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School News

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Covering the La Habra City School District



Volume 7, Issue 21

April 2021



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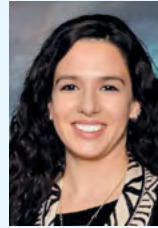
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SUPERINTENDENT

Embracing Technology




Dr. Joanne Culverhouse
Superintendent

This past year has really challenged everyone in the LHCSD team to find innovative and interesting ways to communicate with families in an engaging manner. Snail mail and sending paperwork home with students, are a thing of the past. With the accessibility of technology at our fingertips, this has allowed us to pivot and take advantage of all the amazing capabilities technology has to offer.

Thanks to Zoom we now have the ability to host virtual assemblies, meetings, conferences and tutoring. With just the click of a button, staff can utilize various social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram & Facebook, in order to get messages to families, promote events, highlight student's successes, etc.


The launch of the annual Family Engagement Survey was sent to parents/guardians and staff digitally. Topics include: Academic Preparation, School Climate, Parent Engagement, COVID relief efforts and more. This year's survey will help guide the continuous improvement of our district and school programs.



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★ ★ *annual survey* ★ ★

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

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Covering the
LA HABRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The theme of this issue is embracing technology. Educators have certainly been innovative with the use of technology to keep students and families connected with their teachers and classmates. I admit it has been a learning experience for me. I managed to participate in an entire virtual meeting without turning my camera on.

Technology has taken on a whole new meaning to students with their virtual classes. Perhaps the upside will be their lack of desire to spend time on electronic devices outside of school classes. With restaurants opening up it will be refreshing to see

people having conversations rather than being on their phones. There is always a silver lining with every situation.



Our next issue is October. Have a wonderful summer!

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School Readiness

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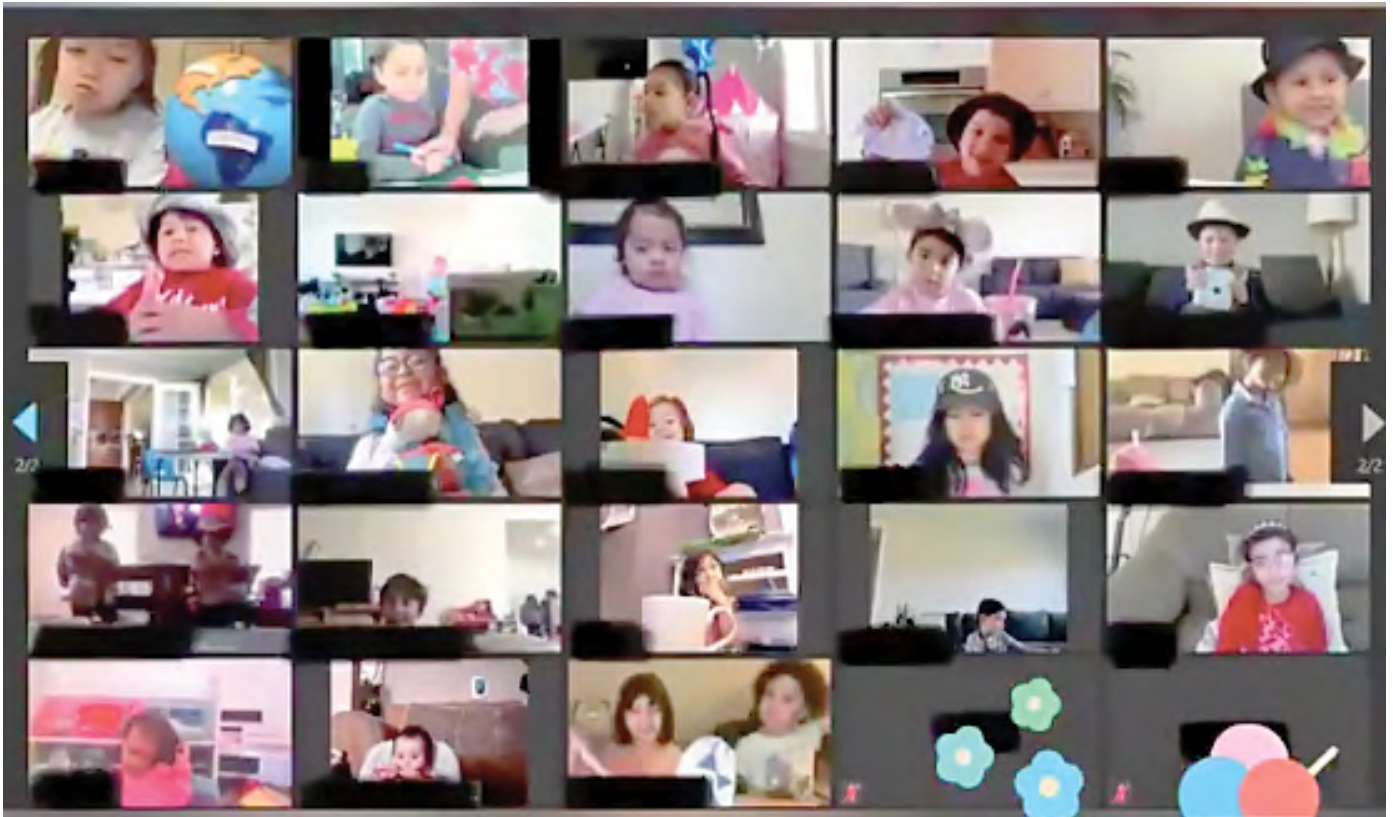
Debbye Viveros
Coordinator

