

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



**Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District**

**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 58**

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**APRIL / MAY 2014**



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent  
OC Dept. of  
Education

## **OCDE Strategic Plan Orange County Department of Education Vision:**

*Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.*

As educators, we are preparing our students to succeed

in an increasingly globalized and competitive workplace. It is imperative that students develop competencies in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, and character to assure their success in college, careers, and life.

Recognizing the essential need to keep pace in education, and to assure our accountability, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) undertook a strategic planning process. This activity will enable us to stay ahead of the vast changes in technology, culture, and the global economy - while working hard to close the achievement gap. In developing our plan for the next five years, we looked at our history, core strengths, areas of improvement, challenges, and opportunities. Through the process, we affirmed our Mission, developed our Vision, and outlined the blueprint to achieve our goals.

We come away from the strategic planning process with a living document and the compass for our ambitious journey. A journey that sets high expectations and allows us all to unite on the path to ensure Orange County students lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. The plan includes a set of strategic priorities, goals, key performance indicators, and a learning vision to guide our work. It revolves around our primary

See **OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION • Page 14**

## **Grease Lightning!**



**During the month of March, Newport Elementary fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders were the stars in their school play, "Grease." There were three casts and over 100 students were involved. All three performances were sold out, and there was not an empty seat in the theater.**

## **Champion Drivers**

*By Pete Meslin, Director  
N-MUSD District Transportation*

In this space in prior issues I've discussed the School Bus Safety Rodeo. This is a competition of school bus drivers which tests their school bus related knowledge and their precision bus driving abilities. In recent years we have encouraged our drivers to participate in these voluntary weekend events. Usually office staff and families attend to cheer on our competitors or to judge but our goal has never been to win trophies. Instead, we are focused on increasing knowledge, improving skills, fostering professionalism, and building morale. If we win a trophy or two, that's topping on the proverbial cake. Well I am proud to announce that at the Orange Country School Bus Safety Rodeo held on March 15 Newport-Mesa



**Ricardo, Cheryl, and Victor.**

drivers Victor Garza, Cheryl Selph, and Ricardo Sandoval won first place in the team competition. Victor also won trophies for Orange county individual top score and overall top score. Congratulations!





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**Kay Coop**  
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This issue has so much information you'll want to settle in with a cup of coffee and enjoy. The Orange County Department of Education Superintendent sets the stage with the Strategic Plan, which is encouraging.

Nutrition and School Health Services address the important of healthy food choices. Dr. Kim addresses unintentional poisoning in his article on page 5.

Students are focused on their goals for the remaining weeks of this school year.

Congratulations to the NMUSD school bus drivers team award!

Our next issue is June 4.

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# Parental Input and LCAP



**Karen Kendall**  
*Director*

Under the able leadership of Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Susan Astarita, our district is preparing its Local Control Accountability Plan application (LCAP). One of its major requirements is that our parents and stakeholders give input, and indeed, our District Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) will be giving its final approval for the district's LCAP in May. We have had LCAP guest speakers and are getting input every month from our DELAC parents.

For example, in January of 2014,

Director of Fiscal Services Jeff Trader talked to our parents about LCAP. In February we reviewed for DELAC the PTA handouts in both English and Spanish that cover the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and LCAP. In March, the principal of Costa Mesa High School (Dr. Phil D'Agostino) went over the timeline for the LCAP, and in April we will review the LCAP goals with DELAC for a final vote in May.

Each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (approved by their School Site Council) will be reflective of these LCAP goals. In addition, each principal will also be submitting a Principals' Assurances Checklist for the LCAP. Each and every school is thus gathering feedback to make sure that our Local Control Accountability Plan is reflective of the needs and interests of all stakeholders, including parents.

Parent input is alive and well in the N-MUSD!

Each and every school is gathering feedback to make sure that our Local Control Accountability Plan is reflective of the needs and interests of all stakeholders, including parents.

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# Parents With a Healthy Message



Dale Ellis, R.D.,  
M.B.A., S.N.S.  
Director

*By Kristen Soscia, Intern*  
When parents decide to make a difference in nutrition education, things happen. Wilson Elementary School parents work with staff and students to make their school a healthier place. They challenge everyone to choose fruit as a healthy snack and to drink water instead of sweetened beverages. Why water? And is it healthy for us?

About 70 percent of our body is made of water, and it essential to our health. It is easy to forget that human survival depends on water. Experts say that it is second only to oxygen as essential for life. Water helps us to digest and absorb our food, it helps us to keep cool when we are hot, and it helps move nutrients throughout the body.

The parent leaders at Wilson hold fund-raisers and meetings to support activities and enrichment programs at Wilson. They encourage the Wilson community to make healthy choices. They are also encouraging parents and students to commit to healthy eating and include water and fruits as their part of their fund-raising strategy.

