

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the La Habra City School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Our Students' Future—A Global Workplace

Equipping students to be 21st-century leaders requires extending learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. Every day there are new technology

resources available to help educators make their classrooms more global and connect their students to new ideas, challenges, and resources that will let them dig deeper into what they're learning in class. To successfully navigate this environment, students must be independent learners who are globally competent and prepared to work across geographic borders.

Preparing today's students with the skills they need to be tomorrow's leaders requires that we consider the challenges they will face. Tomorrow's leaders will need to navigate a world of ambiguity and change. They will need to work more closely across geographic borders and with people who have very different backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences. We must prepare our students to be global citizens with sensitivity to diversity and an appreciation for cultural differences.

In the La Habra City School District, our instructional program is designed to prepare our students with an entrepreneurial mindset. Students are empowered to ask why and understand that learning is a process and that the voyage to the solution is as important as the solution. In our classrooms, we are creating opportunities for our students to become independent learners who are prepared for their places in the global citizenry. We

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 6

## A Lab Approach to Learning!



Students admire their robot.

By Mike Klewer, Principal Las Positas Elementary

Teachers and students are charging into the 21st century! Our students must be creative and collaborative learners, be critical thinkers and have strong written, oral and technological communication skills.

The teacher-designed learning experiences advance these skills. In fifth grade, students collaboratively create stop-motion movies to illustrate social studies concepts. In our after-school GATE classes, students design robots for the Cal Poly Pomona Robot Rally in May. Fourth-graders will collaboratively design the "perfect toy," one that will

be popular for years to come. They will use creativity and critical thinking in designing and apply their communication skills to describe why it's a perfect toy. In third grade, students learned about entrepreneurship by interviewing local businesses. They designed collaborative presentations and gave oral reports about their findings. Grants, community partnerships and parent generosity fund these efforts.

Today, we're challenged to prepare students to compete not only locally but globally. This will be their world when they graduate and enter their careers.

## We're Building the Future



Las Lomas Elementary students enjoying science class. (please see page 5)



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# Preparing Students



**Teresa Egan**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

All of our middle school students are learning important 21st-century skills in the La Habra City School District's popular Advancement Via Individual Determination classes (AVID).

AVID is a program that prepares those students who are the most under-represented in postsecondary education. It also provides specific strategies and methods for teachers to use to make sure that each child is prepared for a college preparatory curriculum in high school. Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Washington and Imperial now have the opportunity to apply to participate in our year-long AVID elective. Students in grade six can take pre-AVID as one of their electives.

AVID students develop their critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration skills through specialized instruction such as structured note taking, Socratic Seminars, Thinking Maps, and more. Student grades and academic progress in each content area are monitored regularly by the AVID teacher. College and support staff tutors also provide one-to-one and small-group instruction to ensure success for all.

In the summer, teams of AVID teachers from each middle school attend a special four-day AVID conference to further develop their skills in getting our students ready for the rigors of college. At this AVID Summer Institute, our teachers receive the latest updates on methodology. They also have an opportunity to work in teams to enhance the AVID program, where they learn to develop specific action plans for use at each middle school site during the school year.

Our AVID classes are also enriched by regular "Field Trips to Colleges" and "College Nights" held at each middle school. Our parents, students, and staff members have found AVID to be extremely valuable in preparing their students for college, career, and beyond.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!  
Thank you for your emails after our first issue.

This issue focuses on students being prepared to compete in the 21st Century and to be global citizens. The Superintendent's message is how the District is preparing their students—your children, our future!

You want to be a student again after reading about robotics, STEM, and the collaboration of staff, parents and community. The basics have been taken to a whole new level.

Our next issue is April 15.

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\*Source: Girl Scouts Research Institute, 2012 Alumnae Impact Study

## Programs & Assessment

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### Great Thinkers are Everywhere!



