

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

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DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

Navy Mom Flies American Flag

*By Angela Grigsby, Student
Writer – Seabee Buzz*

Horace Ensign Intermediate School

Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Stridh, a Navy supply officer, flew a flag in Afghanistan in honor of Horace Ensign Intermediate School.

The flag with a certificate of dedication is proudly displayed at Ensign's front office. LTJG Stridh's second child, Jacqueline Aarons-Stridh, currently attends Ensign as an eighth-grader. To show her appreciation of the school's support for service members and her daughter, LTJG Stridh had the flag flown on



Jacqueline Aarons-Stridh with her mother, LTJG Stridh.

September 1, 2010 in Afghanistan by a helicopter. After receiving information regarding a possible attack on Bagram Army Airfield, the helicopter was part of a group that prevented the enemy from carrying out their plans.

LTJG Stridh spent 361 days in Afghanistan working in the regional contracting office as a contracting officer in Jalalabad. LTJG Stridh procured life-support services and supplies for the coalition service members serving throughout the Kunar Province and interacted frequently with the locals living in the area. Jacqueline is proud of her mother and is supportive of her decision to work in the Navy.

LTJG Stridh plans to return to Afghanistan in 2012.

Holidays Fire Safety



The Newport Beach Fire Department wishes you and your family a very Happy Holiday season. Each year, fires during the holiday season injure 2000 individuals and cause over \$500 million dollars in damage.

Most of these accidents are preventable by taking a few simple life-saving steps. Here is a list of a few you can take to ensure a safer holiday season for you and your family.

Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. Change the batteries regularly and know when and how to call for help.

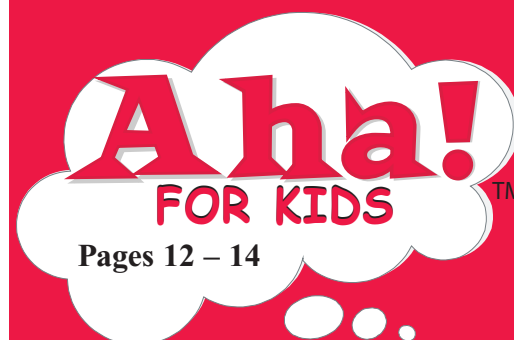
Be cautious with portable and space heaters. Place space heaters at least three feet (one meter) away from anything combustible, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters and do not hang or drape clothes to dry around a space heater.

- Have your chimney inspected by a professional. Creosote builds up in chimneys and can catch fire. Burn only wood in your fireplace or wood stove. Never burn wrapping paper or pine boughs. They can create sparks that go up the chimney and can ignite roofs or vegetation.

- Be sure the fireplace is covered with a sturdy metal screen or heat tempered glass doors. This reduces the chance of a fire starting from escaping sparks.
- If you hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.
- Designate a non-drinking driver when you go out. Provide non-alcoholic beverages for guests who will be driving.
- Purchase only lights that are labeled as tested by a laboratory. For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use. Never put electrical lights on a metal Christmas tree. Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials.
- Unplug decorative holiday lights before going out or to bed.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Keep candles away from decorations or other combustible materials. Never leave children unattended with lit candles, or leave the house while candles are lit. Never put lit candles on a tree.
- Buy a fresh tree and water it daily. If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant. Do not place it near a heat source or exit.
- Take the tree out as soon as the holidays are over. The longer it stays, the drier it gets.

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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Students are making the most of
their classroom time before Winter
Break, which is quickly approaching.

Happy Holidays from the *School
News* staff to you and your family.
(Please review the holiday fire safety
tips from the Newport Beach Fire
Department on the front page.) We
are always mindful of the service men
and women who have volunteered to
protect our freedom and are not home
with their loved ones at this time.

The winner of our Seek 'n Find
Contest is announced on page 14,
where you'll find the new contest.

Our next issue is February 15,
2012...Happy New Year!



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by Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa Water)

Mesa Water's 2012 Water Issues Study Group (WISG)
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Costa Mesa, CA 92627.

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Financial Tips

Money Saving Tips for the Holidays



Jeffrey A. Napper
President & CEO
LBS Financial
Credit Union

The holiday season is upon us! With the ongoing financial squeeze felt by many consumers; this time of the year can be stressful. However, with planning and organization, you can still enjoy and celebrate the holidays with your loved ones stress-free.

Holiday Saving Tips:

Make a budget: A lot of the financial stress during the holidays can be avoided by planning ahead, creating a budget and sticking to your budget. Create a priority list of who should be included in your holiday gift giving, including possible gifts and dollar amounts. You may also consider giving "the gift of time" instead of purchasing gifts. For example, if you normally exchange gifts with your neighbor, you may offer to mow their lawn or help out with their shopping or yard work.

Smart Shopping: Refer to your budget and stick to the spending limits for each person on your list and start looking for bargains now. Watch the advertising and sale flyers for the items that you are planning on buying. Using the internet is also the most convenient way to compare items and pricing. Be careful not to indulge in impulsive shopping.

Give Back to the Community: At office holiday functions or other holiday parties where you might be asked to exchange gifts with other people for a specific amount, suggest that instead of gift exchanging, support a local charity by bringing canned foods or other items that your agreed charity of choice needs. Easier for the pocket as well as good for the heart.



