

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District



Volume 17, Issue 89

October / November 2020



**Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving  
(Social Distancing)**

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Russell Lee-Sung**

As the new superintendent of Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) I am honored to lead our dedicated and talented staff who is committed to providing the highest quality education for all students of this diverse community. This being my first opportunity to share in this new role I'd like to start with my personal "why" as an educator.

Almost 35 years ago, I walked into my first classroom as a high school music teacher after graduating from the same school four years earlier. While in high school I knew I wanted to be a teacher and went to college with that objective. Not only did I want to share my love for music but there was a higher purpose. I wanted to prepare kids for life beyond graduation. I wanted them to have opportunities and skills to fulfill their personal goals, both personally and professionally. I believed that building strong character, leadership skills, and social skills were critically important in addition to literacy. I worked each day to give students opportunities to succeed, build self-confidence, learn resilience from failure, and learn how to work and care for others. As I progressed through my career as a principal and district administrator, I continued to keep this purpose at the forefront of my actions and commit to this in my new role as superintendent.

While we all face incredible challenges during this school year, we will continue our focus and attention to support the whole child with strong core instruction, structured support for our diverse learners and connecting and building relationships with each child, particularly in this unique learning environment. Finally, as we all navigate these difficult times it is the best teachable moment to demonstrate our kids about kindness, empathy, and compassion for others.

Thank you for supporting our schools, teachers, staff and each other. I know we will all continue to rise to the challenge and be greater and stronger in the end.

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. This is our 17th year publishing the NMUSD *School News*. There have been many changes throughout the years; however, I think we all agree this is the most challenging. Americans are innovative and educators are at the top of the list. Zoom has taken on a whole new meaning to this generation of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on pages 15. All ages may enter. Also, if your child would like to be a columnist reviewing his/her favorite books, email me for information.

Our next issue is December 2, 2020.

## School News

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Covering the

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# City of Newport Beach



**Will O'Neill**  
Mayor

## Learning Never Stops In Newport Beach

Libraries look different these days, but the knowledge is still there. In fact, there is more knowledge at the Newport Beach Public Library than ever before.

So many students started their scholastic education in the Stahr reading room and moved on to branch libraries or the Central Library's teen center.

But with COVID-induced closure of the libraries this summer, families learned just how powerful their library cards can be.


Library card holders could still check out books thanks to NBPL's leadership on delivering holds earlier than most other library systems. Second, card holders took full advantage of NBPL's incredible eBranch.

Looking to learn a language? Access Rosetta Stone. Want to read magazines or books? Download Libby and Flipster. Interested in age-appropriate documentaries? Kanopy is the place. The databases alone cover everything from finance to literature to legal forms.

While our students have more time in their days outside the normal classroom experience, our NBPL can supplement the asynchronous learning. We are here for you.

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## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • adams.nmusd.us



**Stacy  
deBoom-Howard**  
Principal

### How to Spread Kindness

Welcome back, *amazing* All-Star students and families! We have been thinking of you this summer and have been looking forward to seeing you on Zoom and soon on campus! We are going to continue our focus this year of kindness on campus, online, in the community and at home. Any act of kindness, whether big or small, can have the power

to change someone's day! As we return to campus and look around our community, let's try to bring a smile to someone's face each day!

Here are some ways to spread kindness: Write a letter, follow the school rules, help someone, use sidewalk chalk and write a positive message, give a compliment, help your family clean, say thank you, use good manners, help make dinner, and smile at someone and tell them, "Great job!" I am sure you can think of many more!



## School News

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## Roy O. Andersen *Elementary (K-6)*

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935  
andersen.nmusd.us



**Tiffany Lewis**  
Principal

### Involvement as Parents

Welcome back, Andersen families, to another amazing year! Our staff is excited and ready to partner with all of our students and families to make this the best year yet!

Andersen teachers are ready to welcome your children back to campus. During the year, make sure you are talking with your children about their day, asking them more than about what they have learned: Whom did they talk to? Did they make any new friends? Whom were they kind to? Did they see someone being kind today? Read together every night to make reading a priority, and take an active part in their learning by keeping open communication with your children's teachers.

Our school team is dedicated to helping your children excel academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Our success as a community during distance and in-person learning will come from our ability to work together and closely support one another. We are looking forward to the best school year yet!



## Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • backbay.nmusd.us



**Mike Wagner**  
*Principal*

### Upgrades

We are excited to welcome our students back to campus for in person learning! We have all been working extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure safety of staff and students. Although our daily schedule and the way

that we conduct business has changed, we know that our students are better served in a classroom and with their teachers.

Masks, social distancing and hand washing all a new part of our day-to-day, but having the kids back for in person learning has us all very excited. As we make our way through the “new normal” we will stay positive and push forward!

Over the summer Back Bay/Monte Vista High School received some great upgrades including, a new electronic marquee, new roof, hand sanitizing stations, upgraded air filters in every room, newly painted doors and other areas, along with other general maintenance needs.



## California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • california.nmusd.us



**Ryan Longacre**  
*Principal*

### Building Relationships

With all of the change that students, teachers and parents have endured these past few months, the California Elementary Staff, our Parent Teacher Association and the California School Education Foundation have made a collective commitment to focus this year on people and relationships.

We kicked off the year with a materials-distribution event, and teachers used the opportunity to personalize student Back-to-School bags with welcome letters, special supplies and even some sweet treats. Our PTA helped us welcome students and families onto campus with festive banners and signs, and our Garden Club kindly put a rush on the construction of a beautiful new planter box. Several staff members have gone above and beyond by personally delivering Chromebooks and other supplies directly to students who could not make our distribution event.

As the first day of instruction approached, examples of collaboration, collegiality, flexibility and camaraderie among staff members ensured that we were able to make needed improvements to our distance-learning program. This high level of collaboration and commitment has been displayed by our parent community as well. Negotiating new technology, new procedures and new routines has been a collective effort, and students have benefitted from the encouraging and caring adults who have banded together in support of a new way of teaching and learning.

As we begin our transition from 100% distance learning to a modified in-person model, this focus on people and relationships will undoubtedly play a critical role in our success. While the way we “do school” will look very different from past years, our focus on academic excellence in a safe and supportive environment remains unchanged. This endeavor has always been rooted in the trust that comes from the strong relationships forged by students, staff members, parents and community members. If we work together, anything is possible!



