

**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 62**

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

**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2014**

## Students Are Back In School!

### Reflecting & Looking Forward

*By Michael Vo, Mayor  
City of Fountain Valley*

Yes, the summer has started to wind down, but it was a summer filled with exciting city activities, such as Summerfest with its carnival rides, plenty of food at every turn, live music and the Fountain Valley Car Show. Concerts in the park were held every Thursday in July, with live music from classic soul to tributes to Elvis and The Beatles. Movies in the Park provided family-friendly movies, food, games and much more. This year was the first year the city hosted Market in the Park and Street Fair at the Fountain Valley Recreation Center. Thursday evenings from 5–8 p.m., the community event featured certified farmers produce, a vendors' village, live entertainment, and

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**Students are back in school—please drive safely.**

### Welcome Back Students

*By Matthew Harper, Mayor  
City of Huntington Beach*

I hope you all had an excellent summer vacation. Time to brush off the sand and get ready to learn!

Huntington Beach had a tremendous summer, with many successful events. In June, we kicked off the start to summer celebrating 100 Years of Surfing and 100 Years of the 1914 Huntington Beach Pier. Some of our local surfers took part in a old, wooden board surfing exhibition that weekend and demonstrated that surfing on a 90-pound board is truly not as easy as it seems! The same weekend, we held a special ceremony in honor of our beloved pier, as many special guests reflected on her history and beauty.

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## Homework Help & Fall Reading Program

*By Barbara Richardson  
Senior Librarian Programming  
and Youth Services  
Huntington Beach Central Library*

The library offers a free online tutoring service and an after-school homework club. The library's online homework database is available at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org) with a library card. Click on the Help Now/Brainfuse button. Those without library cards can access Brainfuse at the library. Connect with live tutors from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily year-round. Resume help, practice tests, and writing labs are also available.

The Central Library Homework Club starts September 22. It is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Maddy Room. Volunteer tutors help children with their homework. Students and parents will need to register with the onsite coordinator at the start of the homework session. Adults interested in being tutors can call (714) 374-5338.

The Oak View Branch Library has a homework club which meets Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Children and parents must register with the onsite homework coordinator before tutoring will begin. For more information about the Oak View Homework Club, please call (714) 375-5068.

The library's fall reading program will be starting October 4 for children ages 4–12. Children may sign up online at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org) or at the library. Each child who reads five library books will earn a hamburger or cheeseburger.

September 19 is Speak Like a Pirate Day. Use the library's database, Mango, at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org), to learn the pirate language. Mango teaches over 63 different languages, which are spoken around the world. Little Pim is our language learning database for children.

## Partnership Prepares Students

*By Dr. Al Mijares, Superintendent  
Orange County Dept. of Education*

Orange County is a diverse and dynamic region with the human and economic resources necessary to lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. The California Career Pathways Trust grant can significantly contribute to this vision. The California Department of Education has awarded the Orange County Career Pathways Partnership (OCCPP) a \$15 million California Career Pathways Trust grant to create a countywide infrastructure to expand career pathways for students from kindergarten through college. Led by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Saddleback College, OCCPP is one of twelve recipients awarded a \$15 million grant and represents the largest regional consortium in the state.

Orange County school districts, institutions of higher education, businesses, and community

partners will make up this regional consortium to ensure that our students have the opportunity to explore their interests and participate in career pathways of their choosing. OCCPP will make career pathway programs accessible to Orange County students from all academic, socio-economic, and achievement levels ranging from Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students, to alternative education students, foster youth, and students with physical and learning disabilities. OCCPP will provide courses and learning experiences that produce competent graduates capable of securing high-skill, high-wage jobs.

Students will participate in career exploration and on-the-job training that prepares them to earn certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and advanced degrees in three target

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Childhood Cancer, What You Need to Know



Amanda Termuhlen, MD  
Medical Director  
Jonathan Jaques  
Children's  
Cancer Center

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the age of 15 in the U.S. and spares no ethnic group, socioeconomic class or geographic region. The odds of a child developing cancer by the age of 20, is approximately 1 in 330. Cancers in children can be hard to recognize right away because early symptoms often overlap with those caused by much more common illnesses or injuries.

Childhood Cancer Signs and Symptoms:

- Continued, unexplained weight loss
- Headaches, often with early morning vomiting
- Increased swelling or persistent pain in bones, joints, back or legs
- Lump or mass, especially in the abdomen, neck, chest, pelvis or armpits
- Development of excessive bruising, bleeding or rash
- Constant infections
- A whitish color behind the pupil
- Nausea which persists or vomiting without nausea
- Constant tiredness or noticeable paleness
- Eye or vision changes which occur suddenly and persist
- Recurrent or persistent fevers of unknown origin

Make sure your child has regular medical check-ups and watch for any unusual signs or symptoms that don't go away. An early diagnosis is the best way for a child to beat a cancer diagnosis.

Tell your pediatrician if you are worried about any prolonged symptoms that your child has. Your child's doctor can work with you to assess your child's risk, by reviewing family medical history, a physical examination or screenings.

MillerChildrens.org/Cancer (562) 933-8600



Kay Coop  
Founder/Publisher



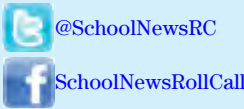
Welcome back to another new school year. We are delighted to include the Huntington Beach City School District beginning with this issue.

We asked the principals to share their bios with you. It is always fun to see where they went to school, if they have pets, about their families and hobbies. They all share the common thread of dedication to education.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is November 12. Until then have a Happy Halloween!

Covering the:  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY/ OCEAN VIEW  
HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY  
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

Jacob, 3, has a rare form of leukemia, called Philadelphia Chromosome Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Ph+ALL), where cancer cells multiply in his bone marrow leaving the cancer hard to combat. Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach's research portfolio included an international clinical trial specifically targeting Jacob's very rare form of leukemia. His treatment data is shared with a national consortium, so Jacob is helping save other kids just like him.

From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.

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Our specialty:  
Pediatric Cancer Research

Jacob's specialty:  
Saving the World



Jacob, 3-years-old,  
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Dr. Etan Orgel, pediatric oncologist

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**Crystal Olson '11, M.A.Ed. '12**

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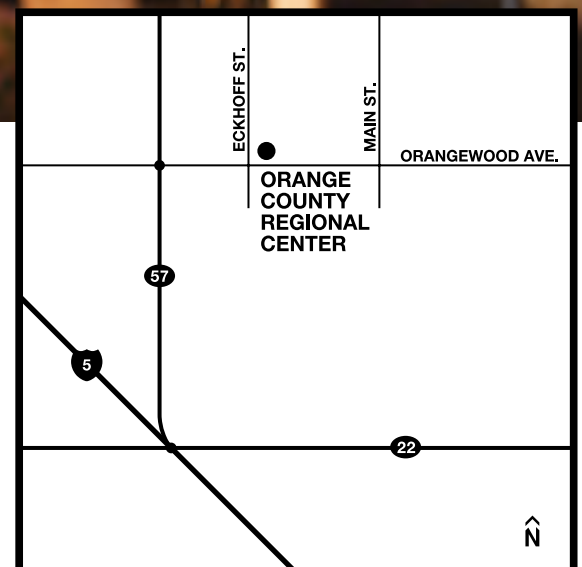
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for the contest on page 22?



# Stroke Care You Can Trust

As a Primary Stroke Center, certified by the Joint Commission, and Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center designated by Orange County EMS, we know that time is brain.

Hospitals that have been certified as stroke centers specialize in the treatment of stroke and make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care.

Fewer than one in five Americans can recognize a symptom of a stroke. A stroke, or "brain attack," often causes physical and emotional disabilities including speech problems, memory loss and paralysis. Emergency treatment with a clot-buster drug called t-PA must be given within 3 hours of the onset of symptoms to help minimize or completely eliminate these disabilities.



**Fountain Valley Regional**  
HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER



## Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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

## High Blood Pressure and Stroke



**Morgan Reider,**  
**RN, BSN**  
*RN Stroke  
Coordinator*

Approximately every 40 seconds someone in the United States has a stroke and roughly every four minutes someone dies of a stroke, making it the fourth-leading cause of death. The most important risk factor for stroke is high blood pressure. This condition can damage blood vessels throughout the body, causing them to narrow and clog more easily or weaken them. When blood vessels in the brain become blocked or break brain cells begin to die and the brain is not able to function properly.

Blood pressure is expressed in two numbers that are measured in millimeters of mercury (mmHg). Normal blood pressure is less than 120/80 mmHg. Blood pressure is considered to be high if it is 140/90 mmHg or higher.

Blood pressure can be controlled by making lifestyle changes or taking medication.

- Reducing salt in foods
- Eating healthy foods: fruits, vegetables, whole-grain foods, low-fat or fat-free dairy products, lean meats, and low-fat snacks
- Maintaining a healthy body weight
- Engaging in physical activity on a regular basis by exercising
- Limiting alcohol intake: no more than two alcoholic drinks a day for men and one per day for women
- Not smoking
- Taking medications as directed by your physician to lower blood pressure

For more information about high blood pressure, talk with your doctor or visit the American Stroke Association Web site at [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org).

### RECOGNIZING STROKE SYMPTOMS CAN BE EASY IF YOU REMEMBER TO THINK F.A.S.T.



**F**ACE  
Look for an  
uneven smile



**A**RM  
Check if one  
arm is weak



**S**PEECH  
Listen for slurred  
speech



**T**IME  
Call 911 at the  
first sign

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR STROKE PROGRAM, VISIT [WWW.FOUNTAINVALLEYHOSPITAL.COM/STROKECARE](http://WWW.FOUNTAINVALLEYHOSPITAL.COM/STROKECARE)



# Falling in Love



Susan D. Marshall

My mom used to always say, “Date men you would be willing to marry.” She wanted me to set certain standards and expectations based on who I was and who I wanted to be. Wise advice.

Follow this advice when selecting the “perfect college” or “your dream school” Who do you want to be? Start with the end in mind. First start with your career path, followed by your major, and then the colleges that will speak to your future.

There is no question your “Heart” should play a role in the decision process. You are going to live the next 4 – 6 years there. You are going to spend a lot of money. You need to love it.

There is a school out there for you. There are over 4,000 colleges and universities. Narrow down your list then... Go on a date! (Warning: do not eliminate schools based on sticker price. This could be a mistake.)

When you visit, reflect on what is important to you. Picture yourself living there. Consider if you will be able to handle the weather or the big city. Ask yourself what else attracts you. Is it the valuable opportunities such as internships, or travel abroad? Is it the big name basketball or football team?

Visit if possible when school is in session: Go to a game. Attend a concert, a play, or another event. You will begin to get the feeling of what it is like to be a college student.

In the end, ask yourself the hard questions. Why do I want to go there? Is it only because that’s where everyone in the family has attended for generations? Is it only because of my boyfriend or girlfriend?

Be wise in making your choice. This is YOUR Future! Apply to a number of schools. Wait for letters of acceptance, evaluate financial aid award offers. Then go for it! Select the school that you want to marry. To your future success!

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at [www.college4less.com](http://www.college4less.com)

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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marc Ecker**

Marc Ecker has served since 1996 as Superintendent of the Fountain Valley School District. He is the chair of the Orange County Special Education Alliance and he served as chair of the Orange County Superintendent's Organization for two terms, 2006-08. Dr. Ecker was appointed to the Schools First Federal Credit Union Board in 2006 and continues to serve as a member of the California State University Doctoral Program Executive Committee.

Dr. Ecker is the immediate past President of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and has served as a member of the Board of Directors in addition to serving on numerous committees within ACSA in an effort to improve conditions for California schools, especially concerning fair and equitable state funding with more local district control. He serves as a consultant at ACSA Academies for principals, chief business officials and superintendents speaking on school finance and school board relations.

Dr. Ecker has served on the State Public Schools Accountability Act Advisory Committee which focuses on California educational standards, assessment and accountability. He also served two terms on the Financial Crisis Management Assistance Team Board of Directors which helps school districts that are in financial trouble. Dr. Ecker continues to serve on the board of the California League of Schools. In addition to having served the organization as president, he now serves as the Financial Officer. He is a past president of the Association of Middle Level Educators, formerly known as the National Middle School Association. He is a past board member of Junior Achievement and was selected to serve on the Advisory Panel for Measured Progress, an educational assessment corporation.

Dr. Ecker received the Tracey Gaffey Award from ACSA Region 17 in 2008 and was recognized as the Orange County Superintendent of the Year in 2009.

Dr. Ecker has long been an active member of Rotary and he served as President of Fountain Valley Rotary Club during the 2007-08 year. Dr. Ecker teaches Finance and Organizational Leadership in the School of Educational Administration at California State University, Fullerton.

Dr. Ecker graduated with his Bachelor's Degree and teaching credential from UCLA. He received his Master's Degree from Cal State Fullerton and his Doctorate from United States International University, San Diego. He is married to wife Linda of 41 years, with three successful adult children: Jacqueline, Michael, and Molly; and five wonderful grandchildren.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

My name is Judy Edwards and I am serving my fourth term on the board of trustees for the Fountain Valley School District. I am currently the president and I have found that my experience as a teacher served me well in my years on the board. I retired from the Westminster School District in 2001 after teaching special education for more than 20 years. I continue to work in the field of education as a Field Supervisor for Chapman University, in the credential program for Special Education.

While serving on the school board I have been involved with the district ACE committee, Special Education Committee, Superintendent Parent Council and the Health and Wellness Committee. I am also very involved with CSBA, California School Boards Association, both at the local level, serving on their board of directors for, at least, 12 years and at the State level as a member of Delegates Assembly.

My husband, Dale, and I have been residents of Fountain Valley for 47 years, raising both of our children here. We are proud grandparents of four.

