

FREE

School News

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Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District



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Signature Academies—Preparing Students to Make their Mark on the World!



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SUPERINTENDENT

Signature Academies—Preparing Students to Make their Mark on the World!

The school year is in full swing and the inaugural year of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) Signature Academies are taking off. More than 400 students are taking advantage of these unique programs to help them Make Their Mark on the World!

The NMUSD Signature Academies aspire to take students beyond the basics to elevate their academic vision. The academies have a global competitiveness theme to better prepare students for college and career. Students enrolled in the Signature Academies receive unique curriculum options and supplemental activities that complement the core academic programs at our four high schools. While Signature Academies are specifically tailored to each of the high schools zones, students have the choice to select any program, regardless of their zone of residence.



Dr. Fred Navarro

Initial enrollment for 2015-16 school year was limited to ninth grade students. Students will progress through the program throughout high school. Open enrollment for the 2016-17 school year is anticipated to begin in February 2016.

In addition to Signature Academies, the District also was excited to offer three new kindergarten bi-literacy programs, available district-wide. College Park Elementary School offers a Mandarin Language Program and Whittier Elementary School offers a Spanish Language Program.



Signature Academy options include:

Costa Mesa Zone

- Academy of Creative Expression (ACE)
- Math, Science, Engineering Pathway (DELTA)

Estancia Zone

- Engineering and Design

Newport Harbor Zone

- International Baccalaureate (IB)

Corona Del Mar Zone

- Academy of Global Studies (AGS)
- Performing Arts and Multimedia Studies (PAMA)



To learn more about the Signature Academies and bi-literacy programs, please visit our website at www.nmusd.us and join us at the Festival of Learning event on February 25, 2016. The Festival of Learning, hosted at Estancia High School, will be a great opportunity for students, parents and community members to learn about the programs and see the accomplishments first hand.

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Scott Poster
Fire Chief

Have a Safe Holiday

Thanksgiving has passed, and I hope that all of you had a great day with your family and friends. A little break from school is always nice.

There are Christmas decorations everywhere, and some are probably up in your house. Last Christmas we had a fire that injured people and damaged property. The fire was caused by a natural Christmas tree that dried out and was placed too close to the fireplace. It was a very preventable fire, too.

If you can prevent someone from being burned, and at the same time prevent the house from burning down, that is a very good thing! So please, help your parents prevent a fire.

Artificial trees are not so bad, and they're hard to burn. So maybe it's time for a new type of tree? Natural trees must be hydrated and kept away from sources of ignition like a fireplace, candles, etc. Don't let them dry out!

When the needles are falling quickly and turning brown, it is definitely dry. Be a good home fire inspector and make sure that your household is safe this year. And of course, have a good holiday season and stay safe.

P.O. Box 1768, Newport Beach, CA 92658 • 949/644-3104



Netragednik



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

The Superintendent's message on page 3 is very exciting bringing you up to date on the Signature Academies and the new programs.

As we are going to print the terrible terrorist tragedy in Paris is fresh in our minds. Our prayers are with the victims, their families and the world as a whole. We are grateful for the men and women in the armed services who continue to protect our homeland.

This December issue is informative on topics including Cross -Age Tutoring, Solar Cooker Challenge, Robotics programs, the PBIS program, the return of vocational training, Reading Foundations and so much more. Thank you for reading *School News*.

Also, in this issue we have two contests (find our office tortoise, Cheeseball, and a Word Search). For those of you who want to enter more contests, we publish 28 *School News* publications and they are all posted on our web site.

If you have been planning to make some extra money, please email me about joining our sales team and make calls from home while your children are in school.

Our next issue is February 3rd. In the meantime, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Come meet your baby while trusting the hands that scan you.

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City of Costa Mesa



**Stephen
Mensinger**
Mayor

Much to Be Thankful For

With Thanksgiving over and the holidays approaching, I thought it would be a good time to mention all I'm thankful for.

I'm thankful to represent the good people of Costa Mesa as their mayor. I'm thankful for all those residents who reach out to me and indicate how much they care about their city and its future. I'm thankful for my fellow council members who share my vision for what Costa Mesa can become and to make the tough decisions needed to get there.

I'm thankful for our rank and file police and firefighters who work every day to help protect us and uphold our laws, and for our city employees who work tirelessly to make this town a better place for residents and businesses alike.

I'm thankful for our exceptional schools and sports programs. I'm thankful for all the great shops and merchants, action sports manufacturers, restaurants and shopping centers that make Costa Mesa second to none in dining, retail and entertainment.

Finally, I'm thankful to have a faith in God, and the love and companionship of my family, which includes my wife Robin and sons Cole and Hunter. Together, we wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas and holiday season.

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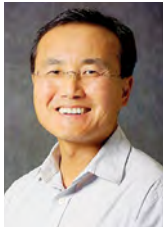


Heidi B. Starnes, DDS, MS

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Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

Fall Season Means Flu Season



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

In the fall, many people get sick with the flu. The flu season begins in November and lasts until March. A flu shot will protect your child from getting a bad case of the flu and may protect him or her from getting the flu at all.

