

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 41

JUNE–AUGUST 2011

N-MUSD Career Technology Education (CTE) Programs Earn Multiple National Honors



CMHS Virtual Enterprise Business Plan Team

Costa Mesa High School Virtual Enterprise Business Plan Team finishes first in the United States.

The Costa Mesa High School business plan team advanced through four rounds at the state level and three more rounds at the national level to win the Nation Business Plan Competition in New York City last week. The team consisted of CEO Joshua Knox, CFO Lisa Mia, Director of Operations Lisandro Barajas, Vice President of Sales Dillion Escobar, Vice President of Marketing Ana Alvardao and Vice President of Accounting Angeline Hong. CMHS is now only the third school from California to ever win the National Business Plan Competition. "I now have a new Best Day of My Life!" said team member Ana Alvarado after the awards presentation. The National Business Plan Competition is hosted by Virtual Enterprise and is sponsored by HSBC. The top teams from the county are

SEE COSTA MESA HIGH SCHOOL PAGE 23



Newport Harbor High School Culinary Team

Newport Harbor High School Culinary Team Sweeps National ProStart Invitational

Orange County's Newport Harbor High School earned first place in both the culinary and management events at the 2011 National ProStart Invitational, presented by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF). It is the first time in the competition's 10-year history that the same state has swept both events, let alone the same school. The event showcased the talents of top ProStart students from across the country, with the winning students on the top five teams in the culinary and management competition categories taking home \$1.4 million in scholarships and prizes. Scholarships were provided by the NRAEF, along with leading colleges and universities. "After successfully sweeping the state competition we knew something special was hap-

SEE NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL • PAGE 23

What is Career Technology Education (CTE)?

By Laura Boss, Director of District Communications

As Dr. Ken Gray states, "there are other ways to win." N-MUSD's Plan for Career Technical Education or CTE is designed to implement this philosophy. There are many reasons why this statement rings true but the most telling for us is the fact that over 25% of students enrolled at Orange Coast College, one of our local community colleges with a student population of over 30,000 have taken reverse transfers. In other words, these students have already completed 4+ years of college and earned a BA but have returned to the community college to get skills and/or a

certificate to get a living wage job. To this end, four years ago, N-MUSD embarked on an aggressive plan to provide the students of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District with the best range of options so that they will be ready for a successful world of both work and learning. Each of these encompass well designed sequences of courses, some of which are dual credit for both high school graduation and college, that lead to a college degree or certificate and ultimately, a high demand, high wage job. The District could not make these pathways available without the

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



As the school year comes to a close, on behalf of the *School News Roll Call* staff congratulations to the graduates, their families and their dedicated teachers.

If you want to share *School News* with a friend or relative, let them know they can sign up on our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.

Don't forget to enjoy our Camp/ Activities Section beginning on page 12. Congratulations to Jack McClintock, The Word Search Contest winner for April. We will have a contest in our next issue September 7th.

Have a wonderful summer.



Neta Madison

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The Arts Are Alive

Scott Fitzpatrick, Lead Teacher

This year our Choral Festival had a new focus. With the programs at many of our schools blooming, the music teachers decided to challenge the secondary students by instituting an Honor Choir at the middle school and high school levels.

Each secondary choral program was invited to send their top singers to participate at the festival. The Honor Choir singers were able to inspire and motivate elementary singers to continue their music studies in the future.

We are proud to be holding the Newport Mesa District Dance Festival on June 10 and 11 at the NHHS Theater. Dancers from all four high schools will come together to present a fantastic evening of dance. This is a great opportunity to see all of the amazing talent in the district at once, and to experience dance at a level that you would not think possible from high school students.

Our annual Art Showcase has become a great way for students to exhibit their work and showcase it to peers and public alike. The students are always excited and inspired by the artwork that they see, and are very proud to have their work displayed in a professional manner at the OCC Art Center.

Each year our Instrumental Festival just gets better and better. Students from across the district get to experience performing with, and listening to, several hundred students all at one grand event. Thanks to caring and dedicated teachers and district administrators, the performing arts are alive and well at Newport-Mesa.

We are proud to be holding the
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Water Safety is as easy as the ABC's...

The Newport Beach Fire and Lifeguards would like to remind people the ABC's of Water Safety:

A = Adult Supervision

- Assign an adult to supervise children in and around the swimming area. This is especially needed during a party.
- Maintain constant eye-to-eye supervision with children.
- Remove children from the swimming area for any distraction i.e. a telephone call, use of restroom, etc.
- Inflatable flotation devices should never be substituted for adult supervision.
- Maintain a clear view from the home to the swimming area.
- Ensure responsible adults know to call 9-1-1 and also the address in case there is an emergency.

B = Barriers

- Multiple layers of barriers isolating the swimming area or other water hazards (fountains) from children should be installed. In addition to an isolation fence, one or more of the following safety features can provide the additional protection:
 1. Approved pool and spa safety cover and alarms
 2. Exit alarms on doors that access the pool and spa
 3. Keep all doors and windows leading to the pool and spa area locked
- All chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb over the isolation fence should be removed.

C = Classes

- Learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
- Watch a CPR Awareness Video at <http://www.abcpoolsafety.org>
- Enroll your child in swimming lessons.

And have a fun, safe day at the Pool.

More Than Just Books

By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

The Foundation hears from people all the time who tell us, "We don't need libraries any more because we have the Internet!" And we hear constantly that books are now available electronically.

Yes, they may be, many are indeed, but it will be years before all books are available in electronic form. But public libraries are much more than just the books they house. They are also the one source of education that can serve people of all ages, rich or poor, and equally.

But a library can only do what it does well when it is supported by the public it serves. So you lovers of books, in both paper and electronic form, and you parents of children who need to become better readers, as well as you lovers of knowledge shared, please become involved and help us secure a new central library for our city!

And please don't forget the wonderful programs that are available now at the Donald Dungan and Mesa Verde libraries.

