

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District**

Volume 12, Issue 41

October 2022



**Superintendent Dr. John Lopez visits Ms. Malec's first period Science 8 class at Corvallis Middle School.**



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## SUPERINTENDENT

### The future is bright for Norwalk-La Mirada!

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District develops students into leaders of tomorrow by creating an environment that encourages creativity and critical thinking. Combined with emerging technologies, students are not only college and career ready, but have a deep understanding of civic engagement to give back to their community.

Part of this objective is a collective effort between our teachers, support staff, and administrators to construct an environment that encourages development and ownership of our entire staff. This fosters a culture of growth, building the mind-set that supports learning, innovation, and action. Cultivating collective efficacy focuses the combined expertise of our teachers on a collective purpose to model learning, shape the culture, and maximize the focus on learning. Collective efficacy is pivotal for the positive momentum we have for the 2022-23 school year.

Last year, we saw students earn a variety of awards and scholarships to post-secondary institutions, educators earn local and national acclaim for their efforts in the classroom, a school site earn our fifth-straight CSBA Golden Bell award, and our District and a remarkable 14 schools earn Pivotal Practice Awards from the State of California.

As we look forward to another incredible year in Norwalk-La Mirada, we will continue the vision laid out by our coherence framework toward the goal of college and career readiness of our students. We achieve this through a focus on Social Emotional Learning and Academic Rigor. These pillars are supported by data-driven dialogue and collective efficacy. Targeted professional development and resources for mental health and wellness ensure our students receive a top-notch experience both in and out of the classroom. In addition, the community-backed Measure G bond ensures our students will experience modern facilities and amenities to deliver the best campus environment during their journey.

The future is bright for Norwalk-La Mirada!



**Dr. John M. Lopez**  
Superintendent

### ¡El futuro es brillante para Norwalk-La Mirada!

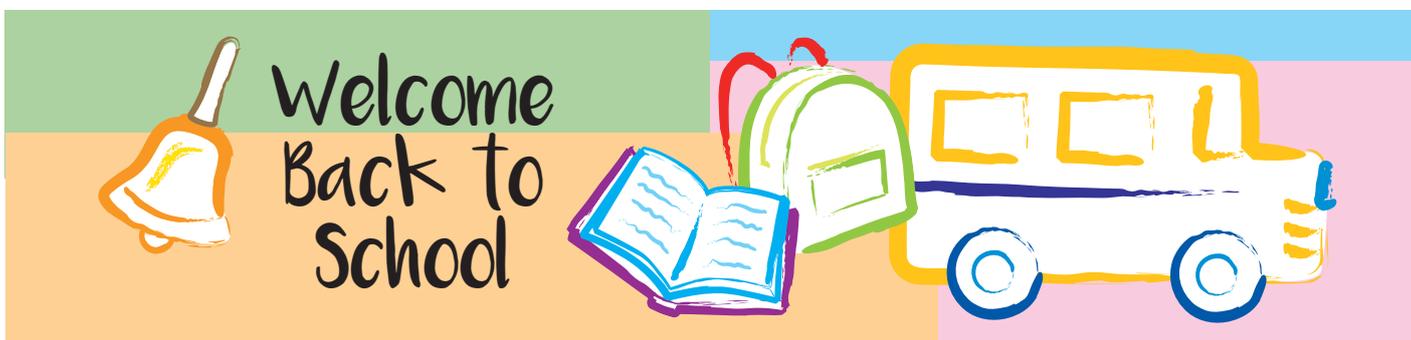
El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada convierte a los estudiantes en líderes del mañana mediante la creación de un entorno que fomenta la creatividad y el pensamiento crítico. En combinación con las tecnologías emergentes, los estudiantes no solo están preparados para la universidad y la carrera, sino que también tienen una comprensión profunda del compromiso cívico para retribuir a su comunidad.

Parte de este objetivo es un esfuerzo colectivo entre nuestros maestros, personal de apoyo y administradores para construir un entorno que fomente el desarrollo y la propiedad de todo nuestro personal. Esto fomenta una cultura de crecimiento, construyendo la mentalidad que apoya el aprendizaje, la innovación y la acción. Cultivar la eficacia colectiva enfoca la experiencia combinada de nuestros maestros en un propósito colectivo para modelar el aprendizaje, dar forma a la cultura y maximizar el enfoque en el aprendizaje. La eficacia colectiva es fundamental para el impulso positivo que tenemos para el año escolar 2022-23.

El año pasado, vimos a los estudiantes ganar una variedad de premios y becas para instituciones postsecundarias, los educadores obtuvieron elogios locales y nacionales por sus esfuerzos en el salón de clases, un sitio escolar ganó nuestro quinto premio CSBA Golden Bell consecutivo, y nuestro Distrito y 14 notables escuelas ganan Premios de Práctica Pivotal del Estado de California.

Mientras esperamos otro año increíble en Norwalk-La Mirada, continuaremos con la visión establecida por nuestro marco de coherencia hacia la meta de la preparación universitaria y profesional de nuestros estudiantes. Logramos esto a través de un enfoque en el aprendizaje socioemocional y el rigor académico. Estos pilares están respaldados por el diálogo basado en datos y la eficacia colectiva. El desarrollo profesional específico y los recursos para la salud mental y el bienestar garantizan que nuestros estudiantes reciban una experiencia de primer nivel tanto dentro como fuera del aula. Además, el bono de la Medida G respaldado por la comunidad garantiza que nuestros estudiantes experimenten instalaciones y servicios modernos para brindar el mejor ambiente en el campus durante su viaje.

¡El futuro es brillante para Norwalk-La Mirada!



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### Greetings and Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year!

*By Norma Amezcua,  
President, NLMUSD Board of Education*

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is ready and eager for another year of learning and achievement. Our shared goal is to ensure that staff is equipped with the necessary tools and resources to help students become college and career ready, while also learning the importance of giving back to our communities to keep them strong and engaged.