If your child experiences serious complications from the flu or other serious illness, contact the doctor's office. Be especially vigilant if your child is younger than 3 months old and has a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or if an older child has a fever higher than 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Also call the doctor if an older child has a lower fever, but refuses to drink liquids, has persistent diarrhea or repeated vomiting, shows signs of dehydration, or experiences recurrent fevers.

A trip to the emergency room may be necessary in cases when a feverish child also:

- Cries inconsolably for hours and is very irritable
- Develops a rash or spots that look like bruises
- Has a stiff neck
- Becomes limp and refuses to move
- Has difficulty breathing; a severe headache; or blue lips, tongue, or nails

Most people who get the flu are sick for about a week. And talk with your child's doctor if you have other questions or concerns.

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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

New Cross-Age Tutoring at Adams School



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Exciting things are happening at Adams Elementary School. Fifth and sixth graders, trained as “Reading Specialists”, have been paired up with second and third graders for weekly reading fluency practice. Students read from a range of passages based on their individual needs and are timed by their upper-grade peers using hourglass sand timers. The fluency scores are recorded and graphed to monitor progress. Finally,



5th and 6th graders working with 2nd and 3rd graders during Cross-Age Tutoring.

“One person can make a difference and everyone should try.” Clearly, these role models are making a difference in their partners’ academic success.

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

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

A Great Alternative



Debbie Lucker-Davis
Principal

What can we offer you? Most parents with children who attend one of our comprehensive high schools don’t understand or really need to understand how we operate as a continuation and independent study high school. At least until the need arises!

Back Bay Continuation High School exists to support those students who need additional time and attention to complete or make up classes previously failed. We welcome these credit-deficient students, because as an alternative campus we offer options not found in the comprehensive high schools. These include shortened schedules, portfolio work, partial-credit completion, trimesters, test outs, and CORE electives. We also work with each student to develop an individual graduation plan.

Monte Vista, the independent study program, allows students to work outside of school and complete course assignments. Independent study allows them to participate in sports, job work, support a family, or attend college. Students who are unable to attend school for physical reasons can also attend independent study.

390 Monte Vista Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900
<http://backbay.nmusd.us>

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

Never Give Up



Dr. Shannon Bray
Principal

Our theme for Red Ribbon Week was “Stay Strong, Live Long!” Students received red bracelets with this slogan, and also wore special jerseys as they “Teamed Up for Good Health!” A student-created mural of red handprints was also hung in the library to show our pledge to, “Stay Strong, Live Long.”

The students wore red to help welcome their special guest, Mr. Brent Poppen. Mr. Poppen is an author, teacher, and Paralympian. He shared his message of overcoming adversity through perseverance and hard work. He also told us to always believe in possibilities and never give up on our dreams.



Because of this healthy mindset, Mr. Poppen was able to compete in the Paralympics, where he won a bronze medal for rugby!

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California *Elementary (K-6)*

A Frightful Fundraiser



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

California School hosted its annual Halloween Hoot on October 29. This event is organized by our amazing and dedicated volunteers. All of their hard work paid off as hundreds of students and their families came to enjoy an evening of fun at California School. Many students came dressed in their Halloween costumes to get in the spirit of the event.

This is just the first of many opportunities we create for our families to come together



Third grade student Kieran, as Slappy, participated in the costume contest.

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

in support of our school. The money raised during these events directly supports our school's vision of academic excellence through technology and the arts. Over the past four years, we have tripled our enrollment in our performing arts programs and enhanced the learning experience with one-to-one netbooks.

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

How We Shine!



Julie McCormick
Principal

We're excited to open our first Mandarin Immersion kindergarten class! Talented teacher Vivian Lam teaches her class in English half the day and in Mandarin the other half. Kindergarteners learn listening and speaking skills along with reading and writing 60 to 70 characters. Call our office to visit the class!

We congratulate sixth-grade teacher Linda King on her National Board Certification renewal. She joins first-grade



National Board Certified Teachers.
Linda King, Michelle Hanscom and Susan Shinnners.

teacher Susan Shinnners and second-grade teacher Michelle Hanscom, who also hold this distinguished credential. Again this year, we're pleased to have Vanguard University students offer a reading-intervention program called "Let's Read." They come one afternoon a week and work in small groups to practice and reinforce reading skills. We're fortunate to have these partners in education!

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

teacher Susan Shinnners and second-grade teacher Michelle Hanscom, who also hold this distinguished credential

Again this year, we're pleased to have Vanguard University students offer a reading-intervention

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

Robotics Program



Dr. Rebecca Gogel
Principal
7-8 Grade



Kathy Scott
Principal
9-12 Grade

Technology has been quickly transforming life as we know it. The Sea Kings at Corona del Mar Middle/High School are generating an atmosphere that challenges and inspires interested students, grades 7-12, in the areas of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics).

Thanks to generous funding from CdM's Foundation a Robotics Tech Lab (including staffing) has been created. Boasting high-end equipment including 3D printers/scanners, laptops, iPads and Beam Plus Robots, it's no wonder they are continually successful at California's CSTEM statewide robotics competition.



