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School News

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

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Immersing Ourselves in the Natural Wonders

Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
Orange County Dept. of Education

Outside the urban glare of Los Angeles, we found a night sky packed with stars and a still silence interrupted only by the wind's whisper and the chatter of crickets and frogs. It was different, yet familiar.

My father packed little more than a kerosene lamp, a small tent and some fishing gear for those family camping trips of my youth. But it was never about what we brought or left behind. It was about immersing ourselves in the natural wonders of Southern California's mountains, forests and beaches — and discovering that we were connected to something bigger.

Whether we were on a KOA Campground or Refugio Beach, every direction offered frontiers to explore, mysteries to be solved and scientific observations to be made, without textbooks, lab coats or microscopes. Allowed to chase our curiosities, my brothers and sisters and I were laying deep foundations for learning. But if you asked us, we were just having fun.

Today, technology has emerged as a primary frontier of childhood exploration. But while there are



Third-grade students enrolled in the Inside the Outdoors' Wild Wetlands program.

obvious benefits to raising tech-savvy children, I echo the sentiments of countless researchers who suggest we're missing out on opportunities to nurture brain development and strengthen mental health when we close ourselves off from nature.

Author Richard Louv, who has written extensively on this subject, points to an emerging body of evidence connecting nature to greater physical and emotional health. By contrast, disengagement from the natural environment results in what Louv terms "nature-deficit disorder," which, he says, correlates with attention difficulties, greater rates of physical and emotional illness, and reduced use of our senses.

Louv isn't alone. A number of writers, psychologists and academics have produced volumes quantifying the benefits of direct exposure to nature. At the same time, studies continue to show we're spending less time outdoors and more time with electronic screens, which do little to stoke happiness or well-being.

Access is part of our challenge. Census data shows that more than 80 percent of Americans live in urban areas, some of which lack parks or open space. And while more children are participating in organized sports, fewer kids are experiencing the outdoors through unstructured play, according to Louv, who blames a perceived lack of time, as well as concerns about safety.

In 2004, Rhonda L. Clements, professor of education at Manhattanville College in New York State, conducted a survey of 830 mothers nationwide. While 71 percent of them reported playing outdoors as children, only 26 percent said their kids did the same on a daily basis. Interestingly enough, the results showed little differences between rural and urban settings.

With supercharged academic standards and a greater focus on the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, some educators may choose to ignore these trends. But we do so at a tremendous cost given such extensive evidence that nature — in addition to being intertwined with a number of scientific fields — not only sharpens minds but amplifies learning in other subjects.

See **IMMERSING OURSELVES** • Page 26

Here's to a Successful School Year



Michael Vo
Mayor
City of
Fountain Valley

Summer has started winding down, however it has been a summer filled with exciting city activities such as Summerfest and Concerts in the Park. If you missed the summer events, you missed an opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends by enjoying the amenities of living in Fountain Valley.

It's hard to believe another school year has begun. For the younger students perhaps the very first time ever entering into kindergarten and for our older students perhaps their last year in high school. So much to reflect on yet so much to look forward to!

School is an important part of your life so stay motivated!

Students who are motivated have higher achievement and are more satisfied with school. With that said, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the students for a successful school year!

Welcome Back to School!



Mike Posey
Mayor

Hope you all had a fantastic summer filled with family, friends and lots of memories.

Over the summer, both the Assembly and Senate passed SCR 122 – a resolution proclaiming September 20, 2018 and every year thereafter as "California Surfing Day!" Introduced by Senator Janet Nguyen, the annual day will celebrate the California surfing lifestyle, as well its history, culture, and future.

Developed by surfers of all ages and generations in the City of Huntington Beach, the purpose is to unify surfers throughout the State of California and from around the world to celebrate one very special day where we collectively come together to honor the California surfing lifestyle and the Ohana of surfing - "Stop, Drop & Surf." Look for more details to come on the city's website www.huntingtonbeachca.gov
Have a fantastic school year!

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Kay Coop

Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. This is a favorite issue when the principals share their bios. It is fun to learn where they went to school, about their families, pets, and hobbies. They always make sure everyone has all they need to succeed so it is nice to take time to appreciate each and everyone of them.

Our publishing schedule includes issues in November, January, March, May and June. If you want to share an issue with someone, all issues are posted on our web site and I am happy to email a copy.

Happy Halloween!

15TH ANNUAL ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

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Monkey In My Chair Program



Anna Baumgartner
Psy.D., Psychologist and School Reintegration Coordinator, Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

The Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach provides a School Reintegration Program, with help from Monkey In My Chair — a free program partnered with the Cure Starts Now Foundation, that helps ease the transition of both school separation and school re-entry for children with cancer. The Monkey In My Chair program helps young cancer patients stay connected with their school and, in turn, helps classmates better understand the challenges of fighting cancer. Monkey In My Chair helps to fill a void for classmates while their fellow student needs to be absent due to medical reasons by sitting in the student's desk while they're gone. Monkey In My Chair provides a big plush monkey that can be given a name, wear a school uniform and even participate in the day's activities. Classroom visits and interactive presentations, conducted by care team members of the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute, help inform students and confront anxieties about their classmate's diagnosis, including misconceptions like whether cancer is contagious. Students learn to welcome their classmate back to school post-cancer.

The Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute works with patients, parents, teachers and other members of the school to help present the Monkey In My Chair Program to classmates and to help everyone learn about cancer and the impact it can have. For patients affected by cancer, this collaboration between the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute, families and schools is crucial for their successful transition back to school.



Melanie Hackett, 4-years-old, acute lymphoblastic leukemia patient

Orthodontics Matters

Back to School Again and Again...



Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

If you come into my office during the summer, you'll probably notice we occasionally have interns shadowing me learning about orthodontics. This summer we have a high school senior intern and a college graduate/pre-dental school intern. All of our interns have been former patients who enjoyed their life-changing experience of gaining a beautiful smile with braces or Invisalign, and are now contemplating whether they should pursue becoming an orthodontist. So with back to school coming up, I thought I would outline the path from high school graduation to becoming a dentist and then specializing to become an orthodontist. Yes, most people don't realize orthodontists are dentists first, and then go back to a 2-3-year specialty residency to become an orthodontist.

After high school, for those wanting to be an orthodontist, they need to attend four years of college, then attend four years of dental school. After graduating from dental school, you become a dentist/general dentist/cosmetic dentist (these are all terms that one can call themselves after graduating from dental school). Then if you want to specialize, you need to complete a specialty residency program. This is very similar to the medical model. If you want to specialize in say dermatology or plastic surgery, after completing medical school, you would go into a specialty residency program. In dentistry there are nine different specialties, one of which is orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics. The others are: oral and maxillofacial surgery, prosthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, pedodontics, oral radiology, oral pathology and dental public health. Although the road to become an orthodontist is long (11 years after high school), it is definitely worth it. I get to know so many great families and patients. I am also able to effect the life transformation and witness the confidence that grows as my patient's smiles become even more beautiful with orthodontics.

Our specialty: Cancer & Serious Blood Disorders

Melanie's specialty: Unicorn Pirouettes

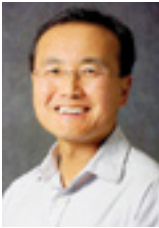
A trip to a South Bay emergency room confirmed 4-year-old Melanie, a lover of dancing and unicorns, needed pediatric specialty care. Her parents chose to transport her to the children's hospital closest to them, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. There, Melanie was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute. Our care team fought by Melanie's side throughout her journey, helping her spirit sparkle so that she'd never lose her groove.

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millerchildrens.org/Cancer



Poison Alert: Laundry Detergent Pods



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

Poison control centers have received over 50,000 calls related to liquid laundry detergent pods in the last five years. Although this number includes any exposure to the substance, the statistic is a bit alarming.

Especially with a recent trend of teenagers recording themselves biting into the pods and uploading the videos onto video sharing websites and social media platforms or apps as part of a “challenge.” The videos show adolescents gagging, coughing and sometimes even foaming at the mouth after biting into the pods.

Whether intentional or accidental, health implications from ingesting laundry detergent pods can be deadly serious. Potential effects from misuse of the pods include seizures, pulmonary edema, respiratory arrest, coma, and even death – younger children (five and under) are especially vulnerable.

What to Do in Case of Poisoning from a Laundry Detergent Pod

If a child or anyone else bites into a laundry detergent pod, immediately:

- Remove the pod immediately
- Wash the child’s or person’s face and hands thoroughly
- Gently wipe out a younger child’s mouth or have adolescents/adults rinse out his or her mouth with water and spit out without swallowing
- If pod contents squirt into a child’s eye, rinse with gently running water for 15 minutes
- Call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 for guidance

Laundry detergent pods should never be misused – especially as a joke – but knowing what to do in case of poisoning from ingestion or exposure can help avoid serious injuries or even death.



