

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Fullerton School District

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Recognizing Potential



James Park and Michael Capps revise their robots program after a test run.



Agnes Lee, Irene Chong and Joan Gwak work on downloading a program to their Lego Robot. Then they test their robot to see if it successfully completes 2 full turns and stops in place. Revisions to their robot's program are made after a test run. Each robot was required to run an exact distance stop and return to its original starting point.



Ashley Deptula and Genevieve Lai test their robot.



Dr. Robert Pletka
Superintendent

The Fullerton School District inspires learners to leverage the arts and innovative technology to create, collaborate, communicate, critically think, and contribute as part of a global community. In our schools, students have an opportunity to explore and discover by working with professionals such as artists, writers, engineers, and scientists in a variety of real-world and hands-on projects. Whether it is students creating mosaics as public art, designing a new solar car printed out on a 3D printer, or publishing a collection of essays on heroes, students learn to be part of a community that solves problems and creates work that contribute to our world.

Our educators work to personalize learning for our students through innovative technologies such as Computer-Assisted Math Instruction or the Flipped Classroom. These are examples of innovations in instruction which allow students who are ready to accelerate to higher grade-level math concepts to have opportunities customized to their strengths or provide other students additional learning time and scaffolds when needed.

Laptops and electronic tablets (as part of our 1-1 Program) are used, allowing students to turn poetry into musical form. Other technologies such as Google Docs, allow teams of students to collaborate with other students, professional writers, and teachers to get personalized feedback that further hones the students' craft of writing. Through personalized learning and the development of student interests and talents, we engage students in deep and rigorous learning. We help students to see in themselves the potential we recognize in them already.

It is an honor to serve the Fullerton School District community!

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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It is with great pleasure we publish the first issue of *School News Roll Call* covering the Fullerton School District. We look forward to bringing you the excellence directly from the classrooms. Each year brings exciting changes in technology and budget challenges—this year it's Common Core Standards.

Happy Holidays! We are always mindful of the service men and women who are not home with their families. We thank them for their service.

Our next issue is February 26, 2014...until then Happy New Year!

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MOON & MACGINNIS
ORTHODONTICS



WON MOON DMD, MS

(CREDENTIALS)

Program Director,
UCLA Orthodontics Programs
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Post-doctoral Certificate in Orthodontics, UCLA
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(FUN FACTS)

Dr. Moon is a "foodie" who loves rock climbing and the newest technology



MATTHEW MACGINNIS DDS, MS

(CREDENTIALS)

Post-doctoral Certificate in Orthodontics, UCLA
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BS in Biology, Point Loma Nazarene

(FUN FACTS)

Dr. MacGinnis is a die-hard sports fan who loves golfing & playing with his two small kids

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Common Core



State Standards

What are 3 new areas of emphasis in English-Language Arts for students that are different from the current 1997 state content standards?

What are some ideas for parents to help your child transition to the new Common Core?

What's the shift?	What will students have to do?	What can parents do to help?
Read as much non-fiction as fiction	Read more non-fiction Understand how non-fiction is written and put together Enjoy and discuss the details of non-fiction	Supply more non-fiction texts Read non-fiction books aloud or with your child Work together with your child to read "how to" directions to complete a task or to build something
Learn about the world by reading	Learn more about science and social studies through reading Use "primary source" documents	Supply series of texts on topics that interest your child Find books that explain how things work and why Discuss non-fiction texts and their ideas
Talk about reading using evidence	Find evidence to support their arguments Form judgments and opinions Discuss what the author is thinking Make predictions about what will happen next	Talk about texts Ask your child for supporting evidence in everyday discussions or disagreements Read aloud or read the same book as your child and discuss Develop predictions together

Educational Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7708 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us

Risk Management

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/446-1066 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us

Readying Our Students for Real Life



Janet Morey
Assistant
Superintendent

Brick? Clamshell? Candy bar? Origami? Consider the transformation of the cellular phone from the Brick weighing in at two and a half pounds to the featherweight Origami phone prototype without buttons and with the ability to be folded. If the cellular phone is reflective of a rapidly advancing world, consider the skills today's kindergarteners will need to successfully compete in the global workforce of 2033.

