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# School News

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

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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015

## Newly Formed Leadership Team to Focus On Instruction

From the Ocean View School District

A newly formed leadership team in the Ocean View School District in Huntington Beach will focus on the District's history of academic and instructional achievement as it prepares for the 2015-2016 school year, which began on September 9th.

When the Board of Trustees selected its new Superintendent, Dr. Carol Hansen, it also appointed Dr. Michael Conroy as Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services. They are now joined in the District's top level management ranks by recently appointed Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Jodee Brentlinger, and Felix Avila, who is in his second year as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

"We are very proud of our new leaders and look forward to a successful school year in service to our students," Board President Gina Clayton-Tarvin said. She reinforced Dr. Hansen's goal of "healthy teamwork" for the 2015-2016 school year and beyond.

A spokesman for the executive search firm who helped in the selections, said the recent appointments are significant at a



**Felix Avila, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Carol Hansen, Superintendent; Dr. Michael Conroy, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services; and Jodee Brentlinger, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.**

critical time in the District's long history, because of the experience and talent of the new team.

Dr. Hansen brings over 30 years of progressively increased leadership to the superintendency, having served as a classroom teacher, activities director, coach, principal, personnel director, and most recently as assistant superintendent for human resources in the nearby ABC Unified School District. She was recently praised for developing a nationally recognized labor-management partnership in the ABC system.

Another member of the team, Dr. Conroy, has over 30 years of educational experience, having been a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and high school principal before assuming responsibility for business and operations as an assistant superintendent in the Magnolia School District, and then in the Paramount Unified School District.

Brentlinger has more than 25 years of experience in the education profession, serving as an elementary school teacher, principal, director, executive director, and assistant superintendent for administrative services and community relations. The majority of this service was in the Capistrano Unified School District.

Avila is similarly experienced with service as a school psychologist, assistant

principal, principal, and associate superintendent for human resources in the Rialto Unified School District prior to joining Ocean View.

"We have built an incredible leadership team for our District and we are going to focus on the most important aspect of our work, which is what happens in classrooms between teachers and students. The team will be supported by our talented employees, caring communities and high performing schools," Dr. Hansen said. "I want to reinforce this with our key stakeholders, so one of my goals is to foster a healthy teamwork environment with everyone who is associated with our school system."

Also new to the management team in the Ocean View School District are Jim Choate, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Facilities; Gingi Borg, Director of Transportation; Julie Williams, Senior Facilities Planner; Barbara Davis, Coordinator of Student Services; Scott Mooney, Principal of Vista View Middle School; Brett Hardy, Principal of Golden View Elementary School; Rosa Mendieta, Principal of Oak View Elementary School; and Jessica Haag, Assistant Principal of Mesa View Middle School.

"All of these leaders were selected after a rigorous screening and selection process and I'm so pleased that they chose to join our District," Dr. Hansen said.



Fountain Valley



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**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

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**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Meshel Negrete

**COPY EDITORS:**

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:**

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another exciting school year! Thank you for your continued loyalty including *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue we asked the principals to share their bios. It is fun to read about their college choices, families, pets, hobbies, etc.

We will continue to include our syndicated columnists and when space allows, we have a few surprises. In this issue we introduce our office tortoise in a contest on page 30. Last year we had record numbers of entries in our contests, which are open to all ages.

Our next issue is November 10.

## Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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### Backpack Tips for Parents



**Debra Hodges**

Director,

Orthopedics and

Surgical Services

Its school supplies shopping time again. If a new backpack is on your list, here are some tips to find the right backpack for your child and use it correctly.

A good backpack has two wide, padded straps and a waist strap. Although your child may want to sling the pack over one shoulder, encourage them to place both straps across the shoulders and wear the waist strap. This helps distribute the weight in the pack more evenly. A backpack with a padded back will increase comfort and keep sharp objects from poking through the fabric.

### Backpack Safety Tips

- Carry no more than 10-15 % of your body weight in a backpack. That means an 80 pound child should carry no more than 8-12 pounds of books and supplies.
- Carrying too much weight may force the child backward. To compensate, the child leans forward at the hips or arches the back. This may compress the spine and cause shoulder, back or neck pain.
- Check that the backpack rests evenly in the middle of the back, not falling below the curve of your child's lower back.
- Teach your child to lift properly — bend at the knees, grab the pack with both hands and then lift it to the shoulder.

Continue to watch if your child is carrying too much in a backpack. Is he/she:

- Struggling to get the backpack on or off?
- Leaning forward or hunching over while carrying the bag?
- Talking about back pain or numbness or weakness in the arms and legs?

If your child continuously complains about physical symptoms of back or neck pain, you should consult a doctor.

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# Preparing Your Child for Surgery



**Rita Goshert**  
Manager,  
Child Life Program,  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

The thought of surgery can be worrisome for children and their parents. Preparing your child for any surgical procedure can make your child less anxious and help them tolerate surgery and anesthesia better.

### Tips to Help Prepare Yourself and Your Child

- Participate with your child in a pre-surgical tour and discuss what happened on the tour later.
- Ask questions of your child's surgeon, anesthesiologist and nursing team in order to better understand what your child will experience. This will give you confidence and enable you to talk calmly to your child.
- Speak honestly with your child about what will happen.
- Listen to your child's concerns about surgery.
- Encourage your child to participate in medical play (Child Life Specialists are prepared to help young patients through this experience).
- Use a play medical kit at home to familiarize your child with tools the care team may use, such as a stethoscope.
- Include siblings in preparation and encourage them to ask questions too.
- Remind your child that they will return home soon.
- Read books about children being hospitalized.



Children can often relate better to characters.

The more you help prepare your child for surgery, the more they will understand what is going to happen and reduce their anxiety about surgery.

To give you an idea of what to expect and help lessen any fears you and your family may have about surgery, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach has a virtual tour of its Pediatric Surgical Center. Take the tour at [MillerChildrens.org/SurgeryTour](http://MillerChildrens.org/SurgeryTour).

# Fall Fun



**Mary Ann Hutton**  
Branch Manager

Our Fall Storytime Session will be held at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday morning from September 9 to November 4. Our Crafts for Kids activity is also available every first Tuesday, on October 6 and November 3, at 3:30 p.m. for children ages three to 16. Children's movies will be shown every third Monday on September 21 and October 19 at 3:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

The BARK activity (Beach Animals Reading to Kids) encourages reading skills and self-confidence in children by teaching them how to read aloud to therapy dogs every third Saturday at 3:30 p.m., on September 10 and October 17.

On September 12 at 11 a.m., the Discovery Cube of Orange County will be demonstrating the power of electricity during a hair-raising presentation that uses an electrostatic generator and a Tesla Coil. Perfect for children ages seven to 12! Learn too how simple electrical circuits work by creating your own paper circuit artwork on September 19. Children ages seven to 17 are welcome. Please contact the Library to reserve a seat.

Teen-selected movies will be shown every first Saturday at 2:15 p.m. on October 3 and November 7. The Teen Activities Board also invites children, teens, and parents to enjoy the various board games available during Game Time, on Saturday, September 26 from 2–3 p.m. They are also hosting our second annual Halloween Costume Contest on October 31.

We also have a shelving program for teenagers ages 16 years and older who need community service hours for graduation requirements, Honor Society, or college preparation. Teens may pick up an application from the Library.

Teen Read Week is from October 18–24. The Library is sponsoring many activities for teenagers from ages 13–18 years. Stop by for some great books, fun contests, and prizes!



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# Huntington Beach Central Library

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## Homework Help and More



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

The Huntington Beach Library will offer free “online tutor” help throughout the year. It will also offer a volunteer tutoring program. The Library’s online tutor service is available at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org); click on the Brainfuse/HelpNow button.

Students and adults can interact with live tutors from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The online site offers resume help and practice tests, and also has a writing lab where students can email their work and receive constructive feedback within 24 hours. An HB library card is needed to access this program at home.

Starting on September 21, the Central Library will be having a Homework Club staffed with volunteer tutors. It will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students and parents need to register with the onsite coordinator at the start of the homework session.

The Homework Club will be held in the downstairs Maddy Room. Adults and teens interested in becoming homework tutors can contact Senior Librarian Barbara Richardson at 714-374-5338, or email her at [richardb@hbpl.org](mailto:richardb@hbpl.org).

The Central Library is looking for volunteer readers for its STAR storytelling and reading program. Adults and teens may volunteer to read aloud to small groups of children. A workshop for STAR readers will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 3 p.m. in the Central Library’s Meeting Room B.

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 70 different languages from around the world, and “Little Pim” is our children’s language learning program. Click on the library’s “databases” button and see what else we have to offer.

Don’t forget! The Library’s fall reading program will begin on October 3 for children ages 4–12. They may apply online at [www.hbpl.org](http://www.hbpl.org), or at the Library. Children who read five library books will earn a hamburger or cheeseburger!

# Westminster Library

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

## Library Fun



**Cathy S. DeLeon**  
Regional Branch Manager

Our Book Babies activity takes place every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Get your littlest one started early with songs, dance, play, and books! This activity is recommended for children 0–2 years of age.

Our Preschool Storytime is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Family Storytime is held every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Help encourage early literacy skills in your children and have fun with stories, songs, and a craft. Preschool Storytime is recommended for children ages 2–4 years, and Family Storytime is for all ages.

Homework Help is held every Saturday from 1–4 p.m. Volunteers are here every week to help students from kindergarten to high school. If you need volunteer hours for school, church, Boy/Girl

Scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the library and become a Volunteer! You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer. Call us or stop by for more information.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is a group that meets once a month to help plan teen programs, as well as give valuable input about what books and magazines to order for the teen section. It’s a fun way to have a say about what goes on at your library. You can get volunteer hours for it, too!

We have many other programs for children and teens during the year, such as movie screenings, hands-on science activities, and holiday craft programs. Please come to the library for a calendar of all events, or check our online calendar at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org). Library events are always free!

Remember, the library is an excellent and free resource during the school year. Your library card gives you access to books, magazines, computers, and even eBooks and databases that you can access from home.