There are great children and adult programs at these sites, as well as computers (that always seem to be in use), plus knowledgeable help from our terrific librarians. And they are available for anyone of any age who needs help in doing research, finding books or other materials.

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Financial Tips

Convenience of Online Banking (Part II)



Jeffrey A. Napper
President & CEO
LBS Financial
Credit Union

Online banking is efficient, convenient and effective, but more importantly, it is safe. Financial institutions offer layers of protection and security to make sure that all your personal information and transactions are secure.

Paying bills online may also protect you from identity theft. Any paper trail with your personal account information on it can be compromised when stolen from your mailbox or your trash. With today's increasing identity theft issues, this is a real concern for all consumers.

Before you enter your login information, make sure everything is secure. Look for the "lock" icon by your address bar to determine if the connection is secure. You can also look for "https" instead of "http" in the address to determine whether or not a connection is secure. Some sites also use iFrames, or login boxes on every page of their website which may not be identified with a lock at the bottom of the page but does encrypt the information as it passes over the Internet.

Online banking eliminates paper waste, which is a plus for the environment. Not only can you eliminate check writing and postage, you may also sign up for electronic statements in lieu of paper. You will receive your statements faster than by mail and can print them only when needed.

Another advantage of online banking is the ability to move funds between accounts. You can move your funds from one account to another account at the same financial institution or even between different financial institutions. There is no need to come in to the credit union or bank or pick up the phone to talk to a representative to transfer cash since you can transact your business anywhere with online banking.

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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Full of Exciting Opportunities

Fourth Grade at Adams Elementary School is full of exciting opportunities for students. On March 3, the fourth grade students at Adams School went on a field trip to Dana Point Tide Pools. Students were hiking, splashing, investigating, and exploring the marine world around us! Throughout the field trip, students learned about the tides, marine animals and plants. As students explored, they found live examples of barnacles, crabs, sea anemones, sea urchins, sea stars, and fish. The Dana Point Tide Pools lay immediately below examples of our southern California geology. Students studied erosion, rock formations and faults including the close-to-home San Andreas Fault. Another exciting event occurred on April 4, when fourth grade students had an assembly with the Costa Mesa Fire Department Captain. The Captain provided a lesson about life safety and fire prevention. Students learned how to prevent injuries and how to prevent fires. This special visit from our community partners was a unique opportunity for students to meet the real-life heroes around us every day.



California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kelli Smith
Principal

Ready for Anything

In May., California School conducted a mock disaster drill. The California School staff and parents role-played actual scenarios that simulated a real earthquake in our area.

Staff received sealed envelopes in the morning of the disaster and were told to not open them until the drill. The California school PTA had gathered parents to role-play situations that may cause difficulty for the staff in the event of a real disaster, allowing staff to be better prepared in the event of an actual emergency.

After this event, the California school community met and discussed what went well and what needed to be improved so they would be even better prepared should an actual emergency take place. The California staff conducts this drill annually and values the information it receives to restructure and refine their emergency procedures.

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

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935



Laura Vlasic
Principal

Children Addressing Needs (CAN)

Andersen CAN (Children Addressing Needs) is proud to continue our penny collection for Save the Children. Save the Children is the leading independent organization creating a lasting change in the lives of children in need in the United States and around the world. Recognized for their commitment to accountability, innovation and collaboration, their work takes them into the heart of communities, where they help children and families help themselves. They work with other organizations, governments, non-profits and a variety of local partners while maintaining their own independence. The Andersen students are sharing this vision to change



the lives of less fortunate children around the world. Save the Children's programs reach over 64 million children across the world. Andersen students are a catalyst to making a difference for these children through our CAN program. Our Student Council, with the support of the administration, teachers, and staff is facilitating the classroom collections and they are making a difference. Our school-wide collaborative efforts have raised \$2560.

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

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



Debbie-Lucker Davis
Principal

Two Schools, Two Purposes

There are some very special things that we can do for our students in alternative education. Did you know that students have an opportunity to make up a minimum of 15 credits per year at Back Bay, or work independently to get ahead at Monte Vista?

Yes, there are two schools, and each one has a distinct mission. Back Bay students frequently transfer to Monte Vista to finish their high school careers, while also working full time, parenting children, or even competing athletically at the regional, state or national level.

Currently, three top national athletes are attending Monte Vista. One student has gone pro and plays soccer with the Galaxy; a second student is competing in snowboarding and is rarely in Newport Beach; and a third athlete is ranked as one of the top four surfers in the nation!

Keeping Alternatives in Mind

As of the end of May, Back Bay had already graduated 12 seniors early, and there have been 32 Monte Vista graduates as well. When students graduate early they typically move on to OCC to begin their college requirements.

If you are a student looking for a smaller, more personal environment, think about starting the year off in one of our alternative programs. Future seniors who will be 30 or more credits behind as of June really need to have a plan in place to earn back those credits while also attending in the fall.

Talk to your school counselor about a graduation plan, and then schedule a visit. It is never too early to start thinking about getting back on track.

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

2380 Notre Dame Road, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960



Julie McCormick
Principal

Award-Winning Accomplishments

As we reflect back on our school year, we are pleased with the many accomplishments of our students. One of these is the number of English learners who successfully reclassified to be Fluent English Proficient (R-FEP). These students must meet several rigorous criteria, including report card grades, California Standards Test (CST) scores, and California English Language Development Test (CELDT) scores, which involve assessing reading, writing, listening and speaking, before they can reclassify. In the 2011–2012 year, we had 36 students who met all these criteria and were reclassified. This was our most successful year yet for reclassification of English learners.

Our student choir performed for the public at a local bookstore. The store provided in-store discounts for all purchases made, as well as donating a portion of their sales back to College Park School.

Two College Park sixth-grade students, Kylee Keating and Alex Orozco, won the Elks Essay contest. They were recognized at the Elks Awards Dinner and also received \$100 savings bonds.

More than 100 students participated in Kids Run the OC. For ten weeks, Diane Daruty and volunteer coaches from University of California, Irvine came out to train our students in track and field and distance running. The students completed 25.2 miles in the 10 weeks of practices and concluded the “marathon” on April 30. The students were presented with medals at a school flag deck ceremony.