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- F** – Facial drooping
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S – Speech difficulties
T – Time to call emergency services



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Fountain Valley Regional
HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

Homework & Math Clubs and Teen Volunteers



Barbara Richardson
*Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services*

Central Library’s Homework and Math Club, and Oak View Library’s Homework Club will be starting Sept 17. Central Library’s Homework Club and Math Club are held in the Talbert Room Homework Club is for students 1st – 8th grade. It is held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00. Math Club is for students 6th grade – 12th and meets Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Oak View Library’s Homework Club helps students, kindergarten – 12th grade and is held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is held from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Parents will need to register their children with the library homework coordinator before they can take part in Homework Club. Central library forms are available online hbpl.org or may be picked up at either the children’s desk or at Homework Club. Oak View forms are only available at their Homework Club.

The Homework and Math Clubs are staffed by volunteers. None of the clubs meet during the holidays or school breaks and are held during the school year only. Parents and children must register each year to participate.

Adults interested in being a homework or math helper may contact Melissa Ronning at melissa.ronning@surfcity-hb.org. Those interested in volunteering at Oak View may contact Marina Iturbide at marina.iturbide@surfcity-hb.org.

The Central Library’s Teen Volunteer Programming is changing. Starting in October, quarterly workshops will be given. Only the teens who attend the workshop will be able to volunteer during that quarter. The Quarterly workshops are required, even if teens have volunteered in the past. To register for a workshop, teens will need to go to hbpl.org, click on Events/News and then click on the Teen Volunteer Calendar. More information about the teen volunteer program will be available at hbpl.org in late September.

Lots of Choices

By Anna Dress, Children’s Services Librarian

- Toddler Time** every Tuesday at 10:30am
Songs, stories & play for children 1-3 years old.
- Book Babies** every Thursday at 10:30am
Baby lapsit and playtime for children 0-1 year old (or until they are walking).
- Preschool Storytime** every Wednesday at 10:30am
- Family Storytime** every Saturday at 10:30am
Join us every week for stories, songs, and a craft. Preschool Storytime is for children 3-4 years old, and Family Storytime is for all ages.

Library Expedition!

Saturday, Sept. 22, 10:00am
Come explore the library and learn how it can help you with homework, research & beyond! Play games, get a library tour, do a scavenger hunt, and learn how to: find AR books, search the library catalog, use databases & check out eBooks!

VolunTEENs

If you need volunteer hours for school, church, boy/girl scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the library! You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer.

Teen Advisory Board

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

College Admission Essay Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 29, 1:00pm
This free workshop will give high school seniors the writing tools they need to tackle their personal statements.

Teachers See the Possibilities

At Oaks Christian School, Mary Kay Altizer applies her passion for the arts and educational technology as she leads the school’s performing arts department, including a cutting-edge digital recording and production program.



Oaks Christian School, Advanced Digital Recording Class, Performing Arts Chair, Mary Kay Altizer, M.A. '15

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The Sneaky Science Behind Your Kid's Tech Obsessions

By Caroline Knorr



The first step toward resisting the pull of digital products like Snapchat, Instagram, and Netflix is recognizing the tricks they use to keep you hooked.

Son won't turn off his video game? Daughter obsessed with "likes" on Instagram? It may not be entirely their fault. Like the high-octane sugar in a pint of Ben & Jerry's and that irresistible chemical spice in Flamin' Hot Cheetos, the ingredients in social media, video games, apps, and other digital products are carefully engineered to keep you coming back for more. While researchers are still trying to discover whether kids (and parents) can be addicted to technology, some computer scientists are revealing their secrets for keeping us hooked.

Resisting the urge to check your phone or shut down Netflix after another cliffhanger *Stranger Things* episode should be a simple matter of self-control. But according to so-called whistleblowers such as Tristan Harris, a computer scientist who founded the Time Well Spent movement, and Adam Alter, author of *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked*, we humans are totally overpowered. Features such as app notifications, autoplay -- even "likes" and messages that self-destruct -- are scientifically proven to compel us to watch/check in/respond right now or feel that we're missing something really important.

Behind the apps, games, and social media is a whole crew of folks whose job is to make their products feel essential. Many of the techniques they use are ones outlined by experts in human behavior, including Nir Eyal author of *Hooked: How to Build Habit-Forming Products* and BJ Fogg of *Stanford University's Persuasive Technology Lab*. Harris argues that these methods "hijack" our own good judgment. Most teens care deeply about peer validation, for example. So it makes sense that friends' feedback on social media -- both the positive and the negative -- would tug at you until you satisfy your curiosity. You have a phone in your pocket, so why not check now? And now. And now?

More and more industry insiders -- including some who designed these attention-claiming features -- are coming forward to cry foul on digital manipulation and even to suggest ways companies can limit it. In fact, it's not just people who are going public. In 2017, a leaked Facebook internal memo showed how the social network can identify when teens feel "insecure," "worthless," and "need a confidence boost." That's not a problem "likes" can fix.

Until recently, big tech companies would only defend their products. Facebook, for one, says it polls users daily to gauge success of its features. But when mounting concerns led two Apple shareholders to ask the company to design solutions to potentially addicting technology, Apple said yes. The shareholders also called for more research on the impact of technology use on young users. Such studies could help developers create what Tristan Harris calls "ethically designed" products with built-in features that cue us to give tech a rest.

There is a way to fight back now. Thanks to the folks who are calling out these methods, you can spot specific tricks and reflect on how they affect your thoughts and behavior. Remember: The other side wants to reduce the time between your thoughts and actions. Putting that pause in will help you resist your urges. Below are some of the key features designed to keep their grips on you. Also check out some ideas you and your kids can use to resist temptation.

Autoplay. Most notable on Netflix and Facebook, autoplay is the feature that makes videos continue to stream even after they're over. Tristan Harris calls this the "bottomless bowl" phenomenon. With a refilling bowl, people eat 73 percent more calories. Or they binge-watch way too many movies.

What to do. Autoplay is typically on by default, so you have to turn it off. The feature can usually be found in the app's account Settings. Here's how to turn it off in Netflix.

Notifications. Studies show that push notifications -- those little pings and prods you get to check your apps -- are habit-forming. They align an external trigger (the ping) with an internal trigger (a feeling of boredom, uncertainty, insecurity, etc.). Every app uses them, but some, such as Musical.ly and YouTube, have discovered that when notifications tell us to do something, such as "Watch Sally's new video!" or "See who liked your post!" we respond immediately. These calls to action not only interrupt us, they cause stress.

What to do. Turn them off. Most devices have a Settings section where you can turn off notifications. You should also be able to turn off notifications in the app's settings.

Snapchat's Snapstreaks. A Snapstreak begins after two users send snaps (pictures) to each other for three days straight. You might think competition is the motivation behind Snapstreaks, but it's more likely due to a psychological theory called the rule of reciprocity. Humans have a need to respond to a positive action with another positive action. Voilà, a Snapstreak is born. Kids can become so obsessed with sustaining a streak that they give their friends access to their accounts when they're unable to maintain their own streaks (which is actually a privacy risk). The rule is also at play with "like backs" -- when you like someone's post and ask them to like yours back to bolster your total number of likes. Of course, companies exploit the rule of reciprocity because more data points for them means more opportunities to understand their users and try to sell them stuff. **What to do.** Help kids understand how companies like Snapchat are using their (positive) desire to be nice to their friends to get them to use their product more. If your kid's streaks are getting out of control, try allowing one time per day that your kid can send snaps, for example, after they take out the garbage, clean their room, and finish their homework. Finally, if your kids' streaks are merely annoying and not harmful, you may need to ride out this phase until your kids go on to something new.

Randomness. If you knew that Instagram updated your feed at precisely 3 p.m. every day, that's when you'd check in, right? But that won't keep you glued to your phone. Instead, social media companies use what's called "variable rewards." This technique keeps us searching endlessly for our "prize," such as who friended us, who liked our posts, and who updated their status. (Not coincidentally, it's also the method slot machines use to keep people pulling the lever.) Since you never know what's going to come up, you keep coming back for more. **What to do.** Turn off app notifications (usually found in your phone's Settings but also in the apps' settings themselves). Schedule a timer to go off at a certain time every day and check your feeds then.

In-app purchases. Free games such as Clash of Clans and Candy Crush lure you in by promising cheap thrills, then offering in-app purchases that let you level up, buy currency to use in the game, and more. But the real sneaky stuff is how companies keep you playing -- and buying. The more you use the game and the more in-app purchases you make, the more companies learn about you. Thanks to games that connect to Facebook, they also know who your friends are. That lets them tailor specific products to you at the precise times you're most likely to buy. **What to do.** Spring for the full, paid version of games. They're cheaper -- and safer -- in the long run.

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson has been the Superintendent in Fountain Valley School District since January 2015. Under his leadership, the Fountain Valley School District successfully passed Measure O, the first general obligation bond passed in the District’s history. Phase 1 of this \$63 million bond is being implemented currently and will dramatically enhance the teaching environment in our classrooms with plans to improve air quality and air climate through much needed facilities upgrades.