Our children are our future, and leading them by healthy example is very important for their health and wellbeing.

# Childhood Obesity–So What?



Merry Grasska  
RN, MPH,  
FNP-C  
Coordinator

We’ve been hearing about the obesity epidemic for years now, and although there has been some encouraging data for children 2 to 5 years of age, obesity is still a major public-health concern. We know that childhood-obesity rates have tripled over the past three decades and that almost one in three children in America is overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher for children who are Hispanic or African American, with approximately 40 percent of them overweight or obese.

Obesity is a concern because, although the consequences may not be immediate in childhood, they may lead to poor physical health, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and other chronic conditions as well as social discrimination. Research indicates

that social stigmatization is a concern because there is an association between low self-esteem and poor academic performance and social functioning. Research also points to physical activity as associated with better academic performance. Four years ago, First Lady Michelle Obama launched the Let’s Move initiative to help children grow up healthy. She reminds us that we all have a role to play in reducing obesity and promoting healthy habits, including physical activity. For information, go to [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov).

We must stay vigilant in our pursuit of healthy lifestyles, especially for children. At school, students are encouraged to eat healthy foods and participate in physical activity. Health Services staff supports wellness by participating in school jog-a-thons, classroom presentations, parent-education programs and staff development. As always, school nurses are available as a resource for student health concerns.



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## Keeping Children Safe from Poisoning



**Kenneth Kim, M.D.**  
Medical Director,  
Pediatric ICU

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports unintentional poisoning as the second leading cause of unintentional injury death. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old.

Poison prevention starts with awareness of possible hazards around the house and taking the necessary precautions.

- Keep all harmful household products in cabinets or drawers with locks or safety latches.
- Do not put poisonous products in food or drink containers. Store them in their original containers.
- Do not mix household products together (e.g., mixing ammonia and bleach together can produce toxic gases).

- Purchase products that have child-resistant packaging.
- Do not refer to medicine as "candy".
- Store food and cleaners in separate cabinets or rooms.
- Wear protective clothing when spraying pesticides or other chemicals. Put products away after use.
- Open the window and turn on the fan when using chemical products inside.
- Follow label directions when taking or giving medications.
- Place carbon monoxide detectors in the home.

If poisoning does occur remain calm and call 911. If the victim has swallowed poison and is alert and awake, have them spit out any remaining poison. Do not have them vomit or use syrup of ipecac. If poison comes in contact with the skin, remove clothing and rinse with lukewarm water for 15 minutes. Flush poison in the eye with a steady stream of room temperature water. If poisonous fumes are inhaled, go outside for fresh air immediately. Call the Center for Poison Control and Prevention at 1-800-222-1222 for more information.

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# Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Gabriel DelReal**  
*Principal*

## Running Club

Adams Elementary School is excited to share the latest about our weekly Running Club. Nearly 120 students, ranging from first to fifth grade, eagerly signed up to run every Friday afternoon for 30 minutes. After stretching, students circle the field, making 400-meter laps. Teachers and parents tally each lap so students can keep track of how far they have run over the months of training. Volunteers even spray students with water to cool them down on sunny days.

Students look forward to running each week and are disappointed when Running Club is canceled due to inclement weather. They are running for fun and cardiovascular exercise, in addition to training for the upcoming Costa Mesa Community Run events on April 26, which include a 2K, a 5K, and a 10K.

We are proud of our runners at Adams!



**Adams' Running Club athletes stretching for the afternoon run.**

# 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*

## New Technology at Andersen!

Preparing today's students for academic success means putting the right technology tools into their hands—tools that support curriculum and foster self-directed learning. The newest computers, Chromebooks, have arrived at Andersen! This new technology was made possible through the generosity and support of our DEANS Foundation. The arrival of Chromebooks and the many possibilities of how they can enhance our curriculum are inspiring for our students and teachers. As we make the shift to Common Core State Standards and embrace

21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning we are excited for the opportunities our new technology will bring as we develop both global and digital citizens.



# 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*

## A Good Option

Thanks to the efforts of "Leadership Tomorrow" in Newport Beach and Irvine, our Back Bay Continuation High School students have been given the opportunity to job shadow professionals in the community. Seniors were treated to a great breakfast to hear how community members ended up in their chosen careers. They were able to get acquainted with dentistry, the Irvine City and Chamber of Commerce, fire and police support, the water district, and the hospitality industry.

Back Bay began its third trimester on March 21. This means successful Back Bay students taking five classes per trimester will have completed 50 credits this year. In a school year at comprehensive sites, students complete 60 credits. By attending Back Bay High School for a year, successful students can complete 75 credits. That's 15 extra credits, or three extra classes, during the normal school year. Summer school can provide an additional 10 units for students who want to earn more.