Smart Spending: Only use cash or your debit card as much as possible when spending for the holidays. Charging purchases on credit cards can get out of hand and may lead to overspending.

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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Diversity Means...

Adams Elementary School's students recently participated in the PTA Reflections Art Program's Contest. The exciting theme this year was "Diversity Means..." and students used literature, photography, and visual arts to capture diversity. Nicky Fleming, Adams School PTA Member and Reflections Art Program Coordinator, was very pleased with the level of participation among Adam's students.

Winners include Hayden Marchbank, Nathalie Ceballo, Angela Cortes, Nicole Brich, Jake Alai, Samantha Dunlap, Eliana Ramirez,

and Erick Flores. There are also many 2nd and 3rd place winners. All winners will be recognized at a Flag Deck soon and will receive a \$20 gift certificate.

We are very proud of our students' efforts in capturing diversity and we reflect on its importance in our world.

The joy of life is variety. — Samuel Johnson



Winners Nicole Brich (photography winner) and Samantha Dunlap (choreography winner)

Back Bay/Monte Vista

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

High School

Unique Options

How quickly the year passes! Our first trimester ends December 2. At that point, students who have successfully completed all five of their assigned classes will earn 25 credits. Students who attend Back Bay High School can earn 75 credits per year. Our trimester is 60 days long, 30 days shorter than a regular semester. At a comprehensive site, students complete 30 credits per semester or 60 credits per year. By completing three successful trimesters at Back Bay, students can reach their goals of earning back credits previously failed. This allows students to earn 230 credits and graduate on time.

Monte Vista Independent Study High School has already graduated several students who were able to complete their last few classes in the fall. Monte Vista allows for continuous enrollment year round and encourages students to start their college classes prior to their high school graduation. Independent study is designed for students who can't attend school five days a week because of work responsibilities, a career, their participation in athletic competitions, extensive travel outside the state of California, or illness. It is a wonderful option for students and families who have different agendas than the typical five-day school week available at the comprehensive site.

Both of these schools have unique options for high school students who want to complete their high school diplomas but are having trouble staying on track. Newport Mesa is fortunate to have these highly respected high schools available to meet the needs of our community.



Debbie-Lucker Davis
Principal

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

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



Laura Vlasic
Principal

Yearbook Team

In May, over 20 rising fifth- and sixth-grade students volunteered to be part of the Andersen Yearbook Team. Feeling their strong enthusiasm for photo shooting, Andersen's PTA generously donated six cameras. Our students spent the summer training with a professional photographer to understand lighting, cameras and photography to prepare for the upcoming 2011-12 school year.

The Andersen Yearbook Team meets at recess and lunch to photograph events and then each Monday after school to upload and edit the photos. Each team member is assigned a grade level, event or both and designs pages with a template, background, text and photos. Throughout the computer lab, you can hear students sharing ideas or discussing details involving the various selections of photos.



Andersen Yearbook Team 2011-2012

During the last week in October, Red Ribbon Week was captured by six photographers and netted almost 300 photos. We reduced the photos to our favorite choices and will feature them in the Yearbook. From photographer to editor to webpage designer, our Andersen Yearbook Team can do it all.



Did you know:

- 👁️ Learning problems may be related to vision?
- 👁️ Comprehensive eye exams can detect learning-related vision problems by evaluating vision, eye tracking and eye focusing skills?



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California *Elementary (K-6)*

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

Fall Festivities



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

October was a very busy and exciting month for the Cougars. During our Red Ribbon Week, we had many different activities to promote safety. One event was a bike registration day for our students. Over 70 students were able to get their bikes registered with the police department by one of our parent volunteers, who is a Costa Mesa police officer. On Friday, October 28, we held our annual Halloween Hoot. A wide range of activities were enjoyed by all, including carnival games, cake walks, and, of course, a haunted house. The night was a huge success for our school, and it was a lot of fun. The California Elementary School PTA and Foundation worked together to put on an amazing evening for all of our families. On Halloween morning, most of our students arrived at school in costume. Our costumed students made their way around the parade route to show off their costumes to all the other students and the many family members in attendance.



CMPD officer checks the bike of a sixth grader.

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

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

Good Nutrition Leads to Good Health



Julie McCormick
Principal

College Park School hosts a Parent Nutrition Institute for all elementary school parents in the Costa Mesa zone each Friday morning. These classes run during the months of October and November. Each Friday the number of attending parents has grown, and now we have over 70 parents enrolled.

These classes are offered through Newport-Mesa Unified School District's Nutrition Network and are led by Pam Williams and Geoff Ianniello. Each class focuses on different ways to make healthy food choices, such as how to read food labels, meal planning, exercise



Parents serve up a fresh fruit salad they have just prepared as part of the five-week Nutrition Institute education program conducted by the Network for a Healthy California.

tips to use at home, and how to make healthy food choices when eating out. Parents have enjoyed tasting new and healthy foods each week.

Parents who attend all five classes will receive a notebook filled with recipes and tips and will enjoy a graduation ceremony and receive certificates of completion. This complements our weekly Running Club, our after-school Fit Club, and our overall emphasis on good nutrition and good health.

