

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

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OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION

Transitional Kindergarten



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

The kindergarten classroom of today is a very different place than most of us remember. As we strive to remain competitive in a global economy, our youngest students face a more challenging educational climate, and kindergarten curriculum is more rigorous than ever before. The challenging curriculum, coupled with California's longstanding trend of starting children in kindergarten at a younger age than most other states, has resulted in too many students beginning school without the maturity or social skills needed to succeed.

Research indicates that giving students under the age of five an extra year of academic preparation before they begin traditional kindergarten can make a big difference in their long term academic success. In fact, children who receive high quality early childhood education are less likely to be placed in special education or to be retained in later grades, and they are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.

California's Kindergarten Readiness Act, signed into law in 2010, changed the kindergarten entry date from December 2 to September 1 so that children enter kindergarten at age five. The new entry date is being phased in beginning with the 2012-13 school year with full implementation in 2014-15. Along with this historic reform to kindergarten education, California legislators also created Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to address the needs of children who no longer

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You Are My Priority



First round of trained "You are My Priority" parent volunteers.

By Stacy deBoom-Howard, Principal
Paularino Elementary

It has been great start to the year! Parents and staff had meaningful conferences talking about student achievement and setting goals for our Panthers. We are excited for the new programs that have started this fall, focusing on making well-rounded students from our musical partnership with the Pacific Symphony Class Act Program, No Excuses University focusing on student success, and our newest program, "You are My Priority."

The "You are my Priority" program has over 20 parent volunteers who greet students as they enter the school each morning with a smile and making sure they start their day off in a positive way. As we know, the more cheerleaders a child has, the more they have higher self-esteem, give more effort in school, and have success all around. Thank you to those who volunteer!

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Heidi B. Starnes, DDS, MS

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is a very informative issue from the district's commitment to healthy choices, community kindness, academic competition, setting and achieving measurable goals to teachers preparing for the Common Core Standards you will be hearing a lot about in the coming months.

Happy Holidays/Merry Christmas from our staff to you and your families. Our thoughts and gratitude are with the men and women in our armed services.

Our next issue is February 27, 2013. Until then Happy New Year!

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Covering the
NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia
CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madson
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune



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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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Water Issues Study Group

by Mesa Water District (Mesa Water)

Mesa Water's 2013 Water Issues Study Group (WISG) is a no-fee adult educational program for our customers and community interested in learning about important water issues. WISG features Mesa Water staff and other expert speakers, as well as VIP tours of local water facilities.

The WISG program meets on the third Wednesday monthly, starting Feb. 20 and ending May 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Mesa Water's Boardroom at 1965 Placentia Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92627.

For more information and to RSVP, email event@MesaWater.org, call (949) 631-1200, ext. 124 or go to www.MesaWater.org/wisg



Nutrition Services

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



Richard Greene
Director of
Nutrition Services

A Visit to the White House Kitchen Garden

By Pam Williams, MPH, RD - Nutritionist

Mrs. Michelle Obama had a dream to inspire America to eat healthy and fresh. This is exactly what she did with the White House Kitchen Garden, which was created in 2009. Thousands have learned about the garden, and recently, Newport-Mesa USD nutritionist Pam Williams and 49 others were invited to a private tour.

Williams and the group showed up on a rainy morning

to see what was growing.

According to the keeper of the garden, Matt Burch, produce is grown based on the seasons, what the Obama family likes to eat, and what can be used for state dinners. The excess is donated to soup kitchens within the area.

So, what's growing in the garden? Vegetables such as bell peppers and broccoli, herbs such as thyme and basil, and fruit trees such as fig and papaya.

According to Ms. Williams, photos and her experience will be used to inspire others to garden and eat healthy.



NMUSD Nutritionist visits the White House kitchen garden.



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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

We Continue to Grow!

At Adams Elementary School, the students, staff, and entire school community are celebrating the accomplishment of raising the school's Academic Performance Index (API) by 26 points. This was the result of prioritizing the academic program above everything else.

With the support and involvement of parents, and by making the difficult decision to minimize distractions during the academic day, our teachers set the tone that learning and achievement for every student are our top priorities. Prioritizing student learning translates to academic progress school-wide.

We are all thrilled about our API growth, but our efforts to recognize success are not limited to our API alone. Success is reinforced weekly by recognizing students at our Friday community flag deck, where we encourage parents to create a sense of community and commitment to the school's goals.

With the ongoing support of parents, the school will continue to grow, as everyone joins in the partnership supporting the school's effort to provide every student with the opportunity to succeed every day. Gaining 26 API points is a wonderful validation of the efforts everyone has made to help Adams succeed.

California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

Fall Events a Success

Our annual spelling bee was held on Wednesday, October 24! The competition started with 10 classroom finalists. But as the words became tougher and tougher, only two contestants remained standing: fourth-grader Carter and fifth-grader Ian.

The two boys went back and forth with each other, both spelling out words which most of the audience had never heard of before. In the end, Carter outlasted Ian to become our 2012-2013 spelling bee champion.

On Friday, October 26, the California School

community came together for our annual Halloween Hoot, which is put on by the PTA and CSEF. The night was filled with a variety of carnival games, cake walks, great food and even a haunted house.