The majority of our students made the decision to transfer because they had failed classes during the ninth and tenth grade. High School graduation requirements make it impossible for a student to finish if they have failed requirements. Students who fail required classes must retake and pass them successfully, so being able to make up three classes a year is an advantage.

If you are looking for an alternative to your comprehensive high school, Back Bay Continuation High School, or Monte Vista Independent Study, might provide an option that can meet your unique needs.

# California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Matthew Broesamle**  
*Principal*

## Literacy and Technology

California School celebrated Literacy Week with a host of activities, including celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, a visit from author Scott Sussman, and Literacy Night.

We had a great turnout at our evening event. Families were able to hear a story from our author, Mr. Sussman, and then participate in breakout sessions hosted by a group of teachers. The students loved his books, especially *Silly the Seed*.

Our annual jog-a-thon, which took place this year on March 26, is our largest school-wide fund-raiser and supports two important areas: technology and literacy. Last year, we were



**Author Scott Sussman signing his book *Silly the Seed* for Kimberly.**

able to surpass our goal of \$25,000 in total funds raised, and this year we have set our sights on \$30,000. With the money raised, we plan to add to our technology and begin one-to-one programs in upper-grade classrooms and place additional devices in primary classes to allow for group activities.



## College Park *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Julie McCormick**  
*Principal*

### Congratulations in Order!

We congratulate College Park's teacher of the year, Tammy Evans. Ms. Evans is our science teacher who is highly esteemed by staff, students and parents. She is the reason that all of our student scientists have acquired a love for science and the investigative process.

Four College Park teachers recently received grants from the Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation. Kindergarten teacher Cindy Fernald received a grant for a multicultural library of enchanting stories that help students gain pride in themselves

and promote character-building skills. Linda King received 40 individual licenses for Ticket to Read, an online reading program that helps students build fluency. Students receive instant feedback and positive reinforcement as well as incentives to improve their reading, one of which is their own virtual clubhouse to decorate. Leigh Randall received a grant to purchase a SMART board. This interactive whiteboard is like a giant iPad on the wall and provides all kinds of instructional opportunities. Tammy Evans received a grant for nine Sper Infrared digital thermometers for all students in the science lab. These thermometers allow our student scientists to take quick and accurate temperature readings during all experiments.



To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, we had a special visitor, pictured here with two students. The Cat in the Hat visited all classrooms and encouraged them to keep up on their reading. Fifth-grade students spent the morning reading to their kindergarten buddy classes and then ate real green eggs and ham. It was a great day to celebrate reading!

## Corona del Mar *High School (7–12)*

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



**Guy Olguin**  
*Principal*  
7–8 Grade



**Kathy Scott**  
*Principal*  
9–12 Grade

### Student Resource Center News

*By Mary Russell, College Coordinator*

Corona del Mar Middle and High School's new Student Resource Center (SRC) has definitely become one of most popular and student-friendly places to be on campus! Students from every grade level come to the SRC all day long to do homework, work on small-group projects, do college research, attend career information sessions, use the many available computers, or just hang out with friends.

Over the course of this school year, the SRC has hosted over 100 university and college visits. College representatives come from all over the nation to give informative presentations about their schools to our students. The SRC hosts career specialists as well. On a monthly basis, students are invited to come listen to guest speakers at break or lunch who speak about various career opportunities for future employment.

Because the big lounge area is bright, airy, and furnished with comfy oversized chairs, it gives the students a feeling of comfort and calmness. Because of the positive atmosphere in the SRC, it just might be the "coolest" place on campus!

## Costa Mesa *High School (7–12)*

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



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
*Principal*  
7–8 Grade



**Dr. Phil D'Agostino**  
*Principal*  
9–12 Grade

### Performing a Crime Scene Investigation


The DELTA pathway aims to increase and encourage student access to advanced STEM courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, along with real-life experiences at universities and local es, and exciting, cutting-edge information and technology.

For example, in the seventh-grade science class, DELTA honors students applied their biotech, deductive reasoning and collaboration skills to solve the mysterious crime of who murdered Woody from Toy Story.

After issuing "missing" posters, Woody was eventually found lying face down by Room 160 with several incriminating objects at hand. The students read descriptions of three suspects. Working in groups, they then interviewed witnesses, collected blood samples, traced the blood trail, compared shoeprints, lifted fingerprints from the murder weapon, and compared writing samples.


After collecting evidence, the students practiced their micro-pipetting skills. They loaded DNA samples into the wells of agarose gels. After running through an electrical current the DNA bands separated, thus making it visible to determine which suspect committed the crime.

After a week-long investigation, the students then gathered during nutrition to analyze the results of their evidence. It was incriminating: they determined that our very own Mr. Triggs was the culprit! Everyone enjoyed their role in this hands-on forensic science activity.