**Sheryl Tecker**  
Director

In La Habra, you can find great thinkers in the Odyssey of the Mind After-School Program for fourth- and fifth-graders. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competitions at the local, state and world levels. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

The year 2014–15 marks the second year of La Habra's involvement in Odyssey of the Mind. Our students meet once a week after school to develop the 21st-century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and, of course—creativity! Each week, they practice solving “spontaneous” hands-on and verbal problems and spend months preparing a creative solution to one long-term problem. We are so proud of our students who are developing the skills to become global creative thinkers!

## Business Office

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### Finding Relief from the Budget Crisis



**Karen Kinney**  
Chief Business Officer

The La Habra City School District has begun its second year of operating under the new funding structure signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in July of 2013. This new structure, called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), brings new dollars, greater transparency in spending, and more local control.

The plans outlined in the District's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) were implemented at the beginning of the 2014–2015 school year. Plans for this year include increasing class offerings at our middle schools, reducing class sizes, and offering professional development to staff.

The additional funding received through the LCFF provides the District with increased flexibility, and the opportunity to support those programs that the community believes are beneficial for our students.

Early this spring we will once again be meeting with our stakeholders – including staff, parents, and community members – to discuss how to best use these funds in future years, and how to help prepare our students to become productive and competitive citizens in the 21st-century global economy.

## Student Support Services

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### Preparing for 21st-Century Learning



**Patsy Martin**  
Special Education Director

Students from Katie Mayfield's K–2 class at Ladera Palma prepared Project Based Learning presentations to share with family, friends and staff members. The students received a request from the Three Little Pigs to build a new home for them since they needed more space. Students studied homes and materials and building strategies. They read books about the Three Little Pigs. Each student built a home based on a list of rules and specific materials. They tested their homes to see if the wolf could blow it down. The “wolf” was a blow dryer with a picture of the wolf attached. Some homes stood strong, and some did not hold up against the wolf's huffs and puffs. Each student

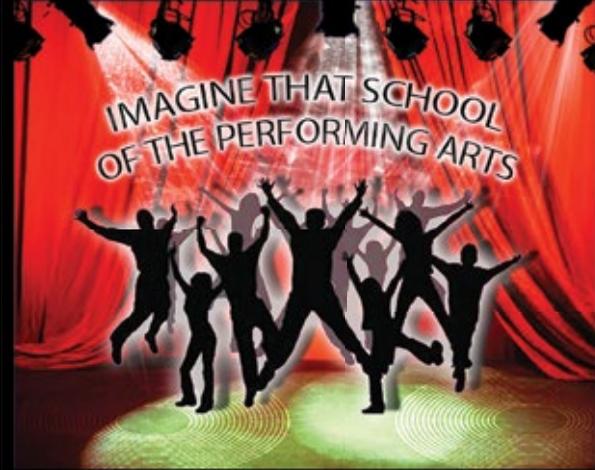
then prepared for presentation day by practicing their skills with Mrs. Mayfield and speech language pathologist Ms. Carroll. Students introduced themselves to their audience. They demonstrated great social skills and communication skills as they described their projects. One student used an iPad with the Proloquo app to support his communication during his presentation.

This Common Core instruction is part of the preparation that students with special needs are receiving in order to prepare for their positive participation in their future world. They are learning real-world skills involving reading and math that will benefit them as adults. They are also learning to communicate with others and express themselves confidently.

This was a great example of project-based learning and the great things our students can do!

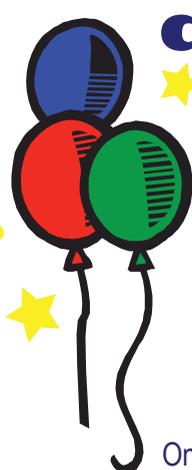
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## Arbolita *Elementary*

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**Rosamaria Murillo**  
Principal

### Dual Immersion

At Arbolita School, our kindergarten Dual Immersion Program is developing our students as global citizens. We are in the first year of providing this fantastic opportunity to our students.