I will not be running for a re-election this fall and will be, instead, serving as the president of the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation.

## Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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

## We Fill the Financial Gap



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

The Fountain Valley School District does such a great job of educating our children – student achievement is consistently among the top countywide – that many people are surprised to find out that per pupil funding for our local schools ranks nearly at the bottom among all Orange County school districts! In fact, the next best-funded district gets \$150 more per student, and the median K-8 district gets about \$500 more per student than we do! This is where the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation comes in. We help fill the gap – so that our neighborhood schools can compete in what many call STEAM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. We've provided essential funding for arts and music, robotics and more. These subjects are critical to the success of our community and our children in the future economy we will all inhabit.

But our name causes confusion. "What do you do?" people ask. For greater clarity, soon we will be changing our name to the Fountain Valley SCHOOLS Foundation – to emphasize that we help our local schools succeed! We want to fill that \$150 per student gap and ensure our community does not fall behind.

We have increased our board, recruiting more community and business members. We need parents' help too. When you see the Foundation membership flyer, please help with your gift. Help us fill that \$150 gap for our students! Join our team today! Visit [www.fvschools.org](http://www.fvschools.org).

**Save the Date** - Support our Taste of Fountain Valley fundraiser on January 31!

## Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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## Roch Courreges *Elementary (K–5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • [www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courregs.html](http://www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courregs.html)



**Chris Christensen**  
*Principal*

I am looking forward to another exciting and rewarding year serving as the principal at our amazing school. This will be a significant year, with our teachers and students engaging in further exploration of the state's new Common Core State Standards, piloting our second year of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing system, and becoming more familiar with teaching and learning in our new small-group instructional model.

This is my 14th year working as an administrator in the Fountain Valley School District. Prior to coming to Courreges, I served as principal at Fulton Middle School from 2006–2011, principal at Moiola School from 2003–2006, and assistant principal at Masuda Middle School from 2001–2003. Prior to working in the FVSD, I was a middle school instrumental music teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District. I graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in business economics, a master's degree in education from National University, and educational administrative credential from UC Irvine. I have three children of my own: Brittany, 18; Miranda, 13; and Conner, 11.

Welcome again to the 2014–15 school year. I look forward to leading all of the students, teachers and parents through another excellent year at our newly named CA Distinguished School.

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

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

**Kevin Johnson, Principal**

With the start of the 2014-2015 school year Kevin enters his twelfth year in education. He began his career as an English Language Arts/Social Studies core teacher in Riverside, California where he worked for three years. After a two year contract as a curriculum developer at the high school level he returned to the middle school level at El Rancho in Anaheim Hills where he taught for two years then entered administration and served for the following five years as an ASB Director, CJSF Coordinator, Academic Pentathlon Coach, and Assistant Principal. In addition to a Bachelor's degree and teaching credential in English Language Arts, he also holds a Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural Education and a Master of Science in Leadership from Pepperdine. He is currently enrolled in studies at the University of California, Irvine and will soon begin doctoral studies at the University of Southern California. Kevin's guiding educational philosophy is to make every decision according to "what is truly best for the students." As an Orange County native Kevin is thrilled to join the Fountain Valley School District and is looking forward to an exciting school 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*

My name is Jay Adams and I am so excited to be returning for my second year as the Masuda Monarchs' Principal! Previously, I had worked at Tamura and Gisler Elementaries and Sowers Middle School in Huntington Beach. Prior to that time, I worked extensively in San Bernardino as a middle school English teacher, a school counselor, and a program specialist at the District Office. My favorite part of being a principal is getting to watch students grow and change from "in-betweeners" into confident young men and women. They experience so much transformation from fifth through eighth grade. I also enjoy

working with At-Risk students, developing strategies and plans to help them learn and to keep them moving on target. One of my main goals is getting each

## James H. Cox *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

Mr. Patrick Ham has been an educator for over 10 years, having taught both elementary and middle school students. Mr. Ham is bilingual, and lived in Seoul and Incheon, South Korea for the first seven years of his life.

When Mr. Ham is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, watching a great film, following his favorite pro and collegiate teams (UCLA Bruins), and following his new enjoyment: fishing with his wife.

When asked to share about Cox Elementary School, Mr. Ham said: "The Cox staff is dedicated to working in a respectful and inclusive environment to ensure that all students are motivated to achieve personal growth and academic excellence. We firmly believe that, together with our students, parents and the community, we have and will continue to strive towards the goal of creating the exceptional educational experience.

"The 2014–2015 school year promises to be another great year of academic excellence, where new technology, Common Core, and differentiated instruction are utilized here at Cox Elementary School."

Mr. Ham attended UCLA, and received his Master of Science degree in education from CSUF.

## Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Erin Bains**  
*Principal*

Ms. Bains has been an educator for over 19 years. She taught for 11 years at Eastwood Elementary School in the Westminster School District. While there she taught 4th grade, a 1st-3rd grade multi-age class, and 6th grade. She came to Fountain Valley as the Assistant Principal at Masuda Middle School and then became principal at Moiola School before moving to Gisler Elementary School.

Ms. Bains attended college at Loyola Marymount University and received her Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction as well as her administrative credential at Cal State University, Fullerton.

She feels very fortunate to be a member of the Fountain Valley School District and to have worked with amazing staffs. At Gisler, the staff is committed to the success of students and truly believes in the power of professional development. They readily take on new curricular challenges; programs and strategies are often brought to the staff from the professional readings done outside of the classroom. The passion of the staff is contagious and Ms. Bains is looking forward to another year with this fantastic group.

The community of Gisler also wants the best for their students giving countless hours of their time inside and outside of the classroom. Students cherish the support they receive and without the volunteer moms, dads, grandparents and other family members, Gisler would not be able to run as many programs and activities as it does, nor be as successful as it is.

Ms. Bains is looking forward to the 2014-2015 school year!

Monarch to internalize our school motto: "Take a Second. Make a Difference." Values and making change to better our world are important tenets which I hope to impart to each and every Masuda student!

At home, my name is "mom" to four children—Julian (sixteen), Isaiah (fourteen), Kaia (eleven), and Asia (nine). We have a busy household including eight pets: a hedgehog, a ferret, three cats, and three birds. My favorite activity in my free time (when there is some) is SCUBA diving. I especially like to travel to Catalina Island, where I have dived with the Garibaldi, bat rays, lobsters, sea lions, and even an angel shark! I am also a Tim Burton fanatic! Love Jack Skellington, Frankenweenie, Edward Scissorhands...you name it!

Next time you're in the area, stop by and say hello to me at Masuda. You'll find me out in the community, somewhere in a classroom, or out on the blacktop refereeing basketball (or even tossing one up myself). I'm so blessed to be here!



## 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*

Christopher Mullin has lived in and around Fountain Valley for over 34 years. He attended kindergarten through eighth grade at Moiola Elementary. He then attended and graduated from FVHS. After high school, Mr. Mullin attended Orange Coast College for a year and then decided to take the road less traveled. Over the next two years, he would be employed as a wild-land firefighter with CDF and with US Forestry as a backcountry ranger.

In time, Mr. Mullin enrolled at Montana State University. Upon completion of his bachelor's in education, he immediately found a job as a fifth-grade teacher at a K–12 school in the small rural town of Three Forks, working there for three years. Eventually he made his way back to the Fountain Valley School District teaching science and PE at Masuda Middle School, where he taught for five years. As an administrator, Mr. Mullin worked at both Fulton and Masuda Middle Schools. Last year he took over the principal duties at Newland Elementary!

Newland is a school with a proven record of high academic achievement and one that promotes a learning community characterized by child-centered differentiated instruction. Our staff and students have a history of making educational excellence a habit. This is evident in the fact that Newland was awarded the prestigious California Distinguished School and nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School. The faculty at Newland is dedicated to creating a learning environment where students may achieve to their highest ability.

When not at school, Mr. Mullin can be found enjoying time with his wife, son and daughter. Free time is often spent fishing from his kayak, going to Angels games, or cooking for family and friends.

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

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • [www.talbertms.fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.talbertms.fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Jennifer Morgan**  
*Principal*

Serving last year as assistant principal, Jennifer Morgan will serve as the new principal at Talbert Middle School. Beginning her career in Garden Grove Unified School district, Jennifer served nine years as a teacher at Garden Grove High School and two years as a middle school counselor at Alamitos Intermediate. She then served as a middle school math teacher and assistant principal for five years at Warner Middle School in the Westminster School District. She is ecstatic to have the opportunity to continue working with the wonderful staff and students at Talbert Middle School.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of California, Riverside and a Master of Arts degree in counseling from Chapman University. She holds credentials in teaching, counseling, and administration.

In addition to her passion for students and education, Jennifer values spending time with her two children who are entering 2nd and 3rd grade. She is looking forward to an exciting and challenging year as a first year principal.

## Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K–5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • [www.htes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.htes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Kathy Davis**  
*Principal*

I welcome everyone to the 2014–2015 school year. I am very excited as I enter my second year as the principal of Tamura. This last school year was filled with many successes, and I am very much looking forward to watching our Tigers set new goals and endeavors for 2014-15.

Tamura has such an amazing family of students, teachers and staff members, as well as incredibly supportive parents, and I feel very fortunate to be working with this inspiring and talented community.

I started my career teaching in the Westminster School District, and began my administrative career working for two years as an assistant principal before I joined the Fountain Valley School District. This is

## 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*

Erik Miller is beginning his fourth year as the principal of Isojiro Oka Elementary School. He feels blessed to be part of a fantastic Fountain Valley School District team and specifically lead an Oka staff that is all about putting students “First!” Oka is proud to consistently be ranked in the top tier of schools both in Orange County and throughout California.

Mr. Miller enjoys nothing more than leading a team of exceptional staff members who help Oka students thrive in environments that are positive, engaging and focused on student learning. As principal, he works from the principle that students will do their best when they are connected to their classroom through academic challenge balanced with a setting that promotes positive character development. Whether in a classroom working with students, playing handball with children at recess, or in the computer lab, Mr. Miller is all about helping students grow as scholars and as people.

Before coming to Oka, Mr. Miller served as Talbert Middle School's assistant principal and also worked in Irvine Unified as a teacher and administrator at both the elementary and middle school levels. Mr. Miller and his wife Kelley, also a teacher, are parents of three children. Their oldest daughter is in middle school and two sons in elementary school. When away from the Oka campus, Mr. Miller's favorite things to do include playing golf, volunteering at church and being a Dad!

## 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*

Julie Ballesteros has been an educator for the past 17 years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in education from Arizona State University. She began her career in education as a reading specialist in Phoenix, Arizona. Mrs. Ballesteros then returned to her hometown in California to teach kindergarten and first grade for nine years in the Glendora Unified School District.

Mrs. Ballesteros continued her education and received a Master of Arts in educational administration at Azusa Pacific University. This led her to becoming a Glendora middle school assistant principal for two years. She actually worked at the same school she attended as a child! This opportunity ignited her passion for educational administration.

Mrs. Ballesteros is now beginning her seventh year as the proud principal of Plavan Elementary School in the Fountain Valley School District. “I am blessed to work with an incredible staff and community that are truly committed to educating the minds and the hearts of all our students,” she said. “My experiences in Fountain Valley have helped me grow as an educator, and I look forward to learning together again this year.”

When Mrs. Ballesteros is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter. They currently reside in Mission Viejo, where they love to go to the beach and spend time with family and friends.

my ninth year as a principal in the Fountain Valley School District. I served my first seven years as principal of Newland, and am absolutely thrilled to be entering my second year as a part of an incredible staff and community support network here at Tamura.

This school year our teachers will continue with their work on the new Common Core implementation, and will work collaboratively within and across subject areas to provide students with the best learning opportunities possible. We will also continue our efforts to embed PBIS strategies into the school culture to help build our students' awareness of their roles at Tamura, and provide them with an opportunity to make good choices both academically and socially.

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Gregory Haulk**

Gregg Haulk has 25 years of experience working in public education and more than 15 years experience as a school administrator. He has worked as a teacher, vice-principal, principal, and superintendent at several school districts. In 2011, he became the Huntington Beach City School District Superintendent. Mr. Haulk is a graduate of the California State University, San Bernardino with a Master Degree in Education from National University. He received his Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential from the University of LaVerne and his Professional Clear Administrative Services Credential from California State University, Chico. Mr. Haulk serves on several committees and has chaired the West Orange County Consortium of Special Education (WOCCSE) Superintendents' Council in 2013 and chairs the Children and Families Commission Advisory Committee, Pediatrics Health Services Subcommittee. He is also an integral part of the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation.



**Celia Jaffe**

*Member*

### Governing Board Member

Celia Jaffe joined the Board of Trustees in 2004. Mrs. Jaffe earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in education from Stanford University. She taught high school English near Richmond, Virginia, before moving to Huntington Beach in 1987. She has been an at-home parent and "professional volunteer" ever since. HBCSD has seen Mrs. Jaffe in many roles over the last twelve years including Eader and Sowers PTA president; Peterson Site Council president; member of the 7-11 Committee, Budget Committee, a textbook adoption review, and District Advisory Committee; and officer of the Huntington Beach Education Foundation. Huntington Union Council PTA and 4th District PTA currently have Mrs. Jaffe serving on their executive boards. Mrs. Jaffe was re-elected in 2006 and her current term ends in 2014.