The K-12 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts/literacy and mathematics were adopted by our State in 2010 and replace the current California Content Standards of 1997. These new standards are fewer, clearer and higher, with rigorous content and application of knowledge to solving real-life problems. One focus area for English language arts is *building knowledge through nonfiction*, and another for math is *pursuing conceptual understanding, learning procedural skills and applying those skills to reach solutions*. At home, these two focus areas can be reinforced by having your child follow step-by-step directions to accomplish a task such as operating a new cell phone or apply his or her math knowledge to a project such as doubling a recipe or calculating the area needed for planting a vegetable garden.

How does Fullerton School District (FSD) match up to the expectations of the CCSS? Our districtwide school board goals emphasize 21st Century teaching and learning: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication. Over the past several years, students have participated in enriched learning experiences, especially through technology and the arts. Students have excelled as individuals, partners and teams, earning many academic and innovation awards and recognitions. Over 100 educators and members from the business community, both nationwide and internationally, visit FSD schools to learn from exemplary teaching staff and about our model programs. Our FSD educational programs already reflect college- and career-ready preparation required of the new Common Core. Watch for one of our Fullerton students to be the creative entrepreneur of the future-generation cellular phone! Coming soon!

Our districtwide school board goals emphasize 21st Century teaching and learning: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication.

Get Ready...Get Set...Get Prepared!



Laurie Bruneau
Risk Manager

Fullerton School District (FSD) was proud to be a part of October 17th's statewide effort to increase earthquake awareness known as the Great Shakeout of 2013. FSD was one of the 1,352 public schools and districts participating throughout California.

This year, our district reached a new level of readiness by opening the Emergency Command Center (EOC) to practice the delivery of support to our 20 school sites simulating a 7.8 earthquake.

The district's EOC is modeled after the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) program and is manned by FSD's executive cabinet, directors and their outstanding support staff. We also included the Fullerton Fire Department to observe and provide post-incident feedback.



Shake Out Drill

According to Assistant Superintendent Susan Hume, "We wanted to have a dress rehearsal getting our decision makers ready to respond to the schools as if it was an actual event. Opportunities like this help us identify what our next steps are in getting the schools and district office ready for any type of emergency situation."

Beechwood and Fisler Elementary Schools raised the bar by adding their own specifics to their drills, which included lost children, parent reunification, and downed power lines.

Acacia *Elementary*

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Karen Whisnant
Principal

Technology Enhances Learning

Increased student engagement, academic achievement, and higher Average Daily Attendance (ADA) are just some of the many benefits we have seen at Acacia School through the thoughtful integration of technology. Last year, Acacia piloted a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) one-to-one electronic tablet program in two classrooms. This program proved to be so successful that it was expanded to include all fourth- through sixth-grade classes and a Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) third-

grade class for this school year. We also expanded technology use in kindergarten through third grade, providing one electronic tablet for every two students in almost every classroom.

Our teachers have received extensive training in the use of technology to guide students to create, communicate, collaborate, and critically think using 21st-century learning skills. Children are excited about learning, love to come to school, and are increasing in confidence as differing levels, learning styles, and academic needs are addressed every day through technology use and integration.



Beechwood *Elementary*

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Julie Graham
Principal

Equip, Enrich and Empower

At Beechwood School, our mission is to “Equip, Enrich and Empower” students with 21st Century Skills for success in the career path of their choosing. We aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are motivated and empowered to make a difference in their local and global communities.

Through the support of the Beechwood Foundation, students benefit from class-size reduction, experiential-learning field trips, personalized math classes, specialized writing programs and engaging integration of technology. We are proud of our innovative programs such as the International Baccalaureate, Writers Workshop, 1:1 iPad Integration, STEM and the arts.



Our active PTA designs opportunities for families to develop strong connections to school. This year, our PTA has made many improvements to our campus with murals, student tile projects and a brand-new playground!