Dual Immersion uniquely supports our students in becoming bilingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural students and future citizens. Eighty percent of instruction is conducted in Spanish. Students are supported to speak, understand, read and write in Spanish. The other 20 percent of their instruction is conducted in English, which is used to develop and support students' understanding of concepts and vocabulary in two languages.

Our students also celebrate culturally significant recognitions, such as Day of the Dead, Las Posadas, and Cinco de Mayo, to help them understand the cultural significance and heritage related to the language they are learning. Our entire school is embracing these cultural celebrations and participating with our Dual Immersion classes, so that all of our students are benefitting from our efforts to bring global education to our community.



## El Cerrito *Elementary*

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



**Emily Szary**  
Principal

### The World of Tomorrow

El Cerrito has an eye on the future! We provide our students with the skills and abilities they need for college and career. The current kindergarten class at El Cerrito represents the high school graduating class of 2027, an amazing fact that educators must consider every day as they prepare their students for the future.

El Cerrito is committed to producing confident, self-directed learners in a highly motivating, student-centered environment. Through collaboration, we provide a solid foundation to help meet

each student's individual needs. We also seek to guide them to become independent problem solvers, active learners, and responsible and productive citizens.

The La Habra City School District's commitment to providing digital instructional materials, and staff training focused on 21st-century practices, is definitely preparing our students for the future. At a recent school board meeting, the El Cerrito second-graders were "APP Smashing" by combining different applications to create meaningful projects. These students are inventive and flexible in how they demonstrate the kind of skills that will make them competitive in the global economy.



## Imperial *Middle School*

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



**Cathy Seighman**  
Principal

### The Arts in a Global Society

At Imperial Middle School, Academy of the Arts, our students are acquiring the skills necessary to be competitive in a global society. Arts and technology are integrated into all curricular areas, allowing students to experience many different forms of learning. The arts provide students with opportunities to apply 21st-century skills, such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and, of course, creativity. Arts integration is highly effective in motivating and engaging students.



Research shows that students learn best when "doing," not just listening to the teacher talk. Teachers are weaving various forms of fine, visual, and performing arts into their lessons. It is not uncommon to see students acting out a play from the Renaissance period by using watercolors to represent poetry or creating math songs to learn about mathematical properties.

Students are also completing project-based units that incorporate a global awareness of product development, budgeting, marketing, and advertisement.

## Ladera Palma *Elementary*

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



**George Lopez**  
Principal

### Competing Globally

Ladera Palma is diligent in helping its scholars prepare for college and future careers. We take great pride in teaching our students how to read and become critical thinkers. We also use Cognitive Guided Instruction (CGI) and ST Math to challenge them to become good problem solvers in mathematics.

We want our scholars to be able to compete globally, and so all of our students are exposed to project-based lessons that require collaboration and communication. We want them to become problem solvers who possess a high level of critical thinking.

We are serious about our students' futures, and want them to have every opportunity to keep their minds open to future possibilities. To this end we are now offering an after-school pilot program in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) that utilizes Lego Wedo engineering and robotics.

Ladera Palma is committed to educating each child. We clearly understand how important it is for our scholars to be able to compete globally.



## Las Lomas *Elementary*

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



**Pam Cunningham**  
*Principal*

### **We're Building the Future**

Our students are preparing for a future of unlimited possibilities! Through well-crafted and designed lessons, teachers provide real-world

experiences and students use technology to learn about science- and social-studies-related topics. Elsa is learning to manipulate and write codes to create a single line one step at a time and make either a simple square or a complex snowflake.

Students can be seen daily engaged in some type of science-, technology-, engineering- or mathematics-related activity to bring learning to life. Teachers use teamwork to put students' communication, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to good use for figuring out how to arrange empty cups into the highest tower without it falling over. Two of our first- and second-grade classes recently became scientists and used communication and collaboration skills to dissect owl pellets to learn about the food chain.