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## City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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### Focused On Traffic Enforcement



**Steve A. Nagel**  
Mayor

It's hard to believe, but school will be in session again soon! That means one of our most precious resources, our children, will be making their way to and from school at the same time many of us are traveling to and from work. Let's be extra alert and conscientious when driving near schools. The most important school crossing times are from 7 a.m. to 8:35 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

When schools open, the Fountain Valley Police Department will again focus its traffic enforcement efforts to monitor motorists' speed and enforce crosswalk and Crossing Guard violations near school-related intersections. Pedestrian safety in crosswalks depends on recognizing the authority and assigned responsibility of Crossing Guards. According to CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE § 2815 LOCAL REGULATION OF TRAFFIC: Any person who shall disregard any traffic signal or direction given by a nonstudent school crossing guard, appointed pursuant to Section 21100, or authorized by any city police department, any board of supervisors of a county, or the Department of the California Highway Patrol, when the guard is wearing the official insignia of such a school crossing guard, and when in the course of the guard's duties the guard is protecting any person in crossing a street or highway in the vicinity of a school or while returning thereafter to a place of safety, shall be guilty of an infraction and subject to the penalties provided in Section 42001.1.

Ignoring the presence and direction of a Crossing Guard is illegal and dangerous to our school children and Crossing Guards.

To all safety-conscious motorists, I express my thanks for making our community's kids your top priority. Also, let me compliment and thank all Crossing Guards for the great job they do. Pedestrian safety is not only a Crossing Guard's responsibility, it is also ours! Have a great school year.

## City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov)

### Ready for a New School Year



**Jill Hardy**  
Mayor

This past summer was EPIC for Huntington Beach. The City broke two Guinness Book of World Records –the most people surfing on a surfboard, and the largest surfboard. Our 66 surfers rode a wave for more than 10 seconds on a 42-foot surfboard! The board will make its home at our International Surfing Museum, mounted just outside so that folks around the globe can take pictures with the largest board in the world!

The big board was featured in our 4th of July Parade – “Sounds of Freedom” – the city's 111th annual parade, which was featured on KABC, Channel 7.

The most rewarding event this summer was in July, when the city hosted 105 athletes and coaches from Australia before they competed at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. I will never forget the welcome parade and luau on the beach!

Lastly, we celebrated a successful Vans US Open of Surfing. Although crowd numbers were down, the mellow surfing vibe was alive and apparent to the nearly 500,000 people that attended the nine-day event.

I hope you have an excellent school year!



Please see our ad on page 31.



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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Mark Johnson**

Mark Johnson joined the Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) as superintendent in January 2015. Prior to becoming a part of the FVSD family, he spent considerable time in the Los Alamitos Unified School District, where he served for 15 years as a middle school teacher, site administrator, and most recently as the assistant superintendent of educational services. In 2014, Dr. Johnson was recognized as the Los Alamitos Unified School District Administrator of the Year, commended for promoting “a culture that supports ongoing learning, reflective practices, creativity, and innovation.”

Over the last several years, Dr. Johnson has led numerous change initiatives in education related to improving student outcomes. Some of these changes include: online learning; Common Core State Standards; Depth and Complexity; Cognitively Guided Instruction; Advanced Placement for all; and college and career readiness. In addition, Dr. Johnson is committed to developing new and emerging leaders as an adjunct professor in the Rossier School of Education Doctoral Program at the University of Southern California (USC).

Dr. Johnson earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and another in English from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, a master’s degree in education administration from National University, and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from USC.

Family is a big part of Dr. Johnson’s life. He resides locally with his wife, Susan, an elementary school teacher, and their three young daughters.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Ian Collins**  
*President*

Mr. Ian Collins was elected to the Board of Trustees in November 2008 and was reelected in 2012. He has over 39 years of experience in education, serving as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. He holds a bachelor’s degree with an emphasis on geography, a master’s degree with emphasis in both political science and geography, and a lifetime administrative credential.

Ian currently serves on the district’s Education Foundation Executive Board and has served as a representative on the Action Committee for Education (ACE), the Superintendent Parent Council (SPC), and the Surplus Property Advisory Committee. He is a member of the California School Boards Association’s Delegate Assembly and serves on the Orange County School Boards Associations Executive Board. In addition, he served on the Huntington Beach Children’s Needs Task Force for more than 10 years and has served as the district’s ad hoc representative to the city of Huntington Beach. He has completed the rigorous two-year Masters in Governance program, a continuing professional development course offered through the California School Boards Association. He has been awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Education Award by the Orange County Department of Education and was recognized by the PTA with their Golden Oak and Continuing Service Awards. He was also honored by the Fountain Valley School District with the Outstanding Service Award for his volunteerism on behalf of all students in the district.

Ian and his wife, Julie, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have resided in the Fountain Valley School District for over 30 years. They have three children, Jane, Ian and Jeffrey, all of whom are teachers. In addition, Ian is proud to have four grandchildren attending Fountain Valley schools.

## Fountain Valley Schools Foundation

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

## Prepared for the Future



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

The Fountain Valley Schools Foundation kicked off the new school year with an officers and directors retreat. The members of this group are business owners, school and city officials, parents, and community volunteers who have joined together “to enrich each Fountain Valley School District student’s academic experience by providing cutting-edge technology and resources to inspire them to think, to create, and to achieve.” This mission statement helps us focus on providing unique activities for all of our students in the areas of science and music and the arts, and robotics.

We reviewed our priorities for the coming year and set fund-raising goals. September kicks off our membership drive, which is the backbone of our fund-raising for the group. We look forward to the First Annual Marc Ecker Golf Tournament, which will be held October 5 at Mile Square Golf Course. Prior to the tournament, we will hold a ball drop on Friday, September 25 at Fountain Bowl at noon. You can register to participate in both of these events by visiting [fvschools.org](http://fvschools.org). We also encourage you to mark your calendars for our Taste of Fountain Valley, which will be held in April of 2016.

The monies earned from these and other events will go to provide enrichment in the areas of robotics, music, art, science, and technology. Join us at the Fountain Valley Schools Foundation. Be a part of making the Fountain Valley students better prepared for the future.



**Ian Collins**  
*President*

### Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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**Thank you for reading *School News*!**

### 2015 Board of Trustee Meetings

**October 15      November 12      December 10**

## Roch Courreges *Elementary (K–5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • [www.rcces-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.rcces-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**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, delving into our newly adopted math curriculum, and piloting our newly trained teaching methods in CGI (Cognitively Guided Instruction) in the area of mathematics.

This is my 15th 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, 19; Miranda, 14; and Conner, 12.

Welcome again to the 2015–16 school year. I look forward to leading all of the students, teachers and parents through another excellent year at Courreges Elementary School.

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

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



**Kevin Johnson**  
*Principal*

Kevin Johnson, the principal of Fulton Middle School, has served nearly 15 years in public education at both the middle and high school levels. 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, he then returned to the middle school classroom as a reading specialist and a Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) instructor. He then entered middle school administration and served for the next five years as an Associated Student Body (ASB) director, California Junior Scholastic Federation (CJSF) coordinator, Academic Pentathlon coach, Science Olympiad coordinator, and assistant principal.

In addition to a bachelor's degree and teaching credential in English language arts, he also holds a master's degree in cross-cultural education and another in leadership from Pepperdine University. He completed his administrative credential at the University of California, Irvine and was certified in business management by California State University, Fullerton. He is currently enrolled in 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 students. As an Orange County native, Kevin is proud to serve on the Leadership Association of Student Councils for Middle Schools (LASC) as both a Board member and the treasurer.

## Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Jay Adams**  
*Principal*

My name is Jay Adams and I am so excited to be at the helm as the Masuda Monarchs' Principal! I grew up in Colorado, graduating with my BA from the University of Northern Colorado. I moved to California at 22, began teaching, and then earned my MA from Azusa Pacific University. 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 grades! I especially enjoy working with At-Risk students, developing strategies and plans to help them learn and to keep

## James H. Cox *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

Mr. Patrick Ham considers himself first and foremost a teacher. He has been a teacher having taught both elementary and middle school students. Mr. Ham is bilingual, and lived in Seoul and Incheon, South Korea for the first 8 years of his life.

When Mr. Ham is not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife and four children, following his favorite pro and collegiate teams (UCLA Bruins), and taking part in his newly discovered enjoyment: fishing.

When asked to share about Cox Elementary School, Mr. Ham said: "The Cox staff and community are truly 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 2015–2016 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-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.regs-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.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 2015-2016 school year!

them moving on target. One of my main goals is getting each 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 (seventeen), Isaiah (fifteen), Kaia (twelve), and Asia (ten). We have a busy household including ten pets: a hedgehog, a ferret, a rabbit, four 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! I love Jack Skellington, Beetlejuice, Edward Scissorhands...you name it!

Next time you're in the area, stop by and say hello to me at Masuda. I look forward to meeting you and to working with you to ensure your student's success!



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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.wtnes-fvscd-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, MT. 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. For the past two years, he has been the principal 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 recently awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School and California Distinguished 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.

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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.uhpes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

Julie Ballesteros has been an educator for the past 18 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 daughter and new baby son. They currently reside in Mission Viejo, where they love to go to the beach and spend time with family and friends.

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

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbertms.fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Jennifer Morgan**  
*Principal*

Jennifer Morgan is serving her second year as principal of Talbert Middle School in the Fountain Valley School District. She previously served as math teacher, school counselor and assistant principal in the Garden Grove and Westminster School Districts. Ms. Morgan 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. In addition to her passion for teenagers and education, Ms. Morgan values spending time with her two children, who are entering third and fourth grades.

# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.ioes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Erik Miller**  
*Principal*

Mr. Erik Miller is beginning his fifth year as the principal of the Isojiro Oka Elementary School Wolfpack. 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 consistently ranked in the top tier of schools in Orange County and throughout California.