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

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

Athletics: 2010-11 Year in Review By Don Grable, Athletic Director



Tim Bryan
Principal, 9-12
Grade



Guy Olguin
Principal, 7-8
Grade

This past year, we had approximately 1,000 student athletes participating in 25 different sports programs represented by 64 different teams.

All CIF varsity teams eligible were recognized by CIF for having GPAs over 3.0, with 20 finishing in the top 20 in division schools.

Over 20 teams advanced to the playoffs, and 19 ranked in the county top 10 for much of the seasons.

In the CIF Commissioners Cup yearly competition, boys' athletics tied for fourth-place finish, earning points for CIF

Championships in water polo and volleyball, semifinal appearances in football and soccer, and third-place finish in swimming. Girls' athletics finished just out of the top 10, earning eight points with semifinals appearances in tennis, volleyball and water polo and third-place finish in cross-country.

Our athletic program was ranked number one and then number three in OC schools by the *Orange County Register*.

Overall, we had 11 league championships, two CIF titles, one SC Regional Championship, and one *national championship* as our boys' volleyball team finished the season as undefeated Pacific Coast League champions for the seventh straight year.

Most importantly, our school and coaching staff worked hard daily with our student athletes to help them become better thinkers, communicators, competitors and teammates. We're proud of our accomplishments, and we know that the true success of working together will be how our students apply their daily learning in the future. We hope that as a result of participation in CDM High athletics, our students are better prepared to be great teammates for life in all that they do.

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

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

Preparing for the Future

The current state of education has forced many schools to focus its curriculum and instruction to the high-stakes testing season. The result has been an abandonment of what has always been essential to a learning community: authentic literacy.

By authentic literacy we mean purposeful reading, writing and talking. This year we had a schoolwide implementation of the Accelerated Reader program. It is designed to assesses reading levels to target a zone of development that in time will increase reading ability and foster more independent reading.



Aaron Peralta
Principal, 7-8
Grade



Phil D'Agostino
Principal, 9-12
Grade

In the classrooms, our teachers have embraced literacy by creating lessons that contain multiple texts matched to provocative and engaging questions. This year our focus at CMHS/MS is simple: teach our students how to read deeply and purposefully so that they can answer such questions, and then discuss and write about the texts to see what they have learned.

Finally, our students have undergone a reading assessment to help identify those who are still struggling with a grade-level text. These students are receiving targeted intervention during tutorial periods to provide them with the extra time and support they need to help strengthen their reading skills.

The demands of college, career and citizenship are increasingly the same, and can be met by almost any student who learns a literacy-rich curriculum. At CMHS/MS we are preparing our students for the future.

Davis *Magnet School (K-6)*

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



Dr. Kevin Rafferty
Principal

Magnet School Applies Science Learning

With our special focus on science, math and technology, Davis Magnet School applies student learning in many practical and useful ways. The scientific three R's of *reduce, reuse* and *recycle* are put into practice every day. From reducing electrical-energy consumption to reusable containers for student lunches to recycling in a wide variety of ways, our students are tuned in to doing their very best every day.

Davis Magnet School is participating in the Green Schools energy monitoring and conservation program promoted by the Alliance to Save Energy and Southern California Edison. A team of students has been trained to use the energy monitoring devices.

We practice waste reduction at lunchtime. Our PTA encourages families to pack lunches in reusable containers. Students have been trained to sort out the recyclable materials from their school or home lunches. Separate containers are provided for six types of materials: plastic cookie or cracker packaging, foil chip bags, pouch-style drink containers, CRV beverage containers, clear zip-type baggies and clean cardboard lunch trays from the cafeteria.

We have a green-waste recycling program. Students are trained to discard their fruit and vegetable waste in separate containers at the lunch area. Green Team members are trained to transfer this material to five compost machines operated by the upper grades and to vermicomposters, or worm bins, operated by the primary grades.

A hearty thank you to all of our students, teachers and parents for all of your combined efforts to keep our focus on student learning!

Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Out Door Science Camp

Our Eastbluff 6th Graders went to Out Door Science Camp last week in Idyllwild. It was a great experience to spend several days in the mountains learning all about science with their friends and teachers. For some, this was their first experience away from home and their family. They had a blast learning about our Solar System, lasers, gasses, and gravity. The hands on bottle rocket experiments were so exciting. It was very interesting how the rockets went different directions based on how they were built.

Other great experiences included the viewing of the planets through huge telescopes, gas & balloon experiments, sky coaster, zip lines, and building satellite structures in the pool. Astro Camp was an awesome learning and team building experience for our 6th grade students!



Early College *High School (9-12)*

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



Kathy Slawson
Principal

Time Out for Fun

Our Early College High School students were very busy during the month of October. All of the sophomores took the PSAT to get a feel for the content and structure of the later SAT. We are proud that so many of our students took the initiative to prepare themselves for this upcoming college entrance exam.

Recently, Halecrest Park in Costa Mesa sponsored their popular Fall Festival. Those students who are involved in ASB, Back Bay environmental restoration, AVID and MESA got together to operate food and game booths to help raise money for various school activities and field trips. It was a successful fund-raiser and the students who participated had a great time.



