

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District



Volume 16, Issue 84

December 2019 / January 2020

Free Afterschool Language Program Expanded for Younger Los Alamitos Unified Students



**Third-grade students display origami made in Japanese class at McGaugh Elementary.
(please see Superintendent Dr. Andrew Pulver's message on page 3)**



“Your Anchor Through the Years.”

*Wishing you
a wonderful
holiday season!*



ANCHOR SEAPORT ESCROW
- EST. 1977 -



Jennifer Sterud

Owner / Escrow Officer

***Anchor Seaport Escrow has been serving
the Long Beach and surrounding areas for
over 40 years on Second Street in Naples.***

Trust • Integrity • Commitment



Stacey Baltes

Public Relations

**5602 E. Second Street
Long Beach, CA 90803**

**T (562) 434-4437
F (562) 439-2157**



www.anchorseaportescrow.com



Free Afterschool Language Program Expanded for Younger Los Alamitos Unified Students



Dr. Andrew Pulver
Superintendent

¡Hola a todos! Proficiency in multiple languages is a skill that will be ever more valuable to our kids as they grow up. That is why we are so excited to partner with the nonprofit Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) in expanding our free, afterschool world language classes for younger learners.

Last school year, LAEF began offering afterschool classes to second graders at all six elementary schools. The classes filled up quickly, and families were very grateful for this opportunity. Now, with support from its donors, LAEF has added classes for third graders in Spanish, French, Mandarin, Japanese and American Sign Language. Altogether, 229 students are enrolled in 14 language classes.

These are the LAEF classes being offered at our elementary schools:

- Hopkinson** — Spanish for second grade, Mandarin for third
- LAE** – Mandarin for second grade; American Sign Language for third
- Lee** – Spanish for second grade; Japanese for third
- McGaugh** – Spanish for second grade; Spanish and Japanese for third
- Rossmoor** – Mandarin for second; Mandarin for third
- Weaver** – Spanish for second; French for third

Research has demonstrated that young children are the most adept at learning new languages. A 2018 Scientific American article, for example, described a large study which showed children are proficient at learning a second language up until the age of 18 but that they have the best chance of becoming fluent if they start by age 10. The LAEF classes were selected because they are the languages offered at Los Alamitos High School. Giving elementary students early language exposure will give them an advantage later on.

The expanded language classes are just part of our rich partnership with LAEF, which offers 130 afterschool classes at all nine of our campuses with 1,285 students getting the chance to enhance their learning and explore new possibilities.

For more information about the language classes or any of LAEF's programs, visit them at www.LAEF4Kids.org/afterschool, email info@laef4kids.org or call 562-799-4700 x80424.

Au revoir, Los Al!



Second-graders practice writing Mandarin characters in language class at Rossmoor.



State Farm
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
24 hour Good Neighbor Service®



Happy Holidays and A Wonderful New Year to All!



Eric Lenahan
(562) 598-2488
1066 Bolsa Avenue
Seal Beach, CA 90704-6211
www.ericlenahan.com
Agent Lic. # 0E82406



CAR + HOME = BIG SAVINGS
Let's Talk.

Marina Skin Care

Celebrating 21 years in business

SPECIALIZING IN

Teen Acne • Pigmentation
Anti-Aging • Micro-needling
Cellulite Treatment • Botox • Fillers

\$20 off Teen Acne Facials

\$10 off Products
Guinot • Skinceuticals
Obagi • Yonka • Latisse

\$50 off Full Set Eyelash Extensions



Call or Text **562.708.3694** | www.marinaskinspa.com
10698 Los Alamitos Blvd, Los Alamitos, CA 90712

RAISED ON ROCKVIEW

Rockview Family Farms proudly serves schools throughout Southern California. Choosing local means fresh, delicious, and nutritious milk for your family! Dairy and dairy-free options now at a store near you.





www.RockviewFarms.com



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

As this year comes to a close I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for being loyal readers of *School News* and advocates for our students. Everyone pays for public education and has a vested interest in the academic success of our future generations. I continually receive emails from members of the

community expressing how proud they are of being a retired LAUSD teacher, an alumni, a parent whose children are experiencing the same excellence they did attending LAUSD or families who said *School News* helped in their decision to relocate so their children could attend LAUSD.

