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School News

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

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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021

Marine View Middle School is a Modernized Marvel!

*By Patricia Singer,
President, Board of Trustees,
Ocean View School District*

The newly modernized Marine View Middle School is a site to behold! Thanks to funds from Measure R, a general obligation bond the community passed in 2016, Marine View has been totally transformed.

The school was originally built in 1967 and serves students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The year-long modernization project called for a totally re-envisioned school which required a complete overhaul to the campus, starting with the demolition of everything inside each building's shell. In a nod to the school's nautical name and location in the heart of Huntington Beach, the front exterior of the school and hallways are adorned with beautiful murals of iconic images from throughout Surf City. As students walk through the school, they see murals of downtown Huntington Beach, the pier, surfers riding waves, the harbor, and the wetlands, to name a few.

The project scope included building a new science lab, art lab, woodshop, media center, dance studio, and kitchen. In addition, we augmented our physical education program by installing a comprehensive athletic/exercise station outside the gymnasium that promotes plyometrics.

The new facilities support Marine View's comprehensive Visual and Performing Arts program as well as an exciting array of electives, including Industrial Technology, 3-D Printing, Robotics, Woodshop, Art, Dance, Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Drama, Music, Guitar, Spanish, Leadership, and more.

Classrooms at Marine View have been thoughtfully designed to provide opportunities for innovation, hands-on learning, and collaboration with peers. The classrooms are



equipped with two large ViewSonic flat screens which are connected to each other to allow casting, and other instructional functions. All classrooms have been furnished with new furniture that has a flexible design, allowing for multiple configurations and maximum student engagement.

Interior upgrades to the site encompass air conditioning/heating, electrical, lighting, technology, security, flooring, paint, landscaping, and a new digital marquee. Ocean View School District is environmentally conscious and committed to conserving energy. We have installed energy efficient LED lighting fixtures throughout the campus in conjunction with SolaTubes which transfer outside sunlight into the buildings, and do not use any electricity.



The campus also received a significant upgrade to the HVAC systems. New VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow) HVAC units were utilized to ensure a whisper quiet classroom environment to maximize the aural transmission between teacher and students. We also utilize Bio-PCM (Phase Changing Material) in all classrooms with new T-bar ceilings to provide energy savings, as it is a passive system that absorbs and releases heat which minimizes the runtime of the HVAC units, resulting in energy savings.

We are so proud of this beautiful school and the dynamic learning opportunities it provides our students. If you would like a tour of this extraordinary campus, please call (714) 846-0624.

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Kay Coop
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There is a briskness in the air letting us know the holidays are quickly approaching. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. There is so much to be thankful for and at the top of my list are educators, involved parents and you — our loyal readers.

We've included student book reviews on page 18, music review and a word search on page 19. (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is January 19, 2022 In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • millerchildrens.org/Diabetes

Identifying Prediabetes in Children Prevents Lifelong Issues

Rebecca A. Hicks, M.D.,
*medical director,
 Endocrine and
 Diabetes Center,
 MemorialCare
 Miller Children's &
 Women's Hospital
 Long Beach*

Diabetes is a chronic medical condition in which sugar or glucose levels build up in the bloodstream. The hormone insulin helps move glucose from blood into cells, where it's used for energy.

With Type 2 diabetes, cells don't respond well to insulin, and in later stages of the disease, the body may not produce enough insulin. According to the American Diabetes Association, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated risk factors for diabetes in children due to limited physical activity and sedentary behaviors.

Most children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes have prediabetes first. Prediabetes means that blood sugar is higher than it should be, but not high enough to be diabetes. Most of the time, the child will not have any symptoms. Prediabetes is a warning sign that a child is at risk for Type 2 diabetes.

Warning signs of prediabetes may include:

- Increased thirst
- Increased hunger
- Low energy levels
- Frequent urination
- Rapid weight loss
- Blurry vision

If a child has these warning signs, they should be evaluated by a doctor right away. If a child is diagnosed with prediabetes, it's important that the whole family makes healthy lifestyle changes to help support and prevent their child from getting Type 2 diabetes.

The Endocrine & Diabetes Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach offers programs designed to diagnose, treat and manage childhood conditions, such as diabetes. The team works with families to get a child's blood sugar levels back to a safe range and help them stay at a healthy weight. Learn more at millerchildrens.org/Diabetes.

Our physicians train longer so Erin's recovery is quicker.

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City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • www.huntingtonbeachca.gov



Kim Carr
Mayor

Sea-sons Greetings from Surf City!

It's that time of the year as the holidays are upon us once again!

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who helped assist in cleaning up the oil spill that occurred off our coast in early October. I am so proud of our community for coming together to ensure our beaches were safe to reopen. I sincerely thank many of you that helped with cleanup efforts and donating much needed supplies to our local non-profits. In addition, I want to thank the tremendous work from the Coast Guard to our City staff in handling such an urgent matter with dedication in protecting and saving our wetlands, beach, ocean water and all creatures big and small.

With the holiday season here, I would like you to join us for our annual Miracle on Main Street tree lighting ceremony downtown on November 21 from 2pm to 7pm as we fill the second block of Main Street with entertainment, holiday craft vendors, and free refreshments. In addition, the annual Light a Light a Love that benefits our Waymakers youth shelter will take place on Sunday, December 5. Let the warmth of family, friends and community take the chill from the air, and rejoice at the sight of snowflakes on the Huntington Beach Pier!

I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and many blessings in the New Year!

Miracle on Main Street
tree lighting ceremony
downtown on
November 21 from 2pm to 7pm

The annual Light a Light a Love
will take place on
Sunday, December 5.

Huntington Beach Public Library

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

In Person Storytime is Back!

By *Melissa Ronning, Senior Youth Services Librarian*

In addition to Toddler and Pre-school storytimes we also offer a Baby & me storytime for children up to 18 months, Rock & Roll storytime and Family storytime. All of our storytimes will have limited capacity, and each person will need to have a ticket in order to enter the room. Tickets are available at the Children's desk on a first come first served basis on the day of. All attendees over the age of two will be required to wear a mask.

Following storytime we will also be offering Stay & Play, with a few activities for children to try that will extend the early literacy learning components of storytime. For our complete storytime schedule please visit hbpl.org/kids to see which storytime is most appropriate for you and your child, and for all the latest in youth programming at the library! Along with storytime and Stay & Play we have our Creativity Corner set up with a variety of DIY take home crafts on Sunday and Monday Afternoons. Each week is a different activity that will give your child the opportunity to get creative.

Also, it's DINOvember at the HBPL Central Library - a month when dinosaurs come to life! We have a few spiky, scaly, toothy dinosaur friends that are coming to visit us... and they're getting into loads of trouble! Each time you visit the Central Library during the month of November, check the DINOvember map in the Children's Library to see where those pesky dinosaurs are hiding, and then track them down in the library to see what they've done.