Our teachers daily bring technology, collaboration, critical thinking, communication and problem solving into their classrooms to provide the foundation needed for success in our ever-changing world.



## Las Positas *Elementary*

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



**Mike Klewer**  
*Principal*

**A Lab Approach to Learning!**  
**Please see our article on the front page.**

## Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



**Anna Dorado**  
*Principal*

### **Global Education**

The Sierra Vista fifth-graders from Mr. Meyers class have been embracing global issues. Coming back from their summer break, these fifth-grade students found water conservation to be a major concern for the new school year.

Several students immediately began questioning their teacher. They wanted more information about their school grounds, and that we might be wasting water. Because of this supportive teacher, the entire classroom began an inquiry process which has since turned into a full-scale school, district, and city project. The result was a re-landscaping of our front facade to make it a more drought tolerant and eco-conscious area of our school.

Our students have been hands-on throughout the entire process. This has ranged from investigating our current landscape, and working alongside the head of the district's grounds department, to writing letters to our neighbors to make them aware of the changes they will be seeing in the community.

This global-education awareness project has taken on all areas of the curriculum, from science, math, engineering, reading, writing, drawing, listening, and speaking! More importantly, this learning opportunity has allowed our students to take an active leadership role on their campus and in the community. It has definitely helped raise their consciousness about the environment.

This spring our students hope to present their project at Cal State Fullerton's second annual Sustainability Showcase.



## Walnut *Elementary*

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



**Susan Goellrich**  
*Principal*

### **Bringing in 21st-Century Skills**

To compete in a global society, students must be proficient in 21st Century Skills: collaborating, communicating, critical thinking and creativity. At Walnut, we address the best ways to teach these skills along with the essential basic skills: reading, writing and calculation. Our teachers have a solid foundation in teaching basic skills and work hard to differentiate instruction for all students' needs. Students apply their learning through collaboration, problem solving and communicating their learning in a variety of ways.

Our teachers integrate technology into their daily instruction to support its importance in the 21st century. Each grade level has two classroom sets of iPads to share among the grade level. This allows students to research and then create a visual display of their learning. In our after-school classes, students use technology in the Robotics program.

The 4 C's—collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity—along with access to technology create a 21st-century learning environment to prepare our students for a global society.



# Washington *Middle School*

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



**Mario Carlos**  
Principal

## Preparing for Careers in a Global Society

Washington Middle School continuously prepares students for college and global careers of the future. We implement 21st-century technology—science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM), digital design and computer innovation within all content. Necessary skills like problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and innovation are essential in today's global economy and are a daily experience for our students. It's crucially necessary to develop these skills while focusing on international and world experiences. Through a collaboration of staff, parents and community, we're fostering strong foundations that empower our students to become responsible, productive and competitive citizens as well as creators, critical thinkers and problem solvers of the future workforce.



Our staff provides lessons that are standards based, research based and supported by current professional development. Assessments support student success and mastery.

Washington Patriots will play a major role in shaping the future through awareness of global needs and international issues, respect of other cultures, and striving for excellence in themselves and our country.

## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Dr. Susan Belenardo**  
Superintendent

have invested in technology as a tool to educate students to successfully navigate college, career, and life in the 21st century.

In addition to providing our students with access to technology and developing their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, we are also providing opportunities for expanding their cultural awareness and learning and exploring other languages. Our Spanish/English dual-immersion program is empowering our youngest learners with the skill of being proficient and literate in two languages. Literacy in a second language is a skill that will be an asset in the global economy and also appears to contribute to higher academic performance.

Students in a dual-language program also develop positive attitudes about students of other language and cultural backgrounds, further developing their global competency.

At both Washington and Imperial Middle Schools, we have introduced a World Language elective. Utilizing online resources from Middlebury Interactive Languages, students are exposed to and develop an appreciation for language and world culture. They also begin to gain familiarity and comfort with a new language, which fosters an interest in learning another language. Our World Language elective is the foundational platform for furthering our students' preparation for a global workplace.