Over the last several years, Dr. Johnson has led numerous change initiatives in education related to improving student outcomes. Some of these changes include: long-term facilities planning, leadership development, educational technology and online learning, Depth and Complexity, Cognitively Guided Instruction, Advanced Placement for All and College and Career Readiness. 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 Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

Dr. Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a Master of Arts in education administration from National University and a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

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



Jim Cunneen
President

Mr. Cunneen is a native of Los Angeles and now a 25-year resident of Fountain Valley who was elected to the Board of Trustees in November, 2014. He is married to Marilyn (Mimi) Mendez Cunneen, a Fountain Valley native, and 20-year education and Career Technical Education TOSA at Huntington Beach UHSD, plus an adjunct faculty Golden West College. All five of their children attended our local schools, including Cox ES and Masuda MS.

Mr. Cunneen holds a Juris Doctor from American College of Law/Trinity Law School and a Civil Engineering degree from CSULB. He is a licensed Civil Engineer and Materials Engineer/Office Manager in nearby Anaheim, with a focus on public and municipal projects throughout Southern California. He is also currently seeking admission to the California State Bar.

As a volunteer, Mr. Cunneen currently serves on the District’s Action Committee for Education, Fountain Valley Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, and his church choir. Mr. Cunneen has previously served as Vice Chair of the Cox School Site Council and Fountain Valley’s Planning Commission, Community Foundation, and Housing and Community Development boards.

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Chris Christensen
Principal

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year serving as your principal here at Courreges Elementary School. We are thrilled to celebrate our recent CA Distinguished School award, as well as our excellent overall school results on the 2018 state CAASPP testing, which was administered last year to all 3rd-5th grade students.

For those of you new to Courreges, this is my 18th year working as an administrator in the Fountain Valley School District. Prior 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 and earned my Master’s and administrative credentials from UC Irvine and National University. I have three children of my own: Brittany, 22; Miranda, 17; and Conner, 15.

I look forward to leading all of the students, teachers and parents through another rigorous and fun-filled year at Courreges Elementary School.

James H. Cox

Elementary (K–5)

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Mr. Patrick Ham has a foundational belief that learning is a lifelong process. He graduated summa cum laude from UCLA in 1999, earned his Master of Science in Education in 2008, and will earn his Doctorate of Educational Leadership in 2019 from CSUF. He has taught elementary and middle school for nearly a decade before becoming an administrator in 2009.

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 coaching his children’s basketball teams, learning about real estate, spending time with his wife and four children, following his favorite pro and collegiate teams (Lakers, Dodgers, and UCLA Bruins), and taking part in his newly discovered enjoyment: fishing.

When asked to share about Cox Elementary School, Mr. Ham said: “I love

the multicultural diversity and the high academic priority of Cox. 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 for ALL students.”

The 2017–2018 school year promises to be another great year of academic excellence, where our staff continues our pursuit of a comprehensive, consistent, and collaborative instructional program for our students. Our signature practices of Cognitively, Guided Instruction (CGI), Differentiated Instruction/Small Groups, and Thinking Maps: Write from the Beginning & Beyond will be implemented collaboratively in our classrooms.

Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Dr. Kevin Johnson
Principal

Kevin Johnson, the principal of Fulton Middle School, has served over 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 school business management by California State University, Fullerton. He completed his 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.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

Ms. Bains has been an educator for over 20 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 where she will be beginning her 7th year.

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 2018-2019 school year!

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

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



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 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 (twenty), Isaiah (eighteen), Kaia (fifteen), and Asia (thirteen). We have a busy household including twelve pets: four rabbits, four cats, and four 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.newland.fvgsd.us



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Christopher Mullin has lived in and around Fountain Valley for over 35 years. He attended Moiola Elementary and graduated from FVHS. After high school, Mr. Mullin decided to take the road less traveled and worked as a forest 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. As an administrator, Mr. Mullin worked has worked at

both Fulton and Masuda Middle Schools. For the past five 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. The faculty at Newland is dedicated to creating a learning environment where students may achieve to their highest ability. This past year, Newland was honored to be named a California Distinguished School. When not at school, Mr. Mullin can be found enjoying time with his wife and children. Free time is often spent fishing from his kayak, going to Angels games, or cooking for family and friends.

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Erik Miller is beginning 2018-2019 in his eighth year, as principal of the Isojiro Oka Elementary Wolfpack. He is blessed to be part of the prestigious Fountain Valley School District team and lead an Oka staff that is all about developing a foundation of excellence for kids! People often ask, “what makes Oka different from other great schools?” Because of Oka’s size and personality, teachers are able to get to know their students on a more meaningful and connected level. There is a campus-wide focus on further developing academic scholars, by emphasizing integrity, perseverance, initiative, compassion, and responsibility for each student.

Mr. Miller is proud of the Wolfpack, because they represent the strength of being team-oriented and achieving great things together. Current school highlights include: rising state test scores; new technology in the hands of students; offering an abundance of before and after school activities for

students including art, science, skateboarding, computer coding, music, chess, and Lego building; successful fundraising results that allow us to directly benefit our students with more resources, support, and opportunities!

Prior to arriving at Oka, Mr. Miller was a teacher and assistant principal at both the elementary and middle school levels. A few random facts about Mr. Miller include the following: His favorite subject is math and one of his best friends was his own first grade teacher from a few decades ago. If Mr. Miller were not a principal, he would probably be a police officer. Away from Oka, his favorite hobbies are playing golf and basketball, going to Angels or Ducks games, and hanging out with his family. His wife, Kelley, is a teacher, and together, they are parents of three adorable (most of the time) teenagers. All five are pretty involved in their church, and enjoy spending time in Pismo Beach, Mammoth, and anywhere else that offers outdoor fun!

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Mrs. Ballesteros has been an educator for the past 22 years. Julie 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 home town in California to teach kindergarten and first grade for nine years in the Glendora Unified School District.

Julie 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 eleventh year as the proud principal of Plavan Elementary School in the Fountain Valley School District. Julie shared, “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. 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 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.talbert.fvdsd.us



Jennifer Morgan
Principal

Jennifer Morgan is serving her fifth 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 sixth and seventh grade.

Ms. Morgan has a great love for the students, staff, and community that she serves. Talbert Middle School provides a fun-loving, family like environment where every child is challenged every day to do their personal best and grow as learners. She is looking forward to every Thunderbird having their best year yet in the 2018-2019 school year!

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

I welcome everyone to the 2018–2019 school year. I am very excited as I enter my sixth 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 2018-19.

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 two years as an assistant principal before I joined the Fountain Valley School District. This is my

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

This school year our teachers will continue their work with Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), fine tuning their reading instruction, and will work collaboratively within and across grade levels to provide students with the best learning opportunities possible. We will also continue our efforts to embed PBIS strategies into the school culture to help build our students’ awareness of their roles at Tamura, and provide them with an opportunity to make good choices both academically and socially.

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

Huntington Beach City School District

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/964-8888 • www.hbcسد.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Haulk

Welcome to the 2018 – 2019 School Year. Each of our schools are eager to welcome our students and families back for what we know will be an incredible school year. We are very proud of each of our schools and hope that you will take advantage of the many functions we hold at each school. When you do, you will observe students, teachers, support staff, parents, and other vital members of our educational community working together as a team for the benefit of all of our students. You have our commitment that as a district team, we will focus our resources, creativity, and staff talents in order to continue to provide the highest quality of instruction and educational experiences for all of our students.

The Huntington Beach School District is an educational community with a long history of excellence in education. It's commitment to providing students with academic programs and classroom instruction of the highest quality is widely recognized and reflected in the programs that are offered, such as music for all elementary students, and shows in comparisons in statewide assessments with districts throughout the state. HBCSD continues to improve our schools by moving toward 21st Century classrooms that include more technology and flexible room designs to better engage and challenge our students. Over the summer the main building at Dwyer Middle School was modernized, and during this school year Hawes Elementary School will be going through different phases of modernization and will be completed by the spring.

We are also working to improve the safety at all of our school sites by adding a web-based visitor check-in system that will require all visitors to provide identification in order to enter the site. In addition, we are working with our architect team to install fencing at all school sites which will create a single point of entry to further secure our campuses.

This is going to be an exciting year with many new educational experiences for our students and our community. Welcome back to those that are remaining at the same school, welcome to your new school if you have transitioned to middle school this year, and welcome to our family for those that have come from outside the district. We are happy to have you as part of the HBCSD family and team.

Gregg Haulk has 28 years of experience working in public education and more than 18 years of 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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Rosemary Saylor
President

It seems impossible that I am already completing 12 years as a Governing Board Member for HBCSD and a third term as President of the Board. There have been so many challenges and accomplishments in that time period, but one of the areas I am very proud of is that of our thoughtful and conservative budgeting. We went through tough times, as did all school districts, during the recession and sadly had to reduce programs and staff, but we were never in a negative status with the state and our diligence ensured that we kept our all-important music and art programs for our students. And although we are still facing the challenge of increased STRS/PERS obligations that continues to threaten our budget, we have gradually brought back or replaced those eliminated programs. In addition, I am thankful for our very supportive community that recently passed a general obligation bond for us, allowing for upgrades in technology and facilities at our campuses. And last year HBCSD was the proud recipient of not one, but two CSBA Golden Bell Awards. More recently, and in the wake of tragic school shootings across the country, we have established a school safety committee consisting in part of experts in safety and law enforcement fields who also happen to be parents of some of our students, with a goal of making our campuses as safe as they can possibly be.