We look forward to seeing you back at the Huntington Beach Public Library!



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By Kay Coop
Illustrated by Melanie Florio

Fountain Valley School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Proud to Celebrate Drug Free Life with Red Ribbon Week in FVSD

All ten campuses in the Fountain Valley School District were proud to participate in Red Ribbon activities this month as we celebrated being drug and tobacco free. The Red Ribbon campaign is the largest drug-abuse prevention campaign in the country. And across our campuses, students and staff celebrated living a drug-free life through this year's Red Ribbon theme, Drug Free Looks Like Me. Our schools were filled with red ribbons and student-made posters. In addition, students honored the week by participating in daily theme dress ups. From “lei-ing” off drugs in Hawaiian wear to dreaming of a drug free world in their pajamas, students focused on the importance of keeping themselves and each other drug and tobacco free. More so, our middle school students discussed the benefits of natural highs, like exercising, talking to a friend or enjoying activities that bring them joy. Red Ribbon week in FVSD was truly a success!



Masuda teacher, Kim Nguyen, works with her PAL students to engage the entire campus in Red Ribbon Week activities.

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Music is in the air in Fountain Valley School District!

By Sandra Crandall, President, Board of Trustees

Weekly, our elementary students, as a grade level, attend a music class taught by a credentialed music teacher. As Trustees, we tour schools and have the opportunity to see the lessons taking place. Identifying the symbols for notes, the value they hold, how they are “read” to construct a musical sentence and then clapping or vocalizing the musical pattern is all a part of initial lessons for our youngest students.

We, too, hear students singing delightful songs with lyrics which allow for movement, laughter or are full of meaning. A tambourine, triangle, rhythm sticks or a drum are introduced to accompany their songs. Large books, with colorful pictures and the printed lyrics, give an artist's perspective of the song's meaning. Singing songs develops a child's memory and the use of the books with lyrics and pictures helps with comprehension.

Instrumental music is introduced with every child playing a recorder. And, of course, wind, brass, string and percussion instruments are available, too. What may be a small elementary school band, string ensemble or grade-level singing, blossoms into full-fledged bands, orchestras, rock bands, guitar ensembles and choir by sixth grade. Each of our middle schools have dedicated music teachers. Those early elementary music skills can be developed throughout a student's middle school experience.

The performance element is in place as our choirs, bands and orchestras can be heard at their concerts, at community events and at our spring Monster Concert held in conjunction with the high school into which our schools feed.

Music is a universal language which fosters success in other curricular areas and brings great joy to the participant and the audience. We are so grateful to the dedication of our music teachers, the students and their parents who support our music programs.



Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

Courreges Elementary's Cougar Mascot has a name!

Last month, Courreges Elementary's staff and students voted to officially name its mascot. The mascot names were narrowed down to 5 top recommendations and the chosen winner, by landslide, was "Captain Cougar!" Captain visited students on 10/26 to help kick-off the school's "Boosterthon Fun Run Fundraiser" which ran from 10/26-11/4.

The "Boosterthon Fun Run" is Courreges PTA's biggest fundraiser for the year and this year's goal is to raise over \$50,000 to help fund and restore many programs that were cut due to the recent pandemic. The culminating event for Boosterthon was held on 11/4, where students and staff were able to run through the Boosterthon track and navigate through 8 fun & engaging obstacle courses.

Courreges is proud to finally have an official name ("Captain Cougar") for its mascot and the staff & students look forward to seeing more of "Captain" at its future school events.



Captain Cougar visits students at their kick-off Boosterthon assembly on 10/26.

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

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



Erin Bains
Principal



Julie Gonzales
Assistant Principal

Connecting through Sports

Team bonding, laughter, exercise, and school engagement all mixed into lunchtime breaks: Our Fulton students are enthusiastic about the launch of the 2021 Noon League sports activities!

In the past, Fulton has hosted noon activities such as basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, and soccer. The homerooms have united this fall to form competitive soccer teams. Not only is this an opportunity to build a sense of community on

campus, it is also a huge source of excitement for both our students and staff members.

The sidelines are now filled with cheering fans, and our teams cannot wait until their next chance to compete. Many teams have even come up with creative names for themselves, such as the BALLerinas, High Fives, Kool Kids, and Flying Turtles. The students from our leadership class are also extremely involved in making this beloved pastime possible. They graciously volunteer to

help with everything from scheduling the games and field preparation to refereeing the games themselves.

We are all anxiously awaiting to see who will be crowned the grade-level victors and receive the famous homeroom trophies. Good luck Falcons, and may the best team win!



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

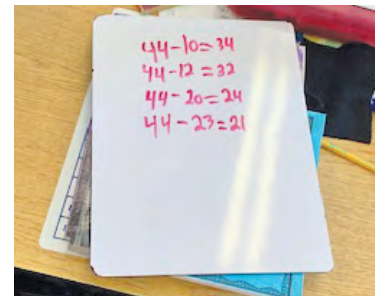
17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.cox.fvdsd.us



Cara Robinson
Principal

Math Strategies

Students are back in full swing and are deep into the study of mathematics! As a signature practice throughout the school, teachers teach students a variety of math strategies to help build a students' ability to solve equations.



Here you can see how this looks in classrooms, where students are explaining how they solved problems and are having class-wide discussions about the merits of each. This is a practice at Cox that spans all grade levels in an effort to build students' math competency.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Teri Malpass
Principal

Gisler's Student Council is Full of Leadership!

This year Gisler had the largest group of 4th and 5th graders run for Student Council. 44 to be exact! Students ran for President, Vice President and Secretary. Each student made a poster, gave a speech in front of all 4th and 5th graders and showed bravery and courage as they shared their reasons for running for student council offices. Victoria Dang was elected as President, Kodi Maglinti; Vice President, Ashlyn Nunn; Secretary and Executive Board: Chloe Evans, Clark Smith and Kierra Hata! These students were elected on their GREAT spirit day ideas and

the ways they shared to make Gisler more inclusive. Student Council officers are responsible for morning announcements during the week. Each student is assigned a day where they share a fun fact they researched. Gisler's Student Council wouldn't be possible without teacher leadership from Miss Shofstall and Mrs. Covello.



Gisler's 2021-22 Student Council

Ashlyn Nunn; Secretary, Chloe Evans; Executive Board, Victoria Dang; President, Kodi Maglinti; Vice President, Clark Smith; Executive Board, Kierra Hata; Executive Board

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6-8)*

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



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Masuda Rocks Red Ribbon Week

Every year Red Ribbon Week strives to mobilize communities to educate youth about the dangers of drugs and tobacco and to encourage participation in drug prevention activities. The campaign was born out of tragedy – Enrique “Kiki” Camarena was a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent who was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985. To honor his memory and

his sacrifice in the war on illegal drugs, as well as his belief that one person can make a difference, friends and neighbors began wearing badges of red satin. The movement spread and parent coalitions adopted the symbol of Camarena’s memory, the Red Ribbon.