## Cloud Campus (TK—12)

<http://www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus>



**Dr. Mike Sciacca**  
*Principal*

### Many Accomplishments

Cloud Campus is up and running! We have spent the last 3 weeks creating systems and process, integrating new technologies and building connections with our students and families. Our students have selected the school mascot, the Phoenix, to represent our school. In a very short period of time we have been able to form a PTA, create a student leadership class, integrate new elective options for students, and build a sense of community among staff, students and parents.



If we are able to accomplish this much in such a short period of time, just imagine where we will be in a few months!

## College Park Elementary (K-6)

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • [collegepark.nmusd.us](http://collegepark.nmusd.us)



**Rich Rodriguez**  
*Principal*

### A Great Team Effort

As a new and unique start to our school year commenced, we launched our students back into school in a way we have never done before, virtually. In order to get students up and running we needed to bring the classroom environment to their homes. Chroombbooks, books, supplies, welcome back letters, and instructions to zoom all need to be compiled and systematically distributed to each student. A huge thank you to our incredible Ms. Makley, our Library Media Technician, who spearheaded the project. Materials were packed in great College Park reusable bags that were provided by our generous PTA. Students and families came to campus adorned in balloons with music playing to celebrate their return to a historic school year. Once again our College Park team and community banded together to support our students. Great job Cougar Community, this will be a great year!





## Corona del Mar *High School (7-12)*

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • cdm.nmusd.us



**Dr. Rebecca Gogel**  
*Principal*  
7-8 Grade



**Josh Hill**  
*Principal*  
9-12 Grade

### Make Things Better Now!

Corona Del Mar Middle School and High School are excited to return to learning in a new format. While the opening of schools from a distance was unique, the traditional excitement surrounding this annual event was realized as students reconnected with friends,

started getting into the swing of their class schedules, and began blazing new paths to knowledge.

The past several months have introduced challenges heretofore unknown in education. That did not stop teachers and students from dedicating themselves to surmounting these obstacles in creative, innovative and collaborative ways. This support has ranged from student-made videos about how to access learning-management

systems and virtual orientations to staff members sharing teaching ideas or helping their colleagues learn how to use a new type of technology or an online program. It has reinforced the essence of what a school is: a place where people come together to learn and grow, all with the intent of contributing to the future in a positive way. The benefits of this interaction are being felt in the present, though, and will not have to be put off until some future date.

While few people believe that the current reality is better, a silver lining has been all of us witnessing the individual and community growth that is occurring, while distancing requirements and health protocols are stricter than they've ever been. It has been inspiring to see that the school community is unwilling to wait for things to get better. Instead they are uniting to make things better now. The Sea King and Triton communities will find a way to make this an amazing school year regardless of the circumstances.

## Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • cmhs.nmusd.us



**Dr. Eugene Kwong**  
*Principal*  
7-8 Grade



**Jake Haley**  
*Principal*  
9-12 Grade

### A Digital World

After the world was thrust into the remote-learning world, Costa Mesa Middle/High School focused on providing similar platforms and expectations for all virtual-learning environments. Lessons learned from distance learning last spring helped

us understand the need for technology with Chromebooks, the internet, narrowing the number of platforms used, staying organized, and being more focused with learning as students watch their teachers through a Zoom call.

We began the school year with a focus on using School Loop and Google Classroom as the main platforms for all students and families to access. Our traditional Camp Mav orientation for incoming seventh-grade students turned into an orientation for all middle school students to learn about online-learning expectations, with a focus on how to learn when learning online. Staff committed to three fundamental principles to help student engagement: weekly setting the stage for families, weekly email communication and updated gradebooks, and a commitment to Google Classroom. Attendance for school is at an all-time high, averaging 97% daily, an indicator on the ability for staff to form connections even in a virtual classroom.

On Sept. 29, we were able to welcome back 30-students who are part of our Moderate/Severe Autism Program. We anxiously await the opportunity for phase two of the reopening plan to welcome back all students in grades seven through 12, as we know that great instruction will continue to inspire students and promote social/emotional well-being.



## Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • davismagnet.nmusd.us



**Christy Flores**  
Principal

### Honored for Academics and Wellness

The 2020-21 school year is underway and although it might look a little different, the strong positive school culture at Davis Magnet School remains the same. Davis teachers, staff, and families have gone above and beyond to support students' academic growth and wellness. We are incredibly grateful for the collaboration and continued support among our community. The positive school culture and dedication to supporting students has



not gone unnoticed. Davis Magnet School was recently recognized by the California PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) Coalition for its outstanding contribution of support and care during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Through that recognition, we received the California PBIS Community Cares Award. We are honored and will continue to provide outstanding care and support for our students, no matter the distance, in both academics and wellness.

## Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/241-6108 • earlycollege.nmusd.us