We wish everyone a most enjoyable summer, and look forward to the 2011–2012 school year!

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

2101 Eastbluff Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000



Tim Bryan
Principal, 9-12 Grade



Guy Olguin
Principal, 7-8 Grade

Cheer and Song Going Strong!

Under the leadership of advisor Cami Marseilles and coaches Lauren Anderson and Christina Figueroa, the Corona Del Mar (CdM) High School Cheer and Song program has seen amazing growth. The new team for the 2011–2012 school year was presented in the quad on April 28.

The program was re-born in September of 2009, with a new commitment to promoting all high school sports and representing CdM in the community. Cami and Lauren provided the inspiration and discipline needed to bring the new team on line in time for football season.

In 2010, the program doubled in size, adding a junior varsity team and bringing more talented girls into the program. Christina came on board as the stunting and cheer coach with great success. The team held their first Little Sea Queen camp and published the CdM activities calendar.

In 2011 the Cheer and Song Team will again be reaching out to young girls with their Little Sea Queen Camp. The camp will be held the week of August 29. It is a great opportunity for any aspiring cheer and song leaders to meet the girls and perform at a real high school game. All camp information will be posted on the CdM Web site in June, and anyone interested is welcome to contact the Cheer and Song Board at juliacarroll@cox.net.

The CdM Cheer and Song Team would like to thank their coaches and advisor, CdM ASB, CdM Boosters, the CdM Foundation, and the school administration for all their support.

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

2650 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700



Aaron Peralta
Principal, 7-8 Grade



Phil D'Agostino
Principal, 9-12 Grade

National Championship Team

Costa Mesa High School has another National Championship team in its midst! The school's Virtual Enterprise class advanced through seven rounds at the state and national competition to win this year's national championship in New York City. Over 100 teams from across 22 states competed in this year's competition in early April, where they were required to present and defend a business plan that included considerations ranging from resource allocations to budgets to profitability

models. The CMHS team is also the first team from Orange County and only the third from the state of California to win a national championship. The team consisted of seniors Joshua Knox, Lisa Mai, Ana Alvarado, Angeline Hong, Lisandro Barajas, and Dillion Escobar. This year the students created a pollution offset company which had social responsibility at the core of its mission.



Davis *Magnet School (K-6)*

1050 Arlington Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930



Dr. Kevin Rafferty
Principal

Fantastic Year Number Two!

As Newport-Mesa Unified School District's first-ever magnet school, I wanted to pause and reflect on just what an excellent two years we have enjoyed at Davis Magnet School helping your children learn! Thank you for your support!

First Magnet School in NMUSD: Attracting students from every school in NMUSD, we are serving approximately 525 students in grades PreK-6 this year. We offer a fee-based NMUSD preschool program for children ages 3 and 4.

Hands-on Science, Math, and Technology: Based on the State of California's rigorous content and performance standards, Davis Magnet School promotes hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Our focus is on science, math, and technology – and we integrate the curriculum as we teach all subject areas, including: language arts, social studies, art, music, physical education etc.



Early College *High School (9–12)*

2990 Mesa Verde Dr. East, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 949/515-3382



Kathy Slawson
Principal

Spring Forth to Honors!

As we wind down the year, the month of May is a time when we recognize our students for their tremendous accomplishments at Early College High School. This will be the second class graduating from ECHS, and we are happy to announce that we have three students—Harrison Chan, Neal Lawton and Anthony Mondares—who have earned 60 college credits and will receive their general education Associate of Arts degrees from Coastline Community College and their high school diplomas simultaneously. The accomplishment of an Associate of Arts degree while completing high school graduation requirements is no easy task. They have shown their dedication and focus on their academics as they accomplished this remarkable undertaking. Neal and Harrison, who will share the honor of valedictorian as well, have both earned above a 4.0 in high school and college courses and will be headed to UC Berkeley after they graduate June 2.

The dedication and academic accomplishments shown by our seniors have paid off as they move forward in the pursuance of their secondary goals. Many ECHS seniors received early acceptance because of their academic performance and the number of college courses completed while at ECHS. Seniors in the ECHS class of 2011 will be venturing off to colleges such as UCI, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, California State University of Fullerton, San Francisco State University and California Polytechnic College in Pomona. We are pleased to recognize the wonderful accomplishments of our 2011 senior class.

Horace Ensign *Intermediate School (7–8)*

2000 Cliff Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910



Steve McLaughlin
Principal

New Parent Tea

The Ensign PTA hosted its annual New Parent Tea on Wednesday, May 4th in the Ensign multi-purpose room The Hive. For many students and families, the jump from elementary school to middle school can be an exciting and anxious time. For the over 100 parents that attended this event they had the opportunity to hear from parent leaders such as outgoing PTA President Carrie Young, incoming Ensign Fund Co-Presidents Alley Whelan and Kendra Lohr, and Principal Dr. Steve McLaughlin about the many ways Ensign is prepared to help with this transition. Parents left with information regarding the incoming New Student Orientation on September 1st, a better understanding of the academic programs such as Math and English, and some insider tips on how to stay connected to the school through programs such as School Loop. Overall, this was the best turnout in years and will help to make for another successful year for our students and families. Welcome to Ensign our soon to be Seabees!



Eastbluff *Elementary (K–6)*

2627 Vista Del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Our Students Have Talent!

Part of the well-rounded Eastbluff Elementary School curriculum is our focus on the visual and performing arts. We are so fortunate to have both a music teacher and an art teacher!

Our talented Eastbluff students all participated in a school-wide patriot music program, led by our music teacher, Ms Atchue, which showcased their singing and instrumental talents. Parents and staff were very impressed! All grade levels sang patriotic songs, the fourth grade played recorders, and the sixth grade played trumpets. Our Eastbluff Otter Orchestra also performed during the show. It was a terrific celebration of the freedom and opportunities we are so blessed to have in the United States.