**Brian Rechsteiner**

*Member*

### Governing Board Member

Brian Rechsteiner was first elected to serve on the Board of Trustees in 1992. His participation in community activities includes the City of Huntington Beach Community Services Commission member of 11 years, past Board Member for the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation, Director of the local Sparkling Angel Foundation, and a past member of the Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Rechsteiner received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach and retired as a marketing manager from Exxon Mobil Corporation after 35 years of service. Mr. Rechsteiner and his wife, Marsha, have two children who attended HBCSD schools. Re-elected for a sixth term on November 6, 2012, Mr. Rechsteiner's term will expire in 2016.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Rosemary Saylor**

*President*

### Governing Board President

Rosemary Saylor was first elected to the Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees in November 2006. She was raised in Massachusetts, the oldest of nine children. Mrs. Saylor earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Graphic Arts from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts. She has taught Calligraphy and Chinese Brush Painting classes at Coast Community College and through the Huntington Beach Adult Education School and she was also a substitute teacher in HBCSD for several years. Mrs. Saylor and her husband, David, have lived in Huntington Beach since 1978 and their three children have attended HBCSD schools, where Mrs. Saylor was very involved in PTA. She has been the operations manager for her husband's Huntington Beach based business since 1997. Aside from being this year's HBCSD Governing Board President, Mrs. Saylor is also on the board of directors for the Orange County School Board Association. She will be up for re-election to the HBCSD Governing Board in November 2014.



**Shari Kowalke**

*Vice President*

### Governing Board Vice President

Shari Kowalke was appointed as the provisional member of the Huntington Beach City School District governing board on May 10, 2011 at a Special Meeting. Mrs. Kowalke has a long history of involvement in HBCSD and is recognized as a strong advocate for youth and public education. Her leadership and participation in HBCSD includes serving on Moffett School PTA legislative team: served as PTA President and Executive Vice-President, School Site Council Chairperson and Secretary; Vice President of Ways and Means for Sowers PTA; Parliamentarian for the Huntington Union Council; District School Closure Committees; HBCSD Parent Empowerment Academy Planning Committees; and YMCA Parent Advisory Committee: served as President, Vice-President, Secretary and member. Mrs. Kowalke and her husband, Thomas, have lived in Huntington Beach for 17 years. She is the mother of two children and her youngest attends HBCSD. Mrs. Kowalke was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees on November 6, 2012 and her term ends in 2014.



**Bridget Kaub**

*Clerk*

### Governing Board Clerk

Bridget Kaub was appointed as the provisional member of the Huntington Beach City School District governing board on February 15, 2012 at a Special Meeting to complete the unexpired term of Ms. Catherine McGough. Her leadership and participation in HBCSD includes serving on Smith School PTA legislative team, facilitates the Meet the Masters programs, volunteers to help in the classrooms, and advocates Smith and Dwyer Schools' positions and needs at the Sacramento Safari. Mrs. Kaub and her husband, Keith, are the parents of a child who attends HBCSD. Mrs. Kaub was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees on November 6, 2012 and her term will end in 2016.

**We are pleased to include the Huntington Beach City School District in *School News*.**

# 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*

Mrs. Debbi Randall is going into her third year as the principal of Eader Elementary School; however she has been a site administrator in Huntington Beach City School District for seven years and in total for 12 years. Prior to becoming an administrator, she taught for many years, from preschool through high school levels. Mrs. Randall was a district grant facilitator and Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment coordinator, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

She earned her undergraduate degree at California State University, Long Beach and her master's degree in educational leadership and her administrative credential at National University. She loves collaborating with students, staff, and parents to create the best learning environment possible for all children and is looking forward to another successful school year with the Eagles community.

Mrs. Randall has one adult daughter and lives with her husband, Mike, and their adorable furry pooch, Harley, in Huntington Beach!

# 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*

This is Dr. Morgan Smith's 12th year in education. He has served as an art and three-dimensional animation teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal. Dr. Smith is starting his fifth year as the principal of Dwyer Middle School in the Huntington Beach City School District. Dr. Smith earned his bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach, his master's degree in education from Alliant University, and his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Smith is married and has two children. He enjoys camping, fishing and traveling with his family and friends. Above all, Dr. Smith is a student-centered advocate who believes students thrive in an opportunity-rich environment. Dr. Smith believes that "students who explore what interests them will discover a passion for learning that can open doors to the future."

# 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*

Dr. Huibregtse has been in education for 29 years as an elementary school teacher, a middle school and elementary school assistant principal, and a principal.

In the Huntington Beach School District, Dr. Huibregtse served as the principal of Perry Elementary School for the past six years and is beginning her first year at Seacliff Elementary School for the 2014–15 school year. She holds clear California credentials in teaching and administration and earned her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. In California, she completed her Master of Arts degree in educational administration at Cal State Bakersfield University and her doctorate in education with the University of LaVerne.

Dr. Huibregtse is married and loves running, cycling, sailing and outdoor activities anywhere in beautiful Orange County. Building collaborative relationships with all members of the school community to strengthen student achievement is the focus of her work. Therefore, getting to know the Seacliff school community, especially the students, is something she is looking forward to in the fall.

# 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*

Julie Jennings has been in education for 28 years as an elementary school teacher, an assistant principal, a principal and an assistant superintendent of personnel services. Her teaching career began in Bonsall Union School District after she completed her bachelor's and master's degrees from Occidental College. In Morongo Unified School District, Ms. Jennings served as a site administrator for seven years. In South Pasadena Unified, she spent seven years as a principal of Arroyo Vista Elementary School, a California Distinguished School and Blue Ribbon School, before serving six years as the assistant superintendent of personnel.

After spending time serving as the assistant superintendent in a high school district, Ms. Jennings missed her passion of working directly with school communities to foster learning communities for all and pursued an opportunity to return back to a school site. Beginning her third year as the principal of Hawes Elementary School, which received a California Distinguished School award in the spring of this past school year, Ms. Jennings is excited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Hawes this year. She holds clear credentials in teaching and administration.

Mrs. Jennings has been married for 23 years and has a daughter in college as well as about 770 children with whom she spends each day! She loves reading, playing tennis and being outside—camping, hiking, beaching, etc.! And she loves being part of the amazing community of Hawes and fosters the strength and resources within the school community to ensure that all of the students access enriching opportunities. We are Hawes—40 years strong!

# S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



**Michael Andrzejewski**  
*Principal*

Michael Andrzejewski, or "Mr. A.," has been in education for 27 years, with teaching experience in both the middle and elementary levels. He has also served as an elementary principal for 21 years. Having taught in Iowa, Mr. A. served as an elementary principal in both South Dakota and Iowa before continuing in that role in California.

Upon moving to California and beginning work in the Huntington Beach City School District, Mr. A. was principal of Agnes Smith Elementary School for 11 years. Four years ago he transferred to Moffett Elementary School, where he continues to serve. Mr. A. earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the

University of South Dakota, and completed his Master of Arts degree at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He holds "Clear" California credentials in teaching and administration.

Mr. Andrzejewski says, often, that even on the worst day he still serves in the best job in education. He believes in keeping a student-centered focus on the work that needs to be done, and in building a positive culture that stresses goal attainment, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Mr. A. also works to forge strong relationships within the school community, which helps to build an environment that can best support student learning and effective instruction. He continues to be proud of the work that his students, staff and parents accomplish. Working together as a team, they promote a well-rounded education for all of the Moffett Mustangs.







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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

Renee Polk grew up in Irvine, California and is a graduate of University High School. Ms. Polk attended University of the Pacific, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and her multiple-subject teaching credential. Ms. Polk completed her master's degree at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and she also holds an education specialist credential and a clear administrative services credential. She is currently in the process of completing a doctorate at California State University, Long Beach. She has been in education for 14 years and has worked as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher, a middle school Special Education teacher, a district reading specialist, an assistant principal, and now a principal. For the past two years, she served as the assistant principal at Isaac L. Sowers Middle School in the Huntington Beach City School District. This year she is extremely excited to step into the role as principal at Perry Elementary School. Ms. Polk looks forward to working with the students, staff, and families, and she is proud to be joining the Perry Panther family!

When Ms. Polk is not at work, she enjoys snow skiing, scuba diving, water skiing, and traveling. Ms. Polk is also a San Diego Chargers and Angels baseball fan, and she enjoys going to games and supporting both of her teams!

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

Connie has been in education for 26 years as a school board member, special education, GATE and general education teacher, assistant principal, principal and Director of Student, Community and Personnel Support. She began her career in education as a School Board member for the Hemet Unified School District.

For 13 years she served the children of the Hemet Unified School District as a teacher before moving across town to the San Jacinto Unified School District as an assistant principal. After serving as AP at three schools in the district she was promoted to principal of Hyatt Elementary School where she lead the Hyatt team to garner the title as first school in San Jacinto to exit Program Improvement under NCLB. Five years ago she was promoted to Director of Student, Community and Personnel Support. Her leadership style is founded in strong relationships with all stakeholders. "Educating our children is a team effort," she states. Connie holds a B.S. in Home Economics, a M.A. in Management and a doctorate from the University of La Verne in Organizational Leadership.

Connie embraces the opportunity to move to Huntington Beach after living in Hemet for 40 years. Her love of the community began during her first Surf City Half Marathon in 2009. She is a dedicated runner and has qualified for the 2015 Boston Marathon. She looks forward to more time with her children and grandchildren who live in the area, as well as the beautiful running weather.

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

Dr. Cynthia Guerrero has been in the field education for 21 years as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal and elementary and middle school principal. She also taught at the university level as an adjunct professor for pre-service teachers.

In the Huntington Beach City School District, Dr. Guerrero served for seven years as principal of John H. Eader Elementary School. She is now beginning her third year at Sowers Middle School. Dr. Guerrero earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of California, Irvine, her Master of Arts degree at Pepperdine University, and her doctorate at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Guerrero is married and has two children. She loves traveling, camping, and vacationing with her family. However, most of her time has been spent watching her children play lacrosse. She continues to be passionate about students and learning, and knows that every day is an opportunity to learn and develop positive relationships to help improve the lives of our young people.

Dr. Guerrero models this love of learning in everything she does. She has high expectations for herself and for those around her.

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

Mrs. Carolyn Beck has been in education for 24 years as an elementary school teacher, Teacher on Special Assignment and principal. In the Huntington Beach City School District, Mrs. Beck has served as the principal of Agnes L. Smith Elementary School for the past four years. She has been at Smith School for a total of 15 years. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and completed her master's degree in educational administration at California State University, Long Beach.

Mrs. Beck and her husband have been married for 24 years and have a son and daughter. She enjoys spending time with her family boating and relaxing with a good book. She loves being a part of the Huntington Beach community and helping her students to reach their full potential.



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# Singing Our Way Through



Kate Karp

This collection's subtitle is *Songs for the World's Bravest Kids*; although the CD is inspired by children with serious illnesses, it provides a bridge for other children as well as adults to understand what these young people go through in their battle for recovery. The adults in their lives have to be brave as well, so this collection is for them, too.

Musician/songwriter Alastair Moock sat down with his guitar and began writing songs as a way of dealing with his daughter Clio's leukemia diagnosis—she's doing well, by the way. As Clio started to feel better, she sang and wrote along with Moock. The result is this tuneful collection, with musical accompaniment as evocative as the lyrics, and lyrics as true as the spirit behind them.

*Singing Our Way* opens with "I Am the Light," a spoken-word poem that, if it doesn't put a lump in your throat, will have you listening in awestruck silence about "this cancer, an unwanted trip that I didn't sign up for and I'd rather have skipped." Onward the CD goes in a tone that's anything but mournful. In "When I Get Bald," a child relishes comparing heads with Dad, whose own hair has gone the same way, and "B-R-A-V-E," a zest-filled rap tune to put fear in Fear itself. "I'm a Little Monkey" is one of the cheerful tunes composed by Clio and Moock, "Home When I Hold You" features Mom and Dad crooning a lullaby to ease nighttime dread, and "Take Care of Your Grownups" sings about how much tough work goes into being a parent. That's especially true in situations like this—parents need to be brave, too.

*Singing Our Way Through* is a wonderful resource for teachers, parents and, of course, children coping with illness. For more resources for patients and the people who love them, visit the CD website at [www.singingourway.com](http://www.singingourway.com).

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



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\*Source: Girl Scouts Research Institute, 2012 Alumnae Impact Study



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# Ferocity in Rowing And Running

Hannah Levy and Brianna Wynn are two unique individuals who had one common goal: to run a full marathon before the end of their senior year in high school. Hannah and Brianna have rowed for the Long Beach Junior Crew (LBJC) program for about five years and have used running to cross-train for rowing. They are both two-time San Diego Crew Classic Lightweight 8 Champions, and they have also been to the US Junior Nationals for rowing. Brianna has fifth-place and 11th-place titles in the Lightweight 8, and Hannah has a sixth-place title in the Varsity 4 and a bronze medal in the Lightweight 4 at US Junior Nationals. They placed fourth in the women's Varsity 4 at The Head of the Charles in 2012, the most prestigious and largest rowing race in the world!



Brianna Wynn and Hannah Levy.

These young women have gained a great deal of knowledge from the tremendous LBJC coaching staff, including 2012 Olympic Rower Peter Graves, 1984 Olympic Rower and Head Women's Coach Alfredo Montenegro, and US National Rowing Team Member Tom Graves. This amazing coaching staff has taught them the value of teamwork and work ethic through their daily workout experiences on the crew team. Being recruited to Stanford University and University of Wisconsin proves to Hannah and Brianna how much rowing has done in their lives. Their work ethic and motivation are outcomes of the LBJC rowing program. At Stanford, Brianna will be able to stretch even farther beyond her limits and once

again use crew to make a name for herself as someone who is ambitious and driven. Brianna found the perfect place for her at Wisconsin and is over thrilled to be on one of the best lightweight teams in the country. It is a perfect fit for the amazing dedication she has to crew.

The goal of running a marathon arose from their love of running together. Hannah and Brianna bonded over the mileage they put in during training. They ran two half marathons last year and decided it was time to push themselves. They trained throughout the summer and into the fall. Their experience at the Huntington Beach Full Marathon was pure pride. They progressively went faster with each mile and never hit "the wall" because of their conditioning. In fact, they were both smiling the whole time. They finished hand in hand, sprinting across the finish line together, and it was a moment that they will never forget. And this achievement was even more amazing considering they raced a 2,000-meter rowing test the day before!

