

School News

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Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

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APRIL / MAY 2013

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Fred Navarro

N-MUSD joins Costa Mesa and Newport Beach Police Departments in encouraging residents and businesses to sign up for AlertOC and Nixle, mass notification systems that inform

citizens of emergency or noteworthy information.

Nixle, which is used by more than 5,000 public agencies, allows the Police Department's to communicate with residents and businesses via text and email messages. In addition to citywide messages, Nixle will also allow the Police Departments to contact citizens in specific parts of town.

Notifications could include information about emergency preparation, traffic issues, special events, community outreach, hazardous situations, press releases, missing and wanted individuals, and issues affecting schools.

AlertOC is designed to keep Orange County residents and

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 15

National Scholarships Awarded Estancia High School Scholars

By Laura Boss
Director of District Communications

Congratulations To Newport-Mesa's Girls Inc., Scholarship Recipients – All 5 Selected Are From Estancia High School!

Girls Incorporated of Orange County is a non-profit corporation that has served Orange County since 1954. The organization provides quality research-based and age appropriate year-round after school and summer programs for girls 4 ½ -18. The organization serves over 4,660 girls at its Main Center located in Costa Mesa.

National scholarships are awarded to 26 girls from affiliates across the US and Canada annually. Scholarships range from \$2500 to \$15,000 and the application process is part of the Girls Incorporated College Bound program, which helps girls prepare for the college admission process via workshops, one-on-one tutoring and field trips to post-secondary education sites.

Out of the 26 scholars chosen, 5 are from Newport Mesa and ALL attend Estancia High School.



EHS Principal Kirk Bauermeister, Teacher Bob Sterling, Scholarships recipients: Maribel Maldonado, Brisma Corona, Diana Avila, Jessica Neri, Guadalupe Pulido, and Board Member Katrina Foley.

The recipients were honored at the April 9, 2013 Board Meeting. Below are the amounts they received and the colleges they will be attending in the fall. Congratulations!

Maribel Maldonado (\$2,500) – Will be attending UC Davis
Brisma Corona (\$5,000) – Will be attending Sand Diego State
Diana Avila (\$20,000) - Will be attending Cal Poly Pomona
Jessica Neri (\$20,000) - Will be attending Cal State Fullerton
Guadalupe Pulido (\$20,000) – Will be attending UC Santa Barbara

By Kirk Bauermeister, Principal
Estancia High School

Fresh from their California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) award-winning play, *A Midsummers Night's Dream*, Estancia High School's talented Production Drama program presented the critically acclaimed musical, *Guys and Dolls*, in March at the Robert B. Wentz Theatre at Newport Harbor. It had been 10 years since Estancia's drama program staged a production "away from home," and it was a thrill and a challenge to be back in the newly renovated space.

Given the size of the theater, it was possible to have multiple sets and larger dance numbers. The audience enjoyed well-known tunes such as "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat." It was a tremendous learning experience for the 50-plus members of the cast and crew, and they truly rose to the occasion. Bravo!

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Kay Coop
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Superintendent Navarro's message on page one regarding emergency preparedness and the School Health Services article on page 14 are timely in light of the recent tragedy at the Boston Marathon.

Spring Break is over and testing is underway. Students remain focused on the end result...good grades and summer vacation!

We have our traditional camp/activities section in this issue to help you plan for those "lazy summer days." Of course, don't forget the library in your plans.

Our next issue is June 6.

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Our Teachers—America’s Strength



Barbara Harrington
President

By Pat Courter, Vice President

The Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation held its latest Grants to Teachers awards dinner in February at a Costa Mesa restaurant. The theme for the gala evening was “Our Teachers—America’s Strength.” After an invocation by Dr. Norman Loats and a welcome by Barbara Harrington, president of NMSF, the All-American Boys Choir regaled the audience with several beautiful songs.

The Foundation was able to fund the largest number of teacher grants ever in its 31 years of supporting all Newport-Mesa students and their teachers! Ninety nine grants for up to \$1,000 each were presented to grateful teachers by Scott Paulson. Teachers from all over the district applied for these grants to be used for educational materials in their classroom instructional programs. Over 2,500 students will directly benefit from these additional program materials.

In these days of cuts and uncertain funding, the teachers were excited and thankful to receive their grant money. The well-attended event was the “best ever,” according to several attendees.

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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Adams School's New Running Club

This year, Adams Elementary School began a Running Club. Sixty students eagerly signed up to spend thirty minutes of each Friday afternoon stretching and running 400 meter laps. These young athletes range from kindergarten to fifth grade. After stretching, they can usually run four or more laps on the grassy track before our running time is over. Teachers and parents tally each lap and report back to the students how far they have run over the four months of training. Students are running for the fun, the cardiovascular exercise the sport offers, in addition to training for the upcoming Costa Mesa Community Run's events, which include a 2K, 5K, and a 10K. The Costa Mesa Community Run will be held this year on Sunday, June 2, 2013. We hope for a great turn out!



Off and running...an amazing group of young athletes at Adams!

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

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



Debbie Lucker-Davis
Principal

District's Next Top Model!

Back Bay Continuation High School was named as a "model" for the state of California. After a lengthy application and a school visit and observation, the state of California awarded the school the highly coveted title. For the next three years, Back Bay will accept visitors to the campus from all over California. They will look at our admissions policy, attendance rate, credit-completion rate, credit-recovery rate, length and duration of classes, and most importantly, student success.

This is the second time the school has been awarded the title of Model Continuation High School, and that means six years as a model and a first-time occurrence for Newport Mesa. Much of the credit goes to the outstanding principal and her highly trained staff. Teachers and staff embrace the uniqueness of each student, and the counselor is able to respond to each child individually. Because of the many opportunities students have to complete course work, the school's graduation rate often reaches 100 percent.

Monte Vista completed the first semester with a record number of students completing their independent work. Students stayed on track with the comprehensive sites by completing six classes per semester. By enrolling in Monte Vista, students have the flexibility to pursue outside opportunities in many areas: modeling, internships, travel and competitive sports are just some of the things our students are involved in during the day.

For a referral to either school, please talk with your high school counselor.