Mr. Miller is proud of the support by parents and FVSD to increase the amount of technology in the hands of Wolfpack students. The number of devices has quintupled since 2013 and this has helped more students light up with excitement, when reaching a learning goal they've set out to achieve! He 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 or playing handball with children at recess, Mr. Miller is all about helping students grow as scholars and as people.

Prior to arriving at Oka, Mr. Miller was an assistant principal at the elementary and middle school levels. In addition, he taught both elementary and middle school in Irvine Unified School District. His favorite subjects are math and social studies. Mr. Miller and his wife Kelley, also a teacher, are parents of three awesome children. Their daughter is currently in middle school and both boys are in elementary school. When away from the Oka campus, Mr. Miller's favorite things to do include playing golf, cheering on the Angels, Ducks, and Chargers, volunteering at church and being a Dad!

# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.htes-fvscd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Kathy Davis**  
*Principal*

I welcome everyone to the 2015-2016 school year. I am very excited as I enter my third year as the principal of Tamura. This last school year was full of so many successes, and I am very much looking forward to watching our Tigers set new goals and endeavors for 2015-16.

We have 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 my tenth 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 third 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 with the 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 student s' awareness of their roles at Tamura, and provide them with an opportunity to make good choices both academically and socially.

We will continue to Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Our Best!

Ms. Morgan has really enjoyed working with the amazing staff and students at Talbert Middle School during the last two years. The learning environment at Talbert is welcoming and student centered. There is a great sense of community on the campus. Ms. Morgan looks forward to a great year as students continue to be challenged and grow as individuals.



# Huntington Beach City School District

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/964-8888 • [www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.huntington-ca.schoolloop.com)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Gregory Haulk**

Gregg Haulk has 26 years of experience working in public education and more than 16 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, chairs the Children and Families Commission Advisory Committee, Pediatrics Health Services Subcommittee, and participates in the Special Education Alliance Committee. He is also an integral part of the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Shari Kowalke**  
*President*

I look back now and truly appreciate just how fortunate I am to have been appointed as a provisional member of the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) Governing Board in May 2011. Since that time, I am very proud to share that I ran unopposed in 2012 and was reelected in 2014.

I have been very involved in HBCSD and the Huntington Beach community for the past 12 years as a strong advocate for youth and public education. My leadership and participation include serving on the Moffett School PTA, the Sowers Middle School PTA, and the Edison High School PTA as the president, executive vice president, advocacy chairperson, vice president of Ways and Means, vice president of membership, and parliamentarian. I also served the Huntington Union Council PTA as the parliamentarian and vice president of programs. I served as the Edison High School Center for International Business And Communication Studies (CIBACS) Foundation president and was part of the District School Closure Committee, the HBCSD Parent Empowerment Academy Planning Committee, the School Site Council, and YMCA Parent Advisory Committee.

I truly enjoy being involved and having a say in what is best for the children in our community. Professionally, I am a designer for a small publishing company. Personally, my husband, Thomas, and I have lived in Huntington Beach for 24 years, and we have two terrific children. One attends school in HBCSD and one in Huntington Beach Union High School District. I am proud to be a part of the Huntington Beach community, and I love serving on the Huntington Beach City District Governing Board.



**Shari Kowalke**  
*President*

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### 2015 Board of Trustee Meetings

**October 20**

**November 17**

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# 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)



**Darrenn Platt**  
*Principal*

Darrenn Platt is beginning his first year as Dwyer’s principal at Dwyer Middle School. He began his tenure in Huntington Beach last year as our assistant principal.

Mr. Platt graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills with a Master of Arts in educational leadership and has a Bachelor of Arts in social science with a minor in political science from California State University, Long Beach. He has been in education for 22 years, serving in the Los Alamitos and Bellflower Unified school districts before coming to HBCSD. He was a teacher for 14 years, teaching history, language arts, leadership, PE and intervention programs. He then became a school administrator in the Los Alamitos Unified School District at Oak and McAuliffe middle schools.

Leaving the classroom was a difficult decision for him. He had many opportunities to move into administration but always turned them down because of the impact that a teacher has on young people’s lives. That changed when a mentor of his said “a good teacher can impact hundreds of students, but a good administrator can impact thousands.”

“The power of education is created in the connection between a student and an educator, whether it be a teacher, counselor, a member of the office staff or the principal,” Mr. Platt said.

Mr. Platt strongly believes in the power of extracurricular activities in helping develop well-rounded students, as shown in his experience as ASB director, coach of multiple sports and adviser to numerous clubs. He’s excited about continuing Dwyer’s rich history and its stellar activities, sports programs and amazing classroom learning opportunities.

Mr. Platt has been blessed with an amazing family that includes his wife and four children. In his free time, he enjoys coaching, playing and goofing around with them. He’s also known to be a bit of a Disney fanatic!

# 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 fourth year as the principal of Eader Elementary School; however she has been a site administrator in Huntington Beach City School District for eight years and in total for thirteen 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, a master’s degree in education administration and 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!

# 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 is starting her 29th year in education, serving 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, 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 fourth year as the principal of Hawes Elementary School, which received a California Distinguished School award in 2014, Ms. Jennings to excited to work with the community to continue to strive for “Hawesomeness”.

Mrs. Jennings has been married for 24 years and has a daughter in college as well as about 700 children with whom she spends each day! She loves reading, playing tennis and being outside—camping, hiking, beaching, etc.! 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 Hawesome!

# 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 28 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. Five 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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# 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 30 years as an elementary school teacher, a middle school and elementary school assistant principal, and an elementary school principal.

In the Huntington Beach City School District, Dr. Huibregtse served as the principal of Perry Elementary School for six years and is entering into her second year at Huntington Seacliff Elementary School for the 2015–16 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.

As Huntington Seacliff is a 2014 California Distinguished School and a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School, the work now is to keep moving student achievement forward to the next level.

# 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)



**Dr. Renee Polk**  
*Principal*

Dr. Renee Polk grew up in Irvine, California and is a graduate of University High School. Dr. Polk attended University of the Pacific, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and her multiple-subject teaching credential. She 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. In 2015, she completed her doctorate in educational leadership at California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Polk has been in education for 15 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 as a principal. She is looking forward to another great year as principal at Perry Elementary! Perry has an incredible staff and amazing students and she anticipates a fantastic 2015-16 school year! When Dr. Polk is not at work, she enjoys snow skiing, scuba diving, water skiing, and traveling. She is a San Diego Chargers and Angels baseball fan and she enjoys going to games and supporting both of her teams!

# 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 25 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 five years. She has been at Smith School for a total of 16 years and loves being a Smith Surfer. 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 recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and have an adult son and daughter that is a junior at UCSB. 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.

# 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 27 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. Six 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. Dr. Polhemus 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 embraced the opportunity to move to Huntington Beach last year after living in Hemet for 40 years. Her love of the HB community began during her first Surf City Half Marathon in 2009. She is a dedicated runner and completed the 2015 Boston Marathon with great support from her students, staff and parents at Peterson. She is looking forward to her second year serving the children and families of Huntington Beach.

# 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 of education for over 21 years as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal, preschool director, 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 has served the district for 10 years and is receiving her 10 year pin this September. She served at John H. Eader Elementary School for seven years, and at the helm of Isaac L. Sowers Middle School for three years. 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. She continues to be inspired by her mission to improve the lives of children by improving the instructional practices in the classroom. She believes that the best way to improve education is to have the best teachers in the classroom, and works to develop relationships and pedagogy to improve those practices. Dr. Guerrero models her love of learning in everything she does by having high expectations for herself and for those around her.

Dr. Guerrero is married and has two children. She loves traveling, camping, do-it-yourself projects and vacationing with her family. However, most of her time has been spent watching and traveling with her children for lacrosse.





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

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# Ocean View School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Carol Hansen**

What a pleasure it is to be named the superintendent of Ocean View School District (OVSD)! It is a role I take seriously, since I am being entrusted to oversee the education of more than 8,800 students and manage a staff of over 1,000 employees. Joining me is Dr. Michael Conroy, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services. Dr. Conroy joins OVSD with over 30 years of public education experience, most recently serving in the Paramount Unified School District as the assistant superintendent of business.

I would like to share a little bit about myself. I have over 30 years of public education experience, having served as a teacher, activities director, coach, principal, and personnel director. My most recent position was in the ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD) in Cerritos as the assistant superintendent for human resources. In this capacity, I provided oversight for all personnel functions and served as the chief negotiator for the school district. While in ABCUSD, I was fortunate to be actively involved in fostering a nationally recognized labor-management partnership. I look forward to sharing these practices in OVSD.

As we embark on this new chapter in OVSD, I bring my unwavering commitment to student achievement and creating a cohesive environment within our schools, district office, and various departments. My immediate goal is to immerse myself in our district and get to know our talented staff members, students, and parents.

I look forward to taking steps to address the five focus areas within our Strategic Plan, The OVSD Edge: 1) Effective Instruction and Academic Achievement; 2) Effective Leadership and Professional Development; 3) Engaged Community; 4) Safe and Respectful Environment; and 5) Optimized Resources. To help accomplish this, one of my overriding themes this year will be healthy teamwork. It is a theme I will work to reinforce with our key stakeholders.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Gina Clayton-Tarvin**  
*President*

It is an honor and pleasure to serve as the president of the Board of Trustees for the Ocean View School District (OVSD). I am currently serving my first term on the Board, as well as my first year as the president. For the past 19 years, I have been an educator in nearby Los Angeles County in the ABC Unified School District, serving for 10 years as a seventh- and eighth-grade math and science middle school teacher and as the coordinator for a federally funded magnet school. I currently work as a sixth-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) teacher, a position I have held for the past nine years. I have also worked as a Special Education homeschool teacher. These experiences gained through teaching in the classroom have helped me to understand the needs of the students, parents, and educators in OVSD.

Currently, I am serving as a leader in the ABC Federation of Teachers and have done so for my entire career. In addition, I am currently involved in the California School Board Association as an elected member of the Delegate Assembly, representing Region 15. I am an active member of the Hope View Elementary School PTO as a parent of a fifth-grader and a member of the Cerritos Elementary School PTA.