This summer the girls plan on training together and running in the San Francisco Marathon. Hannah also hopes to work as a lifeguard and has aspirations to go on a hiking trip with two other rowers.

On a daily basis, these young women show perseverance and determination through physical fitness and mental toughness. Their dedication and work ethic should be an inspiration to all junior athletes.

Jack Nunn/Owner, Powerhouse Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90803  
562/688-1716, [www.powerhousefit.com](http://www.powerhousefit.com).



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# Establishing a Routine



Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel

One of several issues child advocates are concerned about these days is that children are not getting enough sleep at night. A regular bedtime is essential to the health and growth of your child.

If eight o'clock is the child's bedtime, it is made clear that there is no room service or further negotiating after eight. "I am done with my mothering/fathering for today. Your job is to get some sleep. Once I leave the room, any requests, complaints or fooling around noise will cost you fifteen minutes off of when you go to be tomorrow night. Two complaints means you go to bed tomorrow night at seven thirty. It is time to sleep. I will be glad to see you tomorrow." Hugs and kisses are given and the line drawn in the sand--no more communication.

Children need a regular study time each day. This is sometimes difficult with the multiple interruptions provided by the after school extra curricular schedule. To the extent the time is regular will the child be able to adapt to doing the work at hand.

With a child who has trouble focusing, it is best to have the child show you what the homework is and then show you what he/she has accomplished at the end of the homework period. Tell the child up-front that work must be legible (Your teacher will love you for this one!) and the work must be done. Work that is not legible will be copied over.

Keep an eye on your child's progress. Too many children flounder in school and then don't have the initiative or skills to catch up again. Ask the

teachers for a grade report long before the school schedule provides one. Let the teachers know you will support them and that you want to know if your child slips behind. A letter to the teacher might say, "Thank you for choosing to teach school. We want our son/daughter to be successful this semester and request that you let us know if he/she begins to fall behind, not do homework or otherwise fail to do his/her job in school. Thank you for your time and caring."

Inspire your child, help your child and do not do for your child what he/she needs to learn to do for self. As a former classroom teacher, I can tell you that it is easy to spot work that is done by a parent, not the child. This is especially true with projects. When one California mission is crudely glued together with popsicle sticks and another one has architectural design involved, a teacher knows that the parent probably took over the project.

Working together on a project is great fun, and it is important not to take the "child" out of the project. A good grade is not as important as a sense of doing something yourself. And, if the child puts off a project let him/her fail. Failing is an important lesson that inspires a child to make better choices. Rescuing a child does not teach responsibility.

Most important, make it clear that your child has two jobs in your home: (1) to be a good human being and (2) to do his/her best in school.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

# Halloween 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 in the subject line)

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

- |              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT    | GHOST          | SPIDER         |
| CANDY        | GHOUL          | SWAMP CREATURE |
| CARVE        | GRAVE          | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CEMETERY     | HAUNTED HOUSE  | VAMPIRE        |
| COSTUME      | HALLOWEEN      | WEB            |
| DECORATIONS  | JACK O LANTERN | WEREWOLF       |
| FRANKENSTEIN | MUMMY          | WITCH          |
| FRIGHTFUL    | SKELETON       | ZOMBIE         |

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R	D	S	V	A	M	P	I	R	E	C	L	B	V	Q
E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C	P	M	A	W	S	R	A
T	X	O	A	H	B	R	F	K	U	N	W	M	A	F
N	I	H	C	F	E	E	T	F	T	D	G	I	C	L
A	Z	D	K	L	W	V	N	R	S	Y	A	T	E	E
L	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	Q	M	S
O	I	T	A	W	E	R	A	G	C	K	U	I	E	K
K	K	N	L	E	D	G	L	H	Y	Y	C	D	T	E
C	P	U	B	R	I	U	J	T	L	M	Y	I	E	L
A	Y	A	I	E	P	V	L	F	K	M	C	I	R	E
J	J	H	J	W	S	D	C	U	X	U	B	F	Y	T
H	C	T	I	W	K	Z	N	L	O	M	V	L	J	O
T	B	X	U	U	D	U	T	S	O	H	G	W	R	N
S	B	P	U	H	Q	T	N	Z	D	R	G	S	Q	D

Congratulations to Caitlin O'Brien Winner of the June Contest!  
Our contests are courtesy of Barkate Orthodontics.



# Friends Are A Found Treasure



Bonnie  
Blanchard

Hello! My life's passion has been to travel – particularly in Europe. I'd like to share some of the wonderful treasures I've found around our small planet...from living in Ireland to housesitting in different locales, from sharing my home with 5W friends (Women Welcome Women World Wide) to sharing laughs with friends of the International Women's Club. Regardless of the circumstances or the alluring locations, my adventures have been enriched by meeting and sharing with new friends of both genders, all cultures and a wide range of ages and interests.

So, let me begin... I started my travels late in life and eventually made the move to Ireland just after St. Patrick's Day, 1999. The Irish welcomed me from the beginning and that welcoming attitude influenced me to join 5W.

The basis of 5W is to share your home with visitors free of charge for up to 3 nights. If you don't have the space, you can still be a Day Hostess for visitors, sharing your home town and its sites, perhaps meeting for lunch or dinner. Being the only member in the Dublin area, I enjoyed visitors from around the world on a regular basis. They would go out exploring for the day and return to share an informal dinner. We'd sit around and share stories of home towns and families and what adventures they'd had and were anticipating...These stories and other adventures will be highlighted in future articles. Cheers!

Bonnie Blanchard was an Executive Assistant at an international IT company until her retirement in 2012. Having promised her Mom she'd obtain her Irish citizenship and visit Ireland, the "visit" lasted for over 7 years and included many adventures throughout Europe and Russia. Since her return to California she has continued her travels abroad, supplementing travel expenses by housesitting in her "bucket list" of locations.

# Happy Hummers



Nancy

Evidently I do not keep close enough eye on my hummingbird population to learn all their little eccentricities. I have seen them hover and climb the side of a building to eat a line of ants, steal bits of ashes from my ash bucket, and, of course, tussle with one another for rights to a feeder. This morning I watched two hummers argue over who got to drink from a bird watering station! I've never seen them at a waterer before, and never seen them argue over its use.

Last year and the year before I had three different hummers visit me as I watered in areas of my yard gardens and my veggie garden. Each of them would sit on a fence or twig and "waffle" their wings to get my attention. I would gently spray the water in their direction and they would tilt their little heads up and spread their wings until appropriately wet, then they would fly nearby to stroke themselves dry. The next move would be them flying back and forth through my spray of water. I just felt so honored to be chosen to bathe these magnificently personable little beings.

Last summer I held a feeder bottom in my hand and captured a photo of hummers eating from it.

On to the garden!



Publisher's note: Nancy is a rancher in Northern CA. I don't think I have ever known anyone quite as appreciative of nature as Nancy. She can stand in the middle of a field of weeds and find beauty in the gentle swaying of the tassels. At the end of her busy day, rather than settle down for a much needed rest, Nancy is preparing sugar water to not disappoint the hummingbirds the following morning. After much arm twisting, I convinced Nancy to share with our readers a few tidbits of her days on the farm. Enjoy!

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# Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Gustavo Balderas**

Gustavo Balderas is in his twenty-fifth year as an educator, currently serving as Superintendent of Ocean View School District in Huntington Beach, California. He has served in a variety of capacities throughout his school site experiences, including working as an elementary principal, middle school teacher, and high school counselor. His central office experience includes being an area executive director overseeing a cluster of K-12 schools, and district science and mathematics curriculum, as well as serving as an assistant superintendent of support services. Mr. Balderas graduated from Western Oregon State College with a secondary education degree, received his Master's degree from Portland State University, and is in the final stages of his doctoral dissertation through the University of Oregon. He enjoys coaching youth sports teams during his off hours and currently serves as on the boards of the Huntington Valley Boys and Girls Club, Encuentros of Orange County, and the California Association of Latino School Administrators as a regional representative. In addition, Mr. Balderas is the co-founder and past president of the Oregon Association of Latino Administrators.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**John Ortiz**

*President*

Mr. John Ortiz was elected to the Ocean View School District School Board in 2010.

John was born and raised in Southern California, living most of his life in Huntington Beach. He is a product of Ocean View schools, a graduate of Huntington Beach High School, and has a degree in Electronics. Before starting his career in education, John worked for the Orange County Probations Department. In 1990, he was employed by the Huntington Beach Union High School District as a Public Safety Officer, a position he would have for the next 16 years. For the past eight years, John has served the special education student community as a Para-educator at Edison High School.

John currently lives in Huntington Beach. His interests include hiking, sports, travel, movies, and barbecuing. A favorite pastime is searching for that elusive deal online or uncovering that dusty treasure at weekend swap meets. In the past four years on the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, John has been instrumental in making decisions that will improve and support our student population, as well as maintaining a balanced budget, and developing and adopting a new, Districtwide Strategic Plan that will guide Ocean View for the next five years.

John is running for reelection to the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees in 2014.

## Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



**John Ortiz**  
*President*



**Tracy Pellman**  
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**John Briscoe**  
*Member*



**Gina Clayton-Tarvin**  
*Member*



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*Member*

## Circle View *Elementary*

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



**Carol Furman**  
*Principal*

Greetings from Circle View Elementary School! I am honored to be the principal of a California Distinguished School, Blue Ribbon School, and an amazing place for students to learn every day! I have spent my entire career in Ocean View School District, having taught grades K-5 at Harbour View School, and served as principal at Marine View Middle School and Westmont School. I am blessed to call Ocean View School District my "home" and feel lucky to be starting my second year as principal at Circle View!! This is an exemplary school that is driven by a dedicated and talented staff of teachers, an incredibly supportive community, and enthusiastic students who are driven by their own academic and social success!

I look forward to working closely with the staff and community of Circle View to increase student achievement through focused, standards-based instruction, while consistently encouraging positive self-esteem and virtuous behavior. Students can look forward to many opportunities to be honored for outstanding behavior, academic excellence, and exemplary attendance this year! In addition, our teachers will be continuing the transition to the Common Core State Standards this year! I am excited to be part of such an incredible team and look forward to a fantastic year at Circle View! Go Eagles!

## College View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Smith**  
*Principal*

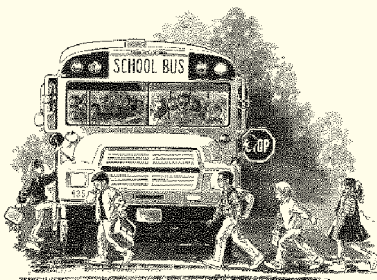
I was born and raised in Rochester Hills, Michigan. I later graduated from Western Michigan University where I majored in Physical and Dance Education. I taught at the high school level before moving to California in 1981. After teaching elementary school for many years, I received my Masters in School Administration from Alliant University in 2005.

My husband and I moved to Huntington Beach twenty seven years ago where I started as a substitute teacher while teaching dance classes in tap and jazz at Huntington Academy of Dance.

I have been employed by the Ocean View School District since 1998. During my tenure I have enjoyed serving in many different capacities that include: classroom teacher (multiple grade levels), Title 1 Teacher, summer school principal at multiple sites, and most recently as the elementary school principal at College View. Prior to my assignment at College View I was the principal at Hope View Elementary School for four years. During my early years as a principal I served as the Principal Advisor for the Arts where I was able to bring visual and performing arts opportunities to the students of the Ocean View School District.

My husband Greg and I have been married for 30 years, and we have three amazing children, Garrett, Tanner, and McKenna, and a menagerie of animals. I love to travel and play golf. My husband and I are active with the Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club, and are advocates for, Bunny's Kids, a non-profit charity that supports our local Huntington Beach homeless shelters.

Please Drive Safely  
Students  
are  
Back in School





# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Burney has been an educator for over 20 years. Starting off her career as an elementary school para-educator, she continued her journey in education and enjoyed teaching kindergarten through eighth grade students. Working with such a wide range of students really gives her a great perspective of where students are headed and the expectations they face.

Now Principal of Golden View Elementary School, she couldn't be happier working at such a unique school. "I have never worked at a school that has a farm and garden patch for each class before!

It provides the students and families with such irreplaceable and wonderful learning opportunities!" Students look forward to "farm to table" experiences in the classroom, like eating their fresh organic produce. Not only are these delicious culinary experiences enjoyed by all, but students feel the pride involved from working hard and seeing the fruits of their labor.

In addition, the strong focus of students achieving academic excellence and the pro-social behaviors has brought Golden View the distinct honor of receiving the California Distinguish School Award.

Mrs. Burney graduated from California State University, Long Beach receiving her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Marketing in addition to receiving a Certificate in Liberal Studies and her teaching credential. She received her Master of Science, Administration from Pepperdine University.

She currently resides in Fountain Valley with her amazing husband, two wonderful daughters, and two cats. She enjoys reading, running, spending time at the beach, and paddle boarding.

# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

Welcome to the 2014-15 School Year!

My name is Carrie Haskin. For the past three years I have served as the Principal of Hope View Elementary School in the Ocean View School District. My experience includes one year as assistant principal at the elementary level and one year as an assistant principal at the middle school level serving in the Westminster School District. As a Nationally Board Certified and Recertified Teacher I have enjoyed working hands-on in the classroom for 12 years. I have earned a Master's Degree in Education, a Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential as well as a Clear Administrative Credential.

In my free time, I enjoy reading and traveling. I have been married for 31 years and have two incredible children. My husband is a car enthusiast and I reap the benefits of enjoying vintage cars and exciting car shows.