At Beechwood, we work together with parents and teachers to provide our children with an excellent foundation for their futures!

Commonwealth *Elementary*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Anita Lomeli
Principal

A Garden Come True!

After three years of planning, 200 hours of volunteer work, and \$20,000 in donations, our newly inaugurated Sensory Garden has emerged, designed specifically for the unique needs of students with autism in preschool through kindergarten. Here, earth, life, and physical science standards are integrated. In the red Schoolhouse, students see and learn about insects like silkworms, praying mantises, and walking sticks. The children have also planted rectangular garden beds. Flowers, gourds and vegetables provide hands-on learning about plant structure. A

stepping-stone pathway frames the Garden to promote motor planning. A water pump and trough let students collaborate in watering the Garden. The Pebble Harp allows them to feel the texture of pebbles and hear the melody they create when they're dropped into the harp.



All students and staff volunteer to help maintain the Garden. Thus, our commitment to learn and grow together for the good of our “Commonwealth” is planted and blooms!

Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Yaelan Choo
Principal

Celebrating Student Success

At Fern Drive School, we have been celebrating students' successes and accomplishments through a variety of student recognition programs. Recently, we implemented a new weekly student recognition called the Principal's Pipping Awards. Our school mascot, the falcon, hatches after spending a few days “pipping” its shell with the sharp egg tooth on its beak. The purpose of instating this award is to honor students who are breaking out of their shells and are showing progress towards meeting personal goals and challenges. Two students from each

class are presented with the Principal's Pipping Award every week at our spirit assembly.

Additionally, one student per grade level is honored each month with the Author of the Month award. The recipients of this award receive certificates and are invited to the principal's office to share their writing pieces. All Author of the Month writing is displayed on the office bulletin board for the month.

At the end of each month, two students from every classroom are selected as the Students of the Month. The Students of the Month are recognized at a special assembly for academic excellence and outstanding citizenship.

The Fern Drive staff looks forward to celebrating with the recipients of these and other student recognition award recipients throughout the year.

Are you looking for this logo for the contest on page 9?



Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Trang Lai
Principal

Hands-On with Technology Tools!

By Cynthia Rounds, 7th-8th-Grade Science Teacher

Every day is an adventure in learning at Robert C. Fisler School! Students learn through hands-on inquiry-based science lessons that actively engage them in their learning.

Students in my eighth-grade science class started a unit on speed and forces by experimenting with PASCO motion sensors. The challenge: Match the graph with a score of 90 percent or better. The program graphs movements live before them on the computer. Sounds interesting and fun, but it is hard!

A set of four graphs was given to students. Their goal was to move in front of the sensor with the right amount of speed and distance to replicate the graph exactly. When they finally got that score goal, they would cheer! By the time they were done, they knew how to read a graph, how to make a graph, and how to interpret a speed/time graph, all while having fun!



Golden Hill *Elementary*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Robert Johnson
Principal

Making Connections

One of our focus areas at Golden Hill School is 21st Century Teaching and Learning. Golden Hill has recently begun a Bring Your Own Device program in our sixth-grade classes. In this program, each student has access to an iPad device that can be used at home and at school. Teachers are excited to be able to use technology to allow students to collaborate, communicate, create and think critically both during and beyond the school day.

Students experience learning in new and unique ways by using their mobile devices. Teachers note a higher level of student engagement and report that students are making new connections with the curriculum. Using technology has also allowed for greater differentiation of instruction, including remediation for those students needing extra support and extension for those who have mastered the content.

Students and teachers are energized and enthusiastic to use technology to take learning to a higher level!



Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Robin Gilligan
Principal

Serving the Community and Beyond!

Students at Hermosa Drive Elementary School are working together to give back to the community through our LEARN, SERVE, ACHIEVE- Service Learning Program. Hermosa has received two Golden Bell Awards for this outstanding program! Projects across each grade level consist of curriculum content, leadership opportunities, partnerships with community members, and reflection to support positive citizenship and encourage productive members of our community.