I am proud to announce that, under the new leadership of Superintendent Dr. Carol Hansen and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Michael Conroy, I look forward to extending the Board's vision for OVSD as a flagship school district in Orange County, offering new and innovative programming.

I have proudly resided in Huntington Beach for 25 years. My husband, Darrick, and I look forward to raising our two children in Huntington Beach and having them attend schools in our wonderful Ocean View School District. I look forward to serving the communities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, and Midway City.



**Gina Clayton-Tarvin**  
*President*

### Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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## Circle View *Elementary*

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



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

It is an honor to serve as the principal of Circle View Elementary School this year! I have enthusiastically served the Ocean View School District as a successful instructional leader at three different schools. I now welcome the opportunity to be a part of Circle View's legacy and tradition of excellence.

Circle View has an amazing reputation for cultivating such a high caliber of outstanding teachers, wonderful students, and incredibly supportive parent community. I also look forward to these exciting times of transition and change within the OVSD with the Common Core curriculum, the Smarter

Balanced assessments, and our continued modernization, safety upgrades and enhancements programs at the schools.

In addition, I am proud to say that Circle View is welcoming the following talented staff members. They have previously taught at other district schools, but are new to Circle View. We have SDC teachers Jackie Mina (from Lake View), Haley Pazazola (Spring View), Heather Dowland (College View), and Karin Peters (Golden View). We also bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Lynn Britt, who retired over the summer.

The 2015–2016 school year promises to be filled with powerful learning activities. They are designed to provide an enriching and successful school experience for each student. We welcome all of our new faces, and our newly identified GATE students, and look forward to connecting with friends and families to create lifelong memories.

### 2015 Board of Trustee Meetings

**September 15, 2015**  
**October 6, 2015**

**October 20, 2015**  
**November 3, 2015**

**November 17, 2015**  
**December 8, 2015**



# 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, and I am a graduate of Western Michigan University where I majored in Physical and Dance Education. I taught high school classes before moving to California in 1981. After teaching elementary school for six years, I received my Master's Degree in School Administration from Alliant International University in Irvine.

An employee of the OVSD since 1998, I have enjoyed serving in many capacities – classroom teacher for multiple grade levels, Title I Reading Intervention Teacher, summer school principal, and now as the principal at College View Elementary.

Prior to College View, I served as the principal at Hope View for four years. For six years, I was the Principal Advisor for the Arts where I worked with district and county personnel and agencies to bring visual and performing arts opportunities to OVSD. While teaching, I also taught evening jazz and tap lessons at the Huntington Academy of Dance.

Greg, my husband of 31 years, and I moved to Huntington Beach 28 years ago from Long Beach. We have three children; Garrett, Tanner and McKenna, and a menagerie of animals. I love to travel, spend time at our home in Lake Havasu, play golf, and bowl. We are active with the local Kiwanis Club and advocate for Bunny's Kids, a non-profit charity that supports our Huntington Beach homeless shelters.

I am excited to welcome our College View Wildcats with a "ROAR!" The staff and parent volunteers have been diligently leveling and labeling our school library books for the Accelerated Reading Program which kicks off this month. Mrs. Zolg, our reading intervention teacher, has volunteered to coordinate our program. It is a school-wide venture that makes reading fun while offering incentives to motivate our students to read and improve their comprehension and fluency skills.

# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Brett Hardy**  
*Principal*

I am honored to be the new Golden View Elementary School principal for the 2015–2016 school year. Golden View, a California Distinguished School, has a great history of academic excellence, and I look forward to carrying on the tradition for many years to come. I first joined Ocean View School District (OVSD) in 2013 as the assistant principal of Mesa View Middle School, where I was active as a coordinator and specialist of district- and school-level technology programs. My time was also spent as a presenter and Professional Learning Community member for Common Core State Standards implementation, and I also developed curriculum

and aligned standards to the Common Core. I worked as a coordinator on various school and district committees, a grant-writing specialist, a teacher evaluator, and a Huntington Beach Safe Schools Coalition trainer. As you can see, I enjoy my work!

Prior to coming to OVSD, I worked in the Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) for 11 years, serving as an assistant principal at Dwyer Middle School, a fourth-grade teacher at Huntington Seacliff Elementary School, and, in 2002, as a summer school principal. While in HBCSD, I facilitated many science staff development sessions for the district and coordinating districts and served as a lead science trainer.

My professional training and experience includes Common Core, Gifted And Talented Education (GATE), Cognitively Guided Instruction, Aeries master scheduling, and Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA). I earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a master's degree from California State University, Long Beach.

This is a terrific opportunity for me personally, but I believe it will also provide Golden View students with a wonderful opportunity to continue to thrive academically in a nurturing, unique learning environment.

## Azusa Pacific University School of Education



**Karina Quezada '08, M.A.Ed. '09 and '11**  
School Psychologist, Victor Elementary School District



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# Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to welcome you to Harbour View Elementary, a California Distinguished School. At Harbour View, our goal is to prepare children academically and socially for the many challenges and adventures that they will experience in their lives. It is hard for me to believe, but I have been in the Ocean View School District my entire professional life—over 35 years! It is an honor to tell you the majority of those years have been spent at Harbour View, not only as the principal, but as an administrative assistant to the principal and as a successful teacher of multiple grade levels, including the 7th and 8th grades, back in the day when the school was a K-8 site.

While serving as Harbour View's principal for the past eight years, I have had many wonderful leadership experiences, including the recent opportunity to serve as a Principal Leader for K-5 English Language Arts Common Core implementation throughout OVSD. To expand my professional horizons and share my teaching experiences, I also served as a Master Teacher for the California State University at Long Beach (CSULB), National University and Concordia University. As a student myself, I attended CSULB and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies. I later earned a Master's Degree in Education from the United States International University at Irvine.

One of my favorite quotes is by Steve Jobs. He says you have to love what you do in order to do great work. This is my hope for our Harbour View children as they move on to higher grade levels—that they find success in life and love what they do. We look forward to working together with you, and our community, for an exciting and rewarding school year.

# Hope View *Elementary*

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



**Carrie Haskin**  
*Principal*

On behalf of the Hope View staff, a heartfelt thank you for the invaluable support and assistance given by our families, district and community, and for bringing us home to a wonderfully remodeled campus! We are "Hope View Strong" and thrilled to be back on our campus with all of our grade levels.

I am proud to be in my fourth year as the principal of Hope View, a California Distinguished School. During my time in OVSD, I have met hundreds of students and watched as they grow and find academic success in our school. I, myself, have had the opportunity to serve as the Chairman of the District's Health and Wellness Committee for four years and participate as a member of the Common Core and Thinking Maps Committees.

Prior to OVSD, I worked in Westminster School District for 14 years. For 10 of those years, I worked as an elementary school teacher at Schroeder Elementary School, where I became a nationally certified teacher. During that time I also had the opportunity to work for three years as a Cognitively Guided Instruction Math Coach with the Orange County Department of Education. In 2008, I moved into administrative roles in WSD, first as a TOSA at Meairs Elementary School, then as an assistant principal at Hayden Elementary School, and finally as an assistant principal at Stacey Middle School. It was thrilling to become a principal in OVSD in 2011.

On a personal note, I have two incredible children. My husband of 31 years is a car enthusiast, so I reap the benefits of enjoying vintage cars and car shows. When I have free time, I love reading and travel.

It is going to be an amazing year with our wonderful students, staff and PTO. Welcome back Hope View Hawks!

# Marine View *Middle School*

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



**William Lynch**  
*Principal*

Marine View Middle School is such a special community of teachers, parents and students. I look forward to another great year of academic growth, as we anticipate a dramatic increase of technology in the hands of kids, with our new computer lab and more Google Chromebook carts.

Personally, I am now entering my second year as the principal of Marine View. Prior to this position, I was an assistant principal at Buena Park Junior High School in the Buena Park School District. I am originally from New England and knew from a very early age that I was not well-suited for cold weather. As a result, I finally made it to California fifteen years ago, working for a public relations/lobbying firm. It was during that time that I had brushes with education policy-makers in Sacramento, and it changed my 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, I had the pleasure of sharing my love of government and American history at both the high school and middle school levels, before moving into school administration.

I earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Arizona, and an M.A. in Secondary Education from California State University at Long Beach. When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my wife and our two small children, ages 5 and 7.

# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

I am excited to kick off the 2015-16 school year and welcome back students for my second year as principal of Mesa View Middle School. We are going to continue to build on our high quality academic program and positive school culture. As with last year, I look forward to working in partnership with our school staff and community to keep the safe learning environment we have created for our middle school students. We are also focused on preparing our students to become critical thinkers in a 21st century world.

Before joining the Ocean View School District in 2011 as the assistant principal of Spring View Middle School, I 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, I continued on to obtain a Master's Degree in school administration from Concordia University in Irvine. Through and through, I am local to the area, proudly born and raised in Fountain Valley.

Outside of being an educator, I am passionate about Angels Baseball and have served as a lifeguard for the city of Newport Beach since 1995. My wife and I have a young son that keeps us both on our toes.





## Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Rosa Mendieta**  
*Principal*

What an honor to serve as the new principal of Oak View Elementary School, a California Distinguished School! I am thrilled to start off my new role and the 2015–16 school year by welcoming Oak View students back to their school. Although there is still construction to be completed this year, we will all be together. I'm fluent in English and Spanish, and I look forward to meeting the many students and families we serve and learning more about Oak View.

## Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



**Joyce Horowitz**  
*Principal*

Welcome to Oak View Preschool and the 2015-16 school year!

My name is Joyce Horowitz and I would like to tell you a few things about me. I have been an educator for over 35 years. I have worked in Ocean View since 1992, and I am grateful and happy to be working in this wonderful school district. I have worked with children and families in all of the elementary grades and preschool. As a classroom teacher, I trained other teachers and have mostly worked with English Learners throughout my career.