Through my experience here at Hope View, I have the opportunity to associate with talented and dedicated staff, parents, students, community members and fellow administrators as we work together toward achieving our school vision and goals.

All of us here at Hope View are excited about the opportunities a new school year brings. We welcome our 2014-15 PTO Board and new co-presidents Kori McAbee and Lily Coffin. Thanks to our PTO we are able to enhance our students' experiences and learning as we all go the extra mile! We look forward to a great year at Hope View, Go, Hawks!

Are you  
looking for me  
for the contest  
on page 22?



# Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

My name is Cindy Osterhout, principal of Harbour View Elementary School. I have had the privilege of being a proud member of the Harbour View family since 1981 and I know there is no better place for children than here! I am looking forward to a wonderful school year, carrying on the many traditions and programs that make this school so special, including our monthly Patriotic and Pelican Pride Assemblies and "I Caught You Being Good" positive behavior incentive program. In addition, I am so proud of our new PTA funded Accelerated Reader program and this year's "Bucket Fillers" positive school climate focus. Our rigorous academic program continues to produce students who demonstrate that they are ready to meet the challenges and demands that lie ahead. This year we are very excited to fully implement the California Common Core Standards and look forward to continuing our strong partnership with our parents and the surrounding community. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with an amazing staff, incredible parent volunteers, and bright, happy students.

# Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

Anna Dreifus was born in Memphis Tennessee, which explains her love of barbeque and anything deep fried. Her family moved to California when she was five years old, living in Chula Vista, South Gate, Lynwood, and finally settling in Westminster. Anna met her husband, Bob, when they were students at Westminster High School. They have been married for 38 years and have two sons, Kyle (27) and Ryan (29). Mr. Dreifus teaches at Huntington Beach High School. They both enjoy living in the community in which they work. Even though she has southern roots, she considers herself a California girl.

Mrs. Dreifus was inspired to teach by her third grade teacher. Her younger sister can attest to her dedication to the profession. She was forced to play school constantly and Anna was always the teacher! She began her formal career as a teacher in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, where she worked for six years. She stayed home with her sons for eight years before returning to teaching in the Ocean View School District.

She taught at Harbour View for seven years and finished there as Assistant Principal. She has served as an Elementary Principal for 14 years at Village View, Golden View, and currently, Lake View. In her free time, Anna enjoys reading, traveling, hiking and going to concerts. She and her husband added four more concerts to their list this summer!

Mrs. Dreifus is looking forward to another exciting school year!

# Marine View *Middle School*

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



**William Lynch**  
*Principal*

William Lynch was recently hired as Principal for Marine View Middle School in the Ocean View School District. Prior to that he was an Assistant Principal at Buena Park Junior High School in the Buena Park School District. Mr. Lynch is originally from New England and knew from a very early age that he was not well-suited for cold weather. He finally made it to California fifteen years ago, working for a public relations / lobbying firm. It was during that time that Mr. Lynch had brushes with education policy makers in Sacramento, and changed his life forever by asking the essential question: How do we as a diverse society prepare all students for a successful future? In the subsequent years Mr. Lynch had the pleasure of sharing his love of government and American History at both the high school and middle school level, before moving into school administration.

Mr. Lynch received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Arizona, and a M.A. in Secondary Education from California State University, Long Beach. Mr. Lynch enjoys spending time with his wife and their two small children, ages 4 and 6.

# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

Randy Lempert is excited to become the new principal of Mesa View Middle School. Before joining the Ocean View School District in 2011 as the assistant principal of Spring View Middle School, Randy taught at Dwyer Middle School and Perry Elementary School in the Huntington Beach City School District. Graduating from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota with a degree in education, he continued on to obtain his master's degree in school administration from Concordia University, Irvine. Through and through, Randy is local to the area, proudly born and raised in Fountain Valley.

"It's a privilege to serve as the principal of Mesa View Middle School," Randy stated. "I look forward to working in partnership with our school staff and community to continue the tradition of providing an excellent and safe learning environment for our middle school students. As a staff, we are going to work in collaboration to prepare our students to becoming critical thinkers in a 21st-century world. I feel fortunate to join the Mesa View team, and I look forward to having a fantastic school year."

In addition to his love for educating students, Randy is passionate about Angels baseball and has served as a Newport Beach lifeguard since 1995. He and his wife have an 18-month-old son, who keeps them on their toes.

# Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Laura Dale-Pash**  
*Principal*

Ms. Laura Dale-Pash has served as principal at Oak View Elementary School since 2011. Prior to Oak View Ms. Dale-Pash worked in the Westminster School District as a teacher and Student Achievement Specialist. She has extensive training in the area of English Learners and has also worked for many years providing professional development for new teachers.

Ms. Dale-Pash graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a MA in Teaching English To Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Multicultural Education, and a BA in Liberal Studies (Elementary Education) with a minor in Psychology. She earned multiple subject and Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) credentials from Loyola Marymount University and an administrative services credential from the Orange County Department of Education.

Ms. Dale-Pash feels honored to serve the Oak View community. In addition to her 750 children at Oak View, she is the mother to 6 beautiful and accomplished children and has 4 grandchildren with 1 more on the way.

# Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
*Principal*

Mr. Blade has been an educator in the Ocean View School District for over 15 years having worked as a Teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. He grew up in a family of educators, with his mother being a high school english and reading teacher in the Garden Grove Unified School District and his father working as both a school site and district administrator for various neighboring districts. Mr. Blade was born and raised in Southern California and attended Cal. State University of Long Beach.

When asked what it is like to be the Principal of Spring View, Mr. Blade said, "The Spring View staff is totally committed to their students wellbeing. They are devoted to providing a safe, structured learning environment for all of our students and at the same time setting high academic standards. I'm looking forward to another successful school year."

When Mr. Blade is not working he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, traveling, coaching soccer and surfing as often as possible.

# Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
*Principal*

Ms. Horowitz has been an educator for over 35 years. Twenty two of the most recent years have been spent in the Ocean View School District. Her experience as an educator includes all of the elementary grades, levels K-5. She has worked as a demonstration teacher and trainer. For the majority of her career she has taught at schools with many English Learners.

Ms. Horowitz is bilingual in Spanish having studied Spanish at UC Irvine. She lived in Venezuela for 2 years while working as a teacher in an American School. She has been a bilingual resource teacher and has taught Spanish and English in a bilingual education program. She served as an Assistant Principal and Principal at several schools, including an alternative Fundamental School. Her experience with grant funded programs, mainly the Even Start Family Literacy Program, led her to the State Preschool program.

She attended CSULB for her Masters Degree and Administrative Credential. When asked why she enjoys working with the preschool she responds, "Working with the dedicated preschool staff, parents and their children is very rewarding. This is the often the child's first school experience and it is fulfilling to watch children learn, change and grow while they play and make friends at Oak View Preschool."

She has a busy family life in Westminster with her husband. She spends time with her two daughters and her parents who live close by in Seal Beach. Ms. Horowitz loves to shop, take walks, watch movies and try new restaurants.

# Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

Paul James was born in Long Beach. At the age of two his family moved 10 miles north to Norwalk, where his parents have lived for over 55 years. His mother worked at Sears for over 30 years, and his father worked for Gulf Oil/GoldenWest Refinery in Santa Fe Springs for 35 years. Paul attended Niemes Elementary School, Faye Ross Junior High School, and Gahr High School, all of which are part of ABC Unified School District. During this time he was fortunate to have many outstanding teachers and role models, who helped shape his future career goals in education.

Paul has been married to his wonderful and beautiful wife for over 14 years. His wife currently teaches middle school and high school science. He has three sons, ages 12, 10, and eight, who attend school in Ocean View School District. Paul is starting his 31st year in education. He taught elementary school for eight years and middle school science for 15 years, and he has been a principal for the last seven years in Ocean View School District.

In his free time, Paul enjoys spending time with his family, summer camping vacations, crosswords, working out, and coaching and playing sports with his boys. Paul loves football and was fortunate to play in high school and college.

Mr. James is looking forward to another exciting school year!

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on page 22?





# Star View *Elementary*

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



**Jamie Goodwyn**  
*Principal*

Gearing up for Another Great Year. Mrs. Goodwyn is excited to be starting her third year as Star View's Principal. Each year, as summer comes to an end, the anticipation of all the learning to come and activities of the new year bring such joy to her life. Around the campus the community will see signs of renovations; a modern fire alarm system is being installed, the children's restrooms will be completely remodeled, and we are getting a new roof on our buildings. Even though we are a little dusty from the construction, teaching and learning will still be the highest quality possible and Star View will continue to SHINE!

Mrs. Goodwyn is thrilled this year to be a part of the full implementation of the Common Core State Standards at Star View; the District, principals, and teachers have been planning for two years for this change and the teachers of Star View are more than ready to educate the children to be 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. The teachers have a large toolbox of strategies and curriculum to instruct the students so that the needs of each child are met, whether the child needs extra support or more challenging activities.

Star View will still be enriching the STARS (Safe, Team Player, Achiever, Respectful and Responsible) of the future! The staff is committed to challenging the children to convey the STAR qualities every day. We have been "Shining Together with Awesome Results," and this year will be no different.

# Sun View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

Kristi Hickman is grateful to continue as Principal of Sun View School. She enters her 6th year in this leadership role and credits the school's success to an amazingly passionate and talented staff, wonderful students, and a supportive parent community. She looks forward to these exciting times of transition and change regarding curriculum, assessment, and modernization due to the release of State supplemental funding to renovate the school and provide much needed safety upgrades and enhancements.

The 2014-15 school year promises to be filled with powerful learning activities designed to provide an enriching and successful school experience for all students and Sun View looks forward to the completion of their renovation projects along with increasing unified efforts and student outcomes.

As the new school year gets underway, Sun View continues to focus their efforts on successful instructional strategies, i.e., Depth and Complexity, Differentiated Instruction, Guided Language Acquisition Development, Response to Intervention/Instruction, and preparing students to meet rigorous Common Core State Standards.

We are excited that enrollment is up and class size is down and look forward to connecting with friends and families, and creating lifelong memories.

# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Tryon**  
*Principal*

Village View Elementary School is eagerly awaiting the start of the 2014-15 school year. Village View was selected as a California Distinguished School last school year, and we will continue to strive for excellence and improve achievement as we implement Common Core Standards.

As principal, I have the pleasure of working with our students, staff and community to communicate our instructional program and services for students. I am proud to be a part of such a supportive community and dedicated and expert staff. I have been an administrator for 17 years and have had the opportunity to work with many schools to focus on improved achievement. I have served as an assistant principal; a coordinator; a director of curriculum, instruction and assessment; and a principal. My experiences have helped me gain a very broad perspective about systems and how they work most effectively.

I have also been able to be in classrooms and have seen amazingly talented teachers work miracles with students. I am starting my third year as principal at Village View, and I cannot wait to meet and get to know our new kindergarteners. I am looking forward to seeing our returning students and families as well. Go Dolphins!

# Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Amy Kernan**  
*Principal*

Ms. Amy Kernan has been the principal of Vista View Middle School for the past two years and is very excited to start another great year with the Vista family. Ms. Kernan has been in education for over 13 years and has taught and held administrative positions at both the middle and high school levels. Ms. Kernan attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks where she studied marine biology and, as a teacher, she specialized in Biology and Anatomy and Physiology.

In her free time, Ms. Kernan enjoys spending time at the beach with her Bernese Mountain Dog and traveling to different parts of the world. Recently, she was able to spend several weeks in Tuscany and is looking forward to traveling to Antarctica this winter. She also frequently travels to Florida and the Bahamas to visit her parents.

Ms. Kernan is excited to be a part of the Vista View staff and is looking forward to all of the exciting changes occurring at Vista with the creation of the STEM Academy. According to Ms. Kernan, "Vista is an amazing place to work because the staff, students, and community are truly passionate about achieving academic success and assuring that the Vista students are ready to become leaders in our society. It is an honor to be able to be a part of such an exceptional school community."

# Westmont *Elementary*

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



**Susan Broderson**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Broderson has been an educator for over 14 years having taught elementary school students at several schools. After being a social worker for ten years she changed her career to teaching and joined the Westminster School District as a reading teacher.

When asked about her new role as principal at Westmont School Mrs. Broderson responded "It's an honor to be chosen to lead such a dynamic and talented staff. Westmont is the diamond in the district just waiting to be discovered. Everywhere I go people comment on what a wonderful school Westmont is and how passionate and committed the staff is about working with kids. I'm thrilled to be working at such an exemplary school."

Mrs. Broderson received a Bachelor's of Arts degree from CSULB and a masters degree in social work from USC. She returned to school to earn her teaching credential from CSULB and an administrative credential from the Orange County Dept of Education.

Mrs. Broderson has taught third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades for twelve years before becoming a middle school assistant principal for the past two years. She is a resident of Westminster and enjoys traveling with her husband, volunteering and making quilts.

# Westminster School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

Dr. Marian Phelps was appointed superintendent of the Westminster School District (WSD) in November of 2013. Since becoming superintendent, she has focused on bringing equity, access and opportunities to every student in the district.

In less than a year as superintendent, Dr. Phelps has equipped all schools with a new wireless infrastructure and moved the district towards 1:1 technology devices for all students. She has hired education technology educators to enhance the integration of technology in the classroom, and she has overseen the creation of digital libraries at each school. Dr. Phelps also implemented a Saturday Academy, which allows the district to recover funding lost from student absences through a four-hour enrichment program on Saturdays. In addition, beginning this fall, music instruction will be offered at all our elementary schools, and foreign language classes will be offered at all of our middle schools. Teachers, students and parents are all appreciative of the large ceiling fans that have been installed throughout the district as well.

