

FREE

# School News

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



Volume 17, Issue 92

April / May 2021

## Reflection and Looking Ahead in a Pandemic School Year



(please see Superintendent Russell Lee-Sung's message on page 3)

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## SUPERINTENDENT

# Reflection and Looking Ahead in a Pandemic School Year



**Russell Lee-Sung**

It's been one year since the pandemic upended our lives and how we live, work and educate our children. Taking a moment to reflect is important for all of us to recognize

what has been accomplished in spite of these unexpected challenges. Above all, our Newport-Mesa family proved to be resilient.

This crisis has brought us together to solve challenges and create systems that didn't exist, for the most complex and some of the most routine duties. These systems helped keep our district operational and our instructional program in place. We transformed our in-person method of teaching to remote learning, immediately after the closure on March 13, 2020. We trained our teachers and staff on technology tools and lessons were redesigned for distance learning. We purchased and distributed chromebooks for every student and ensured that internet access was available for all. A 100% virtual school was created, within weeks, during the summer for any student who did not



feel comfortable in the in-person setting. Elementary students transitioned to in-person hybrid learning in September as soon as the county became eligible and secondary followed in early November.

Though the challenges, lessons learned, and adjustments were numerous, we demonstrated our collaborative spirit and became problem-solvers to make this happen. We

now look forward to the next step toward normalcy as we transition our elementary students to full time in-class instruction five days a week.

For the 2021-22 school year, we intend a return to full day instruction for elementary and secondary schools as well as our virtual school, Cloud Campus, for students who thrive in remote learning.

While there will continue to be many changes as we near the final few months of this extraordinarily unique school year, one thing is for sure... we will continue to be resilient and work together to continually provide the best education and support for students and community.



## Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000  
<https://nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition>



**Todd Hatfield**  
Interim Director

### The Challenge of Fruits and Veggies

By Pam Williams, MPH, RD  
Nutritionist

Eating a healthy diet is important today just as it has been in the past. Nutrition Services helps our students achieve this goal with our grab-and-go meals. These meals include a variety of nutritious items, which include fresh or dried fruits and vegetables. Meals that include colorful produce help students get the nutrients they need.

When it comes to home cooked meals it may be challenging to include produce in our meals at home. Why not grill them to add a yummy flavor to bell peppers, sweet potatoes or zucchini? Or mix peas, carrots and skinned-potatoes to our favorite soups and casseroles? And corn, broccoli and cauliflower can even stand alone with a few herbs and spices, oils such as olive oil or a little bit of your favorite sauce.

Fruits such as pineapple, figs and pears grill sweetly and can be added to salads. Blending together cantaloupe, honey dew melons watermelon with a scoop of cottage cheese or yogurt can make a healthy snack. We can also add apples, bananas, and berries to our favorite cooked or dry cereal and this can make a great breakfast.

Once these delicious food get into the body, they do a variety of tasks that keep us thinking, running, and even sleeping. Without them, we would miss out on the energy we need to keep going throughout the day. We would miss giving the brain the best ingredients to help sustain thinking. And we would definitely miss keeping our digestive system working efficiently.

It's springtime! What a wonderful time to include fruits and veggies in our diet.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



The Superintendent begins this issue with his message on page 3 reflecting and looking ahead. Each school article brings you up-to-date directly from the classroom.

We have included articles from the Costa Mesa and Newport Beach libraries along with fun things to plan for summer on pages 7 - 10 including student book reviews. Our Word Search Contest is on page 14 and all ages may enter.

The Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue Fire Chief reminds you about water safety on page 6. Don't miss the real estate informative article on page 28. Lots of information to enjoy.

Our next issue is May 26.

## School News

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Covering the

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## Health Services

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



**Merry Grasska**  
**MPH, FNP-C,**  
**RN**  
*Director*

### Adapting to Change

Change and adaptation are always part of life. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, change has been constant, and it has become apparent that adaptation to it is essential. Many of us have now had to be more flexible than ever before.

Building and nurturing meaningful relationships are key to positive adaptation. In Health Services, that means making it a priority to stay connected with students, families and staff. During the pandemic, nurses and health assistants have been more actively reaching out to families to see how students are doing, especially when they are absent. We want to help when there are concerns related to COVID-19 or other health matters. Our goal is to determine if support would be helpful and if making connections to resources might be useful.

Our nurses are flexible professionals who have expanded their role to include contact tracing to ensure that schools are healthy and safe places to learn. Nurses work collaboratively with the health department and district colleagues to maintain healthy schools. Our school district's strategic plan regarding COVID-19 also assists us to deliver services and education programs in the safest way possible.

Having realistic expectations allows us to embrace change and greet challenges in a positive way. We have engaged in mutual support, ensuring that innovation is allowed to accomplish established goals. An example of this is keeping CPR training a priority. Health Services offers employees CPR training in small groups outside instead of teaching large groups in a classroom. This way, we are able to follow all safety guidelines while ensuring that CPR skills are learned.

Adapting to change while keeping students healthy and safe is certainly necessary during the pandemic. School nurses invite parents and guardians to communicate student health updates and related concerns with the school nurse.



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**Heidi B. Starnes, DDS, MS**  
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(949) 720-8145

## City of Costa Mesa



**John Stephens**  
Mayor

### Baseball is Back

Last year at this time, as the coronavirus pandemic was forcing us to close schools and businesses, Little League baseball also had to cancel its season. This week, baseball is back in Costa Mesa!!!

As someone who has fond memories of coaching in Costa Mesa American Little League from 1998 to 2004, I couldn't be happier that our National pastime is alive and well in our town.

Even better, for the first time in 25 years, there is now one unified Little League in Costa Mesa. Since 1996, the city has had two leagues, Costa Mesa National and Costa Mesa American. Now, with the merger, one Costa Mesa Little League serves about 500 young athletes with 49 teams and seven divisions, making it the largest league in District 62.

Spring is a time for renewal and hope, especially this year Little League baseball is a big part of that. That's why it is so fitting that as we emerge from the pandemic, our children have returned to the ball fields where they belong. Play Ball!

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5107  
[www.costamesaca.gov](http://www.costamesaca.gov)

## City of Newport Beach



**Brad Avery**  
Mayor

### Newport Beach Expands Recycling Programs

Earth Month, the month of April, is a good time for all of us to think about being more environmentally sustainable and making small changes to benefit the planet.

In the City of Newport Beach, we are updating our household recycling program, and are asking our residents to join us in reducing the City's environmental impacts.

The first step – if you are not doing so already – is to start separating trash from recyclables (such as aluminum cans, paper, plastic, etc.) in the blue-top carts. Curbside separation reduces contamination and increases the quality of recyclable materials, which helps ensure that they can be turned into new products. If you do not have a blue-top cart, please contact the City's service provider, CR&R, at 949-625-6735 to receive one.

The City will strive to make these changes as convenient as possible for residents, but we will need your help for them to be successful. We encourage all our residents to fully participate in making our City's recycling program as environmentally sustainable as possible.