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## Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

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



**Christy Flores**  
*Principal*

### Helping Hands in the Learning Garden

Our students didn't have school on March 12 during conferencing week, but that didn't stop about 40 of them from working in the Davis Magnet School's Learning Garden.

The students and their families were kept busy cleaning out the garden beds and prepping for our spring projects. Carrots, onions, lettuce and strawberries were harvested and made available for families to take home and eat.

The fourth-graders are currently researching the California Missions as part of their classwork, and so the fourth-grade garden was prepped and planted for their "California Mission Garden." By learning about the agricultural methods of nearby Mission San Juan Capistrano, our students' education has expanded beyond the books to the garden.

Just like the Mission, our students have planted fava beans, corn, peas and oats. We want to thank our teachers, parents and students for their help and hard work in maintaining this thriving space. It is providing multiple hands-on learning opportunities for our school.



**Carrots proudly harvested by Davis students from the Learning Garden.**

## Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Cheryl Beck**  
*Principal*

### Reading Celebrations

On April 1, we had our annual literacy celebration called "Read Across America Day." This event honored our focus on literacy and was also a tribute to author Dr. Seuss.

The day began with Eastbluff's Flag Deck celebration. But this time we had a special guest reader: The Cat in the Hat! He read one of his favorite poems to the students. Cat in the Hat bookmarkers were also distributed to the students as they participated in special reading activities.

We were also very fortunate to have Peanut Harper on campus that day to share her writing talents with our students. She is the co-author of *Inches and Miles – The Journey to Success*. She spoke about the Pyramid of Success Character Traits, which are the topic of the book and part of our Positive School-Wide Behavior System.

The assemblies were very inspirational for our young readers and writers. What a fantastic celebration!



## Early College *High School (9-12)*

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



**Kathy Slawson**  
*Principal*

### Holocaust Art and Writing Contest

Chapman University held its 15th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest in March, and three Early College High School sophomores attended the awards ceremony. Eduardo Miranda, Isabel Bishop, and Eero Gallano read various first-person accounts written by Jewish people who faced persecution during Hitler's reign and wrote an essay. Eduardo compared the experiences of Jewish people fleeing Nazis to that of Mexicans fleeing Mexico; Isabel focused on the significance of family during times of turmoil; and Eero addressed the importance of remembering the past, even when doing so may be painful.

At the event, the students spoke with several Holocaust survivors, including Curt Lowens (pictured), who was taken into hiding and given a new name before helping to hide Jewish children. The students received books presenting a detailed history of World War II and certificates recognizing their efforts to preserve such an important part of our world's history.



## Horace Ensign *Intermediate School (7-8)*

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



**Dr. Gloria Duncan**  
*Principal*

### Collaboration on the Interdisciplinary Team

*By Kristine Cross, Teacher*

Collaboration. This has been the Ensign interdisciplinary team's go-to word this year. Both the seventh-grade and eighth-grade interdisciplinary teams have each completed collaborative projects that combined students' English and history classes for a truly interdisciplinary experience.

In seventh grade, history teacher Lynda Hernandez and I, an English teacher, worked together to assign students a one-paragraph expository essay in which they analyzed the importance of four medieval Chinese inventions on the modern world. Strong emphasis was placed on a logical essay structure, analysis that demonstrated a student's knowledge of the four inventions they chose, and timely teacher feedback on their writing. Science teacher Jennifer Brundage has also assigned several expository essays in which students explored scientific issues in current magazine articles.

In eighth grade, English teacher Ashly Reilly and history teacher Israel Marshall assigned students the Solution Project, in which students had to find a solution for one type of discrimination in modern society. Students used the reading and annotating of articles, interviews and novels they are exposed to in their history and English classes to come up with their solutions. They have also studied government bills, United States Constitutional amendments and proactive citizens in protest of discrimination. Their findings were shown through a PowerPoint presentation.

This year as an interdisciplinary team, we have definitely found that consistently sharing effective ideas and strategies as well as constantly assessing our students' progress have benefitted the overall growth of our students' reading and writing skills.



## Estancia *High School (9–12)*

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



**Kirk Bauermeister**  
*Principal*

### Simon Scholars

Estancia High School is proud to announce our new partnership with the Simon Family Foundation. The foundation was established to assist students with difficult life and economic circumstances in their quests to achieve the American dream through a college education.

The Estancia Counseling Department recently invited 160 students in 10th grade to attend a presentation and apply for the Simon Scholar program. A total of 45 students applied, and the Simon Scholar Foundation will select eight deserving Estancia students through an extensive application and interview process.