Dr. Phelps has worked in public education for 23 years. Prior to joining WSD, she served as an area superintendent, overseeing 29 schools in the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). She was also a principal, vice principal and teacher in the SDUSD. Dr. Phelps was named the 2013 Central Office Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 18, and she was awarded the 2009 and 2010 ACSA National Distinguished Principal Finalist Award for the state of California. In addition, Dr. Phelps was part of the team that led the second largest school district in the state to become recognized as a 2013 Broad Prize for Urban Education District Finalist.

Dr. Phelps holds a doctorate degree from San Diego State University, a master's degree in educational leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University and a bachelor's degree from University of California, San Diego.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Meet Our Board Members



**Mary Mangold**  
*President*

Mrs. Mary Mangold has been a board member for eight years. Education is her passion both personally and professionally. She has been a credentialed teacher for 29 years and earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from San Diego State University and a master's degree in education from Long Beach State University. Mrs. Mangold has served students in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for 27 years where she has taught grades 3 - 7, served as a BTSA mentor teacher and a social studies mentor teacher. She is also a very active member of the community and has been a Girl Scouts Troop Leader for 11 years. Mrs. Mangold has been a proud resident of Westminster for 18 years. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, who have attended Westminster School District schools.



**Dave Bridgewaters**  
*Vice President*

Mr. Dave Bridgewaters has been a board member since 2006. He has been active in the Westminster School District for 26 years and has had all five of his children attend schools in the district. Mr. Bridgewaters recently retired from the Westminster Police Department where he was an officer for 27 years. He has served the district as a DARE officer, the chair of the WSD School Attendance Review Board, a SHIELD officer, and a PERT (Psychiatric Emergency Response Team) officer. Mr. Bridgewaters has been an active member of the community and his church for 27 years. He resides in Garden Grove with his wife and family.



**Jamison Power**  
*Clerk*

Mr. Jamison Power was elected to the Board in 2012. He received his bachelor's degree from UC Irvine in 2003 and his Juris Doctor from UCLA in 2008. In his law practice, Jamison represents numerous local and national businesses. Jamison also provides free legal assistance to low income families, and has received multiple awards from the California State Bar Association for this work. Jamison is also very active in the community, serving as a Westminster City Commissioner and as a member of the Vietnamese-American Education Advisory Council at Cal State Fullerton. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus at Blessed Sacrament parish. Jamison is a proud homeowner in the City of Westminster, where he lives with his wife My Lan and his son Kieran.



**Penny Loomer**  
*Member*

Mrs. Penny Loomer was appointed to the Board in January 2014. She is retired from the City of Westminster where she enjoyed a 40-year career in public service as the Community Services Director and the Assistant City Manager. In addition, Mrs. Loomer has served on numerous community boards, including: Westminster Parks and Recreation Commission, Boys & Girls Club, Rose Theater Foundation, and Westminster High School All Class Reunion. Mrs. Loomer is a former Westminster Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and a Soroptimist Woman of Distinction. She holds a bachelor's degree from Cal State University at Fresno and is proud to be a product of the Westminster School District. Mrs. Loomer has lived in Westminster with her husband for over 50 years. She has two daughters and recently became a grandmother for the first time.



**Amy Walsh**  
*Member*

Mrs. Amy Walsh was elected to the Board in 2012. She has been actively involved with the school district for many years. Ms. Walsh was the Westminster Council PTA President for two years, she founded the Westminster School District Special Education PTA (SEPTA), and she was the recipient of the PTA's prestigious Honorary Service Award. In addition, Ms. Walsh was recently selected as the Special Education Chairperson for the Fourth District PTA. She has served on the District Advisory Committee and as an Arts Alliance Coordinator. Ms. Walsh resides in Westminster with her husband and two school-age sons who attend Westminster schools.

# Contest!!

Mr. Ruler is hidden in 4 places in this publication. When you find him, email the **page numbers** to:

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

Your entry must be received by October 15, 2014. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Our contests are courtesy of Barkate Orthodontics.**





# Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx)



**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

Mrs. Breckenridge and Mr. Snyder are excited to join the Anderson Elementary School team this year. Mrs. Breckenridge will serve as the site principal, her seventh year in this position. As a graduate of the Westminster School District, she thinks it's great to be home, where she has had the opportunity to be a student, teacher, and administrator.

Mrs. Breckenridge obtained her bachelor's degree and teaching credential from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. She earned her master's degree and administrative credential at California State University, Long Beach. She has held many different positions in her more than 20 years in education and worked in six different schools in two different districts.

Mr. Snyder comes to Anderson with 18 years of service in the Westminster School District: 17 years as an elementary teacher and one as an assistant principal. He is eagerly anticipating the start of the new school year, with its many successes and new relationships. He is honored to be part of what will surely be an exciting time at Anderson.

Mrs. Breckenridge and Mrs. Snyder are looking forward to the 2014-2015 school year. It is sure to be a year where Anderson ROARS!

# 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*

Mr. John Staggs has been an educator for over 16 years at both the middle and elementary levels. Mr. Staggs is currently the principal of Clegg Elementary School and has been in this position for five years. He was very excited that Clegg opened its doors as a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Technology (STEAM) magnet school this school year and looks forward to another great school year next year.

Prior to beginning his time as principal of Clegg, Mr. Staggs served as the assistant principal at Stacey/Clegg School when Clegg was combined with Stacey Middle School as a K-8 school. His teaching years took place in Norwalk/La Mirada, where he taught seventh grade, as well as an at-risk class for middle school students. He later went on to serve as a Title I coordinator before moving into administration with the Westminster School District. While teaching, Mr. Staggs was very involved with sports programs throughout the district.

Mr. Staggs attended the University of Maryland at the campus in Munich, Germany, as well as California State University, Long Beach and Walden University.

# 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*

Ms. Shannon Villanueva has been an educator in the Westminster School District for over 20 years, having taught both the elementary and middle school levels. She has been the principal at DeMille Elementary School five years.

Ms. Villanueva attended the University of California, Irvine, where she received her bachelor's degree in social ecology with a minor in vocal music and her multiple subject teaching credential. She received her master's degree from National University in educational administration and leadership.

When Ms. Villanueva is not working, she enjoys spending time at the beach, traveling, running, singing, reading, playing golf, going to baseball games, and spending time with her family and friends. When asked what it is like to be the principal of DeMille, Ms. Villanueva said, "Our mission statement reads, 'DeMille is a welcoming, caring community of staff, students, and families who work together to promote positive social behavior and high academic achievement.' I believe we truly are a welcoming and caring community. We have a supportive staff, dedicated parents, and super students. DeMille is a great place to work and a wonderful place to learn and grow."

Ms. Villanueva considers herself to be a lifelong learner, and she endeavors to instill the love of learning in her staff and students on a daily basis. "It is my hope to help fill the students' treasure chests with knowledge, curiosity, creativity, excitement for learning, and so much more," shared Ms. Villanueva.

# 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*


It recently occurred to me that I've spent the majority of my life in school, either as a student or an educator. The years have come and gone, as have the students, but my passion for working with and advocating for children has not.

I received my bachelor's and master's degrees from the New York State University at Oneonta and Stony Brook respectively and attended the University of Arizona and National University while continuing my education and obtaining my administrative credential.

I've been an educator for over thirty years in a variety of capacities; teacher in grades K-8 in New York, Arizona and California, Title I Coordinator, Family Literacy Coordinator and currently an elementary principal. There has not been any position that I have not loved and when asked my favorite role or grade level I can only say that students are students regardless of age or grade.

I migrated to California from the cold of the northeast and the heat of the southwest to find that I thoroughly enjoy the moderate climate of southern California. I reside in Westminster and enjoy spending my free time with family and friends. When I'm not busy with my four grandchildren, I love reading, traveling and golf.

I joined the Westminster School District in 2006 as the principal of Eastwood Elementary School and am thrilled to still be a part of the Eastwood community; a community of staff, parents, and students who are committed to the success and achievement of children.



## Please Drive Safely students are Back in School

# 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*

Mrs. Gutierrez-Garcia is returning to Finley School in her eighth year as principal at the home of the 3A Finley Eagles! Following another successful Jumpstart program this summer to help students to enhance their English-language-development skills and a well-attended Finley summer library, Mrs. Gutierrez-Garcia is excited for the new school year and the many wonderful learning opportunities. This year's focus on the integration of technology in the implementation of the Common Core in all grade levels to prepare students for the 21st century will include the entire Finley Community of Learners.

What Mrs. Gutiérrez-García loves most is to work in partnership with students, parents and staff. She has been an educator for over 30 years, having taught elementary, middle school and college students, and is bilingual. She studied at the University of Barcelona for one year while completing her BA from the University of California, Irvine. Mrs. Gutiérrez-García also attended the University of Southern California and received her master's degree in Spanish while also completing her administrative credential in educational administration and leadership.

She is currently a resident of Cypress and enjoys time with her husband and three sons on the soccer fields. This fall will be a milestone in two significant ways, as her youngest son will move out to begin college. He will play collegiate soccer, with great fan support from the Gutiérrez-García household.

When Mrs. Gutiérrez-García is not working, she enjoys traveling and experiencing new adventures that include food, cultures and languages. When asked what it is like to be the principal of Finley, Mrs. Gutierrez-Garcia said, "It is wonderful to be part of a diverse community of learners where students, staff and parents work in partnership to continue to promote increased academic achievement. The teachers and staff are extremely dedicated, knowledgeable and innovative collaborators who host the OCDE Guided Language Acquisition Design [GLAD] training sessions throughout the year. I look forward to another exciting and successful year."

# 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*

Mr. Murphy has been an educator for over 16 years, all of which have been in the Westminster School District. He began his teaching career at Schroeder Elementary School, where he taught second, third, and fifth grades. He then became a Student Achievement teacher for the district and had the privilege of working at many of the schools in the district. He began his administrative career at Stacey Middle School as the assistant principal until he was assigned to Hayden Elementary School three years ago. He recently began his third full year as the principal of Hayden.

Mr. Murphy is also a proud former student of the district. "I am extremely proud and honored to be working in the same district that has taught me so much," Mr. Murphy said. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to pass on the knowledge I have obtained throughout my years in the Westminster School District."

Mr. Murphy has had many terrific influences in his career including his sister, Maggie Villegas, who works for the Tustin School District. He currently resides in Huntington Beach and enjoys jogging and mountain biking.

# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dr. Hiacynth Martinez**  
*Principal*

Dr. Martinez is starting her eighth year as a principal in the Westminster School District, and at Fryberger School.

Prior to arriving at the WSD, she was a school administrator in ABC Unified School District in the City of Cerritos. Dr. Martinez has taught kindergarten through fifth grades at her previous school districts, which included Compton Unified, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified, and ABC Unified.

When Dr. Martinez is not working, she enjoys spending quality time with her husband, her baby boy, other family members, and close friends.

When asked about how she is balancing her professional life and being a new mommy, Dr. Martinez shared the following: "My commitment to my students and staff has always been unwavering, and that hasn't changed. I have always supported my staff and parent community's own "glows and grows" of parenthood, and they have been very supportive of me during this significant transition in my life.

"My life's priorities have definitely shifted; I love all of the adventures that come along with being a mother. However, my passion for supporting student achievement and well-being is unwavering!"

Dr. Martinez graduated from the University of Southern California, where she received her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership. She also has a Master of Arts degree in Multicultural Education, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Management, as well as a minor in Ethnic Studies.

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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

**Daniel Owens, Principal**

Mr. Daniel Owens is beginning his first year in the Westminster School District as principal of Johnson Middle School. Prior to coming to Westminster Mr. Owens was an Assistant Principal in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for 8 years both at the Middle School and High School levels. Mr. Owens also taught for 9 years in Norwalk at Waite Middle School where he taught all subjects but primarily Algebra and US history. As a teacher Mr. Owens was involved in many extra-curricular activities including running the Drama department, ASB advisor, Newspaper advisor and coaching several sports.

Mr. Owens received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California in Journalism. He loves to spend time with his family including his wife of 14 years and his two sons, ages 2 and 12. His hobbies include rooting on his USC Trojans in every sport as well as his beloved Dodgers. Mr. Owens loves to play poker and just relax as much as possible.

Mr. Owens is very excited about the new opportunities he has in the Westminster School District. He is looking forward to being part of the Johnson community and helping the staff and students excel as much as possible.

**Did you enter the Word Search Contest on page 16 & the Seek 'n Find on page 22?**



# Land School

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



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

Ms. Mathenia has been in the field of education for over 25 years, having taught in both private- and public-school settings. Ms. Mathenia also volunteers her time as a parent educator for the Orange County Sheriff's Department, teaching incarcerated mothers the basics of parenting.

When asked what it's like to be an administrator at Land School, Ms. Mathenia said, "Land is a very unique place, providing educational services to over 350 special education and general education children between the ages of 6-months and 5 years. Our school's mission is to prepare each child for kindergarten success and beyond—we accomplish this by providing an excellent instructional program and using digital learning tools in every classroom. The entire school staff works

hard to make sure we achieve our mission and is very excited about the new school year."

Ms. Mathenia attended California State University, Fullerton, and has her master's degree. She enjoys web designing in her spare time and volunteering at her church. She lives in Garden Grove with her husband and has two daughters.



**Reagan Lopez**  
*Administrator  
Student Services*

Ms. Reagan Lopez is the Administrator of Student Services for the Westminster School District. She has worked in special education for over 11 years.

The thing she enjoys most about her job is providing educational services for all children. She works with a great team at Land School. The Land staff is collaborative, focused, and passionate about their students' success.

Ms. Lopez received her B.A. from Cal Poly Pomona and her Masters degree from University of La Verne. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, friends, and her pets. She is also an avid lover of nature and enjoys hiking.