I am bilingual in Spanish; having studied Spanish and bilingual education at the University of California at Irvine. I

lived in Venezuela for two years while teaching there in an American School. The highlight of that experience was chasing an iguana out of my classroom!

Being bilingual has provided me with some rewarding experiences including teaching in a Spanish bilingual program. I have also been the Principal of a Fundamental School (school of choice in a public school setting). My experience with grant-funded programs, mainly the Even Start Family Literacy Program, led me to the State Preschool Program. I attended UCI for my B.A. and teaching credentials, and I earned my Master's Degree and administrative credential from California State University at Long Beach.

I enjoy preschool because of the dedicated staff, parents and their children. They love our program! This is often the child's first school experience, and it is fulfilling to watch as they learn, change, grow, and make friends at Oak View Preschool. I live in Westminster with my husband, Ed. I spend time with my two daughters, son-in-law and my parents, who live close by in Seal Beach. I love to shop, take walks, watch movies, and eat at ethnic restaurants.

## Star View *Elementary*

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



**Jamie Goodwyn**  
*Principal*

I am very excited to be starting my fourth year as Star View's principal and my 14th year in education. Each year, as summer comes to an end, the anticipation of all the learning to come and the activities of the new year bring such joy to my life. I will say with much enthusiasm that the Star View community is top notch! Among all the staff members, students and parents that I have worked with over the years, it is clear that Star View is 100 percent dedicated to educating children and achieving great things.

I am thrilled this year to continue the full implementation of the Common Core State Standards at Star View; the District, principals and teachers have been slowly changing their practices to support all students to become 21st 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! Our 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

I come from the Fontana Unified School District, where I served as a principal. Prior to that, I was a principal in the Pomona Unified School District. In the Rialto Unified School District, I was an elementary administrator for several years. I began my teaching career in RUSD and enjoyed working in the classroom for six wonderful years. For a few years, I also had the pleasure of working as an adjunct professor for Point Loma of the Nazarene University at various satellite campuses.

Currently, I am enrolled in the Doctor of Education in K–12 Educational Leadership Program at Azusa Pacific University. I enjoy public speaking and participating in mentorship opportunities as well. I earned my B.A. from California State University, San Bernardino, and an M.A. from Azusa Pacific University.

## Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

This is going to be an exciting school year at Pleasant View! For those of you who do not know me, my story began in Long Beach, California, where I was born. At the age of two, my family moved 10 miles north to Norwalk, where my parents still live after more than 55 years. My mother worked at Sears for over 30 years and my father worked for Gulf Oil/GoldenWest Refinery in Santa Fe Springs for 35 years. I attended Niemes Elementary School, Faye Ross Junior High School, and Gahr High School, which are all part of ABC Unified School District. During this time, I was fortunate to have many outstanding teachers and role models that helped shape my future career goals in education.

I am starting my 32nd year in education. I taught elementary school for eight years, middle school science for 15 years, and have been a principal for the last eight years in Ocean View School District.

I have been married to my wonderful and beautiful wife for over 15 years. She currently teaches middle school and high school science. Our three sons are ages 12, 10 and 8, and they attend school in our own Ocean View School District. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, taking summer camping vacations, doing crosswords, exercising, and coaching and playing sports with my boys. I love football and was fortunate to play in high school and college.

I am ready to meet all of you and start our 2015-2016 school year.

## Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
*Principal*

This will be my sixth year as Spring View Middle School's principal and my 14th year in the education profession for Ocean View School District. As the principal of Spring View, I strive to communicate with my staff, students and parents, and use my decision-making skills to benefit all students. It is always my goal to achieve outstanding results in meeting our school and District-level objectives. I have had the pleasure of recruiting a top-rate teaching team at Spring View and planning professional development activities district-wide. I was able to lead District LCAP meetings to maximize OVSD resources in the areas of technology, facilities and grounds.

Prior to my role as principal, I worked in OVSD as an assistant principal for and as a teacher and administrative assistant, including work with curriculum planning for special needs students. I attended California State University at Long Beach and earned a Bachelor's Degree in history, and then earned a Masters of Administration from National University.

I enjoy every opportunity I have to spend time with Spring View's energetic and dedicated staff. We serve a fantastic community! The upcoming school year is going to be exceptional.

I look forward to seeing our returning students and meeting our new students in September!



## Sun View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year!

As the new principal Sun View Elementary School, it is with great pleasure I welcome all students and families to the 2015-2016 school year! I'm thrilled to join such a wonderful staff, group of students and school community. Having worked in the Ocean View School District for the last nine years, I have gained invaluable experience in helping to create a successful, nurturing and safe school environment, and my expectation is that we will do so again this year.

The staff and I plan to continue on the path of educational excellence and we are committed to providing all Sun View students with the academic and pro-social behaviors that will be the foundation of their present and future success.

To give you a little background on me—I received my Bachelor of Science, Business Marketing, from California State University at Long Beach, along with a Liberal Studies Certificate and Teaching Credential. I earned my Master of Science in Education Administration from Pepperdine University.

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.” Thank you, Steve Jobs. This is a quote that strongly resonates with me. Having been in education for over 20 years, I am incredibly fortunate to still love what I do.

When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my wonderful family. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Craig, and we have two beautiful daughters, Sarah and Lauren, and two cats. I also love to run, go to the beach, spend time with friends, and be spoiled by my husband's fabulous cooking!

## Village View *Elementary*

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

Village View Elementary School is proud to be honored as a California Distinguished School, and our staff continues to strive for excellence and improve achievement as the second year of Common Core Standards get under way. As part of our mission, we believe in providing an equitable, comprehensive education in all curricular areas for all students. Our goal is to foster the love and passion of learning for all students.

As you get back into the swing of a school schedule, here are some important safety reminders you can talk about as a family.

- Always tell your parents where you are going.
- Try not to walk anywhere alone or take shortcuts. Walk with a friend.
- Bad people do not always look mean or scary.
- Do not get close to strangers. Make sure you have room to run.
- Don't tell your name or address to a stranger.
- Never go with a stranger to help look for a lost pet or play a game.
- Never get into a car with anyone you don't know.
- Know safe places you can go – a police or fire station, the library, a store or a friend's house.
- If a stranger follows you or grabs for you, yell loud! Shout, “I don't know you!” Fight back and make as much noise as you can.
- If anyone touches you in a bad way, say, “NO!” Get away and tell an adult you trust. Keep telling until someone listens.
- Tell your parents about places you don't feel safe.
- Talk to your parents and come up with a secret code word. Never go with anyone unless they know the secret code word.

Our school is so fortunate to enjoy an incredibly supportive community, so we feel confident this is going to be a fantastic year. Go Dolphins!

## Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Scott Mooney**  
*Principal*

I am honored and excited to join the Ocean View Unified School District team as the next principal of Vista View Middle School. In my short time here, I have felt a strong sense of community across the district. I look forward to contributing to our collective mission to improve the learning experience for all students.

I received my undergraduate degree at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, where I majored in mechanical engineering and was captain of the volleyball team. Upon graduation, I decided to change my career path to make a difference in the lives of students. I was a high school science teacher and volleyball coach for 10 years, primarily at San Marino High School. I spent the 2007–2008 school year teaching English at Quy Nhon University in Vietnam. I received my master's degree in educational leadership from California Polytechnic University, Pomona. I served as the assistant principal of instruction, athletics, and instructional technology at Vista High School before my most recent position as assistant principal at Alvarado Intermediate School in Rowland Heights.

My focus as your principal will be on supporting the excellent work already occurring at Vista View, as we create the best instructional program possible for all of our students. I am excited to work with staff, students, and community on this mission. I welcome and encourage parents and community members to meet with me in person. Please come let me know what you love about Vista View, and how we can help make it a better place.

My wife, Lauren, and I have been married since 2010 and enjoy camping, hiking, and travel. Our favorite places to visit are Avila Beach, Portland, and Ireland. You can find me on Twitter @smooney5. #GoFalcons!

## Westmont *Elementary*

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



**Susan Broderson**  
*Principal*

The 2015-2016 school year will be my second year with Ocean View School District and my second year as the proud principal of Westmont Elementary School. I want our students and families to know that our staff is committed to bringing the best 21st century education to every child on our campus. Westmont and Lake View Schools will be joining forces to bring the best of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math to all of our students. It promises to be a very exciting and creative year!

It's important that parents know we have a wonderful relationship with the Westminster Police Department, and Westmont is diligently working to become a model school for safety, the only one in Westminster and Huntington Beach. We have received specialized training in how to handle crisis situations and how to use specialized medical equipment. Under my leadership, we will continue to practice emergency preparedness at Westmont.

I am proud to say Westmont has also been chosen as a Disney Musicals in Schools recipient for the 2015-2016 school year—one of only four schools in Orange County! We are very proud of this honor and we will continue to incorporate the arts in education.

Personally, I have been in education for well over a decade, and I have worked as an elementary teacher for many years and an assistant principal at the middle school level. Most of my professional life was spent in the Westminster School District, until I joined OVSD. I earned my B.A. at California State University at Long Beach and a Master of Social Work at the University of Southern California.

I look forward to another exciting year at Westmont for all students!



# Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7311 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us)

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

Dr. Marian Phelps was appointed superintendent of the Westminster School District in November of 2013. Since becoming superintendent, she has focused on bringing equity, access and opportunities to every student in the district. In her short tenure, Dr. Phelps has equipped all schools with a new wireless infrastructure and provided 8,200 Chromebooks to all students in 2nd through 8th grade. 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. Under Dr. Phelps's leadership, the district is providing music instruction at every elementary school, foreign language classes in middle school and a Saturday Academy has been established that allows the district to recover funding lost from student absences through a four-hour enrichment program. In addition, this fall, the district is implementing the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Academy in California!

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 part of the team that led the 2nd largest school district in the state to become recognized as a 2013 Broad Prize for Urban Education District Finalist. Dr. Phelps currently serves as a board member for the National Resource Center for Asian Languages and a member of the College of Education Advisory Board at California State University Fullerton.