HBCSD has been a part of my life since my oldest child started kindergarten in 1985. I have been a PTA/PTSA president, a kindergarten aide and a substitute teacher, prior to owning and operating an Internet Broadband business with my husband. But my favorite accomplishment has been that of a trustee of this district. I strongly feel that my fellow board members and I have made a significant and positive difference over the years in the lives our community's children. I couldn't ask for a better "legacy."

Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees



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Educational Services

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/962-3348 x2335 • www.hbcسد.us



Carolyn Wertheim
*Director
Early Childhood
Education*

Finding the Right Fit

The Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) proudly offers a wide range of high-quality early childhood education programs.

The State Preschool Academy is a free program for children. Eligibility is based upon family size and gross monthly income guidelines. Children with an Individual Education Plan may exceed monthly income ceilings.

Designed to invite children into the world of learning, we utilize the California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks to support all areas of development.

Highly-trained instructors with education and experience

specific to the early childhood years offer indoor and outdoor activities that will engage and support each child's development.

HBCSD's Learning Link is an interactive program for families with children from 0–5 years of age. Typically offered on most Friday mornings, the children and their families have access to high-quality early learning materials and

engaging activities. Come join us for a morning of exploration and discovery!

Think Together's Early Literacy and Math is a free 15-week program available to children and their parents or adult caregivers. Featuring small-group instruction designed for children ages 3–4.75 years of age, Think Together offers a morning and afternoon session on Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, please contact 714-360-5559, or visit <https://goo.gl/forms/uwk5YCjNg7gXL7ih1>.

The Twilight Family Education Center offers free English language instruction and homework support for families with limited English proficiency. School readiness programs are offered to all children from age 2 months to the twelfth grade, and whose parents are enrolled in the adult language classes. Offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at Goldenwest College, please contact 714-331-3907 for more information.

Interested in additional resources? Please visit www.hbcسد.us, or contact us at 714-962-3348, extension 2335. Our HBCSD Early Childhood Education program team is available to share information and referrals for community resources designed to strengthen families and build relationships.

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

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



Christa Glembocki
Principal

Christa Glembocki is starting her second full year as principal of Ethel Dwyer Middle School. She began her tenure as principal in March of 2017. Mrs. Glembocki graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a Master of Science in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in Child Development. She has been in education for 17 years, serving students in the Cypress School District, Tustin Unified School District, and now Huntington Beach City School District. Mrs. Glembocki taught upper grade elementary, including GATE and ELD programs. She then became a middle school assistant principal at Columbus Tustin Middle School, Utt Middle School, and Pioneer Middle School, all in Tustin Unified

Mrs. Glembocki's passion is school culture and believes that you cannot capture a student's mind until you capture their heart. Students need to feel that they belong and that the adults around them truly care about each

individual. With this in mind, Mrs. Glembocki is bringing many of these tenets to Dwyer. "Dwyer is such a family and I want to continue to make us even stronger as a community," she stated.

Mrs. Glembocki is a Huntington Beach resident and loves serving in her community. She is blessed with a wonderfully supportive husband and two beautiful daughters. In her free time she enjoys family bike rides, stand-up paddleboarding, and she bakes a mean cupcake!

This year Mrs. Glembocki is truly excited about some big improvements at Dwyer. The entire main building and front office were completely remodeled and modernized this summer. Thirty-two classrooms now have interactive whiteboards, Chromebook carts, flexible and mobile seating, as well as new paint and flooring. Another thrilling change is the start of Dwyer's GRIT program. GRIT stands for Gratitude, Responsibility, Integrity, and Tenacity and will explicitly teach students how to conduct themselves with these core values in mind. At Dwyer. Jr. Oilers live and learn with GRIT!

John H. Eader *Elementary*

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



Carolyn Beck
Principal

Mrs. Carolyn Beck has been in education for 28 years as an elementary school teacher, teacher on special assignment and principal. In the Huntington Beach City School District, Mrs. Beck served as the principal of Agnes L. Smith Elementary School for the past eight years. This school year, Mrs Beck will serve as the principal for John H. Eader Elementary School. She is looking forward to working with the Eader community and getting know her new students and staff. Leading a new school is a great opportunity for professional growth and she is excited for the challenge.

Mrs. Beck earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and is proud to be a Bruin! She completed her master's degree in educational administration at California State University, Long Beach.

Mrs. Beck and her husband have been married for 28 years and have an adult son and daughter. She enjoys spending time with her family hiking, 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.

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

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



Julie Jennings
Principal

Julie Jennings is starting her 32nd 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.

Beginning her seventh year as the principal of Hawes Elementary School, a California Gold Ribbon 2016 school and a CA Distinguished School 2014, Ms.

Jennings is passionate about the collaborative, learning community that thrives at Hawes. Working beside a staff that pushes themselves to learn and grow coupled with an actively involved parent group, Hawes students are afforded enriching learning opportunities in engaging ways. Hawes is a positive, exciting place to learn!

Mrs. Jennings has a daughter who graduated from California Lutheran last year, as well as about 600 children with whom she spends each day! She loves reading, working out, and being outside—camping, hiking, beaching, etc.! She loves being part of the amazing community of Hawes and taps into the strength and resources within the school community to ensure that all of the students access enriching opportunities. Through our work together, we strive for "hAWEs!" #BeHawesome

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

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



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Michael Andrzejewski, or "Mr. A.," has been in education for 31 years, with teaching experience in both the middle and elementary levels. He has also served as an elementary principal for 25 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 eleven years, principal at Moffett Elementary School for eight years, and this year, transferred to Huntington Seacliff. 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, we hope to promote a well-rounded education for all of the Seacliff Sea Stars.



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S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

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



Forest Holbrook
Principal

Mr. Forest Holbrook has 10 years experience working in education, teaching at the high school level before moving to Isaac L. Sowers Middle School in the Huntington Beach City School District where he served as an Assistant Principal for the last 3 years. Mr. Holbrook shared his excitement in working with the students, teachers, families, and PTA of Moffett Elementary as he begins the 2018-2019 school year as their principal. Mr. Holbrook looks forward to meeting and getting to know the Moffett students and developing relationships with their families to ensure all students' success. Mr. Holbrook went on to stress the importance of continuing to support past initiatives and programs that have helped make Moffett one of the top elementary schools in the area. Outside of school, Mr. Holbrook enjoys surfing, skiing, trying new restaurants, and spending time with his family and friends.

John R. Peterson *Elementary*

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



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

Dr. Polhemus has been in education for 30 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. After 5 years as a site administrator 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.

Dr. P, as her students call her, embraced the opportunity to move to Huntington Beach in 2014 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 Boston Marathon in 2015 and 2016, New York Marathon in 2017, and is headed to Chicago in October of 2018. Her next goal is to complete the last three major marathons in London, Berlin & Tokyo. Peterson Elementary School is known for its outstanding 100-Mile Club, which encourages students to run each morning before school. Peterson Dolphins have logged over 80,000 miles during the past last three years.

Dr. Polhemus is looking forward to her fifth year serving the children and families of Huntington Beach, while promoting health and wellness among students and staff of HBCSD.

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

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



Debbi Randall
Principal

Mrs. Debbi Randall is excited to begin her school year as the new principal of Smith Elementary School! She has been a principal in Huntington Beach City School District for eleven years at both the elementary and middle school levels. Prior to becoming an administrator, she taught for eighteen years, from preschool through high school levels. Mrs. Randall was a district grant facilitator and a BTSA (Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment) coordinator, mentor teacher and activities director.

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 Smith Surfers community.

Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

19231 Harding Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-3348 • www.perry-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. Renee Polk Johnson
Principal

Dr. Renee Polk Johnson grew up in Irvine, California and is a graduate of University High School. Dr. Polk Johnson 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 completed her doctorate in educational leadership at California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Polk Johnson is starting her 19th year in education this year and she 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. This will be her fifth year as principal at Perry Elementary. Perry has an incredible staff and amazing students and she anticipates a fantastic 2018-19 school year! When Dr. Polk Johnson is not at work she enjoys snow skiing, scuba diving, and traveling with her husband. She and her husband also enjoy spending time with their dog, Sam.

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • www.ismsschoolloop.com



Dr. John Ashby
Principal

Dr. John Ashby is excited to start his first full year as Principal at Sowers Middle School. He came to HBCSD at the end of February last year.

Dr. Ashby double-majored in Spanish and Public Relations at Pepperdine University while also competing on the Waves' Division 1 Men's Water Polo team. He then taught high school Spanish and coached water polo for seven years. He completed his Master's in Education degree with an emphasis in Cross-Cultural Teaching at National University. As a teacher, he helped to align curriculum, pacing, and instructional strategies through active collaborations with colleagues. As a coach, his teams won two CIF championships. Dr. Ashby recently completed a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership and wrote his dissertation on "Exemplary Middle School Principals Leading Through Conversation".