Supporting Families

The driving force of La Habra City School District's School Readiness program is to support families with children ages birth to five. We have virtual classes daily where our skilled Community Liaisons assist families as they engage in activities to support their child's growth and development. Through our virtual

classroom interactions, children and families know that they are supported and loved.

School Readiness is a family! We know that families are the child's first teacher and we support them as they navigate early childhood education and beyond. We utilize the LHCSO website, email, newsletters, the Remind app, and multiple social media platforms to engage with our families. We also have open office hours where families can drop in for conversation, resources and assistance.



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Virtual Learning Model

www.lahabraschools.org



Family Engagement Equals Student Success

Strong Family engagement is a significant component of the La Habra City School District. At the Virtual Learning Model, we are doing all we can to assist our students' home schools in fostering this engagement.

Mike Klewer
Principal

In the virtual world, communication between home and school has become even more critical. Our job at VLM has been to communicate events happening at the students' home schools and VLM through a master calendar. This master calendar includes events for all of the represented TK-6 schools that may be of interest to VLM students and VLM parents. Parents can see, at a glance, what is going on at six elementary schools and VLM during each month.

Another meaningful way we work to engage with families is with our monthly "Chats with the Principal." These chats are an informal time for parents to ask questions, make comments, and listen to VLM's latest information.

We recently held separate virtual fire and virtual earthquake drills to practice safe procedures for



Virtual earthquake drill

responding to emergencies. For both exercises, students were asked to react to the crisis and post a picture addressed to their teacher showing their participation. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to improve our student and parent engagement.

Arbolita (TK—6) Visual & Performing Arts Academy

1001 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2352 • www.lahabraschools.org



A Family and A Community

Nothing can keep our Arbolita community down! We are back on campus with our hybrid students and continuing our learning in person. This has been a challenging year for all of us, but we have learned so much and grown stronger in our family and community connections through it all. Engaging families can be difficult under normal circumstances, but the pandemic has added an extra challenge and also

an added convenience. A family member may not normally be able to leave work in the middle of the day and drive to the campus to see his or her child receive an award at an awards ceremony. However, through Zoom, families from near and far can virtually attend our trimester awards ceremonies and celebrate our students! We have brought assemblies to our students through Zoom and interacted with people in other states. We have had so many opportunities to involve our families in assemblies, PTA drive thru events, virtual field trips, virtual musical and drama performances, and nutrition classes already. For example, we had 500 students

and families attend our introduction to string instrument assembly in January. Our students learned about the power of music, jobs in the music field, and how string instruments work and are made. In the upcoming months, we have a family Zoom dance party, second family movie night, trimester awards, family art night, family restaurant nights, Read Across La Habra event, and a reptile show. Nothing can keep us from engaging our families!



Learning about string instruments.

El Cerrito (TK—6) Code to the Future (Computer Science)

1051 N. Hillside, La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2340 • www.lahabraschools.org



Emily Flesher
Principal

Engaging Families

Family engagement at El Cerrito is as

active as ever. Though it looks a little different than it would in typical years, there

are regular opportunities for our families to participate and be part of our school. Every Friday, all families are invited to join our Fun Friday events hosted by our community liaison. Topics have included: Yoga and Meditation, Physical and Mental Health, Exercise and Move More Eat Healthy, as well as many other engaging topics.