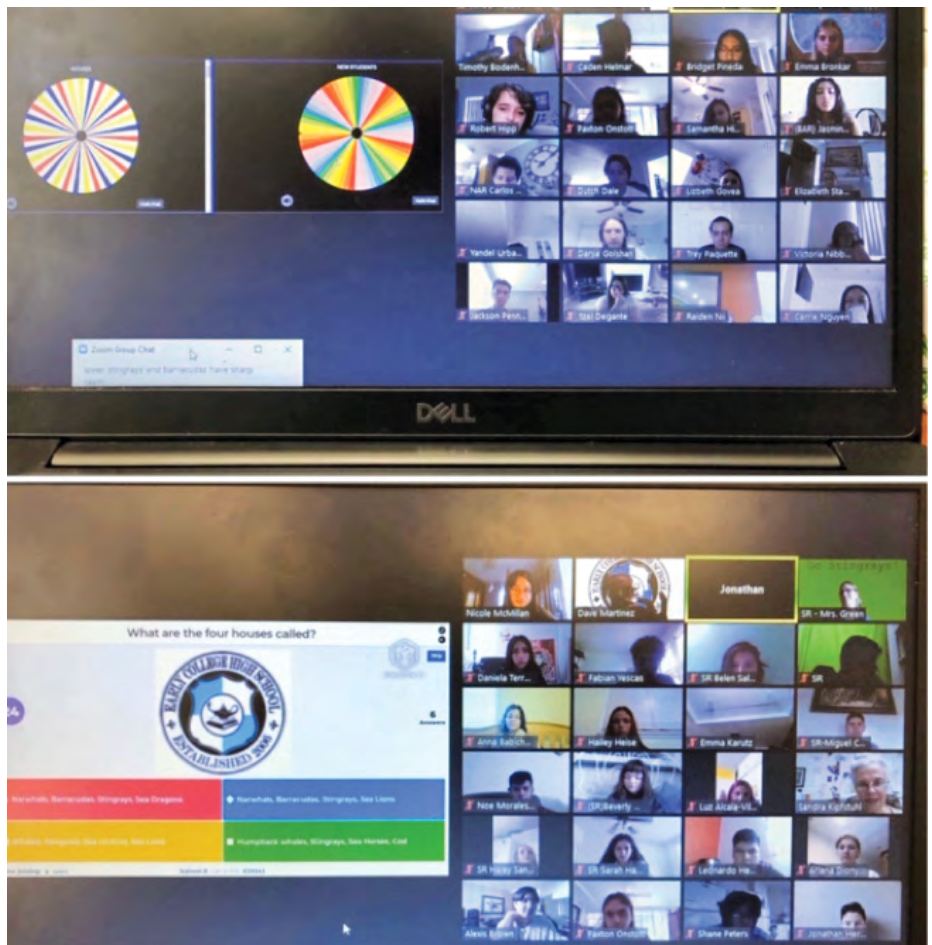
**Dr. David Martinez**  
Principal

### Celebrating Accomplishments

ECHS started the 2020-21 school year ringing the school's cowbell on August 12th. There were many accomplishments to celebrate from what our students attained the past 2019-20 school year.

Over 53% of our student body earned the Principal's Honor Roll award last semester (3.5 or higher unweighted academic GPA); a schoolwide GPA of 3.32 in the 2019-20 school year (an all-time high for ECHS); and almost 53% of our returning student body earned the California Scholarship Federation Award.

We also welcomed 73 new students to ECHS. As has always been the start of the school year tradition, all of the new students were initiated into one of our 4 Houses (Barracudas, Narwhals, Sea Dragons, Stingrays) as part of our first assembly and house competition of the school year. This year, the assembly was held virtually on August 21st as our students participated in a Kahoot version of ECHS trivial pursuit.





## Eastbluff *Elementary* (K-6)

627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • eastbluff.nmusd.us



**Cheryl Beck**  
Principal

### We Have PRIDE!

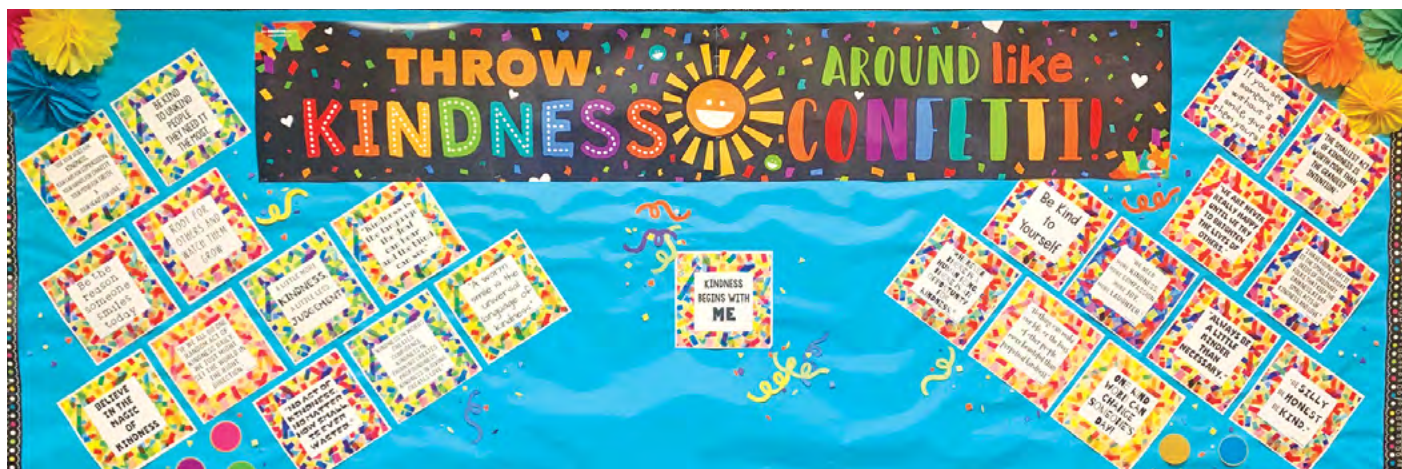
We had a great opening of our 2020–21 school year! It was very different beginning distance learning, and our students and staff are doing an amazing job!

We are so appreciative of all our parents for their support! Our school theme is “Kindness.” We are going to “throw kindness all around like confetti with Eastbluff PRIDE”! We kicked off our theme at our first

Friday Flag Deck via Zoom. We are thrilled to able to keep our Flag Deck tradition going virtually, fostering a sense of community and participating together. It was a huge success! We talked about what kindness means: we can choose to be kind in any given situation, we can spread kindness wherever we go, kindness is contagious, and kindness can change everything.

Eastbluff School is so proud to be awarded the Platinum PBIS Award! Our consistent implementation of our PBIS strategies has made such a positive impact for our students’ academic and social-emotional success and has created our wonderful school culture. Eastbluff School is committed to teaching our students strong character traits and displaying scholarly positive behaviors. This is achieved through the focus on our positive schoolwide behavior system and character development through our John Wooden Pyramid Program.

Eastbluff Students shows PRIDE every day. PRIDE stands for prepared, respectful, integrity, determined and excellence. This acronym clearly defines the expected behaviors of our Eastbluff students. We will celebrate students monthly, showing their best Eastbluff PRIDE with our Student of The Month Awards at Flag Deck. We are so proud of our Eastbluff Students and are looking forward to an exciting year together!



## Horace Ensign *Intermediate* (7-8)

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • ensign.nmusd.us

**Erik Pannizzo**, *Interim Principal*

### May I Introduce Myself

Please allow me this moment to introduce myself. My name is Erik Pannizzo and I have the humbling opportunity of being named the Interim Principal of Ensign Intermediate. I could not be more thrilled and excited.

My career in education actually started at Ensign. I had the pleasure of supporting the students, staff, and greater Ensign community from 2007-2010 as a School Counselor. This 3 year period produced some of the best moments and memories of my career. The community welcomed this New York transplant with open arms and warm smiles. Coming from a counseling background, I worked closely with all stakeholders to create an environment of inclusivity and enrichment for all.

My promise to the community is to continue, and hopefully enhance this philosophy while supporting the educational practices in place for all students. We can do this together.