100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/644-3004  
[www.newportbeachca.gov](http://www.newportbeachca.gov)

## Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



**Dan Stefano**  
Fire Chief

### Important Water Safety Tips

Spring has arrived and as we venture outside more to enjoy warm weather activities, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue wants to remind everyone of some important water safety tips:



**Children and Adults Drown Without a Sound** – No one should swim alone.

**NEVER** leave children alone or

unattended in or around a pool, the ocean or any water source, including from bathtubs to buckets.

**ALWAYS** have a designated child watcher.

**Swim near a lifeguard** – Lifeguards can advise the safest place to swim and dangerous areas to avoid.

**Enter water feet first** – Check for depth and obstructions.

**Use sunscreen and drink water** – Excessive sun exposure affects your body and can dehydrate you quickly.

Enjoy the warm weather, have fun and be safe!



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**Kristina Jones**  
Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Donald Dugan  
Library



**Vivian Strabala**  
Branch Manager,  
Mesa Verde  
Library

Services are constantly updating, be sure to contact our libraries for the latest news. At the time of this article, our services include:

- Grab and Go Service include: Designated self-service checkout of holds and popular items; Physically distanced single-user computers by reservation; and Curbside Pick-Up

- Get a Library Card! Find details at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)
- Summer Reading Programs begin on June 12!
- Virtual Programming. Find details at [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

Here are some of the resources available on our website [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org):

- eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines – Thousands of titles are waiting for free downloading!
- BookFlix and TrueFlix - Video storybooks paired with eBooks for preschool through 3rd grade.
- Hoopla Digital movies, music, eBooks, eAudiobooks, TV programs, & comics.
- California Mission eBooks – an online collection, separate volumes for each mission.

We look forward to serving you!

**OC Public Libraries** [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

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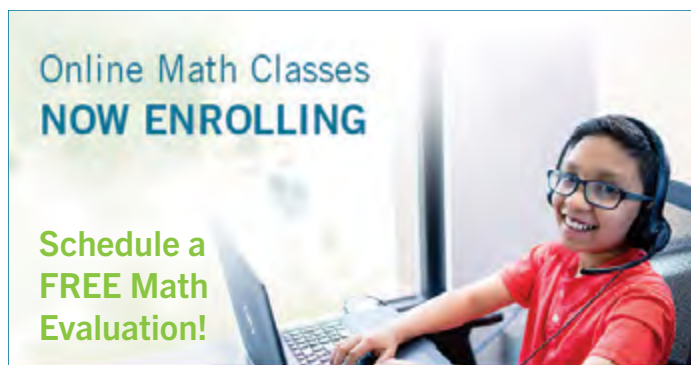
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**Christine Chapel**  
Children's Librarian,  
Newport Beach  
Public Library

### Free Apps

Apps make life easier. Just like a good shortcut. And who doesn't love a great shortcut?

The Newport Beach Public Library has a wide array of free apps, starting with our very own Library app called what else, Newport Beach Public Library. It makes searching for anything simple, fast, and mobile. You can place holds on books, monitor your account, and access the Library's online resources.

Other great apps can be found on our children's page at [newportkids.org](http://newportkids.org). Three in particular are Kanopy Kids, Flipster, and Comics Plus. Kanopy Kids has movies, video stories, and TV series for kids. Flipster has magazines that you can flip through; select "Family and kids" from the category list to get child-friendly options. ComicsPlus is also available and includes 20,000 comics (for all ages). Select "children" from the browsing menu to find the hottest age-appropriate titles.

Another exceptional app available through the Library is Libby. Libby provides access to electronic books, electronic audiobooks, and magazines. Click on the "Explore" feature and select "Guide: Kids" if you would like to browse the items appropriate for children. You can also select "Juvenile" for "Audience" in the "Preference" feature. Of course, you can search the title or author directly if you know it.

NBPL is also excited to announce our brand new Beanstack Tracker app! Beanstack is the Library's app-based reader tracking platform that allows you to track your minutes and activities, participate in reading challenges for kids, see upcoming events, and receive weekly, personalized book and event recommendations. For adults, teens and kids, Beanstack is like a Fitbit for reading.

Happy app-ing and we look forward to seeing you at the Library!

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3800 • [www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids](http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids)  
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## Katie's Review



**Katie C.**

### An Adventurous Mouse

Title: *The Tale of Despereaux*

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Have you ever felt like an outsider? Or like someone who didn't fit in? That's exactly how Despereaux, the tiny mouse with large ears, felt like in his family of mice. He



learns to read (which is forbidden) instead of eating books, and despite the consequences he faces, he continues to stay curious and explore the human world that has been largely left untouched for many years. Once he meets Princess Pea, he realizes that humans aren't as bad or dangerous as the mice claim to be. Rather, he wants to get to know them more and be able to live harmoniously with them, as they had once done before. In multiple adventures and close scares, Despereaux, accompanied by his companions, set out to rescue the princess from the danger that awaits. Will he be able to save her and unite the mice and humans? Read to find out! If you enjoy reading adventurous books, I recommend this book to you.

Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.



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## Daniel's Review



**Daniel H.**

### Funny and Silly

Title: *Cat Kid Comic Club*

Author: Dav Pilkey

Do you like funny and silly books? If you do, you will love *Cat Kid Comic Club* because it's about Li'l Petey from the Dog Man series and this book will make you laugh!



Li'l Petey starts the Cat Kid Comic Club where he and his friend, Molly the tadpole, teach their friends how to make comics.

My favorite part of the book is the show and tell party where everyone in the club shows the comics that they created. Everyone agrees that it's okay to make mistakes because you can always improve yourself.

You should read this book because it is a funny book that has no scary parts, no violence, and teaches a good lesson. The author also uses silly words and pictures in this book. I read this book very quickly with a smile on my face and you will too!

Daniel is in first grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

## Jenna's Review



**Jenna C.**

### Riches to Rags

Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be rich almost your whole life then become poor all of a sudden? Well this is the story of a girl named Esperanza. She used to live a luxurious life



but one day when her father died everything went downhill. Esperanza's Uncle asked Esperanza's mother for a hand in marriage, of course she denied but then Esperanza's Uncle wasn't expecting that answer. Later one night her uncle set their nice house on fire! Then, Esperanza's mother accepted the proposal. But, something no one knew was Esperanza's mother planned an escape for California where they were free. They managed to escape secretly with a few friends, leaving her grandmother behind. They later landed in California in a camp that provided food and a place to stay as long as they worked. But, a few months later her mother got sick! Do you think Esperanza can save up enough money to bring her grandma? Do you think her mother will survive? I give this book 5 out of 5.

Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

## David's Review



**David H.**

### Funny Mystery Book

Title: *The Boxcar Children #157 -*

*Science Fair Sabotage*

Author: Gertrude

Chandler Warner

Would you like to read a funny mystery book? If so, you should read *Boxcar Children #157 Science Fair Sabotage*.



The main characters are siblings Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden. Henry is calm, Jessie is curious, Violet likes photography, and Benny loves food.

Jessie is doing a science fair project on pollution and finds that the stream she's studying is shrinking but can't figure out why. The plot is tricky but the kids work together to solve the mystery. You have to pay attention to the story and details, but if you do, it's worth it because you get to solve the mystery and feel good about yourself!

