

N-MUSD Places An Emphasis On Common Core Training



Dr. Fred Navarro

Recently the District sent a group of secondary school team representatives to a workshop about the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Why send school teams to a conference when the same can be done in-house or locally?

I believe this is one of those situations when you have to have been there to fully understand why such events are impossible to replicate. First of all, to bring to our district the number of national leaders involved in the CCSS movement that presented at the conference would be financially prohibitive. Additionally, it would be impossible to recreate the dynamic of learning from other districts that, like us, are wrestling with developing new units of study and new assessments. Finally, when you bring a team of incredibly talented educators and they come together for a concentrated amount of time, the teams make incredible progress towards identifying the best strategies that can be used to move the entire district along the continuum of implementation.

These types of conferences that concentrate on specific issues are significantly different than the looky-loo conferences where you window shop different topics and get some surface knowledge that may or may not be worth pursuing further. This new generation of institutes provides a focused series of workshops and keynote addresses on a single theme. The design of the institute is to provoke deeper thought and to develop a greater



Secondary school team representatives attending a workshop about the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

understanding of the vital elements required to build a better product for our students and maximize our district's learning curve. Through this process we enhance our chances of success the first time rather than having to start all over from scratch.

These are also very long days for our team members. The first sessions begin early, there is a working lunch, more sessions in the afternoon and then the real work begins. The Newport-Mesa way is to gather everyone afterwards and synthesize the new learning. It's a tremendous amount of work, but it is truly inspiring to see

how our team tackles this task with determination and teamwork. I believe that those schools whose colleagues participated will be impressed by the work completed and see how the time spent at the conference will help the entire district move forward with the CCSS. A special note of thanks to those teachers and administrators that attended the conference. Each of them gave time away from home, their families and their regular duties to help move our district forward with our herculean task. Their efforts and contributions are and continue to be greatly appreciated.

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Testing is over and the final days of the school year are counting down. Thank you for being loyal readers and including *School News* among your reading choices.

Have a Happy 4th of July. We are always mindful of the service men and women serving our country.

Have a wonderful summer. The cities offer lots of summer activities, the libraries offer programs for all ages and our camp/activities section beginning on page 10 is full of choices.

Our next issue is September 4.
Congratulations Class of 2013!

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
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ADVERTISING SALES:
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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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Common Core State Standards (CCSS)



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

The mission of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is to provide a consistent, clear understanding of the knowledge and skills that young people need to master by the end of high school. Many stakeholders in 46 states worked on the standards in English language arts and mathematics to be certain that time spent in the classroom results in students who are ready for college and career.

In addition to academic content, the Common Core State Standards provide a description of 21st Century cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills that work in tandem with the rigorous content standards. These skills focus on the “Habits of Mind” – mental competencies that students develop to be successful in a rapidly changing world. Attributes such as independence, valuing evidence, understanding other perspectives, perseverance, precision, and constructing viable arguments are developed as students learn the academic content.

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School Health Services

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Preparing for Change



Merry Grasska
RN, MPH,
FNP-C
Coordinator

Soon many children will be changing grades and transitioning from the routines of school to the routines of summer. Children handle change differently than adults. Some transition readily from one activity to another, while others have a harder time. There are ways to help children prepare whether it is a grade-level change, starting a new school, or moving to a new home.

Children need time to adjust to change. Allow children time to transition, whether you are preparing for a short-term transition from play time to meal time or you are adding a new baby to the family. When planning activities or change, add extra time for transition. This could be a few minutes to a few months.

Help your child prepare by talking to your child. Parents should be willing to listen and observe. Preverbal children can understand many words, and your tone conveys meaning as well. Explain to your child what you are planning, so she knows what to expect. If your child expresses feelings about the change, listen and reassure your child.

Transitions offer families an opportunity to grow together by finding ways to manage new experiences and challenges. Brainstorm alternatives with your child, if things do not go as expected. Sticking to a familiar routine or trying something new may help to ease the transition. Appreciate your child and spend more time with her during periods of transition. Remember, the school nurse and your child's teacher are resources, too.

District Transportation

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

2013 Year-End Review



Pete Meslin
Director

The end of another school year does not mean that things are winding down in the Transportation Department. We are gearing up for special education extended school year, the summer reading program, end-of-year field trips and grad night. However, just because we are busy doesn't mean we can't take a few minutes to look back on some of our accomplishments from 2012–13. During this school year in the Transportation Department:

- Bus drivers provided approximately 1,800,000 student trips supporting general education, special education, homeless and NCLB programs.
 - Mechanics performed more than 1,000 services and inspections on almost 200 vehicles.
 - Buses traveled almost a million miles, keeping 2,196 cars off the road around our schools daily.
 - Every bus driver received more than 20 hours of training in safe driving, student management and special-education techniques.
 - More than one-third of drivers volunteered in School Bus Safety Rodeos to master their precision-driving skills. In fact, Newport-Mesa USD has the only two representatives from Orange County—Victor Garza and Ricardo Sandoval— selected to compete at the State Rodeo Championship.
 - Drivers performed more than 12,500 thorough preroute bus inspections.
 - Dispatchers assigned more than 3,700 activity buses.
 - Dispatcher Kim Large was chosen as the Orange County Transportation Classified Employee of the Year.
 - Director Pete Meslin was one of four people chosen to represent the United States and share U.S. transportation best practices at the BusWorld—China conference.
- Have a great summer!

School Readiness

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

Celebrating Week of the Young Child



Peggy Nguyen
Coordinator
Early Childhood
Education

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

This year's Week of the Young Child was April 14–20, with the theme of "Early Years Are Learning Years." Although this week was during our school district's spring break, our preschool teachers honored their young students and families the week prior with special celebrations, including singing performances, a field trip to a farm, picnic lunches with loved ones, pajama reading day, cooking activities with parents, and much more. Parents also received information about community resources for children and families.



Killybrooke Preschool children enjoying "Bubble Day" to celebrate the Week of the Young Child.

Nutrition Services

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

The Tasting Affair



Dale Ellis
Director

By Pam Williams, M.P.H., R.D., Nutritionist

Who would have ever guessed that over 150 teens would be willing to taste sweet potato chili or watermelon salsa? This year, the Network for a Healthy California partnered with Mike Bargas, a health teacher and the head football coach at Estancia High School. We came up with a plan to introduce four vegetables and one fruit to his classes and football team. Once a week for five weeks nutritionist Pam Williams presented one plant food to the class and discussed the importance of healthy eating. Then the network team prepared and provided one sampling of fruits and vegetables in two different recipes. Students received copies of the recipes and a *Harvest of the Month* newsletter about the specific produce.