The high school scholarship program will begin at the start of their junior year, and the selected students will receive notebook computers, SAT/ACT preparation, academic support, college coaching, an annual college tour, leadership and life-skills training, and scholar teambuilding events, and participate in community service projects. There will also be various required activities. Upon receiving their high school diplomas, the Simon Scholars will each receive \$16,000 college scholarships (up to \$4,000 per year) through the Simon Family Foundation.

Estancia High School is excited about this new opportunity for our students and our new relationship with the Simon Family Foundation.

## Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3–6)*

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



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
*Principal*

### Of Mystic Pizza and Science

In the 1988 movie “Mystic Pizza,” a curmudgeonly food critic arrives for his weekly restaurant review and orders the special. The pizzeria owner points to one of several pizzas that just came out of the oven and tells the waitress to deliver it to the table. That’s what Kaiser Elementary School is like—any given day or person is special enough to highlight.

That said, let’s celebrate Phamily Phun Physics

(K)night with Phil and Phoster! Rockets blasted into the night sky, racecars spun down their tracks, and helicopters took flight. Approximately 300 students and their families became bee pollination experts, geologists, rocket scientists, and racecar designers at this celebration of science and things in motion. More than 30 parents, teachers, and community members volunteered to make this special event possible, under the leadership of Phil Schinhofen and Emily Foster.

Phamily Phun (K)night highlights our community’s commitment to making great things happen for our students.



**Ben J. hoists a seemingly heavy chunk of pumice as he vamps for the photographer at Kaiser’s recent Phamily Phun Physics (K)night with Phil and Phoster.**

## Harbor View *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Todd Schmidt**  
*Principal*

### The Great Harbor View Debate

Which of the ancient American civilizations was the greatest? This was the topic our sixth-grade students explored to prepare for an informative and lively debate that took place in the multipurpose room. After learning about the Aztec, Mayan, Incan, Olmec, Moche, and Anasazi civilizations, students chose an empire they wanted to represent as the “greatest” and “most influential.”

Students became experts in their team’s civilization. They conducted research through a broad range of resources, including books, magazines, on-line databases, and educational video clips. In order to defend their civilizations and challenge the opposing empires, they had to compare and contrast facts about each of the early American civilizations and state their sources of information.

Once again, our scholarly students have proven that learning is an adventure every day.

## Killybrooke *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

Robotics Club has launched at Killybrooke, under the direction of Teacher Becky Brockman. As they prepare to create their robots, students are learning computer programming using Scratch. Scratch is a programming language where children can program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation. As children create with Scratch, they learn to think creatively, work collaboratively, and reason systematically. Scratch is designed and maintained by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab. Students will

use their programming skills to make their robots move and perform their functions. Our Robotics team is gearing up to visit the VEX Worldwide Competition as they prepare for competition in the 2014-2015 school year. Killybrooke School provides numerous experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education to equip and inspire our world’s future scientists, programmers, engineers, and mathematicians.





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# Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Carrie Gammel**  
*Principal*

## Lincoln's Geography Bee

Each year Lincoln joins thousands of schools in the United States by participating in the National Geographic Bee. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

At Lincoln, our 5th grade teachers hosted weekly study sessions during lunch to prepare students interested in matching wits with their peers. A group of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students participated this year in the competition. This year's winner, Rowan Schneider, a 4th grader, prevailed as our top "Geo Bee" contestant. He submitted a test that will hopefully qualify him for the state competition in Sacramento in April. Good luck Rowan!



# Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
*Principal*

## HOWling Student, Staff, and Parents

As you approach Newport Coast Elementary, hear the 625 HOWling students, staff, and parents. They have a great deal to HOWl about, because kindergarteners through sixth graders are Honorable, Organized, and Wise Leaders (HOWL). HOWL is a key part of the school's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports program (PBIS) that provides clearly articulated expectations for students and fosters school spirit and pride.

Throughout the campus, murals communicate the HOWL theme, and signs and posters communicate behavioral expectations. Students collect HOWL "currency" when they exemplify targeted behaviors and can then purchase rewards at the school's PTA-sponsored Coyote Store. Newport Coast Elementary School is committed to teaching positive behavior that will serve students well in the kindergarten through sixth grade classroom, as well as in life outside the classroom.



**A Coyote Store incentive & Silly String Party with Dr. Cox!**

# Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Pam Coughlin**  
*Principal*

## Our Spelling Champs

Each year, Mariners School has its sixth-graders participate in the county spelling bee. The purpose of participating is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

This year, those students interested in participating met with sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Powell. Students were given a written test. The top five students then moved on to the oral spelling

bee. This was held in October of last year. All students in grades four through six were invited to watch the bee in our multipurpose room. It took 20 rounds before we had our two winners, Peyton Kassouf and Courtney Ima. These students moved on to the county competition, which was held in February. Unfortunately, neither student won at the county level, but you can see from their smiles that they had a great time. Mariners School is so proud of both Peyton and Courtney!