# 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**

Mrs. Carrie Hernandez began her teaching career in 1992 at Midway City School in Westminster School District teaching state preschool. She then moved to Savanna School District where she taught 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. While teaching in Savanna, she earned her master's degree in Educational Administration at California State University, Long Beach. In 2000 she became a Visiting Educator with the Los Angeles Unified School District. She worked with 43 schools supporting the district's reading initiative in the elementary schools. In 2004, she returned to Westminster School District where she enjoyed being a student achievement teacher at Sequoia Elementary and teaching preppie kindergarten at Schmitt School. For the last two years she has been the Assistant Principal of Hayden Elementary School.

Mrs. Hernandez is a resident of Cypress and enjoys spending time with her husband of 16 years and their three children. She spends a lot of her family time doing scouting activities, sports and camping. She also loves to read and plays hand bells in her spare time.

Mrs. Hernandez is excited and honored to be chosen as the new principal at Schroeder Elementary School. She looks forward to working closely with the staff, parents, and community to continue the great traditions here at Schroeder!

# 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*

Mrs. Kane has been an educator for more than 30 years. During that time she has taught at the elementary and middle school levels in both public and private schools. After many happy years in the classroom Mrs. Kane went back to school to get her Master's Degree in Educational Administration and her administrative credential. For the last 14 years she has served as a principal in the Westminster School District at both elementary and middle school sites. She is very excited to begin her fourth year at Iva Meairs Elementary School where their motto is "Always do Your Best!" Mrs. Kane says, "The students and staff at Meairs work hard to do just that. The teachers challenge their students with rigorous curriculum and the students take that challenge and, with the support of their families do their very best. We have a lot of fun too!" Mrs. Kane is a local girl. She is a graduate of Orange Coast College, and received her Bachelor of Arts and Masters degree from California State University, Long Beach. When not busy with school Mrs. Kane enjoys spending time in the great outdoors camping, hiking and biking with her husband, four children and two dogs.

# 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*

Ms. Orchid Rocha has been an educator for over 24 years, having taught both elementary and middle school students. She is a certified bilingual teacher with a bachelor's degree in psychology from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a master's degree in multicultural education from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and an administrative credential from Point Loma University. She has served the Westminster School District for the past seven years as the principal of Webber Elementary School. The majority of her work in education was spent in the Downey Unified School District as a bilingual teacher, Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) site coordinator and teacher, a Title I teacher specialist, an English Language Development (ELD) teacher specialist, a literacy coach, a vice principal, an acting principal and a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) mentor.

The passion for working with children began through her volunteer experiences at UCLA: through UniCamp mentoring underprivileged children; through Prison Coalition tutoring students at a juvenile detention center; and through Project MAC, working with children who were victims of abuse. All of these experiences sparked her love for teaching and working with various groups of children.

On a personal note, Orchid Rocha is married with two daughters, Sofia and Isabella. This fall, Sofia will begin her senior year at Cypress High School, while Isabella begins seventh grade at Lexington Junior High School. Orchid enjoys traveling with her family and taking her daughters to their various extracurricular activities.

Ms. Rocha is honored and humbled with the experience of leading a school. She looks forward to learning from the Schmitt Elementary School staff and the community as they work together to maintain a high-quality education for all students.

**We have a Word Scramble Contest on our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)**

# 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*

Mrs. Reardon began her teaching career in 1996 with the Corona-Norco Unified School District. While teaching in Corona, she also earned her master’s degree in educational administration at California State University, San Bernardino. In 2001, she joined the Westminster School District. She has had the pleasure of teaching second, third, fourth and fifth grades and was also a student achievement teacher. In 2011, she became the assistant principal of Stacey Middle School.

This is Mrs. Reardon’s second year at Sequoia Elementary School. She is extremely excited to start the new 2014-2015 school year with such an amazing and dedicated team.

Mrs. Reardon is a resident of Huntington Beach and enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons. She is also an avid reader who enjoys reading both fiction and nonfiction material. She is extremely excited about a fantastic 2014–15 school year!

# 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**

Mrs. Amy Pham Kwon is beginning her first year as principal of Warner Middle School. She is returning home to Orange County after spending more than 10 years in Northern California’s Bay Area. Prior to accepting the position at Warner, she was a K–12 math specialist for Fremont Unified School District, where she led teachers and administrators from 29 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools in rolling out and implementing a district Common Core Transition Plan. She also brings high school mathematics teaching experience and was a high school assistant principal and junior high principal for Fremont Unified. She received her bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and her master’s degree in educational administration from Santa Clara University.

When she isn’t working, Mrs. Kwon enjoys spending time with her husband. They lead active lifestyles and particularly love to play volleyball, snowboard and do triathlons. Together they started Endline Volleyball Club. Though they are sad to be leaving the club in Northern California, they look forward to transitioning from the indoor court to the sand courts.

Mrs. Kwon is humbled and honored to become the leader of the Warner community. She is excited to be working with her staff to integrate technology into the classrooms with the district’s one-to-one netbook plan and prepare students to become global citizens of the 21st century.

# 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*

Mr. McKane has been an educator for over 14 years working with both elementary and middle school students. This is Mr. McKane’s 6th year at Willmore.

When Mr. McKane is not working he enjoys spending time at the beach. When asked what it is like to be the Principal of Willmore, Mr. McKane said, “The Willmore Elementary School team is totally committed to rigorous instruction pushing our students towards high academic achievement. At the same time, the entire Willmore Team is able to balance the strong drive for success with a wonderful sense of caring and fun. The teachers are extremely professional and incredible collaborators. I am looking forward to another successful school year.”

Mr. McKane attended California State University Long Beach where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree and Teaching Credential. He earned his Master of Science degree from Pepperdine University in Educational Administration and Leadership.

# 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*

Mrs. DeBritton has worked in the Westminster School District for 23 years. She began her career in WSD as an eighth-grade English language arts and social science teacher at Stacey before moving to an administrative position in 1998. She has been the assistant principal of Warner Middle School as well as the principal of Schroder Elementary, Johnson Middle and Stacey Middle schools.

Mrs. DeBritton has taught in both the Ocean View and Huntington Beach City school districts. She also attended Stacey Middle School as a student and then went to Marina High school and the University of California, Irvine. She received her master’s degree in educational administration from the United States International College. She has two wonderful daughters and a 2 year grandson and new baby grand daughter. She resides in Huntington Beach and enjoys gardening, reading and spending time with her family. When asked what it is like to be the principal of Stacey, Mrs. DeBritton said, “The Stacey community works together to ensure the best education for our students. We are committed to excellence.”

# 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**

Mr. Kevin Whitney has 17 years of experience in education and has taught in both elementary and middle schools throughout the Westminster School District. Over the years, he has held many teacher leadership positions: Master Teacher, BTSA Support Provider, Lead Teacher, Technology Support and serving as the WTA President for five years - where he represented over 500 certificated employees in the District. For the past two years, Mr. Whitney has been serving as a full time administrative support to the principals at Meairs Elementary and Anderson Elementary.

He is excited to start his first year as a principal at Webber Elementary. He looks forward to helping each Webber Wolverine howl with Self-Control, Responsibility, Safety, and Respect. Mr. Whitney is a strong proponent of technology. He is looking forward to supporting the Webber Educational Community to create an instructional environment based on 21st Century Learning where each Wolverine will grow to become a leader in his/her own life. Mr. Whitney holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Cal State Long Beach, and a Masters in Applied Anthropology as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Cal State Fullerton. It is his passion for educational excellence which drove him to become a teacher, a teacher leader, and now the principal of Webber Elementary. When he isn’t busy working for the Webber Educational Community, Mr. Whitney can be found reading books, walking with his dog, camping and hiking in the Sierras, or connecting with his friends and family.





# Huntington Beach Union High School District

5832 Bolsa Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/903-7000 • [www.hbuhsd.edu](http://www.hbuhsd.edu)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**

$E=MC^2$ —Education equals motivation times communication squared. This has been the cornerstone equation of my educational philosophy since my very first days as a teacher. As one of six children, I quickly learned that school and education were always an important part of the Plutko home. My father served as a high school teacher and principal, and many of my favorite childhood memories revolve around time spent on a school campus. I'm sure that is part of the reason I chose to attend Azusa Pacific University and become a teacher. It was at Azusa Pacific University that I also continued my education, receiving a master's degree in educational administration.

Some of my first teaching assignments were in Glendora Unified School District, where I taught middle and high school history and English. I was also fortunate to begin my basketball coaching career while at Glendora and during that time experienced three CIF titles. In 1993 I received my first administrative appointment as the assistant principal of Goddard Middle School in Glendora, before moving on to become the assistant principal at Glendora High School in 1995. A few years later I was privileged to serve as a principal, returning to Goddard Middle School, followed by the opportunity to lead Glendora High School as principal in 2002.

Always desiring to further my education and experience, I chose to attend the University of La Verne (ULV) to participate in the doctoral program for organizational leadership. I graduated from ULV while being recognized as class salutatorian. Currently I teach as an adjunct professor in the very same La Verne doctoral program.

As my educational career progressed, I served as the assistant superintendent for educational services in the Walnut Valley Unified School District. My career then turned to the Inland Empire, joining the Corona-Norco Unified School District (ninth largest in the state) as the deputy superintendent. During my tenure with Corona-Norco, the district was twice named a finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education.

I met my wife, Mena, in first grade—yes, first grade—and we began “going” by the end of eighth grade and dated until we married after college. We have been married 29 years and have two adult children, Sara and Adam.

I am very proud of our district! The Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, and Ocean View school communities of students, teachers, staff, and families should always be commended for their efforts in advancing education.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Kathleen Iverson**  
*President*

Mrs. Kathleen Iverson retired from a 36-year teaching career in 2008 and was elected to the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) Board of Trustees two years later. While she spent her entire career at Westminster High School, she has broad experience in education. She was the Science Department coordinator, Math Educational Resources Integrated with Technology and Science (MERITS) teacher/advisor, and the HBUHSD math and science specialist for six years. She worked as a trainer of science teachers in programs at University of California, Irvine and University of California, Los Angeles, and she was actively involved in District Educators Association union leadership for 36 years. During her career, she was recognized as City of Westminster Educator of the Year, HBUHSD Teacher of the Year, and Orange County Teacher of the Year.

From 1990–1996, Mrs. Iverson served on the Westminster School Board, when the class-size reduction program was instituted and where her training and experience in school finance and collective bargaining helped the district weather the fiscal effects of the Orange County bankruptcy. She was chosen as Westminster Soroptimist Woman of Distinction in Education.

Kathy is a homegrown educator. She lived her entire life in Westminster. She went to local schools for K–12 and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and teaching credential at California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Iverson's husband of 39 years, two sons and 15 siblings and cousins are all Westminster High School alumni. It is her goal to assure that all students in the HBUHSD obtain an education as great as she and her family received.

## 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)

## Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

Steve Curiel started his educational career as a science teacher in the Downey Unified School district, teaching at Warren High School for five years. During this time he taught a variety of science courses including physical and life sciences, physics, and NetPrep (computer network systems). He was part of a cohort of teachers who worked with at-risk kids to help ensure a successful high school experience and prepare them for college, in many ways a precursor to the current AVID program. He also helped lead Warren High through the Digital High School grant process and implementation. For his last year as a teacher, he served as a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for the district, supporting the implementation of technology within the district.

Seeing an opportunity to serve in education in a broader capacity Mr. Curiel applied for and was hired as a vice principal at Downey Adult School. During his eight years at Downey Adult School he oversaw the Career Training program, the Adult High School Diploma program, and Community Education Fee Based program. As the vice principal he helped the school implement its first Medical Assistant program and Licensed Vocational Nurse program, modernized the school network and website, played a vital role in getting the school approved to offer Pell Grants, and helped grow the school for seven consecutive years.

Mr. Curiel came to the Huntington Beach Union High School District Adult School as an Assistant Principal in January 2008. As the administrator over the English as a Second Language (ESL) program that served over 3,500 students per year, he worked closely with staff over the next two years to implement a hybrid distance learning program, improve student test performance, increase federal funding, and expand professional development opportunities to staff.

Mr. Curiel was offered the privilege to become principal for the Huntington Beach Adult School and Coast High School in the fall of 2010. In the fall of 2011 he was also given the opportunity of being the principal for Community Day School. Over the past three years he has focused on streamlining programs in order to give better and easier access to students, increasing the district and community awareness of each program, focusing programs on measurable results, and expanding the collaboration between programs in order to identify and share best practices. In 2013-14, Mr. Curiel worked with staff from both Coast High School and Community Day School to merge the two programs into a unique and innovative program that will better support at-risk students.

Mr. Curiel lives in Mission Viejo with his wife and three children. His oldest child is attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and his two other children attend the Capistrano Unified School District. He received his BA in Social Sciences, his secondary teaching credential and administrative credential education from the University of California, Irvine. He later received his Master's degree in Business Administration from Cal State Dominguez Hills. Mr. Curiel is bilingual in Spanish and enjoys exercising and playing video and board games with his children.

## 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*

Dr. Melendrez has been an educator for over 36 years, having taught high school theatre, English and stage craft. She has been an administrator for 27 years at a variety of schools: the LA County High School for the Arts at Cal State Los Angeles, LACOE Alternative Education programs and Juvenile Court/Community Schools, and in the Huntington Beach Union HS District. As the principal of Edison for the past nine years she describes it as a small community of hard-working and dedicated students, staff and families. The entire Charger staff is dedicated to excellence in everything they do. As a Three A's School, we strive for excellence in the Academics, Arts and Athletics.

What makes Edison so unique is the character development stressed in every corner of campus as well as the open inclusion and support of the special needs students within the general student population. Charger Pride and compassion oozes everywhere and you feel it when you step onto the campus. We are very proud of past accomplishments and the challenges ahead to ensure that every Charger grad is college and career ready. We are all looking forward to a very exciting and successful school year.