Eastbluff students not only excel in music, but also in art. Student artists were recently showcased at a local book store in Costa Mesa. Our talented art teacher, Ms. Haymond, chose some of her favorite student art to send to the store, where all the shoppers could enjoy beautiful art created at our school.



Estancia *High School (9–12)*

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



Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

Eagles Prepare for Future Careers

As sophomores were taking the California High School Exit Exam, juniors at Estancia High School participated in a variety of experiences related to postsecondary career preparation. Students toured the Vital Link interactive exhibits which focused on three career pathways—Environmental Design, Alternative Fuel and Medical. Students participated in activities and demonstrations related to the career pathways including a fuel cell car race, wind turbines, CPR, and an eco house. Eleventh grade students also attended a presentation about the Regional Occupation Program (ROP) by our on-campus Career Specialist and learned about career preparation courses which are offered on our campus and at other local high schools. Youth

Employment Service (YES) shared information regarding the job application process, interview skills and free services which are available through their organization to improve youth employability. Finally, students participated in web-based career assessments through Kuder to help students identify career possibilities based on their interests, skills and work values.



Marine Science students at Estancia at the "mud grab" station searching for organisms.

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

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



Jerry Vlasic
Principal

Best Wishes, Mrs. Karg!

Kaiser Elementary School and our school community is saying “Bon Voyage” at the end of this year to one of our finest professional educators, Mrs. Cheri Karg. Cheri will begin what is sure to be an exciting journey into retirement after 30 years of service to students here in Southern California (the last 18 years here in Newport-Mesa USD).

Cheri's exceedingly strong work ethic and her supreme dedication to all of her students is legendary here at Kaiser. Her support of her colleagues and teammates never waivers—she is always a willing and helpful friend and co-worker. We look forward to celebrating with Mrs. Karg during her remaining time at Kaiser...We know this isn't “good-bye,” but “until we see you again!”



Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Drive, Corona Del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955



Jane Holm
Principal

Joining Together in Fun for a Great Cause

Sometimes you just have to have fun! Lincoln families supported Lincoln's annual Calypso fundraiser by getting into the spirit and buying golf balls that were then dropped from a helicopter onto the Lincoln field. Students waited and watched with anticipation as the helicopter slowly lowered itself towards our playground.



The excitement built as 2500 golf balls were then dropped from the hovering helicopter. Three lucky Lincoln students won some “way cool” prizes when their balls dropped closest to the hole, and of course there was a prize for that ball that managed to stray the farthest. It was pretty exciting watching those golf balls drop down from the helicopter; it was very exciting that we earned money to support special enrichment programs for our Lincoln students; and it was a whole lot of fun!



Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940



Charlene Metoyer
Principal

Learning Al Fresco

Harbor View Elementary is fortunate to be located in such an amazing area, full of culture and nature. The students of Harbor View are exposed to a variety of such locations on many field trips throughout the year. Each trip is tied into a California state standard for learning and creates the kind of memories that makes learning come alive.

Preschool and kindergarten classes have gone to the zoo, an environmental nature center, a local science center, Crystal Cove and a family farm. There, they expand their firsthand encounters with animals and experiences they would never get in Newport Beach. First-graders also go to the nature center and add trips to the Newport Beach police and fire departments and the two branches of the public library. Second- through sixth-graders may go to the nearby performing arts center more than once to see a symphony concert. Fourth-graders panned for gold at a theme park and take their annual trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano. Fifth-graders also go to the science center for a more in-depth experience, and sixth-graders spend a week at an outdoor education center that combines both social studies and science.

These firsthand experiences enrich the lives and education of all children and provide the memories that all of us retain throughout adulthood!

Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Lane, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945



Kathy Sanchez
Principal

A Terrific Finish

On April 30, over 60 Killybrooke School students ran in the KIDS Run the OC race at the Orange County Fair and Event Center. The students trained two afternoons a week after school for 10 weeks, with the help of parent, community, and staff volunteers. Over the weeks, students accumulated the equivalent of 25.2 miles of rigorous exercise. They completed a “marathon” of 26.2 miles by running the last mile on that day and received medals, T-shirts, and goody bags. We are so proud of our runners!

Killybrooke moms and their children were treated to a special PTA Muffins with Moms breakfast on May 6. Moms received home-baked cupcakes, sunflowers, and photos with their children. An enjoyable time was had by all. Our dads will be honored on June 17 at the Doughnuts with Dads breakfast before school.

Our annual PTA Sock Hop/International Night was a very enjoyable event for our families. There was delicious food, a silent auction, and music.

Third- through sixth-grade students trained hard after school for the Pilot Cup Soccer Tournament. We are so appreciative of the volunteer coaches! The teams' skills continually improved, and the students enjoyed participating in the tournament.

Killybrooke's outstanding volunteers were honored at a breakfast provided by the staff on June 2. We are so thankful for all they do for us!

As we come to the end of the school year, we give thanks for our dedicated teachers, supportive parents and volunteers, and hardworking students!

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Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960



Pam Coughlin
Principal

Mariners Students Have A Vote!

When you think of the members of the PTA, parents and teachers usually come to mind. In addition to the parents, teachers, staff, and community members, Mariners Elementary School also has 90 student members!

Lead by president Meredith Cagle, this highly involved organization came up with some innovative ideas to involve the student PTA members with not only attending meetings, but actively involve them in decision making.

At the latest meeting students were given the task of deciding how to spend \$500. An overwhelming 81 students chose playground equipment while the other 9 chose books for the library. Giving the students a voice gave them a sense of inclusion and empowerment in their school and education!



Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6965



Amy Nagy
Principal

Flag Decks

Flag decks at Newport Elementary are used to celebrate and promote our vision and academic goals. The first Friday of every month is reserved for academics. Student “Readers of the Month” are recognized for meeting or exceeding their Accelerated Reader goals. In addition, a primary and upper grade class is acknowledged for their reading efforts. Student essay, History, and Science winners are also honored. At times, Dr. Nagy will hear or read an impressive piece of writing during a classroom visit and that student will be asked to share the piece with the school. Supporting students’ growth as citizens is equally important. During the third Friday of every month’s flag deck, students exhibiting strong character are honored. At times, the two mesh together.