Another way we are bringing the world into our classrooms is through our cultural exchange program. Washington and Imperial Middle Schools will be hosting our first group of Chinese exchange students for a week in February. While our visiting students will be experiencing our educational programs and practicing their English skills, our middle school students will be learning firsthand about a different culture as they have the opportunity to interact with same-age peers from China in their classrooms. We are also planning a Cultural Exchange Enrichment Summer Camp focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and the arts. The summer camp will also be an opportunity for our students to work with students from China as they explore Project Lead the Way classes and participate in electives such as theater arts, cartooning, and animation.

Our schools must prepare our students for 21st Century Global Citizenship. We are fortunate to have the support of our Trustees and Community as we continue on this journey.

# Leadership 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
(Please put LH in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2015**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

**Congratulations to Kelly Kaufman**  
**Winner of the October Word Search Contest!**

## Word Search by Gunnar Coop

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

## Build It Back Again



**Kate Karp**

I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks.

*Build It Back Again* by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.



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

## Parent To Parent

### We Have 4 Kids



**Jodie Lynn**

**Question:** We have four kids. Two are twins, one girl and one boy. One twin has not been doing well in second grade reading and his teacher has him going to a special reading group in a special needs class. While his twin has compassion the other siblings have been calling him names. This is upsetting him to the point of not wanting to go to school at all. What should we do?

**From Jodie:** Tell your son that it is not a big deal to need a little extra help in any subject. Give him examples of success stories about famous people, or someone that he can relate to, regarding how they overcame a specific challenge (Michael Jordan failed to make his high school varsity basketball team). Share the same story with the other kids in the family. Stress to them that just because someone is having a few problems with reading, or basically anything, it does not mean that they are stupid. I am almost positive that the other three have had to get help in many things in their lives. It may have been riding a bike, learning how to whistle, hitting a ball or whatever. In fact, there may be something currently that they would like to do better because it's not up to what other kids have achieved or perhaps how they personally would like to do it. If we can remind others of where we have failed in various times in our own lives and worked hard and straightened things out, it makes challenges appear not so impassable and inspires instead. You might also be sure that you or another adult in your household are the ones that practice reading with your son in a private area. This way, compassion, love and patience can be the cornerstone of the learning process.

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](http://www.ParentToParent.com) for details on new radio talk show, *Inside Parenting Success*.

## Happy Days are Here Again!



**Charlene Ashendorf**

We were not driven to school two blocks away; we walked to and from school with our classmates. We were not shuttled to one afterschool activity to another; we played in our backyards, front yards and in the streets of the neighborhood. We didn't need computer games; we played pick up, tag or anything that included a ball.

Those were simpler times. My parents would say that they were safer times. Those were days when everyone knew their neighbors and folks looked out for each other; those were “happy days.”

I promised my grandparents I would not only remember those good old days, but keep community alive. Our children are grown and out of the house. Older folks have moved out and younger families have moved into the neighborhood. So how could I keep that promise as an empty nester on our cul de sac?

Everyone loves food, so we began with a neighborhood bar-b-que. We delivered flyers, asked folks to bring a dish, a chair and a beverage. We'd provide the meat. Getting to know each other was an important first step. Kids and adults were now ready more...for the basketball hoop we placed in our front yard it became open play with a bring your own ball requirement. Next we built a little free library and placed it in on our entry wall. Filled with books for young and old alike, with a take one leave one policy, kids were found sprawled out under the shade of our liquid amber with books and snacks while dog walking adults would snap up a paperback or two.

Last year we began a question of the day experiment. What started out with two young neighbor kids knocking on the door for a homemade cookie or after school treat has become a 4:00 PM ritual with up to eight elementary schoolers who are given a science, math or history question and rewarded with a piece of candy. It's like Halloween with a purpose all year long.

We have made ours a neighborhood, a safe place for kids, where we look out for each other, just like the good old days. Happy days are here again.

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

# School News



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