Dr. Melendrez attended CSULB for her BA in Theatre and teaching credential, and received her Masters and Doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership at the University of La Verne. She resides in Lakewood with her husband and two sons. She enjoys volunteering at her church, singing in a quartet, and spending time with her family and friends.

## Fountain Valley *High School*

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



**Chris Herzfeld**  
*Principal*

Chris Herzfeld is in his 11th year as principal of Fountain Valley High School. Mr. Herzfeld was an assistant principal at FVHS from 2000–2004. He began his teaching career at Sierra High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he taught social studies in a program for students who were at risk of dropping out.

During his seven years at Sierra he was also the head coach for girls soccer. Chris and his wife Tami later moved to Denver, where Chris continued teaching social studies and Tami worked as a yearbook service representative for a local company. Chris completed his master's degree and administrative credential program at the University of Colorado at Denver, and then became assistant principal at Ranum High School, where he was already a teacher.

In 1999, Chris and Tami moved to Tami's homeland of Orange County. She continued working on yearbook production while Chris took a position as assistant principal at Ocean View High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

Chris still enjoys many outdoor pursuits, such as surfing, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding and the occasional round of golf. Tami is a mountain biker and sometimes-skier herself. Chris and Tami have a four-year-old daughter named Ruby who keeps them laughing and young at heart.

Mr. Herzfeld says proudly, "Fountain Valley High School is an amazing place. I am so fortunate to be able to work with such a professional staff in a great little city where students and parents care about education and their community."

He added, "I don't go to work, I go to FVHS!"

### OC DEPT OF ED • *From Page 1*



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*

sectors: Health Care/Biotechnology; Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing and Design; and Information Communication Technology/Digital Media. The same skills necessary to navigate a college degree are required to be successful in career technical education. Students will need to master subjects at the same rigorous level of abstraction and understanding as those entering a traditional university system. These programs will also align career courses with rigorous science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), California Academic Standards,

and Career Technical Education Model Standards that provide real-world application of career concepts, linking the content to industry needs.

OCCPP will build career pathway partnerships among employers, schools, and colleges and improve the transition into post-secondary studies and career preparation. This initiative will develop a countywide infrastructure to prepare Orange County students for the 21st century workplace, support them in reaching their personal career goals, and equip them to lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.

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



# Huntington Beach *High School*

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



**Dr. Rocky Murray**  
*Principal*

Education and sports have played an integral part in my life. Couple those things with family, and they essentially define who I am and what my life is all about. I grew up in North Bend, Oregon, and my parents continue to make the Oregon coast their home. Spending my formative years on the coast of Oregon enabled me to spend a lot of time with my family in the outdoors, experiencing things many can only dream about. After high school, I was fortunate to receive a full athletic scholarship to Washington State University (WSU) to play baseball. During my years at WSU, I met my wife, Krista, who also was a scholarship athlete competing for the women's volleyball team. We both earned our bachelor's degrees from WSU, mine in English and Krista's in psychology. Krista grew up moving back and forth between Colorado and Orange County. After graduating from college, I followed her to California, and we have been here ever since.

I began my career in education as a teacher and coach at Dana Hills High School. I worked there for 10 years as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and finally an assistant principal. After my years at Dana Hills, I served another four years as an assistant principal at Capistrano Valley High School. During my third year at Capo, I enrolled at the University of Southern California (USC) to pursue my lifelong dream of obtaining a doctoral degree in educational leadership.

The next phase in my career and certainly most rewarding came when I was selected to be the principal of Huntington Beach High School. Amazingly, 2014-2015 will be my third year at HBHS. I am elated to be a part of the Huntington Beach Union High School District and am continually reminded of the depth and strength of our school, district, community, and togetherness we share.

Along with my wife, I have two other very important people at the center of our family. I have a beautiful daughter Peyton (11), and a handsome son named Kade (9). Our family is much like many living here in Orange County; there really is no such thing as down time. Our children are involved in many activities and keep us moving. Aside from all of their sports, they enjoy spending time at HBHS and supporting our students and school as they compete and perform in so many ways. They too have quickly learned to love HBHS.

I look forward to another successful year at HBHS and helping make our school the best it can be!

Go Oilers!

# Ocean View *High School*

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



**Dan Bryan**  
*Principal*

I've read some amazing biographies, and what I have found is that the best ones reveal the values of the person the biography is about. I understand what the person stood for during their life. This is the biography issue of School News.

I am a product of our public school system in California, and I believe it gets its power thorough the amazing work of our teachers and leaders. I believe in making sure all students leave our schools with the ability to navigate the college readiness landscape.

I believe great teaching makes a difference in student learning, and great teaching takes hard work. I believe in supporting teachers by providing time to collaborate. No one becomes great alone. WE learn better together.

I believe in the professionalism of our teachers. Quick story-This summer-It was mid-July and I escorted 40 plus teachers to their voluntary summer institute courses taking place on our campus, and the thing that came to mind as I watched our district teachers go into their classrooms was that I am proud to work with some incredibly professional educators. They could have been doing ANYTHING else on that beautiful Huntington Beach day! They were here, but more than that, they were here getting better.

I believe in leadership, and looking for talent- Great leaders make it safe for others to risk failure by trying to improve. Great leaders seek talent on their teaching staffs. Everyone has something good to contribute, and great leaders wake up in the morning looking for that.

I believe it is important to pick up the right signal, and ignore the noise. We will never chase a test score. We will chase learning skills to improve the future of our students, that way no matter what content they are learning, no matter what test they are taking, no matter what situation they are in, they have the skills to do well within it.

I believe in manufacturing hope. If a student comes to us reading at the 4th grade level, and in one semester now reads at the 6th grade level, that is a win the student will feel in his or her bones! Remember (reflect!) how good it feels when we learn something, or improve in something? That good feeling is the thing that keeps us coming back! We manufacture hope when we create winning situations for all our students. Something happens—they become willing participants in their learning, and what beats that?

Nothing, I believe.

# Marina *High School*

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



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*Principal*

What better experience could one ask for in a Principal than to have one who has been both a teacher and administrator at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Dr. Morrow is a principal who has done just that! He began his career in the Centralia School District, working in both regular and special education. From there, he moved onto the Charter Oak Union High School District where he worked as a Resource Specialist Teacher in both the middle and high school levels, as well as coached both Tennis and Wrestling.

His first administrative experience was at Glen Oak Elementary School. Following that, he was placed as the principal of the Charter Oak Unified School District's "School of the Future", Washington Elementary School. His career continued to expand with his move to the Huntington Beach City School District where he served as the Principal of Moffett Elementary School for four years. Dr. Morrow was then asked to take on the assignment of Middle School Principal at Isaac Sowers Middle School where he remained for 15 years. During that time, Sowers Middle School not only was awarded the title of a California Distinguished School but also earned the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School Award of Excellence!

His career goals were by no means over as he set his eyes on a principalship at the high school level. He was next employed by the Huntington Beach Union High School District as Principal of Marina High School where he has remained for the past seven years. Since he joined the Viking Nation, Marina High School has earned the title of California Distinguished School and had a number of teachers and programs received outstanding recognition. Those programs include California League of High Schools Teacher of the Year, HBUHSD Teacher of the Year, as well as numerous athletic team Sunset League and CIF Championships.

In his spare time, Dr. Morrow enjoys surfing, where he has been recognized in the International Hall of Surfing Fame. Dr. Morrow is the Director of the National Scholastic Surfing Association Jr. competitive surfing series. He also enjoys trekking up mountains in unique and far off places, such as Mt. Everest, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Salkantay in Peru, Machu Picchu and recently South Africa. He also enjoys flying airplanes, scuba diving, sailing and is an active participant in his church, Rock Harbor, in Costa Mesa.

Marina High School prides itself on being a school focused on preparing its students for success in college and careers post high school. With impressive Advanced Placement Programs, strong Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Language and English programs, as well as a variety of rich elective programs, Marina brands itself as "The School that has it All". Marina High School is a school where everyone feels known and cared for. Its professional and highly competent staff believe their students are the future and it is their responsibility to help them achieve success in both their personal and professional lives.



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

As a history major in college, I focused on the United States and California. I wanted to know more about the country and place where I was born and raised. What I really liked about history was understanding the complex factors that contributed to shaping events, decisions, and social change. Personalities, politics, economics, religion, culture, tradition, changing social values, communications, and technology all interact, in different ways, to produce “history”. The same is true of an alternative high school community: the historical outcome we strive for is the academic and personal success of our at-risk students.

I quickly gravitated toward alternative education in my teaching career because I liked the close personal interaction with students and the challenge of supporting their efforts to attend regularly, become an involved part of our campus community, and meet graduation requirements. I came to realize that in order to have a greater impact on students I would need to progress in my career. My Masters in Educational Administration focused on leadership and instructional methods. I particularly enjoyed learning how to match individual staff member personalities and strengths to collaborative and instructional assignments.

Being a principal is a learning experience – helping students learn certainly, but also opportunities for personal growth. Here’s what I’ve learned about the place and the community that is Valley Vista High School. By far the most important element of our success is the quality and commitment of our instructional and support staff. Our teachers are expert in their subject area, flexible in their teaching methods, collaborative by nature, and most importantly sincerely interested in our unique students. The guidance staff proactively and sensitively support the teachers, students, parents, and the outside community who interact with us. We know we can rely on our classified staff to provide prompt, responsive, friendly service whenever needed. We’ve learned to embrace educational technology, utilize social media in the classroom and at home, encourage creativity, and develop global citizens. We’ve learned that our students respond very well to innovative, integrated curriculum, including art assignments in core classes, and multi-media research and presentation assignments that promote literacy and self-confidence. I’ve learned that our students care about what’s happening in the world and in their community, and are eager to learn more about current events. I’ve also learned that the academic environment, our site and facilities, is an integral part of who we are and what we do.

I am so fortunate to be able to lead a community where I know every graduate by name, their histories, and goals for the future. I’m even luckier to be a part of a truly supportive community of colleagues who share the same commitment to our students’ success. I’m also blessed with the love and support of a wonderful husband and incredible daughter, good friends, and two very special cats. Valley Vista High School: where the Eagles soar to success!



**Owen Crosby**  
*Principal*

My growth as a professional educator began 16 years ago. After receiving my bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Western Michigan University, I made the decision to move west and accepted a teaching position in the Corona-Norco Unified School District. I began my career as a high school mathematics teacher, and in addition to my teaching responsibilities, I was blessed to be able to coach soccer, one of my life passions.

After several years in the classroom, I made the choice to go back to school and study educational administration at California State University, Fullerton. While enrolled in the program, I was given the opportunity to become an activities director, which allowed me to become a practitioner of what I was learning. After serving in this role for two years and completing my master’s degree, my career as an administrator officially began when I accepted an assistant principal position. I spent the next five years growing as a servant leader and realizing that the impact I have on students’ success is compounded through helping others. I took this belief with me when I accepted a position as a coordinator in the Curriculum and Instruction division at the Corona-Norco Unified School District office. During my time in this position, my focus was primarily on secondary mathematics and educational technology throughout the district. This role gave me a more global perspective, and it allowed me to see how each school contributed to the overall success of the district.

Entering my seventh year as a high school principal, in my third year at Westminster High School, I have grown through each step of my career. The lessons learned and the experiences along the way have helped to further cement my belief that all students can learn and achieve. I use these words as motivation to ensure that all students at Westminster High School are given that chance to grow. It is our responsibility to provide our students with the twenty first century skills necessary to succeed in the career path they choose after high school.

This same belief is taken home with me each night. I have been married for 11 years to another educator. My wife teaches high school, and we are blessed with three beautiful children. As it is with the students we work with, my children are all unique and talented in their own way. Whether it is playing baseball or soccer, swimming, dancing, and taking adventures in fishing, hiking or camping, I am proud to watch their curiosity and proficiencies grow each day.

As an educator and as a parent, I have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of others every day. It is an awesome responsibility, and yet a privilege, to see all students learn and achieve.

**MAYOR FV • From Page 1**



**Michael Vo**  
*Mayor*

activities for children. As a big supporter of recreation facilities and programs, I believe you develop a sense of community and well-being. So, if you missed the summer events, you missed out on a great opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends by enjoying the amenities of living in Fountain Valley.

It’s hard to believe, but school is in session again. For the younger students, it is perhaps the very first time ever entering into kindergarten; for our older students, perhaps they are beginning their last year in high school. So much to reflect on, yet so much to look forward to!

School is an important part of your life. It helps to determine what you will be doing in the future. Learning how to learn well places you in a good position for lifelong capability. Stay motivated! Students who are motivated to learn have higher achievement, show better understanding of the concepts they are taught, and are more satisfied with school. With that said, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the students for a successful school year!

**MAYOR HB • From Page 1**



**Matthew Harper**  
*Mayor*

The Fourth of July was an amazing experience. For the first time in the parade’s history, the 110th Waves of Freedom parade was captured live by KABC-TV, Channel 7 and broadcast all over the southland from Santa Barbara to the Inland Empire to northern San Diego County. More than 200,000 came to Huntington Beach to watch our patriotic parade and spectacular fireworks show.

The city hosted the U.S. Open of Surfing competition for the 20th consecutive year. Nearly 400,000 people attended the nine-day event, which showcased surfers from all over the world.

Along with the 100 Years of Surfing, check out the Rotary Club’s Surfboards on Parade fundraiser to benefit Hoag Hospital and raise awareness for skin cancer. The beautiful custom, artistic boards will auctioned on Saturday, October 11 at the Night of a Million Waves Gala and Art Auction, held at the Waterfront Beach Resort. In the meantime, enjoy seeing the more than 25 boards at the Huntington Beach Arts Center.

I hope you have an excellent school year!



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

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-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &  
Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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