Week one introduced cabbage, and students received a sample of a delicious Thai peanut slaw and cabbage soup. They also learned about the importance of eating a variety of foods, including fruits and vegetables. Week two they explored green beans and tasted Asian green bean salad and green bean casserole. The next week it was melons, then spinach, and finally sweet potatoes. Each week students learned about the valuable nutrients and about healthy lifestyles.

Interestingly, several of the students tasted cabbage and spinach for the first time. Most of the students liked the new foods, although there were a few who preferred not to eat a specific vegetable. Students are learning that eating is more than just filling an empty spot in their stomachs; their food choices can impact healthy living, too.

Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Million Word Readers

Adams Elementary School is proud to recognize our students who have read more than one million words this year in Accelerated Reader. These avid readers were recognized at a recent Flag Deck Ceremony at Adams Elementary School for their incredible accomplishments. Hayden Sprinkle, Joslyn Aykroid, Lian Canda, Anh Le, Brithney Bautista, Antonio Padilla, Nicolas Ginorio, Ruby Selga, Hezekiah Bailey, and Hayden Pearce have read one million words! Nicole Brich, Ulises Abundis, and Dolorean Deren have read two million words! Sixth grader, Stephen Mack, has read an astounding SIX million words! We are very proud of all of our amazing readers at Adams!



Stephen Mack, Hayden Sprinkle, Ulises Abundis, and Lian Canda
being recognized for their Million Word Club accomplishments.

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

What is The Real Mission of Alternative Education?

As a member of CCEA and CIS, I have a first-hand glimpse at California's goals and outlook for alternative education. California is one of the few states that mandate alternative education for all students in all districts.

This mandate specifically states that districts must have a continuation high school. We are very fortunate in Newport Mesa to have both a continuation high school (Back Bay), and also an independent-study high school (Monte Vista). Both schools are designed to meet the unique needs of our students, and both are located on the same campus to allow a student to attend each if necessary.

Back Bay Continuation High School students attend classes daily from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students complete three trimesters a year, and are able to earn an extra 15 credits per year to make up for previously failed classes.

Monte Vista Independent High School students complete one class at a time, and attend school once a week for two hours. During their appointment with the teacher the students must turn in completed work, complete a subject test, and receive new assignments. Students enrolled at Monte Vista are expected to complete 20 hours of course work on their own during the week.

If you want to learn more about us, please contact Back Bay and Monte Vista High Schools, at 949-515-3389.

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

Student Celebrations

Andersen Elementary has had a very busy spring! As we continue to focus on our students' unique accomplishments, we have added a new student-recognition program. The new Dog Tag Award program recognizes students for academic success and exemplary character. Each week, staff members catch a student being a good friend or performing an act of kindness for another person. Those students are publically recognized for being a buddy at Flag Deck and given a Dog Tag to wear that states that they are a "Buddy, not a Bully."

Additionally, once a month, Dr. Bray visits every classroom to recognize academic improvement and student effort in the area of writing, mathematics and reading with the Andersen Author, Math Whiz and Star Reader Dog Tag Awards. The students wear the Dog Tags proudly and look forward to working hard to earn these awards.

Also, each week at Flag Deck, we recognize our Pride Award winners who have demonstrated the traits of Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success. We also recognize our two Dolphins of the Week who also exhibit character traits from the Pyramid of Success.

We look forward to a great end of the school year and the celebration of our students' hard work on June 6 at our Open House.

California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

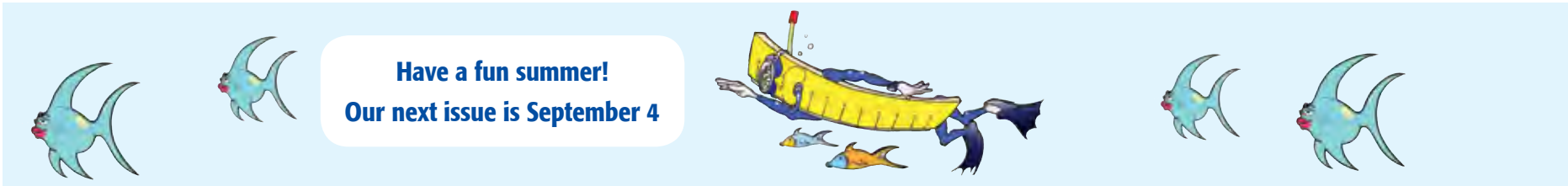
Here's Pie in Your Face!

In March, California School held its annual Jog-a-thon. It was an absolutely beautiful day for our students as they raced to see how many laps they could complete in 30 minutes. After tallying all the laps and pledges, our school was able to raise more than \$25,000, which we intend to use to update technology for students and staff. This grand total of more than \$25,000 is \$5,000 more than our school raised last year and \$10,000 more than all other previous efforts.

It was truly a great community day as more than 300 friends and family of our students came out to support the event through counting money, counting laps, handing out water or simply cheering the runners on. The students are ecstatic that they met each of their incentive targets as well, which means they all earned a schoolwide Popsicle party, no homework for one week, Mr. B. in a dunk tank and a whipped-cream pie in the face of all the teachers.



2nd grade student Makena is getting ready to run.



College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie McCormick
Principal

On the Map in So Many Ways!

College Park is extremely proud of our two teachers who have renewed their National Board Certification. Susan Shinnners, first grade, and Michelle Hanscom, second grade, were recently recognized by the Orange County Department of Education for this honor. National Board Certification is a rigorous process: 200 hours of reflection on student achievement, writing about your teaching, assessment exercises and videotaping lessons. There are about 25 certification areas, and only 3 percent of teachers nationwide are National Board Certified. We applaud Mrs. Shinnners and Mrs. Hanscom!

Mrs. Roberts's third-graders have pen pals in almost every state! Her class received a letter from a third-grader named Ian from Morgantown, W.Va. His class was doing the Great Mail Race. His letter motivated Mrs. Roberts's class to write someone in each of the 50 states. Each student chose a third-grade class, a school, a town and a state and asked for information about their school, town and state. The responses are starting to come in, and her class is charting each town and state on the map. What a fun way to learn geography skills!