Read Across America

In addition to planned events, all staff regularly communicate via Class Dojo, Google Classroom, or Aeries Communication. With the help of our amazing office staff, inclusive of our community liaison, all parents are able to easily communicate with not only staff, but acquire any additional support needed through these challenging, uncertain times.

Finally, we often provide themed weeks allowing for students, staff, and our families to participate and share the fun by posting on social media or within students' classrooms. Pandemic or not, our El Cerrito staff, students, and amazing families continue to thrive and work towards providing the absolute best experience for all of our Scotties!

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Imperial (6—8) International Baccalaureate & Visual Performing Arts

1450 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2344 • www.lahabraschools.org



Cathy Seighman
Principal

Building Connections

At Imperial we choose to view challenges as an opportunity to continue to grow together, to embrace change and become even stronger. We have been creative and determined to keep the school spirit and joy that Imperial instills in our families and have seen an increase in family engagement during these challenging times. To celebrate our students and recognize their hard work and accomplishments, we hold virtual monthly award assemblies and Drive Thru Celebrations allowing our families to participate in their child's success. Parents have enjoyed the various parent information meetings via Zoom such as International Baccalaureate Candidate School Training, Social Emotional Education, and Coffee with Administrators. To remove the barriers of family engagement, Imperial's Community Liaison and counselor



Drive Thru Celebration

provide support to our families. At Imperial we strive to make our environment a place where all feel included, heard, acknowledged, and welcomed!

Ladera Palma (TK—6) Dual Immersion Academy

2151 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2348 • www.lahabraschools.org

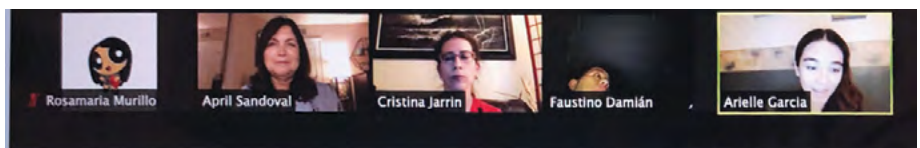


Dr. Rosa Murillo
Principal

Keeping our School Community United

Our school community is not only made up of our staff and students at Ladera Palma. We realize the importance of a strong family and community collaboration and support to enable our students to reach high levels of bilingualism and biliteracy. We have a mighty PTA who meet two times a month formally and several times in between to support events such as: weekly virtual assemblies; drive-thru events for the holidays, Read across America Week; and Parent Art Club. Additionally, we meet weekly with our parents to review community, district and school resources and events to maintain clear channels of communication. We have a weekly bulletin with resources, events and digital supports for our parents. We provide several parent resource

presentations as well as a chance for parents to gather and share such as our Virtual Parent Circles as pictured below. We are strong even though we are apart!



Welcome! Bienvenidos!

The purpose of this circle is to connect in a common space to build community and relational support for each other during this time of constant change not only in our professional roles but in our personal lives. It is not a space for complaints or policy discussions, but a place set aside for all of us to experience a collective vulnerability and social emotional support for each other.

El propósito de este círculo es para conectarnos en una área común para construir una comunidad y relaciones de apoyo para nosotros durante este tiempo de cambios constantes no solamente en nuestros papel profesional pero también personal. No es un espacio para quejas o discusiones políticas, sino un lugar reservado para que todos experimentemos una

Virtual Parent Circles

Las Lomas (TK—6) Entrepreneur Exploration & Music/Art

301 Las Lomas Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2353 • www.lahabraschools.org



Pam Cunningham
Principal

Family Engagement Even from a Distance

When we began our Distance Learning journey, we never imagined that a year later we would still be juggling online learning for our students. With our new reality came the end of business as usual. Distance and hybrid learning has forced us to think

outside the box when it comes to engaging our families. Communication using Aeries, Remind, Twitter, Seesaw, Google Classroom and our school website have been an integral part of keeping our families informed and engaged in their child's education. Our teachers and office staff work tirelessly to make sure our families are informed of their child's progress and needs so they continue to get the most

out of their school day. Our PTA has been phenomenal at providing drive-thru and virtual events so our families continue to feel connected to our school community and are provided learning opportunities to help their children succeed during these most challenging times. Even though the year may look different, our commitment to our families is stronger than ever!



Holiday Family Fun Night

Las Positas (TK—6) International Baccalaureate

1400 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2356 • www.lahabraschools.org



Sharon Hensley
Principal

A Strong, Caring Community!