During a recent flag deck, student competitors on our Math Team were recognized. Students had to simultaneously apply positive character traits and their math skills to work as an efficient unit.



Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Road, Newport Beach, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

NCE Supports the Red Cross Efforts in Japan.

The Newport Coast Elementary families banded together with true NCE Coyote Spirit to support the efforts of the Red Cross in Japan after the recent earthquake and tsunami. We started with a coin drive outside the school in the morning carpool line and raised over \$600 in just 2 days. Then we placed buckets in the classrooms and the donations kept flowing and we raised over \$2,600 for the Red Cross. As parent organizer Deborah Kirkwood said “the big lesson here is small change=big impact” for our students. It was heartwarming to see our students and families come together so quickly to make this happen.



Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Kurt Suhr
Principal

Parker’s Presentation

By 6th Grade Students Breeana Greenberg, Molly McWhertor, and Kyle Carmack

On April 30th Parker Doyle and a small team of students from Mr. Africano’s 6th grade class, worked together to give a presentation at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. Molly McWhertor and Kyle Carmack wrote a persuasive letter to Dr. Jerry R. Schubel, the President of the Aquarium, asking for a field trip and in return Parker would give a presentation on sharks.

Dr. Jerry R. Schubel responded back offering 70 free tickets to the aquarium and Parker was given the opportunity to give a presentation for 30 minutes. Around 75 people were in attendance for Parker’s presentation that was held in the



aquarium’s Honda Theater. Parker did a fantastic job sharing about the sharks that roam the deep sea using a PowerPoint Presentation filled with pictures, facts, and jokes. Parker’s presentation was a first step towards achieving his dream of being a marine biologist.

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Adam
Adrienne
Aiden
Ainsley
Alessandra
Alex
Alexander
Alexandra
Alexis
Allison
Allyson
Alyson
Alyssa
Amanda
Amber
Amy
Anastasia
Andrea
Andrew
Andy
Aneesha
Ann
Anna
Anna Marie
Annalee
Anne
Annie
Anthony
Antonia
Aryel
Asheigh
Ashlee
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Avery
Bailey
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Baron
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Becca
Benjamin
Bethlehem
Bianca
Billy
Birger
Blair
Bonnie
Brad
Brandon
Breck
Bree
Brennan
Brett
Brie
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Bryce
Caiti
Caitlin

Calvin
Camie
Carley
Carmen
Carol
Caroline
Carolyn
Carrie C. Rae
Casey
Cassandra
Cassie
Catherine
Cathryn
Celeste
Chase
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Chelly
Chelsea
Chloe
Chris
Christiana
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Christopher
Cindy
Claudine
Clay
Cody
Colby
Cole
Conner
Connor
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Curtis
Cyndi
Cynthia
Danny
Darren
Darryl
Dave
David
Dawson
Dean
Deanna
Debra
Delaney
Delphine
Denisa
Denise
Desiree
Dorothy
Eden
Eileen
Elaine
Elizabeth
Elle
Ellyn
Emily
Emma
Emmalyn

Eric
Erica
Erin
Esther
Ethan
Evan
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Gabriella
Gabrielle
Garrett
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Graham
Grant
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Griffin
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Summer at the Library



Evelyn Rogers
Children's Librarian

The school year is winding down and it's almost summertime! The Newport Beach Public Library is busy preparing for its annual Summer Reading Program. As always, there will be great programs for children, teens and adults, with lots of fun and prizes.

This year's Children's Summer Reading Program theme is "One World, Many Stories." It all starts on Saturday, June 25 and runs for seven weeks until Friday, August 12. The program is simple: just sign up at any branch, read, and then win prizes! New this year, the library will also introduce a special program just for tiny tots ages 0—3.

Be sure to check out the great performers and creative craft programs scheduled throughout the summer. There are some super performers lined up. Think magicians, musicians, storytellers, jugglers, and of course, animals! In keeping with this year's theme, the craft programs will highlight arts and crafts from different continents around the world.

Look for the performer or craft program weekly at all four Newport Beach Public Library branches. Each branch has a designated event day: Central Library on Tuesdays, Mariners Branch on Wednesdays, Balboa Branch on Thursdays, and the Corona del Mar Branch on Fridays.

See the Events Calendar at www.newportkids.org for a complete schedule.

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All Together Now, Little Monster Records



Kate Karp

I'm old enough—I might add “proudly”—to remember when the four mop tops known as the Beatles stepped off the plane at JFK Airport and made their debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. There, they set a record for the largest TV audience in history—73 million to Elvis Presley's 60 million.



That record setting is one of the 12 fun facts in the cardboard booklet accompanying *All Together Now*, a Beatles music collection aimed at families with children up to age 8. Songwriter/musician Kevin Salem's production and accompaniment by professional musicians, among them singer and guitarist Marshall Crenshaw and the Bangles of “Walk like an Egyptian” fame, successfully avoid cutie-pie renditions of favorite songs. Included are 12 of the Beatles' most child-friendly creations—and there have been plenty to choose from.

Each song has its own illustrated page in the book, along with a poem having to do with growing up. The rhyme accompanying “I Want to Hold Your Hand” talks about all the things hands can do. “All Together Now”—with the lyrics ever so slightly edited—invites a romping exercise session. “Hello Goodbye” cleverly teaches not only opposites but contrariness between children and grownups. “Happy Birthday” is, of course, happy birthday, with a nod to the dangers of a sugar rush—ah, adults have to spoil everything!

The Beatles' legendary creativity has given them wide appeal throughout three generations. This collection makes it easy to pass their music on to the next one.

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

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Michael Vossen
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The Distinguished Schools Award

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Newport Harbor High's Bridges Program and Club Advisor Debbie Pogue and student members received The Distinguished School Award at the recent 40th Anniversary Awards Gala. The Distinguished School Award recognizes exceptional contributions to promoting, nurturing, protecting and cultivating a campus that is safe, welcoming and equitable.