A student from Mrs. Roberts room displays his letter to a third grade class in Flint, Michigan.

Over 100 students participated in the Kids Run the OC Marathon at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Our KROC runners train each Thursday after school under the coaching of teachers Julie Smith, Greg Wotta and Alison Harris. They're coached on running form, fundamental track skills such as starts and finishes, and endurance. We're very proud of our students and their fitness levels!

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

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



Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal
7-8 Grade



Dr. Phil D'Agostino
Principal
9-12 Grade

A Visit to Washington, D.C.

The Monday morning of spring break started out bright and early for the eighth-graders who participated in our Washington, D.C. trip.

Our sleepy eyed teens left Costa Mesa at 4:30 a.m. for the long flight back East. Once there, these eager Mustangs immediately embarked on a busy schedule of historical sights that would enrich the curriculum they had studied over the course of the year. Some of the highlights included Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington; the Holocaust Museum; and the

Arlington National Cemetery, to witness the changing of the guard.

In addition, four CMMS students participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington, which was a great honor. Other historical points of interest were Ford's Theater, the spot of Lincoln's assassination; and the Smithsonian, where the students were enraptured by the Air and Space, Natural History and American History museums.

The trip culminated with visits to sites in Pennsylvania and New York. Among the favorites stops were the City of Philadelphia, where Ben Franklin toured students at the Liberty Bell; Independence Hall; and Betsy Ross' house. However, the favorite teen destination was the stop at Hershey, where our students delighted their taste buds with the sweetness of chocolate.

Before heading back to Costa Mesa, our students had a night on the town. They saw the play *Wicked* on Broadway, and also viewed the newly unveiled 9/11 Memorial. This trip of a lifetime couldn't have happened without the efforts of teacher-chaperones Ms. Hayes, Mr. Hale and Ms. Sconberg.

Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

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



Christy Flores
Principal

On Track Onstage—and On Track!

Davis Magnet School students have been hard at work both in and out of the classroom. Recently, about 40 students performed in the after-school production of *Schoolhouse Rock!*

Students in grades second through sixth practiced once a week for several months to put together the musical performance of the classic cartoon *Schoolhouse Rock!* Parents and family members enjoyed watching and listening to students sing some of their favorite tunes from the program, including, "Conjunction Junction" and "I'm Just a Bill." In addition to learning their lines, songs and actions, the students learned all about hard work, dedication and teamwork during rehearsals and the final productions.

Davis Magnet School students not only performed well on the stage but out on the track, too. For the first time, Davis Magnet School had a student running club train and participate in the Kids Run the OC (KROC). Thanks to the organization and support of several parent volunteers, first- through sixth-graders trained for 10 weeks every Wednesday and Friday morning before school. Twenty-nine students committed themselves to running 26.2 miles, with the final mile completed at the KROC event.

Congratulations to all of our students, and many thanks to the parent volunteers who help make these various programs possible at our school.

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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

Speech and Debate Team

By Laura Mayberry, Advisor

The Corona del Mar High School Speech and Debate team has had a terrific 2012-13 school year. The club won 13 Best Speaker

gavels for the year, including two at JSA SoCal Spring State.

Spring break was busy as we also competed at the Bruschke Invitational at California State University, Fullerton, winning in both Policy Debate and Impromptu. This year, the team also helped lead a panel discussion with former secretary of state Madeleine Albright at the Bowers Museum.

Throughout the year, the team hosts speakers and competes in both the National Forensic League tournaments and Junior Statesmen of America debate conferences. The team is open to students in grades 9-12 and meets in the evenings on campus. The CdM Speech and Debate team is wrapping up the year with the team banquet on June 11.



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Cheryl Beck
Principal

Eastbluff GATE Showcase

On April 24th, Eastbluff held its annual GATE Showcase, where our GATE identified students from 4th through the 6th grades displayed their independent studies! Students began their research by asking three questions on a topic that they would like to further study. By conducting research or experiments, students answer their questions and create displays of the work they complete. At the Showcase, students from all grade levels and parents were excited to view the presentations, asking questions, listening to the GATE students' explanations, and admiring the work that had been done. This year, there were a wide variety of exhibits from "The Evolution of Ice Cream" to "Hydrogen Fuel Cells." It was impressive to see the depth of thinking and research that our students put into their independent studies. Well done, Eastbluff GATE Students!



Horace Ensign *Intermediate School (7-8)*

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



Dr. Gloria Duncan
Principal

New Seabees Swarm Ensign

By Kathryn Peters, Writer, Seabee Buzz

In April, we had 537 sixth-graders from each of Ensign's five feeder schools treated to a campus tour and a special assembly in their honor. Our goal was to introduce the students to the various programs and opportunities at Ensign. To begin their introduction, our ASB students led groups of sixth-graders on a guided tour of the different classes and key locations on campus. ASB student Kendall Blanchfield shared that the tour was important because, "It [shows] the sixth-graders what to do at Ensign and where to go on the first day." She also said that, "Most of them were really excited, and also nervous about going to Ensign."

The excitement of the sixth-graders was evident in one class blog. The tour "made me feel more comfortable about going there next year," wrote Mia Matsunami. Helen Coyne liked how "The ASB students involved all the sixth-graders in fun games and announcements." Delaney thought that, "All of the clubs sounded fun, and Mr. Jain and his pirate obsession was so crazy in a cool way." In an assembly that followed the tour, the ASB students acted out skits. The band, orchestra and choir also played and sang pieces from their last concert. The cheerleaders even danced to a routine. Additionally, our volleyball players showcased their skill, and Mr. Metcalf operated a student-built robot to represent the Robotics Club. Our staff is eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to welcome and teach these new Seabees in the fall.

Early College *High School (9-12)*

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



Kathy Slawson
Principal

Award-Winning Students

It has been wonderful to see Early College High School (ECHS) students receive recognition for their accomplishments as they compete with other students from high schools in Orange County and Los Angeles. We are very proud of the ECHS students who have been recognized for their accomplishments in writing, presentation, and problem-solving skills.

Jocelyn Arroyo, Chantalle Bril, and Jasmine Torres placed in the top five of the Chapman University Courage to Create Holocaust writing contest. Marisol Morales placed in the top three of the Youth Speak I Have a Dream contest. Jocelyn Arroyo, Marilyn Chan, Jose Rivera, and Leo Rosete placed first at the Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement Prosthetic Arm competition.