In addition to the festival, the Early College High School ASB students organized a Halloween event. There were a number of competitions, including a costume contest, pin the face on the pumpkin, the toilet paper mummy wrap, and bobbing for apples on a string. Many students look forward to this event each year.

For the months of November and December the ASB students are busy organizing a movie night and a winter dance event as they wrap up their first semester. We do have high expectations for our students, but we also like to have fun!

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



Dr. Gloria Duncan
Principal

Navy Mom Flies American Flag
(Please see our story on the front page.)

Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Charlene Metoyer
Principal

Learning to Care

Harbor View Elementary School in Corona del Mar and Pomona Elementary School in Costa Mesa have been sister schools for over 15 years. The longstanding partnership brings together two diverse school communities and provides a unique character-building experience.

Harbor View students were excited to participate in our book fair, which included collecting gently used books to enhance the personal libraries of Pomona students. In spring, Harbor View students will fill the multipurpose room with soccer shoes for Pomona students to ensure that every student can safely participate in the annual Daily Pilot Cup soccer tournament.

Harbor View is also collecting funds to help Pomona support Lexia. Harbor View students feel this literacy program is extremely valuable, and they want

their sister school students to have what's needed to support their learning. So, instead of the traditional Thanksgiving dinners given to a few families, this year the Harbor View Parent Faculty Organization is going to support every Pomona student!



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Happy Holidays

from

School News

and a

Happy New Year!

Estancia *High School (9-12)*

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



Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

Focus on Reading and Writing

In order to better prepare students for the college or career of their choice, the faculty at Estancia High School is focused on helping our students develop the skills colleges and employers are in search of. Colleges and universities desire students who are avid readers, strong writers, and critical thinkers. Employers are in search of employees who can think critically, do more than what is asked of them, and work collaboratively with teams located both in their physical offices and across the world.

The expectation is that Estancia students will receive reading instruction in every class and will read in every class every day. Students are engaged in purposeful reading by interacting closely with the information contained in the text. Students are asked to annotate the text by underlining or highlighting key words and phrases, identifying new vocabulary terms, and writing questions or comments which come to mind as they read. Students are then asked to think critically about the passages they read and discuss their thoughts with their peers. Another expectation is that students will receive writing instruction in every class and will write at least one three-paragraph essay in every class every month.

As a part of our collective commitment to improve our students' reading levels, instructional time allocated for Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) is being closely guarded. Teachers and the school librarian are helping students select reading materials which are commensurate with their reading abilities, administrators are reading with students during SSR, and many teachers are having students keep daily reading logs.

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

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



Jerry Vlasic
Principal

Top Kaiser Spellers!

Ryah Montano and Rachel Dangl were Kaiser's 6th grade Spelling Bee semi-finalists and completed in the District Spelling Bee at the District Office. We're so proud of our Kaiser champions!

70th Annual Gem-O-Rama

Kaiser Science Teachers, Mr. Schinhofen and Ms. Lamb, along with several students and parents, spent a weekend at the 70th Annual Gem-O-Rama in Death Valley. This was a great opportunity to collect rocks and minerals. Whatever you can carry back to your car is yours!



Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Walk through California

A "Walk Through" is an engaging and interactive educational presentation of history curriculum through literacy and the arts. During the month of October, Killybrooke 4th grade students participated in "Walk Through California," to learn fourth grade social studies content and reinforce language arts standards and the arts. The "Walk Through California" program focuses on major events that shaped our great state of California. Drama, dance, games, and music support students' listening skills, vocabulary development, history and geography standards. Killybrooke sixth grade students participated in "Walk Through the Ancient World,"



Fourth grade student, Stephanie Bernal, portrays an early Californian during the "Walk Through California" experience.

discovering Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome through an imaginary tour of the ancient civilizations. Killybrooke students portrayed historical people of the past, such as Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and Socrates. The "Walk Through" programs were made possible through the support of the outstanding Killybrooke PTA.

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jane Holm
Principal

Stepping Out to Learn About the World

Sometimes it is best to step out of the classroom to learn about the world. What better way to learn about a farm than to go to one. Lincoln kindergarten students were excited as they climbed aboard the bus to go on their very first field trip – a trip where they would be able to observe and interact with the animals at Centennial Farms. Learning to describe similarities and differences in the appearance of plants and animals is a part of the kindergarten life sciences curriculum. What better way to learn to compare farm animals than to see them side by side. The children felt the woolly fur of the live sheep and the downy, soft feathers of live baby chicks. One student told me he liked the sheep best but they were a little scratchy. Like most farmers, they also got to plant some crops. Without a doubt, there is a world of learning going on in the Lincoln kindergarten classes.





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Ruth W. Bass
M.S., CCC-SLP

Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Pam Coughlin
Principal

A “Creepy” Time was Had By All

Mariner’s annual “Boo Fest” was held on Thursday, October 27 from 5–8 p.m. To help set the mood, there was an “everlasting” film-clip reel of old horror movies that continually ran as visitors entered the area.

Many game booths and craft tables were also lit eerily, and many of our students won prizes. There was also a cakewalk game, student-made crafts, face-painting fun and even some temporary tattoos that were braved by a few. In addition to all of this fun, everyone was able to create ceramics with Mrs. Duncan.