Newport Harbor High School Bridges Program was recognized for its efforts to end the toxic language that fills so many high school campuses. Their campaign "That's W.H.A.C.K." (Words Hurt and Can Kill) honored the many students across the nation who have committed suicide as a result of being bullied.



Pomona *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Stacy Holmes
Principal

Church Groups Clean-up Project

Church groups have given their muscle and talent to clean up and upgrade Pomona Elementary School. March 19 a group from the Crossing Church together with PTA volunteers worked on a damp Saturday morning under the leadership of Francisco and Martha Felix, Pomona's technology teacher and her husband. April 30 the Church of the Latter Day Saints enjoyed a sunnier, breezy Saturday as they spent a morning working at the school. Ken Everson of the LDS and Pomona Head Custodian Lalo Sanchez initiated and organized the project.

Both groups went into classrooms and bathrooms to clean windows and surfaces. The entire school was cleaner, more sanitary and more organized as a result. The map of the United States painted on the playground got a fresh coat with a band of volunteer painters carefully repainting each state and boundary.

Pomona Elementary School is grateful for the churches that have shared their commitment to the Costa Mesa community with our school.



Volunteers repaint playground map of USA at Pomona Elementary School.

Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Stacy deBoom-Howard
Principal

Multi Cultural Celebration!

Paularino celebrated our school community during our Multi Cultural Night on May 6th. We are uniquely made up with students from many different cultures — Mexican, Vietnamese, Japanese, Russian, Marshallese, Samoan and American, just to name a few. It was a great night starting with a potluck and continuing with live performances by families from our community.

Students at Paularino work hard, are happy and enjoy friends from all backgrounds. When you walk out on the playground at recess you will see students playing, helping, encouraging and laughing with each other. It is beautiful! Our hope is that the students carry the lessons of acceptance and friendship for all into their adult lives, if that does happen it will be a wonderful world!



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

601 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905



Anna Corral
Principal

Second Annual Gate Showcase

Rea Elementary School hosted the second annual GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Independent Study Showcase right here at Rea School on May 24th! The students in the GATE cluster classes of Mrs. Baker's 5th grade, Mr. Morgan's 5 -6 combo class, and Mrs. Turner's 6th grade did a fabulous job of conducting and displaying their projects. This is the one time of year that our GATE cluster students are able to pick any topic that interests them and go through the process of researching, writing, and presenting their findings. It was their opportunity to shine and they did a brilliant job! Thank you to all the students that participated, and parents who took time from their busy schedules to come admire their student's work!

In addition to Rea Elementary, we also hosted students from Pomona and Wilson Elementary schools. This was a great tradition that our community began last year and is excited to see continue. Big congratulations to all the teachers, parents and especially the students who participated in this wonderful night.

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Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

966 Sonora Road, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955



Christine Anderson
Principal

A Message From the Sonora PTA President, Sunny Byon

Sonora PTA is made up of parents and teachers who have passion, tenacity and ambition to provide the best for Sonora students everyday. Our programs and activities encompassed the vision statement Heart, Mind and Soul. PTA wanted to build a sense of community for the students. Sonora partnered with the food bank, local senior centers and churches, and even created its own Green Team.

Sonora PTA worked hard to maintain music, arts, and science, and continued to support afterschool band, art classes during and after school, field trips and Science Camp.

PTA strives to provide a work life balance for students and families. Happy students are successful students. School needs to be fun and PTA championed



PTA sponsored "Cinco de Mayo" Family Event.

family centered activities, like movie nights, camp outs, Trunk or Treat, skate nights and Cinco de Mayo Fun Day.

This past year has been a wonderful experience for all.

Whittier *Elementary (K-5)*

1800 N. Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990



Tracey Carter
Principal

Cooking in the Classroom

By Miss Rebecca Thirkettle, 2nd Grade Teacher

Houghton Mifflin met Cooking in the Classroom at Whittier Elementary as all 2nd graders got to make their own pumpkin turnovers (empanadas) after reading the story *Jalapeno Bagels* in April. As students entered the MPR they donned hairnets and gloves and prepared to duplicate the experiences of Pablo (the main character) working in his parents' bakery. They sat at carefully prepared stations and listened and followed directions to create their own tasty treat. Students showed their individuality as

they received their own dough circle, scooped in pumpkin filling, and finally sealed the dough edge with egg wash and a plastic fork. The empanadas spent



recess in the oven and after a few minutes to cool, students got to sample their creations. Most students found this a delicious experience and wondered aloud what other recipes might appear in their anthology. Thanks Jeff Ianniello for helping to bring our Language Arts story alive!

Charles W. Tewinkle

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 *Intermediate School (7-8)*



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

TeWinkle Happenings...

TeWinkle's feeder schools: Adams, California, Davis, Pomona, Rea, Victoria and Wilson visited the campus on April 28th. They were familiarized with program offerings and student life activities. Congratulations to Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) award recipients: Marilyn Alejandre, Vanessa Herrera, Andrew Brionez, and Tharin Drescher-Hurst.

Congratulations to the Boys' 7th and 8th grade soccer teams for winning the Coastal League Championship Title. Both teams went undefeated this season.



Coastal League Champions: TeWinkle Boys' 7th (above) and 8th grade (below).



Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Linda Tenno
Principal

Students Doing Their Part

The 4th and 5th graders at Victoria Elementary were fortunate enough to receive a grant from Inside the Outdoors, that allowed them the opportunity to visit Modjeska Canyon in May.

Students are also participating in a service learning project to help reduce the amount of waste that our school produces. Students obtained baseline information from a Wednesday lunch, and found out that our school produced 181 pounds of trash in one lunch period. They made posters and talked to all the classes about using reuseable containers, and eating all their food. The next Wednesday at lunch our trash dropped to 70 pounds. We hope to continue to help reduce the amount of waste that Victoria Elementary contributes to the landfills.



Victoria Elementary School's Waste Free Wednesday.

Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

801 W. Wilson, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

It Was a Great Year!

