some outstanding opportunities. Working with our College/Career Committee, Dr. Robert Rasmussen developed an outstanding series of learning experiences for our students. At midweek each of our students was involved in college testing and/or career interest surveys that were designed to help them practice and focus on their future choices.

Our ninth-graders were involved in a career interest assessment and multiple intelligence survey to assist in their decision-making as part of

their four-year graduation plan. Our tenth-graders took the Kaplan New SAT Challenge, which is aligned with the new SAT administered in the eleventh grade. All eleventh-graders were also involved in taking the PSAT test at no charge. The PSAT is a test that prepares students for success on the SAT – it is one of the most important college entrance exams, and it also identifies potential National Merit recipients.

The twelfth-graders listened to a series of guest presentations focused on four-year universities, community colleges, and career and technical education. Afterwards they were able to ask questions of our guest presenters to help prepare for life after graduation.

As the year progresses, school counselor Diana Miler will be presenting a number of parent and student evenings to help our students understand their scores, prepare for college entrance requirements, and apply to colleges and post-secondary career institutes. Don Bui, our college and career specialist, will also provide a number of evening presentations on such topics as college admissions, financial aid, and application preparation. Mr. Bui works with our students throughout the year through the College Career Center. He is a valuable resource and support for our students.

College and career is a visible focus here at the Home of the Vikings. If you drop by on Wednesdays, don’t be surprised to see our staff wearing their favorite College or Career Institute shirts and jerseys. After all, it’s what our school is all about: spirit, focus and success!

It is our hope that each of our students will receive the information and knowledge they need to follow their dreams and accomplish their post-high school goals! Go, Vikings!



# Ocean View *High School*

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



**Dan Bryan**  
*Principal*

## The Right Challenge

Five years ago, we were pushing students to take the most rigorous courses in order to become college ready. Now, we are watching a shift from a push to a pull—college readiness actually pulling students into enrolling in more challenging classes on their own. That is a principal's dream!

We all know that willing participants make all the difference in learning—or really doing anything—and we have been so impressed by our students who are making a choice to become college ready willingly! Without data, these preceding sentences are mere opinion. The following are compelling figures that show our students' growth.

In 2013–14, 607 of 745 juniors and seniors took a third- or fourth-year math class at the level of Algebra II or higher. Please remember that a mere three years ago, a third- or fourth-year math class could have been consumer math, which we no longer offer.

Also in 2013–14, 414 juniors and seniors took a third- or fourth-year science class at the level above biology and chemistry. Don't forget that three years ago, a student's third- or fourth-year science course would have been biology or chemistry!

In 2011–12, we had 41.25 percent of our graduates meet the UC-A-G requirements for admission. In 2013–14, we had 58.04 percent of our graduates meet the UC A-G requirements for admission.

Increasing 17 percentage points equates to a 29 percent increase in students meeting this “gold standard” for admission. What meeting the UC requirements means to me is that more and more students are seeing that there is an achievable path to college through Ocean View.

In 2011–12, 327 AP exams were taken at OVHS. In 2013-14, 491 AP exams were taken at OVHS.

## Here's the Proof!

Old-school thinking says, “Uh oh, if we are giving more exams, our pass rate for AP tests will go down,” but we know better!

In 2011–12, 163 AP exams were passed. In 2013–14, 261 AP exams were passed. The pass rate increased. So, increasing access pulls, or draws, students into more rigorous courses. Do they increase their success rate? Yes!

Last, change is not possible on this scale without the school believing in its students and the students believing that is true. It is a team effort to move a school in this way.

We still have work to do—58 percent is not 70 percent, and 70 percent is not 100 percent. This is the right challenge to take, and we are winning.

# Valley Vista *High School*

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



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

## Getting SMARTer

One of the most important life skills we can help students develop is goal setting. Learning to achieve goals is one of the most important experiences that we strive to help our students experience. We have had great success using the SMART approach to goal setting: S for “specific, clear-cut, and definite”; M for “can be measured”; A for “requires action”; R for “realistic and achievable”; and T for “has a time frame.”

Getting SMARTer begins in the new student-orientation process. During the principal-student interview, I review their academic progress to date and discuss what they will need to accomplish in order to graduate. Graduating is an especially challenging proposition for our students, who must complete makeup credits at the same time that they are completing current classes. If the discussion were to stop at the orientation interview, very few students would succeed in graduating. We've learned that it is essential that students learn how to set and achieve goals if they're going to graduate.



**Counselor Trina Lopez working with student.**

Our school counselor, Trina Lopez, meets with each student to help him or her write goals that meet the SMART criteria, using a colorful and easy-to-understand worksheet that we have developed. Students develop two short-term goals that require hours or days to achieve and two long-term goals that require weeks, months or even years to achieve. Mrs. Lopez sets up future meetings with students to review their progress and to update and add short- and long-term goals as needed. The SMART program not only reminds students to turn in work but it also helps them get organized. It has also helped solve a vexing student problem: forgetting to turn in completed assignments.

## 'A Goal Without a Plan is Just a Wish'

A successful young entrepreneur who had himself attended a continuation high school and gone on to graduate from college recently came to address our students. We were very pleasantly surprised to find that his presentation revolved around setting SMART goals. He used his own life to explain that they would change directions several times in their lives and that setting realistic goals was essential to continued future success.

At the bottom of our SMART worksheet, we include a quote from Antoine de St. Exupery, the author of the famous *Little Prince*: “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” Our most important short-term goal is to help students complete high school. Our longer-term goal is to help students become successful individuals and citizens. We try hard to be SMART about accomplishing both of these goals!

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# Westminster *High School*

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



**Joe Fraser**  
Principal

## Opportunities for Growth

As we continue to grow our culture here at Westminster High School, our choir program reminds us of the old saying, "If you build it, they will come." From a 20-year stretch without a choir, to 152 students strong in just two short years, the Westminster choir program has been growing exponentially under instructor Sandra Trujillo.

On Saturday, October 11, Ms. Trujillo took eight of our advanced choral singers to attend the annual USC Choral Leadership Workshop. They had an opportunity work with Dr. Rodney Eichenberger (a renowned and amazing conductor) and sing with other groups from all over Southern California. The students also had a chance to meet Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, the chair of USC's Choral and Sacred Music Department. He is a graduate of Westminster High School as well, and was so proud of how Ms. Trujillo and the school have revived the music program.

In addition, Ms. Trujillo has added a musicianship class designed for students in our VOICES program. VOICES is an acronym for Vocational Opportunities and Instruction With Community Experiences for Students. It provides instruction in functional academics and daily living skills to students with moderate to severe learning disabilities. The lessons focus on teaching introductory music concepts like rhythm and pitch, and learning how to play and sing together in a hand-bell choir.

We are so excited about the new opportunities that our choral music program has brought to the students of Westminster High School. We are looking forward to its continued growth and success.



**Ms. Trujillo with students in our VOICES Program.**

**Mommy, Daddy...**  
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**like doing**  
**anything.**

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**don't always**  
**know how**  
**to talk about**  
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