The event was very well attended by families from our school, as well as the surrounding community. Its success helped our PTA and Foundation raise funds to support the school's various programs, technology needs, and the arts.

All in all, it was an entertaining and successful evening for our school and our community.



2012-2013 Spelling Bee Champion Carter

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

Fun and Friends

October was a very busy and exciting month for the Andersen Elementary School Dolphins. During Red Ribbon Week, there were many different activities to promote safety and making good choices. Andersen also held the Dads Eliminating Andersen's Needs (DEANS) annual pumpkin patch, with enormous success. A wide range of activities were enjoyed by all, including carnival games, cake walks, and, of course our haunted house.

Andersen also recently recognized former student Kevin Langley for his contributions to the Andersen campus. Kevin provided a beautiful painted map of the United States on our blacktop as a part of his Eagle Scout project. The Andersen teachers and students are delighted to receive this gift, which will benefit our school community significantly. The students have found this area to be a very welcoming and a fun place to play and learn. The teachers look forward to the opportunity to teach social studies and geography lessons in this area. In addition, Kevin presented a check to Andersen for \$367.96 from his fund-raising efforts, so that teachers may purchase non-fiction books.



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


Career Pathways

One of the biggest advantages of enrolling in Back Bay High School or Monte Vista High School is the opportunity you have as a student to focus on your career pathway. Within the school, Back Bay offers three Career Technical Education classes, which are articulated with Golden West Community College. For example, solar installation, sustainability, and energy auditing are all part of a career pathway in the field of green industries.

In addition, all students complete a career interest survey, which identifies two of their major pathways. Field trips, career fairs, and business speakers are aligned with those pathways.

Students have already taken advantage of a field trip to Saddleback College and were able to tour the campus and visit classes in the auto shop, culinary arts program, art program, and fashion design program. Nine other field trips are planned during the next six months.

For students who are ready to start college early, there are many opportunities to work with college schedules. Monte Vista students complete one high school course at a time, which allows them to focus on one class instead of six. This also allows students the flexibility to attend college while still enrolled in high school. Monte Vista students attend class two hour per week and are required to turn in all course work during their appointment time.



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College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie McCormick
Principal

Prepared for Success

Students at College Park Elementary School are provided with a wide variety of challenging educational activities on a daily basis. The staff is embarking on becoming part of the No Excuses University Network, which means we do all we can, beginning in kindergarten, to create a culture that prepares each student to be college-bound. Each class has adopted a four-year university as their own, and flags, t-shirts, banners, and hair ribbons with those college colors are found in every classroom. It is our goal to prepare every student for college so that he or she may have that as the top option upon graduating from high school.

There are more than 25 different languages spoken by students at College Park. Non-native English speaking students have an extra challenge in elementary school: to become Fluent English Proficient (FEP). Each year approximately 30 students are reclassified from English learner to FEP, an amazing accomplishment. English learners must demonstrate high levels of proficiency on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) and the California



Standards Test (CST) and earn threes and fours on their report cards in the areas of reading/language arts and math. We have five students who have recently reclassified to FEP status, four of whom are pictured here. Three are in the third grade, and one is in the sixth grade. We congratulate these students on this great accomplishment!

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

2650 Fairview Road, 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

Wilderness Experience Program

Even though Costa Mesa High School already offers a rich mix of electives and co-curricular experiences, this has not stopped teachers from thinking outside the box and providing exciting life and learning experiences for students. Two teachers, Kathryn Navas and Cristen Rassmussen, have developed a series of field trips that complement the work they are doing in the school's Environmental Marine Academy (EMA). Titled the Costa Mesa High School Wilderness Experience Program, activities tied to the EMA will center on

three field trips to key microclimates in California: beach and tidal zone; desert; and mountains.

The first trip took place in early November, when students and their teacher chaperones visited Refugio State Beach, north of Santa Barbara. During this trip, they hiked and performed tide pool transects to determine the health and biodiversity of the tide pools in the area. They also took nature walks to observe and identify native plants and did water testing of creeks which emptied into the beaches adjacent to their camp site.

The director of the EMA, Cristen Rassmussen, noted that these kinds of experiences can have a life-changing impact on students: "The outdoors is an amazing classroom. So many of our students have never been camping, so we see this as a great opportunity to bring science, learning, camping, and fun times together in one experience."

Look for more exciting EMA Wilderness Experience events coming throughout the year!

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

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



Tim Bryan
Principal, 9-12
Grade



Guy Olguin
Principal, 7-8
Grade

Celebrating Election Night

By Steve Messenger, Cdm Youth And Government Advisor

On election night, all three youth and government delegations from the NMUSD gathered together at a restaurant overlooking Newport Bay to share in food, fun and conversation as they watched the national election returns on five big-screen TVs.

The delegates from Estancia, Corona del Mar and Newport Harbor High Schools also participated in an earlier mock election for president, and

voted on the statewide initiative to abolish the death penalty in California.

The results? The delegates reported 60 percent support for Romney and 34 percent for Obama. The death penalty initiative failed, with 36 percent for repeal and 66 percent against.