As we move forward, one of our highest priorities this year will be our student, staff, and school safety. Our goal is to equip and modernize schools with the necessary safety upgrades as well as to re-evaluate and update emergency plans. The safety of our students and staff will always be our number one priority.

It has been exciting to see all sports and activities at our schools come back to full speed as our NLM community is enjoying the use of our new fields and gymnasiums. Thanks to the community-backed Measure G, we still have several school projects that should be completed in the next few years. We are also excited to have hired additional mental health staff that are helping and supporting our students with their social emotional learning. Our wellness centers at our high schools have been a great resource for our students as well.

Lastly, I would like to thank our entire NLMUSD Team which includes teachers, classified staff, and administrators for their passion and dedication in serving our students day in and day out. A special thanks to our Superintendent Dr. John Lopez for his leadership and commitment to our district.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we would like to thank everyone for putting their best foot forward, even during the hard times we have faced. Together we can ensure our motto always stands: "Every Student, Future Ready, Our Promise!"

### ¡Saludos y bienvenidos al año escolar 2022-2023!

*By Norma Amezcua,  
Presidenta de la Junta de Educación del NLMUSD*

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada está listo y ansioso por otro año de aprendizaje y logros. Nuestro objetivo compartido es garantizar que el personal esté equipado con las herramientas y los recursos necesarios para ayudar a los estudiantes a estar preparados para la universidad y la carrera, al mismo tiempo que aprenden la importancia de retribuir a nuestras comunidades para mantenerlos fuertes y comprometidos.

A medida que avanzamos, una de nuestras principales prioridades este año será la seguridad de nuestros estudiantes, el personal y la escuela. Nuestro objetivo es equipar y modernizar las escuelas con las actualizaciones de seguridad necesarias, así como reevaluar y actualizar los planes de emergencia. La seguridad de nuestros estudiantes y personal siempre será nuestra prioridad número uno.

Ha sido emocionante ver que todos los deportes y actividades en nuestras escuelas vuelven a toda velocidad mientras nuestra comunidad de NLM disfruta del uso de nuestros nuevos campos y gimnasios. Gracias a la Medida G respaldada por la comunidad, todavía tenemos varios proyectos escolares que deberían completarse en los próximos años. También estamos emocionados de haber contratado personal adicional de salud mental que está ayudando y apoyando a nuestros estudiantes con su aprendizaje social y emocional. Nuestros centros de bienestar en nuestras escuelas secundarias también han sido un gran recurso para nuestros estudiantes.

Por último, me gustaría agradecer a todo nuestro equipo de NLMUSD, que incluye maestros, personal clasificado y administradores por su pasión y dedicación al servicio de nuestros estudiantes día tras día. Un agradecimiento especial a nuestro Superintendente Dr. John López por su liderazgo y compromiso con nuestro distrito.

En nombre de la Junta de Educación, nos gustaría agradecer a todos por dar lo mejor de sí mismos, incluso durante los tiempos difíciles que hemos enfrentado. Juntos podemos asegurar que nuestro lema siempre se mantenga: "Cada estudiante. Preparado para el futuro. ¡Nuestra promesa!"

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**CANDICE W.**  
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*Netragrednik*

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Covering the  
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Welcome to a new school year. On page 3 Superintendent Dr. Lopez begins this issue with his message the future is bright for Norwalk-La Mirada!

This is our 12th year publishing the NLMUSD School News. There have been many changes, but the

one constant is focus on academic excellence.

On pages 26 & 27 we have included our popular student book reviews. If your child would like to review favorite books, please email me for specifics.

Our next issue is May 10.



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**Mindy Chung**  
*Director*

## Starting Today for a Better Tomorrow

With employment trends on the rise, students are returning to get trained for jobs in rewarding careers through the many short-term career training programs offered at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School. Classes in childcare professions, real estate, and welding are full and students are well underway to being certified in their chosen profession. Students in various healthcare occupations training are also busy with both classroom and hands-on internship experiences to reach their employment goals. In addition to the short-term career training opportunities, students are returning for adult basic skills, high school diploma, and to learn English as a Second Language. At the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School, students are taking steps today for a better tomorrow. For more information or to enroll in our next sessions, check out our brochure on [nlmas.org](http://nlmas.org) or call (562) 210-3990.



**Students in the Child Development class are learning about both the cognitive and social growth and development of children.**

## Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/210-4205 • [www.nlmusdpreschool.org](http://www.nlmusdpreschool.org)



**Laurel Parker**  
*Director*

### Full Inclusion Preschool

We are proud to announce that in collaboration with the Special Education Department, on September 6th, we opened a full inclusion preschool class at Sanchez Elementary in room 21. Norwalk-La Mirada USD received grant funding from the California Department of Education's Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program to build inclusive classrooms for preschoolers, and then to duplicate the model in other grades.

This State Preschool class is jointly funded by Special Education and the Preschool Program, each contributing a teacher and a paraeducator. This class of 24 students is co-taught by both teachers, who contribute their expertise to support the students' learning. The class has several students with identified disabilities, but we challenge you to find them!

Many thanks to Beth Nishida, Special Education Executive Director, Maricela Lopez-Harvin, Director, Dr. Laurie Watkins, Program Specialist, and Alicia Rubio, Principal, for their commitment making this idea a reality.



**Teacher Veronica Buenrostro with three students.**

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English

### APLIQUE HOY PARA EL PROGRAMA HEAD START

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Español



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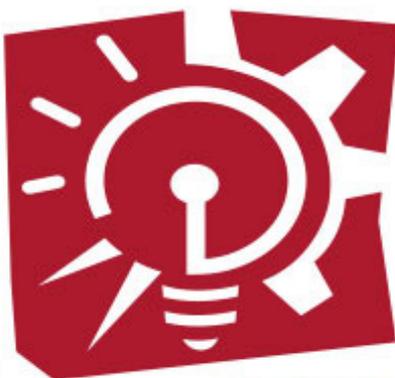
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## Rest & Proper Training Can Help Keep Your Child Healthy During Fall Sports



**Eric J. Wong, MD, FAAP**  
pediatrician,  
MemorialCare  
Medical Group  
San Juan  
Capistrano

Now that school is back in session, active young children and teenagers are going to start getting back into playing the sports they love for their school or club teams. While having them be physically active is important, it is equally as important to remember to ensure their safety, especially with fall and winter sports, such as football, soccer and basketball.