I liked the book because the author wrote the book in a witty and funny way that makes you feel like you're right there with the Alden kids.

If you love puzzles like I do, this is the book for you!

David is in third grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

## Kailani's Review



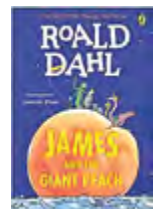
**Kailani T.**

### Whoa, a Giant Peach!

*James and the Giant Peach*

is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl.

The story is about James, an orphan boy who was forced to live with his wicked aunts after he lost his parents in a



horrible rhinoceros accident. One day, James received a bag of magic crystals from an old man. The man said these crystals would change his life forever. James accidentally spilled the crystals on his aunts' peach tree. The peach fruit kept growing bigger and bigger. It grew big enough for James to fit inside. From that point on, his adventure began.

The story is magical and suspenseful. Reading this book taught me the importance of friendship and having hopes and dreams. I recommend this book for anyone who loves magic and mystery. Since this book is not very warm and fuzzy, it may be best for kids who can separate facts and fiction or younger kids to read with parents.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.





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## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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**Stacy  
deBoom-Howard**  
*Principal*

### Happy Days Ahead at Adams

We are excited to welcome back our students to our full day program on April 21st. I want to recognize our staff and families for all their hard work and support since we started back in person in the fall. It has truly been a TEAM effort keeping our students learning both in the classroom and at home plus keeping our school community healthy. Thank you to all who supported our students with assignments and logging into Zooms when not on campus.

This past week I asked students what they thought about returning full time in a few weeks. The responses I received varied but the top three from many students were:

1. They are excited to be with the opposite Cohort and have all their friends together at the same time.
2. Students can't wait to play at recess- on the equipment, with balls and with their friends.
3. They will be with their teacher the entire day and learn more.

The Adams Staff is looking forward making the last eight weeks of school the best eight weeks the students can have focused on learning, smiles and memories. Again, thank you to our entire school community we are thankful for each of you!

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

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • andersen.nmusd.us



**Tiffany Lewis**  
*Principal*

### Happy and Healthy Hearts

This year, Andersen Elementary proudly continued our partnership with The American Heart Association. It is a strong tradition here at Andersen, and we were excited to continue our participation in The American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge! Now more than ever, it is important to remind our students how to have a happy and healthy heart through physical activity, mental wellbeing, character

building, and helping others. Grade levels came out; students were each given their own jump rope, spaced out across our blacktop, and jumped to music. More importantly, students had a blast and raised over \$21,000 for the American Heart Association, making Andersen the #1 School in Orange County and bringing Andersen's lifetime contribution to over \$200,000 too! We are so proud of our students and their dedication to this wonderful organization. As a reward for reaching our goal, students will be Zooming with Dave Coulier, best known for playing Joey Gladstone on the ABC sitcom Full House.





## Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • backbay.nmusd.us



**Mike Wagner**  
*Principal*

### Lots of News!

Spring is upon us, the weather has been beautiful, and the children are definitely feeling more positive about the increasingly upbeat changes from COVID-19 restrictions. Back Bay and Monte Vista are working hard to make sure

that every student is made to feel important and encouraged to succeed every day.

Some exciting news for Back Bay and Monte Vista High School: our very own Mr. Ashendorf was recognized as Newport-Mesa Teacher of the Year. We are very proud of his accomplishment!

A project close to our hearts is the addition of our Living Wall at the entrance of our campus. This wall is a dedication to a very

beloved and very missed member of our staff, Tony Vasi. This Living Wall is a wonderful reminder of the bright and happy person Mr. Vasi was. The installation was done by Joe Vasi as his Eagle Scout project, which fulfilled a dream Mr. Vasi had for his son.

Some of the best news recently is that it is looking more and more like Newport-Mesa Unified School District students will be able to enjoy in-person graduation. All schools are still working out the details, and of course, this will be a variation of the “normal” format, but all the same—exciting news! We will be sure to keep our students and parents posted on the details as they become available.

Stay healthy! We are all looking forward to moving ahead with fewer restrictions and creating the ever-so-important high school experience for all students.



## California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • california.nmusd.us



**Ryan Longacre**  
*Principal*

### Health and Safety Week

Health and Safety Week is an annual PTA-sponsored event that typically includes local law enforcement, bike safety, and an opportunity to get a bike tune-up, among other features. Like so many other in-person events, this year's Health and Safety

Week had to be reimagined. The California Elementary PTA went right to work, and they solicited the help of the Costa Mesa Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority, and school staff to pull together numerous articles, videos and printable resources that covered topics like mental health and wellness, fire safety, bike safety, fitness, and nutrition. During the week of April 5th, staff, students, and parents were offered tips, suggestions, and strategies for keeping health and safety front and

center. As our PTA recommends, “Be proactive, explore, search out resources and use positive coping techniques to create your best life.” During such a challenging year, this is fantastic advice indeed.



**Costa Mesa Fire Captain Darren De Fluiter and his colleagues lead California Elementary Staff and Students in the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of Health and Safety Week.**

## Cloud Campus (TK—12)

<http://www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus>



**Dr. Mike Sciacca**  
Principal

### Mental Health Awareness Week

Cloud Campus conducts a comprehensive Mental Health Awareness Week.

Mental health awareness week is designed to increase the awareness of the pitfalls, importance and supports connected to mental health. Despite the challenges of using a virtual platform to connect with students with regards to mental health awareness, Cloud Campus ASB organized a

week of activities, supports and connectedness. Students were able to participate in yoga classes, mindfulness training and a variety of activities designed to bring people closer together. Cloud Campus was able to effectively combine fun activities with serious conversations and support for our students in need. There are a plethora of resources for students and families struggling with mental health, and a primary objective of this week was to ensure our Cloud community understands how to access to various options. Overall, the week was a huge success!

## College Park *Elementary* (K-6)

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • [collegepark.nmusd.us](http://collegepark.nmusd.us)



**Jake Topete**  
Principal

### Encouraging Words!

I am honored and privileged to have been named principal at College Park Elementary. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here over the past two years, and I am excited about the work ahead of us here at College Park!

College Park is such a fantastic campus because of the incredible staff, students and families that are here. Our staff has a great passion for supporting the whole student by providing a rigorous academic experience and by creating a warm, safe and welcoming environment for them to learn in. College Park students have shown such resiliency over the past year of twists and turns as the world has navigated

the pandemic. They have continued to give the very best, whether in a completely virtual format or our hybrid schedule and through our return to a full-time schedule. Their smiles, warm greetings and hard work inspire us each and every day.

Lastly, our families and community have done such an amazing job of supporting our students and campus during the past year. This has been a challenging year, and I can't thank our families enough for the continued efforts and support. Although we have endured that challenging year and we are still working together to come out of the pandemic, I am convinced that College Park will emerge a stronger campus and family than ever before.

The future is bright at College Park, and I am thrilled to be a part of it! Go Cougars!