In the following weeks these delegates traveled to a training and election conference held on Veteran's Day. They will also soon be participating in the five-day Model Legislature/Court Conference at the California State Capitol in February. Here they will have the privilege of debating bills in the historic Senate and Assembly chambers, as well as litigating cases in the actual courtrooms and committee rooms of the Capitol facility.

Davis *Magnet School (K-6)*

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



Alex Morales
Interim Principal

Election Day Excitement.

For the first time Davis Magnet School had its student body elections on the same day as our country's national election. The forty-nine students candidates for six positions have been

campaigning for a few weeks and the culminating activity was an assembly where the candidates gave their speeches to the fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. After the speeches, the students were able to cast their votes in election booths donated by the Orange County Registrar. Results of the election will be announced on Wednesday morning.



Fourth grader Dylan Bartell giving his speech.

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Early College *High School (9–12)*

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



Kathy Slawson
Principal

Taking the Initiative to Help

Earlier in the semester, the group Invisible Children sponsored an informative assembly where students had the opportunity to learn about the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army in such places as Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Southern Sudan. The mission of Invisible Children is to end the use of child soldiers in the rebel war and restore the affected communities in Central Africa to peace and prosperity.

Our ECHS students were moved by this crisis. As a result, they are now doing something to help. With the aid of Ms. Leuthold, our school ASB recently established a personal relationship with a group of aid workers whose task is to educate orphans and rehabilitate former child soldiers in Gulu, Uganda.

The ECHS students started a coin drive to help fund shipments of school supplies to an orphanage school. The first shipments will be sent in November and December.

In an effort to help out in our own communities, we are also holding a canned food drive. The ASB is collecting canned food items, new toys and needed school supplies for distribution to families in need during the holiday season. They will be receiving donations through December 14 for the families in Costa Mesa.

We are proud of our students for taking the initiative to make a difference, both for those who are here and for those who are across the globe.

Horace Ensign *Intermediate School (7–8)*

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



Dr. Gloria Duncan
Principal

Community of Kindness

By Jessica Woodruff, Writer – Seabee Buzz

In September, Keith Hawkins, an inspirational speaker, came to Ensign Intermediate School and spoke at an assembly about culture and respect. After the assembly, a select group of students were picked by their teachers to participate in a leadership group, where Mr. Hawkins shared more advice.

Mr. Hawkins talked about the importance of being a good leader and taking initiative. He has left a mark on Ensign and has helped many of us understand how to respect and be accepting of other cultures.

More recently, the leadership group led an activity exemplifying the good feeling that one experiences from a small act of kindness. After the activity, students were handed sheets of paper, on which they wrote the names of people they admire. The papers were connected to form a long chain. We have certainly created a culture of kindness at Ensign.



Eastbluff *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Yes to Healthy Choices

The week of October 22, Eastbluff Elementary School students, staff, and community members participated in a huge Red Ribbon Campaign. The week was dedicated to the theme of “Making Healthy Choices” and was full of meaningful learning activities.

The campus was beautifully decorated by PTA with large red ribbons, bows, balloons, banners, and a poster made with a hand print from every student and staff member who pledged to be healthy. Our PTA committee, chaired by Molly McCord, coordinated inspirational speakers, who talked about eating healthy, exercising, being safe on our bikes and skateboards, being kind and accepting of others and their uniqueness, and showing kindness to others through our words and actions.

Students were involved in many activities, such as wearing red, signing healthy choices pledges, walking to school with Officer Anderson, learning great exercise routines, and creating our handprint banner. This learning really complements our John Wooden Positive School-Wide Behavior System of character development, which encourages us to fill each other's “buckets” with positive words and actions! We are so proud of our Eastbluff students!



Estancia *High School (9–12)*

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



Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

Academic Decathlon Team

In October, Estancia High School started an Academic Decathlon Team. This program is an annual high school academic competition designed to promote learning and academic excellence among students of varying achievement levels. The Academic Decathlon program challenges students in multidisciplinary learning through team competition.

Under the leadership of Joe Havens, a counselor, approximately 30 students have been meeting on campus at lunch twice a week to study about Russia, which is the focus for the 2012–2013 Academic Decathlon season. Twelve teachers have been volunteering their time to help students learn about Russian literature, social science, economics, math, art, music, and language in preparation for the upcoming competitions.

Estancia High School is hoping to field two teams of nine students for competition against other schools in Orange County in January at Tustin High School and in February at Westminster High School. Participants will have the opportunity to demonstrate their academic strength by completing seven written tests, writing essays, delivering prepared and impromptu speeches, taking part in interviews, and participating in Super Quiz oral relay team competitions before a live audience. Good luck, Eagles!

Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

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

Todd Schmidt, Principal

A New Learning Tool

Since September, Harbor View Elementary has been fortunate enough to begin using the iPad as an instructional tool in the classroom. More than just a research tool, sixth-grade teachers Mrs. Coon and Mrs. Green and their students have also been using their iPads for note-taking, class presentations, and skill-building.

Generously funded by the HarborView Dads, this 1:1 program has seen great progress since its inception last year. The students have learned how to use QR codes to attach large media files to presentations, as well as how to use online communities like Edmodo to complete class projects, and how to reinforce their learning with apps like JiJi and Grammar Up.