ECHS teacher Joanne Treffner, ECHS Student Marisol Morales, Student's sister Melissa Morales.

These students not only excel in their studies at ECHS, but they have also demonstrated how successfully they can apply their learning.

Estancia *High School (9-12)*

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



Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

The Estancia Advantage

Estancia High School (EHS) welcomed the Class of 2017 on April 3 during our Incoming Ninth-Grade Orientation and Spring Open House. During the event, students and their families attended a presentation about the advantages of attending EHS, which include a small learning community of approximately 1,225 students, a competitive athletic program, rigorous course offerings, a collaborative and supportive faculty, career pathways, and an award-winning drama program. Following the presentation, families were invited to tour the campus with Associated Student Body (ASB) members, visit an information fair about the enrichment programs and activities offered at Estancia, view



Presentation for the Class of 2017

a student art display, watch our Drama Department rehearse for their original show, which will be performed in May, and attend a book fair in our library. If your family would like to tour EHS and learn about the Estancia Advantage, please contact Jennifer Chamberlin, Assistant Principal, at (949) 515-6500.

Harbor View *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Todd Schmidt
Principal

Fun Field Trip

Recently, Harbor View’s first graders had the opportunity to attend the Muth Interpretive Center at Back Bay. The Center’s message focuses on education and conservation, so the students had an opportunity to take a nature walk, learn about the ecosystem and the food chain, study animal teeth and eating habits, and see a variety of animals in their natural habitat. Each student is currently researching a specific animal in class, so this field trip allowed students to learn more about their animals firsthand (and in many cases, actually touch one!) One of the highlights of the trip for students was seeing two coyotes on their nature walk! Students were so excited, they even began howling. Snacks and a brief documentary ended the incredible day as students had the opportunity for a real hands-on learning experience!



Killybrooke *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

College Bound!

At Killybrooke School, we have embraced the No Excuses University model, with a culture of universal achievement and exceptional systems to support the achievement of every child. Killybrooke students joined students from the other elementary schools in the Costa Mesa High School zone for the first ever Elementary School College Night on April 24. Families gathered at Costa Mesa High School to enjoy a college-style, family tailgate party. Students and their families then interacted with representatives from local colleges and universities. There were numerous presentations to provide students and their families with information on how to successfully prepare for college, including financial-aid options and high school coursework and activities to prepare for college. This exciting family night gave students more tools to prepare for the future and reinforced a shared commitment to ensure our children are ready to succeed in college and career.



Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3–6)*

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



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Adventures at Arrowhead

On one blustery Monday in early April, our Kaiser sixth-graders boarded buses and headed towards the San Bernardino Mountains for a week of science camp. Quite possibly the most excited camper was Linda Galloway, a sixth-grade teacher and science camp leader for 22 years! Highlights included testing aluminum boats for sinkability, pretending to be scavenger birds, and chewing Wint-o-Green Lifesavers with mouths wide open in the pitch dark to see the sparks fly. Our students also chanted about flora and fauna and everything from the seeds to the sun. This was a week of learning about the natural world by simply being a part of it. Although they returned tired and ready for a good soak in the tub, these sixth-graders walked a little taller as they exited the buses. They had tested their physical limits by hiking Strawberry Peak, and savored the view from the top of the hill. And they had discovered the exhilaration which follows the initial fear of having to hike “solo” in the dark.



Kaiser students in the wild!

Dr. Carl Sagan is quoted as saying, “Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.” Perhaps in addition to this magnificent natural science experience, our Kaiser sixth-graders also made some incredible discoveries about themselves.

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Jane Holm
Principal

The Arts Abound at Lincoln

Lincoln Schools’ arts programs were going full tilt this last month. The creative juices flowed as Lincoln students engaged with visual and performing arts. Third graders do-si-doed, twirled and hopped as they square danced and swing danced across our gym floor. Violins were blazing at our sixth grade violin concert. Sixth grade students astounded us with their talent at four performances of “Grease.” Second grade students studied Seurat and his pointillism techniques, using primary colors only to create a seascape. First graders combined primary colors to create secondary colors and designed beautiful patterns on fish as an extension to their classroom unit on sea life. We know that right brained creativity will serve our students well in the future and for now, it is a whole lot of fun!



Miss Lynch and the T-birds from Cast 1 of Lincoln School’s production of “Grease.”

Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Pam Coughlin
Principal

The Evolution of a Character Education Program

By Mr. Qualey, Teacher – 5th Grade

Mrs. Pat McLaughlin has been teaching since 1964 and has taught at various campuses around town. She's been engaging children's minds at Mariners Elementary School for the last 21 years. During this tenure, Mrs. McLaughlin searched for an awesome character education program. Finally she found Coach Wooden's book, *Inch and Miles*, and its companion character education curriculum, which focuses on 12 different character traits, known as building blocks. The building blocks are enthusiasm, friendship, poise, fitness, loyalty, cooperation, self-control, confidence, skill, alertness, action, determination, and team spirit.

Mrs. McLaughlin has been an admirer of Coach Wooden since she was a student at University of California, Los Angeles. After reading his book, she shared her vision with Coach Wooden: to teach each of the building blocks and allow two weeks for the students to reflect on how they showed and used those traits through journal writing. Coach Wooden loved the idea and gave all his artwork to Mrs. McLaughlin to use.

The Mariners staff voted unanimously to put the program in place, and the school has followed the Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success for the last 10 years. Nine other schools are also utilizing the program.

The Mariners staff and community will have to say goodbye to Mrs. McLaughlin, as she is retiring at the end of this year. We wish you all the happiness retirement will bring, Mrs. McLaughlin! We will miss you!

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

Nurturing Positive Behavior through PBIS

Newport Coast will launch Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in September. Currently, NCE staff and parents are developing our PBIS program and making plans to present this to students and families in the spring of this year and throughout the 2013-14 school year.

What is PBIS? PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools by developing research-based, schoolwide and classroom behavior-support systems. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective schoolwide programs. PBIS is not a program or a curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning and evaluation.

What is PBIS at our school? Newport Coast students are Honorable Organized Wise Leaders (HOWL). This acronym has guided and will continue to guide the development of PBIS, student expectations and the incentives program.