Dr. Ashby served as a student-centered administrator in Alhambra USD and Chino Valley USD for five years. His responsibilities over the years included curriculum and instruction, activities, athletics, facilities, and community outreach. He spearheaded a grass-roots, comprehensive school-based mental wellness program for all students at a high school using a proactive, instead of a reactive, service model lens. The program garnered support from students, parents, staff, the district office, the city of Chino, and the Chino Police Department.

Dr. Ashby is a proud father of three daughters (15, 7, 5) and engaged to an amazing woman, who is also an educator. In his free time he enjoys playing with his kids, surfing, playing the guitar, and traveling.

Dr. Ashby is excited for the future of Sowers Middle School as it moves forward with progressive plans to provide an incredible, personalized learning environment for all Sowers Vikings." He encourages you to stay connected with all things Sowers on Instagram and Twitter (@SowersVikingsHB).

HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY SD SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page 11*

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. Hauk serves on several committees and has chaired the West Orange County Consortium of Special Education (WOCCSE) Superintendents' Council in 2013 and 2016, chairs the Children and Families Commission Advisory Committee, Pediatrics Health Services Subcommittee, and participates in the Special Education Alliance Committee.

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Ocean View Kicks Off the School Year with New Programs, Students and Staff

It is hard to believe the 2018-2019 school year is here! I hope that you had a fantastic summer and that your children returned to our Ocean View schools ready to learn and have fun while doing so. As this is now my fourth year as your Superintendent, I am committed to staying the course we have set for ourselves and continuing to provide stability, credibility and rigorous, innovative instruction. We will maintain our laser-like focus on academic success for all students. This year, I am also focusing on relationships and how they positively impact learning and teaching. I believe “Relationships Matter” as we work together to prepare all students – academically, emotionally and socially – for their futures.

Over the summer, we made significant progress on several important projects:

- Opening an **Interim Campus** (formerly Sun View Elementary School) in order to welcome Westmont staff and families to their 2018-2019 interim home, while **Measure R bond modernization** is under way at their campus;
- Starting construction of the **Oak View gymnasium/multi-purpose room**;
- Expanding **academic and professional development programs**, including the launch of our **Environmental Science Program** at Golden View Elementary School;
- Launching **Aeries Communications**, a new messaging tool that adds texting to our capabilities.

We also welcome several new school principals this year, as well as new school and District staff members, including our new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Julianne Hoefer. She now oversees our instructional division and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Ocean View.

For those of you who do not know me yet, I have worked in public education for 33 years. I have a rich background as a teacher, principal and a human resources administrator in local districts. Making connections and developing trusting relationships with students, employees and families has always been a cornerstone of my leadership success. Before coming to OVSD, I was actively involved in one of the first nationally recognized labor-management partnerships. I am proud to say that since my first year in OVSD, our administrative team and certificated and classified union leadership have developed strong working relationships, negotiated positive labor contracts, and formed a Partnership of Administration and Labor, or PAL, in support of collaboration for future years.

I hope that your child's school year is off to a great start! I encourage you to stay connected to your classrooms, schools and Ocean View by keeping your Parent Portal contact information up to date, setting your messaging preferences to receive important information, and by regularly checking our websites, official social media, and our OVSD app! Thank you for choosing to be a part of the OVSD family.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jack C. Souders
President

As the president of the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, I am honored to help kick off the 2018-2019 school year and welcome back our students, families and staff. I want to extend a special welcome to our new students, families and staff members, including several new school principals. It promises to be an exciting year as we continue to innovate through our rigorous instructional program, launch a new environmental science focus at Golden View, and implement several new safety features at all OVSD campuses, including new emergency alert and volunteer sign-in systems.

For the past 18 years, I have devoted my professional life to education. I began my career as an elementary teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District. Since that time, I served at Tincher Preparatory, a K-8 school on the east side of Long Beach. As part of my work, I participate in efforts to help teachers with the state's new core standards. My own educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, with an emphasis in Second Language Acquisition. I am proud to say that I have been an active participant in the Ocean View School District for almost 25 years, as both a parent and a Board member and officer.

Our Board is determined to ensure that Ocean View provides the most innovative, collaborative learning experiences for all students in order to prepare them for high school and beyond. We will continue the District's steady leadership under Superintendent Carol Hansen and Deputy Superintendent Michael Conroy. As your Board President, I will do my part and keep you informed about important initiatives and programs in Ocean View. I wish you all a fantastic school year!

Contest!

This manhole cover is somewhere in this publication.

When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put FHOW in the subject line



Your entry must be received October 15, 2018.

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble

courtesy of Barkate Orthodontics.

www.BarkateSmiles.com

Congratulations to our June contest winners:

Michelle Johnson and Colleen Shaw

Circle View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

As the incoming principal of College View Elementary School, it is with great pleasure that I welcome all students and families to our school! I am so fortunate to work with such a wonderful staff, group of students and school community. Having worked in the Ocean View School District for the last 12 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 College 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 in

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.

“Enjoy the little things in life for someday you will realize they were the big things.” I am not sure who said it exactly, but thank you to the “someone” who did. I think it is so important that in the busyness of our days, we stop and take the time to appreciate all the successes that happen all around us each day.

When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my wonderful family and friends. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Craig, and we have two beautiful daughters, Sarah and Lauren, and two cats. Living a healthy life-style is a priority for me. I also love to go to the beach and be spoiled by my husband's fabulous cooking!

College View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

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Golden View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Lori Florgan
Principal

It is with great pride and excitement that I come to the Ocean View School District as the new principal at Golden View Elementary School, where Environmental Science is fostered within the students' learning day. I look forward to getting the Environmental Science program off to a great start this fall by enriching students' opportunities to learn from and enjoy the beautiful 2.5 acre farm and garden that are part of our campus.

My vision is to provide hands-on activities for students to engage in solution-based projects and to offer real-life experiences that will incorporate environmental science into a variety of curricular areas. Prior to my career as an educator, I attended Cal State University Long Beach, where I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies, with a minor in Communications. Following, I went on to earn my teaching credential and Master's degree in Educational Leadership. I started

my career in education as a classroom teacher at Clegg Elementary School in Westminster, where I taught for 16 years and later became the district's elementary English Learner Instructional Support Specialist. In this role, I helped develop best practices for EL instruction and partnered with school principals on planning and presenting professional development opportunities for their staffs. From there, I began my administrative journey with the Capistrano Unified School District, where I served as an Elementary Assistant Principal for the past two years at Bathgate and Don Juan Avila Elementary Schools.

As I join the OVSD family, I look forward to building and maintaining respectful, positive relationships with the Golden View students, families, and staff. As a wife and parent of three children, I will bring a welcoming family feel to our Golden view community.

Harbour View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Joy Harris
Principal

It is my great honor to join the Harbour View family! Working with the staff, parents and community of this wonderful school has been my summer pleasure and no doubt, there are many more great people, experiences and learning ahead. I am truly looking forward to an exciting year as a part of this amazing school.

I am first a teacher, and always a learner. A Midwestern native, much of my teaching and administrative experience has been here in sunny Southern California. For the last five years, I have proudly served students as the principal of an award-winning elementary school east of San Diego. My teaching and administrative background at all levels and with varying student populations have primed me to give my best to the students of Harbour View. My passion for innovative

teaching practices is equal to my dedication to ensure that all students have a happy and safe learning environment. I received my Bachelors in Elementary Education/Special Education from the University of WI, and my Masters in School Administration from Johns Hopkins University. In 2016, I proudly earned my Doctorate from the University of California San Diego.

Providing students with a well-rounded education experience takes a village, and Harbour View's legacy for strong partnerships is one that we will continue. From your first experience walking through our front door, you will see that our community is eternally dedicated. My commitment to you is that you will be welcomed and cared for, and this will be reinforced in every interaction. I believe in the power of us! Our strength will be our greatest asset as we design a quality learning community for our students in the 2018-19 school year!



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Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Paul Kraft
Principal

Welcome to Hope View Elementary School, a truly amazing school in the Ocean View School District. Our vision is to inspire a passion for learning in every single student. The 2018-2019 school year will be an exciting year for our Hope View Hawks as we build on our many successes and continue to enhance our signature practices with new and innovative ways of teaching and learning. We continue to expand our use of digital learning and creating throughout the day, while adding new and exciting instructional programs in art, music, and science instruction.

Hope View is well-known for our dedicated staff members, who provide high-quality instruction with a focus on student engagement and authentic literacy. We are also proud of our positive character trait education,

including instruction, modeling, and reinforcing in every classroom and throughout campus on a daily basis. At Hope View, we strive to provide an incredible and safe learning experience for every student, every day.

I graduated from California State University, Long Beach and returned to earn my teaching credential in 1994. I began my teaching career in the Bellflower Unified School District, teaching sixth grade for three years. I then taught in the Cypress School District as an elementary school teacher and instructional coach from 1997 until 2014, while earning my master's degree and administrator credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills. I became an administrator in the Capistrano Unified School District, serving as a principal from 2014 to 2016. In 2016, I had the wonderful opportunity to join OVSD, where I am honored to serve as the principal of Hope View Elementary School.

Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

The principal of Lake View Elementary, Jamie Goodwyn, has been in the educational field for 17 years. She is a dedicated educator and lifetime student of teaching and learning. She received a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, a master's degree in Cross-cultural Education from National University, and a master's degree in School Counseling from the University of La Verne. She has served as a teacher, school counselor, assistant principal, and principal. She loves working with children and families within the school community, and is passionate about integrating technology within the classroom and exploring every avenue of innovation.

As the principal of an Ocean View School District innovative program, Mrs. Goodwyn's passion fits perfectly. She leads leading a school that features a fully integrated STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math) curriculum;

Mrs. Goodwyn is enthusiastic about implementing new and exciting programs and teaching methods to enrich the learning experience at Lake View. Combining collaboration, innovation, and structured experimentation, Lake View teachers and students immerse themselves in the STEAM curricular design. While learning the necessary skills for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, students are gaining the intricacies and skills necessary for computer programming, robotics, 3-D printing, and engineering. The teachers, staff, and students have experienced much success in previous years and they look forward to continuing and strengthening the foundational program, which includes expanded opportunities to work with robotics and computer programming curriculum.

The 2018-2019 school year is going to be amazing for all of the Lake View Lions!

Marine View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Sara Schaible
Principal

I am very excited to be transitioning to the Principal position at Marine View Middle School this fall. Before coming to Ocean View in 2016 as the Assistant Principal for Marine View, I served in various roles during my tenure with Los Angeles Unified School District, including working as a teacher, dean and assistant principal. I grew up in central Minnesota, attended North Dakota State University, and moved to Southern California after graduation to begin my teaching career and continue my education. I earned my master's degree in School

Administration at Concordia University in Irvine.

For more than 15 years, I have worked at the middle school level and can not imagine working with any other age group. I believe the practices, habits, goals, and dreams our students set forth to accomplish in middle school help to guide them on their road to success for the future. I am beyond excited to continue the work with our students at Marine View Middle School in setting and achieving their goals toward success.

Oak View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jenna Landero
Principal

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! My name is Jenna Landero, the new Principal at Oak View Elementary School. I am so excited to embark on this journey with you. Among my areas of expertise are a 17-year education background in collaborative school leadership, special education, positive behavior management, and community outreach. As Oak View's new Principal, I seek to nurture a cooperative learning environment for all students and staff members. I look forward to working closely with all of the families in the Oak View community.

Collaboration, parent-teacher communication and engagement, positive student behavior management, and strong working relationships with the community are among my greatest strengths and priorities.

This year's theme at Oak View is "The Road to Success is Always Under Construction." There is great work happening at Oak View, so let's celebrate it! Construction has begun on our new gym, and our teachers and staff have been busy preparing for an amazing school year. We would love for you to follow us on this journey on our new Instagram page. Follow us at @oakviewelementary.

A little bit about me – I have been married to my college sweetheart, Everardo, for the past 17 years. Together we have two children, who also attend Ocean View Schools. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors, working with the Cub Scouts, photography, and being creative. Please stop by and say hello!

Oak View *Preschool & Pre-K*

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



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Director of Child Development Programs

I am thrilled to be a part of the team at Pleasant View and Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) as the Director of Child Development Programs. I have served in education for over 30 years, specializing in Expanded Learning and Early Learning Programs. Early Learning is a wonderful opportunity to support your children and teach them the skills they will need to transition to one of our outstanding elementary schools. Since 2015, the Ocean View School District has been my home. I first served as the Child Care Supervisor and now as the Director of Child Development Programs. In this newly expanded position, I am fortunate to oversee our District's outstanding preschool programs.

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000 • www.ovsd.org/pleasant

In addition, I am delighted to welcome Cindy Pedroso, who joins us this year as the Early Education Assistant Principal supporting our programs. She is a long-standing member of the Ocean View family, previously serving as a Kindergarten teacher at Circle View. She comes with 17 years of experience in both general and special education programs.

Expanding and enhancing Early Learning programs and building a seamless transition between preschool and elementary school are a few of my goals. I look forward to serving the families of Pleasant View and OVPP Preschool in the coming years!

Mesa View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Randy Lempert
Principal

I am excited to start my fifth year as Principal of Mesa View Middle School. Each day I feel it is an honor to serve as your principal of the Mighty Eagles. Mesa View is a special place where both students and staff experience a vibrant school climate and innovative learning experiences taking place throughout the campus. I am proud to lead a middle school where students are safe to grow, create, learn, and experience life. This greatness is due to the fantastic staff that continues to put the academic and emotional needs of middle school students first. Through a strong partnership with our parents and community, Mesa View

continues to maintain a positive school climate and culture. I will shout from the mountain tops, "Mesa View Middle School has great teachers, parents, and most important, STUDENTS!"

Before joining the Mesa View team, I was the Assistant Principal at Spring View Middle School in OVSD and taught at Dwyer Middle School in the Huntington Beach City School District. A graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, with a degree in education, I continued on to earn a master's degree in school administration from Concordia University in Irvine. I am local to Huntington Beach and incredibly proud to be able to serve the community I love. Outside of Mesa View, my wife and I have a five-year-old son that recently started Kindergarten. When I am not at Mesa View, you can find me cheering on Angels baseball, camping with family, and working as a lifeguard for the city of Newport Beach.

It is going to be a great school year, and I look forward to serving the Mesa View community!

Spring View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

When asked what it is like to be the Principal of Spring View, Mr. Jason Blade said, "The Spring View staff is totally committed to their students' wellbeing. They are devoted to providing a safe, structured learning environment for all students while, at the same time, setting high academic standards for everyone. I'm looking forward to a fantastic 2018-2019 school year."

Mr. Blade has been an educator in the Ocean View School District for over 20 years, having worked as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. He grew up in a family of educators, with

his mother working as a high school English and reading teacher in the Garden Grove Unified School District, and his father working as both a school site and district administrator for various neighboring districts. Mr. Blade was born and raised in Southern California and attended California State University, Long Beach, for his undergraduate degree and both National University and the University of Southern California for his post-graduate education.

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

Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Star View Elementary School is proud to be both a 2018 California Distinguished School and 2018 Honor Roll recipient! As your proud Principal, I welcome you to the beginning of a new and exciting school year!

My professional credentials include a master's degree in Education from California State University, Fullerton, a reading and language arts specialist credential, as well as an administrative and teaching credential. I earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. For the past seven years, I have enjoyed serving as an elementary

school principal as part of the Ocean View School District team. I was fortunate to work in this capacity at Hope View Elementary for five years and am thrilled to be begin my third year here at Star View.

Prior to OVSD, I worked in a nearby school district for 14 years, 11 of those years as a classroom teacher, two years as an assistant principal, and one year as a teacher on special assignment. I am particularly proud to be a Nationally Board Certified and Recertified teacher. On a personal note, I have two incredible children, Ryan and Paige, who are thriving as young adults. My husband of 35 years is a car enthusiast, so I reap the benefits of enjoying vintage cars. During my free time, I love to travel, spend time with my 90 year-old mother, enjoy our dog, and reading. It is going to be, yet, another incredible year working with Star View's wonderful students, staff, families and community.

I look forward to seeing you and your children at Star View. Let's continue to Shine Together with Awesome Results in the 2018-19 school year!

Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Francesca Ligman
Principal

I am elated to start the 2018-19 school year with a big splash! The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. Our passionate and rejuvenated staff are thrilled to welcome their new crew of learners. Additionally, we have an incredibly supportive and enthusiastic PTO, already planning school events and raising money for technology and programs that make Village View amazing. Our staff and PTO are committed to building life-long memories and providing a challenging and productive school year for all our Dolphins. Our vision at Village View is to prepare students for academic excellence today and for a changing tomorrow. We proudly embrace 21st century skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity activating.

We are implementing ST Math this year! Art Explorers and Music are offered to all grade levels. We have an abundance of technology for students to explore, code and produce. Being a smaller school, we have the joy of knowing each child by name. Village truly has a family feel. With PBIS, we practice being kind, safe and responsible each day, as safety is one of my top priorities.

It is a pleasure to serve this wonderful community. I began my career with Ocean View 22 years ago as a teacher at Village View. I went on to work at various schools and grade levels in our District and served as a District Instructional coach and interim Principal at Oak View Elementary School. I enjoy tennis, surfing, and stand-up paddling. However, my greatest joy is spending time with my family. I live in Huntington Beach with my husband and two children who both attend schools in Ocean View.

Vista View *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Scott Mooney
Principal

I am proud to lead a school where all adults are focused on doing what is best for students. Vista View was again recognized by the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) as an "Honor Roll Star School." This award recognizes our consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. Currently, Vista View is working to increase the rigor of our program through Project Based Learning and an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration. We look forward

to challenging our students to create products that require them to think critically, make connections between subjects, and produce authentic products with real world connections to demonstrate their learning.