Our next issue is February 5, 2020.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from the *School News* staff!



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the

LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:
Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Los Alamitos Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Complete Electrical Services

Leone Electric
Incorporated

Family Owned & Operated Since 1988! Fast. Reliable. Local

END OF THE YEAR SPECIAL

Remove existing light fixture and Replace with Leone supplied security motion light. \$130.00 covers material and labor! *Call us now to hear restrictions and details!*
Expires 3/1/2020

562/795-5754 & 714/894-3755
Leoneelectric.com | info@leoneelectric.com

CATRINA
Cafe

A Contemporary American Cafe with an Authentic Mexican Twist

Serving Breakfast & Lunch all day
Housemade Pastries and Breads baked fresh daily
Serving Beer & Wine
Weekend Champagne Breakfast — Bottomless Mimosas

330 Main Street, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562.296.5477 | www.catrinacafe.com
7am to 2pm Mon - Fri, 7am to 3pm Sat & Sun

Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Aldofo Lopez Dr., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • www.sbacc.org

Training a Shelter Dog

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Once you have opened your heart and home to a shelter dog, know that the shelter volunteers and staff sometimes do not know about the pet's history. Without much history, training a canine rescue can be difficult, but it can be done.

Adopting an adult shelter dog means that the training it requires probably won't include housetraining. Training on your own is great if you have previous experience. Group training will quickly socialize your dog and will teach you and your dog how to work together.

Group training will quickly socialize your dog and will teach you and your dog how to work together.

Try to have the entire family join in the training, too. Consistency is key with training, so the more people who know how to speak to the dog, the better. When group-training, bring treats with you that you know your dog likes. Positive reinforcement for good behavior will be the best thing.

Make sure that your dog is wide awake and ready to learn. Practice everything that you learn at home.

Hopkinson *Elementary*

12582 Kensington Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4500 • www.losal.org



Evelyn Garcia
Principal

Tradition of Excellence

We are proud that Hopkinson has the highest math scores in Orange County! Hopkinson is truly an extraordinary place where teachers thoroughly plan purposeful instruction and are constantly in pursuit of grooming scholars for greatness.

We are preparing Huskies that will contribute positively to our world. Our teachers, staff, families and students come to Hopkinson and train like champions, fostering an educational environment that encourages growth. Our students are being prepared to think critically and problem-solve.

Although excellence is measured in many ways, one way that is tangible is through standardized testing. This is one piece of what we do for children, and it matters because we use it to drive instruction and ensure that we are providing our Huskies

with what they need to succeed. We are so honored to be number one in Orange County for math and even more proud of the ongoing pursuit of excellence for all children.



Kids may think they're grown up.

We Know Better.

Being a leader in children's health care means we have some mighty big shoes to fill. And with more than 40 pediatric specialties, you can see why Miller Children's is the perfect fit.

Specialized care. Just for kids.



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

800-MEMORIAL
millerchildrens.org/WeKnow



Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losal.org



Amy Laughlin
Principal

Walking Together

In October, Lee Elementary School participated in the National Walk or Bike to School Day. To celebrate this day, all students and families were encouraged to walk or bike to school with friends and family. This annual program aims to reduce traffic in and around our neighboring community during school hours and promotes increased physical activity and community participation.



Together, staff, students and families met at Rossmoor Park before school and walked together down Foster Road. Our goal as a school site was to increase connectivity among staff, parents and students. We hoped to reduce traffic congestion, teach pedestrian safety, and increase physical activity.

Hundreds of students, families and staff walked together promoting unity and family partnership. This event is one of the many ways Lee Elementary School brings our community together!

Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losal.org



Gary Willems
Principal

Amazing Accomplishments

Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE) was highlighted at a recent Los Alamitos Board of Education meeting, celebrating LAE's great gains in academic, social, and behavioral goals. The presentation started with LAE's amazing choir, which sang "You're a Grand Old Flag." LAE's choir has grown to over 60 students and has upcoming performances at Winter Wonderland and the All-District Choral Festival.

LAE has demonstrated tremendous development in academics over the last two years. LAE's scores rose 42 points this year in English-language arts and math. With last year's gain of 32 points, LAE has increased its test scores by 74 points in two years. That is exceptional growth and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of every staff member at LAE! LAE has now become the third Title 1 School in Orange County for ELA and the fifth Title 1 School in Orange County for math.

In addition to academic accomplishments, LAE has also made tremendous gains in behavior. LAE decreased the suspension rate by approximately 45 percent by implementing new behavior expectations and focusing on mindfulness. Last year, each teacher spent a few minutes each day focusing on mindfulness. Students were given new ways to handle situations as they arose. This year, to continue the increases in student behavior, LAE is working with the Orange County Department of Education to implement a school-wide behavior management program called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to further support our students.

LAE ended the presentation by recognizing Thea Rodrigue as our Hero of the Heart. Thea ran the Friends of LAE (FLAE) for four years and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that went directly back to improving the education for all of our Tigers. Her dedication to LAE is unparalleled, and we thank her for all of her volunteer work!

Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • www.losal.org



Christopher Vlastic
Principal

Over \$27,000 Donation to St. Jude's

"No child should die in the dawn of life," says founder of St. Jude's Medical Research Center Danny Thomas. Motivated by those words, Los Alamitos High School set out on a week long campaign to raise money for children who face life-threatening health

conditions. Through classroom collections, t-shirt sales, and a "pass the hat" effort at the varsity football game, LAHS raised and donated over \$27,000 to St. Jude's to service families at a time of their greatest need.

Although the Griffins thrive in the four A's: Academics, Athletics, Activities and the Arts, they demonstrated another facet of what makes Los Alamitos High School so special; a caring and empathetic heart.



find your ideal engagement ring and wedding band at
J&L FINE JEWELRY

1825 Ximeno Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815
562-986-4380 • www.jnljewelry.com

Tuesday – Friday: 10am to 6pm
Saturday: 10am to 4pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

WATCH BATTERY \$2.00 1 watch battery per coupon with this ad only. exclusions apply. reg \$5. Expires 03/30/2020

SECURITY SYSTEMS PLUS, INC

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

SSP Edward Nelson, President
(562)430-7272
AC04584 C-10714654

McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • www.losal.org



Birdwatch: McAuliffe Students News

This year at McAuliffe we were able to offer a Journalism elective to our 7th and 8th grade students.

**Dr. Ryan
Weiss-Wright**
Principal



Under the direction of their teacher, students developed an online student news site, *The Birdwatch*, where they report on all things McAuliffe as well as provide commentary on

local, national, and world events. This class has provided students with a unique opportunity to learn about first amendment rights, journalistic integrity, photojournalism, and to develop their communication skills as they report on topics our community cares about. We are very proud of our students and their hard work in bringing *The Birdwatch* dream to life! Check us out on the web: mcauliffebirdwatch.com, or follow us on Instagram @mcauliffebirdwatch!

McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losal.org



A for a Day

Our district prides itself on giving our students the opportunity to excel in the four As: academics, athletics, the arts, and activities. At McGaugh Elementary School, we bring this opportunity to our students with our daily recognition program, A for a Day! A for a Day celebrates students in the areas of academics, attendance, activities, attitude, athletics and the arts.

Roni Ellis
Principal



Our district superintendent, Dr. Pulver, celebrated teacher Mrs. Michels and her Faculty Friday A for a Day.

Each day, teachers, instructional support staff, and administrators nominate students who demonstrate great accomplishment, effort, and improvement in any of the six As. Each recognized student is awarded a gift certificate from a local restaurant, an A for a Day badge, and a pencil, and an email summarizing the student's accomplishments goes home to parents that day!