Hannah Salisbury uses the iPad to draw a number line for use in Mrs. Coon's 6th grade math class.

Based upon this success, both Harbor View Elementary and the HarborView Dads are looking to expand the program into other classrooms, hopefully through mobile labs. This way more classes will have the opportunity to take advantage of this incredible learning tool.

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

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



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Our School is Alive with the Sound of Music!

What is the music program like at Kaiser Elementary School? On any given day, it includes a good dose of stomping, thumping, jingling, marching, singing, plucking and strumming. Every child at Kaiser receives music education that emphasizes both choral and instrumental elements. From rhythm basics to advanced orchestra's preparation for public performances, Audrey Seidman, Kaiser's music teacher, instills a profound appreciation for music and musicianship.

A visitor to school will hear the shrill sounds of violins in the hands of beginners, the triumphant pounding of drums, and joyful harmonies sung by youngsters in grades 3-6. Music is one of those special classes at Kaiser that just about every child loves. It offers opportunities for expression



Mrs. Seidman introduces students to the art of tuning a violin bow.

and provides a cultural foundation for all students. In Mrs. Seidman's class, every child is a resounding success. One program that stands out during this month of Thanksgiving is music and the amazing teacher who brings music education to life every day.

Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Family Pumpkin Night

On October 30th Killybrooke students in the primary grades toured a local 30-acre organic farm that hosts school tours to teach children about the farm. Killybrooke students had the opportunity to participate in many hands-on activities on the farm in order to learn more about how plants grow and are harvested. Students enjoyed picking their own carrots, radishes, onions, and beans and each student was able to pick his or her own pumpkin to bring back to school. Families came together at Killybrooke that evening for pumpkin carving. Parents and children enjoyed debriefing their day at the pumpkin patch and creating exciting jack-o-lanterns to display on Halloween.



Parents and children enjoyed a family night after the field trip.

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jane Holm
Principal

Digging into the Common Core

Our special staff development day in early November was an exciting time for the Lincoln teachers. An exploration of the new Common Core Standards was on the agenda, and our teachers were definitely ready to dig in and examine them.

The staff first read about the major shift from the old California State Standards to the new Common Core. They worked together to analyze these new standards as they progressed through the various grade levels.

Grade-level teams then prioritized the language arts standards for each specific grade. They also worked together in cross teams to discuss the highest priority standards, and how best to work across the different grade levels in order to help our children succeed.



It was a wonderful day of learning. We are looking forward to a renewed emphasis on evidence-based claims, text complexity, nonfiction reading and literacy development in the content area.

Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Pam Coughlin
Principal

Working Together to Save

Mariners Elementary has a very active Green Team. It is comprised of members of the fourth through sixth grades. Their peers elect these special student representatives, and then the Team meets twice a month before school.

The Green Team makes recommendations to our teachers and classes about the different ways to save more energy. For example, a classroom survey of electrical usage and ways to possibly save energy was conducted in October.

After these recommendations, the fifth- and sixth-grade Energy Commissioners make spot checks around the school to determine if the savings plan is being carried out. Awards are then given out at Flag Deck on Monday mornings to those classes that were found to be doing an outstanding job of saving energy and recycling. The Green Team members also collect recyclables every Friday from the office, classrooms and extra school areas.



After creating such a phenomenal savings in energy use during the last two years, this year Mariners was selected to be a mentor school for the district. Our team is always talking about and working out different ways to save more energy. Their efforts are an incredible example of Coach Wooden's "building blocks" of team spirit and hard work.

Keep it up, Mariner students!

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Amy Nagy
Principal

Setting Measurable Goals

Our Newport Elementary School teachers and students are hard at work preparing for their December performance.

Now we're not talking about a musical performance, but an academic one. That's because each grade-level team has developed their SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely ones) in the area of nonfiction, and all are based upon the soon-to-be-implemented Common Core State Standards.

Once these goals were set, a performance assessment was created to measure student attainment. For their "performance," the sixth-graders will have to read nonfiction articles and view a news segment on pets in the classroom. They will have to synthesize the information, decide upon a position, and then write a persuasive piece of writing on being for or against having pets in the classrooms.

As part of their performance assessment, the second-graders will be reading a series of nonfiction selections. They will write an informational text that introduces a specific topic, use facts and definitions to help develop it, and then provide a conclusion.

Such compositional practice is critical to the academic success of our current students. And it will help us support the success of our future students as well, especially when these Common Core State Standards become the norm. All grade-level teams have set similar goals, and each of them will be met before the winter break.

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

A Professional Learning Community

Newport Coast Elementary School (NCE) has spent the last five years implementing a culture of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This exciting work has brought about tremendous improvement in our Academic Performance Index (API) scores, as the school has earned a 950 API. This PLC culture was further recognized as NCE became a California Distinguished School in 2010. The NCE staff and community are proud that we embrace high levels of learning for all students as both the reason the school exists and the fundamental responsibility of those who work within it.