Dr. Phelps has worked in public education for 24 years. Prior to joining WSD, she served as an area superintendent overseeing 29 schools in the San Diego Unified School District. She was also a principal, vice principal and teacher in the SDUSD. Dr. Phelps holds a Doctorate degree from San Diego State University, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University and a Bachelor of Arts from University of California, San Diego.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Penny Loomer**  
*Member*

Mrs. Penny Loomer was appointed to the Board in January 2014 and then elected to the Board in November 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 the Westminster Parks and Recreation Commission, the Boys & Girls Club, the 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 California State University, 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.



**Jamison Power**  
*Vice President*

Mr. Jamison Power was elected to the Board in 2012. He received his bachelor's degree from University of California, Irvine and his doctoral degree from University of California, Los Angeles. In his law practice, Mr. Power represents numerous local and national businesses. He also provides free legal assistance to low-income families and has received multiple awards for this work. Mr. Power is very active in the community, having served as a Westminster city commissioner, a library Board member, and a member of the Knights of Columbus at Blessed Sacrament Parish. Mr. Power is also an active member of the Vietnamese-American Education Advisory Council, and he worked closely with the superintendent and the Board to ensure that Westminster School District became the first district in California to implement a Vietnamese-English dual immersion program. Mr. Power is a proud homeowner in the city of Westminster, where he lives with his wife, My Lan, and his son, Kieran Liem.



**Mary Mangold**  
*President*

Mrs. Mary Mangold was re-elected to the Westminster School District Board of Trustees for a third four-year term in 2014. 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 California State University, Long Beach. Mrs. Mangold has served students in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for 27 years, where she has taught grades three through seven and served as a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment mentor teacher and a social studies mentor teacher. She is also a very active member of the community and has been a Girl Scout 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.



**Amy Walsh**  
*Clerk*

Mrs. Amy Walsh was elected to the Board in 2012 and currently serves as Board clerk. 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 PTA's prestigious Honorary Service Award. In addition, Ms. Walsh was 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.



**Khanh Nguyen**  
*Member*

Mr. Khanh Nguyen was elected to the Board in 2014. He is a licensed professional engineer and is currently the building official for the city of Costa Mesa, where he oversees all permitting and inspection of private development, such as South Coast Plaza. Mr. Nguyen has received numerous awards at the state and national levels as a code official. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from San Diego State University and a master's degree in structural engineering from California State University, Los Angeles. Mr. Nguyen is also very active in the community. He recently served as the Westminster Planning Commission chair and has served as a member of various Westminster committees, including the Advisory Committee for the Disabled. Mr. Nguyen is a resident of Westminster, where he lives with his wife, Helen, and son, Bill, who is currently attending Hayden Elementary School.

### 2015 Board of Trustee Meetings

**September 10  
October 8**

**November 12  
December 10**

[www.wsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us)



# 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 launch the 2015-16 school year at Anderson with a focus on reading. Mrs. Breckenridge will continue as the site principal, her eighth year in this position. As a graduate of the Westminster School District, 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 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 1 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 Elementary.

Mrs. Breckenridge and Mrs. Snyder are looking forward to the 2015 – 2016 school year. It is sure to be a year where Anderson ROARS with READING!

# 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)



**Dr. Jason Kuncewicki**  
*Principal*

Dr. Jason Kuncewicki is starting his first year as a principal in the Westminster School District and his 20th year in education. He is excited to join the team at Eastwood School.

Prior to arriving at Eastwood, Dr. Kuncewicki was a principal in the Buena Park School District at Carl E. Gilbert School. He felt "blessed" to be able to serve the Gilbert community for nine years and see the staff and families grow and meet their potential. He has also had the opportunity to work in the Bellflower Unified School District as a high school assistant principal in charge of the middle school program at Mayfair, and he served as an assistant principal in an elementary setting as well. Dr.

Kuncewicki has also taught special education and kindergarten through sixth grade in the Magnolia School District. He is currently an adjunct professor at Concordia University where he teaches new and potential educational administrators. When Dr. Kuncewicki is not working, he enjoys reading, spending time with family and being active.

When asked about reflecting on his 20 years of educational experience within the classroom and in school-based administration, Dr. Kuncewicki stated that "my job is to serve children, teachers and their parents."

"I strive on a daily basis to be the best educator I can be and hope that all stakeholders can walk away each day reflecting on quality teaching and learning that has taken place," he said.

Dr. Kuncewicki graduated from the University of Southern California, where he received his Doctorate of Education in educational leadership. He also has a Master of Arts degree in educational administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies with a focus on creative writing.

# 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 17 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 six years. He was very excited that Clegg opened its doors as a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Technology (STEAM) magnet school during the 2013-14 school year and looks forward to another great school 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 23 years, having taught both the elementary and middle school levels. She has been the principal at DeMille Elementary School six years.

Ms. Villanueva attended the University of California, Irvine, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Ecology with a minor in vocal music and her multiple subject teaching credential. She received her Master of Science degree in Educational Administration and Leadership from National University.

When Ms. Villanueva is not working, she enjoys spending time traveling, going to Disneyland, running, singing, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

Ms. Villanueva is especially excited about the upcoming school year. Westminster School District is opening the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program in the state of California, and DeMille has been selected to be the site to house this program. This fall DeMille will open two dual immersion classes in Kindergarten. Students will spend 50 percent of their day learning in English and 50 percent of the day learning in Vietnamese. A new grade level will be added each year until Vietnamese Dual Immersion classes are offered across all grade levels.

DeMille is thrilled to provide our students the opportunity to learn and become literate in two languages. As an educator and as a parent, Ms. Villanueva believes that students will reap tremendous benefits socially and academically given the gift of biliteracy. This is just one way we are "Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today."

Ms. Villanueva truly enjoys being the principal at DeMille. "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." The 2015-2016 school year promises be filled with lots of learning and amazing accomplishments.

# Yakult® FACTORY TOURS

We are now offering tours of our factory in Fountain Valley!  
More than 1500 visitors from local schools, organizations and groups of families have enjoyed a tour since January 2015!

Please see our ad on page 6.





# 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*

It is truly great to be back as Principal for another wonderful year at Finley Elementary School!

Mrs. Gutierrez-Garcia is excited for the new school year and the many new and inspiring learning opportunities. This year's focus remains the continued integration of technology in the implementation of the Common Core in all grade levels to prepare students for the 21st century.

What Mrs. Gutiérrez-García loves most is watching the academic and social growth that occurs in students from the beginning of the year to the end of the school year. What is most rewarding is that she has seen students enter as kindergarteners, develop, mature, and move on to middle school while getting to know the extended families as well!

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 spending time traveling whenever possible as she loves to experience new adventures that involve food, cultures and especially, languages. On a local level, she is a passionate sports fan, who with her husband and three sons, spend many hours on the collegiate soccer fields. Additional hobbies include yoga, cooking, reading, and gardening.

When asked what it is like to be the principal of Finley, Mrs. Gutiérrez-García said, It is amazing 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 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 17 years all for the Westminster School District. He began his teaching career at Schroeder Elementary where he taught 2nd, 3rd and 5th grades. He then became a Student Achievement Teacher for the district and had the privilege to work at many of the schools in the district. He began his administrative career at Stacey Middle School as the Asst. Principal then was assigned to Hayden Elementary 6 years ago and now begins his fourth year as the Principal of Hayden.

Not only has Mr. Murphy worked for the Westminster School District for the past 15 years but he is also a proud former student of the district. Mr. Murphy stated, "I am extremely proud and honored to be working in the same district that has taught me so much. I am very excited to have the opportunity to pass on the knowledge that I have obtained throughout my years in the Westminster School District." Mr. Murphy believes that every student who enters Hayden School can succeed. He feels he is the role model for his students and teachers; thus, he should demonstrate respect, honesty, empathy, responsibility and a desire for learning. He tries to develop a safe atmosphere where his students feel that their thoughts and opinions are valued.

Mr. Murphy has had many amazing influences in his career and would not be here today without the guidance and support of these tremendous leaders. They include Linda Baxter, Heidi DeBritton, Jerry Gargus his sister Maggie Villegas. 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. Dena Kiouses**  
*Principal*

Dr. Kiouses is principal at Fryberger Elementary School in the Westminster School District, where she started in January of this year. Prior to coming to the Westminster School District, Dr. Kiouses was a school-site administrator for seven years in both elementary and middle schools. Dr. Kiouses' teaching experience includes elementary school and middle school reading, English and algebra.

The 2015-16 school year should prove to be an exciting year. "It is a privilege to be the principal at such a dynamic campus,"

Dr. Kiouses said. "Last school year, technology was increased districtwide. This year, with the addition of music, PE and art for all students, an already robust student-based program will be even stronger. We have a small but vibrant PTA supporting our students in amazing ways. The staff at Fryberger School is remarkable. Most of all, Fryberger School has a wonderful community feel that is evident the moment you come onto campus."

Dr. Kiouses' favorite free-time activity is hiking with her husband and dogs. She also enjoys reading, cooking and kayaking. She has four grown children and four grandchildren whom she enjoys spending time with, along with her many pets.

Dr. Kiouses earned a Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership from CSU Fresno. She also has a Master of Arts degree in education from the University of LaVerne and a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies from CSU, Bakersfield.

# 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 second year in the Westminster School District as principal of Johnson Middle School, and his 19th year in education.

Prior to coming to Westminster, Mr. Owens was an assistant principal in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for eight years, both at the middle and high school levels. He also taught for nine years at Waite Middle School in Norwalk, primarily in algebra and U.S. history, but also in every subject. As a teacher, Mr. Owens was involved in many extracurricular activities, including running the drama department, ASB advisor, newspaper advisor, and coaching several sports.

Mr. Owens received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California. He loves to spend time with his family, which includes his wife of 15 years and two sons ages 3 and 13. His hobbies include cheering on the USC Trojans in every sport, and his beloved Dodgers. He also loves to play poker and just relax as much as possible.