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

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



Dr. Shannon Bray
Principal

Celebrating Reading

In March, Andersen Elementary School students and staff enjoyed a special literacy celebration for Read Across America, which has been inviting students across the country to revel in the hobby of reading on or around the birthday of author Theodor Seuss Geisel, "Dr. Seuss." Coincidentally, Andersen's librarian, Mrs. Raines, shares the same birthday!

During our literacy celebration, all Andersen students and staff sat outside on the grass for an all-school read. Office manager and Thing 1, Cathy Kitto, and office assistant and Thing 2, Tanya Ruiz, distributed bookmarks to students as they participated in this special time of reading. Throughout the day, students celebrated literacy with a variety of learning activities in their classrooms.



Of course, we celebrate literacy every day at Andersen and set reading goals for every student. As Andersen prepares for the shift to the Common Core Standards, we have committed to a school goal of increasing student reading of non-fiction, informational text. The new Common Core Standards indicate that, by fourth grade, half of what students read should be informational text, because most of what students will read in college and in the workplace is not fiction, but texts that are informational in structure. Andersen students are enjoying the shift to learning about the world while reading!

California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

Art and Fitness

The Imagination Machine finally came to California School on Friday, March 8 to perform the stories our students had submitted!

The students had been working very hard to put together the best stories that they could, and each was hoping that their own would be selected and performed for their peers. It was great to see how our students were able to share their excitement about this special event when their writing finally came to life!

Our California Cougars love physical fitness as well. The Cougar Running Club is currently preparing for the "Kids Run" at the Orange County Marathon. This group, which is comprised of about 60 students from kindergarten through the sixth grade, meets once a week to run a simulated mile under the guidance of Club Director Mrs. Clifford. Our California Cougars are also working hard to get their pledges in for the upcoming jog-a-thon as well, with all of the funds going towards literacy and technology.

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • <http://collegepark.nmusd.us>



Julie McCormick
Principal

Building a Sense of Community

Our fifth-grade students love practicing fluency, speaking skills and teamwork here at College Park. And our Readers' Theater has helped them to address these key skills while also having fun!

At the Theater, students work in groups to gather props and practice facial expressions, accents and voice projection. They request the opportunity to create their own scripts, and are currently casting parts and rehearsing for their next performance. Pictured here are students observing their peers as they present their Readers' Theater performance on stage.

The College Park sixth-graders recently returned from four days of science camp at Camp High Trails in the Big Bear Mountains. Highlights of the trip were archery, geology and learning about the world of nature in a different environment. The students went on daily hikes and learned how we can help preserve the environment and conserve natural resources.

All of the students especially enjoyed the hot meals at breakfast and dinner. They also participated in evening programs like line dancing, singing, performing skits and nutrition. Everyone gained a sense of community, a sense of wonder, and, most importantly, a sense of increased self-confidence and ability to rely on others.

Our students even went on a hike during a day when it snowed twice! They are now sharing their memories with our current College Park fifth-graders to get them excited about this experience next year.



Corona Del Mar *High School (7-12)*

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



Tim Bryan
Principal
9-12 Grade



Guy Olguin
Principal
7-8 Grade

Clubs at CdMHS

Clubs are a significant part of life on the Corona del Mar High School campus. Our school has 90 active clubs ranging from French to the Autism Ambassadors. But three CdM clubs are particularly noteworthy for trying to make a difference in the community.

The CdM Vest-A-Dog Club is committed to educating people about the need for police dogs to have bulletproof vests. It also helps raise money to purchase these life-saving vests for our Orange County police K9s. The club has participated in several fundraisers, including selling See's Candy for Valentine's Day and the grand opening at the Top Dog Barkery.

The Heart Club raises awareness about heart disease, and also fund-raises for the American Heart Association. They participate in several events that promote a healthy lifestyle, including the Color Dash 5K and OC Heart Walk.

The H2O Club teaches students about water conservation. It also brings clean water to people worldwide by providing them with water filters. They collect funds by selling the H2O Club/Hurley water bottles, which promotes the use of reusable water bottles and water conservation. The H2O Club has helped not just the CdM community but other communities from around the world.

The clubs at CdMHS are making a big impact in both the City of Newport Beach and around the world.

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Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

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Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal
7-8 Grade



Dr. Phil D'Agostino
Principal
9-12 Grade

Navy Blues!

Costa Mesa High School prides itself on offering a variety of elective programs for its students. These programs not only offer an enriching opportunity for students outside the core curriculum but they also support academic achievement and lead to lifelong learners who are diverse in their interests.

Recently, one of the most popular elective programs on campus, the school's music program, participated in a joint event with the US Navy Band when their tour came through

Costa Mesa at the end of February. In the picture accompanying this article, Costa Mesa High School musicians can be seen with members of the US Navy Band taking their bows at the end of the concert.



The Costa Mesa High School Music Program offers electives for the general student population as well as opportunities to play with the school's award-winning marching band, jazz band and percussion line.

Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

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



Christy Flores
Principal

Bot Bouts!

The Davis LEGO Robotics teams wrapped up their fall and winter practice sessions by competing in the First LEGO League (FLL) Cup Tournament at a San Diego theme park. The two teams, the Davis Ducks and the Robo Ducks, competed in three rounds of the robot games, which consisted of a variety of robotics missions. Both Davis teams scored a school best of 185 points while competing against over a hundred teams from across Southern California

The Davis teams consisted of fifth- and sixth-grade students. In order to prepare for the FLL Cup Tournament, the teams practiced after school for a few hours each week. The teams worked together in small groups to program specific missions. At the competition, each team only had two and a half minutes to complete their robot programs. Congratulations to all of our student participants and coaches! Go Davis!



The Davis Magnet School LEGO Robotics Team

Early College *High School (9-12)*

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



Kathy Slawson
Principal

MESA Team Places First

Our Early College High School students recently placed first in the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) prosthetic arm competition in February.

Their goal was to create a prosthetic arm that could complete three tasks: throw balls into a bucket, pick up various items, and screw nuts and bolts onto a board. The materials used to create the arm, which ranged from markers to string, had to be carefully itemized, and could only cost up to 40 dollars in total.

Eight teams in two divisions competed at the preliminary competition. Our ECHS team placed first in their division.

Marilyn Chan, Jose Rivera, Leo Rosete and Jocelyn Arroyo worked for months, after school, to build and test their arm. In addition, they also wrote a 15-page technical paper describing their results.