Pictured is first-grader Tobin with Principal Roni Ellis and Assistant Principal Wendy Wood.

This recognition has become so popular that we have extended it to include staff members on Faculty Friday A for a Day! I will just say that adults get just as excited to hear their names called as our students do!

Oak Middle School

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • www.losal.org



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Educating for Life

Our Red Ribbon Week at Oak was filled with activities and celebrations to help us be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free.

Our ASB coordinated a variety of activities. The door decorating contest promoted great messages to remain drug free. School-wide pledges also hung proudly in our main quad area, and lunch-time trivia games tested our skills about all that we had learned.

Each morning an Oak teacher would read important drug, alcohol, and vaping facts for the students to hear. The Orange County Health Agency also provided in-class lessons for all eighth-grade students to educate themselves on the dangers of vaping.

Finally, each day was celebrated with fun dress-up themes such as, "Life is a Journey; Travel Drug Free; Too Bright for Drugs; Sock it to Drugs; and Make Drugs a Thing of the Past." The Oak PTA also hosted a parent education night to give our families the tools they need to help our students make healthy choices. Way to go, Oak Lions!



Rossmoor Elementary

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • www.losal.org



Amy Belsha
Principal

Honoring Our Veterans

On Friday, November 8, we had a special assembly to honor those who served or are currently serving in our armed services. Our third grade Knights performed their annual patriotic assembly to honor the veterans who attended. This is such a special event for our students and their families each year! We had over 50 students invite family members,

loved ones, or friends, and these students proudly walked with their guest to the stage as I read their ranks and where they served. Six of our fifth-grade Knight Leadership students helped lead the assembly by sharing poems and handing out flowers to our veteran honorees.

We were lucky to have United States Navy Captain Russ Maynard, an uncle of one of our students, serve as our guest speaker. He spoke to the students about working toward their dreams. He shared his story of hard work and perseverance as he graduated from the United States Naval Academy and began training to be a fighter pilot. During his career, he deployed three times to the Middle East aboard the U.S.S. Carl Vinson and the U.S.S. Nimitz. He also served as the commanding officer of the Flying Eagles, the reserve squadron based out of Naval Air Station Lemoore.

Our Knights glowed with pride at this unique opportunity, and I know Captain Maynard's message was an inspiration to all!



Weaver *Elementary*

11872 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • www.losal.org



Dr. Todd Schmidt
Principal

Annual Veteran's Day Celebration

At Weaver Elementary, we strive to instill a sense of empathy and gratitude in our students. This is highlighted by our annual Veterans' Day celebration where we honor the brave men and women who have served or are currently serving our country.

This year, we had over 30 veterans and active-duty service men and women join us

for our ceremony, including a 102 year old veteran from WWII! The event was highlighted with several special moments. The flag we flew was actually flown from 7/25-8/3 over Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

In addition, not only did we have a rousing special performance from a singing quartet from the USO, but our students snag a moving medley of the five songs from the five branches of the military.



PEACHWAVE – 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 LAUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by January 15, 2019

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win

a \$20 gift card to **PEACHWAVE**

350 Main Street, Seal Beach (corner of PCH/Main St.)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| BANANA NUT | NON-DAIRY |
| BROWNIE BATTER | PEPPERMINT |
| CAPPUCCINO | PUMPKIN SPICE |
| CARAMEL APPLE | RED VELVET CAKE |
| CHEESECAKE | REDUCED SUGAR |
| COTTON CANDY | SELF-SERVE |
| CREAMY YOGURT | SNICKERDOODLE |
| FUDGE POP | TART YOGURT |
| GELATO | VANILLA |
| GINGERBREAD | |

These are only a few of the many delicious choices you will enjoy at **PEACHWAVE!**



Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch Library

12700 Montecito Rd., Seal Beach CA 90740 • 562/430-1048 • www.ocpl.org



Semra Bilse
Branch Manager

There are lots of fun and exciting programs happening at the Los Alamitos / Rossmoor Library. Come by and check it out or give us a call at 562-430-1048!