**Teacher Cass Powell, Courtney Ima and Peyton Kassouf.**

# Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kathleen Jaquin**  
*Principal*

## A Week with Dr. Seuss

During the first week of March, Newport Heights celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and Literacy Week. Our community had a terrific time all week long with great activities throughout the campus.

The week started off with a great assembly provided by the Imagination

Machine as actors performed short skits based on stories written by Newport Heights students. During the week, students dressed up as their favorite book characters, participated in a schoolwide DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time, and shared bagels and books with their parents one morning before school.

The week culminated on Friday with a great lineup of guest readers. We had many visitors from the district office come along with other special guests to our classrooms to read some of their favorite Dr. Seuss books.

We want to thank everyone who joined us for Guest Reader Day. Go Sharks!







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# Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

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



**Sean Boulton**  
*Principal*

## Amazing Performances

The Newport Harbor High School Pep Squad Traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada this past weekend, to compete in the SHARP National Championship Competition at Cashman Field Event Center.

The teams performed awesome with all the teams placing in their events. The NHHS Cheer Team placed 1st in the advanced Cheer division, 1st place in the JV stunt team division and the Baton team placed 1st in the Majorette divisions. The Song team placed 3rd in the medium/small Pom division, the Varsity Stunt team placed 3rd as well as the Mascot team placing 3rd in their divisions. The team received the overall Showmanship award for the day for their amazing performances.



# Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Amy Nagy**  
*Principal*

## Paularino Panthers Read!

We recently established several incentives to get our students to read more books. After reading, our students took comprehension quizzes. If they passed their quiz then they were entered into a drawing for a class popcorn party!

In addition, those students who met their six-week goals were invited to a Wii dance party. We are delighted to announce that at the end of the first reporting period, 234 students (or 54 percent) met their goal! Our kindergarten students met 100 percent of their goal, and both Miss Bentson's and Mrs. Schad's class had over 90 percent meet theirs.

We were so impressed by this that we have challenged them again. Students meeting their next goal will be invited to a sundae party! We are excited about the enthusiasm around these incentives, but most of all, we are thrilled about all the reading that our students are doing.



# Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Rich Rodriguez**  
*Principal*

## Proud of Our Accomplishments

Spring is here and our year has been filled with success! We would like to recognize Mrs. Mary Widtmann, fourth- and fifth-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) teacher as Newport Elementary School's 2014 Teacher of the Year! She will represent our district at the county level. Good luck, Mrs. Widtmann! We are proud of you!

During the month of March, our fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders were the stars in our school play, "Grease." There were three casts and over 100 of our students were involved. All three performances were sold out, and there was not an empty seat in the theater. This amazing production was the result of our wonderful parent community and the hard work of our talented and enthusiastic students.

Our classroom teachers have been planning together as we implement the Common Core State Standards. As we search for ways to work smarter, we realize the benefits of meaningful collaboration. Our staff is working towards becoming a Professional Learning Community (PLC). The teacher teams are interdependent on each other and communicate in a manner that places student learning first. PLCs represent a culture of excellence that hinges on communication and trust. Our teachers are working together to help every child succeed. We are also very proud that each child participates in learning rotations every day in reading and math. These rotations provide time and instructional resources to enrich our curriculum by targeting instruction and lowering our student-to-teacher ratio.

# Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Megan Elsten Brown**  
*Principal*

## Joyful Noise

Ella Fitzgerald said that the only thing better than singing is more singing. Pomona Elementary agrees, and our fourth, fifth and sixth grade students are singing their hearts out at the Pacific Chorale Academy. The Academy uses the El Sistema model developed in Venezuela, and our students work with professional teaching artists with formal training in the vocal arts. Newport-Mesa Unified School District has worked diligently to keep arts in our schools. We are proud to be able to offer our students opportunities in the performing, visual and digital media arts both during and after school. Pomona's art education programs continue to grow, and we are grateful for the joyful noise that fills our hearts and hallways on a daily basis.

# Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Christine Anderson**  
*Principal*

## Sonora Student Receives Recognition

Congratulations to Carlos Moreno, a fifth-grade Sonora student in Mrs. Park's class! Carlos wrote and submitted an essay entitled *The Lives of Children During the American Revolution* to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonel William Cabell Chapter in Newport Beach.

His essay received first place among all of the fifth-grade entries from the Newport-Mesa area. Carlos and his family and teacher are invited to attend the annual Student Awards Ceremony to receive the award from the chapter and district. The ceremony is on Wednesday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the Norman Loats Auditorium, which is located on the Newport Harbor High School campus at 600 Irvine Avenue.