The students will next be competing in the Regionals later in the spring. The first-place team from that event will then move on to compete at the state competition. Congratulations to the ECHS MESA team, and good luck!



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Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • <http://eastbluff.nmusd.us>



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Book Knowledge

Eastbluff Elementary School students have a passion for reading! An amazing group of 14 fourth- and fifth-graders participated in the Battle of the Books (BOB), a competition between Eastbluff and six local private schools.

Our students have been coming to school an hour early every Wednesday morning since September. They discuss and answer questions, which they have written, about the 20 books on the BOB list. These books have been chosen by librarians from the participating schools and encompass all genres from the historical fiction of the Bay of Pigs crisis in *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles to the silliness of *Knucklehead*, an autobiography by Jon Scieszka. The students have been practicing working as teams and discussing the answers to questions in a huddle. Their facial expressions and excitement are a joy to behold.

In March, our BOB students successfully demonstrated their book knowledge in competition.



Horace Ensign *Intermediate School (7-8)*

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



Dr. Gloria Duncan
Principal

The Robotics Club

By Maddy Wiesner, Writer, Seabee Buzz

Robotics is a new club where the students at Ensign can learn to build robots using the VEX Robotics System, a remote-controlled vehicle. These robots are built with parts such as nuts, bolts, a computer brain, wheels, gears and metal struts.

The Robotics Club meets after school twice weekly under the supervision of Mr. Metcalf. Ensign student Oliver Ressler enjoys the group because it is a “friendly club where I learn about friendship, engineering, teamwork and coding the robots. Also, we have to use our math skills to help with the angles.”

Coached earlier in the year by Assistant Principal Mr. Nanney, the Ensign Robotics Club recently gave business-like presentations to various members of the community so that it could reach its fund-raising goal of \$10,000. This money was used to purchase six VEX Robotics Clawbot Kits.



Club member Henry Lister says that, “[The Robotics Club] is a way to hang out with my friends. When I grow up I want to be a programmer, and so it will help with my future.”

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Estancia *High School (9-12)*

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Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

Guys and Dolls! (please see front page for story)



Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Todd Schmidt
Principal

Annual Research Project

This past month, Harbor View Students in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program presented their individual research project based on the icons of depth and complexity created by Dr. Sandra Kaplan of USC. Project topics included everything from Chihuahuas to Broadway, New York, from golf to Cleopatra. Students created displays on their topic with emphasis on vocabulary, language of the disciplines, paradoxes, and big ideas. Many students had video and photo presentations that they showed on iPads! Other students brought in samples and exhibits to heighten their individual presentations. Students from other classes toured the projects and had an opportunity to hear from the presenter about their individual projects, and in some cases, even got to sample some aspect of the project!

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

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



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Art Rocks

The Kaiser Elementary School Knights stretched their imaginations during Youth Art Month through Art Rocks! Each classroom created a unique work of assemblage art, in which each student contributed to the larger project with a class theme. A visit to the art lab revealed everything from collages of owls roosting in trees to jigsaw puzzles, in which each piece represents a different student. There was even a functional reminder to recycle!

Kaiser's teachers unleashed their creativity, developed the vision for each class project, and then collaborated with Caran

Fahy, a Kaiser parent, artist, and Parent Faculty Organization (PFO) member. Under Mrs. Fahy's guidance, students brought each class vision to life and celebrated the artist in each of student.

Kaiser looks forward to the proceeds these instant classics will bring at the Carnival Auction on May 4. Art Rocks brings to life Coach John Wooden's inspirational words: "Make every day a masterpiece!"



Fourth-grade students celebrate Youth Art Month.

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Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Meeting a Real Author

Killybrooke students celebrated Authors Day with a visit from best-selling children's book author, illustrator and speaker Scott E. Sutton. Mr. Scott's imaginative books feature colorful illustrations that capture the imagination of young children. Because the stories are written in rhyme they are also fun to read!

Our students were lucky to be treated to an engaging assembly where they learned all about Mr. Scott's writing and illustration techniques. He demonstrated the eight key points in writing a great story. The upper-grade students even brought their drawing materials into the assembly and experienced a guided drawing lesson.



The Killybrooke PTA later hosted a special luncheon for Mr. Scott. Joining him were the two students from each classroom who had earned the most points to date on our Reading Counts program. The students were very excited to meet a published author, and they are now inspired to try out his techniques as soon as they publish their own classroom writings.

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jane Holm
Principal

Safety is a Top Priority

Safety is a top priority at Lincoln. In order to improve preparedness for disasters, the Lincoln staff team worked with our Newport Beach Fire Department to learn the basics of triage. Fireman Matt Brisbois tailored his presentation to the needs of our school staff teaching us such basics as how to safely remove gloves with bodily fluids, as well as the basics of how to quickly triage multiple injuries. RPM has a new meaning for all of us – Respiration, Perfusion, Mental state. A big thank you to the Newport Beach Fire Department for helping us make Lincoln a safer place for our students.



NBFD Fireman Matt Brisbois leads the Lincoln staff in Basic Triage Training.



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Pam Coughlin
Principal

Introducing Our Award-Winning Choir and Band!

By Jeff Qualey, Teacher – 5th Grade

Tamara Fairbanks is our music teacher, as well as our band and choir director. Ms. Fairbanks received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Ohio University and Northern Illinois University. Prior to coming to Mariners Elementary School, Ms. Fairbanks performed in the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and was assistant director at the Ocean Lyric Opera, Children's Chorus, making her well-qualified to lead our program.

Our choir has been in

existence for nine years and has been participating annually in the Knott's Berry Farm Music in the Park Festival, a national competition. The students have won trophies four times, and all of their performances have been rated superior or excellent. The 32-member choir currently practices once a week before school.

The band was formed five years ago and currently has 23 members. This will be the first year the band will compete in the Music in the Park Festival. They practice after school two to three times a week.

Both choir and band are open to all third- through sixth-grade children who have an interest in music education. Keep up the great work!



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

A Vision for Music Education

The Newport Coast Elementary School (NCE) Coyote Orchestra invited fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students to participate in our extracurricular music program, and over 50 students are committed to meeting prior to the start of the school day to develop their skills as musicians. In its second year, the Coyote Orchestra serves as a high-quality performance group for NCE, as well as a feeder program for Corona del Mar Middle and High Schools.