CdM's Robotics Program works together in three different capacities: CSTEM robotics middle school, high school and FRC. All groups work before/after school, training to enter high-profile competitions that put their intelligence, creativity and collaboration skills to the test.

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

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

Our CC&C



Guy Olguin
Principal
7-8 Grade



Jacob Haley
Principal
9-12 Grade

Over the past two-years, our counseling department has included a College and Career Center (C&CC) and a specialist to assist students with post-graduation plans. Our C&CC is now one of the most eventful and student-friendly places on campus. Seventh- through 12th-

graders can research colleges and careers, attend daily college visits, and get individual guidance. Seniors get assistance with college applications, personal statements, letters of recommendation, career planning and financial aid.

All year, the C&CC works with the Counseling Department to host monthly career panel discussions called Lunch & Learn, college-application workshops, financial-aid workshops, field trips, classroom visits and other success-related events. Social media and text messaging along with traditional methods assure that the C&CC is reaching more students and families.

Costa Mesa students also attended the annual Next Steps College and Career Night in October. Students were able to access more than 180 national and international college recruiters and 25 interactive career-exploration booths. Breakout sessions on navigating financial aid and creating college options were offered in English and Spanish.

The C&CC gives our students opportunity to explore and plan their future paths.

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

Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

Solar Cooker Challenge



Christy Flores
Principal

The Davis Magnet School 6th grade students recently completed the 8th annual Solar Cooker Challenge. Students were given the challenge to design and build a solar oven which cooked chopped apples, cinnamon, and sugar to tender stage using heat from solar radiation. Students were able to use cardboard or foam core for the structure, plastic or acetate sheets for the glazing, paper, foam, or bubble wrap as the insulation, and tape for the fastening and sealing. Students had the



option to add reflectors such as foil, mirrors, or metal. 6th graders used research questions to guide their design and then on 'Cooking Day' would gather data once an hour. Congrats to our scientists on completing another successful Solar Cooker Challenge!

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

Early College *High School (9-12)*

Character—and Site—Building



Dr. David Martinez
Principal

Our school site began construction in November. This is the anticipated modernization project focused on enhancing the main school-building complex on our site.

There will be two phases to the project. The first phase will involve work on all the classrooms and offices, with the exception of Rooms 1 through 5, which will be in use through Aug. 3, 2016. The second phase will involve working on Rooms 1 through 5 from June 6 through Aug. 3, 2016.

In addition to making our students college- and career-ready upon graduation, our school is placing an emphasis on character building. The six character traits that are being focused on are Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness. Throughout the school year, staff members will be identifying students who demonstrate any one of these character traits for public recognition by our school and community. At the end of the school year at our Awards Night in May, 2016, we will select a student for each character trait who best embodies that trait for a recognition certificate for good character.

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

Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

Achieving through Adversity



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Our theme for Red Ribbon Week was "Making Healthy Choices." We had an amazing guest speaker named Brent Poppen who spent the entire day with our students. He shared his story about turning his personal tragedy of being paralyzed from the waist down into a huge success. Our Eastbluff students had an amazing time with him.



Brent worked extremely hard after his injury, and soon competed in the Paralympics in tennis and rugby with special wheelchairs for each sport. He spoke to our students about overcoming obstacles, always setting high goals, making healthy choices, and accepting others. Our students were excited to hold his Paralympic Bronze Medal and ride in his tennis Paralympic chair at recess.



Brent Poppens is an advocate, author, substitute teacher, and Paralympian. He made such a positive influence on our students and staff. We are glad he shared this day with us!



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

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

Broccoli and Kindness



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Children always have the answers to life's persistent questions! Our Kaiser students have decided that a great way to grow as caring individuals this year is to start or join a campus club.

With Garden Club advisors Mrs. Heeschen and Mrs. Womble, our students have now weeded and planted a winter garden replete with artichokes and broccoli. And our Knights cannot wait to sample their crops!

In addition to getting closer to the earth and all that it can teach us, our Kaiser students have also started a drama club and a buddy club. These organizations emphasize the importance of including everyone and making new friends. The excitement has "leaked" into the classrooms with a sense of heightened motivation and responsibility.

Our Kaiser Knights continue to lead the way towards delicious and caring choices!



Kaiser's Garden Club adds worms to the soil before planting winter vegetables.

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

A Smoother Transition



Michael Sciacca
Principal

This year Ensign Intermediate School is placing substantial focus on connecting with both our feeder elementary schools and Newport Harbor High School in order to ensure a seamless transition from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school. Teacher teams from Ensign and Newport Harbor have been meeting frequently to discuss common practices and expectations, which will provided consistency for our students as they move through our educational zone.

On November 2, both faculties met for a joint potluck barbecue designed to promote collaboration among teachers at both schools. Multiple opportunities to better align our curriculum and practices were identified, and steps have been initiated to smooth the transitions for our students. As we continue to align, our students will experience the exponential positive effects of common practices and unified direction.