Gingerbread House Decorating: We want to help you get into the holiday spirit! Come on by and get creative in decorating your own gingerbread house! We'll provide the space, supplies, music, and snacks. Ages 4 to 12. Sign up required. You will pick one

30-minute slot between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, or 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Call the library to reserve your space starting December 2nd. This fun program will take place on December 19th – 3:30-5:30pm.

Monster Film Club: Brand new film club showcasing classic monster movies from the 1920s – 1960s, open to teens 13 and older & adults. The viewing will be 1931's Dracula! December 16th, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Teen Book Club: Join us on December 12th and January 9th from 4:00-4:30pm as we discuss the chosen book or whatever you're reading. Open to ages 13-18, books can be found at the service desk. Snacks will be provided.

Kids Book Club: Open to ages 8 – 12, grab a copy of the book club choice at the Service Desk. December 12th and January 30th - 4:00 – 4:45 pm.

CONDE KOMA

JIU-JITSU

JIU-JITSU WORKOUT FITNESS & SELF DEFENSE

OUR BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU KIDS PROGRAM WILL HELP YOUR CHILD IMPROVE

SELF-CONFIDENCE • FITNESS LEVEL • PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS
SELF DEFENSE SKILLS • FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION



NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT GYM FOCUSED ON DADS, KIDS, AND MOTHERS

THE LARGEST AND OLDEST JIU-JITSU PROGRAM IN LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING AREAS WITH OVER FIVE BLACK BELTS IN HOUSE



SPECIAL CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

- KIDS 3-6
- YOUTH 7-12
- TEENS 13-16
- ADULT 17+

- WOMEN ONLY CLASSES
- ADULT MIXED CLASSES
- TEEN ONLY CLASSES
- KIDS ONLY CLASSES
- YOUTH ONLY CLASSES
- BEGINNER AND EXECUTIVE 5:30 AM WEEKLY CLASSES



LET CONDE KOMA HELP YOU IMPROVE: CARDIO, MENTAL HEALTH, BODY MOBILITY, STRESS

LA GALAXY OC | WEST JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE FOR AGES 5-13

LOS ALAMITOS, CYPRESS & SURROUNDING AREAS

"A PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO RECREATIONAL SOCCER"

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

WEEKLY PRACTICE & SATURDAY GAMES

DAILY PROFESSIONAL COERVER SKILLS CLINICS

PAID REFEREES FOR WEEKLY GAME AND TOURNAMENT

ADIDAS UNIFORMS FOR ALL PLAYERS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPRING 2020 SEASON AT LAGALAXYOC.COM/JDL

REGISTRATION

\$249

ORANGE COUNTY

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

CONDE KOMA

8 WEEKS OF UNLIMITED CLASSES

4340 KATELLA AVE., LOS ALAMITOS, CA 90720
 INFO@CONDEKOMABJJ.COM

condekomabjj.com
 condekoma
 condekomabjj

SPECIAL APPLIES TO NEW STUDENTS ONLY. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. OFFER EXPIRES 1.31.2020

Tutoring Club

MATH | READING | WRITING | SCHOOL SUPPORT

GIVE YOUR STUDENT'S GRADES A BOOST.



CALL TODAY!

(562) 449-0100

10899 Los Alamitos Blvd, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

TutoringClub.com/LosAlamitos-CA



With over 25 years of experience, we know that academic success requires study habits, accountability, and motivation. That's why we believe in:

- ✓ *Providing **mentorship***
- ✓ *Instilling **confidence***
- ✓ *Maximizing **potential***
- ✓ *Teaching **organization and study skills***
- ✓ *Fostering **self-motivation***

WE TEACH COMMON CORE!

ALL AGES. ALL SUBJECTS. ALL SKILL LEVELS.

*Show this ad to get a **FREE** academic assessment!*

Back to School