We know that the PBIS program will support all of our NCE students to learn at high levels.

Every Child, Every Day, Newport Coast Coyotes are **H**onorable, **O**rganized, **W**ise, **L**eaders.

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal

Collaborative Effort

This year Newport Heights and the Arts and Learning Conservatory produced the musical play Aladdin Jr. Forty three fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students comprised the cast and crew that put on this wonderful school play. The students worked so hard moving sets, practicing their lines, rehearsing musical numbers, and running through the wonderful choreography. Students and parents alike were dazzled by the two fantastic performances that were put on in the school's MPR.

We are so proud of our amazing Newport Heights Sharks. Congratulations on a job well done!



Newport Heights students during the production of Aladdin Jr.

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Amy Nagy
Principal

Facts About Newport El

In April, the Newport Beach Historical Society had an entire evening devoted to the history of Newport El! Here are a few facts our students shared:

Newport Beach Grammar School District was founded in 1894. The first school was near the Newport Pier. They had 18 students & 1 teacher.

In 1905, a new school was built a block away with 2 classrooms. In 1912, a larger school was built on our current site.

In 1933 an earthquake struck. The building was significantly damaged and had to be rebuilt.

In 1944 the enrollment reached 976! The school district expanded, opened other schools

In 1963, more classrooms were added to our school.

In 1980, the grass field was added.

Currently, we have 512 students! The building has maintained its historical charm while teachers provide students with an excellent, twenty-first century education.



Madison Bashaw, Jonny Rimlinger, Daphne Chong and Lauren McCracken at the April, Newport Beach Historical Society Event.



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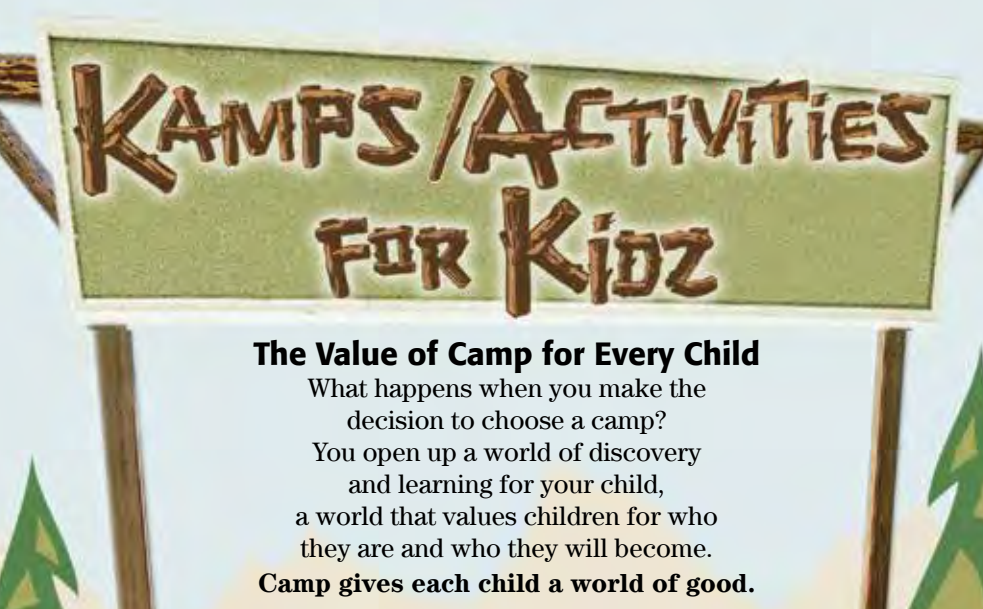
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Car Parts Word Search Contest



Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put NMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 30, 2013

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

antenna	gearbox	radio
armrest	hitch	seats
belts	hood	speedometer
blinker	hubcaps	starter
brakes	ignition	wheels
bumper	key	windshield
engine	lock	wipers
fenders	mirror	
gas tank	muffler	

Congratulations to **Joey Sacuy and Margo West**
Winners of the April Contests!

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

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Gearing Up for Summer



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

For some parents, the arrival of summer means less stress because the school schedule is not a part of the daily routine. For other parents, having the children home all day every day is stressful. Whichever arena you are in, the reality of life is that summer vacation is almost here for the traditional schools.

Children may get more wound up, more disagreeable, more difficult to manage as the start of summer gets closer. Change is stressful, even if it is for the better. The break in routine is stressful for children and adults. It is advisable to keep your discipline strong so that you glide into summer with boundaries in place. Consistent boundaries will also help your child to contain his or her behavior and to feel safe.

My discipline system is mentioned on parentingsos.com and my new book, *Don't Feed the Dragon*, is a discipline manual divided into three sections:

(1) what parents need to understand about children in order to successfully guide them; (2) my discipline system, and (3) answers to 130 of the top concerns of parents, listed in alphabetical order. The book is age-appropriate from tots through the teens and is available on parentingsos.com.

Having your discipline system in place, it is wise to sit down as a family and make a list of things that can be done during free time. The list may be posted in a place where children can use it as a reference. To quell the endless, "I'm bored" message that children who are not used to having non-structured time often begin chanting when school ends, offer two choices: "You may refer to the chart that we created or I will choose a chore off the chores chart that will help you dispel boredom." This plan might allow you to have your whole house cleaned in the first week of summer!

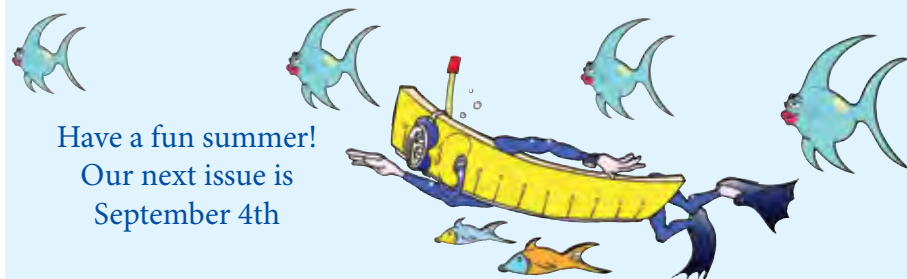
Summer is a wonderful time to train your darling children to do chores. Finally, they have time—the constant excuse during school months! Children will leave home some day—I promise!—and when they do, they need to know how to take care of a house and themselves. Chores teach a child that a house does not clean itself and how to do fundamental tasks, such as clean a toilet. If you have a housekeeper, create a space each week that the children are responsible for in terms of upkeep and give the tidiness angel one less area to clean.