The 2021 National Red Ribbon Week Theme was “Drug Free Looks Like Me”. To help celebrate and promote the message Masuda’s PALs (Peer Assistance Leadership), under the guidance of teacher advisor Mrs. Nguyen, created posters, wrote inspiring announcements, and created a home room competition centered around special dress days.



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

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



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Red Ribbon Week at Newland

Newland recently celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for schools and its students to take a stand through a commitment to drug prevention, education, and a personal commitment to live a healthy drug and bully free life. Perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico.

This year Newland PTA organized a number of dress-up days such as Tye-dye, Jersey, and Hawaiian days. Newland also held our annual Scholastic Book Fair to promote reading as a healthy lifestyle choice. The week was a fun time for students and staff to dress up a bit, get some great books, and learn about healthy lifestyle choices.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

The National Blue Ribbon Award

Oka Elementary has received the 2021 National Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education. This is one of the most rigorous and prestigious awards any school can earn, with only 325 schools in the country and 18 elementary schools in California being recognized in 2021. The award is given to schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “The National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The National Blue Ribbon Schools’ flag gracing a school’s building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.” I cannot wait to be able to fly the Blue Ribbon flag at Oka in the coming weeks, as a symbol of what has been accomplished!

We are extremely proud of the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the endless support of our families. Congratulations again to Oka Elementary, a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School!



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

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



Dr. Patrick Ham
Principal

Proud Panthers

The prestigious Proud Panther Award celebration returned to Plavan Elementary this month! Black Panthers are extremely rare. They are seen as one of the most powerful and unique mammals in the world? They are unique and special... just like you! The following students have much to be proud of—as do their teachers and parents! They are shining examples of outstanding character, academic excellence, and improvement.

It is an honor to recognize Plavan's Proud Panthers for the month of September:



TK-Saul, Benson, Preslee
K-Sandra, Luca, Sydney, Jacob, Cressida, Thea, Logan
1st-Harrison, Charlize, Alyssa, Rebecca, Nelson, Kyra, Evan, Sebastian
2nd-Raiya, Michael, Madison, Lawson, Kanda, Gael, Katelyn
3rd-Layla, Jayden, Bradley, Lake, Mia, Nathan, Winter, Victoria
4th-Tyus, Vy, Billy, Clarissa, Fady, Olivia, Konan, Muhammad Hamza, Tyler
4th-Chase, Elena, DJ, Julaya, Ethan, Khloe

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

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



Jay Adams
Principal



Molly Kuykendall
Assistant Principal

Noon Leagues are a Hit with the T-Birds!

To promote health and a sense of family amongst homeroom students and teachers, Talbert's Noon Leagues are running year round at lunch time with each grade level competing against one another. We started off the season with soccer, which may 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 on the fun helping coach and cheer their teams to victory. At the end of each season, the homeroom champs get to brag and lift their trophy high to relish in their hard work. But they can't get too comfortable--since the next season is lurking around the corner and there are other homerooms waiting for their turn to be at the top.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

Halloween Trunk or Treat!

Tamura families came together for a fun, safe family environment where trunk-or-treaters spent the evening going from trunk to trunk, collecting candy and treats from cars that have been decorated and serve as the backdrop for our event. Children were all dressed in their costumes and ready to have a great time. We had about 25 decorated cars along with games, pizza, music and more!

During trunk-or-treat events, adults decorate the backs of their cars for Halloween, load up on candy, and come sit in a



parking lot, waiting for children to trick-or-treat from car to car. It's even more fun than it sounds! Sometimes, children come in large groups, fully dressed in Halloween costumes and holding out bags or plastic pumpkins for treats. The adults get to socialize and be creative while seeing all the cute and scary costumes.

It's been such a fun event! Our parents are happy. Our children are happy. It felt really good that night here at Tamura!

Ocean View School District

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

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Dr. Carol Hansen

Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports Awards

Six Ocean View School District schools have earned awards from California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coalition, recognizing their efforts to create a positive campus culture and increase student engagement.

PBIS aims to create a positive school setting through strategies that define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviors. Ocean View teachers closely monitor students' behavior, attendance, and academic performance, taking steps to provide additional support in each area as needed. The focus of PBIS is prevention, not punishment.

Ocean View is committed to providing students with positive learning environments where they feel safe, confident, and empowered to succeed. PBIS strategies help us support students academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.

Marine View Middle earned a silver certification and College View Elementary, Golden View Elementary, Hope View Elementary, Lake View Elementary and Star View Elementary earned bronze certifications for their excellent execution of PBIS strategies in 2020-21. Congratulations to these outstanding schools!



Marine View Middle School was honored at a recent Board of Trustees Meeting for earning a silver certification for the outstanding implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports).

Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jessica Haag
Principal

Academics and SEL!

Music and art are back! We are so excited to welcome back our music teachers, Mrs. Greer and Mrs. Lassig, and our art teacher, Ms. Karen, back on our Circle View campus. We had opportunities to participate in art and music virtually for the past year and a half, but are absolutely loving having them in-person once again. We are so thankful to our PTO for supporting our Eagles with our art program for our entire school and music program for our primary grades. As always, check out our Circle View Instagram



Circle View students creating pumpkin mosaics

account to see wonderful videos of our students singing, dancing, and playing instruments. We strive to have our students learn and progress in their academic learning as well as their social emotional learning.

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

PBIS is Alive and Well at College View!

Congratulations to College View School for receiving the Bronze PBIS Implementation Award for the hard work and dedication that was put into our entire PBIS Program. Besides expanding our PBIS Leadership Team to include classified stakeholders, our year-long plan encompasses plans for teaching the Social-Emotional Learning Competencies each week, teaching our traits, and rebranding that included the focus on our College View PRIDE. Being intentional in demonstrating our schoolwide behavioral expectations and serving as role models for our students, these expectations are captured in our Staff PBIS Matrix.

We're proud to have our 21-22 Student Council Leaders also take the lead with Social-Emotional Learning. We look forward to them contributing to sharing SEL messages and strategies throughout the year. With our hard work, dedication, and thorough student teachings and training, College View is excited to see students exhibiting positive behaviors and positive, active engagement.



Golden View *Environmental Science School*

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



Lori Florgan
Principal

Environmental Science Program

Golden View is excited to welcome Environmental Science Educator Tessa Chimits to our Golden View Team! Our students are participating in weekly environmental lessons, activities, and games out on our farm (yes a farm at school in Huntington Beach) to enhance our Environmental Science Program here at our school site. Here you can see our first graders from

Mrs. Conton's class learning about the importance of trees, and reenacting how trees grow and learning about the parts of a tree.