Carlos is an outstanding student, an avid reader and a very good writer. It will be a joy to share in the recognition ceremony that honors this wonderful student. Congratulations, Carlos!



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

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



**Dr. Kalim Rayburn**  
*Principal*

### Student-Led Presentations

The Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy emphasize presentation of knowledge and ideas. Such standards support our students' speaking and listening goals and provide opportunities to communicate their learning through projects that demonstrate creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Additionally, every parent meeting that occurs at Rea Elementary School has added the special feature of student group presentations, where parents see a snapshot of what's happening in the classrooms. Such presentations are evidence of the changing educational landscape, where technology influences the way students present information that is complimented with an engaging, interactive, and relevant example. This practice further empowers our student with articulation skills and transference of knowledge. In this picture, a fifth-grade student demonstrates

how his classmates submit their homework assignments via School Loop and how to compose an e-mail to the teacher. Sharing this new skill set in virtual communication with parents complimented his articulation of how his peers are preparing for middle school and life beyond.



## Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Linda Tenno**  
*Principal*

### Mission Projects

*By the 4th Grade Team*

On Wednesday, March 5, fourth grade students displayed their Mission Projects as part of the school's Heritage Week. In January 4th graders began learning about the California Missions and the role they played in the history of our state. As part of this research students went on a field trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano, and then created PowerPoint presentations to explore the economic and cultural implications of the mission system.



**Fourth grader Reece Adkins dressed in Mission Period clothing stands in front of his Mission Project.**

As a culmination students built replicas, or designed display boards about their missions. These projects were on display for the whole school as part of a special Heritage Week celebration. All students at the school were encouraged to dress up in clothing that represent the California Mission time period.

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

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



**Kira Hurst**  
*Principal*

### Using Technology for the Best!

*By Lydia Beth and Lexina McDowell*

Once a month at TeWinkle, our publications class creates a short broadcast updating the students on what is happening at our school and in our community. It has highlighted stories on our new murals, upcoming dances and events, and much more! It features two to three of our students as the broadcasters. Other students help with background research, stories, setup and filming.

With the help of our publications teacher, Mrs. Laux, and our librarian, Ms. Kling, we have been able to create these broadcasts full of new stories and interesting facts while having a great time. We recently got a

grant to help pay for more equipment to make our webcasts better. Once we receive the new equipment, we will begin filming our next broadcast. To stay in the loop on what's happening at TeWinkle, visit our website to watch our next broadcast!



**The team shooting an on location spot.**



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Scott Wilcox  
Principal

**Even the Dogs Read Here!**

Would you ever expect to see a dog at school? Well, Whittier students have two canine friends who are often seen on campus. But don't call animal control—they are invited guests! Both furry friends are honorary staff members who offer support and motivation to Whittier's students.

Zelda is our principal's therapy dog. She is a 4-year-old chocolate-colored Labrador retriever. It's not unusual to see Mr. Wilcox bringing Zelda to deserving classrooms as a reward for excellence in behavior and academics. The students love interacting with Zelda.

"She's very smart because she knows what people say, and she does it," said Crystal Bernal. Alfredo Guido added, "She knows Spanish because when Mr. Wilcox said *'Arriba!'* she put her paw up, and when he said, *'Abajo,'* she put her paw down."

Another dog buddy is Bentley. Bentley is Mari Jaeger's Lhasa apso. Bentley is 6 years old. Both Bentley and Ms. Jaeger work with the BARK Organization. The team comes weekly and works in eight-week intervals. Their primary goal is to read with first-grade students. Vanessa Agama, a first-grader who has worked with Bentley, said, "Bentley is special because he helps us read."

Bentley and Zelda are special indeed!



Dr. Julie Perron  
Principal

**Reader Hall of Fame**

Wilson School loves its library, and our librarian, Mrs. Bock! Student Council at Wilson Elementary raised over 1500 dollars for our school library. Since reading is one of Wilson's school goals, we are excited to report that we continue to extend our "Reader Hall of Fame" recipient list. In spring, three first graders received special recognition, have taken and passed tests, having read 249 books. We also value how many words students read. Currently, our lead reader in the school has read 4,651,000 words. We are so proud of our readers, and their commitment to our library. Go Wildcats!



Lauren Medve  
Principal

**Tiles for Teachers**

Woodland students spent the afternoon of Wednesday, March 5th, painting tiles and sipping shave ice helping the Kaiser Woodland Schools Foundation raise money for the Tiles for Teachers fundraiser. Every three years the Foundation supports the teachers at both schools with this special event by capturing children's art or photo on a tile and displaying it at the school forever! The money goes to the teachers to purchase supplies. Thank you, KWSF!



**Karen Yelsey**  
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OC Dept. of  
Education

**OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION • From Page 1**

focus of student achievement, which is at the center of everything we do on a daily basis. The plan will enable us to build upon the successes of the past as we continue to enhance our services to students, parents, and the community.