On any given day you will see students actively participate in projects throughout the year. Here are just a few of the activities taking place throughout the school year:

- Partners in Prevention-Kindergarten Safety Awareness- Partnering with our Fire and Police Department.
- Big Friends-Little Friends-1st Grade students become pen pals with Senior Citizens at Park Vista Convalescent Home.
- Read to Feed- 2nd Grade students read to earn points and purchase animals through the Heifer International program.
- Healthy Habits- 3rd and 4th grade students learn healthy living, the food pyramid, and exercise. Students help with our holiday can food drive, as well as host an A-Z Salad Bar for the school during lunch.
- American Red Cross Partnership- Student Council organizes a neighborhood Blood Drive.
- Recycling and Watershed Program-5th and 6th grade students "go green" with the recycling program and support clean water through trash pick up at the local lake.

I am so proud our students and the school community, who continually serve with a giving heart, and make a difference in our world!

Ladera Vista *Junior High School*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Randa Schmalfeld
Principal

Integrated Arts Education

Students in Kelley Crowley's classes are integrating history, science, and mathematics through the arts. "She makes learning fun, and I understand more about the world through the projects we create" student Jessica Ji explained.

Teachers in all content areas at Ladera Vista Junior High School have received extensive training from Fullerton School District Arts Coordinator Lauralyn Eschner to support infusion of the visual and performing arts in all classrooms. With the implementation of Common Core State Standards just around the corner, Principal Randa Schmalfeld and the Ladera Vista teachers see the arts as a springboard for learning and an opportunity for students to demonstrate communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity while making meaningful connections in their learning.

According to Principal Schmalfeld, "Our goal is that students are challenged to explore and learn about the world around them and that they strive to achieve their highest potential."



Robert Hernandez, Amanda Walker, Jessica Ji, Maria Ramirez, Richard Villa, and Teacher Kelley Crowley

Laguna Road

300 Laguna Road, Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Harold Sullivan
Principal

It's Monday!

Ask any kindergarten student at Laguna Road what their favorite day of the week is, and the answer will be a unanimous, "Monday!"

Tell a kindergarten student that today is Monday, and a smile will immediately unfurl from their lips as squeals of joy erupt. That's because Monday means "Big Buddy" day!

Using sixth-grade friends as a tool to address the individual learning needs of kindergarten students has been a practice

at Laguna Road for over a decade. Walk into any kindergarten classroom during Big Buddy time and you will see the older students involved in a variety of tasks designed to support, strengthen and extend our curriculum.

Throughout the year, Big Buddies read to their little buddies, assist in the writing process, assess sight words, play vocabulary and math games, estimate/count/graph the quantities of objects, conduct science investigations, and so much more. They are an invaluable resource that brings enthusiasm to learning.



Nicolas Junior High School

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Mathew Barnett
Principal

Active Learning

Nicolas Junior High takes two approaches to STEM education. The first approach is our "Project Lead the Way" elective (PLTW), where our students can learn engineering through hands-on activities. Students use AutoDesk Inventor software to create three-dimensional projects and produce them on a 3-D printer. They experience the design process and see their creations come to life.

The PLTW curriculum engages students in STEM experiences. Students learn robotics using VEX robotics kits: the PLTW students are presented with a challenge and use the kits to address it through the use of gears, pulleys, levers, bearings and motors.

The second approach integrates STEM into all curriculum areas. Students get involved in STEM by reading, writing, speaking and listening in order to acquire knowledge and demonstrate their understanding.

We have found that STEM students are more engaged in school, and attain higher achievement through this active learning. Visit us at www.nicolasknights.com.



Maple Elementary

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Susan Mercado
Principal

National Elementary Honor Society

The National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) was established in 2008 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals to recognize elementary students for their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility, to provide meaningful service to the school and community, and to develop essential leadership skills in the students of elementary schools.

The development of a chapter at Maple School provides a method for acknowledging achievement and focusing on the needs of the total child. In addition, NEHS provides information and resources to enhance the culture of achievement in the whole school, not merely the culture of a select few.

As the nation's newest student recognition program, NEHS joins the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society, the nation's two oldest and largest student recognition programs, in creating a continuum of excellence throughout the education community.



