

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District



Volume 16, Issue 82

June 2019

Los Alamitos Unified Welcomes Dr. Andrew Pulver as the Superintendent



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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Andrew Pulver
Superintendent

Los Al Proud!

We are just about finished with another exciting year in Los Alamitos Unified School District, and I couldn't be more honored to be the Superintendent of this special place we call Los Al. Our students are thriving in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts, with local and national championships in band, drumline, choir, dance, drama, robotics, and E-sports. We had numerous athletic championships and a CIF championship in Girls Volleyball. We are in the top two in the County and the top 10 in the State on standardized assessment results. And, our students are connected to school and the community more than ever before with the addition of numerous clubs, leadership groups, service learning groups, and club athletic teams.

Our early calendar has been a strong asset for our secondary students who completed first semester finals prior to winter break and are able to participate in summer learning opportunities across the country that

begin in early June. Teachers continue to participate in world-class professional development opportunities to perfect their craft. All sites except the high school have been modernized and have been enhanced with security measures, such as fencing and landscaping. Our one high school will be fully modernized within the next few years thanks to the passage of Measure G, which will enable us to upgrade the infrastructure, build a three-story building to accommodate new science classrooms which will allow us to remove over 20 debilitating portables, build a new gymnasium and a new aquatics facility, and upgrade the Performing Arts Center.

I've been part of the Los Al family for 20 years and look forward to working with the Board of Education, staff, families, and the community serving in my new role as the Superintendent. It is a privilege to work with an entire District community that supports children and young adults. Thank you for continuing to make Los Alamitos Unified School District a great place for students to learn and grow into caring, capable and confident young adults. We are Los Al Proud!

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Diana D. Hill
President

New STEM Building Coming 2021

Los Alamitos Unified School District successfully passed Measure G and is set to sell its first bonds this April. The District has begun to roll out a list of Board approved projects that have been designed to have the most impact on current and upcoming students. Current students will notice immediate benefits from several smaller projects that are scheduled to be completed within the year. These projects include new playground structures with rubberized surface and restroom modernizations at the District's elementary campuses. The District has also begun to provide new scoreboards for its Baseball, Softball, and Football athletic areas for its currently enrolled high school students near graduation.

The District is preparing for the larger Measure G projects at Los Alamitos High School by implementing a complete electrical and data infrastructure upgrade scheduled to be completed this summer. The updated infrastructure will ensure that the new and existing facilities will have the capacity required for current technology standards and the ability to grow in the future.

The upcoming core Measure G projects for the District include a new three-story STEM building, a new 50M

aquatics center, and a new athletics gym at Los Alamitos High School. Each of these projects have been designed to provide an updated facade for the campus in its distinct Athletics, Academics, Arts, and Athletics programs. The new three-court gym and fifty meter aquatics center will provide a new entrance for the community when attending athletics events or extracurricular activities, while the 83,000 sq.ft., three-story, STEM building will provide an Academics focused entrance with modern classrooms and aesthetics on par with the District's education achievements.

The STEM building's first floor will provide new administrative, counseling and reception areas with the career center, media center, and STEM-oriented fabrication lab located towards the center of the campus. The two additional floors will consist of 27 classrooms, with 21st-century physics, biology, and chemistry labs. The addition of these classrooms will allow the District to remove its aging, modular classrooms and provide its educators with the necessary tools to prepare students for the technology-focused world of tomorrow. This building is scheduled to be completed by the Fall of 2021.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for supporting Measure G so that we can continue to provide the very best education possible to our students.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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Covering the

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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



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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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We are at the end of another school year. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. We'll be back with our next issue October 9 just in time to begin another school year.

Have a wonderful summer and be sure to include the library among your activities (see page 14 for info).



Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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Helping Children Manage End-of-School-Year Stress



Ioana Pal, PsyD,
*clinical psychologist,
Stramski Children's
Developmental
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Long Beach*

It's the beginning of spring, the air feels warmer and the excitement of summer is present. However, as the school year winds down, anxiety can ramp up.

The end of the school year is a time of transition. Children and parents internalize stress in different ways and finding ways to alleviate anxiety will help families have a more enjoyable summer.