I received my undergraduate degree from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, where I majored in mechanical engineering. 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 Cal Poly, Pomona, and will finish a doctoral program at California State University, Fullerton, this spring. I served as an assistant principal at the high school and middle school levels before joining the Ocean View team. My wife, Lauren, and I have been married since 2010 and have one son. We enjoy camping, hiking, and travel. Our favorite places to visit are Avila Beach, Portland, and Ireland.

Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Broderson
Principal

What a phenomenal year this is going to be! We are at our new interim home for the 2018-2019 school year as our former campus is modernized thanks to Measure R bond funding. We are growing by leaps and bounds in our Visual and Performing Arts abilities and talents. The Westmont staff is growing along with our student population. Our one-of-its-kind beginning band program is an overwhelming success! We offer music, dance and movement to all grade levels, in addition to theater and visual arts. Our robotics program continues to receive awards for excellence in competitions.

As I start my fifth year as the proud Principal at Westmont, I am pleased to share a little about myself. I have been in education for the past 18 years, the past six years as an administrator. I earned my bachelor's degree at California

State University at Long Beach and a master's in Social Work at the University of Southern California. I also spent 10 years working for the County of Orange as a senior social worker. After starting a family, I made the decision to switch careers and become a teacher. I taught multiple grade levels at various schools before becoming an administrator.

My passion is working with children to assist them to reach their full potential and to help each one become productive, well-rounded community members. What I love the most about being an administrator is that instead of having 32 children I get to have 300 children! Our strongest asset at Westmont is our outstanding staff. Our teachers are dedicated and committed to every student on campus. The entire Westmont staff prides itself on putting kids first and always asking before making important decisions, "Is it good for kids?" It is an honor to be a part of our Westmont team.

Back to School!!



Westminster School District

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

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



Juan M. Lopez

Mr. Juan M. Lopez was appointed the WSD Interim Superintendent in July and has enjoyed a prolific career in public education that spans over 40 years. He served as superintendent of the Val Verde Unified School District before retiring in 2015 and in retirement has served as interim superintendent of the Coachella Valley Unified School District and the Redlands Unified School District. Mr. Lopez's extensive experience also includes acting as an assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal, teacher and instructional aide. He believes the key to a district's success starts with a leadership team made up of quality administrators who have integrity and are dedicated to working for the greater good of children.

In 2007, Mr. Lopez was named the Orange County Human Resources Administrator of the Year and in 2009, he was recognized by the Association of California School Administrators as the State Negotiator of the Year. He has extensive experience in employee relations and collective bargaining and was a lead negotiator for over 28 years.

Mr. Lopez's professional passion has been focused on the transformation of school culture, English learners, parent engagement and serving as a mentor/coach. He has served on the Teacher Preparation Advisory Boards at Chapman University, Whittier College and UC Riverside, as well as the Administrative Leadership Advisory Board at Cal Poly Pomona. He has also been active as a Chairperson with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for over 20 visitations. He is a long-time member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and served on the statewide ACSA Urban Education Committee.

Mr. Lopez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Urban Education/School Administration from California State University, Los Angeles.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Penny Loomer
President

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: Westminster Parks and Recreation Commission, Boys & Girls Club, Rose Theater Foundation, and Westminster High School All Class Reunion. Mrs. Loomer is a former Westminster Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and a Soroptimist Woman of Distinction. She holds a bachelor's degree from Cal State University at Fresno and is proud to be a product of the Westminster School District. Mrs. Loomer has lived in Westminster for over 50 years. She enjoys spending time with her family, including her husband, two daughters and two granddaughters.

Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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Mary Mangold
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Frances Nguyen
Member



Jamison Power
Member

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsd.k8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

This will be an amazing year at Anderson. Our focus on goal setting, reflection and feedback will be the vehicles leading all learners to a bright future. Mrs. Breckenridge will continue as the site principal, her eleventh 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 25 years in education having worked in six different schools in two different districts.

Anderson is proud to announce that it was recognized as a California Honor Roll School by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) for its work to get students to grade level and beyond. Furthermore, Anderson was honored with a silver award for its implementation of the Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program. These awards show Anderson's commitment to meeting students' needs - educationally, emotionally, socially and behaviorally. Way to go Anderson Tigers!

Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsd.k8.us



John Staggs
Principal

Mr. John Staggs has been an educator for 22 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 nine years. He was very proud of all of the great work taking place at Clegg in their STEAM Magnet program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Technology) and is very excited to work with staff, students and parents throughout the 2018-19 school year at Clegg.

Prior to beginning his time as principal at 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 always 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. He also recently completed a CBO Certification Program at USC.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

The 2018-2019 school year will mark, Ms. Shannon Villanueva's 27th year in education! She has been the proud principal of DeMille Elementary School for nine years. Exciting things are happening at DeMille, and Ms. Villanueva considers it to be a privilege to be a part of the innovative ways students are being prepared to be global citizens and 21st century learners.

DeMille is the home of the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program in the state of California. DeMille is very excited to be offering Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion preschool and Transitional Kindergarten for the first time this year. In addition to our preschool and TK DLI classes, we have two third grade classes, two second grade classes, three first grade classes, and three Kindergarten classes! A new grade level is 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.

Ms. Villanueva considers herself to be a life-long learner. She 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. She is currently in pursuit of a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at California State University, Fullerton.

When Ms. Villanueva is not working or studying, she keeps herself busy and enjoys spending time with her family and friends and traveling. Ms. Villanueva enjoys being the principal at DeMille. The 2018-2019 school year promises be filled with lots of learning and amazing accomplishments.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Jason Kuncewicki
Principal

Dr. Jason Kuncewicki is thrilled to be starting his fourth year as a principal in the Westminster School District and his 23rd year in education. He is excited to continue to serve Eastwood School this year and in years to come.

Prior to serving 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 outside in various sports and being active.

When asked about reflecting on his over 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.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Raul Olivas
Principal

Mr. Raul Olivas is the 3rd year principal at Finley Computer Science Magnet Elementary School. We're excited about the upcoming school year as we continue to implement our innovative program that has led us to be recognized as Orange County's First Computer Science Magnet School.

Prior to his work in Westminster, Mr. Olivas was an Assistant Principal at Sierra Vista Junior High School for the William S. Hart Union High School District in Santa Clarita. Before becoming an administrator, he worked at Johnnie L. Cochran

Jr. Middle for the Los Angeles Unified School District. During his time there, he served in an out of the classroom capacity: Title 1/English Learner Coordinator for 2 years, and a Dean of Students for 4 years. Mr. Olivas also has 8 years of Pre-Algebra teaching experience: 4 years in inner city Los Angeles and 4 year in his hometown of El Paso, Texas.

Mr. Olivas is a proud father of 3 daughters and appreciates all the wonderful life lessons they have taught him up to this point.

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Mrs. Michelle Scheiber has 18 years of experience in education. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree from California State University, San Bernardino, her Education Specialist's Credential and Master's Degree from National University, and also her Administrative Credential from National University, she held roles as a special education teacher and assistant principal at both elementary and middle school settings. Mrs. Scheiber is currently excited to be the Principal at Fryberger Elementary

School where she can use her strengths of building a positive school environment for students, staff, parents, and the community with a focus on student learning. She strongly believes it is of utmost importance for her students to learn in a safe, collaborative space and makes it her mission to create student-centered learning environments. During her free time, Mrs. Scheiber enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, watching baseball games, and relaxing at the beach.

Hayden *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Mr. Murphy has been an educator for over 20 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 9 years ago and now begins his seventh year as the Principal of Hayden.

Not only has Mr. Murphy worked for the Westminster School District for the past 20 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 and his sister Maggie Villegas. He currently resides in Huntington Beach and enjoys jogging and mountain biking.

Johnson *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

Mr. Daniel Owens is beginning his fifth year in the Westminster School District as principal of Johnson Middle School, and his 22nd 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. 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 18 years and two sons ages 6 and 16. His hobbies include cheering on the USC Trojans in every sport, and his beloved Dodgers.

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 and prepare students for the future.

Land School

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



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

Ms. Mathenia has been in the field of education for over 28 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.



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 15 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 and friends.

Meairs *Elementary (K–5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



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 17 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 eighth year at Iva Meairs Elementary, a Gold Ribbon School, Title I Academic Achievement School and a Gold PBIS School. 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 reading, baking and spending time in the great outdoors camping, hiking and biking with her husband, two daughters, two sons, and two dogs.



Schmitt *Elementary (K–5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Ms. Orchid Rocha has been working in the field of education since 1990, teaching, leading and serving both elementary and middle school students. She is a certified bilingual teacher with a bachelors degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a masters 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 eleven years as a site principal;

Webber Elementary School (2007-2014) and Schmitt Elementary School for the past four years. The majority of her work in education was spent in the Downey Unified School District as a Bilingual Teacher, Gifted & Talented Education (GATE) site coordinator, Title I teacher specialist, English Language Development (ELD) teacher specialist, Literacy Coach, Vice Principal, and Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment mentor.