Maple Elementary School proudly sponsors a chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society, now in its 6th year. Students and their teacher advisors at the October induction ceremony.

Orangethorpe Elementary

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Amanda Segovia Hale
Principal

A Healthy Me Is Drug-Free!

Orangethorpe Elementary School students celebrated Red Ribbon Week in October and showed their personal commitment to be drug-free with their slogan, "A Healthy Me is Drug-Free."

Monday we pledged to be drug-free by tying red ribbons on our school fence. On Tuesday, our students wore sports gear for "Join Our Team! Say No to Drugs!" Day. On Wednesday, students and staff had fun with "I'm Not Crazy! I Don't Do Drugs!"

Day. We all wore crazy socks and had a "Sock It to Drugs" dance in the evening. Thursday's theme was "Be Drug-Free! Come to School Every Day," and our overall school attendance increased to 98 percent. On Friday, we had balloons, we all wore red and Corporal Flores from the Fullerton Police Department joined our principal to lead our Family Friday Assembly. Students shared a variety of ways to lead a healthy lifestyle.

It was a positive Red Ribbon Week!



Pacific Drive

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Yolanda Castillo
Principal

A School for the 21st Century

Pacific Drive School is on a quest to prepare students for the future. Accepting this mission has led us to focus on 21st-century learning skills and provide our students with rigorous experiences that include collaborating, creating, communicating and critical thinking. Our commitment also extends to utilizing research-based learning strategies to ensure meaningful student engagement.

Our teachers have been actively seeking grant opportunities to acquire portable media players, electronic tablets and laptop computers to enhance student engagement and support project-based learning. Currently 12 teachers, through the Donors Choose grant, have been awarded several technology devices for their classrooms.



Several fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders will participate in the national STARBASE program offered by the United States Department of Defense. Our students will visit the Los Alamitos military base school for five days to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects. The STARBASE experiences promise to ignite interest and motivate our students to pursue STEM-related fields.

Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Yolanda McComb
Principal

A Rich History

Located in the heart of Fullerton, Raymond Elementary School is the hub of an energetic and loyal neighborhood.

One can readily grasp why Fullerton proclaims itself, "The Education Community." Built in 1952, Raymond adjoins a plush soccer field on the corner of Raymond and Chapman Ave. The city of Fullerton has a rich history that is woven into its commitment towards civic pride.

Raymond School mirrors that image. It reflects the diverse ethnic and economic demographics of the city. Complete with three school gardens, technological devices in every classroom, rolling iBook labs, interactive Bright Link boards, iPads and iPod touch devices, our 472



students in 16 classrooms receive exemplary standards-based instruction with "real life" experiences.

Raymond has gone through a noteworthy demographic change since first opening over 50 years ago. With its many years of student and staff changes, Raymond continues to be one of the highest-scoring Title 1 schools in the district.

Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Sherry Dustin
Principal

Digital Learning

Parks Junior High School is taking the time to train teachers and utilize resources to obtain the necessary digital media to make technology accessible to all students. These programs will lead to a robust learning environment where students' exposure to various forms of digital media assists in their learning. Digital media teachers can use technology to introduce, deliver, differentiate, and enhance their curriculum, thus providing students at every level and subject with greater access to the curriculum.

In one example of digital learning at Parks, seventh-graders in Mrs. Wells' language arts classes are working with their electronic tablets to produce movie trailers about the poem they read in class, "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes. Students spent two days analyzing the text and the characters and determining the plot of the poem; they were then asked to extend their learning and create a movie. In production teams, students acted out their interpretations of the poem. This project has allowed students to create a video, enhance engagement and understanding in the classroom, and share their summaries with other students.

Building lessons that expose students to diverse forms of digital literacy and allow them to form opinions, analyze, evaluate, and summarize their learning leads to a much deeper level of understanding of content, as well as supporting all students in meeting the goals of the Common Core State Standards.

Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Estella Grimm
Principal

Moving Full Steam Ahead!