Physically intensive sports like football and basketball leave children at high risk of injuries such as:

- Fractures • ACL/Knee injuries
- Muscle strains and contusions
- Sprains, commonly within the ankles or hands
- Shoulder injuries

Fortunately, much of the risk for these injuries can be mitigated. Encouraging your child to warm up before, and stretching after physical activity, are also a very effective, yet overlooked, ways to prevent injuries, especially overuse injuries, sprains, and strains.

Warming up increases the blood flow in your child's body, allowing more oxygen to reach their muscles, which helps your child's body perform more effectively.

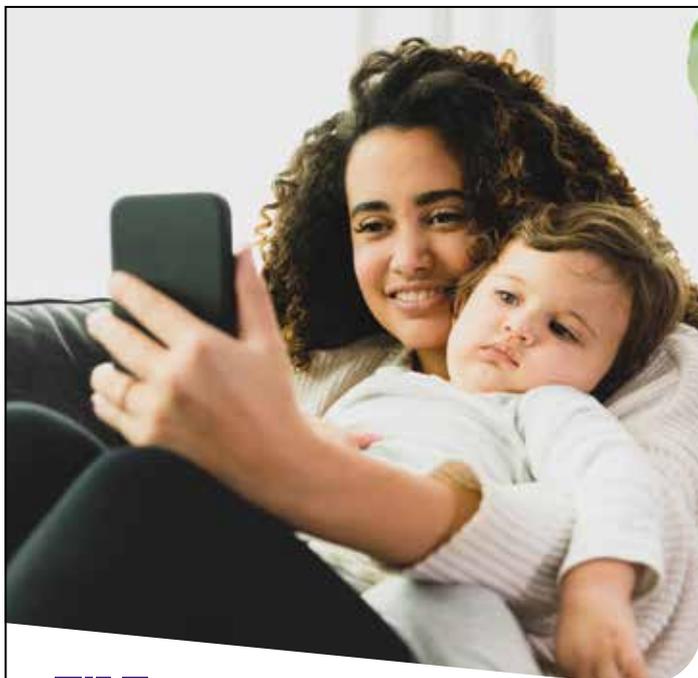
Stretching afterwards allows your child's body to not only maintain the joints' range of motion, but maintains the muscles' flexibility, strength, and health, allowing them to heal more efficiently.

Children who are actively participating or wish to participate in sports should understand when it is time for them to stop training, as rest is often overlooked in the pursuit of self-improvement. To avoid muscle strains and ligament and joint injuries, athletes need to give their bodies enough time to properly heal.

Encouraging and supporting your child to practice these safety tips will leave them better prepared to protect themselves from injury out on the field.

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# Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2500 • [www.bentonms.org](http://www.bentonms.org)



**Robin Ridgeway**  
Principal

## Benton PRIDE

Benton Middle School is off to a great start for the new school year with a new administrative team. Robin Ridgeway is now serving as Principal, and Benton welcomed Lilia Alcalá as Assistant Principal.



We are gearing up for music and vocal concerts in October, and the theatrical performance of *Comic Book Artist* in November.

Benton anticipates success with all of our students as we progress through the school year fulfilling our vision of empowering students to achieve academic success in a creative visual and performing arts environment.

In early August, in-coming students attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, meeting their 8<sup>th</sup> Grade WEB Leaders, interacting with other students, forming new friendships, and learning to navigate middle school and the Benton campus.

Students have been learning what it means to have Benton PRIDE and how they can demonstrate our PRIDE values of *Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence.*



# Corvallis *MS STEAM Magnet*

11032 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4125 • [www.corvallisms.org](http://www.corvallisms.org)



**Dr. Nancy Ruvalcaba**  
Principal

## Gear Up Week

Corvallis finished up celebrating our very first ever GEAR UP week during the last week of September! We were excited to kick off the celebration with a school wide scavenger hunt where students had to ask staff background questions on their own college experience. The rest of the week included a Family Resource Fair, student raffles, and photobooth during lunch time.

GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally funded educational program aimed to increase the number of students from Title I schools who are ready to apply and enter a college or university. The program will follow our current 7th and 8th grade students as they transition to high school to continue to provide them with in-class tutoring, enrichment activities, and 1 - 1 goal setting check-ins. Corvallis is excited to have become a GEAR UP school!



# Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2560 • [www.dollandes.org](http://www.dollandes.org)



**Dr. Lorena Sierra**  
*Principal*

## Building Connections

We understand the importance of social-emotional well-being and at Dolland have decided to become very intentional about building strong relationships between students and staff. As a school, we have all committed to conduct Morning Meetings across every classroom. To create a responsive classroom, a Morning Meeting is an

engaging way to start each day, by helping us build a strong sense of community, and set each student up for success socially and academically. Each morning, students and teachers gather together in a circle for fifteen minutes and interact with one another as they build towards the following four purposeful components:

1. Greeting: Students and teachers greet one other by name.
2. Sharing: Students share information about important events in their lives.
3. Group Activity: Everyone participates in a brief, lively activity that fosters group cohesion and helps students practice social and academic skills.



4. Morning Message: Students read and interact with a short message written by their teacher. The message is crafted to help students focus on the work they'll do in school that day.

We are excited to see how this impacts our classroom and school community and look forward to sharing the stories and connections we create during this powerful and important time of the day.

# Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2610 • [www.dulleselementary.org](http://www.dulleselementary.org)



**Shanti Gallegos**  
*Principal*

## Developing Future Leaders

At Dulles, we are developing leaders! Our Dolphin Leaders are a group of fourth- and fifth-grade students that meet regularly to plan and record our weekly Dolphin Assembly. They are also the student voice that makes recommendations from the student perspective.

Our Dolphin Jr.

Coaches are a group of third- through fifth-grade students that meet regularly to learn how to support our younger students with a safe and fun recess. They lead games and help the students follow the game rules. Both groups of student leaders make a commitment to follow our school rules, maintain their academics, and also sign a contract.

Some of the skills they are developing in this role include confidence, self-esteem, professionalism, the importance of being on time, how to take direction,

problem-solving, how to work with others, presentation skills, and how to take pride as a school leader.

Courtesy, self-awareness, negotiation skills, and responsibility are other skills that we focus on as well. Dolphin student leaders inspire our community with their leadership abilities as they develop the kind of life skills that can be taken to middle school and into the rest of their lives.



# Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2560 • [www.eastwoodelem.org](http://www.eastwoodelem.org)



**Darryll Ramsey Jr.**  
*Principal*

## **Innovation and Exploration**

The start of the year was an exciting time where we were able to unveil new additions to the Eastwood campus. Thanks to the donations of our PTA, the support of the College and Career Pathways and Instructional Technology, and the design and planning of our iTOSA,

we have opened our brand-new Innovation and Exploration Lab (aka eLAB). This space was created to provide hands-on, creative experiences that encourage students to design, experiment, build, and invent as they engage in collaboration and cross-disciplinary learning. When classes visit the eLAB, they can practice coding with Dash & Dot robots, challenge their thinking with logic puzzles, work in small groups designing products across various makerspaces, explore 3D printing, and so much more! Our community is excited for this new venture and we cannot wait to see all the learning experiences that will take place in the eLAB!



**4th/5th grade students working in the eLAB**

# Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4440 • [www.edmondson elementary.org](http://www.edmondson elementary.org)



**Sharon Stewart**  
*Principal*

## **Learning and Growing Together with COTSEN**

Edmondson Elementary is honored to have been selected as a COTSEN school for the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school years. Our COTSEN team of teachers is led by our magnificent mentor, Mrs. Covarrubias.

She is coaching and learning alongside our COTSEN fellows: Mrs. Robledo, Mrs. Cave, Mrs. Sosa, and Miss Schroeder; all in service of Edmondson students. Our team is excited about learning and growing together, specifically focusing in on the instructional areas of Mathematics and Writing. They are already full steam ahead with attending professional development trainings, immediately implementing first best instructional strategies learned, and engaging together in the coaching cycle. Our COTSEN journey is off to a great start!



**Mrs. Covarrubias, our COTSEN Mentor, is leading a monthly inquiry meeting after school with our COTSEN Fellows, as just one type of the many professional development opportunities this team will engage in throughout the years.**

# El Camino *High School*

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3595 • [www.elcaminocarousel.org](http://www.elcaminocarousel.org)



**Mark Hunter**  
*Principal*

## Stay in Your Lane

El Camino High School students were treated to a special assembly on Thursday, September 15 on distracted driving. The LA County Public Health Department's Teen Motor Vehicle Safety Program provided the presentation. The

three speakers were very interactive. Students participated in car safety trivia, worked in small groups, and won prizes for answering the questions correctly and for participating. Students learned that the most common forms of distracted driving are texting & driving, mindless driving (not focusing), and eating or drinking while driving. El Camino plans on partnering with the LA County Public Health Department for future presentations that can benefit students and the community.



**El Camino students were treated to a wonderful class presentation on the dangers of distracted driving.**

# Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2745 • [www.escalonaelem.org](http://www.escalonaelem.org)



**Bonnie Lytle**  
*Principal*

## It's Great to Be an Eagle!

Our Escalona Eagles are excited about this new school year and the new learning that will take place. We are challenging our students to be problem solvers, critical thinkers and Eagles of Character!

In addition to our solid curriculum that addresses the standards in ELA and mathematics, we are also continuing to address the social-emotional needs of our students through our Second Step curriculum. This curriculum teaches important skills such as how to work cooperatively, how to develop and maintain appropriate friendships, and how to show kindness and acceptance to others.

Every Friday, our students are also enjoying music and physical education classes taught by our district's expert teachers. This year, our fifth-grade students have the option of learning a wind instrument or being in the choir. We will also continue to introduce our students to historically well-known art masters through the Meet the Masters program. This year our students will be learning about Frederic Remington, Auguste Renoir, and Andy Warhol.

Escalona's PTA has been very busy planning fun events for the year! Our first fundraiser is our annual Jog-a-thon, which took place at the end of September, followed by Red Ribbon Week, the Book Fair, and our annual Character Parade in October. If you have not done so already, please join our PTA and help support our students at Escalona! Go, Eagles!

School News Roll Call  
Welcomes You  
Back to School!



# Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2790 • [www.fosterstars.org](http://www.fosterstars.org)



**Salvador Villagomez**  
*Principal*

## Foster Road is Brightening Up!

Foster Road is looking to build upon our success from the 2021-2022 school year. Our IReady academic markers for 2021-2022 demonstrated extraordinary academic growth in both ELA and Math. Our hard work as teachers, parents and students allowed us to shine. This year, we will be implementing year 2 of our plan towards becoming a STEAM school. Our focus on Math, Art, and Engineering will continue to help us

yield positive academic results and increase student engagement. We are also making efforts to expand our PBIS & social emotional learning programs. Our enriched classroom and school environments are helping increase positive messaging and helping support the emotional growth of our scholars. At Foster Road, we are striving to encourage growth in all areas.



**Positive signage is on full display throughout the school and inside classrooms.**

Be a STAR, be Safe, Trustworthy, Accepting, and Respectful.

# Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2840 • [www.gardenhill.org](http://www.gardenhill.org)



**Sarah Gilbert**  
*Principal*

## Cognitively Guided Math

Gardenhill has been working hard in the area of CGI, Cognitively Guided

Math Instruction, and continues to build our students' critical thinking and foundational skills. As a community of learners, we are always thinking of ways to engage our students in critical thinking and academic conversations. CGI practices are a great way to engage and support students in both areas while building strong foundational understanding and skills in math. Mrs. Gersbacher provides rich opportunities for her first and second grade combo students to analyze, communicate, and build community in their classroom.



**Mrs. Gersbacher and Her 1st and 2nd Grade Mathematicians!**

CGI practices are evident school wide in all grade levels, and we are proud of the work our students are doing. We look forward to another year of growing and learning with our community!

# Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2890 • [www.glazierelementary.org](http://www.glazierelementary.org)



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
*Principal*

## **A great start at Glazier for the '22-'23 school year!**

We are thrilled that Glazier will be receiving four grants through LACOE, thanks to the talented writing of our teachers and Site Intervention Team! This funding supports campus-wide Restorative Practices (\$75,000), Glazier Garden (two at \$10,000 each), and Childhood Health and Well-being (\$10,000). We look forward to

showcasing the leadership and engagement that these grants will bring to our students and staff.

During August and September, Glazier Staff focused on a strong foundation of social-emotional supports for the new school year. As the saying goes, “Kids don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” Indeed, Glazier staff has a deep love for our students and families, creating a great environment for growing and learning together. As the COVID-19 protocols allow, we welcome our community to volunteer, supporting our Gladiators with foundational reading and math skills toward life-long success. Please call our office for more information.



**Glazier PTA expands our home-school partnership with a monthly Dine Out event mascot visiting with Gladiators during dismissal.**

# John Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3000 • [www.jghs.org](http://www.jghs.org)



**Dr. Jennifer Padilla**  
*Principal*

## **A Community in Orbit. Our Mission: Student Success!**

As a community, we have already begun to celebrate the amazing successes of our stakeholders.

John Glenn High School seniors, Diego Contreras and Stany Hernandez, and Southeast Academy High School senior, Maryann Park-Cuniberti, earned the National Hispanic Recognition Award for their academic achievement as well as high performance on College Board assessments. This program grants students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country.

Our counseling team has also been recognized for their focus on student achievement. The California Association of School Counselors presented them with the distinguished Exemplary School Counseling Program Award. This award recognizes one school counseling program in California that has developed and implemented a comprehensive school counseling program based on the ASCA National Model. Glenn is the first school to receive this prestigious Inaugural Award!



**Congratulations to JGHS Seniors, Diego Contreras and Stany Hernandez, recipients of the National Hispanic Recognition Award from College Board!**

# Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2945 • [www.hutchinsonhawks.org](http://www.hutchinsonhawks.org)



**Jenny Bae**  
*Principal*

## Exciting New STEM Offerings

Hutchinson Middle School has taken a giant leap in offering a variety of opportunities in computer science during the 2022-2023 school year! Eighth grade students can take PLTW Computer Science Essentials to prepare for high school engineering and computer science courses. This honors class gives our students a head start

on high school, allowing them to earn high school credit while still in eighth grade. We are also excited to share that, as a part of Amazon's Future Engineer program/Project STEM, all Hutchinson students can learn computer science fundamentals to create video games, create art and storytelling projects, and explore the impact of artificial intelligence on our everyday lives. Finally, we are kicking off October by introducing Wearable Technology to our Femineer program, a perfect compliment to the Creative Robotics course we offered last year. This after school club provides opportunities for our students to engage in creating projects that merge art, fashion, and computer science!



# Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3120 • [www.ddjohnstonelementary.org](http://www.ddjohnstonelementary.org)



**Dr. Krystal Jones**  
*Principal*

## Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Kind.

Our Roadrunners have learned about school expectations to ensure they feel safe and happy while learning. Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program (PBIS) focuses on students being safe,

respectful,  
responsible,

and kind in all school settings.

We teach students expectations in the cafeteria, playground, restrooms, office, and hallways. Students who are observed demonstrating an expectation earn a Golden Ticket and are entered in a raffle.

During flag assemblies, students build community by taking turns leading the

flag salute and Character Counts! pledge. At the end of the assembly, Dr. Jones picks 15 Golden Tickets and reads their names. Students come up to spin the wheel as the school is cheering them on. The wheel includes prizes such as lunch with the principal, extra recess with a friend, a snack...etc. Each week we look forward to celebrating those students who win the raffle! Way to go Roadrunners!



**Golden ticket winners ready to spin the prize wheel during our Friday flag assembly.**

# La Mirada *High School*

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3315 • [www.lamiradahs.org](http://www.lamiradahs.org)



**Ben Webster**  
*Principal*

## Learning and Earning

Over the summer, La Mirada High School had 12 high school students working as mentors for the Skilled Trades Summers, a program that provides hands-on welding and engineering classes led by teachers Brent Tuttle and Raul Pena.

Skilled Trades Summers was launched by a large local freight tools company, and is dedicated to the advancement of skilled trades education in United States public high schools. Students receive technical training, participate in workplace-based learning experiences, and earn a summer wage.

The program, now in its second year, aims to inspire the expansion of skilled trades programs in public high schools across the region. La Mirada also had 40 middle school students participate this past summer.

Through our program, the mentors learned how to train students in welding

and fabrication and earned their OSHA 10 certification. The middle school students welded a barbecue and produced a cutting board. Mentors were paid \$15/hour for 100 hours. The middle school students earned gift cards from the company, were given a bag of tools, and kept all items built.