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

Emphasis On Innovation



Dr. Todd Schmidt
Principal

At Harbor View, one of our primary focuses is developing 21st century skills in our students. This includes an emphasis on innovation and discovery. It also extends to our teachers and our environments. In our science classes, K-6 grade students have the chance to build solar ovens, study circuits, or pretend to be forensic scientists. Our technology classes include lessons on robotics, coding, and green-screening. Even our classrooms are innovative. Following recent studies that show that sitting for extended periods of time is not conducive to student learning, many of our classrooms are experimenting with alternative seating to ensure student engagement. Harbor View IS innovation!

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940
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Our School News tortoise, Cheeseball, is snowboarding for the first time. You'll need this page number for the contest on page 22.

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Estancia *High School*

Michael Halt, *Principal*

Eagles Making Music

It's wonderful to have our district's full support for our increasingly broad course of study. Our music department has been steadily growing under the direction of Stacy Neacato, and students can now take Marching Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Guitar or Choir. Orchestra is new this year and has proven immensely popular!

Our music students performed a concert in late October titled "Heroes and Villains" and will give a holiday

performance at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in Estancia's Barbara Van Holt Theater. Our marching band recently competed in two Southern California Judging Association Field Shows and will play holiday music for travelers at a local airport on Dec. 18.

For more information about our music program and concerts, please visit our school website.

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



Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

PBIS Program



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

The Killybrooke School community launched the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program in September. PBIS is a team-based, systematic approach in teaching behavioral expectations throughout the school. It is based on a proactive model which teaches the behaviors, reinforces and recognizes students who are able to model these behaviors, and has systems in place to support students with more challenging behaviors.

The purpose statement developed by the Killybrooke team is: Killybrooke Colts are caring and responsible leaders that think creatively in a safe and orderly environment. We are a community that demonstrates respect, responsibility, and kindness—Every person, Every place, Every day! We use the acronym "COLTS" to teach our students that Killybrooke COLTS are: Caring, Organized, Leaders, Thinking Creatively, and Safe.



Students rotate through stations to learn specific behavioral expectations for each area of the school.

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

Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

Growing Green



Carrie Gammel
Principal

Lincoln Elementary School is a proud first-year participant in the Ecology Center's "Grow Your Own" school garden program. With

the shift towards a Common Core curriculum, and a focus on the whole child, Lincoln is extending its environmental education in a new direction: gardening!

Our existing Savannah's organic garden got a recent repair, and is now ready for the student Garden Helpers to develop and tend an edible school garden. The Green Team recently planted a butterfly and herb garden, and they are now starting seeds for an early spring garden.

With planting and growing and a team of good volunteers in place, Lincoln looks forward to a future where



gardening can touch as many students as possible to involve them in hands-on learning.

The Ecology Center partners with participating schools in the Grow Your Own program in order to develop vision, set goals, organize a team of volunteers, and help plan and grow!

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Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

Extraordinary Techies!



Dr. Laura Sacks
Principal

Mariners Elementary has been busy! Over the past two months, the students, teachers and support staff have been pushing our technology program to be extraordinary.

With two brand-new computer labs and a one-to-one laptop program in grades four, five and six, our technology TOSA, Lara Woolley, and the Mariners teachers have been integrating technology into every grade level in a plethora of different ways. For

example, in the kinder and first-grade classrooms, children regularly use iPads and the computer labs with imaginative lessons to help students with skills like “mousing”—efficiently and effectively using the mouse to cut and paste, drag and drop, and click to open items.

With these skills being explicitly taught, our students are being prepared for the challenging standardized tests that they will be taking in the future.

That's just one way Mariners is using technology to be extraordinary!

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

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

Technology in the Class



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

This year Newport Elementary School rolled out our 1:1 technology program in grades 4 – 6. This technology program provides each student with a wireless Chrome Book lap top computer as a learning tool. Our teaching teams plan our curriculum together and create learning targets. The students use the interactive technology to learn, enrich and receive extra support via on line lessons and assignments.

We use Google Drive, Nearpod, and other on line learning programs. Students are able to turn in and edit assignments on line. Our lower grade students also utilize this technology. One of our students said, “We are so excited to use our lap tops every day; they make learning fun.”



Ms. Bray's second graders
using chrome books.

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

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

Two-Pronged Approach



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

At Newport Coast Elementary, we address the needs of our high-ability and intellectually gifted students in a strategic manner. Beginning in fourth grade, some high-achieving students are further identified as GATE students. We have a two-pronged approach to address the needs of high-ability students: rigorous curriculum, and excellent teaching that focuses on depth and complexity.

Additional rigor is provided through our Response to Intervention (RtI) rotations, in which students receive a rigorous enrichment curriculum at their level. All students benefit from excellent teaching. Our upper-grade teachers have completed two years of training and receive ongoing training on how to increase the depth and complexity of learning. These trainings focus on the development of critical thinking to move the child beyond the grade-level core curriculum.

Our students participate in a differentiated curriculum. Through our focus on exemplary classroom instruction, all students become analytical thinkers, creative producers and practical problem solvers. We strive to provide unique learning opportunities for our high-ability and gifted students to develop individual potential, explore interests and develop sensitivity, responsibility and a healthy realistic self-concept.