When students do not learn a skill, teachers engage in "learning CPR." Learning CPR is urgent and directive instruction, which occurs when the learning is most needed. The instruction is targeted to address the skill areas where children have needs, and this instruction is provided by the most appropriate teachers.

NCE is proud of the hard work of each teacher and the success of our students. The focused attention of our teachers to meet the needs of our students in a coordinated fashion has resulted in high levels of student learning.

Go, NCE Coyotes!

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal

Literacy Lab

Newport Heights is excited to announce a few new additions to the Newport Heights team. Mary Abbott and Shannon Dominelli have joined the swarm of Sharks and are working in our brand-new Literacy Lab. Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Dominelli are working with students in kindergarten through sixth grade on all aspects of literacy. Throughout the day, they are seeing small groups of students to deliver differentiated instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

The goal of the Literacy Lab is to raise the literacy proficiency of all students on our campus by reducing the teacher-to-pupil ratio for a portion of the day and delivering targeted and focused literacy instruction. The addition of our two new Sharks has been provided by our incredible Newport Heights Foundation. We thank our Foundation for their continued support in this exciting new venture at Newport Heights. Go Sharks!

Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

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



Michael Vossen
Principal

International Baccalaureate Program

By Laura Barnebey, Teacher and IB Coordinator

Newport Harbor High School (NHHS) graduated its first class of International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidates last June. IB Diploma students complete a core set of experiences: a Theory of Knowledge class, in which they think about thinking and the nature of learning; an individual research project in the field of their choice; and an extended community-service project. Additionally, IB students take college-level classes in English, history, math, science, world languages, and art or another elective.

All of the IB assessments are internationally-normed, which means NHHS students compete against students worldwide. NHHS's first diploma candidates surpassed the international mean in English, history, world languages, and visual art.

As with the Common Core State Standards, IB emphasizes not just what students know, but what they can do with what they know. For example, IB students act as historians, design their own science experiments, and write, stage, and star in their own theatrical performances.



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Things to Consider Before Saving for College



Susan D. Marshall

Saving for college can be an overwhelming thought for young families that are just starting out and are trying to buy a first home. If you are also saving for retirement, the cost of college can be paralyzing.

The changes in governmental rules also provide challenges. For example, 529 Plans originally were not considered in the financial aid calculation but now are. Here are four suggestions that can smooth your way.



1) Make sure you contribute to your retirement plan before you contribute to a college savings plan. Most advisors recommend contributing the largest affordable percentage that your employer will match. If you are a stay at home spouse, set up an IRA or a Roth IRA. Just be aware that these plans typically are invested in stocks, bonds and mutual funds that carry greater risk. The good news is that currently, retirement accounts are generally not considered in the financial aid calculation at most schools.

2) Buying your own home should be a top priority as soon as it makes financial and practical sense. It will serve as a future investment. You will build equity over time and it may provide you with collateral that may be used in the future to help pay for college.

3) Make sure your income is protected. What does that mean? Should you lose your job, become disabled or not make it home; will your family be able to have the resources to go on? Make sure you have the life and disability insurance to protect your family's future.

4) Have an accessible and safe emergency fund. The accounts that provide savings and liquidity are Long Term CD's, Fixed Annuities, Indexed Annuities and Cash Value Life Insurance. Many times working with a trusted advisor will help you find money you don't realize you have. By repositioning assets you may increase your cash flow and add to your savings. When you do begin saving for college, plan and save to maximize your funds and minimize any penalties.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article e-mail her at Susan@College4Less.com.



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



Keeping Pace With Technology

By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

The Costa Mesa Library Foundation recently sponsored our second annual essay contest, with participation from our local schools. We chose four winners from the many entries we received. Congratulations to this year's winners!

The Federal Communication Commission confidence in libraries is borne out in a recent report, "Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries." Nearly 77 million people—or one-third of Americans over the age of 14—have used public library computers or wireless networks to go online at some point. Some 40 percent of library computer users sought help with career needs, and 37 percent looked for information about health issues, according to this study by the University of Washington Information School.

While this study demonstrates that library technology creates opportunities for millions, it also highlights what is at risk if future public and private investment doesn't keep pace with demand. Library service makes it possible for Americans to find work, get an education, and make good decisions about their health. At a time when access to technology and the Internet is becoming a necessary resource for full participation in society, public libraries provide an especially vital service to households in need.

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School Readiness

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Peggy Nguyen
Coordinator
Early Childhood
Education

Pretend Field Trips

All of our young students at the College Park, Killybrooke, Paularino, Pomona, Rea, Sonora, Whittier and Wilson preschools will have the opportunity to attend a special field trip to a children's museum.

The museum recently awarded our preschool program a grant for a free field trip for 576 preschool children and 240 parents/chaperones, as well as the transportation costs for 12 preschool classrooms.

The museum provides children with an opportunity to develop their creativity and learning skills through purposeful play.



College Park students and parents having a great time.

Children can experience interactive exhibits and activities guided by a trained professional staff. They can learn math, reading and science skills while also fostering their curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, organizational, teamwork, self-confidence and socialization abilities.

We are excited that all of our pre-school children will be able to have this experience. The field trips will be taking place on 12 different days through December.