Richman School launched its STEAM focus (on science, technology, engineering, arts and math) back during the second week of school. That's when our fifth-grade students took their first of five field trips to STARBASE, a Department of Defense youth program aimed to boost student interest in academic STEM subjects.

Our students loved the experience, and have been compiling pictures of the program's highlights into a slideshow that they will share with the entire school. Our teachers are also very excited about our STEAM focus, and have applied for STEM-related grants.



Eight of our teachers have also attended the FSD STEM certificate training. They have returned eager to implement new activities with their students, and have shared this training with the rest of our staff. Seven of our teachers have also committed to three years of summer training in STEM subjects offered through the Orange County Department of Education.

Plans too are already underway for our Richman School STEAM and Dream Center!

Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Paska Juncaj-Yehya
Principal

Musical Learning

The Rolling Hills School community engages all students in a comprehensive and academically challenging arts-infused curriculum that fosters critical thinking and creativity within a safe and caring environment. The teachers and staff, along with parents and other members of our community, envision a school which nurtures learning and success for all students.

This was quite evident in our fall production of “Tom Sawyer,” a musical directed by Tiffany Dacuyucy, written by Vicki Schindele, and performed by our fourth- and fifth-grade students.

I am so proud to acknowledge our teachers who facilitated this extended learning opportunity for their students: Mrs. Fry, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. O’Toole and Mr. Calderon. The students studied *Tom Sawyer* through literature and then brought the novel to life through drama and song.

It is activities like this that promote lifelong learning and reflective thinking among all members of our school community.



Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Lane, Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Paula Pitluk
Principal

The Act of Giving

Sunset Lane’s mission is to prepare its students to become learners, citizens and leaders by encouraging them to give to those in need.

Our student council learned about the plight of underprivileged children throughout the world, and the problems they have with inadequate food, unsafe water and limited access to education. To help, student representatives placed a special UNICEF box in each classroom. Students, families and staff members then contributed over \$480 that will be matched by major donors to UNICEF.

Did you know that the pull-tab on a soda can is valuable? Sunset Lane collected and recycled thousands of tabs worth \$700 to support the Orange

County Ronald McDonald House, a home away from home for families with critically ill children. The PTA and Girl Scout Troop 183 also kicked off their annual collection for Pathways of Hope. Food, books, toys and monetary donations will benefit local families during the holiday season.

Sunset Lane believes that we can build compassionate citizens by actively encouraging our students to give!



Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Hilda Flores
Principal

Reaching New Heights

21st-century skills? No problem. Creativity? Check. Collaboration and communication? Got it.

Critical thinking? It’s in the bag!

Woodcrest students are on a journey that will prepare them for all the future has to offer, and more. To this end, our school has embarked on a journey that will integrate the latest one-to-one mobile technologies at every grade level.

This effort has created a shift of energy on our campus that the students and staff alike can get excited about. Students can now demonstrate mastery of content, while also gaining the critical technical skills they need for their academic and professional futures.

Technology in the hands of children is a powerful thing, especially when it is accompanied by the support of skilled teachers willing to take risks and engage in problem solving. Woodcrest students are doing everything from practicing their math facts and taking quizzes, to publishing books and creating multimedia presentations!

The students of Woodcrest are highly engaged, and ready to reach new heights with mobile technology.



Valencia Park *Elementary*

3341 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Helene Morris
Principal

Walkthroughs and Teacher Feedback

Research shows that effective teaching is the number-one indicator for improving student performance. This brings up this question: What does effective teaching look like, and how do we provide feedback to teachers?

As a teacher, I appreciated classroom walkthroughs and immediate feedback, which helped me to become a more effective teacher. Now, as a principal, providing teacher feedback is one of my top priorities. Superintendent Bob Pletka has asked Fullerton administrators to perform two classroom walkthroughs per month. During walkthroughs, principals are to discover at

minimum if the skill or standard is clear to students and whether students are engaged in learning.