We are so excited to be offering our students more opportunities to develop their awareness, appreciation, skills, and commitment to address environmental issues. At Golden View, our students apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills to resolve environmental problems. Our goal is to help students learn to think and to empower them to become responsible, productive, and participatory members of our learning community.



Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Christina Luckey
Principal

Exciting Book Report Projects

Hope View second graders have had some exciting book report projects during October as they embraced a fun art activity to go with it! As fall is upon us and pumpkins are all around, students were tasked with focusing on a character in their story and creating a pumpkin based on one of the characters in the book. They were given the opportunity to get creative with paint, glue, feathers, and more and the only restrictions were they couldn't carve the pumpkin and they had to be able to carry it. The pumpkins ranged from Pete the Cat to Dog Man and much more.

The students were very proud of their projects and had them displayed, at the lunch benches, for all grade levels to take a look at their masterpieces.



Mrs. Dixon's second grade class capturing a smile with their book along with their pumpkin art.

Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Dual-Language Immersion Program

During the pandemic, Harbour View opened a highly desired dual-language program. Pivoting from hybrid to distance learning had its challenges, however, our staff, student, and parent commitment to bringing this program to life prevailed.

This year we have a full kindergarten, first-grade, and second-grade class of dual-immersion Spanish. We have three talented teachers who bring their bilingual and biliteracy skills to these children, and each one brings a different perspective on bilingualism. Mrs. Strecke is actually trilingual, who learned multiple languages simultaneously while growing up. Ms. Brito was an English learner in school herself, developing English while maintaining her primary language of Spanish. And Mrs. Garcia learned her Spanish later in life.

Our three teachers are absolutely amazing. They bring academics and cultural learning to life through singing, movement, and storytelling. These students are receiving the same curriculum as the general education classes,



but just in Spanish. The students follow 90 percent Spanish and 10 percent English starting in kindergarten. They are fully immersed in the language, and it then tapers to increase the English by 10 percent for each grade level. In the fourth- and fifth-grades it becomes 50 percent Spanish and 50 percent English.

Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jill Van Der Linden
Principal

Celebrating Our Lions

Celebrating our students is a highlight at school. At our monthly Lake View Lion Pride Assembly, we recognize students who have been demonstrating the character trait of the month and also recognize the ones who have either excelled, worked hard, or improved in an area they may have struggled in.

Assemblies have always been a great way to unite as a school and to build school spirit and a positive culture. Assemblies, like so many other daily activities in the school setting, have been missing the last year and a half. With all the social-distancing constraints we practiced because of the pandemic, we had to push the pause button on many of the events commonly practiced. That is why this first assembly of the year was so satisfying. To look out over the students collected together and reciting the pledge of allegiance, celebrate one another's successes, and watch their teachers sing the song "Respect" by Aretha Franklin put a smile on my face that lasted all week long.



We have so much to be thankful for, and I try to start each day being grateful!

Marine View *Middle School (6–8)*

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

Newly Modernized Campus

The school year is off to a great start at Marine View, students were welcomed back to school with much excitement as we have opened the doors to our newly modernized campus. The positive energy continued as students participated in an orientation which included activities where students got to know each other and the staff members on campus as well as some fun team-building activities.

The PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support) team continues our work through monthly focus lessons during our advisement period that are centered around goal-setting, stress management, social media mindfulness, respect, and kindness. Through the hard work of our Marine View team, we have seen the positive energy and the power of teamwork radiating through campus.



The celebrations continued as Marine View was recognized for achieving the Silver Recognition from the California PBIS Coalition. I am excited for what lies ahead for the Marine View community.

Oak View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Fall Fun is Back in Full Swing

Mighty Owls love to read! We held an exciting reading incentive in partnership with the OC Soccer Club during September and October. Over 200 students took part in reading four books in exchange for two tickets to the OC Soccer Club in Irvine! Students were able to take a special adult in their life to an evening of fun at the soccer game and see the celebrations pre-game in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Watching the busses leave campus full of happy kids and adults was an amazing sight to see! All students who turned in a bookmark also received a special brag tag. Reading comes with tons of fun at Oak View. We look forward to November and December with more exciting events planned on campus!



Mrs. Schraff, Karen Vivar Garcia and Mrs. Landero
enjoying the soccer game!

Mesa View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Starting Strong!

Here at Mesa View, we kicked off this year strong with a focus on positivity and a focus on the love of learning! We have positivity-Tee Tuesday, when we encourage students and staff to wear T-shirts with positive messages, and we give away T-shirts each week. We also focus on our Eagles learning the three R's at the beginning of the year: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Reflective. For showing these behaviors, our students are rewarded with Eagle Wings, which allow them to purchase tons of fun goodies. Each week, our staff highlights three Eagles of the Week. These awesome students get surprised in class by Echo the Eagle with an award, a poster, and a mini-Echo gift bag of goodies. We also highlight the students all week on our school marquee.

On the first Friday of each month, students are introduced to a new book title with First Chapter Friday. On this reading-focused day, students get to hear the first chapter of a new book. Students can then enter a raffle to win a copy of the book, and we also stock our library with several copies. Our first book was a big hit, with over 200 children entering the raffle and a giveaway of 12 books!

Finally, to kick off the year with a focus on potential and strengths, we highlight social-emotional learning with a strategic lesson each week. We have even brought a motivational speaker on campus to talk to our children about reaching their potential.

It's going to be a great year!

Spring View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Alfredo Torres
Principal

Basketball Tournament

Bridges program has begun lunch time sports at Spring View Middle School. Students are currently participating in a 5 on 5 basketball tournament. Teams of boys and girls were developed by students themselves. Girls and boys compete against each other while a Bridge student keeps score. Girls played well and during this game, the game was tied at the end of the game. Students involved in the tournament are enjoying the structured gaming experience during lunch.



Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Paul Kraft
Principal

Learning Opportunities Galore

Star View School roared into October with several exciting new and engaging programs!

To complement the school's upper-grade music program, this year Star View added primary music instruction in transitional kindergarten through the third grade, providing an introduction to music, instruments, and singing. Art instruction has also been enhanced school wide through the Art Explorers program. All of our Star View students now participate in this hands-on art program in which they first learn about an artist or genre, then create artwork of their own.

Soon, intramural sports at recess will also be introduced at Star View, offering our second- through fifth-grade students more healthy and fun choices during their recess time.

GATE and STEM projects were prevalent in October. Mr. Dybas' fifth-grade GATE students participated in the creation of STEM projects related to their study of the Native Americans from the Great Plains region. Each student designed a tepee frame from various materials and completed the outside cover with paper-mache.