## Day at the Beach –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 the subject line.

**Entries must be received by May 15, 2021**

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

Sponsored by Barkate Orthodontics  
**BarkateSmiles.com**

SUN BLOCK	PAIL	SANDWICHES
TOWELS	SHOVEL	SHORTS
SWIM SUIT	BLANKET	CHAP STICK
SUNGLASSES	BOOK	FIRST AID KIT
UMBRELLA	SURF BOARD	COOLER
HAT	FLOAT	DRINKS
FLIP FLOPS	SHIRT	SNACKS

**Congratulations to **Gina Lord****  
**Winner of our February Word Search Contest!**

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



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

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



**Dr. Rebecca Gogel**  
*Principal*  
7-8 Grade



**Josh Hill**  
*Principal*  
9-12 Grade

### Spirit Stands In for Bodies!

*By Kat Keller, 11th grade Student*

After over a year of waiting, the infamous Battle of the Bay game has finally made its return! The Corona del Mar Sea Kings and the Newport Harbor Sailors once again took each other on at Davidson Field, a seven-year winning streak for Cdm

prevailing as the boys brought home another win. Closer than expected, the game ended with 20 seconds left on the clock and a 10-7 lead by the Sea Kings.

Needless to say, the Newport Beach community was nothing less than ecstatic to be back to celebrating the Bay's biggest rivalry. Cdm junior Kimia Malkami and senior Macie Budde delved into the Kings Krew experience this year.

"It was great!" said Kimia, one of the few student spectators present at the game. "One of the most tense Cdm games I've ever been to for Cdm football, and I went to every single game last season!"

Kimia received a spectator wristband from a friend on the Pep Squad, a privilege most students can only dream of at this time.

The boys took on a 16-0 season, going undefeated and becoming the reigning state champions. They started off this season with a win against Palos Verdes but fell to the Los Alamitos Griffins only a couple of weeks ago.

"Last year was a lot more about the festivities, but this year, it truly felt like it was all about football and the game," Kimia said.

Macie Budde, a four-year varsity cheerleader and Sparkle captain, felt as if nothing had really changed.

"Overall, my BOTB experience was almost identical to last year," she said. "I cheered for my beloved Sea Kings with my favorite team members next to me. The only difference was we didn't have the stands packed. There definitely was an energy change in the stadium, but overall, not having the fans there didn't necessarily affect my performance as a part of Cheer and Song,"

Typically with new Covid-19 regulations in place, each Pep Squad member and football player as well as other performers are allowed four spectators, resulting in a crowd of only family members as opposed to students. But the spectators that were able to come didn't disappoint, Macie mentioned how the fans that came were "super-dedicated and cheered super-loud to make up for the lost people!"

## Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

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



**Dr. Eugene Kwong**  
*Principal*  
7-8 Grade



**Jake Haley**  
*Principal*  
9-12 Grade

### Competitions/Achievements

Despite challenges and constraints, Costa Mesa High has managed to present virtual competitions for our students. We're excited and proud to share their outstanding achievements and accolades.

Our Color Guard taped its Winter Guard show on campus

in March for the Winter Guard Association of Southern California's virtual competition, earning first place. This has been a challenging year for the performing arts, and we hope to compete live soon.

Our students earned first place in the Los Angeles Chargers Design and Build Competition, which focused on promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Our 11<sup>th</sup> grade Mesa Angels team included Pathway and STEM club members Lizbeth Gama, Sophia Catania Orozco. They used design, 3D printing and laser cutting to fabricate their football-launcher prototype.

Thirteen of our students were nominated for the 2021 OC HS Artist of the Year. Instrumental music nominees are Heyward Bradford, trumpet; Landon Stein, trombone/

baritone; Megan Gurrola, flute; Caitlyn Roum, trumpet; Jackson Wrubel, percussion; and Chris Moreno, trumpet. Visual arts nominees are Sophie Blair, animation/illustration; Raymond Tran, photography; and Abigail Pike, photography. Drama nominees are Liam Nibbelink, Hollis Welling, Ryan Youd and Milady Rojas. Congratulations, all!

Our STEM classes are associated with the University of California, Irvine, and its Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program. Around this time, STEM students typically take a Saturday field trip to the UCI campus and compete with their projects. This year, UCI hosted the event via a Zoom webinar to highlight everyone's hard work. Middle school and high school teams competed in MESA Day, hosted by UCI. Our winners included Lena Nguyen, Lucero Islas, and Sophia Catania, and Caidlyn Lowry. Winners included Aubrey Spallone, Audrey Nguyenhuu, Kayla Stanley, Thi Nguyen, Isabella Im, Felix Tiquia, King James Baril, Jesus Villanueva, Axel Mancilla, Caden Lo, William Morales, Damian Martinez and Christopher Giraud.

Our students spent countless, dedicated hours demonstrating their hard work and resilience despite this school year's challenges. We congratulate our MESA middle and high school students who placed in the competition and received medals, ribbons and certificates. They will advance to further rounds of competition. Best of luck to them!