One of the most popular attractions was the huge inflatable slide. It must have been three stories tall! Many screams of terror and peels of laughter were heard coming from this location.



But there was more to the Boo Fest than just fun and games. Food and entertainment were available, too! The event also hosted the awesome Spooktacular Halloween Magic Show! A burger truck was even there to quench everyone’s thirst and hunger after these great activities.

All of our attendees had a satisfying, yet creepy, time.

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Amy Nagy
Principal

Inquiry Into Writing

How might a published author begin this essay? What revisions can I make to help my audience better understand my point? What type of writing will I tackle next? Drop by Newport Elementary on any Tuesday or Thursday morning and you’ll find students and teachers grappling with these questions and more. As part of our year long inquiry into writing research and best practices, we have committed to school-wide writing blocks where teachers implement and study the impact of various writing strategies on the quality of students’ writing. During your “tour” you’ll find students engaged in peer writing conferences, conferences with their teacher, researching for their next writing piece, brainstorming for ideas, analyzing exemplary writing pieces, and, most importantly, writing, writing, writing.



Parents participated in our writing workshops during National Day on Writing, October 20, 2011.

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

A Higher Level of Learning

Newport Coast Elementary School has spent the last five years developing a strong culture of education that is known as a Professional Learning Community (PLC). This hard work has brought about a tremendous improvement in our API scores, too, as the school has now earned an API of 946.

This PLC culture was further recognized when Newport Coast became a California Distinguished School in 2010. Our staff and community are proud of the fact that, as a PLC, we can actively embrace a higher level of student learning as both the reason for our existence and the fundamental responsibility of those who work here.

When a student does not happen to learn a skill, our teachers engage in a practice called “learning CPR.” This is a more urgent and directed instructional technique that occurs when the learning is most needed. It is specifically targeted to address the skill area in which a child has the most need, and is provided by the most appropriate teacher.

Newport Mesa is proud of the hard work of our teachers and the success of our students. The focused and coordinated attention that each teacher gives to their students has resulted in a high level of learning.

Go Coyotes!

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal

Swedish Visitors

On October 28th Newport Heights was visited by a group of educators from Nacka, Sweden. The group consisted of administrators, teachers, and technology support staff. The purpose of their visit was to discuss the use of one-to-one laptop programs and see how technology is being implemented here at Newport Heights. We had a great time with the group taking them to see our sixth grade students working with our one-to-one Netbook Laptop program. Students were working on various tasks such as concept mapping with Inspiration software, posting literature responses to the class blog, and using Google’s Sketch Up to create a visual representation of a fictitious city they were creating. We were able to engage in rich dialogue about one-to-one laptop computing and share many great ideas. It was pleasure to have them visit and a great opportunity to collaborate with our Swedish counterparts.



Students sharing their laptop work with the Swedish visitors.



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Costa Mesa Library Foundation
P.O. Box 2864, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 • www.costamesalibraryfoundation.org

Benefits for the Community

By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

The public library is a vital partner in every community. Libraries are community spaces free to everyone—where youth are free to explore the variety of options open to them in a less-structured, non-judgmental setting. To support the recreational, educational and life skills needs of youth, libraries provide free access to information of all kinds in books and magazines, as well as through online databases and the Internet.

Partnerships between the public library, community-based organizations, and the business community which provide youth with new and innovative programs during out-of-school time benefit the entire community.

The Costa Mesa Library Foundation understands the importance of great libraries and is dedicated to the building of a new, state-of-the-art library for our community. Libraries will always play a vital role in education and will work hand-in-hand with school districts and serving as much-needed centers of communities. Libraries build a community's capacity for economic activity and resiliency. They are logical partners for local economic development initiatives that focus on people and quality of life. The foundation is interested in cultivating support for this new library and would appreciate the opportunity to speak at any event to which we are invited!

For more information, visit our Web site or write to us.



The Costa Mesa Library Foundation understands the importance of great libraries and is dedicated to the building of a new, state-of-the-art library for our community.

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Cool Programs at the Library

By Evelyn Rogers, Children's Librarian



Evelyn Rogers
Children's Librarian

The Newport Beach Public Library welcomes the holiday season with our annual Jim Gamble Puppet Show. There will be two performances on Saturday, December 10—the first at the Central Library at 1 p.m. and the second at the Mariners Branch at 2:30 p.m. This show is a charming treat for all ages.

January programs are cool! One World Rhythm will be returning to the Central Library on Tuesday, January 10 at 4 p.m. This interactive

program is probably the noisiest you will ever get at the library. Come join in the percussion-playing fun!

Continuing the "noise" theme, stop by the Mariners Branch on Saturday, January 14 at 3 p.m. to see the Noise Guy, Charlie Williams. The Noise Guy performed at the library this summer, and his fusion of sound, story and humor was a big hit. He will have all the children—and some adults—making zany noises right along with him.

If you've been to the Central Library lately, you'll notice that it looks a lot smaller. This is due to a temporary construction wall blocking the main staircase. The second floor is still accessible by elevator or by the back staircase, which goes through the children's area. When the work is done a year from now, we look forward to seeing the expanded children's room, additional reading areas, the new media center, additional parking, and a bridge connecting the Central Library to the Civic Center.