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

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

Mary Manos, Interim Principal

Making a Difference

We are proud to be the Newport Heights Sharks! Newport Heights is in year-two of its implementation of PBIS, a school-wide program that fosters positive behaviors in students. At Newport Heights we are “A-OK” (Ambassadors of Kindness), and are always Purposeful, Respectful, and Responsible. This slogan outlines the positive behaviors that will support a positive and safe learning environment.

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. It is an application of evidence-based strategies and systems that will help our schools increase their academic performance, increase safety, decrease problem behaviors, and establish a positive school culture.

Behavioral expectations are taught in PBIS schools. They are taught to all students at Newport Heights, and they are taught in real contexts. When rules and expectations are followed, students have the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts through a variety of rewards and acknowledgements.

At Newport Heights, we are dedicated to creating a safe and positive learning environment. We value your continued dedication and support, because together we can make a difference!

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



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Hal Barkate, DDS, MSD
Orthodontic Specialist
UCLA Faculty & Lecturer



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Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

Heralding Vocational Training's Return!



Sean Boulton
Principal

Have you ever wondered where all the woodshop, auto shop and the other shop classes have gone?

Well, traditional "shop" classes that prepared students to work in these trades were dismantled nationwide in the 1980s to make room for more college-preparatory courses and programs. This was a mistake, and it caused a shortage of skilled labor in high demand today and will for years to come. Hence, the return of career technical education!

Costa Mesa, Newport Harbor and Estancia high schools have combined resources to restart career technical education. ROP Construction Technology has partnered with the Southwest Carpenters Training Fund's Buena Park Training Center to develop a high school course, Career Connections. Scheduling permits the participating schools to take the class during or after or during school and still take their other classes. In November, the participating high schools enjoyed a field trip to the training center.

The ROP Career Connection classes will count toward and seamlessly transition to further training at the Training Center if students choose to continue after graduation from NHHS.

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

Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

Time for Writing



Dr. Amy Nagy
Principal

Paularino staff and students are excited about the implementation of our new writing program! In the past, our writing standards and curriculum were focused on student experiences and opinions. The new common core standards expand expectations by not only including narrative writing throughout the grades, they also expect students to create evidenced based writing with the ability to



Mrs. Whitley's third grade students.

inform and persuade their audience/reader. In addition, to properly prepare students for the demands of college and career, students are expected to write a lot! Paularino students are up for the challenge! We are all enjoying these opportunities to write for different purposes and look forward to our writing workshops where students and teachers are devoting more time to writing.

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

Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

Team Kids



Megan Elsten Brown
Principal

Pomona Elementary School just finished the third annual Team Kids challenges. Team Kids is a nonprofit organization that provides the support for Pomona students to engage in community service.

A student leadership team coordinated a series of challenges, including writing letters to local police and firefighters, collecting towels and blankets for the animal shelter, and creating bookmarks that remind students at other schools to stamp out bullying. The culminating activity was a carnival, put on exclusively by students.



Pomona students raised over \$1,000 to donate to Children's Hospital of Orange County, where one of our students is currently being treated for leukemia. Team Kids helped students to learn firsthand about collaboration and the power they have to positively impact others.

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

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

New Learning Opportunities



Dr. Kalim Rayburn
Principal

Rea continues to expand its STEM, VAPA, and student leadership opportunities.

In STEM, we are grateful for having received a grant that will allow us to acquire a site license for ST Math, thus bringing “JiJi the Penguin” to every grade K–5 computer on campus! Our students are excited about their online conceptual math experience. With the support of our neighboring after-school program called SOY, we are also able to offer Ballet Folklórico to the second-graders.

The success of last year’s sixth-grade leadership team was measured by the number of students who later pursued ASB in the middle schools. Congratulations! This year’s program includes formal peer assistant and conflict manager training, which will also simultaneously support our second-year PBIS program.

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



Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

Amazing Activities



Christine Anderson
Principal

Sonora School is having a great school year! Our PTA and Dad’s Club are in full swing, planning great activities for students and their parents!

On September 18, we celebrated our wonderful grandparents with Lunch with Your Grandchild. Grandparents visited their grandchildren’s classrooms in the morning and enjoyed lunch with them afterwards. It is one of our all-time favorite days!

At Back-to-School Night in September, parents learned about our participation in the No Excuses University group of schools and what we mean by “Sonora Students Are College Bound!” On October 1, Sonora held its first jog-a-thon of the year. The funds raised provide field trips, performing and visual art activities, and instructional supplies. Our annual “Trunk-or-Treat” was held on October 29, complete with a trunk-decorating contest and our famous haunted house! Our first play of the year, “Lion King, Jr.” was performed in November and was met with great praise.

Many activities are happening at our school! Sonora is a great place to learn and grow!

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

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

New Behavioral Expectations



Kira Hurst
Principal

Our Tewinkle staff members have been working hard to implement the new campus-wide PBIS system. Our Trojans will soon “REAP” the benefits of having continuous lessons and activities based upon Respect, Empathy, Accountability, and Pride.