For the last 10 years, I have collaborated and supported the staff at Costa Mesa High School, serving as a School Counselor as well as an Assistant Principal. With a strong focus on a guaranteed and viable curriculum for all students as well as student connections. During these unprecedented times, it is vital that we continue to look for creative ways to keep students engaged and connected to their teachers and peers.

I am a proud husband to my wife Karina and father to my little 2nd grader Mila. We enjoy family weekend getaways and visits to the “house of the mouse.”

Thank you all for your community partnership.  
Go Seabees!



## Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • estancia.nmusd.us



**Michael Halt**  
Principal

### Eagles host a Virtual Freshmen Welcome Day

On August 20th, Estancia High School's Link Crew Program hosted its first Virtual Freshman Welcome Day. Sixty junior and senior Link Leaders trained with staff coordinators to prepare for the big Class of 2024 virtual welcome. The event began with a staff-prepared Class of 2024 welcome video, and then Link Leaders led groups of ten ninth-graders through teambuilding activities and distributed essential "What Every 9th Grader Should Know" information all via individual Zoom rooms. These Link Crew Group Zoom rooms will continue to be utilized on a weekly basis throughout the school year for ninth graders to receive information essential to their week-to-week success and to connect with classmates and Link Leaders for support. Estancia Link Crew's theme this year is "Ohana," meaning "family." EHS is Ohana!



A few "Zoom selfies" of Estancia Link Leaders.

## Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • harborview.nmusd.us



**Gabriel Del Real**  
Principal

### Preparing for the Return of Students

As a new principal to Harbor View Elementary this year, it immediately became clear what a special community this school is. Meeting the dedicated staff, students, and their families made it obvious- Harbor View Elementary is a family. It has been six months since students were last in classrooms for instruction. The staff at Harbor View truly loves our Vikings and we are all anxiously awaiting their return.

With the excitement of students returning to campus comes a significant amount of preparation. The majority of the systems and procedures we have in place during a regular school year have to be modified for the social

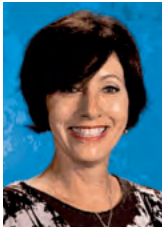
distancing we will maintain throughout campus. Everyone at Harbor View Elementary is looking forward to seeing our students on campus again, and we are committed to making the experience safe, productive, and enjoyable for all involved.





# Heinz Kaiser *Elementary* (3-6)

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • kaiser.nmusd.us



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
Principal

## Sweaty Heroes

Kaiser families picked up all kinds of materials shortly before the school year began. It was a thing of beauty! What folks didn't see but probably imagined was the huge lift that resulted in those beautifully organized bundles of books and bags of materials.

For a couple of weeks, our custodial, office,

instructional support, and library staff carted thousands of books from classrooms to the Multipurpose Room, checked them out to individual students, learned new technology and dealt with glitches, stood at the ready while waiting for deliveries to arrive - only to work at double speed when late deliveries arrived, prepared signs to keep everything organized, and focused on

providing a warm welcome to our families. At the head of this amazing group was Denise Bauermeister. She proved ready and willing to try anything with a smile. She was tireless and perpetually cheerful. When she was in the room, everyone worked that much harder. The heat kept us limber, even if a little damp. Thank you, Team Kaiser! You reflect what makes our school such a treasure!



Miss Denise counts, counts, and counts again in preparation for distributing materials to Kaiser families.

## Kind Words–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 NMUSD in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by November 30, 2020**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble

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SHARING	HOSPITABLE
GIVING	



## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • killybrooke.nmusd.us



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

### **Adaptability Yields Success**

At Killybrooke School, the 2020–21 school year began with our students in distance learning full-time, participating in daily live interactive instruction with teachers and classmates and completing school assignments from home. The amazing Killybrooke staff worked tirelessly to launch a new school year so that all of our students experienced high-quality learning and social experiences as much as possible with the online format.

Staff worked to prepare engaging lessons, craft new online classroom routines, prepare textbooks and other materials for distribution, answer phone calls and e-mails

to assist parents, and prepare classrooms for when students can return to in-person learning. Our Killybrooke students and families have been incredibly resilient during this time and have adapted to the online instructional format in the true Killybrooke spirit of determination and shared commitment to student learning and well-being. The optimism of our staff, families and students is one of the many things that makes Killybrooke a special place to learn, whether by distance learning or in person.

At Killybrooke, we are committed to student learning and well-being in any format and under any conditions. We look forward to returning to familiar patterns of in-person learning together. We are committed to working together as we continue to adapt to changing conditions in our mission to help every student learn and thrive.

## Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • lincoln.nmusd.us



**Dr. Kristin DeMicco**  
*Principal*

### **'Distance Community Building'**

This was certainly an unprecedented start to our school year, but the Lincoln Leopards have demonstrated resiliency, scholarship and ROARS behavior during our first month of distance learning. The beginning of a new school year is such an exciting time as students and teachers get to know one another and begin to build a classroom community and culture that set the stage for student safety and success.

It has been incredible to watch the Lincoln teachers

bring their ideas for community building into the virtual classroom, and as a school site, we have worked together to bring our campus traditions to the distance-learning environment as well. From morning announcements to Friday 5 and Flag Deck assemblies, we are continuing to focus on our ROARS (respectful, own your actions, always try your best, responsible, show empathy) expectations for students and staff as well as our commitment to emphasizing and modeling Kindness, It's a Lincoln Thing.

The Lincoln community is committed to working together during these unprecedented times to support our Lincoln students and families.

## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • mariners.nmusd.us



**Matthew Broesamle**  
*Principal*

### **Positive Energy**

The Mariners School community has come together like never before to kick off our new school year! In visiting each class on the first day of school, I could see and feel the positive energy from the class. The buzz across our digital campus was full of smiles, laughter, and excitement, which shows that our Marlins were ready to go in any learning



environment. The Marlins showed their commitment to Mariners PRIDE, which is to be Positive, Respectful, Intelligent, Determined, and to strive for Excellence each day. In the face of adversity, we showed what it means to be Mariners Strong. While we don't know what is exactly in store for us in the 20-21 school year, we are confident in knowing that our community is together, and we will rise strong from these challenges. Go Marlins!



## Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • nce.nmusd.us



**Somer Harding**  
Principal

### Different, but Great Start!

We have had an incredible start to the school year 2020–21 at NCE! Parents and students have adapted so well to our distance-learning model and have complimented the teachers in how much they are offering during every school day. Of course, being at home is not the same as being at school!