To lead the nation in college and career readiness and success is a high ambition, but within the reach of Orange County students. We recognize that OCDE plays a supportive role in reaching this vision and its fulfillment is ultimately dependent on the engagement and the contributions of educators at all levels of student development from early childhood through higher education. Success will require that our students cultivate not only academic mastery but also emotional and social development in safe and supportive schools and communities. Individual student interests, choices, and capacities define college and career success, but we know students need support to acquire competencies that will allow them to succeed in learning experiences beyond their PreK-12 education.

I want to express my gratitude to the many of you who contributed to the development of the plan by responding to surveys and participating in discussions with our leadership team members. I truly appreciate your constructive, thoughtful, and valuable input. I am confident that if we work together, our students will graduate from high school prepared with the competencies they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Thank you for your interest in the students of Orange County and for your contributions to their success.

For additional information about OCDE services, visit [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us).



# Dream Universities Are Attainable



Susan D. Marshall

My question to parents is this; if your son or daughter could attend their dream school for the same out of pocket expense or less than another school, would this be something you would like to know ahead of time? Yes, of course. As soon as possible.

There are ways to know these things. There are things you can do even when students are in middle school that can be game changers in the world of financial aid, getting scholarships, and helping families save on college.

Navigating the financial aid process is a challenge and it needs to start sooner than parents realize. One of the biggest challenges you will face is college costs have become alarmingly high. Most families have not saved enough to even pay for 1 full year of tuition.

The other challenge is figuring out how to navigate the college financial aid process and learning how the colleges disperse financial aid. The reality is that colleges and universities don't want you to know the process or guidelines they use to distribute financial aid. Their goal is to attract as many high quality students to attend their school with as few dollars as possible.

Every college is different in how they award aid. Do they offer more need based aid or merit aid? Merit aid is awarded for the student's merit. Need based aid is based on financial need.

Regarding need based aid: The question is how much of your need the college will meet. Then the question is if they will meet your need in the form of loans or in gift aid. Gift aid is free money, money you don't have to pay back. Loans, even though considered financial aid, someone will eventually have to pay back.

By being able to answer these questions and understand how colleges' award financial aid (and the types of aid) may make a difference in your student attending their dream school or settling for a school they think is more affordable.

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



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## Thinks are Changing

By Gayle Spinks, Foundation Member

A new year, and yet, still old libraries. Yes, you have seen this message previously, but as promised, things are changing. As many of you might know, the Library Foundation has been sponsoring varied contests for students over the last few years - which have become very popular. This year we wanted to go further. We are now collecting letters in support of "Favorite Teachers". We will be honoring 4 winners at an appreciation dinner on May 17th, 2014. This appreciation dinner will also be the Foundation's first foray into a major fundraising event in support of a new library.

The event will be at the Wyndham Hotel in Costa Mesa. There will be hors d'oeuvres, dinner, raffle, silent auction and a live auction. More information about this event is available on our Facebook page and our Library Foundation website. We hope you will consider attending!

For more information, visit our website or Facebook. Follow us on Twitter!



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# Going Green! Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by May 15, 2014  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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**Congratulations to Winners :**  
**Amanda Clark & Jackie Casella—February Contests**

**Our contests are sponsored by**  
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## Newport Beach Public Library

1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/171-3800 • [www.newportkids.org](http://www.newportkids.org)

### Celebrate Spring!



**Evelyn Rogers**  
Children's  
Librarian

Spring is here, and there is so much to do! National Library Week is from April 13–19, and all four Newport Beach Public Library branches will be celebrating the event with Storytimes that feature local leaders from the city council and library board, as well as lots of special craft and activity programs.

There's also something happening every week in May. Visit the Civic Green outside the Central Library on Saturday, May 3 for the Bunnies and Books for Kids Festival. There will be bunny-themed storytelling, children's activities, face painting, crafts, and a scavenger hunt. This event is sponsored by the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation.

On Saturday, May 10 at 11 a.m., the Southern California Children's Chorus will be performing at the Central Library. Join us for a special presentation to see this fine group of young singers.

The Newport Beach Public Library joins the countywide Imagination Celebration on Saturday, May 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy jazz and Zydeco music with Jazzy Ash, along with plenty of hands-on music learning and New Orleans-inspired crafts for children.

Information on this year's Summer Reading Program, with the theme of "Paws to Read," will be coming soon!



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"Paws to Read,"  
will be coming soon!



## BUILD A HAPPIER HEALTHIER KID

### Healthy Kids Day Summer Kick-Off Carnival NEWPORT-MESA FAMILY YMCA



**April 26th  
11am–2pm**



Join us for our Healthy Kids Day/  
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