## Davis Magnet (K-6)

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

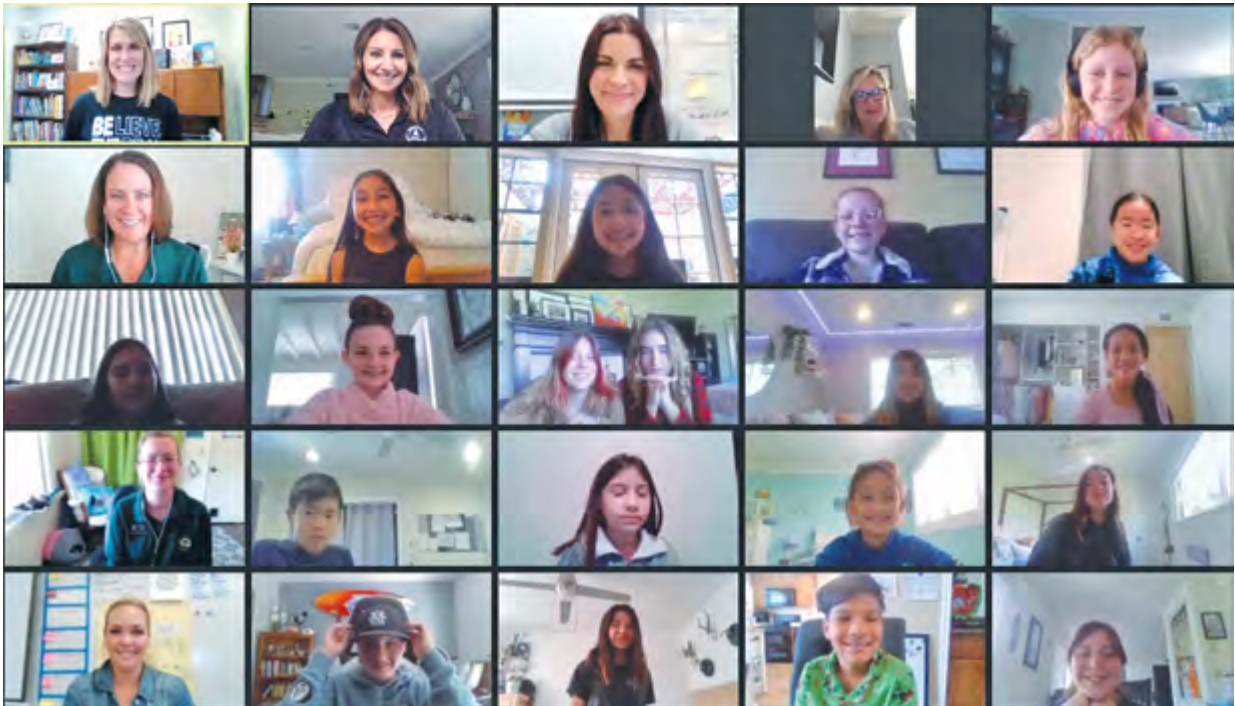


**Christy Flores**  
Principal

### Kindness Week

For the past five years, Davis Magnet School has celebrated Kindness Week, organized and led by our PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) students and mentor teachers. Each year Davis PALs adopt an organization to support through the sales of Kindness Grams, which consist of a fun pencil and kind note. Upon learning about the Bond Fire damage to the popular local science organization, Inside the Outdoors, students and

staff decided ITO would be this year's "kindness cause." Families and students from preschool through 6th grade, along with staff members, purchased kindness grams. The grand total was kept a secret until a special zoom meeting between Mrs. Flores, PAL Mentor Teachers, PAL Students and Inside the Outdoor leaders. During the meeting students had the opportunity to witness firsthand the positive impact their efforts had on others by revealing a donation of \$2,464. It was a record setting fundraising event and a special memory these student leaders will have for a lifetime.



## Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • earlycollege.nmusd.us



**Dr. David Martinez**  
Principal

### Springing Back!

ECHS welcomed back students in our level 2 hybrid model for the very first time on April 5! It has been awesome to have our students back in person under this model as it had been since March 2020, when we had all students welcomed back onto campus for in-person instruction.

Spring is always a busy time for ECHS. School representatives conducted Zoom presentations to all eighth-graders at all five schools in the school district. This was part of the process of making students aware of the 2021-22 ECHS application for the upcoming school year. The early-action application deadline for current eighth-graders to apply for next school

year was March 26, and the regular application deadline is May 7. Our 2021-22 school year is scheduled to begin Aug.11.

ECHS was visited virtually by a two-member WASC team in March to review our mid-cycle WASC accreditation progress report, observe classes that include our fifth house comp of the school year, and conduct meetings with staff, students and parents on that day.

Our very first virtual open house was conducted for both current and prospective ECHS families in March before we went on our spring break in March. In April, 22 ECHS students also virtually participated in the three-day UCI CampMed program as a way to gain valuable learning experiences with various careers in the health and medical sciences.



## Eastbluff *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Cheryl Beck**  
Principal

### Battle of the Books

Our Battle of the Book Club is a dedicated group of fourth- and fifth-graders at Eastbluff, Andersen, and Our Lady Queen of Angels schools. The students have all been reading and “practicing battling” from a list of 20 books. It has been such a great experience for our students to be discussing these awesome books every week.

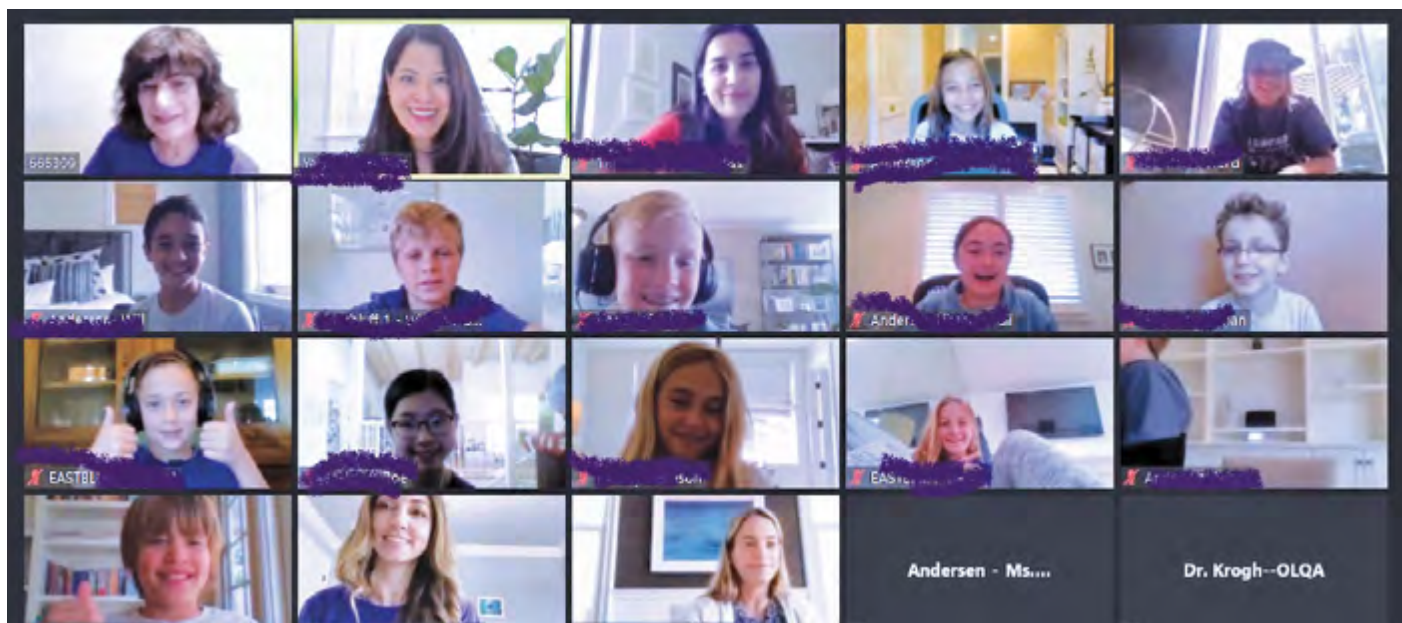
In their reading, our students have admired the courage of several children, one of whom was helped by an overly friendly dog as they began life in a new country or town. They have also admired the bravery of the Danish people as they helped Jewish refugees escape from the Nazis, and of a boy navigating being lost alone in the woods after a plane crash.

They have met clones of master criminals, and several characters who love to read. They also saw many animals protecting children and one another, and the incredible courage of a disfigured boy.

Almost all of the stories can be summed up by one of the precepts from *Wonder*: “It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up.” (Vince Lombardi) And hasn’t this applied to all of our lives this past year too? Remember, as Harry Styles said, “It costs nothing to be nice.”

We recently “battled” on March 24th, via Zoom, with the help of some wonderful librarians, teachers, and parents. All the teams did really well. The first-place Book Trophy went to Our Lady Queen of Angels.

Congratulations to all of the students. We are so proud of you. Happy reading to everyone!



