

FREE

School News

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Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District



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NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signature
Academies

A World Class High School Experience

(please see page 4)

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Students Complete the 2015 TEEN CERT Academy

The Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a 20-hour training program presented by the Costa Mesa Fire Department with support from law enforcement and community volunteers. Teen CERT has been active in the city since 2009 with both Costa Mesa and Estancia high schools participating in the past. The Teen CERT course prepares and teaches teens to become better prepared for emergencies, how to suppress small fires, assist with medical emergencies, and help others before the professional responders arrive.



Dr. Fred Navarro
Superintendent

the country, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross and U.S. Department of Education. Costa Mesa will participate via conference line.

The 2015 TEEN CERT Academy hosted by Back Bay High School was attended by 35 students who completed 20 hours of training January 9 to 11. The new “weekend” format was another way to deliver the program to the teen audience similar to the community program provided throughout the year.



Teen CERT members can help in their neighborhood and school by helping with safety issues, peer mentoring, exercises, preparedness outreach, fire and home safety education. Students who complete the full program receive community service hours. Costa Mesa is dedicated to creating a strong CERT program with programs geared to businesses, schools, community members and youth. Our youth preparedness efforts in Costa Mesa will be highlighted during the first meeting held in Washington D.C. on Wednesday January 28 of the National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education and recognized as a Community Affirmer of the National Youth Strategy. The meeting will include other youth programs across

Student attendance break down:

Back Bay Students – (24), Costa Mesa (7), Estancia (2), Early College (2) and Newport Harbor (1). The academy is provided over a full weekend at a local school facility with the support of teachers, PTA, fire, law and community members. Teen CERT members can join the Costa Mesa CERT program, attend meetings and preparedness events to earn further service hours and letters of support and participation for workplace and college applications.

Costa Mesa and Estancia are working with the fire department to secure dates to host future Teen CERT programs.

Congratulations N-MUSD 2015 TEEN CERT members. A job well done!

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Signature Academies! A Signature Education...

A signature is your personal mark. It's a symbol of who you are. Your unique signature distinguishes you from everyone else and it defines your identity. Signatures are recognized around the world.

In the Newport-Mesa Unified School District we are very excited to be launching our Signature Academies to enable students to be fully prepared to make their mark on the world! Your NMUSD diploma is your academic signature that gives you currency in the world economy.

All NMUSD Signature Academies aspire to take students beyond the basics to elevate their academic vision. All academies have a global competitiveness theme. Students choosing to enroll in the Signature Academies receive unique curriculum options and supplemental activities that complement the highly successful core academic programs at our four high schools. Each academy in our high school zones approaches global competitiveness from a unique angle.

NMUSD Signature Academy Options:

Costa Mesa Zone

ACE: The Academy of Creative Expression
(arts conservatory)

DELTA: The Educational Difference (STEM)

Estancia Zone

Engineering & Design Academy

Bio-Medical Academy (coming in 2016-17)

Animation Academy (coming in 2016-17)

Newport Harbor Zone

International Baccalaureate Academy

Corona del Mar Zone

Academy of Global Studies

Performing Arts & Multimedia Academy (PAMA)

Signature Academies Enrollment & Application Process

2015/16 is the first year for the NMUSD Signature Academies. Initial enrollment will be limited to 9th grade students. Admission for 10th through 12th grade students will be phased in over the next three years. Academy related courses of study and curriculum enhancement programs and services will also be expanded to elementary and middle schools in the coming years.

How do I apply?

Signature Academy Applications will be available only online starting February 23, 2015. If needed, computers are available at the school sites or the District office.

Do I have to reside within Newport-Mesa attendance area to apply?

Yes. Newport-Mesa only accepts enrollment of students who reside within the Newport-Mesa Unified School District's attendance boundaries.

May we apply to more than one school?

Yes. You must submit a separate application online for each academy.

Will it benefit me to have my child's application completed on the first day?

No. All applications are date stamped to verify that they were submitted during the open enrollment time of February 23 – April 15. All applications submitted during Signature Academy enrollment have an equal chance.

Can parents get a tentative approval if they have to pay private school tuition prior to the May 15, 2015 notification date?

No. Unfortunately, no tentative approvals are given.

You can apply online beginning February 23, 2015 at: www.nmUSD.us/signatures

Sign up today for a "signature" educational experience and make your mark on the world!



Netragrednik



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

This is our first issue for the new year and students are well on their way focused on their goals. The Signature Academies are an exciting addition to the academic choices.

In this issue the schools bring us up-to-date on classroom activities including netbooks, Virtual Enterprises, No Excuses University, Peer Leaders, holiday giving, nutrition, keeping schools healthy and so much more.

Also, the Newport Fire Dept. writes about being prepared, the Newport Public Libraries share their planned events for you to include on your calendar, and FV Regional Hospital and Medical Center writes about helping children cope with serious illness. We appreciate your emails letting us know topics you would like to have our columnists write about.