Our school-wide behavioral expectations matrix is staff developed and supported. Our students are now being rewarded for exhibiting these values. This includes front-of-the-line passes to lunch with their favorite teacher, or a “Night at the Library” event hosted by our librarian!

As our students get exposed to their newly expected behaviors, they will also find a Tewinkle campus that has had a big makeover, with two new beautiful murals that reflect the past, present, and future of our school!



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

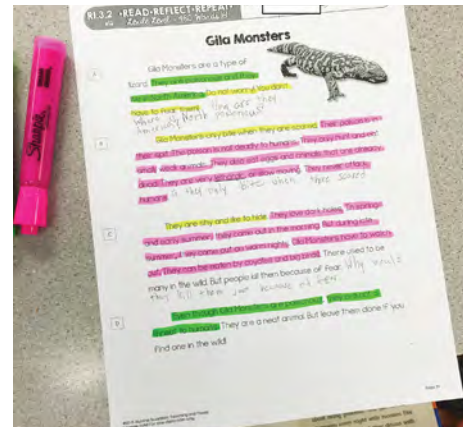
Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

Reading Like Detectives



Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal

In the information age we live in reading is more important than ever. But access to information in the absence of critical thought is a dangerous recipe. No one would allow an untrained driver behind the steering wheel of a race car, yet we regularly put information in front of children and adolescents with little regard for how they will question, discuss, and formulate learned opinions about it. At Victoria Elementary we have a



This student uses their close reading skills to analyze non-fiction text. Note the annotation notes this scholar wrote to make sense of and to interact with the text.

school-wide commitment on literacy. Through explicit instruction on close-reading strategies and ample opportunities for our students to practice this essential skill, they will become critical readers that will serve them well in life.

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

Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

Eagle Scouts and Whittier Elementary Work Together!



Scott Wilcox
Principal

Last year, Eagle Scout Cory Robertson from Troop 106, built a bench around and under a tree on our playground. He worked with his Troop Leadership and District Administration to get approvals to build a very sturdy bench for our students. Now the students can have a nice place in the shade to read books, share stories, and be with friends. The weekend Cory and his fellow Troop Scouts built the bench, there was a surprise rainstorm. The Scouts were able to be flexible and overcome the obstacles to complete the bench quickly. The following school day, the students were so excited when they saw the bench and couldn't wait to share with their friends! Thank you Cory and Troop 106!

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



Wilson Elementary (K-6)

What a Trip!



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

For the first time, Wilson fifth-graders were able to attend the Tiger Woods Learning Center for a weeklong learning "field trip." Students participated in the Marine Science Lab and explored the oceanic regions, dissected a squid, analyzed sand samples, and practiced marine-life classification. They also had an incredible opportunity to preview different careers by participating in a variety of enrichment activities including robotics, coding, graphic design and movie production. Golf was another exciting aspect of the program, in which they learned the art of golf and got

to practice their golf swing on the driving range!

The teachers were learning, too, receiving professional development in teaching Common Core math. Everyone is hopeful and excited to attend again next year!

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



Winter Words Word Search Contest

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

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to:

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

Entries must be received by January 15, 2016.

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

BLIZZARD	MOUNTAINS
BOOTS	OLYMPICS
CABIN	POPCORN
CHILLY	RAINCOAT
FIREPLACE	SCARF
FREEZING	SLED
FROST	SNOWBOARDING
GINGERBREAD	SNOWFLAKE
HOLIDAYS	SNOWMAN
HOT CHOCOLATE	SOLSTICE
ICE SKATES	SOUP
ICICLE	TOBOGGAN
MARSHMALLOW	UMBRELLA
MITTENS	VACATION

Thank you Barkate Orthodontics
for sponsoring our contests.



Congratulations Gerald Blankenship
Winner of the October Contest.

Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

Tiffany Lewis, *Principal*

Reading Foundations

Here at Woodland Elementary School, we are busy implementing a foundational reading program, Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Site Words (SIPPS). The program is designed to meet students at their levels. In any given grade level, there are as many as nine different levels.

To best meet our students' needs, we are utilizing a Walk to Read model. For one hour, four times a week, students may be walking to another teacher's classroom. They are grouped with other students working at their level, where the teacher is able to direct their instruction to target the needs of their group.

The teachers are working tirelessly to implement the program; we are all learning and making necessary adjustments as we progress forward. It is exciting to already be seeing results! We are thankful for the many parent volunteers who work in our classrooms and help make the small groups possible. It truly takes a village.

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

School Health Services

What....In School and Sick!



Merry Grasska
MPH, FNP-C, RN
Coordinator

Now that its winter and children are routinely in school, germs will be shared. Parents will have to determine when their children are too sick for school. School nurses can tell you the top cause of missed school days are colds. Colds are so common that if children stayed home every time they had one they'd never graduate. Fever is always a concern. At Newport-Mesa USD, we advise keeping children home when they have a fever of 100 F or more. Your child's comfort level is also important.

Before sending them to school, with or without fever, consider if their symptoms will get in the way of learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children with minor illnesses attend school unless they are irritable, lethargic, have difficulty swallowing, have trouble breathing, have a rash with fever, or are exhibiting behavioral changes. When there is no fever, they can eat and drink normally, and they've had enough rest, it's time to be in school. Children should be in school, healthy and ready to learn.