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

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



**Jennifer Fox**  
Principal

### Expanding Course Offerings to Meet the Needs of All Learners

Ensign will be adding new courses to support learners during the upcoming school year. New elective options for students will include Human Anatomy, Guitar, and Music 1. Human Anatomy will be a CTE exploratory course for middle school students. This course connects to the Patient Care high school CTE pathway and is great prerequisite

for students interested in Emergency Medical Responder or careers in healthcare. Guitar students will play guitar every day, learn music theory, and how to read chords and standard music notation. Students in Music 1 will learn about digital music creation by creating their own beats, melodies, and harmonies while learning basic piano, music software, and listening opportunities. New support courses for all students in English and Math are also being added to help increase student proficiency and meet grade level standards.

## Estancia High School

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



**Michael Halt**  
Principal

### Tomorrow's Engineers

Thirty junior and senior students in Estancia High School's Engineering Design Career Technical Education Pathway recently had the opportunity to participate in the VitalLink Energy Invitational Design Competition. The Energy Invitational is a high school- and college-level competition focused on project-based learning.

Estancia Engineering Design students worked with professional industry mentors on developing the design for their energy-efficient, one-person vehicles. Over the past four months, Estancia's two teams, Team Eagles and Team Havoc, have been researching, designing, and building the vehicles during their instructional time, as well as in the evenings and on weekends.

Their final designs will be presented to a professional engineering panel in late April, and each team will explain their development skills in manufacturing and assembling, computer modeling, engineering, analysis, research, and testing.

These energy-efficient vehicles will participate in a timed race. Engineering Design students in grades nine and ten have also been learning how to properly sketch, effectively collaborate with team members, conceptualize, and use the engineering design cycle of "design, build, test, and improve" in preparation for participating in future Energy Invitational Competitions.



**EHS Engineering Design students building their energy-efficient vehicle.**

## Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

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



**Gabriel Del Real**  
Principal

### Getting Silly for Reading!

"Do you want to spray my foot, my elbow or my face?" I asked the group of energetic readers. In unison, all of the students responded, "Your face!"

"Ok, let me have it!" I responded.

After a 3-2-1 countdown, the students pressed the nozzle on their cans of Silly String and formed a purple, orange, pink and green cocoon on my head. Over the sounds of the Silly String cans being completely emptied, bystanders could hear raucous laughter as students at Harbor View Elementary School celebrated their success with the school's first-ever Read-A-Thon by covering me, the principal, with Silly String!

Even during the challenges of the pandemic year, the amazing parent volunteers of the Harbor View PFO and the incredible staff found a way to use reading to motivate students, create

a sense of community, and raise funds for the school. Readers were challenged to gain pledges and track reading progress during the school's Read-A-Thon. Daily top readers were announced, and students who met the criteria were able to celebrate at the end with a special event.





## Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

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



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
Principal

### Readers and Writers Forge New Frontiers!

Throughout the month of March and into April, Kaiser Knights celebrated reading and writing. Kaiser's Parent Faculty Organization organized a phenomenally successful Read-a-Thon that included getting public library cards into students' hands and

wacky principal antics. Austin Kennedy, author of *The Wendalls*, visited Kaiser classrooms through the magic of Zoom. He shared about his process as an author and encouraged students to write, write, write! Kaiser celebrated its young authors with a special Authors' Breakfast. Students enjoyed a breakfast at home and a swag bag that included a blank book just waiting to be filled with their magnificent words. They read aloud excerpts from their books and stories with topics ranging from traveling

through time to jackalope police officers. Perhaps this unusual year has sparked extra creativity! Especially with all of this year's unique challenges, continuing special traditions and celebrating our amazing students has been extra rewarding.



**Drs. Granger and Nagy celebrate the annual Read-a-Thon**

## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Laura Sosa**  
Interim Principal

### Seeking Proficiency in Difficult Times

At Killybrooke School, we have embraced the "No Excuses University" model. This is a school-wide commitment that every child will be proficient in reading, writing, and math.

One of the ways that we monitor our progress towards meeting this goal is through the continual use of assessments that guide next steps in instruction. In the present school year, the SOA<sup>2</sup>R team of five credentialed teachers has adapted the way our students receive supplemental academic support to reflect the current health and safety guidelines established for schools.

SOA<sup>2</sup>R stands for Strategic Offerings to Accelerate Academic Results. In this program, credentialed teachers offer tailored instruction to individual student needs in the areas of K-2 phonics and fluency groups; grades 3-6 phonics, fluency, and reading comprehension groups; grade 4-5 math groups; and English language development (ELD) group.

Rather than meeting in person as in previous years, the SOA<sup>2</sup>R groups have been meeting on Zoom when the students are at home during their off-cohort time, as we are in a hybrid model of instruction. This allows all students to experience the full classroom instructional program with their classroom teacher when they are at school in person. Teachers gather weekly to review progress monitoring data, share strategies, and make any changes necessary to maximize the impact of this program on student learning.

Through intentional collaboration and rethinking the way that interventions are provided, we have been able to serve more students in our SOA<sup>2</sup>R program than ever before, while also protecting classroom instructional time during our Level 2 Hybrid Instruction Model.

The SOA<sup>2</sup>R team has been eagerly awaiting the return to Level 1 instruction to allow for in-person intervention. This flexibility and adaptability in how we support our scholars, both virtually and in person, has allowed us to continue forward momentum toward our school-wide commitment that every scholar will be proficient in reading, writing, and math.

## Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Kristin  
DeMicco**  
*Principal*

### Lincoln Leopards Love to Read!

When reading, school spirit, and fundraising come together, it truly is a winning combination. Thanks to our incredible PTA at Lincoln, we had our very first Read-a-Thon this year, and it was truly a hit!

Not only did we raise money for our school, but even more importantly, our students were also incredibly motivated to increase the amount of time they spent reading each day.

In total, the students at Lincoln read more than 48,000 minutes over the course of the week!

This increase in reading also had an impact on the number of students we were able to welcome into our reading Millionaire's Club, with a record number of students who reached the 1,000,000 mark for the total number of words read since the beginning of the school year. To make our Read-a-Thon week that much more fun, some of our fifth-grade students also planned a spirit week that included a "dress up like your favorite character" day.

I am so proud of all of our Lincoln Leopards for their commitment to developing as readers, as well as for demonstrating some incredible school spirit. Go, Leopards!

## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Matthew  
Broesamle**  
*Principal*

### Move-a-thon Brings Excitement

Mariners recently partnered with our PTA to bring some fun and excitement to our campus in the form of a Move-a-thon. Students in all grade levels were able to participate in a variety of physical activities to promote health and wellness in all our students. The day provided a great atmosphere for our students, as they all worked extremely hard with each exercise, and showed their Mariners PRIDE throughout the event.



**A student participates in Mariners Move-a-thon**

Earlier in the month of March, we partnered with our PTA to provide a week-long focus on making good choices for a healthy mind and body. We understand the importance of caring for our students' mental health, and the positive impact it has on the overall ability for our students to learn at high levels. Students participated in a number of activities that included mindfulness, yoga, breathing exercises, acts of kindness, and a special art activity.

We look forward to continuing this focus as a school community in the years to come. Go Marlins!