This year, the Coyote Orchestra will perform at the District String Festival, Knott's Berry Farm, and the Harbor Zone Concert, with the Corona del Mar and Eastbluff Elementary School Orchestras, on April 23 at 6 p.m. at NCE. These opportunities instill connection to and pride in the ensemble and rally enthusiasm to continue playing music into secondary education.

This wonderful program would not be possible without support from district leadership and the excellent NCE music teachers, Alanah Ntzouras and Sally Appleberry Edmunds.



Amy Nagy
Principal

True Character

Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life an individual. –Theodore Roosevelt

Character matters at Newport Elementary School. We are working with students to help them become more aware of positive character traits by targeting key traits during weekly lessons, class discussions, and role playing. When students are caught exhibiting these traits, an adult or fellow student labels the behavior, and students receive a Best on the Beach ticket. Tickets are amassed

during the month and brought to our Character Flag Deck.

During this flag deck, every teacher selects one student who exemplifies the character trait of the month to be recognized and celebrated. All Best on the Beach tickets are collected, and a primary and an upper-grade student are randomly selected for a chance to spin the Character Wheel of Fortune. Students can win a gift certificates, lunch with the principal, and many other exciting prizes.

While the prizes are appreciated, we keep the focus on how appreciated the students are going to be as they make their way through a life of true character.



First grader, Erica Maddocks, spins the wheel and takes home a \$20 gift card.



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal

A Tremendous Week

Newport Heights had a tremendous time in early March celebrating both Dr. Seuss' birthday and our Literacy Week. The campus had planned various activities throughout the week to help celebrate reading and literacy, and we started it off with a bang with our Guest Reader Day.

We were lucky to have so many great guests volunteer their time to read to our students. We had a city council member, a lifeguard battalion chief, various members from the NMUSD district office, parents, a fireman, an engineer and many others. Thank you to all who came out to support NHES and literacy.

The campus took a time-out during the day to participate in a school-wide DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). The students also had a blast when

they dressed up as their favorite book character and brought the book to school.

The week culminated with a great assembly by the Imagination Machine, where stories written by NHES students were acted out by real performers for everyone to enjoy. It really was a tremendous week for all of us at Newport Heights.



Dr. Kurt Suhr reading to NHES students during Literacy Week.



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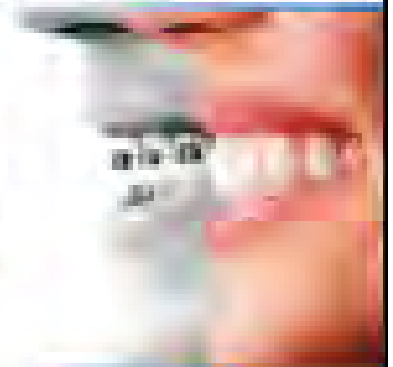
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Michael Vossen
Principal

On Track with Dr. Phil!

In February, several of Dr. Naasz’s Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate psychology students as well as Ms. Cermak’s ROP Film and Digital Media Studies class went to Paramount Studios in Los Angeles to watch the taping of two *Dr. Phil* shows. For the psychology students, the field trip provided them the opportunity to experience a glimpse into the world of family and individual therapy. For the film class, many of the students were just interested in learning about the filming process but found themselves deep in thought about the topics discussed.

During breaks and on the ride back, several students commented about the content of the shows and Dr. Phil’s calm demeanor as he got to the heart of issues. At the end of the taping, Dr. Phil gave the audience his book that had just been released to the public that day. The book can be seen in the photograph taken on the bus ride back to school.



Pomona *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Megan Elsten Brown
Principal

Pomona Talks About Common Core

Pomona Elementary School’s learning community is abuzz about the upcoming Common Core State Standards. We are excited about the rigor and creativity these new standards will bring. Instructional staff is busy reading, attending trainings, and developing new curriculum. It is the students, however, who are doing most of the talking. At Pomona, you will hear students talking with peers, collaborating in groups, and presenting their thoughts in front of the class.

In Ms. Rankin’s fourth-grade class, small groups of students meet for weekly Book Talks, where they present a book they are reading. Presentations include elements such as explaining why they chose the book or posing a question about the story. One boy’s insightful statement is about the stark contrast between the two female characters. He explained that the “bad” character was really just jealous, adding, “I can connect with this because I have a teenage sister who sometimes gets really jealous, too.”

In Mrs. Danahy’s kindergarten class during math time, a six-year-old student stood before the class, using the document camera to display her journal and explaining how she “circled important information, drew a math picture, and then wrote an equation down below.” Her confidence, ability to articulate mathematical thinking, and use of academic vocabulary are all practices that the Common Core State Standards require.

The question has been posed: “Can our students meet the rigorous demands that Common Core requires?” At Pomona, we let our students speak for themselves.

Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Stacy deBoom-Howard
Principal

Class Act

Paularino has partnered with the Pacific Symphony this year for our first year as a Class Act School. This has been a wonderful opportunity to continue our goal exposing our students to the Arts. The Class Act program is a great addition to our school community enriching our schools love of music and the arts. Our professional musician, Cellist Ian McKinnell, has given our students a Kick-off Prelude Assembly and classroom lessons exploring the theme of “Endless Imagination” through the music of Camille Saint-Saens. The entire school community is invited to our Family Night featuring Mr. McKinnell and other musicians from the Symphony’s string family at Costa Mesa H.S. Lyceum. Our culminating event is the Bravo assembly, where our students share what they have learned this year through art, dance, song and music presentations.



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

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



Dr. Anna Corral
Principal

Rea Takes the Challenge

The Team Kids Challenge empowers our students to take a leadership role in their school. It also inspires them to help others through school-based service programs. Through this activity our students can develop the kind of values and skills that will help them make positive choices in their own lives, as well as make a difference to others.

Rea students have helped to organize and execute a challenge a week, and they are always exceeding their goals. First they started with a letter writing campaign to the troops, then a hygiene product drive for the homeless. Next they made Valentines for our local senior citizens, and last was the big carnival!

The students worked on the carnival over the course of a five-week challenge. They created the games, food, prizes and tickets during their lunch recess, and with no adult help. The \$712.30 that they raised went to the Orange County Humane Society, a charity chosen especially by the children. The entire TK Challenge was a huge success!