The Pandemic and distance learning haven't stopped our Las Positas community from being involved and active in our students' educational experiences. Even though our school day may look

different, our community is strong! Our amazing PTA has sponsored many family events from drive through Halloween Trunks and Treats, Kidsmas, Elf visits, Read Across America Week, material distributions, fundraisers and assemblies. Our students have enjoyed the Science Guy awesome assemblies, Happiness is NOW student assembly and a family dance party. Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) has presented two very important meetings for families: "Anxiety, Depression and the Impact of COVID 19" and "Building Resiliency in our Youth".



Showing love for our students and families.

Our families have been invited to numerous family evening meetings including ELAC and general meetings regarding school reopening. Videos have been produced for families to enjoy at home. Las Positas continues to offer our monthly Second Harvest Food Bank where more than 200 families participate each month. Our students and families participated in the American Heart Challenge during the month of February and earned over \$2500 to support those with heart disease. Our students and families pledged to be more active, drink more water and be kind! In January, Las Positas was named a Kindness School. We love our students and our families and prove working together brings great success!

Sierra Vista (TK—6) College Pathways-No Excuses & Music/Art Exploration

1800 E. Whittier Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2359 • www.lahabraschools.org



Anna Dorado
Principal

No Excuses!

In this time of COVID guidelines and restrictions, our Sierra Vista teachers and support staff have found new ways to engage families. Due to the creativity of our team and of course access to digital means, our families are able to “see” into the classroom or school on a daily basis.

It starts with being a part of our school wide communication systems of Aeries parent portal and REMIND! Through these digital platforms our parents have access at their fingertips to school wide events, classroom assignments, grades, even seeing their student’s classwork and homework!

Next, our NO EXCUSES UNIVERSITY parents are invited each month to our parent academy classes hosted by our community liaison, Mary Gray. She works diligently each month to incorporate community and district resources for our parents, while integrating our school focus and other areas of the curriculum.

And finally, our family engagement results from the time each staff member commits to form relationships with our families. Whether this be time spent on a Zoom at a parent conference, a phone call after school, or even a conversation at pick up time, our staff is committed to connecting with each family in order to become partners in their child’s education. We know it takes ALL of us to ensure the success of each child and we make NO EXCUSES to make that a reality!



Virtual Parent Meeting

Walnut (TK—6) STEAM Academy/AVID

625 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2369 • www.lahabraschools.org



Dr. Alma Noche
Principal

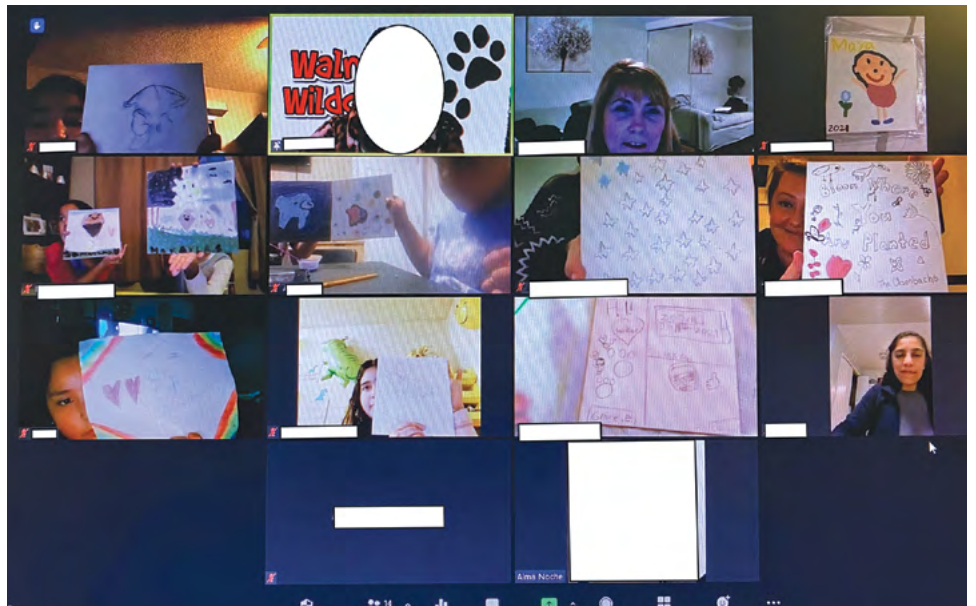
Stronger Together!