## Contest!

This student is somewhere in this publication.  
When you find her, email the **page number** to:



**Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com**  
Please put NMUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by May 15, 2021.  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

Compliments of Barkate Orthodontics  
[BarkateSmiles.com](http://BarkateSmiles.com)



## Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Somer Harding**  
*Principal*

### Back-to-School in April?

Yes, and we are so excited! Everyone at NCE is busy preparing for our students to return to school full-day on April 21st. While it has been a year unlike any other, there are so many things to be thankful for and positive lessons learned. Our students have been champions at rolling with the changes and adjusting their behaviors in whatever way we have needed.

Once upon a time, I worried that students would not wear their masks, but then the children proved me wrong. That was easy, they adapted perfectly. Once upon a time, I worried that students would have learning loss, but then the children proved me wrong. For the most part, children are doing better than expected. They found ways to stay organized and participate in all aspects of their schooling, and gave it their best effort (as did their parents!)

Once upon a time, I also worried that little kindergarteners would not be able to get out of their parents' cars and close the door behind them while holding a backpack. Then they proved me wrong again. Not only can they handle getting out of the car, but they can do it in pouring rain while also holding an umbrella.

Our students have proven to us, over and over again this year, that they can do it! They have shown us how much they like being in school and seeing their teacher and their friends, even if there are restrictions for social distancing. They have been enthusiastic, have given it their best effort, have been flexible with the changes, and have had great attitudes.

We can't wait to have our children back on campus all day, yet another change in this year of change. These are days that all of us will remember and tell stories about throughout our lives. It is truly a blessing for all of us to work with such great students at NCE!

## Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • newportel.nmusd.us



**Amanda Estrada**  
*Principal*

### Special Celebrations!

We've all been through so much this past year, so I wanted to recognize our school community members' strength, creativity, resilience and kindness by celebrating two special days.

March 10th was International Day of Awesomeness. Yes, that's a real

thing! Staff received a special treat and notes from parents and students telling them what makes them awesome. It's clear these notes mean so much to staff when I see them proudly displayed in their classrooms and workspaces.

March 18th was National Absolutely Incredible Kid Day. Upon arrival, students were greeted with balloons and banners and received a wristband imprinted with "Absolutely Incredible Newport El Kid". I also asked staff to nominate students for a positive phone call from the principal to tell their parents to tell them how incredible their kid is. I

made 75 phone calls to very proud parents that day, but easily could have called the parents of every one of our incredible students. Celebrating these two holidays was a good reminder to look for the positive and have fun with our school community.



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

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



**Sean Boulton**  
*Principal*

### 2021 Artists of the Year

Congratulations Max Lister and Santiago Hernandez Rodriguez, NHHS students for being named as nominees for the Artist of the Year in instrumental music!

Further congratulations to Newport Harbor High

School's Presley Green for being named as a nominee for the 2021 Artist of the Year in dance! Such talent inside and outside the classroom!



**Santiago Hernandez Rodriguez**



**Presley Green**

## Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Terri Clarke**  
*Principal*

### The Great Kindness Challenge

For the 2nd year Newport Heights Elementary School participated in The Great Kindness Challenge. Each day our students engaged in an activity that focused on kindness, to themselves and others. Our students began the week with an introduction to our new Kindness Pledge: To myself I promise to act and speak with kindness. So everyday I will be the very best

version of me! Throughout the week students were treated to a virtual read-aloud centered around kindness, wore their positive apparel for "T-shirt Tuesday" and designed their own kindness t-shirts, participated in a kindness BINGO, created links for the Kindness Unites Paperchain plus made tags of kindness to be hung around the school. Students wrapped up our week by filling out Kindness Cards for their classmates, friends, and staff. Everyday our Shark Squad was cheering our students on to Be Kind!





## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Annalisa Schwartz**  
Principal

### April is Autism Awareness Month!

We are fortunate at Paularino to have a robust TK - 6th grade Autism Special Day Class program. Our campus is full of inclusiveness where we celebrate and accept all students. Every Friday in April all students and staff are encouraged to wear blue to support Autism Awareness. For years, Paularino staff have done an amazing

job of integrating our special day classes students with general education not just for recess and lunch but also for core curriculum of language arts and mathematics as well as hands-on opportunities such as science, music, and physical education. When walking through campus we have built a learning environment of acceptance and kindness. Our Panthers are learning to be inclusive citizens and will all make a difference in the world. Great job Panthers!

## Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Cindy Pedroso**  
Principal

### Closer to the Norm

So much has been going on at Pomona this spring. Our students have continued to be celebrated for their hard work and great character traits with monthly incentives. They receive treats at the end of each month for their asynchronous work sponsored by our wonderful PTA. This month we also held two parent literacy nights for our kindergarten and first-grade parents, with some basic tips to support and encourage a love for reading at home.

We now have hundreds of "Read with Me" books in English and Spanish that our families will be able to check out and enjoy while reading with their children. Additionally, we also celebrated the graduation of several parents who had completed the School Smarts parent education course.

Parent education continues to be a priority at Pomona, so in addition to the recent courses available, our families are now participating in the "Grupo Crecer" series of classes covering the social-emotional well-being of students and families. A strong partnership between school, parents, and the community is vital to the success of our students. We are certainly stronger together!

As we approach the last part of the school year, we are eagerly shifting gears to prepare for the return of full-day instruction. Our students, staff, and families are excited to be turning this corner, which moves us closer and closer to a norm. The Pomona team has been working hard on detailed plans to welcome all of our students back together again. This is not only exciting but important for our children.

Our Pomona staff and community continue to show their resilience and commitment to the students. Welcome back, Panthers! We're #pantherpride #resilient!

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

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • rea.nmusd.us



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
Principal

### The Show Must Go On!

The Rea Elementary School Visual and Performing Arts program has provided annual plays that offer a place for students to shine. Over the years, our students have taken to the stage and experienced the bright lights and applause in performances that include *101 Dalmations*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, and more.

Given the safety measures associated with COVID, and the shut down, last spring's performance was cancelled. The students had their costumes ready, sets created, and tickets purchased for the *Aladdin* performance. Well, the show must go on!

In January, Rea teachers invited last year's cast back and began to virtual practice. As the NMUSD safety measures have gradually become less restrictive, our teachers plan to provide more opportunity for the students to practice and hone their acting skills prior to the "big" performance.

We are so proud that our Rea Elementary School students will have an opportunity to perform a musical on a real stage again. We recognize that this year's performance may not look like it has in the past, but our students are going to be having a wonderful time and will walk away with the experience of a lifetime.

Thank you to all of the staff at Rea who will make this play possible.

## Sonora *Elementary* (K-6)

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • [sonora.nmusd.us](http://sonora.nmusd.us)



**Mia Doidge**  
*Principal*

### Understanding Difficult Concepts

Sonora scholars have been doing such a wonderful job with learning during our hybrid instruction!

Students in the third grade have worked on having robust conversations in math and extending their thinking in math, which has been guided by their teachers. Fractions is a major part of third grade and teachers have planned strategically to allow their students to be successful. Students have to recognize that fractions are equivalent to whole numbers and understand a fraction as a number on the number line. The students utilize various strategies, including manipulating pieces, that allow them to deepen their understanding of this difficult concept.