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school in late September, giving everyone in class a chance to finally meet their teacher in person. While we will have only a half-day together, students will be kept busy with instruction in subject areas other than

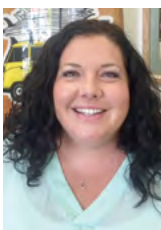
language arts and math, which they will be learning in the classroom.

It is wonderful to be a part of such a hardworking and dedicated staff these last few weeks, as we have all been preparing new procedures for how we deliver instruction, clean our campus, and welcome students to school each day. There is so much to do to try to maintain a healthy social distance to keep us all safe.

This is a wonderful school for students to learn and grow in, even when there are so many new realities for us this year. We are appreciative of our wonderful parents for their dedication and patience through all of these transitions, and we just can't wait to see all of your faces again really soon!

## Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6965 • newportel.nmusd.us



**Amanda Estrada**  
Principal

### Best on the Beach

The 2020-2021 school year is off to a fantastic start! The Newport El staff and parent community have worked together to make the launch of the school year and distance-learning a great experience for students. Since students would start the year learning from home, we wanted to set them up for success. So, our staff prepared bags of textbooks, school supplies, a personalized

pencil boxes and a few fun surprises. It was quite an undertaking, but definitely worth it when we got to see our smiling students' faces when they picked up their special Back-to-School bag. We even had a special sign welcoming the students and families. During these first few weeks of distance-learning, our focus has been on making connections, building community, and becoming familiar with online learning tools. I am so proud of our "best on the beach" community for having a growth mindset and adapting to distance-learning!



# Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • nhhs.nmusd.us



**Sean Boulton**  
*Principal*

## Adapting to the Times

Over the summer, Joe D'Aquino brought the district's middle and high school theater teachers together for four socially distanced collaboration days. The culmination was a shared unit and lesson plans fitting the adapted 45-minute schedules and the decision to create three districtwide hourlong streaming cabaret shows featuring 10 to 15 minutes of duets, trios and ensemble

numbers from each of the theater programs. The shows will be aired in October, December and February.

"We understand that it may be quite a while before we see a live audience in our theaters because of the enclosed spaces, and we felt this created an opportunity to overcome the challenges together," Mr. D'Aquino said.

The plan is to intercut numbers from each of the schools with a goal of crossing program lines in the second or third

cabaret so that students get to work with peers from other NMUSD theater programs, too.

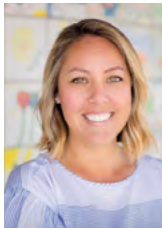
Mr. D'Aquino also pointed out that even if they're able to get into the theaters without an audience by January or February to stage and record scenes or plays rather than record individual performances and edit together, that still leaves a semester to engage his students. This is where streamed viewing will come into play.

"Anyone can record themselves and call it a monologue, but the beauty of theater is the collaborative process, and we will work to keep that collaborative process alive," Mr. D'Aquino said. "I look at the beautiful and collaborative work TAR-TV did this past spring and again this fall; putting out episodes every two weeks, I see a model we can work from. It's a goal."

Mr. D'Aquino is also continuing with his IB Theater guest-speaker series, bringing professional theater, film and television artists to his class via Zoom to interact with his students.

# Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • newportheights.nmusd.us



**Terri Clarke**  
*Principal*

## We're #bettertogether!

While our norms look much different as our Newport Heights Elementary community geared up for back-to-school this year, one thing that was for certain is that we are #bettertogether! Our NHES staff came together to prepare Back-to-

School Bags for each NHES Shark to help them start the year off in distance learning with success: special notes from the teacher, school supplies and learning materials.

To support our focus of #bettertogether, our school foundation generously donated a T-shirt for every student and staff to proudly display our Shark Pride. School officially re-"Zoomed" in distance learning, where students engaged with their teacher, specialists, instructional assistants and their classmates throughout the day on Zoom and also completed independent practice to sharpen their skills. Everyone including our custodial

staff, our special-education team, our office staff, our teachers and everyone in between is dedicated to creating an educational experience for our Sharks where they feel success and are #bettertogether!





## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • paularino.nmusd.us



**Annalisa  
Schwartz**  
*Principal*

### New Challenges for All

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2020–21 school year. I am honored to be your new principal, and I look forward to collaborating and building partnerships with the students, staff and community of Paularino Elementary. I have dedicated my career to public education, and I have served as an educator for 15 years.

As we embark on a new school year, we have been faced with new challenges. Our ever-changing health and safety guidelines relating to COVID-19 started our school year with distance learning.

Students prepared to return to school from their homes, and teachers prepared to teach from a computer. Our students and teachers have risen to the occasion and started our digital school year off on a positive note. Thank you to all our Paularino families, who have been flexible as we navigate online learning. As we make plans to open our campus, we appreciate your grace and support through the beginning of the school year.

As a new Paularino Panther, I look forward to an exciting year of getting to know all of you and continuing to make Paularino an amazing campus! Good, better, best; never let it rest until our good is better and our better is *best!*

## Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • pomona.nmusd.us



**Cindy Pedroso**  
*Principal*

### Different Platform, Same Standards

We are thrilled to begin another school year at Pomona Elementary! Although we are beginning the year with distance learning, we have been preparing more than ever to start just right.

Students came to pick up their materials, which included Pomona Swag Bags with the new logo. Various wonderful organizations donated supplies and headphones to make distance learning the best possible experience for all students.

Last year, we focused on building a culture of kindness, and it was seen every day in our students and staff.

This year more than ever, we need to come together as a community to support one another as we continue to navigate these times. Therefore, our school focus is on cultivating resilience not only in our students but also within ourselves.

We continue to be committed to providing a rigorous and relevant educational experience here at Pomona. I am certain our students will continue to be the best they can be!



## Everett A. Rea *Elementary (K-6)*

661 Hamilton Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • rea.nmusd.us



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
*Principal*

### Teacher Advocacy Award

Rea Elementary has been awarded one of five statewide 2020 AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) Teacher Advocacy Awards. The Teacher Advocacy Award is in recognition of teachers collectively championing the AVID program to achieve significant schoolwide academic achievement and progress. As part of the award recognition, Rea Elementary received

\$10,000 to support college and career readiness initiatives such as college field trips, classroom equipment and materials, and professional development.

"It's a great mark of accomplishment for Rea to be recognized with this award just four years into adopting the AVID program!" said AVID district director Dr. Dave Martinez.

Since becoming an AVID Certified School in 2018, Rea Elementary has had a consistent increase in English language arts and mathematics Smarter Balanced Assessment scores. Parent involvement has significantly grown in participation in programs such as the Parent

Institute for Quality Education and AVID nights. Rea is also recognized for supporting students beyond the educational program and fostering a positive school culture.