# La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3205 • [www.laplumaelementary.org](http://www.laplumaelementary.org)



**Maureen Bixby**  
*Principal*

## Making Math Matter

La Pluma students, teachers and staff are ready to learn together! We are excited about the opportunities this year will bring and we are committed to excellence for all! We are beginning our third year in partnership with The Cotsen Foundation. La Pluma is committed to deepening our understanding

in content knowledge and school-wide implementation of our signature math practice of CGI through attending professional development, engaging in grade level collaboration, inviting community involvement, shifting our thinking to be open and reflective to new thinking and best practices. Our teachers are collecting student data to drive our instruction so that all students see themselves as mathematicians and problem solvers. Our students are engaged in hands-on problem-solving activities, counting collections and daily math routines. We are looking forward to a successful year of making math matter at La Pluma Elementary!



**1st grade students collaborating during a counting collection activity.**

# Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3255 • [www.lamptonschool.org](http://www.lamptonschool.org)



**Cindy Rayburn**  
*Principal*

## Social Emotional Learning

As we returned to campus instruction after the Covid pandemic shutdown, our Lampton teachers noted the need for more social emotional learning for our students. For many children, there was a strong need for effective “mindfulness” activities to help with calming and self-regulation.

All of our classrooms have continued with instruction using the Second Steps Social Emotional Learning Curriculum. Our second grade jumped in with understanding their own emotions and practicing breathing techniques. The third grade took on morning meetings to help the children get into a positive mindset for the day’s learning.



The successes that we saw in these grade levels inspired all of our grade levels this year to take on these mindfulness activities. Most grade levels are now doing daily morning meetings, and one grade level has even taken on a personal journaling of their feelings, with their teachers also responding to their feelings in writing.

During the summer-time expanded program, our TK-2 team incorporated social emotional learning into three daily rotations for students: language arts, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), and “Yoga and Mindfulness.”

Mrs. Guzman from the second grade also welcomed all of our TK-2 summer learners to her daily yoga instruction. This was such a hit that

Lampton has created a special Yoga Room for our teachers to bring their classes in for yoga instruction using a video program called *Cosmic Yoga*. Check out our little ones doing their yoga poses. Namaste, Dolphins!

# Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3495 • [www.losalisosmiddle.org](http://www.losalisosmiddle.org)



**Tania Magana**  
*Principal*

## Collaboration and Equity

We are excited to welcome back our Lobos to Los Alisos Middle School! Our entire staff is ready to engage and provide our students an amazing experience that will support and insure access to a rigorous, equitable and engaging academic year.

It is a priority that our school continue to foster collaborative relationships with parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and our community, by creating a culture where everybody belongs to our Lobo family. It is our mission to provide students with high quality instruction, enriching activities and equitable access that supports all students in a safe and caring learning environment.

Working together, we can create a positive learning environment where every student, as a member of the LOBOS family, comes to school ready to develop their college and career skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century. Let’s have a wonderful 2022-2023 school year!



# Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3650 • [www.moffittmax.org](http://www.moffittmax.org)



**Gabriela Galvez-Reyna**  
*Principal*

## Reflective Practices for Positive Behavior

At Moffitt Elementary, we believe that our students should have a safe and secure learning environment, and access to an equitable education. All of our students will be prepared to meet the challenges of the future

as citizens of a culturally diverse society.

To accomplish this goal, we have added two new practices this school year that will help our students learn how to solve problems, and provide them with the opportunity to reflect upon whether their behaviors or decisions have had a negative impact on themselves or others.

During the week of September 26, our students learned the different ways of solving problems. On Thursday, September 29 specifically, we focused on using our problem-solving skills to “team up against bullies.” On this



**Moffitt Elementary Students “ Team Up-Against Bullies” wearing their team’s shirt happily learning strategies to solve problems together.**

day our students and staff members were encouraged to wear their favorite sports team shirt.

To encourage reflective behavior, the students who make a perceived negative choice will now take the time to engage in a “reflection walk” and jot down their ideas about what they can do differently the next time they encounter the same problem or feeling.

# Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3710 • [www.morrisonigers.org](http://www.morrisonigers.org)



**Patrick Lazo**  
*Principal*

## Water Fill Stations

The start of the 22-23 school year has been amazing but it also has been a warm one to say the least. Recently through District support and funding Morrison elementary has received new water filler stations. Students were ecstatic to now have these

on campus. Many stated that the water tasted great and that its cold. All Morrison tiger students were grateful for having these new water station on campus. One student even noticed the positive effect on the environment these water stations will have. 5th grade student Susana Gutierrez stated the following,“ I really find the plastic bottles saved counting feature interesting as it shows we care about earth and our environment.” These water stations continue to be the talk of the campus and our tigers are extremely grateful for them.



**5th Grade Susana Gutierrez reusing her water bottle at the new water fill station.**

# New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3770 • [www.newriverelementary.org](http://www.newriverelementary.org)



**Jody Gardner**  
*Principal*

## Knights Kick Off the New School Year in a Helpful Way!

We were excited to welcome back all our Knights back for the 2022-2023 school year! The year began with our first in-person Back to School Night since COVID, with the largest turnout at our annual Title 1 meeting in years. Partnering with families is a priority at New River, and we appreciate that they

took the time to connect with teachers to learn about classroom expectations and ways to support their children at home. We were also surprised by a visit from The SoCal Honda Dealer's Helpful Team in Blue who spread some Random Acts of Helpfulness by giving each student a free book! We look forward to continuing our partnership with families and the community this year by growing our parent teacher organization (PTO). If you have time to help, please contact our school office.



# Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3830 • [www.norwalklancers.org](http://www.norwalklancers.org)



**Dr. David M. Olea**  
*Principal*

## Encouraging Connectedness

Norwalk High School (NHS) will be opening a Dream Resource Center ("Dream Center") by Helpline Youth Counseling (HYC). Through this partnership with the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD), HYC will provide services in the goal areas of youth leadership development, social emotional wellness, and community and civic engagement.

The Dream Resource Center model is a joint project with the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, the LA vs. Hate program, the Asian Youth Center, and HYC. Our goal is to provide an additional resource center on campus that provides a safe place for marginalized groups and all NHS students.