Mr. Owens is looking forward to continuing the wonderful work at Johnson Middle School by helping to support teachers and students as they tackle many new and exciting challenges. As the school's vision statement says, Johnson is committed to "Empower lifelong learners." This vision will be attained by setting high academic expectations for each student, and then providing a strong support system that will ensure they can be met.

In addition to academic expectations, Johnson is also very excited to be expanding its student enrichment opportunities to help strengthen the overall school experience.

**Please drive safely students are back in school!**



# 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**  
*Executive Director,  
Student Services*

Ms. Reagan Lopez is the Executive Director of Student Services for the Westminster School District. She has worked in special education for over 13 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.

## 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 fifth 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. The students accept 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 Master's 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, two daughters, two sons, and two dogs. And, of course she enjoys a good book too!

# 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 25 years, teaching and serving both elementary and middle school students. She is a certified bilingual teacher with a BA degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), an MA 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 eight years, first as the principal of Webber Elementary School and most recently, as the principal of Schmitt Elementary School. Previously she worked for the Downey Unified School District as a bilingual teacher, Gifted & Talented Education (GATE) site coordinator, classroom teacher, Title I teacher specialist, English Language Development (ELD) teacher specialist, literacy coach, vice principal, and Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) mentor. She started her teaching career in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.

The passion for working with children began through her volunteer experiences such as: UCLA's UniCamp mentoring program for underprivileged children; math tutor for UCLA's Prison Coalition at a juvenile detention center, and through UCLA's 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 freshman year at UC San Diego, while Isabella begins eighth grade at Lexington Junior High School. Orchid enjoys traveling and relaxing with her family.

Ms. Rocha is honored and humbled with the experience of leading a school. She looks forward to continuing her work with the Schmitt Elementary School team and the community as they strive to maintain a high-quality educational experience for all students.

## 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 1st, 4th and 5th 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 Transitional Kindergarten at Schmitt School. She then moved to Hayden Elementary School where she was the Assistant Principal.

Mrs. Hernandez is a resident of Cypress and enjoys spending time with her husband of 17 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 to be returning to Schroeder Elementary School. She looks forward to another great year working alongside the staff, parents, and community to continue the great traditions here at Schroeder!





## 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)



**Michelle Watkins**  
*Principal*

Serving last year as an assistant principal at Hayden Elementary School, Mrs. Michelle Watkins is delighted to be the new principal of Sequoia Elementary School.

Mrs. Watkins has been an educator for over 17 years. She taught at Schroeder for 13 years, where she was also an administrative designee, a district GATE coordinator and trainer, a Common Core trainer, a STEM specialist, and a mathematical grant program director. Mrs. Watkins specializes in differentiated instruction using the depth and complexity framework. She also develops curriculum and trains teachers nationally.

Mrs. Watkins has lived in and around the Westminster area her whole life, and is proud to be a product of the Westminster School District. She attended Eastwood, Stacey, and Westminster High School. After high school, Mrs. Watkins obtained her bachelor's degree in child development and family studies and her teaching credential from CSU Long Beach. She also holds a Masters in Education and Curriculum from National University. In addition, Mrs. Watkins received her administrative credential at UC Irvine.

In addition to a passion for students and education, Mrs. Watkins cherishes spending time with her family and friends. You will often find her cheering on her 13-year-old son at his baseball games. She also enjoys going to sporting events, and is looking forward to working closely with staff, parents, and community to help our school continue Soaring to Success!

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

## 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 second year as principal of Warner Middle School. She recently returned home to Orange County after spending more than 15 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.

She received her bachelors degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her masters 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 and prepare students to become global citizens of the 21st century.



**Our next issue is November 10.  
Happy Halloween!**

## 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 24 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. She has been recognized as both the Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year for the WSD.

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 3 year grandson, one year old granddaughter and another new granddaughter is due at any minute. 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 building successful motivated scholars for life."

## 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 18 years of experience in education and has taught in both elementary and middle schools. Over the years, he held many teacher leadership positions: Master Teacher, BTSA Support Provider, Lead Teacher, Thinking Maps Trainer, and Technology Support Teacher. Between 2012 – 2014, Mr. Whitney served as a full time administrative support to the principals at Meairs Elementary and Anderson Elementary.

He is excited to start his second year as the principal at Webber Elementary. He looks forward to working with the Webber Wolf Pack so we 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 student 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.

## 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 15 years working with both elementary and middle school students. This is Mr. McKane's 7th 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.



# Huntington Beach Union High School District

5832 Bolsa Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/903-7000 • 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 Azusa Pacific University 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 am excited and feel privileged to begin my fifth year as the Superintendent of Huntington Beach Union High School District.

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 30 years and have two adult children, Sara and Adam who are both married to wonderful people.

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



**Susan Henry**  
*President*

I have been a resident of the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) for 36 years, 25 in Fountain Valley and the rest in Huntington Beach. My husband, Kim, and I raised three children, all of whom attended public schools, graduated from Fountain Valley High School, and then went on to graduate from universities locally and on the East Coast. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

I also attended public school, graduating from Villa Park High School in Orange. I had already started primary school in England when my family emigrated, in the early '60s, to California, where new technology was drawing a workforce from Europe. I received my nursing degree from Santa Ana College in the early '80s, began a family, and started volunteering when my eldest started kindergarten.

After many years of involvement in PTA, booster groups, and foundation work, I pooled my experience and ran for School Board in 2000. I also began taking community college courses in the study of art. In 2006, I began a full-time school schedule at California State University, Long Beach and received a bachelor's degree in three-dimensional student art in 2009. I currently exhibit with California Fibers, a group which provides professional advancement for contemporary fiber artists. The experience has been eye opening as my science background intermingles with art expression.

Currently in my fourth term on the HBUHSD Board, I am actively serving on the Coastline Regional Occupational Program Board of Trustees and the Orange County School Boards Association Board of Directors, and I represent Orange County at the state level as the Regional Director of the California School Boards Association.



**Susan Henry**  
*President*

### Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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### 2015 Board of Trustee Meetings

September 15  
October 20

November 10  
December 8

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## Coast *High School / Adult School*

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



**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 and computer science related courses. He was also part of a cohort of teachers who worked with at-risk students which was his first venture into alternative formats of education.

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.

Mr. Curiel came to the Huntington Beach Union High School District Adult School as an Assistant Principal in January 2008. He was the administrator over the English as a Second Language (ESL) program that served over 3,500 students per year and then added to his responsibilities the Career Technical Education department.

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 (now merged with Coast High). Over the past five years he has focused on streamlining programs in order to give better and easier access to 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 UC, Irvine. He later received his MBA from Cal State Dominguez Hills. Mr. Curiel is bilingual in Spanish and enjoys exercising and playing video and board games with his children.

## Fountain Valley *High School*

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



**Dr. Morgan Smith**  
*Principal*

This is Dr. Morgan Smith's 13th year in education and in the past he has served as an Art and 3D Animation teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal at the Middle School level. Dr. Smith is starting his 6th year as a principal and his first as the principal of Fountain Valley High School. Dr. Smith earned his Bachelor of Arts from Cal State Long Beach, his Master's in Education from Alliant University and his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from USC. 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 their future.'

Dr. Smith is looking forward to joining the Baron family and all the excitement on the Fountain Valley campus. Fountain Valley has a rich tradition and legacy dating back to it's opening in 1966. Dr. Smith will get to participate in Fountain Valley's 50th anniversary events that will connect alumni and community members to the campus and our programs. Please join us in our anniversary activities and events! If you are former Baron and would like to find a way to give back to your alma mater, please contact the school.

## 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 37 years, having taught high school theatre, English and stage craft. She has been an administrator for 28 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 ten years she describes it as a small community of hard-working and dedicated students, staff and families. She shares that 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. Melendrez says, "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. In her spare time she enjoys volunteering at her church, singing in a quartet, traveling and spending time with her family and friends.

## Huntington Beach *High School*

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



**Daniel Morris**  
*Principal*

Daniel Morris is proud to be returning to the Huntington Beach Union High School District as principal of Huntington Beach High School. The 2015-2016 school year will be his 16th year in education!

Mr. Morris has served as a classroom teacher, counselor, assistant principal, and director of alternative education in various local school districts, as well as in Huntington Beach. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from California State University, Fullerton, and his master's degree in education from Alliant University.

Mr. Morris is a leader who is both student and community focused. He truly believes in the strength of teamwork. He is also very passionate about education, and looks forward to partnering with students, staff, and parents to provide his school with a rigorous, engaging, and high-quality educational experience. As the parent of two boys, Mr. Morris also recognizes the importance of a strong home-school connection to ensure that each student's social, emotional, and academic needs are being met.

Mr. Morris lives in Old Towne Orange with his wife Michele and his sons Jackson and Milo. His spare time activities include restoring his historic home and enjoying the outdoors with his family. He especially looks forward to returning so that his children can be afforded the wonderful opportunities that Huntington Beach High School has to offer.

Mr. Morris wants to thank the entire HBHS community for this opportunity to serve as principal!

# School News



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# Marina *High School*

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



**Dr. Jessie Marion**  
*Principal*

Dr. Jessie Marion is proud to have served as an educator for 15 years. After teaching high school English in upstate New York, she transitioned to working with both middle school and high school students as an assistant principal in New York and California. During her time as assistant principal, Dr. Marion had the opportunity to work with students and staff in activities and athletics, discipline and school safety, guidance, assessment and data, and curriculum and instruction. Her educational background includes receiving a B.A. from State University of New York (SUNY) Geneseo; a master's degree from SUNY Cortland; an administrative credential from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; and an Ed.D. from the University of Southern California. Although Dr. Marion enjoys visiting friends and family in New York, she enjoys the weather and beaches in Southern California above all else.

After two years as assistant principal at Marina High School, Dr. Marion is thrilled to lead the Viking students and staff as their principal. Marina is a school that has been recognized for excellent programs, an exceptional staff and great academic achievement for over 50 years. Dr. Marion recognizes the proud history of the school and is excited for Marina's future achievements. She believes that all students can achieve in an environment that is safe, supportive and student centered, and she is looking forward to working with the Viking community to help Marina continue to be a place where students and staff thrive and love to be.