Starting in 2016, all Rea teachers committed to the AVID mission of improving academic success and fostering a culture of college and career success campuswide.

The AVID program helps schools shift to a more equitable, student-centered approach that focuses on closing the opportunity gap to prepare all students for college success in a global society. In partnering with AVID, Rea continues to build and cultivate excellence in the areas of instruction, systems, school culture and leadership.

"We are proud of our Rea team—AVID has played a critical role in increased student achievement at the school and generally in the pride students, teachers and parents have for their school," said Dr. Duane Cox, Rea Elementary principal.

All Rea students will have the opportunity to continue their AVID education at TeWinkle Middle School before venturing off to Estancia or Early College High Schools that also have four-year AVID programs.

## Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • sonora.nmusd.us



**Mia Doidge**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back Eagles!!

Sonora Eagles were welcomed back to the new school year with a festive materials pick-up and virtual Eagle Rallies.

Every Friday

there is an Eagle Rally that is sent digitally to students and families to help build our school community. Students have the opportunity to say the pledge, our school creed, learn about fun events like our virtual read-a-thon, and to hear about classes who have won each week for spirit wear! One special Eagle Rally featured the Costa Mesa High School cheerleaders, many of whom were Sonora graduates. They were excited to welcome our Sonora students to the new year with a special cheer!





## Charles W. TeWinkle *Intermediate (7-8)*

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • tewinkle.nmusd.us



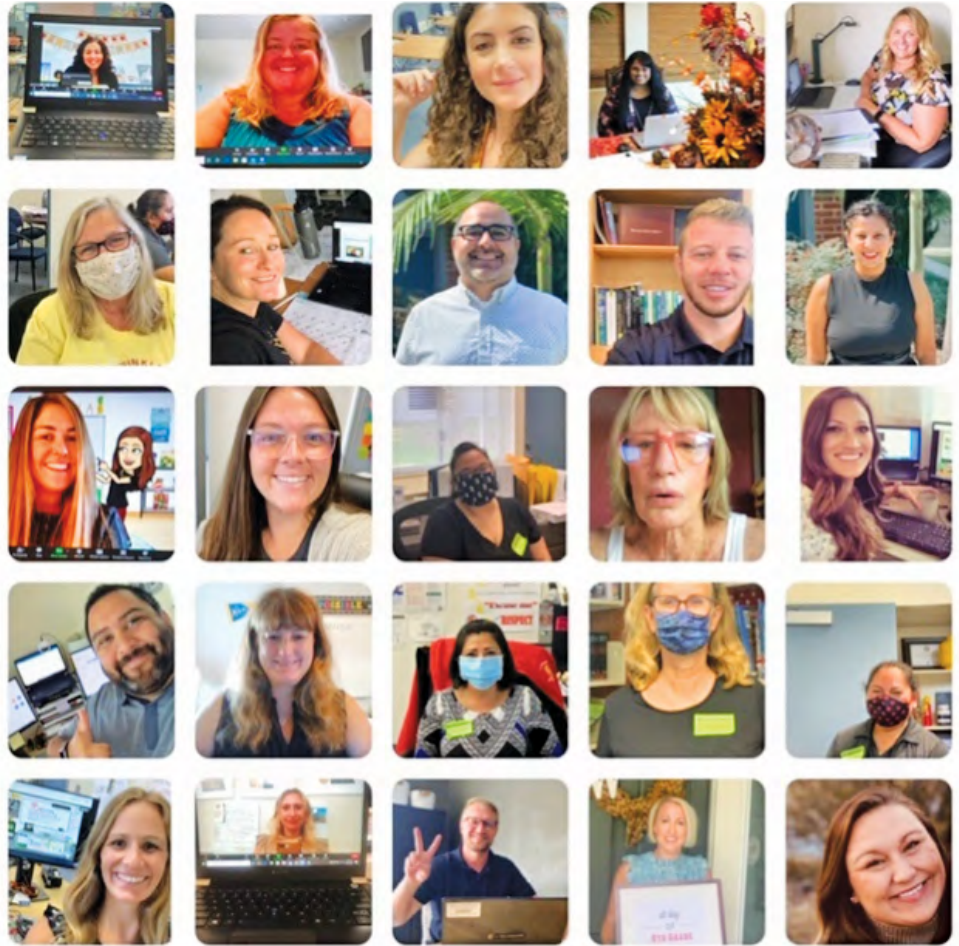
**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
*Principal*

### Appreciation for Our Team

Our incredible TeWinkle family was excited to start the first day of school virtually. Many prepared all summer long for our opening.

Office staff was in constant communication with families, sharing important information about schedules and supporting in the distribution of textbooks, Chromebooks and school supplies. Our magnificent librarian, Mrs. Kling, worked collaboratively with Mr. Valenzuela, our assistant principal, to ensure that all students were prepared with all school materials. And our teachers worked so hard to create a “classroom” environment that was welcoming to our Trojans. The TeWinkle community understands that it takes a village to smoothly open a school—and the efforts put forth do not go unrecognized.

What I have appreciated most about this unprecedented time is that we have truly engaged as a community of learners. Teaching staff has been navigating and learning a new platform for online instruction while still maintaining academic rigor through instruction, office



staff is supporting families from a distance, and students and parents have had to acclimate to a new normal. It has been amazing to see how a community can come together to support one another in new learning and provide one another care and encouragement through it all.





# Victoria Elementary (K-6)

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • victoria.nmusd.us



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
Principal

## Renewed Commitment, with Changes

While our current COVID-19 reality has brought many changes to our daily lives, one aspect that has remained unchanged is the excitement of beginning a new school year. As the 2020–21 school year kicks off, we should all feel validated that our deeply held values of providing our children with a high-quality education program remains unchanged, even amidst a pandemic. Our teachers and staff have renewed their

commitment to work diligently to provide all students with a challenging and relevant educational program. Our team has attended hours of professional development over the summer, and our learning will continue, allowing us to refine and improve our students' experience in distance learning and in-person learning.

I am thankful for the amazing Victoria family. We are all committed to perseverance, learning together and becoming a stronger community through our shared values and commitments. Go Voyagers!





## Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • whittier.nmusd.us



**Dr. Santa  
Gabriela Acuña**  
*Principal*

### The Power of 'WE'

Starting the 2020–21 school year with distance learning because of the pandemic was not easy for our Whittier Dolphins. Teachers, families and students struggled with the fact that we would not begin the school year in person at our school site.