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

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • [tewinkle.nmusd.us](http://tewinkle.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
*Principal*

### Our Journey Together

"In case no one told you today, hello and good morning. You belong here. You're doing great. We believe in you!"

The Pandemic has illuminated many opportunities for us to reconnect with a little more kindness and empathy for humanity.

We take pride in the fact that our school operates like a family, and that it is a real home for our students.

Mrs. Jahangiri, Mrs. Washington, and Mrs. Debbie recently put together an incredible bulletin display on our campus that reminded the TeWinkle family that they always have a place on our campus. Mrs. Jahangiri is our PBIS coach, and a champion for all students. She is high energy, warm-hearted, and is always seeking ways to bring people together. She was the mastermind and the visionary behind the board, and her supporting colleagues all did a phenomenal job of executing her vision alongside her.

TeWinkle truly has the most incredible community. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, and they bring so many assets to our site. They are eager learners, strong-minded, and are quickly evolving into young adults, which we can see in how their convictions have deepened. As they develop, we want to remind them that who they are matters to us. We are on the journey with them, and are watching in admiration, because we do believe in our Trojans.





## Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
*Principal*

### Reading Together

March usually brings our annual “Muffins in the Morning” reading event. In the midst of the, “new normal” we decided that we could not allow the day to proceed without allowing our students an opportunity to enjoy a good book together. But how could we do this? Thankfully, Kim Barone, Victoria second grade teacher, to the rescue! Kim had

the awesome idea to enlarge one of our student’s favorite books into large poster sized images. We placed the posters along our back fence. Students were able to come outside in small socially distanced groups to read together. It was a simple and delightful way to share our joy of reading together. Working together we can come up with creative solutions if we have the growth mindset to do so – even in the midst of a global pandemic! Go Voyagers!



## Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Santa Gabriela Acuña**  
*Principal*

### A Busy Month

March was a busy month for our Dolphins with many fun activities to celebrate Read Across America for Dr. Seuss Week. One of the highlights of the month was being contacted by a local charitable organization for a wonderful opportunity to collaborate and acknowledge the hard work, determination and excellence displayed by

our students, staff, and community during our hybrid learning.

On March 5th, our school was visited by numerous representatives from partner organizations including a retired NFL quarterback. Students were showered with love as they received lunch and a bag full of school supplies and other gifts. Our awesome teachers were also recipients of lovely gifts for their dedication to our students and community.



## Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Jennifer Heckert**  
*Principal*

### Wildcat LMT Innovates

This school year has created many opportunities for us to innovate and evolve many of our common practices to make sure our students are benefitting as much as possible from our current learning environment. Fortunately, Wilson Elementary has Mr. Thompson on our Wildcat team. Our forward thinking

LMT has devoted much time in innovating our current library practices. He has focused on educating students and families about our electronic systems to place holds on books and created healthy and safe check out systems, which include classroom book delivery boxes for electronic holds as well as the on-the-go Wilson library cart. He also does online read alouds with every grade level each week. Our amazing LMT has gone above and beyond to make sure our students have books in their hands and continue to develop their love of reading! Mr. Thompson is definitely a VIP at Wilson School!



## Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

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



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
*Principal*

### Level One In-Person Learning

Woodland Dragons are excited about the return to level one in-person learning! All

staff, including teachers, office staff, student supervisor assistants, kitchen staff, instructional

aides, health office staff, and custodians have been working hard to prepare for all students to return to full days on campus. A special thanks to our parents and other family members who have provided support for the asynchronous, at-home learning. We know it hasn't been easy and we appreciate you. We couldn't have done it without you! Not only are we looking forward to the additional time we will

have to focus on academics, but we also look forward to the opportunity for our students to socialize more with their friends.



**Our AMAZING Student Supervision Assistants preparing for recess rotations.**



# Parent To Parent



**Jodie Lynn**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent To Parent™ ([www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)) has been successful for more than 20 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites including *School News Roll Call* and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)

## Real Estate Matters



**CathyLyn  
Brooks**

### Should You Submit to Dual Agency?

In California the representation of both the buyer and the seller is legally allowed. This is referred to as dual agency, and several states do not permit this.

Real estate brokers and agents are fiduciaries, meaning that they are legally bound to place the needs of their clients above their own, especially as it relates to compensation and disclosures. You should understand the ramifications of allowing one agent to act for both parties.

The job of the listing agent is to get top dollar for the seller, among other things. The job of the buyer's agent is to negotiate a price that the buyer is pleased with and assist the buyer to a successful closing. By working with an agent who is expected to serve two masters, be aware that your needs, and protections, may not be fully served.

While you may, or may not, be able to negotiate for the agent to reduce the commission, the lack of an advocate for you during the transaction can cost you more than a little money. Some agents, but not all, love to represent both parties, certainly because they will receive both "sides" of the brokerage fee. It also may make the transaction go more swiftly or smoothly, but clearly there exists a conflict of interest.

Technically, if your agent works for the same firm as a home you see while viewing property with an agent of the same firm, that too is dual agency, but at least with separate agent for each party. While real estate professionals are bound ethically to work together toward the success of any transaction, and the process is not typically adversarial in nature, issues do arise. Home inspections reveal matters to be dealt with, disclosures are required, contract terms may need to be adjusted, and appraisals can fail to meet the mark. When these things occur, it really is best to have your needs and requirements represented so that negotiations can be fair to both parties.

### Proposition 19 Means Lower Property Taxes for Many

Effective April 1, 2021 many residents in California can move to a new home and carry with them their existing property tax base. Despite the timing, this is not an April Fool's Day prank. It is a bill that will enable many to make a move without incurring a tax penalty.

Last November voters approved Proposition 19, entitled The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act.

This legislation will allow qualified individuals wishing to move to a more suitable property to transfer the property tax base of their existing home to a new home anywhere in California, regardless of location or price with an upward adjustment to their tax base if the replacement property is of greater value.

Previously this was allowed only in a limited number of counties, was only a one-time option for seniors, and could only be used to buy an equal or less expensive home than was sold. Now transfer is allowed up to three times, if the original and the replacement property are principal residences.

When purchasing "up" in value, the property owner can now "blend" the tax base by adding to the portable tax base the difference between the former home and the new home in the annual property tax calculation.

While the objective of this legislation is to aid seniors, the disabled, disaster, and wildfire victims, it is believed that the release of long (and shorter) term ownership dwellings onto the marketplace will provide increased inventory for families and first-time homebuyers throughout the state. Many owners do not make a move as the new property tax rate is such a financial burden.

With inventory levels currently at a remarkable and quite challenging low, this is indeed a welcome prospect.

CathyLyn Brooks, CRS, GRI has worked as a real estate broker since 1980, is a graduate of USC, the UCI Paralegal Program, and serves FINRA as a public arbitrator. She holds Broker's License No. 00797147 and is affiliated with United Real Estate Professionals in southern California. Consumers should seek legal and tax advice pertaining to their transactions. She can be reached at [real.estate.matters@outlook.com](mailto:real.estate.matters@outlook.com)