We would also like to thank our friends from the Costa Mesa Police and Fire Departments for supporting and attending our Carnival.

Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christine Anderson
Principal

Telling Stories in School!

Sonora Elementary School's third- and fourth-grade classes had the privilege of welcoming Jim Cogan, master-teaching artist and storyteller, from a local performing arts center for four weeks. Mr. Cogan introduced the art of storytelling to our students and worked with them expanding their storytelling as well as writing skills.

Students welcomed the idea of "playing with language!" Third-graders had fun performing a culmination play titled "Why Mosquitos Buss in People's Ears" (see photo). Fourth-graders worked on writing descriptive narratives using figurative language. These students presented their works to their classmates, and some were able to present at an informal assembly for their parents. Sonora Families also enjoyed an evening of storytelling with Mr. Cogan.

This whole process of learning the value of storytelling and writing was an exciting and rewarding event for all Sonora Students and helped our fourth-graders prepare for the state writing test.



Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Linda Tenno
Principal

Sharing our Writings

Each March, fourth-grade students from across California take a state writing test. Victoria's fourth-grade teachers are very proud of their students' writing growth this year. In fact, the children have been working hard to become beautiful writers that we asked them to summarize what has been going on at our school. We are happy to share Lena De La O's words with you:

"Hello there from Victoria School! Our school has had a lot of fun lately. We just saw the fourth-graders complete their California Mission replica and report. "This is the first year everyone turned in their mission on time," says Mrs. Bucaro. The participation was great.

We also just finished out Heritage Week. The whole school was a part of learning about each other's heritage. We had something special for the kids each day, and on Friday we had a big fiesta for the families after school. We had tamales and rice, and everyone donated and pitched in to help with food. There was a great DJ and he did a raffle and let some students perform.

A couple weeks ago some Australians came to our school and became room "mates" with some Victoria families."

An Australian teacher, Karen Ghosen, also came with us on our trip to the Mission San Juan, and said that she had "never seen ruins as old as the Great Stone Church." Her statement made us appreciate the California that we call home.

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

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



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

ASB and Publications Switch

*By Cooper Griffen, Student – 7th Grade
and Luke Hume, Student – 8th Grade*

Did you know Associated Student Body (ASB) and Publications switched classes for two weeks? The switch took place because the teachers wanted the students to experience the other electives. We asked students and teachers what they thought of this experience.

Luis Barrera said, "I have done a presentation, and now we are in committees for different activities." "I learned what publication does, and we are going to begin writing articles," shared Jay Morris. Kyle Fitzgerald added, "It is interesting to learn what the other elective class does."

When the ASB students were asked if they would be interested in taking Publications next year, Isabelle Cruz said, "Yes, because I enjoy taking pictures and interviewing people." Stacy Lopez noted she would not be interested because "it is too much pressure."

The teachers had some thoughts as well. Ms. Paulus said, "It is going well, but it is a rush." And Mrs. Miliam noted, "I think it is going great because the kids are working together."

As you can see by the comments above, the ASB and Publications class switch has been a positive experience for both students and teachers.

Whittier *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tracey Carter
Principal

A Spirited Run

By Margaret Anderson, Teacher – 4th Grade

Whittier School students know all about being healthy. That's why many dedicated student runners enthusiastically gave up their lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays to participate in the second annual Whittier Running Club, culminating with the Newport-Mesa Spirit Run (NMSR). Buoyed by their enthusiasm, family and staff members joined in.

NMSR is a non-profit fund-raising event that promotes fitness, provides scholarships to students in the district, and provides a share of the net profits to district schools that support the mission of the run. Having running coaches on hand during our running club is just one way in which Whittier School has benefited.

On the day of the spirit run, cameras were snapping photos of proud Whittier students, who were literally reaching their goals. The following Monday back at school, participants were encouraged to wear their spirit run medals and T-shirts and be recognized at a school-wide morning flag deck.

Go, Whittier!



Sharing the Glory!



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Student Celebrations

This has been a very busy spring for the Wilson Elementary School Wildcats. As we focus on celebrating our students’ unique achievements, we have added to our student recognitions. First, we recognize our Wildcat Winners, students who have demonstrated a commitment to respect, responsibility and safety. We also have added a Reading Hall of Fame, where we celebrate students who have improved their reading levels. So far, we have recognized a fifth-grader who is reading at a high school level and a child who has read over a million words!

Furthermore, we continue to recognize students who demonstrate improvement in effort and achievements in our trimester award assemblies. This spring, we recognized over fifty students who showed great gains in subject area growth and effort!

Lastly, we have enjoyed our sixth-grade theater troop, which has led us through mini-theater moments at our rallies that focus on respect. Our last skit was impressive, focusing on the deeply negative impact of teasing and bullying on campus. The students are now preparing for their last skit in June for our final rally; the message is always a surprise that leaves us proud of our students’ creativity and commitment to issues of respect on campus.

As we move toward the end of the school year, we’ll be celebrating our students’ hard work with Open House and a Wildcat Festival before summer break.



Lauren Medve
Principal

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

The Woodland dragons had great time on Friday, March 1st, celebrating Read Across America day. Students enjoyed the school-wide pajama day in honor of Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Favorite Dr. Seuss books were shared by many of the students during their Drop Everything and Read minutes in and out of the classroom. Author, and illustrator Scott Sutton inspired students at grade level assemblies with a lesson on the basics of artistic expression in art and storytelling.

English Language Learners

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8983

Parent Education is Alive and Well!



Karen Kendall
Director

A district goal is to be partners with parents in the education of their children. Therefore, we have myriad parent education programs in N-MUSD that focus on the needs of parents of our English learners. The Parenting Wisely (PW) program, taught by our trained district school community facilitators, has proven to be wildly successful. Over 1,600 parents have been trained since 2005. Simply put, Parenting Wisely is a research-based parenting skills-education system designed to facilitate the learning of necessary skills for the healthy, well-balanced raising of children ages 3 to 18. Parenting Wisely has been proven in our district to reduce problem behaviors and increase communication and family unity.

For our parents, we also have cyberbullying classes, technology classes, our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) at all schools with 21 or more English Learners, and our district’s District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC). In addition, five of our DELAC co-officers and parents attended the Los Amigos Conversations at Cal State University Fullerton in March.