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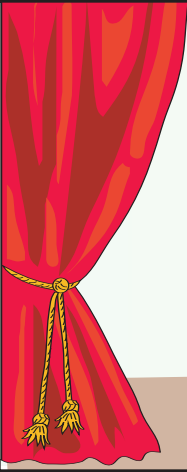
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For more information please see the back cover.



Minds are like parachutes.
They only function when
they are open.

—Sir James Dewar, Scientist



Positive Parenting Holiday Gift Giving



Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel

Since this is the Christmas of my 70th year, I have a lot of memories around this season: When I was at the University of Redlands, I spent one Christmas in Salzburg, Austria. I loved that religious traditions overpowered any source of commercialism. There was the Christmas that our black cat, was teasing our golden retriever and the two of them ended up bringing down our holiday tree! I remember handmade gifts over store-bought ones, going caroling, the boat parade, going skiing, and what I miss the least is the hassle of buying the right gift for the right person, spending more money then is sensible and the exhaustion of trying to please.

Our family adopted a plan of giving gifts to the children, only, and donating money that would otherwise be spent to help a needy family or cause. We limited our gifts within our immediate family to three. We took a dinner to a family who could use some help. There are literally thousands of deployed families who would gratefully embrace your love and help during the holidays— Call a local military base and ask three officers to spend Christmas eve with your family. Regardless of how you feel about war, these families have given and are giving more than we have a right to ask. Adopt a military family this season!

One of the most difficult things for each of us to do is to receive. A gift comes to you with a great deal of thought wrapped around it, a lot of love within it and a desire for that love to be appreciated. Think of the love in a gift that is hand-made. Think of the time in a gift that is a created or purchased gift. A wonderful gift is one of time. At 70 I realize that time can be spent but not re-spent. Give the gift of time with you. A phone call where you make time to listen or a walk in the park.

Happy Holidays and love to every single one of you.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written three books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. Sandy lives in Meridian, Idaho. www.ParentingSOS.com



WINTER WORD SEARCH CONTEST

NEW 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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put N-MUSD in the subject line

Entries must be received by January 15, 2012
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Blizzard	Chocolate	Sled
Bells	Ice	Snowboarding
Boots	Ice Skates	Snowflake
Chilly	Icicle	Snowman
Fireplace	Marshmallow	Solstice
Freezing	Mittens	Soup
Frost	Mountains	Toboggan
Gingerbread	Olympics	Umbrella
Holidays	Rain Coat	Vacation
Hot	Scarf	

Congratulations to Megan Mandell
Winner of the October Word Search Contest!

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

Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

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



Michael Vossen
Principal

Wow! Did I Really Look—and Sound—Like That? *By Lisa Cermak, Visual Imagery, Art of Animation, and Film and Digital Media Studies*

*Learning to make films is very easy. Learning what to make
films about is very hard.* —George Lucas

This year, the Film and Digital Media Studies class offers students the opportunity to discover the art of filmmaking.

Students have received professional training over the summer and during the fall on leading industry equipment and software.

Throughout the year, these talented young filmmakers will participate in creating a state-of-the-art video yearbook as well as several short films that will be shown at the OC Film Festival and a few other film festivals created by the Film Ed Academy of the Arts, a company of professional filmmakers who are helping our students create their work.

Examples of student work and DVDs of selected school events will be available soon. All work included in the video yearbook will also be included with the purchase of the printed yearbook.



Film & Digital Media Studies

Pomona *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Megan Elsten
Brown**
Principal

In Union There is Strength

At Pomona Elementary everything we do is a team effort, and Red Ribbon Week is no exception. This year's event focused on making good choices. It highlighted our student's motto that "The key is me ... Today I will be the best I can be."

We kicked off this special series of activities on a Monday, when we combined Red Ribbon with the official 2011-2012 green team launch. The green team members performed a skit that they had written for their fellow students, staff members and parents. It reminded our community to make good, green choices.

Tuesday also saw a collaborative effort. On this day we welcomed the Corona del Mar High National Honors Society. This group served as excellent role models as well as a good example of the kind of students who know how to choose wisely.

These outstanding young men and women led our Pomona Panthers in an afternoon of cool activities that celebrated good choices like handball, a soccer tournament, the "books about red" readalouds and even the making of delicious Red Ribbon apples!

Wednesday was crazy sock day. Here Pomona students could "knock our socks off" with all of the excellent choices they had made. On Thursday the school rallied together to "read about red" and hand out bookmarks.

We wrapped up the week on Friday. This is when the Pomona family united for an all-school flag deck. Everyone came dressed in jeans. That's because they know each one of us is a "jean"ius who works hard to make excellent choices every day.

Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Stacy deBoom-
Howard**
Principal

Many Reasons to be Thankful

Hello, Panther Community! Thank you to everyone who attended our parent/teacher conferences. We strongly believe that we are all partners in your children's education and that working together will help your student to soar.

This special time of year makes us think about the many things that we are thankful for at Paularino. When recently we asked some of our students about why they were thankful, we received many good answers. Here are a few, and we think that they will bring a smile to your face.

"I am thankful for friends, Panther paws, teachers, staff, learning, our playground, student council, our garden, the cafeteria food and PTA events!"