Inspired by "Caine's Arcade," the third/fourth GATE scholars in Mrs. Olquin's class designed and created their own cardboard arcade. GATE students worked collaboratively to design and create fun games. These GATE scholars also created and demonstrated the game rules to accompany their projects.

In Mrs. Rodriguez's fourth/fifth class, students dove into the Next Generation Science Standards and explored various water sources. They discovered the surprising difference in the amount of freshwater and saltwater on the Earth's surface. The students were then challenged to design and engineer desalination projects. Boiling salt water and collecting steam vapor was one solution determined by the student engineers.

Finally, students demonstrated their projects by creating flip grids which can be accessed by the QR codes on the classroom wall.

Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tami Benane
Principal

Art Explorers

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement I share the Beautiful artistic creations from Village View.

Karen Bains, Art Explorers Teacher, prepared amazing art classes for all our elementary school students.

Students attend a weekly "How to lessons," then, dive into to create the art themselves. The Mosaic Pumpkins are only one example of the wonderful and inspiring art projects our students have made.

Art Explorers is a great program that taps into a child's imagination and creativity. Our students have learned how to produce beautiful creations of grade appropriate art displays.



Our teachers have collaborated for students to attend the instructional hands on art lessons.

A big thank you from Village View for the support of our great PTO in providing funds for Art Explorers.

Vista View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

Esports in Education!

Educators are special people, and the field of education is an equally special place. One of the reasons I am so enthusiastic about education is being a part of the moments when light bulbs go off for our students, learning is solidified, and passions are ignited that carry into adulthood. We are so privileged to announce some of the powerful work happening at Vista View that supports this narrative.

This is our first year launching a middle school esports pathway! We are passionate about building opportunities for students to discover who they are and what they want to pursue in their lives. Those moments start now. Our sixth grade Falcons will get to experience esports on a wheel rotation so that they can solidify a knowledge base, experience, and a potential desire to be apart of the 7th and 8th grade esports elective the following year. With a focus on equity and supporting females in the science field, we are thrilled to give 120 sixth grade students experience with esports. Equally as exciting, we have a year long 7th and 8th grade esports elective up and running this year as well.

All this hard work came to fruition because of two (out of many) dynamite teachers at Vista. Mrs. Cho and Ms. Lee partnered with me last year to visit a CIF championship esports high school facility. We dreamed big and their expertise and commitment to creating pathways for our middle school students has been a highlight of this fall. The 2021-2022 school year is off to a SOARing start at Vista!



Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Sue Broderson
Principal

Music for All

By Allison Eadie, First-Grade Teacher

The excitement among the elementary school campuses was evident on the first day of school. Students came prepared with backpacks and smiles for a new year ahead. But perhaps the most exciting thing on Westmont's campus was the return of the school's music program and its dedicated music teacher, Mrs. Kimberly Robles.

First-grade teacher Mrs. Alvis exclaimed, "To be able to lead our students into the music room again was a delight. Last year was a year without the addition of this amazing music program. I am so glad that it is back!"

Westmont is one of the only Ocean View elementary schools where all students in kindergarten through the fifth grade participate in a weekly music program. Students learn about rhythm, beat, and musical instruments



Westmont's music teacher, Mrs. Robles, leads a first grade class in a discussion about beat.

in their regular weekly lessons. It is considered an essential element of the visual and performing arts curriculum that all Westmont students participate in.

For students, it truly is one of the highlights of their week. First-grader Aiden put it best, "Yay! I love music!"

Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Cyndi Paik

Getting a Head Start

According to The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, an estimated 1 million computer science-related jobs in the United States went unfilled last year. Hiring professionals are concerned that the country's primary and secondary education systems are not prepared to help students with the technical knowledge needed to meet this fast growth.

At Finley Computer Science School, we are preparing our young minds for these high-demand skills and jobs. This California Gold Ribbon and Title I Achievement school offers students from TK to 5th grade a unique experience, such as learning coding skills or building their own computers as part of their curriculum.

When students learn computer science skills, they develop lifelong and essential competencies such as creativity, persistence, and collaboration, which is a must in today's world. At Finley, students learn and apply this knowledge while thinking critically and solving real-life problems in preparation for their 21st Century journey and perhaps being a leader in the computer industry.



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Multilingual Future

By Jeremy Khalaf, President, Board of Trustees

A total of \$10 million from this year's state budget has been set aside to support local Dual-Language Programs. Senator Tom Umberg chose the Westminster School District (WSD) to present a ceremonial check on behalf of the California Department of Education. A qualified school district will have to apply for this grant and receive a portion of the allocated amount. WSD is home to two Dual-Language Immersion Programs: DeMille Elementary, the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion in California. And Willmore Language Academy, home of the Spanish Dual Language and Coding programs.

Our WSD's dual-language programs received the CSBA Golden Bell Award for our accomplishments in preparing and teaching students world language skills to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. As a Board of Trustees, we have recognized that multilingualism is an essential skill. This grant will assist WSD in preparing our students for 21st-century careers and college.



Anderson Elementary (K-6)

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Physical Education

By Maria Gutierrez Garcia, Interim Principal

There is always excitement in the air when students at Anderson Elementary participate in their twice monthly sessions of Physical Education with our Westminster School District specialists who arrive with their equipment and their targeted standards based physical education lessons.

The team of four teaches all students from transitional kindergarten through sixth grades. The standards based lessons help students to develop gross motor skills, social skills, and teamwork while they also develop an awareness of habits for healthy living. The best part of it all is to listen to the squeals of happiness and joy and to witness the high level of engagement from all of the students following the seemingly endless number of months sitting and staring at computer screens.



Anderson third grade students listening to instructions from PE Specialist Teacher, Horacio Martin.

Clegg *Elementary (TK-5)*

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



John Staggs
Principal

Accelerated Readers!

We are off to a fantastic start of the 2021-22 school year at Clegg Elementary School! It has been wonderful to have our students back on campus daily.

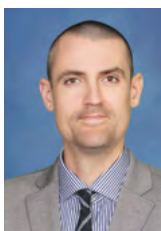
One of our programs that students participate in every year here at Clegg is the Accelerated Reader program. Students are encouraged to read Accelerated Reader chapter books and then take computerized tests, which will show their comprehension of the books they have chosen to read. Students then accumulate points with each test passed. The schoolwide goal this year is 18,000 AR points.

The top two earners of each grade level will have the opportunity to participate in the end-of-the-year Reading Reward Day event we do every year. In years past, students launched water balloons at staff members of their choice in front of the entire student body as a reward for their amazing effort throughout the school year. This year's event is still being discussed but is sure to be a lot of fun!