The school year has flown by for Wilson Wildcats this year. With only three weeks of school left this year, Wilson students are still very busy with culminating projects and activities. One of the most interesting activities is our “Walk Through Ancient History” program, which occurs in the beginning of June. Our 2nd and 3rd graders will also have a “Cultural Fiesta” musical performance for parents. The second week of June will feature a flag deck and a Father’s Day Recognition. Much like the Mother’s Day Recognition, children will have the opportunity to honor their dads after our “Donuts for Dads” morning. We also have our school jogathon, sponsored by our PTA. Lastly, we congratulate our 6th graders moving on to 7th grade with an engaging promotional ceremony with wonderful music, speeches and honors this year. As we close our doors for the summer, our students will participate in one more spirit rally, to celebrate our school pride and wish folks a great summer.

School Readiness

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 949/515-6622



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
*Director of
Early Childhood
Development*

Frequently Asked Questions About Starting Kindergarten

At what age can my child start kindergarten?

You may register your child to begin in September, 2011, if he or she will turn five on or before December 2, 2011. It is a parent’s decision whether or not to delay kindergarten entrance for another year. Public school districts must admit children if they will be five on or before December 2 of the school year (California Education Code §48000(a)). If parents are unsure whether or not to enroll their child, the child’s 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.

Will the kindergarten entry age change in the future?

Senate Bill 1381, The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010, changes the requirements for the minimum age at which a child is to be admitted to kindergarten. There are no changes for the 2011-12 school year. The change will take effect for 2012-13 (a child must turn five on or before November 1, 2012). The age requirement will continue to roll back so that children entering kindergarten must turn five by September 1st starting in 2014-15.

Parents are encouraged to call our N-MUSD School Readiness staff at (949) 515-6622 with questions about kindergarten readiness or resources for young children.

Adult Education

2045 Meyer Pl., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 949/515-6996



Bob Nanney
Principal

See You Next School Year

Adult Education will operate on the same schedule during the 2011-12 school year.

ESL registration will be August 17, 30, and 31 from 8:00-11:00am & 4:00-7:00pm. Classes will begin Sept. 7.

High School Diploma & GED Prep registration begins Sept. 12 from 2:00-8:00pm.

The Adult Education office will be open to the public Monday-Thursday beginning August 22 from 8:30am-12:30 & 1:30-5:00pm.

Thank you to all our adult students and staff for a wonderful year of successful learning and contributing to our local community.



Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Lane, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945



Lauren Medve
Principal

Great Fun

The students enjoyed watching Mrs. Medve have pies gently placed on her face during this morning’s flag deck. The students met the goal of raising over \$20,000 at this year’s Jog-a-Thon. A special shout out to Sherri Fenn and all of the behind the scene helpers who made this year’s Jog-a-Ton a huge success!

A great time was had by all at the Kaiser Woodland Schools Carnival. The Around the World theme was a huge hit, especially the “Swedish Fish” booth. Almost every family took home a fish or two! Thank you PFO and Amy Peters!



Principal Lauren Medve kept her promise!

Teachers enjoyed a fabulous Teacher Appreciation luncheon during Teacher Appreciation Week hosted by the PFO. In fact, the entire week was very special with students sharing something with the teachers every day including flowers, letters, and special lunches to name a few. Thank you PFO and Amy Sisk.

Education Technology / Information Technology

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5042



Jenith Mishne
*Director
Education
Technology*



Alan Engard
*Director
Information
Technology*

Hot summer upgrades

The Information Technology Department will be funding and installing an upgrade for all Adobe Acrobat licenses. There are currently seven different versions in use across the district. But instead of getting just the latest version, we’re getting licenses for Adobe Digital School Collection 9, which includes Acrobat; Photoshop Elements for graphics; Premiere Elements for movies; Soundbooth for sound, music and podcasts; and Contribute for blogs and the Web. Initial tests of the software have been very impressive: both are

integrated and easy to use with the type of capabilities that used to be defining strong suit of Macs.

Next on the upgrade list are the big guns: Windows and Office. Beginning late this summer and continuing for several years, we’ll be upgrading to Windows 7 Professional and Office 2010. The phased implementation will allow sufficient time to make sure that the schools’ computers are capable of running the new software and will also spread the cost and manpower during these lean budget times. An entire department or school will be upgraded at one time so that everyone at that location will be using the same version. With the help of the educational technology department, training will occur just in time—a day or two before the software is installed,—with a follow-up session for questions once the software has been in use for a while.

The timing is perfect for several schools that are planning to replace most or all of their obsolete computers. Already in the works are plans to install about 800 computers this summer, a healthy percentage of the 7,000 computers in the school district.

Nutrition Services

2985 A Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • www.nmusd.us/depts/ns/resources_parent.php



Richard Greene
Director of
Nutrition Services

Why Drink Water?

By Pam Williams, MPH, RD, Nutritionist

When the temperature rises during the summer, we look for ways to cool down. One quick way to cool off is to drink a glass of refreshing water.

Is water important? It certainly is—60 to 75 percent of the human body is made up of water! When we get warm or hot, the body tries to cool us by sweating. We lose even more water when the body gets rid of waste material, when we digest foods, when our eyes tear and other ways. To help our bodies stay cool, we must replace the water.

Buying water is one way to keep a steady supply on hand, but tap water can quench our thirst and we save money, too. If tap water is not tasty, try filling a pitcher of water and let it sit overnight. This releases the chlorine, and the water will taste better. Add a few ice cubes, and we have a nice cold drink. Adding a twist of lemon or other citrus slices to water will also make a refreshing drink.

Are there any other benefits of getting water into the diet? It has no calories! Beverages like sodas and other sugary drinks that are often consumed in the summer contribute to our overall calorie intake. Too many extra calories can add to weight gain and other health issues. A glass of refreshing water quenches our thirst perfectly without all of the other ingredients.