It has been evident through these uncertain times that here at Whittier, "WE"—Whittier Elementary—are stronger together. When the task was difficult, WE came together and found solutions to support one another. It was a pretty spectacular sight to see!

For example, during our first distribution date, teachers and staff were waiting to welcome our students back

with a smile and motivating them. As we began the year, teachers were making those powerful connections with their students to engage them in their online learning. Our office staff and aides supported any students and families that were struggling with internet connections, missing supplies and Parent Portal support. When reading groups needed formation, our RTI intervention team stepped into gear and worked tirelessly to gather data to guide and build our groups and drive teaching practice.

This unique and challenging startup of the year has allowed us to appreciate the work that everyone put forth to make Whittier a successful place to learn. I am looking forward to all of the success we will continue to see as WE work together to embrace our school year's theme: "The Power of WE—stronger together, Whittier Elementary."



**THE POWER OF**  
**★ STRONGER TOGETHER ★**



## Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • wilson.nmusd.us



**Jennifer Heckert**  
*Principal*

### Wildcats Create a Caring Community

Wilson Elementary was recently honored with the 2020 PBIS Community Cares Medal. We are so proud of our students, staff, and families for their dedication and

support of our community. Last year we focused on kindness as a central year-long theme and as we made the transition to distance learning, we thought of ideas to transform some of our common practices into new ways to support our students and families in a caring and positive way.



At Wilson, the social emotional learning and well-being of our students and families is one of our top priorities! We focused on weekly SEL concepts and celebrated, motivated, and created a positive environment for our students during our weekly virtual Wildcat Rally where we ROARED together as a team!

We are excited to continue our focus on the social emotional growth and well-being of our students during the 20-21 school year with our theme of building resilience! #Wildcatsarekindandstrong

## Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • [woodland.nmusd.us](http://woodland.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
*Principal*

### Flexibility and Teamwork

In September, students at Woodland transitioned smoothly to modified, in-person learning. Prior to students arriving, staff worked collaboratively to get new PPE in place and to develop and implement new procedures. Parents were great partners and worked with staff to help prepare their children for their new environment. Parents, students and staff are following all the new guidelines and although in person learning looks a little different, it has been great to have students back on campus. We thank the entire school community for their teamwork, patience and flexibility during these challenging times!



**Students spread their Woodland Dragon wings as they take a movement break and walk around campus.**

## Nutrition Services

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • [www.nmusd.us/depts/ns/resources\\_parent.php](http://www.nmusd.us/depts/ns/resources_parent.php)



**Todd Hatfield**  
*Interim Director*

### Healthy Meals for Students

*By Pam Williams, MPH, RD  
Nutritionist*

For most of us, this year has been filled with challenges. What was the biggest one for Nutrition Services? Feeding students during the pandemic! And Nutrition Services worked hard to uphold its purpose; to feed students healthy meals for optimal learning.

On Friday, March 13, NMUSD received the first announcement for students to stay home and study. Nutrition Services designed a system to make sure every student who wanted a meal could get one. No longer could we serve students meals face-to-face in a cafeteria. Instead, we implemented a system to provide meals for any student who needed breakfast or lunch.

On Monday, March 16th, Nutrition Services staff members arose early, prepared bagged meals and went to every school in the district to greet hungry students with a meal. We set up stations outside school offices, parking lots

and any other location that would provide food to students. One by one, students and parents came. Some were bewildered with all of the changes, some afraid and most hungry. And one by one, the staff greeted, encouraged, and made sure each student had a meal.

Eventually, the sites for meals were reduced to 15 schools. It didn't matter if it was cloudy or hot, staff members stood outside to greet parents and students with a smile and a meal. Even during the summer, workers showed up to distribute breakfasts and lunches.

During the pandemic, Nutrition Services served over 307,000 meals. We provided milk, juices, fresh fruits and veggies, sandwiches and other foods to help support learning.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Nutrition Services is continuing to provide every student access to healthy meals. So, when you see dedicated workers standing in the hot sun or the cafeteria, greet them with a warm hello and enjoy healthy meals.



# School Health Services

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Merry Grasska**  
MPH, FNP-C,  
RN  
*Director*

## Nurses: Our Health Resource

School nurses welcome students and their families to the new school year. They recognize this is a challenging time that requires flexibility and adjusting to a different environment. Our social norms have changed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. As we turn our attention to the reopening of school, many measures have been put in place to promote safe and healthy schools. Nurses encourage students and families to observe these measures, including frequent handwashing, physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and staying home when sick. These are simple actions that do much to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and other illnesses.

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District nurses would like you to know that your school nurse is a resource for concerns about your child's health, immunizations and

community services. Please let your nurse know if there is a health concern or if there has been a change in your children's health that impacts their ability to participate in school, no matter which model of learning is in place.

At this time, state and district requirements for immunizations and school physical exams remain in place. As you update your child's immunizations, please email the documents to the nurse to ensure that requirements are met. If you have concerns related to health matters, please check with your school nurse. It is her goal to assist you.

Vaccination against influenza is especially important this year to lessen the burden of disease and the confusion between flu and COVID-19 symptoms. Health authorities strongly recommend influenza vaccination, which is available at most pharmacies and from your health care provider. You may also check with NMUSD HOPE Clinic at (949) 515-6725 for a flu vaccine.

Stay healthy and flexible as we greet the new school year!

# Early Childhood Education

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Michelle O'Neill**  
*Coordinator*

## A Preschooler's Zoom Day!

"It's round, it's red, and it's something you eat." This is one of the clues you may overhear when listening to a Zoom learning group with the Pomona Year-Round Preschoolers. After more than five months of nonstop Zoom classes, our students know what to do. Every Monday, there is a new letter of the week. The children bring an object to Zoom class that starts with that letter.

The students take turns giving clues about their object while the other students try to guess the object. When all the objects have been shared, the students learn how to form the letter as the teacher writes on Zoom whiteboard. Ms. Heather's students look forward to writing and showing what they are able to do. The students will hold up their work to be posted on the Bitmoji classroom.

The children attend Zoom groups twice a day, five days a week. Our Zoom classes are successful because of families and teachers working together.



# Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

## Ground Breaking

The case of Mendez v. Westminster broke new ground not just for Orange County, but for our entire nation.

Now, more than 70 years later, the Orange County Department of Education and the City of Westminster are breaking ground on a park and monument honoring the legacy of the court case that famously led to the desegregation of California's public schools.