Parent education is a major focus for N-MUSD.

What’s for Breakfast



Dale Ellis
Director

By Pam Williams, M.P.H., R.D., Nutritionist
March is National Nutrition Month, and this year registered dietitians across the United States celebrated the importance of breakfast. Although March has slipped by, we still celebrate by encouraging parents and students to start their mornings with a healthy breakfast.

Why focus on a healthy breakfast? A healthy breakfast helps to jumpstart energy production and helps parents and students achieve their tasks for the day. It also helps students to pay attention in class and perform certain brain functions during testing.

Unfortunately, our lives get busy, and we don’t take the time to eat healthy breakfasts. Here are a few ways to get a healthy day started. Plain yogurt, cereal or granola, and fresh fruit make a good parfait. Toasted whole wheat bread topped with peanut butter and sliced banana makes a quick on-the-go breakfast. Add a glass of milk to get calcium for bone health. Make trail mix the night before with ingredients such as low or no sugar cereals, nuts and dried fruit. Then, in the morning, grab some string cheese to accompany the breakfast trail mix.

These are just a few ways to get started. Choose other healthy foods and enjoy breakfast!

School Health Services

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

Kids Worry Too



Merry Grasska
RN, MPH,
FNP-C
Coordinator

Periods of stress occur for children and teens and are a normal part of growing up. Episodic stress and anxiety from experiences such as watching a scary movie or having to perform in public are usually harmless, and children are reassured quickly. Anxiety is a normal reaction to stress and can be beneficial in many situations. Excessive anxiety is different, and the child may have difficulty controlling it, resulting in a negative impact on day-to-day living, including educational experiences.

After 911 and recent traumatic events at public places, including schools, throughout our nation and locally, students may feel a threatened sense of safety, creating stress. Parents and school staff can help children deal with their emotions during and after traumatic events.

Parents should observe their children to determine levels of anxiety. If older children or teenagers watch television or read about a traumatic event, an adult should be available to discuss what is being seen and read. Experts recommend offering assurance that everything will be done to keep them safe. Limit excessive exposure to the news and graphic replays of traumatic events, and stick to daily routines as much as possible.

Most youth manage fear and anxiety well. Watch for signs of extreme distress, including changed sleep and eating habits, altered concentration, and excessive fear. Know that school officials are dedicated to providing the safest environment possible.

For concerns and resources, please contact the school nurse or principal.

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 8?



Frequently Asked Questions



Peggy Nguyen
*Coordinator
Early Childhood
Education*

At what age can my child start kindergarten? You may register your child to begin in September if he or she will be turning 5 years old on or before Oct. 1. Children are also eligible for transitional kindergarten, the first year of a two-year kindergarten program, if their fifth birthday is between Oct. 2 and Dec. 2 for the 2013–14 school year. It is a parent’s decision whether to delay kindergarten entrance for another year, but public school districts must admit children if they will be 5 years of age on or before Oct. 1 of this school year to a regular kindergarten program.

If parents are unsure whether to enroll their child, the preschool teacher can be a valuable source of information about kindergarten readiness. It is important to remember that the development of young children is a complex and individual process that does not occur at an incremental, uniform pace. Parents should consider their child’s individual development when making the decision about when to begin kindergarten.

How do I find out which school area I live in? You can find out which school enrollment you live in by visiting the NMUSD website at www.nmusd.us.

What will my child learn in kindergarten? The NMUSD kindergarten curriculum is centered upon district-adopted state standards for the kindergarten level. Your child’s teacher will focus on building the skills that are outlined in the state standards by using research-based curricular materials and instructional strategies. The NMUSD teaching staff is also committed to providing differentiated instruction that will meet the needs of each student.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Fred Navarro

businesses informed of emergencies and other important events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the county or city may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and receiving devices for the hearing impaired.

To sign up for AlertOC, go to www.alertoc.com and follow the instructions to sign up for Costa Mesa and Newport Beach alerts.

Communication with the public is critical to effective emergency responses. Over 85% of civilians can be instantly reached on their mobile phone by text messaging. In crisis situations, timely information saves lives, and there is no more effective means to quickly reach large populations than mobile text messaging. Both Costa Mesa and Newport Beach Police Department’s work closely with N-MUSD during an emergency involving our schools and students and have offered to send alerts through their systems on our behalf. It’s just one more resource we can use to reach parents and community members at critical times.

To sign up for alerts, please visit Newport-Mesa’s website at www.nmusd.us

Loading Zone Safety Practices



Pete Meslin
Director

School buses are the safest vehicles on the road. There are dozens of safety features that no cars, trucks, or public transit buses have. Newport-Mesa Unified School District buses also have some of the most thoroughly trained drivers. We do our best to ensure your students’ bus rides are as safe as possible. However, we need your help when it comes to the things we can’t control.

The most dangerous area around school buses is in the school loading zone. There are hundreds of students either arriving at school or departing. There are dozens of cars with parents anxious to deliver or pick up their students. Add to this a few school staff members and a few school buses, and the morning or afternoon rush around a school can get pretty hectic.

To help ensure the safest loading zones possible, please use the following guidelines. Cross only at the crosswalk. Follow the instructions of school personnel. Park only in designated spots. Follow the flow of traffic. Do not pass vehicles when near the school. Obey the road signs. Encourage your student to be extra careful around the school, especially between vehicles. Finally, it is a good idea to think like a bus driver when you’re in a car near a school. The few extra seconds it takes to proceed very cautiously are surely worth the increase in safety for our students.

A special congratulations goes out to dispatcher Kim Large, who has been selected Orange County Transportation Classified Employee of the Year!

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KAMPS/ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

By SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

Fun & Educational Places to go with Kids & Adults in Southern California.

THE WORD “SUMMER” brings to mind a myriad of images from my childhood—going to the beach, reading a good book, eating popsicles, building a treehouse, and hanging out with my friends.

Those are great memories. I also remember getting bored. And I remember sharing this information, persistently, with my mom—I think she referred to it as *WHINING*.



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Art To Grow On

Friendship

I have great memories of friends coming over after school. We'd play in my room or outside and just have fun. As I got older, I remember how important it became to have those friends around when we had to study together, attend school events, or even wish one another a great summer.