It is important that children are not in so many activities that their lives become stressful. Children need time to be children! If you want your child to be successful in school, have at least a half hour a day that is devoted to school skills. If each child took a 30-minute "chill break" and read for that amount of time, their future teachers would be ecstatic! Every child needs quiet time each day that does not involve any media or mechanical gadgets, including during the summer.

Most important of all, enjoy your children! There will never be another summer like the one ahead of you. Your children will not be this age ever again. Create some sort of structure and have some time that is not structured. Don't send your children to other people to play all the time—what each child wants more than anything else is time with you. It is easy to forget that when you are trying to keep the energy-packed chicks busy.

Thanks to all the teachers who gave so much of themselves this school year to help our children be all that they can be!

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 35 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho www.ParentingSOS.com and Kindle



IS TXTNG KILLNG SPELNG?



**Dr. Shari
Sweetnam**

Dear Dr. Shari,

I heard that the habit of texting is destroying our ability to spell. That terrified me. My kids are constantly texting and online. They are constantly using things like "lol" and shortening words. Do you really think texting is that bad? I don't know how to view this or what to do!

—Mari - NY

Hello Mari!

Think about this: one of the ways you learn to spell is viewing and writing the word -correctly. You learned the words of our language by seeing them, reading them, and writing them, correctly, over and over again.

Now, let's say you are seeing horrific simplifications, even "made-up" words... over and over again. The question is, are we subconsciously "re-learning" to improperly spell words by "short cutting" and abbreviating so frequently as in texts, tweets and emails? Hmmmmmm. Logic tells us, "Of course."

In the old days, anyone over the age of ten, when seeing a misspelled word, would view it as something to be corrected. The non-word "thot" or "laf" would elicit a giggle and a quick correction. No longer! Now, it is expected.

Our brain is constantly at war between what we know is a proper spelling: T-H-O-U-G-H-T and our desire to communicate more expeditiously: thot. The average adult might have a stronger sense of differentiation between correct and incorrect spelling....but what happens to a child who experiences the shortcuts as the norm?

If you see a "non-word" like "thot" one hundred times, does it register in your brain as the correct spelling? Eventually, the brain has to pick one, right?!

I suppose that depends on a few factors. Let's consider these:

Age: I, for example, am a classic offender.

I text and tweet daily. I rarely bother to punctuate a quick text. Then again, I was deep into adulthood before texting, tweeting and emailing. Does my core knowledge of spelling and grammar remain dominant? Let's hope so (I'm afraid to ask my editors).

What about an eight year old who is learning (and feverishly using) text spelling on a daily basis, before a solid framework of spelling and grammar is developed?

Comparative Frequency: If a child is texting and tweeting more often than "real" reading and writing, is he destined to become a terrible speller?

Mari, we both know that texting, tweeting and punctuation shortcuts are here to stay, given how many machines we use to communicate these days. And with the desire to communicate IMMEDIATELY, we can probably expect to move into symbols and even more non-words. That doesn't mean you should give up!

Here are the best three suggestions I can offer as a response to your heartfelt question.

Fortunately most teachers won't allow the shortcuts and are just as diligent about taking a red pen to a misspelled word. This should keep us in line, for a while!

More reading, results in improved spelling ability and improved grammar. Read to your kids, (have them follow along) read with them.

Writing real letters and making use of the rules of grammar is an important skill to develop if you expect to be taken seriously in the professional world. Practice it!

in shrt, i thnk U R rite. its bad, We R rsing kds who wnt be abl to spll.
Good luck Mari!

TEACHERS! Tell us YOUR experience with this topic! Are we becoming terrible spellers because of texting?

Write to: info@doctorshari.com with I'M A TEACHER! in the subject line, and share your thoughts!

Dr. Shari Sweetnam is the Founder of BRAINPOWER *The Ultimate Program for Schools*. Author, Motivational Speaker. Follow on Youtube and twitter: DrShariS, contact: info@doctorshari.com



Books: Uniquely Portable Magic'

By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

"On or about December, 1910," Virginia Woolf once wrote, "the world changed." Sometime during the early aughts of the last century and the new century, it now has changed once more.

In modern times, the relationship between a flourishing library with an information system accessible to the general public and the well-being of a democratically run city is no mere piety. Democracies require an informed citizenry. People must be informed to remain autonomous, hence free.

Knowledge is wealth and power. Knowledge is also economic survival, especially in times of economic scarcity. And when a recession, like the current one, coincides with an era in which jobs are being transformed in their structure and content from year to year, access to information—to new knowledge, to retooling, to retrofitting for jobs that didn't exist five years ago—becomes a necessity.

But we must remember that books require a different sort of communion with one's subject than does the Internet. They foster a different sort of memory—more tactile, more participatory. For literary works, books are still, and most likely always will be, indispensable in spite of the Internet and the changes it has wrought.

For more information, visit our website.



Reading Is So Delicious!



Evelyn Rogers
Children's Librarian

Summer is almost upon us! This year's Summer Reading Program theme is "Reading Is So Delicious," and the program will run from June 22 to Aug. 9. All four branches of the Newport Beach Public Library will have special fun and prizes for everyone stopping by on opening day, Saturday, June 22. Come pick up a reading-game sheet and a program schedule, and see what the library has to offer this summer!

The first week of the Summer Reading Program will see a different performer at each branch. On Monday, June 24, see the Mark and Dre Comedy Show at the Mariners Branch. On Tuesday, June 25, at the Central Library will be Sandy Lynn's Barnyard Extravaganza. On Wednesday, June 26, you're invited to the Best Bubble Party at the Corona del Mar Branch. And on Thursday, June 27 at the Balboa Branch, it's the Arty Loon Magic Show.

If you haven't seen the new Central Library expansion, summer is a great time for a visit. After three years of construction, the children's department has a beautiful new open space for story times and more tables for studying, plus lots of natural light with a full wall of windows to enjoy! There is also more open study space upstairs; a café; a big, new parking structure; and the Civic Center and park right next door.

Visit the Newport Beach Public Library's children's website a for a complete schedule of children's summer events.

All four branches of the Newport Beach Public Library will have special fun and prizes for everyone stopping by on opening day, Saturday, June 22. Come pick up a reading-game sheet and a program schedule, and see what the library has to offer this summer!