As a school family we have so many things to be thankful for: the support of our PTA; the ELAC and our volunteers; all of our fabulous staff members; the programs that help meet the needs of the students; our wonderful families; and, most importantly, the smiling students that we see each and every day.

We wish all of our Paularino families a safe and happy holiday season. And we look forward to a bright New Year with lots of learning!

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

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



Dr. Anna Corral
Principal

Project Success

Rea Elementary School has adopted three rules this school year. Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Ready for learning. Students are learning what all three rules look like in every environment on and off campus. Even our after school Project Success program has adopted the school rules. Students have responded well and like that they understand what the expectations are. Parents alike have been taught the rules in the Parent Center and even have reported that they use the terms at home. We feel confident that the rules will help students focus and overcome behavior barriers to learning.



Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christine Anderson
Principal

Super! Heroes!

Our PTA theme this year is "They are SUPER. We are their HEROES!" Sonora students *are* super, and we want to do everything to make this an exceptional school year! Our arents, teachers and staff are heroes! Our many clubs are in full swing. We are in the middle of our PTA membership Slime Drive, and our annual Red Ribbon week and Walk to School Day were fun, informative events for all. We implemented a monthly Eat Lunch at School with Your Child Day and enjoyed Grandparent's Day lunch. Our annual Trunk or Treat and haunted house were spooky successes.

We recently had a Reflections Art reception...we have some amazing artists!

We're creatively fund-raising and working hard to ensure that programs and field trips will continue. Our Chalk Festival, Jog-a-Thon and Holiday Boutique are just around the corner.



We are looking forward to the rest of this busy school year. If we dream it, it will happen at Sonora, where our students are SUPER and we are their HEROES!

Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Linda Tenno
Principal

Fun-Filled Tradition is Back!

This October month saw ghosts, ghouls, and goblins appear at Victoria's Fall Festival. Families and teachers came to help Victoria's PTA raise money for school events and programs. The yearly Haunted House was a big hit! Many former students returned to volunteer at the various game booths.

After several years without our fun Halloween parade, the staff voted to bring back this fun-filled tradition! The children and teachers all participated by marching around our quad displaying their costumes. We saw super heroes, princesses, and even a Lego lady!! Carrying on another tradition, classes participated in the decorate a pumpkin contest. We had everything from a peacock to a witch. It was a great month at Victoria.



Charles W. Tewinkle

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



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

Sports Update

By Gaby Hernandez and Wilmer Sanchez

The TeWinkle eighth-grade girls' basketball team is 4-1 in the season so far! With only one loss in October to Corona del Mar, the Lady Trojans played a really close game, with a final score of 27-26. In the last game, also in October, the Lady Trojans took a 24-21 victory over Ensign.

Coach Oscar Valencia pointed out that Corona del Mar was the most difficult team so far. Sarai Cienfuegos, a player on the team, said the Lady Trojans did their best. She thinks the teamwork was



**Members of the 2011 8th grade Girl's Basketball Team
with Coach Oscar Valencia**

really good, and an area of improvement would be for the team to work on communicating with one another. She anticipates that her team will get first place this season. She is confident about the team and has high expectations.

Both the seventh- and eighth grade girls' teams are in the playoffs this season. Go TeWinkle Trojans!

Whittier *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tracey Carter
Principal

Engineering Know-How

By Miss Anderson- Teacher, 4th Grade

In October, we had a day filled with hi-tech excitement for Mrs. Becker's 34 fourth-graders. Their quest for knowledge took them to a leading software-affiliate store in a major shopping center.

The eager students met up with the store's super team trainers, Helen and Vibhuti, who proceeded to train all students in the company's word-processing and slide-presentation programs. Afterward, students had time to explore fun computer-simulated games like tennis, dance and soccer.

The goal of the field trip was to encourage students to become more comfortable with technology in the classroom through the assistance of knowledgeable experts. Proficiency in word processing and slide presentation are skills that already are to



Fourth grade students in Mrs. Becker's class get first hand technology training.

the students' advantage. Mrs. Becker is also looking forward to extending the home-school connection by co-hosting a parent night at the store in the near future.

Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Green Team Program

Wilson Wildcats are conserving energy. Our new Green Team program is putting the task of saving energy in the hands of our student body. In fact, this month one of the sixth grade classes has taken on the task of being ambassadors for this program. The students "audit" our energy use implementing special instruments. They have made presentations to our student body as well as our staff on the importance of conserving energy. Posters emphasizing the importance of conservation, as well as flyers reminding our community of going "green" are everywhere.

Wildcats continue with our spirit rallies once a month, focusing on respect, responsibility and safety. This month is our second month to recognize Wildcats of the month, students who have demonstrated effort in all areas. We now have a bulletin board in the front office that recognizes our students for their respectful, responsible and safe choices.



School Health Services

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



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

Here to Help

In October of 1902, the first school nurse addressed absenteeism and communicable disease in New York City schools. Even though the practice of school nursing has come a long way since that time, the basic principles hold true. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District Health Services program, staffed with credentialed school nurses and health assistants, remains steadfast in its effort to prevent communicable disease and support student participation at school. Our school nurses strive to protect the health and safety of children.