There are various stressors that can impact their well-being, including:

- Changes to sleep and diet along with other routine activities
- Changing schools or needing to attend summer school
- Leaving a friend or beloved teacher behind
- Moving to a larger campus
- Studying for and taking exams

Although it's difficult to predict how a child will respond to change, it's important to communicate. Parents can help with their child's transition by creating closure, so that their child doesn't assume the worst about the upcoming year. With any transition, it's important to have a meaningful conversation, so parents can be aware of how a child is handling the situation.

Some tips to deal with stress and anxiety, include:

- Encouraging involvement in non-verbal activities, like sports, reading, writing and art
- Establishing coping skills they can engage in when they're feeling overwhelmed, such as taking the dog for a walk, playing a video game or talking to someone
- Celebrating the completion of milestones
- Highlighting the independence they'll gain because of the new transition
- Scheduling a walk-through at the new school or sit-down with their next teacher
- Writing a card to a beloved teacher they're leaving



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Adopting a Blind Cat

By Murlyn E. Burkes, SBACC Cat Committee Liaison

Caring for a blind cat isn't as difficult as you would imagine. It may not be much different from caring for a cat with sight. You just need to make a few extra considerations. There are ways to accommodate a blind cat at home.

Cats lose their sight in various ways. Some are born blind. Some lose their sight as a result of trauma, illness, high blood pressure, glaucoma, cataracts or untreated in-turned eyelashes. A cat's sense of hearing and smell are advanced enough for it to function normally and live a happy life.

Introducing a blind cat to your home begins by setting up a room where the cat has food, water and a litter box and is safe from any other animals in the house. Spend time with the cat just as you would with a sighted pet. Slowly allow the cat to explore other areas in the house, and cover any sharp edges and block off stairs at first. Avoid moving furniture. Your cat will soon begin to feel comfortable. Give your kitty noisy toys and a water fountain that is audible so it reminds the cat to drink, let it know when you are in the room, block off stairs till later, and add a ramp by the litter box.

Above all, be patient, and your kitty will give you love and gratitude.



Meet Felix. He is blind with cataracts but he is a big lover boy!

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Evelyn Garcia
Principal

Kindness Week

During the first week of April, Hopkinson celebrated Kindness Week. Students enjoyed beautiful stories, short and meaningful videos, kindness activities and class discussions. We

were reminded to help others, be friendly, include rather than exclude, show kindness wherever we go, and be the difference in the world.

Throughout our campus, we had kindness challenges, Positive Post-It messages, and a kindness chain that children contributed links to, sending it around the front of the school. In an effort to spread kindness among our school community, we encouraged everyone to participate. Our hope is that this serves as a lesson to demonstrate the ease of increasing kindness in our world.



This week has served to support students, thank teachers and staff for their hard work, and bring smiles to many. The kindness spread during the week went a long way!

Lee *Elementary*

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Amy Laughlin
Principal

Conscious Discipline

Our staff recently participated in professional training and a site-wide book study of Conscious Discipline. Conscious Discipline is a social-emotional philosophy of child development, and a comprehensive classroom management program. It is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices.

Conscious Discipline builds self-esteem by addressing our children's universal need to be generous and contributing members of a group. Conflict is viewed as a teaching opportunity, and adults are empowered to transform it into a valuable lesson.

Part of our training was to establish an understanding of brain development. We connected the relationships between brain development, learning, and behavior. Developmentally, elementary-aged children most often operate in an emotional state rather than an executive state. As adults, we must act as emotional coaches to model how to manage feelings and behaviors.

Essentially, we teach skills on how to self-regulate. This is important, because those who have well-developed emotional regulation skills are better at resolving conflicts and reducing stress within themselves.



Los Alamitos *Elementary*

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



Gary Willems
Principal

A Great Year

Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE) has had a great school year academically and socially. Academically, our students gained 32 points on the standardized testing last year and are expected to continue to increase the scores this year. Our teachers

have implemented new interventions to help our Tigers reach the proficiency bar. But even more important is the hard work being done by our families and students at home. This year shows that when parents, students, and teachers all work together, amazing academic gains can take place.