Library Events



Evelyn Rogers
Children's Librarian

Winter is almost upon us! All four Newport Beach Public Library branches have super cute and cozy winter craft programs planned for children. Stop by the library and make a gift for someone special!

It's time for drop-in Winter Crafts on Saturday, December 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Balboa Branch. Children of all ages may join us any time during the day for winter and holiday crafting fun.

A special holiday program will be held at the Crean Mariners' Branch Library in December. Winter Highlights with the Sunshine Storyteller, Ina Buckner-Barnette, will be held on Saturday, December 8 at 3 p.m. She will be sharing multicultural holiday tales and sing-along activities focusing on the light and love in all of us.

The last craft program of the year will be the Wintery Wonderland Craft Club on Tuesday, December 11 at 4 p.m. at the Central Library. Stay warm this winter and make some fun crafts. This program is for ages 4 to 7; online registration begins one month in advance.

Please note that the Central Library will be closed due to construction during the week of December 24. The Mariners, Balboa and Corona del Mar branches will remain open during this time from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit the Newport Beach Public Library children's Web site at www.newportkids.org to register for the craft programs, and link to the library's catalog, booklists and databases.

Please note that the Central Library will be closed due to construction during the week of December 24.

The Mariners, Balboa and Corona del Mar branches will remain open during this time from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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

Backpack Safety Tips

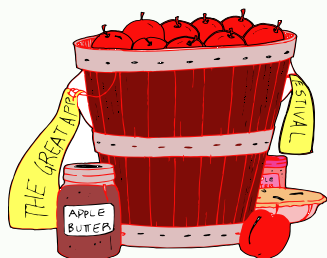
By now, your student is settling in to the school routine. One of the staples for students is backpacks. Backpacks are great. They come in many styles that allow children to express their individuality. When used properly, they are a wonderful asset, allowing students to transport books and necessary items to school and associated activities. As practical as backpacks are, there are concerns that they may contribute to back, neck and shoulder problems.

School nurses are frequently asked about the appropriate use of backpacks. Here are some basic guidelines for backpack use. Of course, they are not intended to take the place of recommendations from your medical provider, and if you have concerns, it is wise to seek health care.

Most doctors advise that children carry no more than 10 percent to 15 percent of their body weight. Have them distribute weight evenly and carry the backpack using both shoulders to avoid leaning to one side and the risk of falling. They should use backpacks with wide, padded shoulder straps to avoid interference with circulation.

Have your children use lockers or desk storage whenever possible to avoid carrying all books at one time, avoid carrying unnecessary items, plan homework, and take home only those books needed for studying. They should pick up the backpack bending at the knees and lift the backpack with both hands. Be sure they avoid overloading the backpack with excessive weight, put heavier items closest to the center of the back, and remember that the school nurse is a resource for health concerns.

Backpacks are great...
Most doctors advise that
children carry no more than
10 percent to 15 percent
of their body weight.



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

Entries must be received by January 15 2015

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

Apple Butter	Early Harvest	Jonathan
Applesauce	Fuji	Juice
Baldwin	Gala	McIntosh
Candied Apple	Golden	Pie
Cider	Granny Smith	Rome Beauty
Cortland	Gravenstein	Winesap
Delicious	Grimes Golden	



Congratulations to **Lea Ozdere**
Winner of the October Word Search Contest!

N	I	E	T	S	N	E	V	A	R	G	L	O	H	A
P	E	A	R	L	Y	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	R	S
J	L	D	R	R	F	I	L	M	O	W	I	E	R	A
Y	P	E	L	M	O	C	K	E	I	M	T	D	E	I
R	P	L	L	O	C	M	C	N	S	T	N	O	K	Z
M	A	I	X	L	G	I	E	Y	U	A	D	H	Z	G
K	D	C	D	B	U	S	N	B	L	U	C	J	M	F
I	E	I	P	J	A	N	E	T	E	L	L	O	J	N
E	I	O	R	P	A	L	R	M	O	A	J	N	P	W
A	D	U	V	R	P	O	D	E	I	S	U	A	A	N
A	N	S	G	P	C	U	T	W	D	R	H	T	S	Q
W	A	L	A	G	Y	Z	M	M	I	I	G	H	Y	K
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Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Stacy deBoom-Howard
Principal

Our Priorities are Right!

We wish all Paularino families a safe and happy holiday season. Looking forward to a bright New Year!
(Please see our article on the front page.)

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

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



Dr. Anna Corral
Principal

Run for Funds

On October 17, Rea Elementary School held its third annual jog-a-thon. Even though the weather was hot, our students ran their hearts out for Rea.

We also were very excited to have so many wonderful parents here to help out and to cheer for all students. Our school raised almost \$11,000, which is the highest total ever raised by a fund-raising event here. Students who raised \$50 or more and turned in their money early were awarded a free neon jog-a-thon shirt. It was fantastic to see so many children running the track in their neon shirts!

Our event was capped off with a wonderful barbecue lunch. Overall, it was a great day and our best event to date. Rea is truly the home of capable, talented and intelligent students who are on their way to college!



Mrs. Juenger's 1st grade class practicing good fitness habits as they all "stretch out" before they run.