# Westminster *High School*

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



**Joe Fraser**  
*Principal*

Mr. Fraser will begin his 2nd year as Principal of Westminster High School and 6th year in the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

After graduating from Cal State University Fullerton, where he was a member of the 1995 National Champion baseball team, he played baseball with the Minnesota Twins organization. Mr. Fraser began his teaching career in Paramount Unified where he taught Language Arts, History and Physical Education. He moved to Westminster High School as a Teacher on Special Assignment in 2010 and in 2011 began his administrative

career at Fountain Valley High School. In 2013 he returned to the Lions as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Fraser is thrilled about being a Lion and is looking forward to continuing the great work that is being done by the Westminster High School staff.

Mr. Fraser and wife, Cali, have a daughter, Gracie, and son, Gabe, who provide both with many busy weekends on the baseball and soccer fields.

# Ocean View *High School*

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



**Dr. Courtney Robinson**  
*Principal*

Dr. Robinson is entering her 17th year in education. For nine years, she was a high school social science teacher. During her teaching career, Dr. Robinson coached tennis and softball, was the cheer advisor, and worked as a curriculum leader for her school. As an administrator, Dr. Robinson has been an activities director and assistant principal of curriculum, supervision and guidance.

This will be Dr. Robinson's first year as principal of Ocean View High School, which is where she began her administrative work seven years ago. She is looking forward to working with the amazing staff, students, families and community at Ocean View.

Ocean View challenges all students to take higher-level courses, and the staff provides the instruction and support systems to help students be successful in these courses.

Dr. Robinson believes that all students can learn and achieve at high levels when they are connected with teachers, engaged in the classroom, and involved in their school. The staff and faculty at Ocean View are committed to getting to know their students and encouraging them to be a part of the learning process and the school. Every student that walks onto Ocean View's campus quickly learns how caring the entire school staff is and how you "can't spell IOVe without OV!"

Dr. Robinson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from California State University, Long Beach; her Master of Arts degree in educational administration from Chapman University; and her doctorate in educational leadership from California State University, Long Beach. She and her husband are busy with their four children. On the weekends, she can be found on the softball or soccer fields or attending San Diego Charger games with her family.

# Valley Vista *High School*

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



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

As a history major in college, what I really liked about history was understanding the complex factors that contributed to shaping events, decisions, and social change. I quickly gravitated toward alternative education in my teaching career because I liked the close personal interaction with students and the challenge of helping them achieve their potential.

Being a principal is a learning experience. What I've learned about Valley Vista High School is that 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 is proactive and sensitive. Our classified staff provides prompt, responsive, friendly service. Our students learn to respect each other and the staff, and to appreciate diversity. We've learned to embrace educational technology, utilize social media in the classroom and at home, encourage creativity, and develop global citizens. I've learned that our students care about what's happening in their community and in the world. I've also learned that the academic environment 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 three very special cats. Valley Vista High School: where Eagles soar!

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



# Happy Days are Here Again!



Charlene Ashendorf

We were not driven to school two blocks away; we walked to and from school with our classmates. We didn't need computer games; we played pick up, tag or anything that included a ball. Those were simpler times. My parents would say that they were safer times. Those were days when everyone knew their neighbors and folks looked out for each other; those were "happy days."

I promised my grandparents I would not only remember those good old days, but keep community alive. Our children are grown and out of the house. Older folks have moved out and younger families have moved into the neighborhood. So how could I keep that promise as an empty nester on our cul de sac?

Everyone loves food, so we began with a neighborhood bar-b-que. We delivered flyers, asked folks to bring a dish, a chair and a beverage. Getting to know each other was an important first step. Kids and adults were now ready more...for the basketball hoop we placed in our front yard it became open play with a bring your own ball requirement. Next we built a little free library and placed it in on our entry wall. Filled with books for young and old alike, with a take one leave one policy, kids were found sprawled out under the shade of our liquid amber with books and snacks while dog walking adults would snap up a paperback or two.

Last year we began a question of the day experiment. What started out with two young neighbor kids knocking on the door for a homemade cookie or after school treat has become a 4:00 PM ritual with up to eight elementary schoolers who are given a science, math or history question and rewarded with a piece of candy. It's like Halloween with a purpose all year long.

We have made ours a neighborhood, a safe place for kids, where we look out for each other, just like the good old days. Happy days are here again.

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

# Financial Aid Factoids



Susan D. Marshall

**Test your financial aid knowledge.**

Financial Aid does not mean free money = never to be paid back. Instead it's a mixture of gift aid and/or loans. Grants = free; Tuition Reductions (from a school that really wants you to pick them) = Free; Loans = NOT FREE.

Loan Definitions: PLUS = parent loans for student expenses, Direct = student loans, Subsidized = Government pays interest while the student is in school, Unsubsidized = Interest Accrues while Student is in School. HINT: Paying interest while in school on Unsubsidized Student Loans will greatly reduce the overall amount of debt after graduation. This is highly recommended if you want to pay off the loans as quickly as possible and save money in the long run.

529 plans count as an income resource for your student, which could result in less "need-based aid," resulting in more money out of your pocket.

Financial Aid packages sometimes include Work-Study Aid which means the student gets a part-time job typically on campus. Receiving Work-Study Aid does not guarantee the student a job on campus, they still need to apply for the job and pass the interview.

Financial aid packages/awards require you to fill out the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The application requires information from the student and the parent's taxes – however you can fill out an application with estimated amounts and amend it at a later date. January is the best time to fill out your FAFSA. Typically the earlier you file a FAFSA the more financial aid you receive.

Pat yourself on the back if you knew all of this! This is the beginning of things you need to know and understand before you can begin to successfully navigate the college financial aid process.

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](mailto:Susan@College4Less.com) or on her Web site at [www.college4less.com](http://www.college4less.com)



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# Note-ables

## ‘Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!’



Kate Karp

This collection arrives just in time for the beginning of the school year, when teachers are scoping out their annual plans and parents are looking for some good, entertaining stuff to enhance their children’s knowledge base. *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!* is a real find—a brass-and-woodwind-heavy hail to the Civil War era.

The collection is a compilation of traditional songs, some familiar and others obscure, as well as

tunes written by artist Lloyd H. Miller in the sense of the era and what came out of it for better or worse. In the CD, Miller tells the traditional story and sings the well-known tune of radical abolitionist John Brown and adds his own lyrics and music to flesh out the hero’s activism and bravery. “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” the hymn to Harriet Tubman’s night-sky navigation to the land of freedom, is given a celebratory treatment. Another lesser-known Brown—Henry Box Brown—reached the North in another singular way: he shipped himself in a box to Philadelphia, and Miller thought he’d make a great subject for a song. He was right. Equally obscure and of note is the story of Weeksville, one of the first free black enclaves. Weeksville was established in Brooklyn in the 1830s by a former slave, and Miller graced it with a song, too.

A sequenced narration of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address squares the corners of this enlightening collection. And best of all, an online curriculum guide is in development to further link this rich era to our present.



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

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A Page Turner!



Lucy Davis

*The Mysterious Benedict Society*  
Author: Trenton Lee Stewart

Mr. Curtain has created a machine to brainwash the world. This story follows four kids that are sent on a secret mission to stop him. Danger is everywhere, and each child has personality traits that help him or her during their adventures. Constance is my favorite character because she is funny, spunky, and fiercely independent! There are lots of twists and turns so readers must pay close attention to keep up with the story line.



This is a young adult book that I feel both boys and girls will enjoy. If you enjoy science fiction and mysteries, this is a great book for you!  
I would give this book five bookworms out of five, because I really enjoyed the suspense in the story. I'm really looking forward to reading the next book in this series!



Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student at Beryl Elementary in Redondo Beach. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar.

Contest!!



Our office tortoise Cheeseball is hidden twice in this publication. When you find him, email the **page numbers** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Please put FHOW in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by October 15, 2015  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Curious George Goes to the Zoo—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.

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| Amazing | Giraffe      | Water     |
| Animals | Headquarters | Wild      |
| Climbed | Hippo        | Wonderful |
| Curious | Leaves       | Zoo       |
| Danced  | Park         | Zookeeper |
| Fun     | Party        |           |
| George  | Rhino        |           |

Congratulations to  
**April Beachler**  
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!







Joel C. Bartlett, MD  
*Internal Medicine*



Lalita Komanapalli, MD  
*Internal Medicine*



Ihong Chen, MD  
*Internal Medicine*



Linda Sanfilippo, PA-C  
*Family Medicine*



Lori DeBold, MD  
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Nasrin Damoui, MD  
*Family Medicine*



Margaret Zimmerman, MD  
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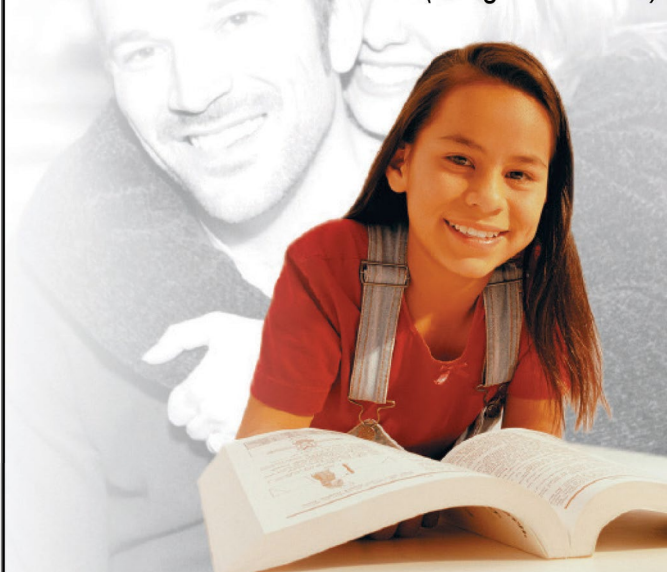
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Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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