Socially, our student government has hosted some great events, including Red

Ribbon Week and Peace Week, and sponsored two different fund-raisers for Casa Youth Shelter and the Malibu/Paradise fire victims. Our students have also celebrated Camp LAE, the Fit-a-Thon, Trunk or Treat, Movie Night, and our annual carnival.

Thank you all for a great school year!



Los Alamitos *High School*

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



Dr. Gregg Stone
Principal

Drum Line Going for the Gold

The LAHS Drum Line brought home the gold medal on Saturday, March 30th at the Southern California Percussion Alliance (SCPA) Championships! There were 23 schools in our division from across SoCal. This is the equivalent of a CIF championship. Our show is entitled, "Mutiny on Dark Waters."

At press time, the Drum Line was in Dayton, Ohio performing at Northern Kentucky University, Wright State University, Xavier University, and the University of Dayton. There are 219 competing ensembles from across the country and 36 high schools in the Griffin's division alone. This is truly a national event for the best of the best in drum line competition.



Instructor Matt Allen, students Luke Friedrichs, Nick Lok, Luke Hansard, Max Fudal, and instructor Ezekiel Lanser

McAuliffe *Middle School*

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



Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright
Principal

First Robotics Team

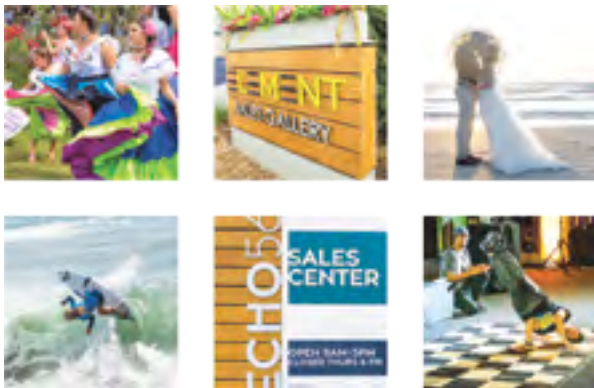
At McAuliffe we are so proud of our first ever Robotics Team! Thanks to our partnership with LAEF, we were able to prepare a team of 6th grade students to compete at Robot Nation this April. The teams competed in three different challenges with an opportunity to medal in each competition. We were so proud of our students for earning medals in every category as they competed against other sixth grade teams. Robotics students have been learning block coding to complete the Maze, Line, and Sumo Battle challenges, as they discover the importance and FUN of this 21st century skill.



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Roni Ellis
Principal

Our Pageant of the Arts

This year's Pageant of the Arts activity celebrated its 37th year, and we celebrated it beautifully! We had over 130 of our fifth-graders perform on stage to original musical compositions in front of art masterpieces created by McGaugh students.

We were also wonderfully entertained by our awesome fourth-grade students who

narrated the various scenes. And our art teacher, Ms. Sara Brim, kept alive the beautiful tradition of including every sea lion in the creation of Katsushika Hokusai's *Fuji with Seven Bridges in One View*, a work that was unveiled at the Pageant of the Arts this past weekend.

The McGaugh arts program is truly unique, and it takes tremendous dedication and commitment to maintain a program of this caliber. The Pageant itself would not be possible without the passion and dedication of Director Mrs. Leslie Obert, who is ably assisted by Mrs. Sheri Kutz and

an amazing array of McGaugh teachers who helped teach the dances.

Mrs. Obert works tirelessly all year. She and her team of teachers volunteer their time so that the arts will truly come to life for our McGaugh community. In fact, Mrs. Obert was just awarded the Julianna McGrath Award from the Orange County Department of Education!



Oak *Middle School*

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



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Steam Fair 2019

Get ready to learn, be amazed, and explore! Oak Middle School launched its annual Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Fair on March 29. Over 250 students entered their projects based on the theme "Every Idea Has the Power to Change."

Students developed water-filtration systems, examined local ocean bacteria levels, used gyroscopes to combat global warming, and developed products such as the Soapatron to eliminate excess waste. Led by our STEAM faculty advisors, Mr. Maya and Ms. Morrison, our young scientists worked for months in afterschool workshops to develop multiple iterations of their ideas.