The Dream Center staff will be working with the school community to transform pandemic-impacted schools to

become safe, supportive, and healthy spaces for historically targeted and vulnerable groups; provide services and resources that engage youth; address the impact of social isolation; and provide printers, bandwidth, school supplies, hygiene supplies, snacks, field trips, and support services for students, such as peer-to-peer counseling, peer mediation, parent engagement workshops, or restorative practices.

The philosophy and approach of the Dream Center will help to enable student empowerment, school and community involvement through civic engagement, a safe space for all students, and the development of critical consciousness, social justice, and educational equity with teacher allies.

The NHS team is looking forward to the work ahead. One of our goals at NHS is to foster a school culture where all of our students, staff, and stakeholders feel a sense of belonging and connectedness.

# Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4060 • [www.nufferelementary.org](http://www.nufferelementary.org)



**Makara Sar**  
*Principal*

## **PBIS Station Trainings Kick-Off the New School Year**

At Nuffer Elementary STEAM Academy we teach explicitly how to behave in the different areas of the campus. Our stations include the office, cafeteria, bathrooms, water fountains, library and playground. Classroom expectations are reviewed by the classroom teacher.

When students are following these expectations they get rewarded with Bobcat Bucks. They can save their money and shop in our monthly Bobcat Store to buy school supplies or toys.

Not only do our students receive individual rewards, but every teacher has a classroom reward. Students are expected to work as a team in the classroom to learn their material. When this happens each class has a system in place to earn either points or marbles. When this happens the class earns a group reward from the PTO. The rewards can include pizza or popsicle parties. We love that our students feel it is important to do well for each other.



**Our second grade students are learning how to enter the office from Ms. Aguilera our Attendance Clerk.**

# Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4315 • [www.sanchezelementary.org](http://www.sanchezelementary.org)



**Alicia Rubio**  
*Principal*

## **Engagement through the Arts**

Students are excited to be back in school. It's critical that our students are in school and learning every day. As a result, we applied and were fortunate enough to receive a grant to increase that engagement. During the third year of the grant, our students enjoyed a Brazilian dance assembly.

Students learned about the Brazilian culture, its blend of cultures as well as its frequently-used instruments, traditional dances and music. Our students loved the learning and are looking forward to other activities we have planned. Our Dragons will be engaged in various other activities as well. Some of those activities include more assemblies, visual arts lessons, family arts activities, learning to play various instruments as well becoming a part of our choir. Currently, families have been encouraged to create a heritage project together that will be displayed and shared with the rest of the students.



# Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4700 • [www.southeastacademy.org](http://www.southeastacademy.org)



**MSgt. Marty Schafer**  
*USMC, Director*

## Academic and Career Focused

Southeast Academy offers cadets the opportunity to develop important career skills within a challenging academic framework. This school-wide career related study which is unique to Southeast Academy, is designed to prepare cadets for college level work and employment. Career pathways focus heavily on application of knowledge and skills in realistic, day-to-day contexts. Cadets who are interested in Public

Services, Law Enforcement, Military, First Responders and Fire Sciences can explore in depth whether they are on the right career path. We focus on ethical issues within the public services by teaching cadets how to be successful leaders. Cadets master career-specific concepts and theories in our daily school-wide real-world context. For example, our daily inspection of homework and uniforms helps teach consistency and responsibility. Whatever career choice cadets choose, they graduate with an understanding of what it takes to be successful leaders in a college and career environment.

# Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4370 • [www.waitemiddle.org](http://www.waitemiddle.org)



**Adriana Nakano**  
*Principal*

## Thinking Maps

Teachers in all content areas are exploring Thinking Maps with their students. Thinking Maps are a set of 8 visual patterns that correlate to specific cognitive processes.

They are used across all grades and content areas to build the critical thinking, problem-solving, comprehension, and communication skills necessary for academic success in every domain. By December, students will have all 8 maps as tools to add to their toolbox for writing assignments!

CSULB and Gear Up have partnered to support 7th and 8th grades students at Waite MS. Gear Up is a program that provides support services, and interventions needed to earn a high school diploma and enroll into college. This week is National Gear Up Week with many



activities planned for students and their families. Each day is filled with engaging activities. Gear Up has been a wonderful addition on the Waite campus!



## Aubtin's Review



**Aubtin M.**

### Teamwork

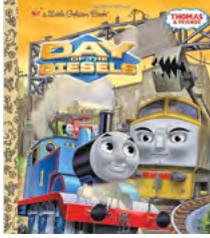
Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*

Author: Christopher Awdry

On the Island of Sodor, Thomas the tank engine and Percy the small engine are best friends. When Belle; the fire engine comes, she becomes Thomas's new friend.

Percy feels very left out. Percy goes to the Diesel Works to see if the Diesels want to make friends with him. Percy leads the Diesels to the Steam Works, when he discovers that Thomas is held prisoner in the Diesel Works. What will happen to Thomas? Will Percy save him? I recommend you read this book to see what happens.

I learned about friendship, teamwork and cooperation from this book. I hope you will too. You will find great pictures in this book.



Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, and music. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

## Jenna's Review



**Jenna C.**

### Have it all!

Title: *Almanac 2021*

Which language has the most first language speakers? You might want to hit up for an almanac. What's an almanac? It's basically a book that speaks facts. Maybe you

don't like that type of person, but you might like that type of book. Maybe you can also learn more things like, do you want to know where Alexander the Great was buried? How future homes may be built? Studying rocks? It has it all. From wanting to study stars to knowing about the coolest cats, you can imagine. It's as real as red being red and green being green but, as versatile as the library books.



Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

## Daniel's Review

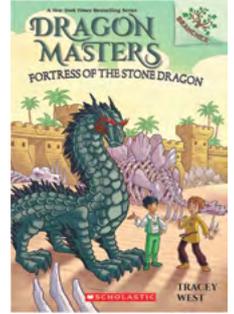


**Daniel H.**

### Dragon Masters

In *Fortress of the Stone Dragon* (Dragon Masters #17) an evil wizard named Astrid is trying to rule the world and someone must stop her!