At Valencia Park, each teacher receives three walkthroughs per month. During every walkthrough, quantitative data is collected via Google docs. During the current 2013–14 school year, 259 walkthroughs have been completed. The engagement rate is 87 percent, and the clear skill/standard rate is 81 percent. This schoolwide data is presented monthly to staff, with the goal of achieving a 90 percent rate in both areas by the end of the school year.

Teachers also need anecdotal feedback. For this reason, we use the Notability iPad application during walkthroughs to take pictures and provide narrative feedback. Notability generates a PDF document, which is immediately e-mailed to teachers when the administrator leaves the classroom. The visual aspect of Notability enables progress to be tracked over time. For example, one teacher’s goal was to integrate QR codes. Walkthrough photographs of her classroom showed a progression of student work and achievement of this goal.

Maintenance, Operations & Facility Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us

Meeting Facility Needs



Larry Lara
Director

Summer vacation provides a break for students and teachers from the rigors of the classroom. But for many departments, summer is the busy season. For the Maintenance Department, summer means major repair work and new construction.

The summer of 2013 was no exception. Notable repairs included paving projects at Fern Drive and Sunset Lane, Golden Hill, Ladera Vista and Nicolas Schools, and the District Bus Yard.

Steady growth and evolving educational programs continue to create demand for not just more classrooms, but for support structures such as the new ball wall at Valencia Park, or the shade covers installed in the kindergarten lunch areas at Beechwood, Commonwealth, Golden Hill and Laguna Road. There is also the special education area at Commonwealth.



Acacia lunch area shade structures

At Acacia, growing student enrollment required the addition of a new classroom and two shade structures large enough to cover the expanded lunch area.

Nutritional Services

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The Most Important Meal of the Day

By Kenyatta Turner, Director

Have you ever had that feeling that there isn't enough time in the day? Feeling rushed in the morning? No time to prepare breakfast for your children? We are here for you.

Fullerton School District offers a nutritious and tasty breakfast Monday thru Friday at Commonwealth, Hermosa, Maple, Orangethorpe, Pacific Drive, Raymond, Richman, Rolling Hills, Valencia Park, Woodcrest, Ladera Vista, Nicolas and Parks schools. Our distinguished students will be offered healthy mini-yogurt parfaits Monday thru Friday as well as assorted reduced-sugar cereals. This school year, we will also offer a hot breakfast daily. Examples include waffles, pancakes, strawberry and banana French toast, and countless other flavorsome items.



Studies suggest that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A good morning feast fuels your body and prepares it for the day's activities. Children who eat breakfast have more energy, do better in school, and tend to eat healthier throughout the day. If you have questions, please send an email to kenyatta_turner@fullertonsd.org.

Administrative Services

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Focus on Customer Service



Dr. Craig Bertsch
Director

The Fullerton School District, in alignment with the goals of the Board of Trustees, is making a commitment to provide outstanding service to all district customers.

As part of this initiative, the FSD has adopted standards for service that include simple but effective strategies for working directly with the community. Our staff members will now be recognized for the quality customer service they provide to the district's students, parents, community members and coworkers through the "Catch Me at My Best" program.

This program is evidence of the FSD's strong commitment to constantly and consistently exceed customer expectations, to the point of now being noticed. A key component of the program is the ability to offer customers an opportunity to recognize those staff members who have gone above and beyond to assist.

School offices and district-level departments will have special Catch Me at My Best recognition cards available for users to recognize and identify outstanding customer service. The completed cards will be given to the specific site supervisors or department managers so that our worthy employees can be recognized for their customer-service achievements.



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Contest!!

This Common Core logo is in 3 places in this publication. When you find it, email the page numbers to:

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



Your entry must be received by December 31, 2013. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

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Are you looking for this logo for the contest on page 9?

Note-ables

A Gift for Sophie



Kate Karp

Quebecois poet and songwriter Gilles Vigneault has created a multilayered literary experience in *A Gift for Sophie*. The storybook with primitive watercolor illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch and a music CD set comprise a tale of friendship across the ages. Seven-year-old Sophie loves to draw and share her art with her best friend and soul mate, Emilio, and her ancient great-uncle, Tom. The gifts Sophie receives from these dear people tie in to the wisdom that “Old Man Tom,” as he is known, passes on to his little niece when he passes on himself. Sophie comes to understand and use this wisdom in a delightful way when she and Emilio encounter a mystery.