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

Nutrition Services

Post-Holiday Health Tips



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

Holiday seasons can leave us with unwanted gifts such as a few extra pounds, poor eating habits or dusty tennis shoes. Here are three post-holiday tips to get you back on the healthy track.

Plan: It has been said, "failing to plan is planning to fail." Start with a plan with goals to help you succeed. Plan meals for the week on the weekends or schedule drinking water throughout the day. Don't forget to add physical activity to your plan.

Make small changes: Avoid skipping meals to adjust for extra calories consumed during the holidays. Rather, cut meal sizes, and add fruits and veggies to fill you up. Make small changes and forgive small setbacks.

Get Moving! Physical activity is good for your body, your mind, and your waistline. Get at least 30 minutes of exercise every day. Dance, walk the dog, take the family for hikes, bike rides or play sports.

Creating a plan will help shake loose those unwanted holiday gifts and benefit health – mentally and physically!

So...get started! Valentine's Day will be here before you know it!

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

District Transportation

Keeping Those Wheels Rolling!



Pete Meslin
Director

One of the least-talked-about sections of the Transportation Department is the Fleet Maintenance section. Although small in membership—one supervisor, four mechanics, one parts assistant and one mechanics' helper—this group of hardworking technicians has a huge responsibility: They must keep more than 210 school-district vehicles running safely and efficiently.

They are responsible for maintaining a "white fleet," which includes Nutrition Services and Warehouse delivery trucks, IT service vehicles, and a large number and variety of maintenance and operations vehicles. On the bus fleet side, they keep almost 80 school buses in top-notch running condition. That might sound complicated enough, but when you consider that these buses run on multiple fuels—CNG, diesel, gas—and range in size from 20 feet to 40 feet, it's really impressive.

There are very stringent inspection requirements for all district vehicles. The Fleet Maintenance section ensures that the district's vehicle-maintenance service is in compliance with all legal requirements. More importantly, these highly qualified safety specialists guarantee that as our wheels keep rolling, they'll be rolling as safely as possible!

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

Newport Beach Public Libraries

Here Come the Holidays!



Liz Aaron
Children's Librarian,
Newport Beach
Public Library

Are you looking for new ways to celebrate the winter holiday season? Join the Newport Beach Public Library for these wonderful, free programs in December and January!

The Nutcracker for Kids

Two performances: Saturday, December 5, 2:30 and 4:00 p.m., Central Library Friends Room
Join us for this abridged, narrated version of the holiday classic presented by Festival Ballet Theatre. The shortened performances will introduce children to The Nutcracker story and ballet.

Holiday Open House at Corona del Mar

Sunday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Corona del Mar Library will open its doors for this fun-filled Christmas Walk tradition to start the holiday season. There will be delicious food and beverages, crafts for children, and performances by magician Mark Gibson. Sunday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meet Author Jan Brett in the Central Library

Sunday, December 13, 5:00 p.m. in the Central Library Friends Room, Central Library Friends Room

Meet Jan Brett, celebrated author and artist with over 40 million books in print. She will introduce her newest book, "The Turnip," a rollicking tale of farm friends struggling to pull up a turnip. She will also demonstrate how she creates the lovable animals in her picture books. Book sales begin at 4:00 p.m. Due to time constraints, signing will be limited to books purchased at this event

Fancy Nancy Party at Balboa Branch Library

Wednesday, January 13, 3:30 p.m. Bonjour! You are cordially invited for an afternoon of elegant crafts and scrumptious treats based on the Fancy Nancy books on. Come dressed in your fanciest attire! Program is perfect for kids ages 3-5.

The Sunshine Storyteller at Central Library

Saturday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. Children's Room
Join us in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 18) and Black History Month (February) as Ina Buckner-Barnette, The Sunshine Storyteller, performs an exciting show mixed with African and African-American historical stories, folktales, poetry and songs. This is a show you do not want to miss!

Craft Programs at Newport Library

Check the events calendar at www.newportbeachlibrary.org for our ongoing LEGO building and drop-in craft programs. Also join us for special winter crafting programs at various locations the weeks of December 14 and January 25!

Reminder: Closures

All NBPL locations will close at 1:00 p.m. on December 24 and December 31. All locations are closed December 25 and January 1. Please check www.newportbeachlibrary.org for your branch's holiday hours.

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660
949/717-3800 • www.newportkids.org

Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660
949/717-3838

Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, CA 92661 • 949/644-3076
Corona Del Mar Branch 420 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625
949/644-3075

Note-ables



Kate Karp

Smiley Face Sticker, Mr. Palindrome

Ding, dong! Madame, I'm Adam. Said the flea, let us fly; said the fly, let us flee!

Those are examples of onomatopoeia, palindromes and alliteration. Big words, but not so big that Mr. Palindrome, aka Australian musician Natan Kuchar, thinks that your young child can't have fun learning them. His new CD features a song for each of the aforementioned types of figurative language. "Alove Alliteration" actually rolls off the tongue. "Onomatopoeia" asks, "Do you have any i-de-ah what's an onomatopoeia?" and sings out examples. The palindrome has two songs, "The Palindrome Song" and "Backwards Alphabet," which practices singing the ABC's backward, stopping and

starting with the British English *zed*, and shows how a word like *kayak* is spelled the same backward and forward.