Almost a whole year has passed since we had parents on campus to help volunteer in the classrooms, playground or attend our

parent meetings and events. However, with the help of PTA, Padres in Accion, and other outside organizations, we

are continuing to bring different experiences to involve parents in their students’ school year. Our parents and families have multiple opportunities to learn about the school, have conversations with their child’s teachers, attend enrichment activities with their children, and receive resources for their families. We have Zoom meetings to review school expectations, assemblies for student awards and STEAM-related activities, virtual recess activities,

etc. We’ve worked with outside organizations to bring in free school supplies, gift bags, food donations, and even free shoes for our kids. We continue to strive for a true partnership with our families.



Tile Night with families

Washington (7-8) Project Lead the Way/Engineering/Music

716 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/960-2374 • www.lahabraschools.org



Greg White
Principal

Engaging Our Community

In the pandemic, Washington Middle school has worked hard with our stakeholders to engage our families and build a stronger community together. We partner with the Orange County Food Bank to bring Second Harvest food distribution to our campus. Families,

students and staff serve our community together through this wonderful program. Our festivals and charity drives are digital. The First Annual Washington Film Festival occurs this month online as we highlight our student filmmakers. Our fundraiser benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society continues this year. However, we transformed it into, "Painting for Patients." A virtual art auction of student art that engages our school community in our charity efforts. Finally, our regular committees continue in support of our school by engaging

families through School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Council, PTSA and more. Together with families, students, and staff, we continue to foster a strong and vibrant Washington community.



Serving our community together!

Contest!



This chicken is somewhere in this publication.

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

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put La Habra in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by June 15, 2021.

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Classified School Employees of the Year



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Classified staff members are known for performing essential roles that promote the health, safety and success of all students.

In the face of a global pandemic, however, their actions were nothing short of awe-inspiring. Exhibiting ingenuity, creativity and dedication, these school employees more than met the moment to support schools and families.

If you're not familiar with the term "classified employees," you are certainly aware of their contributions. This group includes office clerks, custodians, instructional assistants, technicians, bus drivers, maintenance workers and other non-certificated staff members who make our schools and district facilities run smoothly and efficiently.

Classified employees are often the first to greet students as they arrive on campus, and they're the ones who clean our schools and lock the doors at night. As such, these employees forge strong connections with our communities, and they are deeply invested in student achievement.

It was no surprise then that these workers went above and beyond in the COVID-19 era to ensure that Orange County students had access to healthy meals, technology for remote learning, health and wellness supports, and campuses that met the highest safety standards once in-person instruction resumed. They performed these roles with patience, grace and reassuring smiles that were apparent in spite of face coverings.

Of course, many of these unsung heroes prefer to work quietly behind the scenes. But now is the time to pull back the curtain and give them a standing ovation.

The California Department of Education created the Classified School Employees of the Year program about 13 years ago to spotlight the contributions of these professionals, and while there are so many who are worthy of our praise and admiration, the Orange County Department of Education recently selected nine local winners by job category.

The 2021 Orange County Classified School Employees of the Year are:

- Allison Goettman, school clerk, La Habra City School District (Clerical and Administrative Services)
- Miguel Laris, senior custodian, Westminster School District (Custodian and Maintenance Services)
- Rosemary Tamayo, food services lead, Garden Grove Unified School District (Food and Nutrition Services)
- Cassandra Palacios, licensed vocational nurse, Los Alamitos Unified School District (Health and Student Services)
- Jessica Lee, paraeducator, Huntington Beach City School District (Paraprofessional)
- Patricia Mendez, activity monitor, Santa Ana Unified School District (Security Services)
- Adrian Prieto, HVAC technician, Anaheim Union High School District (Skilled Trades)
- Chris Martinez, systems network technician, Magnolia School District (Technical Services)
- Mathew Sobelman, bus driver, Huntington Beach Union High School District (Transportation Services)

These individuals will be formally celebrated by OCDE and Schools First Federal Credit Union during Classified School Employee Week, which begins May 17. Each is also eligible to compete for state and national honors.

They are certainly deserving of that and more, because these employees weren't just honored for their technical skills; they were selected for the care, empathy and compassion they showed to others.

In the words of President Abraham Lincoln, "Kindness is the only service that will stand the storm of life and not wash out."

We have endured a great storm over the past year. But the kindness and dedication of our classified workers was never more evident, and these are traits that will endure long after the pandemic is over.