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- 2) **Civil War**
11:15am – 12:15pm
- 3) **W.W. II**
12:30pm – 1:30pm
Location: 225 Main Street, Seal Beach

Tuesdays 4 Week Course
June 25, July 2, July 9, July 16
Course \$60
Socialization through History
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Michael Vossen
Principal

A European War History Tour

Over the Presidents Day recess, a group of AP European history students had the opportunity to take a European War History Tour. The journey took us from the Normandy Beaches, where the infamous D-Day landings took place, all the way to Berlin, where the Nazis finally surrendered.

Along the way, we stopped in Paris to see the Arc de Triomphe, where the Allies took back the city.

We stood in the World War I trenches of the Belleau

Wood; we visited the cathedral in Reims, where French kings were crowned; and we followed the path of the 101st Airborne (Easy Company) to what is left of foxholes from the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. We saw not only the Nazi rally grounds in Nuremberg but also where the war-crimes trials after the war took place. We walked the snowy grounds of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, toured Frederick the Great's Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam, and stood beneath the Brandenburg Gate where the Berlin Wall previously stood.

The list could go on and on. Each day was truly packed with learning and adventure. This trip not only provided insight into major historical events but was also an opportunity for students to experience and appreciate the French, Belgian and German cultures.



Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Stacy deBoom-Howard
Principal

Celebrating Our Diversity

Paularino Elementary School celebrated its annual Multicultural Night on Friday, April 26. The evening was filled with much friendship, laughter and sharing between our wonderful families.

The celebrants arrived with trays full of cuisine to share during their potluck dinner. They listened to our Panther Band, enjoyed the Parade of Nations, the Park Family traditional Korean dance, Panthers dancing 50's rock and roll, a beautiful ballerina, the Panthers dancing the traditional Mexican dance

called the Folklorico, and the Seanoa family exciting the audience with their traditional Polynesian dances.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA, and all of the hard-working volunteers, for making this event a success for our school community. Each year, this special night gives us an opportunity to take time and remember how lucky we are as a school to have so many cultures where students can make friends and have their educational experiences enriched by diversity.

Our 2013 Multicultural Night was another huge success. We look forward to 2014!



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

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



Dr. Anna Corral
Principal

Pure Imagination

In April, Rea Elementary School presented its fifth annual musical, “Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka KIDS.” Taking place from April 9–11, the production featured most of the story’s most beloved

songs, including “The Candy Man” and “Pure Imagination.” The show’s 20 cast members were selected by directors Carrie Murillo and Jessica Sperling through auditions in January, during which students were expected to sing and act. Once again, we were amazed by the talent and enthusiasm at Rea!

During the ensuing four months, the cast and crew worked hard to prepare for the performances. They spent long hours memorizing lines and learning music, stage directions, and choreography. In addition to featuring the Drama Club cast, the musical showcased classroom performers, ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade.

Everyone was dressed to impress! Rea staff, students, and parents lent a hand with designing the set and making costumes and props. The indispensable Paul Denton orchestrated and created our elaborate sets and props, with the amazing Mr. Duran in charge of sound and lights. The Rea family truly came together to create a scrumptious “World of Imagination!”



Rea Elementary students recreate the whimsical world of Wonka

“Willy Wonka KIDS” gave Rea students the opportunity to demonstrate their singing, dancing, and acting talents live on stage, and their hard work led to delightful performances and unforgettable experiences! A big shout out goes to our returning Drama Club members: Alan Gutierrez, Abraham Alvarado, Gisela Garcia, Andrea Quijada, Alexia Tapia, Henry Ensastegui, Vanessa Cornejo, and Joycie Montillo.

“If you want to see magic lands, close your eyes and you will see one. Wanna be a dreamer? Be one. Anytime you please, and please save me one!”

Pomona *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Megan Elsten Brown
Principal

Smiles All Around

Pomona Elementary is fit. We act, eat and think right. Fitness is also one of the character traits in our character education program “The Pyramid of Success,” and we got to dive deeper into it at our Health and Safety Fair in April.

This community fair, which invited students and families from Pomona and the surrounding area, was put on by the CSU Long Beach nursing students. It boasted a fire truck with tours from the battalion chief, a CHP car with two uniformed officers, Network for a Healthy California and their delicious fresh fruit, informational sessions on hygiene and the importance of sleep and nutrition, and engaging activities for the children.

As the event came to a close, the nursing students raffled off sporting equipment, big bags of fresh fruits and vegetables, and two brand-new car seats to keep our Panthers safe. Pomona learned that fitness and fun can go hand-in-hand!



Fitness and fun can go hand-in-hand!
Have a fit and fun summer!

Sonora *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Christine Anderson
Principal

Turning 50!

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sonora Elementary School!

Sonora opened its doors in September of 1963 as a kindergarten through sixth-grade school, primarily serving the Mesa del Mar Community. Over the years, some of the best teachers ever have worked at Sonora to provide an exciting, challenging and innovative education to thousands of elementary students.

Many of our parents attended Sonora School years ago, and carry fond memories with them to this day. Many of Costa Mesa's outstanding community members were also educated at Sonora.

Our teachers and administrators, from past to present, celebrated the event in November with a staff party. Each person made a tile for the 50th anniversary commemorative tile wall. A time capsule is also going to be buried. It will be opened in 25 years!

The classrooms are making quilt squares in celebration of our 50 years, and a student alumni party is being held on June 7 from 6–9 p.m. Sonora alumni should RSVP to Christine Anderson at cpanderson@nmusd.us. Former staff members are also encouraged to attend.

Congratulations, Sonora Elementary School, for an amazing 50 years of education to the students of Costa Mesa!

Whittier *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Tracey Carter
Principal

Student Engineers!

By Diana Thompson, NMUSD Science Specialist

In the Science Lab at Whittier Elementary School, students are using engineering processes through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lessons. Working together and learning from one another, students designed and built a tower that could support a small toy. As active participants in the Beckman@Science inquiry-based science program, Whittier students in grades second through sixth are fortunate to have hands-on science lessons each week in the Whittier Science Lab.