"The Real Adventures of Incy Wincy Spider" will encourage parents, teachers and children to compose further adventures of favorite storybook characters. And to let you know that the collection isn't just about the lyrics, "Smiley Face Sticker" has a great melody line and thumping beat, enough to leave you with an incy wincy earworm.

Mr. Palindrome, as he puts it, wants to teach very small children very big words with very silly songs. Even better, your child's experience with figurative language will be enhanced by some even sillier videos and doodlings available free, along with lyrics to all the songs, on Mr. P's website, www.mrpalindrome.com.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Standards-Based Assessments

In September, the state released the first batch of new assessment scores that revealed how well students are learning California's English and math instructional standards.

The result? Orange County students had outpaced their state and regional counterparts, both on the English and math portions of the test.

That's good news, yet these inaugural scores also reflect how much more work is needed as we continue our transition to 21st-century learning standards. Indeed, we are witnessing a remarkable transformation for education that's not unlike the construction of a new highway system; and just like building a highway, some time will be needed to fully calculate the economic benefits.

If you're not familiar with the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, student scores in English language arts and mathematics are divided into four achievement bands — standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met and standard not met.

According to data released by the California Department of Education, 53 percent of Orange County students met or exceeded the English standard in 2015, and 45 percent did the same in math. California's rates were nine points lower in each subject, with 44 percent of students meeting or exceeding the English standard and 34 percent meeting or exceeding the standard in math.

It's worth noting that Orange County students actually performed better on these 2015 assessments — at every comparable grade level — than students in the county who first took the California Standards Tests back in 2002.

Drill down a little deeper and you'll find several local success stories. At Middle College High School in the Santa Ana Unified School District, an astounding 99 percent of 11th-graders met or exceeded the CAASPP standard for English. The Irvine Unified School District posted the highest math scores in the state among districts with 25,000 students or more. And when you combine the number of students who met or nearly met the standards in Orange County, our population posted rates of 76 percent in English and 72 percent in math.

California officials have stressed that the new assessments should not be compared with those of previous years, as the tests — and the standards on which they are based — are so fundamentally different from the bubble-in versions that preceded them. Yet these results can and will serve as the baseline for measuring future progress in Orange County and elsewhere throughout the state. Even more important, they're ensuring teachers and administrators have the information they need to make data-driven instructional decisions in the classroom.

In the end, it's less about state and regional test scores and more about meeting the needs of each student — and ensuring all are equipped with the knowledge and skills required for college and career readiness and success.

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us

Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

A Page Turner!

The Mysterious Benedict Society

Author: Trenton Lee Stewart

Mr. Curtain has created a machine to brainwash the world. This story follows four kids that are sent on a secret mission to stop him.



Danger is everywhere, and each child has personality traits that help him or her during their adventures. Constance is my favorite character because she is funny, spunky, and fiercely independent! There are lots of twists and turns so readers must pay close attention to keep up with the story line.

This is a young adult book that I feel both boys and girls will enjoy. If you enjoy science fiction and mysteries, this is a great book for you!

I would give this book five bookworms out of five, because I really enjoyed the suspense in the story. I'm really looking forward to reading the next book in this series!

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar.

Contest!

Our office tortoise, Cheeseball, is snowboarding somewhere in this issue. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put NMUSD in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by January 15, 2016. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a Barnes and Noble \$20 gift certificate.

Congratulations Cristina Virgen
Winner of the October Contest!

We thank
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Looking for New Members!

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Fathers & Sons

Sons in program range from K - 5th grade



The Mighty Corona Nation exists to administer the **Father and Son Explorer Guides Program** within the greater Newport-Mesa area of Southern California. The Explorer Guides program was developed in a very deliberate way to support the father's vital family role as teacher, counselor and friend to his son, and this is the focus in all that we do.



Camp Pendleton • Catalina Island • Big Rock Creek
Angel Stadium • Pinewood Derby • Balboa Island

(949) 423-6263
www.MightyCoronaNation.com



Fathers & Daughters

Daughters in program range from K - 5th grade



The goal of the **Dads and Daughters Program** is to foster understanding and companionship between father and daughter. One of the greatest gifts that a father can give a daughter is quality time spent together. The purpose is to develop the foundation for a life-long relationship. The program provides opportunities for fathers and daughters to spend quality time together.



Camp Pendleton • Catalina Island • Sock Hop Dance
Balboa Island Parade • Family Fun Day

(949) 760-8591, ask for Robert Lewis
RLewis@pdgcenters.com
www.NaranjaNation.com



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The **ISOpod** (Interactive Sealife Outreach pod) is here!

- The ISOpod is hitting the road to teach about our oceans and promote stewardship of our environment.
- Get a hands-in experience.
- Appropriate for grades 1-8.

reserve your program at
www.isopodoc.org



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