Our librarian, Ms. Alexander, works closely with our students and has a monthly reward system in place for students that achieve their monthly goals. Our students are doing a fantastic job, and we are positive they will more than meet the goal set for this school year.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Making School Fun

At Eastwood Elementary School, we do our best to make learning interactive and fun! It is not uncommon to see classes engaging in exciting science experiments or recreating historical events with the use of digital media technology and a Green Screen. While it is our mission to make learning engaging and relevant, we also encourage and incentivize positive behavior on campus to help us develop well-rounded students.

Whether it's showing good sportsmanship on the playground, being kind to books in the library, or teaching others who don't know how to play a game, our students practice being respectful, responsible, and safe while at school.

The students this year are extra-excited about showing their positive behavior on the Eastwood campus. Students caught being good are rewarded with our school's currency, called Dolphin Dollars, that can be spent at our new Dolphin Store.

We recently celebrated our store's grand opening, and were the students excited! Bright-eyed students arrived with Dolphin Dollars in hand ready to check out and purchase the amazing items that were available. School supplies, plush toys, jars of slime; all popular items were available for purchase at the Dolphin Store.

The truth is, our Eastwood students don't need much encouragement to show kindness to others, we really have so much to learn ourselves from their natural inclination to show compassion. Time to print up more Dolphin Dollars!



DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Mid-Autumn Festival 2021

DeMille recently celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival. The Mid-Autumn Festival, also called Moon Lantern Festival, is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month when the moon is the brightest. Originally a harvest festival, it is now a time to celebrate youth and family. In celebration of the Moon Festival, children make lanterns and moon masks and enjoy moon cake. Children then light their lanterns and participate in a procession.

Parents joined the celebration through Zoom. Principal, Dr. Villanueva, opened the festivities with a greeting. The librarian, Jane Ferguson read a story about Mid Autumn Festival. Students and staff wore ao dai, traditional Vietnamese dress, and carried lanterns as they paraded



through the school. The whole school came out of their classrooms to wave and cheer as the procession passed by. The Moon Festival parade was a fun way to bring cross-cultural understanding and celebrate with the whole school.

Finley *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Pam LeMueix
Principal

Let the Battles Begin!

Finley Computer Science Magnet students used their design-thinking skills to build a protective battle shell in our first-ever Battle Bot Tournament of Champions! The

challenge? Design a robot shell that can pop the competition's balloon while protecting their own balloon from being popped. Students used the engineering design process with real-life parameters of limited time and limited resources. "The students learned about the importance of testing their plans. Initially, many of the designs were so heavy they tipped over or their pins were not aimed properly to pop a balloon," explained Ms. Perry, who spearheaded the challenge. "Their second designs were so well thought out!"



Not only were our students' designs evidence of outside-the-box thinking, their robot driving skills were tested as well. Throughout the event, students were forced to redesign their battle shells to respond to heavy wind, heat and other unexpected conditions. In the end, one team remained undefeated- congratulations Chelsea and Valeria!

Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdck8.us



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Promoting Health and Safety

Fryberger promotes healthy living and the importance of safety. On October 6, we had a special Walk and Bike to school day. Students and some of their families left their homes a few minutes earlier and got some exercise before school. Our usual walkers were happy to see our school mascot, Freddie, in front of the school handing out stickers and bracelets for those that participated in the day's event. Signs posted reminded our families driving to be extra careful around our schools.

We have some fun walk/bike to school events planned for the future. Healthy living is not just a one-time event. At Fryberger, we teach students they need to practice healthy living on a daily basis. We aim to reduce environmental impacts by walking and improving the health and wellness of our students.



Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdck8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

First Outdoor PBIS Assembly

Johnson Middle School has had an amazing beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. The New Year without virtual Zoom classes has excited both students and staff. Students have arrived back to campus eager to learn and experience the amazing opportunities available at the school. Johnson prides itself on allowing students to explore their passion and experience a wide variety of programs meant to strengthen their school spirit and overall learning experiences. Johnson offers courses in Music, Theater, Yearbook, Robotics, Woodshop, Engineering and Design, Debate. Video Production, AVID, Leadership, Critical Thinking

and Vietnamese. Johnson also offers several extracurricular activities like National Junior Honor Society, Sports, and Drone Piloting. The school had its first outdoor PBIS assembly with members of the Go Green BMX team presenting an exciting message about staying positive and being motivated. Johnson Warrior Pride is stronger than ever this year and we all look forward to the amazing things our students are going to accomplish this year.



Hayden *Elementary (K–5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdck8.us



Mark Murphy
Principal

Red Ribbon Week

Hayden Elementary School is very excited to have the Friday Night Live program at our school. We partner with the Orange County Department of Education to bring this great program to Hayden. Under the direction of Tony Perez, a special ed teacher, the exciting club provides our 4th and 5th graders the skills, support, opportunities and competencies they need to become healthy, productive adults. Mr. Perez and the club offers a safe environment, opportunities for community engagement, opportunities for leadership, opportunities to build meaningful relationships and engage in interesting and relevant skill development activities. The club takes a big role on campus during Red Ribbon Week by



providing activities and engaging lessons for our students. It's always amazing to see our young leaders strive when a leadership role is provided to them and to watch them develop these skills under the guidance of Mr. Perez.

Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • land.wsdck8.us
714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Executive Director,
Early Education &
Expanded Learning

Autumn Happenings

Land School is an early-education site that provides programing for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age-, general- and special-education children. In October, all students and staff participated in the Great ShakeOut. As we knew it would be, it was a great success! Everyone including the infant classes were safe and accounted for during the drill. We were grateful for the nice weather for practicing this safety drill. Westminster School District sites practice a host of emergency drills to ensure the safety and welfare of all our children and staff.

October is also a month filled with color, pumpkins, leaves and creativity. The children at Land are exploring the colors orange, brown, yellow, red and green. You will find these seasonal colors



Infant class participate in the 2021 Great Shake Out!

all over the school and highlighted in the classroom activities. Pumpkins, gourds and squash of all kinds have invaded the lessons and activities. Children are able to explore these harvest offerings throughout the month. The teachers have developed great lessons that include vocabulary, language arts, number sense and, of course, art!

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsd8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

Phase I is Complete

Iva Meairs Elementary School, originally Sun Garden Village School was built in 1949. The original buildings still stand. Needless to say Meairs School can sometimes look a little sad, but things are definitely looking up. Phase one of our current renovation is complete. Our students in the A and B wing are now enjoying air conditioned classrooms, freshly painted walls, new lights and new windows. There is a new fire alarm system too. That isn't on the students' radar but the adults on campus are happy. These newly refreshed classrooms make the students feel like they are in a brand new school. And, yes, classroom environment does affect a child's ability to learn. Over the next few months the C and D wings will be under construction. By the New Year the renovation will be complete and all students will be enjoying a cleaner, brighter, temperature controlled environment. The students and staff at Iva Meairs Elementary School couldn't be happier!



Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsd8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Incredible Inventions

Have you ever wondered, "How can problem solving lead to new ideas and inventions?" That is exactly what our 3rd graders have been wondering and learning about! After reading stories and learning about inventions, the 3rd grade students

were challenged to create something that helped solve a problem. Students brainstormed and wrote about their ideas!

Here are just a few of the incredible inventions they thought of:

The Handy Bag Holder – Holds bags open so that items can be put in it easily

Hair Item Organizers – The box holds brushes, combs, clips, barrettes and more!

Device Holder – The colorful holder protects and holds a device.

Headband Holder – This ribbon easily organizes headbands so they are easy to see.

Pencil Holder – The holder organizes 5 pencils so they aren't lost in a student's desk.

Dress Machine – The machine chooses your clothes for the day and lays them out for you.

Great Job 3rd Graders!



Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsd8.us



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Book Tasting!

Ms. Kobzeff's fifth-grade class learned about restaurant etiquette while perusing a variety of books from different genres such as fiction, nonfiction and biographies. I was lucky enough to be invited to the "Kobzeff Restaurant" to experience Book Tasting Day. However, I first had to RSVP in advance!

As I approached Room 22 on Book Tasting Day, I encountered the chef—Mrs. Kobzeff in her chef hat and apron—as she was checking the guest list. Once the students and I entered the room, we were surprised with tables covered in the traditional red-and-white-checkered tablecloths, a centerpiece, a small bottle of water, a small treat, a menu of books, a pamphlet/menu and a reflection sheet, among other items. I was first seated at the table that had the nonfiction books to browse and discuss with the students at my table. Once we had ample opportunity to discuss and review books, we rotated to another table of books. This was definitely an engaging and memorable experience for me, and I am

sure it's an experience that these fifth-graders will never forget when they hear about book genres in their future.

I hope to continue to experience more learning events such as this one at Schmitt School. Thank you, fifth-graders, for welcoming me to your restaurant of books!



Sequoia *Academy*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsd8.us



April Derr
Principal

Annual Pumpkin Harvest

Our 2nd Grade students at Sequoia Academy had their first annual pumpkin harvest to celebrate the culmination of their Project Based Learning (PBL) unit on plants and animal life cycles. The students reviewed the pumpkin life cycle, harvested a pumpkin, and felt and identified all its parts. Students also had the opportunity to plant a bean seed and discuss what natural resources plants need to grow and produce food for the community. Another activity was to observe live caterpillars and learn about how they undergo a metamorphosis into a butterfly over time. They planted Milkweed plants to provide food for butterflies in the spring. Students made a sign using their hand prints, and our PTA sold the pumpkins as a fundraiser for the school. Incorporating the school garden into our learning has provided an opportunity for students to make real world connections and learn through meaningful hands-on STEM activities.



Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsd8.us



Wendy Baird
Principal

Stacy 101

Here at Stacey Middle School, we want all our students to be successful and to have a smooth start to the school year. This summer, we offered Stacey 101 to our new, incoming students. It was a 3-day on-campus orientation program, where students were equipped with strategies, skills, and advice to have a successful middle school experience both academically and personally. Our students participated in team building activities where they collaborated to reach a common goal. They practiced what it is like to rotate to different classes. The students took a guided tour of the campus and then partook in a scavenger hunt to reinforce locations. They discussed organizational skills, reviewed the school planner, and set goals for the year. At the end of the program, we surveyed the students about their experience, and we received raving reviews. With the success of Stacey 101, we plan to continue to host it next summer.



Students participating in a team-building and communication activity where they were drawing pictures on a plate on top of their head.



Students participating in a team-building activity of stacking cups with only a string.

Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsd8.us



Dr. Kenneth Lopour
Principal

Honors Science Program

The Warner Wildcat family is thrilled to be back in person again this year. We have had a smooth, productive, and energetic start to the school year. Our most beloved and successful programs are back in full swing, which include: intermural sports, more than 15 student clubs, our E-Sports program, Academic Pentathlon, computer coding competitions, and many other academic and interest based programs. For example, this past week our amazing Honors Science program continued its yearly partnership with Get Inspired Inc. and HUBBS SeaWorld Research Institute to help reintroduce White Sea Bass in our



7th grade students weighing and measuring White Sea Bass.

local oceans. A few days ago our 7th graders honors science students received their Fall batch of White Sea Bass and were able to weigh, measure, and implant head tags to track these fish when they are eventually released later this year. This is a great program that helps our students and our local environment and we could not be prouder of our students.

7thgrade students weighing and measuring White Sea Bass.

Webber *Elementary (K–6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsd8.us



Robert Murdock
Principal

New Musical Theater Program

Webber Elementary School has been an exciting place this last month. We started a new musical theater program. Fifty of our Webber Wolfpack will be putting on their very own production in February. One of our teachers also introduced a 3D printer club, giving kids the opportunity to use design thinking to create in three dimensions. Webber's sixth grade students have started fund raising for their annual trip to science camp. We also observed Red Ribbon Week, in an effort to steer students toward good life choices, and away from bad ones. Our students also began receiving awards for academics, behavior, and attendance.



Students observed Red Ribbon Week with Wear Red Day.

Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsd8.us



Eva Matthews
Principal

Willmore's Back

It has been amazing having back all of our Thunderbirds! We have really gotten into the swing of things here at Willmore. From the first day of school we have been having PE Days, Virtual Back to School, and parent-teacher conferences. The staff and teachers are also working diligently with our families to support student growth.

As a School Leadership Team, we began this year's focus discussions during our SLT meeting held on October 7th with a great group of teachers and district administrators. It truly takes a village to support our students academically and social-emotionally!

At Willmore, we also have a great counselor in Mrs. Moore; she takes pride in her role with our students. At the beginning of the school year she goes into each classroom and discusses positive behavior on the playground and how to support a healthy mind and exhibit a growth mindset.



Willmore volunteer's putting Halloween baggies together.

Our backbone though is the parent and community members who help spread the cheer of the season. Here we have a few volunteers putting together Halloween baggies for our students, following our Covid protocols of course. In the next article I look forward to sharing some amazing photos of our upcoming events, Halloween, Dia de los Muertos, and much more!

Wafflematics



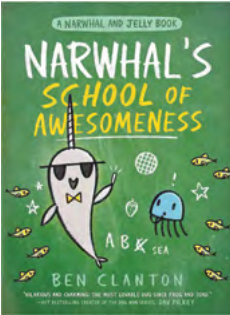
Daniel H.

Title: *Narwhal’s School of Awesomeness*
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to school. When they all get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold.

Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Wafflematics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn’t have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!



Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

The Soccer Journey



Jenna C.