The modern day school nurse has a more expanded role, commensurate with the increasingly complex needs of the current day student. Nurses assist students in a variety of ways. They support students in acquiring medically recommended and state required immunizations and physical exams, link children to community health services, and provide services at school, including vision, hearing, scoliosis screening, first aid, disaster planning, medication administration, and specialized health procedures for specific medical needs. Nurses and health assistants are attending to students with chronic and acute illness, allergies, diabetes, seizures, communicable disease, emergencies, and mental health needs.

Let your child know the nurse is there to help. The nurse is available for addressing illness and injury, planning for health needs on field trips, and managing student health during the school day. Parents can help the nurse, too. Keep health and emergency contact information current. Let the nurse know if your child needs medication or has health needs. After all, the nurse is there to help.

Our school nurses strive
to protect the
health and safety of children...
Let your child know
the nurse is there to help.

Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

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



Lauren Medve
Principal

Hands-On Science

Kindergarten students at Woodland Elementary are enjoying fun, outdoor, hands-on science in their new garden. Molly Jeremias, of Molly Wood Garden Design, helped kick-off our garden science by teaching the students about planting and caring for the gardens as well as designing and guiding the planting of the butterfly and herb gardens. All seven kindergarten classes have planted winter vegetables and are eagerly awaiting the time to harvest. There is always activity going on in the garden with students watering, pruning, weeding, and thinning the various plants. Molly

Jeremias donated her time and talents to creating a wonderful environment for the students to explore and develop a love for science. Funds provided by the Kaiser-Woodland PFO, the Kaiser-Woodland Schools Foundation, and the Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation helped to make the garden possible, along with several parents who donated their time to build the raised beds.



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Zacharia Reda MD, FAAP, FCCP

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Peggy Nguyen
Coordinator
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Read for the Record

Thursday, October 6th was Jumpstart’s 6th annual “Read for the Record” Day. On that day, children across the globe read Anna Dewdney’s *Llama, Llama Red Pajama* book to break a world record for the largest shared reading experience. In NMUSD, our preschool children had the opportunity to be read to by guest readers and celebrated the day by coming to school in pajamas. THINK Together Early Literacy Program donated a copy of the book to each preschool classroom. To find out more about the Read for the Record day and the events across the nation visit http://www.jstart.org/site/PageServer?pagename=rftr_homepage



Sonora Preschool in their pajamas listening to *Llama Llama Red Pajama* for Read for the Record Day.

Redesigned Web Site!



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is pleased to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website: www.ocde.us. Designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate, the new website allows visitors to quickly access department web pages and information regarding OCDE services, products, events, and programs. From the home page, visitors can learn about OCDE, visit department pages, browse news and hot topics, watch videos, and explore featured links. The new site also offers a calendar to connect visitors with events happening in and around Orange County.

The site provides our main audiences with specific landing pages that will help them find services and resources that may be of value to them. In addition, visitors can enter a search term in the upper right hand corner of the home page which will direct them to pages that match their interests. Through the new website, OCDE will continue its spotlight on customer service while focusing on the needs of Parents, Educators, Students, and Community/Partners.

Parents

The Parents page contains information regarding academics, child care, college and career readiness, health and safety, best practices, and a calendar of family friendly events.

Educators

The Educators page includes information on curriculum and instruction, leadership and professional development, learning and health support, school and district improvement, special student populations, and student and family services.

Students

The Students page provides information and links on academic events, college and career readiness, health and safety, learning resources, and youth development and leadership.

Community/Partners

The Community/Partners page provides links to our business and community partners, data sources, community reports, and education resources.

In many ways the newly designed website is an extension of the OCDE mission of providing excellent customer service. The website is dynamic, user friendly, and provides our different audiences with the information they want quickly and easily. I invite parents, students, educators, community, and business partners to explore the new website, and since the site will continue to evolve and expand, visitors are encouraged to check back often for updates.

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Night Splints Can Help Foot Problems



Dr. Doug Richie

It is common for people to consult the internet to search solutions for medical problems before contacting their doctor. This practice can be beneficial for the patient in providing valuable information about their condition so they can make informed decisions about treatment options when they visit with their doctor. On the other hand, many so-called medical education websites are actually a disguise for a commercial entity which is trying to sell remedies for medical problems which may or may not have any proven value.

When a runner researches the internet for remedies for heel pain, they often see advertisements for shoes, arch supports and "night splints." Night splints actually have proven value to help treat the underlying cause of many forms of heel pain in active athletes. The purpose of these devices is to provide a gentle stretch of the Achilles tendon of the patient during sleep. Improved flexibility of the Achilles tendon is thought to reduce the symptoms of plantar fasciitis which is the most common cause of heel pain in runners.

Night splints can also be an effective treatment for Achilles tendinitis. While stretching of the Achilles is always recommended for treatment of this condition, many runners will find that they always get tighter in their calf while sleeping. Night splints can prevent the natural tightening of the calf muscle and Achilles tendon while sleeping and this can greatly enhance the normal stretching program which runners should do during the day in treating painful heel conditions. These splints can be purchased not only from internet web sites but also from physicians, podiatrists, and physical therapists.

Dr. Doug Richie is a sports podiatrist who has practiced in Seal Beach for 28 years. He is president-elect of the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and serves as a medical advisor to U.S.A. Track and Field. 562/493-2451

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