Pomona *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Megan Elsten Brown
Principal

RaW Paws

Second-grader Siomara and fourth-grader Brianna spent their first Reading and Writing (RaW) Paws meeting using a Venn diagram and found out they both love the *Magic Tree House* series, soccer, and tamales—who knew? RaW Paws is a collaboration between second-grade teacher Valerie Curry's class and fourth-grade teacher Martha Rankin's class. The two teachers forged this partnership while participating in the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Writing Project last summer.

RaW Paws is a book club with the objective of fostering a love of literature by sharing great books. The students also practice writing skills. They exchanged letters of introduction before

meeting their RAW Paws buddies in person. Oral language is also a huge component, and the students are supported with sentence frames, helping them to discuss literature.

Mentor UCI fellow and Pomona Elementary School teacher Meredith Newland was also there to offer support, and she was excited to be tasked with creating mailboxes for the students so they can correspond on a regular basis.

All in all, RaW Paws makes listening, speaking, reading, and writing meaningful for young Pomona Panthers, and they can't wait until their next meeting to find out more about their buddies and the books they love.



Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christine Anderson
Principal

Student Council Elections 2012!

Sonora School prides itself on its community-based programs, collaboration with various outside organizations and churches, and positive impact on students and the community at large. Part of that impact is from its highly esteemed Student Council Program.

Student Council Elections were held in September. Students in fourth through sixth grades got to elect their choice of candidates by listening to powerful speeches given by nominated student body representatives. Ballots were tallied, and the votes came in as follows: president, Teak Zachary; vice president, Samantha Nguyen; secretary, Marie Sewell; historians, Sara Ashley, Masha Kamensky and Jonathon Xahuentitla; school artists, Violette Remington, Jade Ramelot and Blake Wolf; and school messengers, Toby Taber, Kevin Vasquez and Beau Zachary.

Sonora's Student Council has a tremendous team of youth leaders who will provide the school with various philanthropic and fun ventures throughout the year. Our first event is on Halloween Day with a dance-off activity that provides fun and physical education. Sonora Eagles are leading the way, we make no excuses, and we are college bound!



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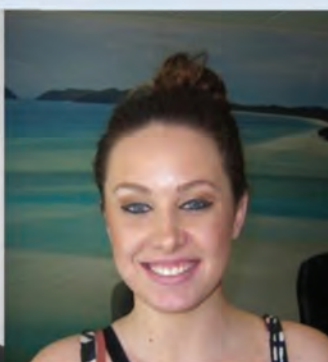
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http://tewinkle.nmusd.us/



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

Fun Friday

By Bronwyn Mazzarella and Madison Galitski
Students – 8th Grade

Fun Friday has been a tradition at TeWinkle Middle School for several years. Over the years, Fun Friday has progressed from just music to activities that get students involved and having fun. Everyone in Associated Student Body (ASB) contributes ideas. Most Fun Friday events don't require anything to be purchased, but if they do, the money comes out of the ASB funds. Many students agree that the cookie face activity has been the most successful this year!



Kent Lim and Micah Keane getting messy on Fun Friday.

Last year, Keelyn Clemence, an eighth-grader, participated in an activity where participants are covered with tape and roll around, trying to stick as many craft balls to themselves as possible. "I like that I can hear the music from the field," she said. Travis Hastings, another eighth-grade student, said that he also enjoys the music.

The ASB Fun Friday Committee promises lots more musical fun this year.

Victoria Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Linda Tenno
Principal

Fall Events

October was a month full of fun learning activities for the kindergarten students at Victoria Elementary. In addition to learning about the kindergarten standards, our students learned all about fall, how leaves change colors, the different shapes that make up a jack-o-lantern's face, and how scarecrows help farmers.

The students had a "spooktacular" Halloween, too! The entire school had a costume parade in the morning. After the school parade, the kindergarten and special day students had their own parade. They marched and performed some fun songs while the parents watched.



The children really enjoyed making their bats and pumpkin hats. During math time they also practiced counting and learning about the different ways to sort Halloween candy.

Now that October was over, the kindergartners were then ready to learn about November. They learned about why the Pilgrims left England and what they discovered when they got to a new land. During the week of Thanksgiving the children also put on a play for their parents called *The First Thanksgiving*. It was a busy month!

Whittier Elementary (K-5)

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



Tracey Carter
Principal

Healthy Choices a Priority

By Margaret Anderson, 4th Grade Teacher

Take a look at our fall schedule, and you will be amazed at all the healthy activities that abound at Whittier.

In partnership with CHOC hospital and the YMCA, third- and fifth-graders are participating in the Earn-a-Bike program. Students complete eight weeks of after-school activities four days a week. Physical fitness, nutrition and team sports are all part of the plan. Parents are also required to attend nutrition classes at CHOC. Families who successfully complete the requirements earn a free bicycle for their child!

Geoff Ianniello from Nutrition Services, is expanding our parent nutrition classes to include a veggie cooking class starting November 16th.



Harvest of the Month poster contest winners!

Whittier has 100% participation in the Harvest of the Month program. Classes receive samples of produce for tasting and studying in the classroom. Activities such as poster contests and pumpkin decorating keep the theme of healthy eating in the spotlight.