I am a participant in STEM for the Next Generation, a two-year training initiative offered by the Kids@Science Foundation that incorporates inquiry-based learning, the new science standards, and STEM. Building upon the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation's enormously successful Beckman@Science program, the Kids@Science Foundation was founded in 2009. Kids@Science is an Orange County-based nonprofit organization dedicated to working with local schools, districts and the community to collaboratively promote, support and enhance hands-on researched-based science education.



In Mrs. Dorian's fourth-grade class Vanessa Andrade, Nay Malagon, Jenifer Cancino and Viridiana Gutierrez built the winning tower, 61 centimeters high, that supported the toy for 10 seconds.

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

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



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

To the Observatory!

By Claire Leenerts and Alexandra Kline, Students – 8th Grade

On March 29, students from TeWinkle Middle School's Nature Academy attended a field trip to the Griffith Park Observatory. When the students arrived at the observatory, they ate lunch outside and took pictures of the Hollywood sign while waiting for the show.

Next, the students went inside the theater and watched an amazing show about how the universe and water interact with each other.

Mrs. Paulus, a seventh-grade language arts and publications teacher, said, "The trip overall was really short, and it was a shame we couldn't have gone to the museum. The trip was really nice though."

The students who attended had a great time at the observatory. There were many amazed "wows" from the students about what they learned that day. The students and teachers are very lucky to be able to experience such a wonderful trip for free.



Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Leaders and Readers

Our Wilson Elementary School Wildcats have had a tremendous year! Our last school-wide assembly is Friday, June 14, where we will celebrate our Wildcat Award Winners and our student readers in our Reading Hall of Fame. We will also recognize our Outstanding Citizens and students who have made Notable Progress. Plus, as a special bonus, we will recognize our parents who have participated in our Every Day English Classes, as well as honor dads who have made a difference in our students' lives. We are also excited to report that our Respect Check Club is planning its last skit on this day as well. Lastly, we will be presenting our Pennies for Patients fund-raising amount to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

As we move into summer, we are also excited to have over 70 third-, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students recommended to participate in our Summer Reading Academy at Estancia High School in July and August. This is our second year of participating in this special reading program. This summer program supports students who need an extra boost in reading, while providing them with a nutritious snack, activity time, and intensive reading instruction. Since we truly believe that readers are leaders, we know this program makes a difference.

Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Linda Tenno
Principal

Scholars Showcase Research

By Joe Norris-Teacher, Grade 5

It's not often that Babe Ruth, the Angels, Harry Potter, Bigfoot and Katy Perry all come together for a special appearance on the very same night, but that's just what they did recently at a most memorable event at Victoria Elementary. In fact, a few mythical creatures, a couple of dwarf hamsters, the Marine Corps and even aliens from other galaxies joined them.

This improbable manifestation of beings was made possible through the hard work and scholarly endeavors of Victoria's upper-graders during its annual Independent Studies (GATE) Showcase. It also was the culmination of a methodological process that started with students asking researchable questions and then digging through books, online encyclopedias and other resources for the answers.

During the hour-long event, students were on hand to answer questions and even demonstrate how such inventions as a "lemon battery" work. All agreed that it was an event not to be missed.



Scholar Sydni White with origami research and samples.

Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • <http://woodland.nmusd.us>



Lauren Medve
Principal

RJ Roberts Gives Back to Woodland!

As a Life Scout, RJ Roberts needed to develop a project that would contribute to his community in order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. His former first grade teacher, Cecilia Ordaz, heard about this and sought out her former student to discuss the possibility of giving back to Woodland by designing, fabricating and installing an additional seating area on the Woodland campus for his Eagle Scout project.

Her idea was to create an inviting seating area under a shady tree to complement "Trevor's Place"—a beautifully designed area in the midst of a colorful garden full of flowers and plants.



RJ Roberts liked the idea and agreed to take on this endeavor. The final result was two beautifully crafted wooden benches surrounding the tall, well-established trees. The morning after the installation the campus was a buzz with both parents and students admiring the new sitting area. RJ's project will benefit many Woodland students in the years to come.

Thank you RJ!

English Language Learners

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

The Parent Initiative



Karen Kendall
Director

Our parents are innovative and supportive of parent education in our district! We are delighted that our District English Learner Advisory Committee parents (DELAC) have initiated a special Parent Initiative, and are encouraging all of our families to help participate in the momentum.

The theme of this Parent Initiative is: "Join, Learn, Share." Our parents are truly dedicated, so please get involved. We are a team!

When it comes to joining, we are actively encouraging the parents to participate in a parent committee at their children's school. Some examples of this could be the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), the PTA, or the School Site Council.

As to learning, all of our parents want to become fully informed about their children's learning, so that they can be effective partners in education. In keeping with our district goal of making sure that every student will be reading at grade level, each of our schools is now providing data to the parents about their children's specific reading levels.

For sharing, our counselors have developed a list of affirmative statements that parents can repeat to their children several times a day. This means that high expectations are alive and well in our school district, because we want every child to graduate with a sense of opportunity and achievement. Parent involvement is a major focus and top priority at the N-MUSD!



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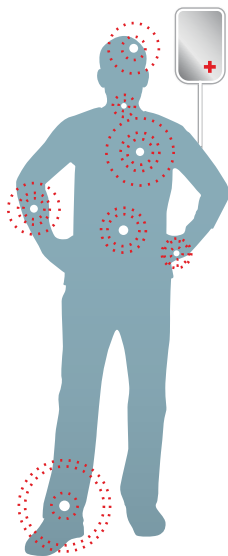
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OC DEPT. OF ED. • From Page 3



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

In mathematical practices, students will be able to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. They will reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and analyze the reasoning of others.

Parents' Role in Implementing the Common Core "Habits of Mind"

Parents play a key role in supporting their child's development of 21st Century competencies, or "Habits of Mind." Parents can begin by setting high expectations and supporting their child in meeting them. If a child needs extra help, or wants to learn more about a subject, parents and teachers can work together to identify opportunities to extend learning and find additional resources.

Other things parents can do to help their child develop the Common Core "Habits of Mind" include the following:

- Provide a wide range of reading materials, both fiction and information text, and discuss what they read.
- Ask them to share daily work and discuss what they are learning.
- Explore what ignites their curiosity.
- Talk with the teacher and help assess progress.

As we move forward together on this exciting path to transforming education across America, I am confident that with Common Core State Standards implementation, Orange County students will graduate from high school prepared with the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes needed to become successful in college and careers.

For additional resources to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards, visit www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA.

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