Title: *Breakaway*
Author: Alex Morgan

Do you like playing soccer? Do you enjoy watching soccer games on your TV or in a stadium? If you do, you’ve probably heard of Alex Morgan. She is a professional soccer player. You might have seen her from the Olympics or the World Cup, well she wrote a book talking about her journey in soccer. She talks about tournaments she’s been to, the World Cup, Olympics, and etc.

My favorite story in this book is about her early stage on how she started soccer, who supported her, and how she got on such big teams. She also talks about how she handles losses, injuries, and negative thoughts. This book gives so much inspiration. She also tells you how to keep on practicing and how positive thinking can get you further. I definitely recommend this book to people who have a goal and want to reach it.



Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

One Big Puzzle



David H.

Title: *Holes*
Author: Louis Sachar

Holes is about a kid named Stanley who gets sent to a camp as punishment where he and other kids have to dig holes in the ground each day, looking for something for the camp warden. What I liked about this book is that it’s really 3 stories in 1. There are a bunch of “holes” in each story and the stories are like puzzle pieces that, when combined, make up one big fun story with bits of humor splashed throughout it. This is a “Mom, I know it’s bedtime but can I please read the next chapter?” type of book. I absolutely loved this book and you will too!



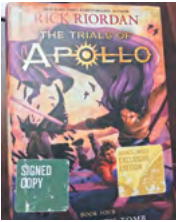
David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

The Tomb of a Dead Emperor



Sean

The Tyrant’s Tomb is the fourth book in Rick Riordan’s series, Trials of Apollo. Apollo (aka Lester Papadopoulos) was banished from Mount Olympus (home of the Greek Gods) by the almighty Zeus. During his exile, he experienced many adventures and losses. Meg, his 12 year-old gifted assistant, travels with him to a Roman demi-god camp, where they are greeted by lots of old war friends. Apollo has a vision and tells the camp to prepare for a gruesome war caused by two evil Roman emperors, both with whom Apollo had treacherously fought recently. He then needs to go on a dangerous journey investigating a Roman ghost tomb for crucial information. The vivid details of the battle preparation and fighting scenes are riveting. Overall, this book is a solid 5/5 and I hope you eventually read this amazing series!



Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

Hideout at the Museum



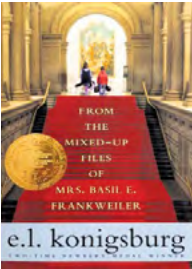
Taegyong K.

Title: *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Author: E. L. Konigsburg

What do you think that the museum is for? There is a girl who thinks a museum is good for hiding. Claudia Kincaid has complaints about her responsibilities at home and the things that make her uncomfortable. She decides to run away from home and makes a plan to go to the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York to hide so that nobody can find her. She leaves home and takes one of her brothers, Jamie, because he has some money that she needs to go there. Finally, Claudia and Jamie enter the museum and find a place to hide. Now, they start their adventure at the museum.

Can they keep hiding at the museum? Or will they get caught by the guards? What will happen to them at the museum? This book will lead you into the mysteries and adventures. Let’s dive into it.



Taegyong K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Monsters aren’t real...are they?



Tyson

Percy Jackson’s *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It’s also the start to the Percy Jackson series and what a start it is! I’ve read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have heard of the series but if you haven’t, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kick out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!



Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to play with his dog and meeting new neighborhood friends!



Kate Karp

Young Maestros

Tracy Bonham’s Grammy-nominated compositions might be familiar to some—Google “Mother Mother” if you’ve never heard it—but her gifts extend on beyond “Billboard.” Her classical training and devotion to developing a passion for music in very young children created the [Melodeon Music House Curriculum](#), which teaches music fundamentals to preschool youngsters.

You don’t need a spoonful of sugar to get children interested in music, but Bonham knows a most delightful way anyhow. “Young Maestros,” a collection of songs and games from Melodeon, opens with “Me Symphony,” in which Bonham laments how she misplaced her instruments everywhere—her tuba in Aruba, her shaker in Jamaica. But hey, she has her fingers, mouth, nose, feet and a beat as substitutes! Take heed, teachers and parents—there’s a great maps lesson in there.



Bonham puts the “fun” in “fundamentals” with “Beats to a Measure,” a pleasant, rapid-fire lesson in rhythm. “All the Blackbirds” gives flight to the black keys, and “Feelin’ Pretty Major” explains major and minor keys and how the upbeat feel of the former and the mournfulness of the latter comprise the music of life.

“Background Singers” is my personal favorite. Like the documentary “Twenty Feet from Stardom,” it pays homage to the unsung singers who provide the bones and body of a song. “Background Singers” tells what happens when a lead singer is unkind and unappreciative to them. Let’s say that she learns about harmony the hard way!

The final track on the collection is “A Song Without an Ending,” only 32 seconds long with an abrupt stop, but no satisfactory end. Bonham seems to be telling the Young Maestros, “You pick up from here!”

Little Stories of Great Composers Series

What better way to introduce children to great composers than with beautifully illustrated storybooks coupled with recordings of read-alouds and enhanced by tidbits of Tchaikovsky, morsels of Mozart and little Vivaldi victuals? Even better, a cheese-and-music-loving mouse narrates the tales!

Minim is the fly on the wall—rather, the mouse in the house—who gives young listeners slices of the composers’ lives as he scrounges for slices of cheddar. In “A Delicious Taste of Mozzarella!,” Minim slips out of a crack in the wall to eavesdrop on “Uncle Petya” surprising his niece and nephew with a gift: a musical score. The children are at first disappointed; then, their uncle teaches them how to play the composition on the piano. They realize how music can bestow magic on the spirit. Uncle Peta is, of course, Pyotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky.

In “That’s My Piano, Sir!” Minim is hoping for leftover goodies after voyagers leave a boat on a busy dock. A sudden crash shatters the briny air. An exhausted dockworker has dropped a huge crate, which turns out to be a folded piano. The customs officer is cranky and not in the mood for any tomfoolery until a nicely dressed, polite child says, “That’s my piano, sir!” The lad sits down, plays, and charms away everyone’s ill humor with “A Little Night Music.” Minim finds his cheese, and we discover Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart!

Concert pianist Ana Gerhard authored the books, and Marie Lafrance illustrated them. Canadian stage actor Colm Feore was the cultured voice of Minim, and Canadian chamber music orchestra I Musici de Montreal played the score. A wonderful introduction to great composers and, as Minim shows, just what the spirit needs today!



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

Road Trip Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by December 15, 2021.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble compliments of Barkate Orthodontics www.BarkateSmiles.com

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| MAPS | CAMERA | CLOTHING |
| BLANKET | CAR GAME | CELL PHONE |
| GPS | BOOTS | RADIO |
| PILLOW | SNACKS | MONEY |
| MOTEL | SUNGLASSES | FLASHLIGHT |
| HUMOR | WATER | CREDIT CARD |
| HOTEL | SUNSCREEN | SPARE TIRE |



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