Statues of Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, who successfully took legal action after their children were turned away from their neighborhood school on the basis of race, will soon be the centerpiece of a public space along Westminster Boulevard at Olive Street. The sculptures will be surrounded by other evocative pieces, including a large textbook monument and interpretive panels with additional insight on the case and its far-reaching impacts.

We're hoping you will take a few moments to watch a pre-recorded and physically-distanced celebration marking the start of construction on this highly anticipated project. Our virtual groundbreaking ceremony, which debuted Oct. 13, can be found on the OCDE and City of Westminster Facebook pages, as well as on the OCDE Newsroom.

As the precursor to the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling, the Mendez case is worthy of commemoration for reasons that go beyond acknowledging a historic injustice. It should be viewed as an affirmation of who we are, how far we've come as a society, and what we're still capable of accomplishing. And it all started here in Orange County.

In 1943, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez tried to enroll their three children — Sylvia, Geronimo and Gonzalo Jr. — in Westminster's 17th Street School, known as "the white school." But they were directed instead to Hoover Elementary, an inferior campus for students of Mexican heritage.

Keep in mind these students and their parents were American citizens. Their ensuing lawsuit, Mendez v. Westminster, was supported by four other families who argued that children throughout the county were unjustly discriminated against under the 14th Amendment.

A year after their victory in U.S. District Court, the ruling was upheld by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1947. In 1954, the Supreme Court took up a similar case in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, declaring that policies justifying school segregation were in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Artist Ignacio Gomez has been tapped to create the statues for Westminster's new memorial, and OCDE is developing content and curriculum for the park and four interactive stations that will be installed along a walking path on Hoover Street. Collectively referred to as the Mendez Freedom Trail and Tribute Monument project, the project is expected to be completed in 2021.

These public spaces will bring communities together to unite behind shared values and reflect on a watershed moment for this country. They will also provide an opportunity to further recognize the courageous families who made it possible. But make no mistake: In the United States, their legacy is everywhere.

## Note-ables



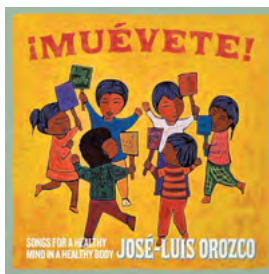
**Kate Karp**

### '¡Muévete!'—Bilingual Fitness!

Here's a great way for preschool- and primary-age children to take on the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed on our schools and our children's parents. To ramp up physical activity and basic vocabulary, you can't do much better than *¡Muévete! Songs for a Healthy*

*Mind in a Healthy Body*. On top of it all, children can begin learning another language while developing their first one, whether it's English or Spanish!

This recent offering presents an old-school approach to early-education recordings. *¡Muévete!*, one of Smithsonian Folkways' newest addition to their catalog, is performed by Grammy-nominated musician/educator José-Luis Orozco. Orozco's melodious tenor engages his young audience with 18 songs—nine in Spanish, with their nine English translations. They're amusing and energetic, and their purpose is to get the little guys and girls up 'n' at 'em!



Children will enjoy balancing like the great pink birds in "Domingo Flamingo," learning about colors from "El baile de los colores," and directionality in "La raspa," sung to the tune of "Jarabe tapatío," more commonly known as the hat dance song. They'll identify and move their body parts with "Monica" and "Juanito." Just for fun, there's "Clap, tap, tralala" in which the young participants will laugh their little heads off as the tempo becomes faster and

faster and faster. And they'll do it all in two languages!

During this strange, uncertain period, the lessons in *¡Muévete!* are more important than ever for children as well as parents. Celebrate movement and keep healthy with this playful, bilingual collection!

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



## Newport Beach Public Libraries



**Christine Chapel**  
*Librarian  
Mariners Branch*

### What's New?

Hi! My name is Christine Chapel. I will be writing the School News articles for the Newport Beach Public Library. I work at the Mariners Branch as a librarian. We are a joint-use facility with the Mariners Elementary School. During the school day, half of the children's area is closed to the public, but open for the Mariners students to use as their school library. I enjoy working in this multi-use space.

The Newport Beach Public Library has big news! We replaced our outdated library catalog system with a brand new one! There are many wonderful improvements! You can get your library account notifications via text message, it automatically renews borrowed items as long as there are no holds, and the Overdrive downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks are more integrated and easier to search.

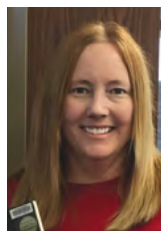
The feature I am most excited about is the Newport Beach Public Library App. It is so user-friendly and handy. You can take the library with you everywhere you go! Searching the library catalog, placing holds, monitoring your account, and accessing our online resources has never been easier. The screens are uncluttered and readable. The NBPL App is available in the Apple Store or Google Play Store under "Newport Beach Public Library."

Recently, we started offering a wide array of virtual programming through our website: <http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org>. The programs for adults include Author Talks, Musicales, Let's Talk Books by NBPL staff, Crafting with NBPL and Medicine in Our Backyard. The Children's page, <http://www.newportkids.org> offers Tune-in Tuesdays Video Story-times, Let's Talk Books for Kids, Kid's Crafts, and Early Literacy advice. In addition, we have curated lists of Games and Distance Learning websites, recently updated Book Lists, and information about DIY Story-Time Bundles and Grab and Go Craft Bags.

Happy Reading!

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3800 • [www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids](http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids)  
Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3838  
Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, CA 92661  
949/644-3076  
Corona Del Mar Branch 410 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625  
949/644-3075

## Costa Mesa Public Libraries



**Kristina Jones**  
*Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Donald Dugan  
Library*

### Costa Mesa libraries are here to serve you!

We are part of OC Public Libraries – a system of 32 branches.

Services are constantly updating, be sure to contact our libraries for the latest news. At the time of this article, our services include:

- Curbside Pick-Up
- Virtual Programming at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)
- Online Resources to support students and adults
- Get a Library Card! More information is found at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

Here are some of the resources available on our website [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org):

- eBooks and eAudiobooks – Thousands of titles are waiting for free downloading!
- BookFlix - Video storybooks paired with related nonfiction ebooks from preschool through 3rd grade
- Freegal Freegal is a free music service from your library. Freegal offers access to about 15 million songs
- Hoopla Digital movies, music, eBooks, eAudiobooks, TV programs, & comics
- Britannica School Britannica School is the go-to site for learning more about any subject—for all grades and all reading abilities.

We look forward to serving you!

### Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/646-8845

### Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/546-5274





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