On Friday, presenters prepared their displays to present to our Oak student and parent community. A special thanks goes out to the Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) for their generous support of this event. Oak STEAM projects were also on display at the Los Alamitos STEAM Fair, which was held on April 6.

Way to go, Oak Lions! We believe your ideas have the power to change the world!



Rossmoor *Elementary*

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



Amy Belsha
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) are alive and well here at Rossmoor Elementary School! In April, 85 of our students were eager to share their projects at our STEAM Fair. The next morning, those students participated in our district STEAM Fair as well. Our Knights

were so proud to be teaching and presenting their projects to their peers—projects that involved engineering process, science, and computer science.

Our Knights were also thrilled to celebrate their second annual Kite Day on April 12! All of our students were invited to bring the kites they have been designing and engineering in our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab. Kites ranged from tetrahedron and diamond to box kites. Our students and their families met in Seal Beach to come together as a school and fly our kites on the beach.

Magic is in the air at Rossmoor Elementary!



Weaver *Elementary*

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Rick Larsen
Interim Principal

Showcasing Classical Music

Weaver Elementary School is a “Class Act”! We are so excited to be partnering with the Pacific Symphony this year to educate our scholars using “symphonic storytelling.”

For over a decade, the Pacific Symphony Class Act Program has been a vital part

of our Weaver School arts experience. This

year our musician is the absolutely spectacular string bassist Doug Basye, who has led fun and engaging lessons for our scholars by showcasing the amazing classical works of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. In this program our students learn about the Composer of the Year, the musicians, and the instruments of the orchestra.

In early April, the Weaver community held a “Class Act Family Night” where we listened

to string ensembles from Weaver, Oak, McAuliffe, and Los Alamitos High School. The evening culminated in an amazing performance from the Class Act musicians, who took us through Tchaikovsky’s greatest compositions using a story written by Doug Basye himself. We are so excited to also celebrate our musicians at our annual Bravo Assembly concert.



B is for Book



Bailey

An Oregon Tale

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie by Kristiana Gregory will always be my favorite historical book!



Hattie Campbell is going to Oregon! Before she knows, she is traveling the Oregon Trail with 8

grueling months ahead: Rivers to cross, Indians, snakes, poisonous vegetables, it has it all! People everywhere are dropping like flies and everyone must fight to survive. Will Hattie fall among the fear, the blistering heat, and the losses? Or will she emerge at the end with memories, a new land and heart in Oregon?

Told as a diary, *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie* is an entertaining way of learning about the Oregon Trail. I really love how the author describes events, I feel like I'm in the story.

I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.

Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

A Funny Story

Have you recently lost your baby tooth? In *I lost my tooth!* by Mo Willems, all the squirrels except Zoom Squirrel thought that when Zoom Squirrel said he lost his baby tooth, it was a real baby. So then they went to go look to find the baby tooth. Then Zoom Squirrel found his tooth. When Zoom Squirrel showed his tooth, the other squirrels got gifts for the baby tooth. Do they finally know what a baby tooth is? I like this book because it has jokes and makes me laugh. It also has cute drawings and some facts about teeth at the end.



Yoona is a 1st grader. She likes doing cartwheels and soccer. She also likes asking questions to her parents. Having a playdate with her friends is her favorite too.



Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

A True Story

The Hen Who Sailed Around the World by Guirec Soudée is an amazing true story where a boy describes his voyage around the world with his brave and adorable red hen named Monique. They



took three and half years to complete the journey. This book talks about the special bond between animals and the humans. The book is full of interesting photographs and maps that helped me to visualize their exciting trip. My favorite photograph is the one taken by a drone when they were in the middle of icebergs!

After reading this book, I also want to have a pet and go on a long sailing trip! This book is a must read for all ages.

Manhar M. is in Kindergarten. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

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Common Sense Media

Encouraging Teens to Read for Pleasure



The amount of time that teens spend reading for pleasure has declined a lot over the past few years. Whether this is due to the rise in short-form reading, the prevalence of multitasking, time spent with screen media, or other factors is unknown.

Fortunately, we do know the way to encourage readers of any age: Keep books in the house, set aside daily reading time, and read yourself. For teens specifically, it may help to tap into whatever they're passionate about. From music and fashion to video games and the Victorian era, if you can name it, there's a book about it.