Our Fall Festival on Friday November 2nd will feature a Nutrition Olympics, also courtesy of the District's Nutrition Services Department.

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Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Growth in So Many Ways!

Wilson Wildcats are busy with academics and activities. Academically speaking, we're proud to report that we have more students reading than ever, becoming solid readers and loving and cherishing books! Our staff celebrates student success every day as we continue to work on our vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. We have also a group of fifth- and sixth-grade leaders who are helping to peer-tutor younger students with flash cards and as reading buddies. Our Wildcat Award Recognition in December celebrated the achievements of over 15 students in reading, math and effort.

We're also excited that so many of our students participated in the Student Council elections this year. The speeches were uplifting and heartfelt. Student Council presented a moving Veterans Day recognition along with our Respect Club. So far this year, we've recognized over 14 students for their achievements as Wildcat Leaders and another six students who were reclassified in English proficiency.

New at Wilson is our Gardening Club. Under the leadership of first-grade teacher Mrs. Clemensen, kindergarten and first-graders, with the help of upper-grade students, are beginning to garden and harvest. It's fun to see the plants grow and the surprise on children's faces! The produce goes to Second Harvest Food Bank—it's great to give back to the community!

For Project Safe Connections, our counselors have been training our upper-grade students to be peer leaders on the playground, helping to promote problem solving and healthy social interactions.

Regarding all academics and activities, we're so proud of our students and staff!

Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

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



Lauren Medve
Principal

Woodland Celebrates Healthy Choices Week

Woodland celebrated its 6th annual Healthy Choices Week by learning about the connection between what we eat and how our bodies and brains perform. The week started off with an assembly by Healthy

Choices Week founder Sherri Fenn that focused on Traffic Light Eating, digestion, junk food, sugar, water and fruits and vegetables. The kids were amazed by the amount of sugar in some of their favorite drinks and they were still talking about the year old Happy Meal. The PFO supplied Food is Fuel water bottles for each student to help remind them to make healthy choices all year long. The week culminated with a fun Heart Healthy PE lesson for each class.



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Karen Kendall
Director

English Learners

We have a very active and impressive Parent Initiative. Begun by parents, our Parent Initiative boasts a brochure as well as jelly bracelets stating: "N-MUSD parent, I am doing my part!" Thus, our parents/guardians are busy learning about our educational culture and our language.

Our District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) meets once per month to help our parents navigate through these often-complex explanations. At DELAC, we are led by eight DELAC co-officers, who demonstrate extraordinary leadership and vision. Throughout the school year, DELAC will be treated to numerous speakers, who will address parent-generated topics.

Our students are intent upon learning as well. Many activities and interventions are in place at each school to ensure that each English learner is receiving the targeted instruction he or she requires. For example, we have assessed the instructional reading level of every English learner so that we are able to target the appropriate interventions when a student is struggling in reading. Over 600 students who are struggling with grade-level reading goals attended our Reading Academies this summer! Further, our goal is to reclassify every English learner to Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (R-FEP). Therefore, schools are ensuring that each eligible English learner is reclassified. This is an exciting time of celebration, as hundreds of our former English learners are being reclassified to R-FEP!

We continue with our laser-like focus on student achievement for all English learners!



Pete Meslin
Director

An Autumn Tradition

In October, the Newport-Mesa transportation building was transformed into a very special haunted house. For the ninth consecutive year, we had the opportunity to host students from our moderate-to-severe special education classes. In cooperation with our friends in special education and Student Services, this event has become one of the highlights of the season.

Although we didn't share candy and "tricks," we did get to share excitement and love with 95 students, some of whom might not have gotten to celebrate Halloween. Whether the students could walk on their own, needed assistance, or were rolled in wheelchairs, they were sure to get plenty of prizes and doting from the adult aides, teachers, bus drivers and administrators who also dressed up for the event. We were all reminded of why we are here and the difference we make in our students' lives every day. A giant thank-you to all who decorated, chipped in for decorations, dressed up, and passed out goodies.



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OC DEPT. OF ED • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

have the option of beginning kindergarten before the age of five.

Taught by credentialed teachers, TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program available to students whose fifth birthdays fall between September 2 and December 2. TK is aligned with California's kindergarten standards and offers curriculum and classroom environments designed to support growth in the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional domains of development. For many children who do not have access to quality preschool, TK could make the difference in providing them with the foundation they need to be better prepared for success once they enter traditional kindergarten.

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) will support district leadership with implementing TK programs by offering a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Spring Institute in May 2013 and creating a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Network to focus on curriculum and assessment, along with planning and organizing the TK classroom. OCDE has also set up two model Transitional Kindergarten classrooms that offer tours and observations of teachers implementing curriculum. In collaboration with the California Kindergarten Association, OCDE will feature these model classrooms in a series of TK training videos that are scheduled for release in winter 2012.

High-quality early childhood programs like TK are designed to be a bridge between early learning and kindergarten. The academic and social gains provided by such programs are an important step to ensuring California's youngest students enjoy success in kindergarten and beyond.

For more information, visit www.ocde.us/SEED/Pages/Transitional-Kindergarten.aspx.



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