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

On a personal note, Orchid Rocha is married with two daughters, Sofia and Isabella. This fall, Sofia will begin her fourth year at UCSanDiego's Aerospace Engineering program, while Isabella begins her junior year at Cypress High School. Her husband enjoys cross-word puzzles, and cooking for Orchid. 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 education and experience for all students.

Schroeder *Elementary (K–6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Mrs. Carrie Hernandez has been in education for over 26 years beginning 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 20 years and their three children – Omar, Jack and Ryann. She spends a lot of her family time doing scouting activities, sports, motorcycle riding and camping. She also loves to read and plays in a professional handbell choir in her spare time.

Mrs. Hernandez is excited to be returning to Schroeder Elementary School for her 5th year as principal. She looks forward to another great year working alongside the staff, parents, and community to continue the great traditions and successes here at Schroeder!

Sequoia *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Michelle Watkins
Principal

Mrs. Watkins has been an educator for over 20 years. Mrs. Watkins specializes in differentiated instruction using the depth and complexity framework, STEAM, and AVID. She also develops curriculum and trains teachers nationally. 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 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 on the golf course watching her 16-year-old son at his golf matches and tournaments. She also enjoys going to sporting events, and is looking forward to another great year at Sequoia Academy 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."

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Mrs. DeBritton has worked in the Westminster School District for 25 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 3 grandchildren. 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 • webber.wsdk8.us



Vanessa DeSantis
Principal

As an educator of 13 years, Mrs. Vanessa DeSantis is the new principal at L.P. Webber Elementary School. Mrs. DeSantis is excited to go back to her roots at the elementary level. She is looking forward to the upcoming school year and building relationships with the staff, students, parents, and community members.

Prior to Webber, Mrs. DeSantis served as the Assistant Principal at Johnson Middle School for two years here in the Westminster School District. Before coming to Westminster, she was an elementary teacher at Isojiro Oka Elementary in Fountain Valley School District and Elitha Donna Elementary in Elk Grove Unified School District. She has been a choir director, track and field coach, and student leadership advisor at the elementary level as well. Mrs. DeSantis has a lifelong love for learning and teaching and believes in high quality education and expectations for all students.

Originally hailing from Northern California, Mrs. DeSantis completed her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from California State University, Sacramento. She then went on to obtain her multiple subject credential from San Francisco State University. After moving down to Southern California in 2010, Mrs. DeSantis attended Concordia University Irvine to obtain her Master of Arts and credential in Education Administration. Currently, Mrs. DeSantis is attending California State University, Fullerton in the Educational Doctorate program in P-12 Educational Leadership. She is looking forward to finishing her doctorate in 2020.

On a personal note, Mrs. DeSantis enjoys spending time with her husband and their adopted poodle mix named Terry Terrentino. She is an avid dancer and has an appreciation for music. She loves when she is able to travel back to Sacramento to visit with her family and her nieces and nephews. Mrs. DeSantis is excited and looking forward to working with the staff, students, and families at L.P. Webber Elementary!

Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Tiffany Harville
Principal

Mrs. Tiffany Harville is beginning her first year as principal of Warner Middle School. Prior to being at Warner she was the Assistant Principal at Mayfair Middle/High School for 5 years. In this position she was responsible for nearly 1000 middle school students and staff and worked closely with the High school administration team to help ensure that all students were college and career ready. Prior to her role as Assistant principal she was the Science department chair which will allow her to bring her secondary Science experience to Warner. She

is excited to support both staff and students with the transition to the New Generation Science Standards. Mrs. Harville received her Bachelor's in Science degree from San Diego State University and her Master's degree in Education Administration from National University. When she isn't working, Mrs. Harville enjoys spending time with her husband and 5th grade son, and her daughter who will be a freshman at UCLA this year. Her family enjoys participating in outside activities and when given the opportunity vacationing anywhere that has a beach.

Willmore *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Nicole Jacobson
Principal

Dr. Nicole Jacobson is honored and proud to continue in her third year as principal at Willmore Elementary School, a California Gold Ribbon and Title 1 Achievement Award School. Willmore is excited to expand the Spanish/English Dual Language Immersion Academy by including second grade this year, in addition to our current preschool, kindergarten, and first grade classes. Coding will continue as a “third language”, as we strive to prepare all of our students to be multilingual, multiliterate, and multicultural global citizens.

Prior to Willmore, Dr. Jacobson served as the Assistant Principal at Meairs Elementary School in the Westminster School District. Before coming to Westminster, she was an elementary teacher and an Instructional Mathematics Coach/Intervention Coordinator at both the elementary and secondary levels in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She has a lifelong love for learning and teaching, and believes in high quality

education and expectations for all students. On a personal note, Dr. Jacobson enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her husband and two children, ages 9 and 11. She likes running along the beach, attending sports events, and being around friends and family. She lived in Italy for a year after graduating from college, and likes to travel whenever possible.

In May 2016, she earned a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California. Dr. Jacobson graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Social Behavior and a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of California, Irvine. She then received her Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, Northridge. Dr. Jacobson is looking forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and fostering best practices, while working alongside the wonderful staff, parents, and Willmore community to empower all students as they explore their passions to be future-ready!



Zoom a Little Zoom



Kate Karp

With all the changes around the planet, it brings you down to earth—like gravity—how basic science remains the same. Snowflakes still form through crystallization, lightning still comes from electrical charges, and that ol’ gravity will still bring ya down! But fear not—the inherent lightness in *Zoom a Little Zoom* will have everyone up, moving, and learning about science at lightning speed!

The songs were selected from *Ballads for the Age of Science*, a forward-thinking collection of vinyl LPs produced in 1961. They featured original songs performed by folk and pop-music artists active in the mid-20th century, including Tom Glazer of “On Top of Spaghetti Fame.” The project aimed



to make basic science enjoyable and understandable to children. Now, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marner, two longtime busker-type musical artists, have brought these songs into the STEAM-science present with *Zoom*, swapping one musical style for another—the duo does a great Andrews Sisters!—but retaining the lyrics

Nature, space, energy and weather are all renewed. “Vibration” uses stringed instruments in the best way possible; “Why Does the Sun Shine?” is a sea chanty that talks about how far, how big and how important our Mother Star is to life; and “We Know the Air Is There” suggests a neat experiment and is enhanced with fiddle solos and banjo plucking. Speaking of experiments, a downloadable PDF with science activities comes with the CD.

In this rapidly changing world, it’s good to know that there’s still a base on which to build science education.

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

History Depot

The Art Below Your Feet

By D.H. Coop

During the 1950s and 1960s, “stop and smell the roses” was a popular saying, which had more meaning than just taking the time to smell a rose. It meant that life is full of wonderful little things that should be enjoyed.



One of those things is right below your feet, if you take the time to look down. It is the manhole covers you see in sidewalks and streets. Their circular shape is perfect for the simple reason that it is the only geometric shape that will not fall into itself.



Some manhole covers are imprinted with a word to identify the type of manhole that is hidden beneath. Others have designs that share a location, while still others are used to display art.

So, next time you are walking, take the time to stop and look down. You may see more than just a circular metal plate covering a hole. It may open your eyes to a whole world of possibilities!

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

IMMERSING OURSELVES • From Page 1



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
Orange County
Dept. of
Education

Indeed, a recent study of children ages 9 and 10 revealed that hands-on lessons in nature produce students who are more engaged in their other academic studies. Moreover, a duo from UC Berkeley points to more than 100 studies that demonstrate how exposure to nature can have positive impacts on thought processes, as well as our physical and mental health.

This is why environmental education programs like OCDE’s Inside the Outdoors are so vital.

Since 1974, Inside the Outdoors has been nurturing student knowledge and stewardship of the natural environment with highly qualified staff and 15 field trip locations throughout Orange County and Los Angeles counties. Lessons are aligned with the state’s instructional standards, and for classes that can’t venture out, the program dispatches Traveling Scientists to schools, often accompanied by wildlife.

Inside the Outdoors logs more than 150,000 hours of environmental STEM learning each year and has served some 3.5 million students to date. Suffice to say, many of these students might not otherwise have these experiences.

In April, about 100 teachers, school administrators and experts gathered in Orange County to discuss how outdoor and environmental learning experiences can be used to help develop a well-rounded curriculum. Jointly organized by OCDE, Inside the Outdoors and the state Department of Education, the symposium also offered educators a preview of how environmental literacy is being incorporated into the state’s Next Generation Science Standards.

Richard Louv was also in attendance as the event’s keynote speaker. The renowned author told the audience that “Every teacher who connects students to nature is doing sacred work.”

It is that and more. Teaching students about nature and immersing them in the natural environment is both transformative and enduring, producing benefits to our bodies and minds that we are only beginning to understand. Even as we prepare young women and men for an increasingly digitized world, we must continue to create opportunities to recharge their minds and spirits in the great outdoors.

As a child, my family didn’t take lavish vacations. But I am fortunate that we could occasionally escape the urbanized confines of Los Angeles to experience a larger world that asked as many questions as it answered, and today these trips are among my most cherished childhood memories.

Years later, I see how they prepared me for life as an educator, as well as for trips with my own sons, who similarly had moments to gaze up at the countless stars and wonder.

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