Dragon Masters Drake and Mina, with their dragons Frost and Worm, must get to another Dragon Master, Caspar, and his dragon Shaka (the Stone Dragon) to get help to defeat Astrid. This story had a lot of action, dragons, and magic. I really liked this book because it was fun to read. You should read this too!



Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.

## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

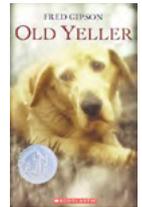
### Hardest Decision to Make!

*Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson

is about a stray dog and his relationship with the family who found him. Travis is a 14-year-old teenager who is left in charge of the ranch while his father travels to a different city. Travis meets

a stray dog who steals his meat one morning and really dislikes that dog. However, Travis's little brother (Arliss) wants to keep the dog. Mom lets the dog stay. The family calls him "Old Yeller". Mom's decision to keep the dog makes Travis even more upset since Travis is supposed to be in charge of the ranch while dad is gone. Will Travis and Old Yeller ever get along? Will the stray dog ever win Travis's heart?

There is a lot of feelings, tension and excitement in this book. Reading this book taught me that there will be many difficult life decisions to make when I grow up. I give this book 5 stars.



Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

# Love to Read!

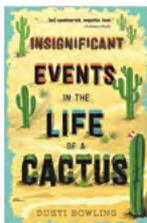
## David's Review



David H.

### Perseverance and Friendship

*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* is a great book about perseverance. The main character, Aven, was born without arms and becomes friends with Connor, a boy who has Tourette syndrome, and Zion, a boy



who gets teased for being overweight. They are all trying to help each other survive middle school while being different. The author has a humorous writing style. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a heartwarming and uplifting read. Enjoy!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.

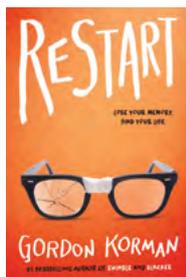
## Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

### A Second Chance, Something Everyone Deserves...

"I remember falling" says the first line of the book *Restart* by Gordon Korman. It describes the reminiscence of the main character Chase Ambrose who has an accident that changes



his life forever. The way the author has displayed this character is incredible.

He writes the story from each character's own point of view which projects a movie inside the reader's head as if they are experiencing it live. Every character plays a role in the main character's life, Shoshana Weber, Bear Bratsky, Aaron Hakimian, Brendan Espinoza, Kimberly Tooley, and Joel Weber. Chase was a bully who would torment others, but when he got amnesia, he changed for the better. The readers may be entertained by the amusing moments in the story such as the time when Brendan drove a tricycle through a carwash! Chase received something rare to everyone, a second chance and that should be deserved by everyone!

Sourish M. is a seventh grader who is enthusiastic to learn more and experience new things. He likes Science and Reading, plays soccer, basketball, guitar, and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours coding and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

## Penny's Review



Penny

### A Wish Gone Awry

Book Title: *Best Wishes*  
Author: Sarah Mlynowski  
Becca is having a terrible day. Her best friend Harper decided that she didn't want to be friends with her. But after her terrible day, a mysterious package arrives for Becca in the mail.



It turns out to be a bracelet with magic powers. Becca wishes that she could have a lot of friends, and the bracelet makes her wish come true. But then everybody wants to be her friend. The kids in her class, the teacher, even her mom! Everyone who reads this book will laugh at all the funny adventures and twists that this book has.

I give it a ten out of ten hearts.

Penny is a 5th grader who loves to read. She enjoys eating ice cream and petting her dog. She wants to be a librarian when she grows up.

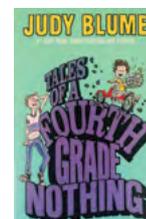
## Taeyoung's Book Review



Taeyoung K.

### Absolutely Nothing

Title: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*  
Author: Judy Blume  
Fourth grade. The days of kickball at recess. The grade of joy. But Peter Hatcher doesn't think so. But that isn't even the problem. His problem lies with Farley



Drexel. Or Fudge as everyone calls him. Fudge is all the world's irritating toddler brothers merged into one. A three-year old terror straight out of the cinema's next horror movie who gets away with all he does. Even if it's smearing some mashed potatoes on the wall of the restaurant or putting stamps all over a bag, he's never punished. Of course, by this point Peter has had enough of his chaotic brother and no-nonsense parents. But his parents are busy with Fudge rather than paying any attention to Peter. After they leave Fudge alone with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle that he cares so much about out, things get ugly. Will Peter solve his problems, or is he truly nothing

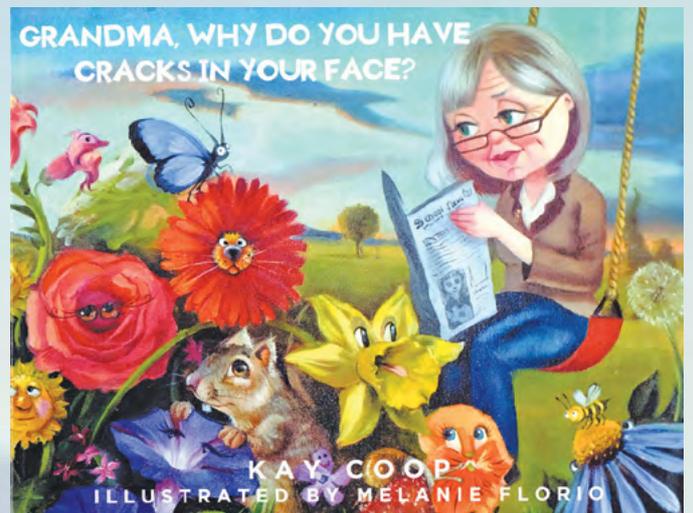
Taeyoung K. is a 7th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

# What's Your Favorite Book?



# Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop  
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



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*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?* Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.