The story, translated from the original French, is told in a lilting, evocative manner. The narrative on the CD carries the engagement further—the songs are grouped at the end and so don’t interrupt the storyline; instead, they peel back the layers of each character or incident to reveal its essence. The musicians and artists, including Canadian folk-rock singer Martha Wainwright, expose the story’s undercurrent with voice, woodwind, accordion, and all sorts of string and percussion. Melody lines transport the listeners to a café in southern France, the center of a folk dance, the psyche of a cat.



A Gift for Sophie evoked in me all of this and also a nostalgic memory from across my own years: me on the floor next to my little suitcase 78 rpm player listening to records about Tubby the Tuba, Peter and the Wolf, and the Churkendoose, reading the storybooks that accompanied them. See what this lovely set does for you.

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

A Gift for Sophie Word Search Contest

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



Entries must be received by
January 15, 2013
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a copy of the book *A Gift for Sophie* with CD.

- | | | |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| LITERARY | SOPHIE | PRISM |
| STORYBOOK | BEARD | RAINBOW |
| TALE | CAT | TREASURES |
| FRIENDSHIP | SIR | HEART |
| WISDOM | EMILIO | ILLUSTRATIONS |
| MYSTERY | FISHING | WATERCOLOR |
| CHARACTER | BEACH | |
| GIFT | GLASS | |

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

Protect Your Family from Holiday Stress



Jodie Lynn

Always File Your Receipts in a Safe Place: You never know if the gift is going to do or measure up to what you think it supposed to; so keep those receipts filed in a special place just in case. Eight-five percent of gifts are returned or exchanged. That's a high number, but isn't too terribly complicated if you have the receipt. Make up a folder and clearly write 2013 Holiday Receipts on the outside. For online stores, make sure you know about their return policies, especially if you are sending any type of plant, food or toy.

Keep a Running List of Names for Greeting Card Recipients: Make a list of each person you'd like to send out a card to. Get the kids to help address envelopes and even to put on stamps. Depending on how many cards you are sending out, it might be best to do this in steps so the kids will view it as Holiday joy and fun instead of work and dumb. That's right; delegate the card sending to the kids by separating the process into steps so no one will get overwhelmed.

Meal Planner: Always plan your dinner way ahead of time. Go to the store with ingredients written on a list for each dish. If it's a dish that uses heavy creams or other fat-laden ingredients, don't forget to scan either a conversion chart for healthy substitutes or look them up on the Internet to see just how good or bad they might actually be. Since this is the time to gain weight, remember that kids cannot always say no to certain foods rich in fat largely in part because they taste so good. Consider what you need to have around the house for the kids to snack on and only allow a nibble here and there of special food. Compare notes and make a plan that you are comfortable with for your family keeping in mind my personal motto: "easy to add weight on...but very hard to get off."

Utilize an Organizer: It's never too early! If you would take a few minutes to organize every couple of days now YOU WILL FEEL SO MUCH BETTER especially if you do a little delegation to other family members and don't put so many stressful things on any one day. Write every detail up and mark it off as it is done. It doesn't matter how small it is, it still counts and feels great when you get to mark it off. The kids love to help with this task as well as will stay busy for hours making and marking off lists.

Take a little time for yourself: It should and must be done even if it's only a 30-minute lunch with a long lost friend; sitting down with a brief short book; watching a loved but often missed TV show, taking a walk, or even making a visit to a local nursing home. Or, take a family trip. There's nothing better than to take several loaves of homemade cranberry bread, pumpkin cookies or fruit pies to a nursing home that the kids have helped you bake. Let them help to pass out the food and enjoy those smiles from senior citizens. Giving to others fills your heart with incredible warmth and makes a huge impact on your kids by allowing them to see firsthand how their special made gifts bring pleasure to other people—as well as see you smile.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, *Inside Parenting Success*.



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