Preschool is the opportune time for our children to learn how to be good friends, to make friends, and most of all, to play. In elementary school, things get busier. Homework, sports, dance classes, piano—I remember when a friend of mine let her children play outside and they couldn't find anyone to play with. She finally realized they were all at after-school activities! She immediately decided to make sure she didn't overschedule her own children. Her experience has stayed with me for years.

Our son, who's in first grade, just started basketball, and he loves it. But the highlight of his week occurs on Wednesdays, when one, two or three friends from school are invited to play. Word has spread, and the number of children waiting to play is quite something! The laughs, joy and spontaneity remind me of when I was their age.

Open-ended play is extremely important as our children get older. They play ball, run—and the laughs! Truly the best part!

Spring is here—the perfect time to invite friends over to play. Whether outside or inside, you'll help create great opportunities for your children to develop lasting and meaningful friendships.



Lauren Perelmutter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Center, Inc.
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Upcoming Celebrations



Evelyn Rogers
Children's Librarian

Good news! It's been a long three years of construction walls, noise and dust, but at last the beautiful new Civic Center and library expansion is nearing completion. The City is having a grand opening celebration on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by and explore. The library will have 17,000 square feet of new space, including an expanded Children's Room, upstairs study areas, and a bridge to City Hall that features a café. Outside the library you'll see the new City Hall and 12 acres of park space, including 1.5 miles of trails. There are also bridges across existing wetlands, children's elements (such as very large bunny statues), picnic and view areas, and the community's first dog park. We'll have a scavenger hunt and prizes in the library's children's area during the grand opening celebration.

The children's department is also currently preparing for the annual Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Reading is so Delicious." So come celebrate your inner chef with food, fun, and, of course, lots of reading this summer. The program will run from June 22 to August 9. The Newport Beach Public Library's children's staff will also be visiting local schools to talk about Summer Reading beginning in May. Visit the Newport Beach Public Library's Web site at www.newportkids.org for more information on children's programs, as well as links to the library's catalog, booklists and databases. There's lots of help for those end-of-year assignments!



Change Of Face





By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

Changing the face of educational institutions from quiet, controlled places to playful and free ones will help bring libraries into the modern era. It will also move the traditional library into the next century by using all the new technology from podcasts to downloadable media. And as things change, there will be more opportunities to partner with other groups and institutions that see the need for better library services for our city and who want to provide support for the effort in the belief they can help make a difference.

The new central library envisioned for the city of Costa Mesa will truly be different from libraries of the past. Perhaps the word *library* itself will be changed. Maybe libraries will be called *idea stores* or *learning centers*. The new idea is to combine traditional services provided by libraries with access to technology and lifelong learning opportunities. The library wants to not only provide resources but also to educate and improve the lives of those in the community. Patrons will be encouraged to hang out in the library, meet friends, have coffee at the café, and pursue hobbies, using the library's resources. What this new central library will provide to the residents of our community will be limitless and amazing!


Perhaps the word library itself will be changed...What this new central library will provide to the residents of our community will be limitless and amazing!

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Note-ables

Can You Canoe?



Kate Karp

The Okee Dokee Brothers—actually lifelong friends Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander—invite us on a canoe trip down the Mississippi by grace of their 2013 Grammy-award-winning CD/DVD combination. The DVD's video chronicle of their monthlong trip is a study in geography and sociology, utterly American in the topographic and literary senses. Trains rumble by on the riverbank, turtles lay their eggs in the mud, two children dressed as Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer are captivated by the Brothers' challenge to spell *Mississippi*.

It's hard to select a standout selection on the music-only CD. Like the Mississippi, the songs flow into the motif of the river journey. American traditional bluegrass and melody lines from familiar public domain sea chanteys and folk songs combine to re-form as the paddles that move the craft. Lansing and Mailander play banjo and guitar, respectively, and the canoe's crew, if canoes have crews, consists of technicians, photographers, guest artists, and musicians who play everything from accordions and fiddles to bass harmonicas and tomato boxes. The CD is easy to listen to and provides a great background to the outstanding, remarkable DVD video.

Evident to viewers and listeners will be the strong undercurrent of respect for and appreciation of the beauty of everything nature manifests, from the soaring water birds to the terrible storm that uprooted their tent to 22 pesky mosquito bites. Completing the theme is the wisdom of the river people. In the most memorable part of the video, Kenny Selway, the "last river rat," spoke of the generations before him and the trouble on his mind: the eroding respect for the river's ecology. The Okee Dokee Brothers brought this home with them, and it's their souvenir gift to you.

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

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Kent's Korner

Life Without Technology



Kent Kawaguchi

"What would you do if you didn't have Internet, a cell phone, text messaging, video games, or Facebook?" This was the first question author, columnist, and ESPN sports analyst, Mike Lupica asked his audience as he began his presentation to young readers, teachers and parents. He explained to his attentive loyal fans in Newport Beach, California that he didn't have all of the technology that is available today. Instead, he stated that "books can transport you into the life of another."

Mr. Lupica is known for writing many young adult sports novels such as Travel Team, Heat, Miracle on 49th Street, Summer Ball, and his latest novel True Legend. As a TV anchor for ESPN's "The Sports Reporters," columnist for multiple newspapers and magazines, and author of national bestsellers and award winning novels, Mike Lupica inspires others to use their time to read and learn life lessons through his two passions: sports and reading.



Kent with Mike Lupica

perseverance and drive to overcome failure as they learned to fight their way to the top. These are life skills and topics Mr. Lupica enjoys writing about. Mr. Lupica said that his "books do not contain vampires, wizards, or werewolves, yet kids love to read them. They are about friendship and kids trying to do something great in sports through teamwork and loyalty."

In Mr. Lupica's novels, his characters portray qualities of being a good teammate and persevering toward their ultimate goal. Through his writing and his characters, he hopes his young readers will be inspired and learn from what they read and apply it to their own life. He said, "Playing sports is more than just throwing or hitting a ball. It's about learning how you get up after getting knocked down and that is truly the measure of your talent, heart, and character."

Mike Lupica originally wrote for adults, however it was his son who inspired him to write for adolescents. His son was cut from a basketball travel team due to his short height. Because of his son and many other kids who were told they weren't good enough to make the team, Lupica decided to make a basketball team comprised of all of the kids whom were cut from other travel teams. As the season progressed, Lupica's team started upsetting teams that were beating his team earlier in the season. Mike Lupica noticed a boost in confidence and self-esteem in every single one of his players. He witnessed player's renewed

College 4 Less

Paying for College...