In a world filled with entertaining diversions, it can be difficult for teens to find reading material that really motivates them to read. Check our reviews (you can sort our book reviews by age, genre, and topic).

Here are some more ideas:

- **Try an ereader.** Ereaders offer your teen a bit more independence, flexibility, and privacy. And they're great for travel.
- **Consider humor.** Some teens just need the funny.
- **Draw inspiration from pop culture.** Late-night comedians, musicians, and even software developers (think Steve Jobs) are great subjects (or authors!) for teen reading because they're relevant to teens' lives.
- **Insist that they read the book before seeing the movie.** If they want to see a story on the big screen, hand them the book first.

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Semra Bilsel
Branch Manager

Summer Reading – June 17th – July 27th

Come sign up for our annual event to earn prizes and raffle tickets just for reading!

Please find listed weekly performers for the family and activities for teens.

Kids and Family Wednesdays at 3:30pm

June 19 – Wild Wonders Animal Show

June 26 – Billy Bonkers Magic Show

July 3 – Best Bubble Show

July 10 – Annie Banannie Balloon Show

July 17 – Michael Rayner Juggling Show

July 24 – Talent Show! (Sign up required)

Teen Tuesdays at 4:00pm

June 18 - Tie Dye & Pizza

June 25 – Pins Workshop

July 9 – No Bake Pie Workshop

July 16 – Canvas and Cookies

July 23 – Spa Day Creations

Our regular storytimes will continue during the Summer Reading Program!

Preschool Storytime with Craft is a fun way to get your kids excited about books. Each week we'll read funny books and sing silly songs. Stay after and join us to take part in a craft activity! All supplies are available. Open to ages 2-6. place on May 20th, June 17th and June 24th from 11:30am to 12:15pm.

Baby and Toddler Storytime is for our youngest patrons, birth to 3 years, and caregiver can join in on storytime fun. Books will be read with songs, rhymes, and activities to get started on the path to Early Literacy. Come by on May 23rd, June 20th, and June 27th from 11:30 to 11:50 am

Sensory Play is a great way to expand your child's learning through hands on activities that stimulate the senses! Open to ages birth to 5 years old, different activities will be provided based on age range. Come by on May 23rd, June 20th, and June 27th from 11:50 to 12:15pm.



Office Terms 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 July 15, 2019
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

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Congratulations to Josiah Kim
Winner of our April Word Search Contest!

Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Household Pet to Wild Animal

The Call of the Wild Jack London is a classic that shows the reader how a life can change overnight. This novel is written from the perspective of Buck, a California dog, who lives a comfortable life in Santa Clara when he is stolen



and sold as a sled dog. Buck learns to adapt to his new life and overcome obstacles. He goes through many different masters as a sled dog, and makes friends and enemies along the way. Through it all, the wild calls.

Jack London is an extraordinary writer who is best known for his books, *Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *The Sea-Wolf*. London is also widely known for his naturalist writing style. I rate this book four stars, because although it was a good read, it could be a little morbid at times. However, I would still recommend this novel to anyone 4th grade and up.

Keira is a 7th grader who loves to read. She also enjoys crafts, traveling, soccer and playing with her cats. Her reviews are rated from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Richard's Book Review



Richard J.

An Unexpected Ending

The Popularity Papers The Awesomely Awful Melodies of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Gram-Chang



After the break the BFFs Julie and Lydia get inspired to start a band along with their friend Roland and an uninvited drama queen

Jane. However, none of the friends can play well (or even anything at all, to be perfectly honest), so it is a rough journey until they are finally somewhat good to play for a birthday party. They realize too late that the birthday party they are booked for is princess-themed for a 7 year-old girl. However, "the show must go on" and the friends perform the best way they know how. But the party turns into a mad riot (guess why?) This piece of disaster news travels back to school with completely unexpected results. The rumor had it that they were so good they caused a riot! Of course, only the "riot" part was true. Interestingly, it boosts the friends' popularity at school, which they were trying to achieve for a long time.

It is a fun story with unexpected ending and I liked reading it. I give it 5 out of 5 stars.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

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