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School Health Services

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

Merry Grasska RN, MPH, FNP-C
Health Services Coordinator

Bullying

By Wafa Bennani, RN, BSN

Bullying is defined as a form of aggression in which one or more children will repeatedly and intentionally intimidate, harass or physically harm a victim. This can happen in person or electronically, and it is more common in our schools than we think.

The consequences of bullying may result in serious physical and emotional problems, and even death. Victims can suffer from low self-esteem, anxiety, depression and poor academic progress. Some victims may even commit suicide or retaliate out of a sense of desperation.

Bullies may also develop behavioral problems during adolescence or drop out of school. As adults, they can have trouble holding jobs or having positive relationships.

Treatment Methods

One way to stop bullying is to foster resiliency and non-violent behavior. This can be done by opening a dialogue on bullying in the classroom or at home. Parents can play a key role by discussing healthy behavior with their children and demonstrate healthy social interaction.

We also need to keep our eyes open for red flags such as school phobia, behavioral problems, somatic symptoms, depression or suicidal thoughts. Always stand by victims so that they don't feel hopeless. Swift disciplinary action can also be very effective to help stop the bully from continuing his or her aggressive behavior. Referring the victim and the bully to mental health services can help manage this unhealthy and dangerous behavior.

We all need to understand bullying and how to deal with it, as well as take an active role to keep it from occurring. For more resources, please visit <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/contract-bullying>.

District Transportation

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8903



Pete Meslin
Director

Safety Starts With Preparation

The best time to prepare for a crisis is not when you're in one. We take this admonition seriously and provide our drivers and dispatch staff with extensive training on how to be prepared for a variety of situations. This training extends well beyond defensive driving skills. We prepare for some very unlikely scenarios because we have to be ready in case the unlikely becomes reality. We are prepared with checklists and training and we're pro-active in addressing signs of problems before they escalate. This helps to keep "issues" from becoming "crises."



Adam Wayne,
Supervising Mechanic

Recently we had the opportunity to loan one of our buses and our supervising mechanic, Adam Wayne, to the Costa Mesa Police Department's S.W.A.T. team. In the past N.B. P.D. has also practiced on our buses. Although it is extremely unlikely we will ever require S.W.A.T. services, it should give us all peace of mind to know that local law enforcement has detailed knowledge about our vehicles.

REMINDER: You can avoid long lines and be ready for the 2011-12 school year by getting your bus passes now. Applications are available on-line or at the Transportation department office.

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COSTA MESA HIGH SCHOOL • FROM PAGE 1

invited to present their business plans and then defend them in front of a panel of executive judges. The business plan competition is part of the Virtual Enterprise program. Virtual Enterprise is a senior level class in which students create, design and operate a virtual business. Each student interviews for a position in the company and performs their specific job functions for the entire year. Students create a business plan, sales catalog, website, video commercial and human resource manual. Once the students have an operational business they participate in trade fairs across the country to sell their goods and services. There are over 500 Virtual Enterprise companies in the country and it is especially competitive in California and on the east coast. This year, the students created Sanatorius, a pollution offset company that installs compost toilets in developing countries. Instructor Mike Sciacca enlisted help from industry professionals who served as mentors, including Gary Berkshire a retired CPA and Doug Peterson an HR executive at Vons. Virtual enterprise is the capstone class of a three-year sequence of business classes at CMHS. This program has received amazing support from our principal Phil D'Agostino and our district CTE director Steve Glycer.

WHAT IS CAREER • FROM PAGE 1

partnerships and resources made available through Coastline Regional Occupational Program (CROP), California Partnership Academies, Smaller Learning Communities and collaborative agreements with Coast Community College District (CCCD) and Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD). Working closely with these organizations to help craft N-MUSD's CTE Program, we can offer college level coursework to our students prior to their graduation from high school. When they graduate at the end of 12th grade, they will not only have received their high school diploma, but they may have earned up to 30 units of college credit; credit towards an important certificate or degree, providing them either entry into a designated industry or the ability to continue with their education at a four year institution.

Currently, N-MUSD has 17 formal pathways within our high schools, such as Emergency Medical, Culinary, Business, Construction and Digital Media Arts. Approximately 40% of all high school students are enrolled in at least one CTE course. For the first time, we will be awarding over 75 CTE medallions at graduation. And, we start the process early in our students education. To support our nations call for College and Career Readiness, we have adopted a career assessment program that helps all students as early as 7th grade to find industry sectors that they have skills and interest in. For more information about Career Technical Education in N-MUSD, please visit <http://web.nmusd.us/cte>

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NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL • FROM PAGE 1

pening in Newport Beach this year,” said Alycia Harshfield, executive director of the California Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (CRAEF). “We are so proud that they could display their tremendous talent on a national stage.” The teams competed under the guidance of instructor Janet Dukes and mentors Emeliano Nino, Joshua Ponce and Nanette McWhertor. Also, the teams received critical feedback from executives of the Cheesecake Factory, whose Oscar and Evenlyn Overton Charitable Foundation generously sponsored the California teams to attend nationals. The management team included Kimberly Tessers, Eliza Stubbings and Kellyn Perham, who successfully presented a business plan for their restaurant concept, Spotlight, which they proposed to operate in Balboa Park. The concept focused on fresh, high-quality ingredients and sustainability. Culinary team members included Luke Fischer, Jessena Hernandez, Kelly Hackette, Jazmin Eck and alternate Marcus McGee. They were tasked with preparing a starter, entrée and dessert within 60 minutes using only two butane burners, and were judged on categories including taste, knife skills, safety, sanitation and teamwork. The students worked for months to hone their sophisticated menu, which included braised bacon and seared scallops, spiced filet mignon, potato couscous, sautéed vegetables with a red wine demi glace and a chocolate rosemary mousse cake for dessert. The appetizer and dessert earned unprecedented perfect scores from the judges. More than 300 students competed at the three-day competition, held April 30 to May 2 in Overland Park, Kan. Seventy-six teams demonstrated their presentation abilities and culinary skills in the fast-paced competition before more than 800 fellow students, educators, mentors, state restaurant association executives, and board members of the National Restaurant Association and NRAEF.

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