Susan D. Marshall

Raising a family has never had a higher price tag. And, sending a child to college is one of your most expensive charges. Once collegiate studies start, you're obligated to sustain education costs from freshman basics through cap-and-gown graduation. (This is even more financially taxing than buying a house)! Yet, a smart savings plan combined with wise asset management can keep you and yours on an even financial keel.

When your children are young, saving for college is a natural goal. But, when you save in the wrong type of accounts or put money aside incorrectly, your child's ability to get need-based financial aid may be compromised.

Consulting with college financial specialists is a smart choice. They can guide you through the labyrinth of financial formulas that make your child's college years secure, preventing overwhelming debt.

For example, 529 plans may not meet your needs; especially when another type of plan may allow more opportunity for financial aid. Doing your due diligence through smart asset management prepares you for financial demands specific to a college education. And, formula driven asset adjustments may make college more affordable than you thought.

When saving for college, your main goal is to accumulate enough money to pay for college expenses, when the time comes. You most likely will be looking at different types of savings plans and tax strategies that will allow you to accumulate money. There are many pros and cons when it comes to pre-paid college tuition savings plans, 529 plans, UGMA's and UTMA's, to name a few. If you own a business or are a high net worth individual, you may prefer tax strategies or opportunities to let your business fund your child's future higher education.

When it comes to saving on college, the time for spending the money you have accumulated is drawing nigh. You will need ways to significantly reduce your total costs for college, including how to maximize the use of other people's money, minimize your own out of pocket expenses and how to qualify for the most financial aid, regardless of income or assets.

There is no easy solution or one perfect plan. Everyone's situation is different, just as each student has unique abilities, passions, and goals.

To learn more, attend a free public workshop or visit my website and download 10 Free Secrets to Financial Aid.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com



Life is But a Dream

Suzy was 13 when she was introduced to rowing crew by participating in the Long Beach Recreational Rowing Program at Long Beach's Marine Stadium. She enjoyed it so much, that when she was asked to be coxswain for the novice boys team, she eagerly agreed. The coxswain is responsible for steering the boat and coaching everyone so that the whole crew stays together and puts the oars in at the same time. This leadership role provided Suzy with the opportunity to be around the water, to learn more about rowing, and, as Suzy jokingly pointed out, "I get to boss the boys around."



The next year Suzy excelled in all of her races. She was especially proud of her scull (single person boat) racing, winning all four regattas that she entered. However, the highlight was earning a position in the varsity lightweight 8-boat. With that team, she placed second at the San Diego Invitational Regatta. Last summer, Suzy had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to row with the Shanghai Rowing Team in mainland China. She made new international friends and learned about another culture, all thanks to her skills in rowing.

This year she had another exceptionally successful season. Not only has she enjoyed rowing and improved her physical condition, but Suzy has continued to win races. Suzy earned two first-place blue ribbons at the US Rowing Southwest Youth Regionals and the opportunity to compete in the prestigious US Rowing Nationals in June. With all her success, it's no wonder Suzy is already looking forward to her next season rowing with the Long Beach Junior Crew.

Suzy's hopes to attend college at the US Naval Academy, where she will spend part of this summer training. She will also spend a month training with the Long Beach Junior Crew at the Powerhouse Fitness Rowing Facility in order to improve her speed, which is already exceptionally fast. In fact, her current goal will put her at the level of the US National Lightweight Women's Rowing Team.

Rowing has been a very healthy experience for Suzy that has helped her physically, mentally and socially. I believe Suzy is a fine example of a great young lady who is "rowing her way to college."

You can row your way to success as well. Powerhouse Fitness is a great choice to get in shape while having fun. All workouts consist of High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) for all levels of fitness and all ages, burning a tremendous number of calories and achieving that lean-muscle tone in a very short period of time. These workouts are unique and effective for competitive rowers like Suzy and for the average person who has never rowed before. The results are amazing, and individuals generally burn about 800 calories per class per hour. All levels of fitness and ages 10 to 100 years are welcome.

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Honoring Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

On October 19, 2012, it was my honor to meet and congratulate the Orange County Teachers of the Year nominees at the annual ceremony and dinner celebration. The program is a prelude to the national Teachers of the Year competition which began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program focusing public attention on excellence in teaching.

Teaching is one of the few professions where practitioners truly have an impact on the future. Teachers are heroes in our communities, charged with the immense task of encouraging, motivating, and challenging young people to learn and achieve in school and beyond. They spend an enormous amount of time with our students to inspire and instruct them for school success. Beyond student growth, a teacher's passion for teaching and learning also encourages their colleagues to grow and become more creative and effective in their own classrooms.

The selection process for the Orange County Teachers of the Year involves both school districts and the Orange County Department of Education. Each district submits up to three nominees, depending on the number of teachers employed. A panel of educators reviews the applications and selects fifteen nominees to participate in interviews with corporate and community sponsors. The interview panel selects four K-12 finalists who represent our county in the California Teachers of the Year program. Although there is not a state program for Community College districts, Orange County includes them in the program, and selects one finalist from that group as well.

This year, Orange County was fortunate to have one of our finalists selected as a California Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. David Goldenberg, of Beckman High School in the Tustin Unified School District, is now in the running for the national competition. A social science teacher who is passionate about student success, Mr. Goldenberg's Advanced Placement (AP) World History students average an 80 percent passing rate on the AP exam. A proponent for community service, he founded a successful freshman orientation and mentoring program where participating students have written over 2,000 letters to United States troops serving abroad, created care packages for juvenile cancer patients, and provided academic support for English language learners. It is clear that Mr. Goldenberg is making an eternal contribution to the lives of our students and the community.

The Orange County Teachers of the Year are passionate about their work, demonstrate the highest level of integrity, and ignite curiosity in their students. They find ways to relate to their students and meet their individual needs while teaching students the important twenty-first century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. We can all be proud of these amazing teachers, and many more like them, who encourage students to set high goals and reach for their dreams, while creating meaningful learning opportunities that last a lifetime.

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Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put NMUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2013
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Congratulations to Our March Winner!
Dr. Aldimassi

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E	S	O	O	T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y	S
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