You have let us know you love contests and we thank Barkate Orthodontics sponsoring the contests. This issue the Seek 'n Find Contest is on page 22. Have fun!

Our next issue is April 15...the bright spot on tax day!

School News

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Being Prepared

February is here. The holidays are a memory. In a few days Valentine's Day will be upon us. It is a time to establish and cherish relationships, a time to show loved ones how much you care. I can't think of a better time to discuss what actions you would take if your loved one was involved in a traffic accident. If you are involved in a non-injury traffic collision both parties should pull over to a safe place to exchange information, not on the roadway. Many people that stop on a roadway to exchange info or wait for police become victims of another collision. Take pictures of the damage with your smart phone; include a picture of the driver, their driver license and insurance papers. Make sure to get contact information from the other party (name, current address and cell). Don't become a victim, stay safe and have a great Valentine's Day.

Scott Poster
Fire Chief

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

By Evelyn Rogers, Newport Beach Public Library

This February, the Newport Beach Public Library will be presenting two programs in the Making Memories for Children series, along with craft programs you'll love.

Central Library Events

Making Memories for Children: Fun with Illustrator Steve Bjorkman, will be on Sunday, February 8 at 2 p.m. Learn how *New York Times* best-selling illustrator Steve Bjorkman creates the artwork for the nearly 90 children's books he has illustrated. This event will be in the Children's Room. It is sponsored by the NBPL Foundation. Admission is free, suggested donation \$10 at the door.

I Heart Crafts on Thursday, February 12 at 4 p.m. You'll love the crafts you can make! Create Valentine's Day gifts for someone special. No registration required. This event will be in the Friends Room.

Making Memories for Children: Musician Craig Newton, will be on Sunday, March 1,

at 2 p.m. Explore creative ways to make sounds and music with multi-instrumentalist and singer, Craig Newton. Learn how to write and record a song! This event will be in the Friends Room. Sponsored by the NBPL Foundation. Admission is free, suggested donation \$10 at the door.

March into Minecraft on Tuesday, March 3 at 4 p.m. Join us for a no-tech Minecraft-themed building day! "March" in for crafts and activities based on the popular game Minecraft.

Mariners Branch Library Events

Valentine's Day Crafts on Tuesday, February 10 at 4 p.m. Love is in the air this week – Valentine's Day is Saturday. Stop by the Mariners Branch to create a valentine for someone special. All ages; no registration required.

Balboa Branch Library Events

Hearts & Hugs Crafts on Wednesday, February 11 at 3:30 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of Valentine Day crafting fun for ages 3-8!

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Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center



Lisa Sperry
Director
Pediatrics, PICU,
NICU

Helping Your Child Cope With a Serious Illness

When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, it's difficult for parents to explain the situation.

Start by being honest with your child about the illness. Answer questions at a level appropriate for your child's age and development. Explain any treatments or discomfort they may experience. Avoid saying "This won't hurt" if the procedure may be painful - reassure your child that it's temporary and its helping them get better.

Ask your child about the changes affecting their body. Listen to the answers before voicing your own feelings or explanations. Encourage your child to express their emotions through music, drawing or writing, in addition to speaking about them.

It's common for kids to fear that they brought on their illness by something they thought, said or did. Reassure your child that they are not responsible and explain what caused the illness.



Fountain Valley Regional
HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

If your child asks "why me?" it's okay to say "I don't know." However explain that doctors have treatments for it (if that's the case). If your child says "it's not fair that I'm sick," acknowledge that your child is right. Kids need to know it's OK to feel angry, sad, depressed or afraid about the illness.

If you see signs that these feelings are interfering with daily life, or your child seems withdrawn, and shows radical changes in eating and sleeping habits not to the illness, ask your doctor or the hospital's child psychologist for additional advice and consider taking your child to a professional counselor.

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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

All-Stars Crack the Code



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Students at Adams Elementary School joined over 65 million other students throughout the country by participating in the annual Hour of Code event with Code.org. Writing computer code may seem like a complex task, but, to students, writing computer code felt like playing a game.

During computer lab sessions and classroom netbook lessons, students logged into Code.org and used computer-programming language to move Elsa from "Frozen" or to send Angry Birds across the computer screen. Little did the students know, they were simultaneously having to problem solve, sequence logically, and scrutinize blocks of code. Students advanced steadily from the simplest levels, requiring only one or two lines of code, to levels requiring multiple lines of code to complete the objective.

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



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

Music is A Magical Gift



Dr. Shannon Bray
Principal

Music is a magical gift we nourish and cultivate in our Andersen students. There is a growing body of convincing research that supports the importance of and benefits of music in education. It is widely believed that students who participate in music make better math and science students. All of our students participate in music at least once a week with music teachers, Mrs. Duffin and Ms. Fairbanks. In addition, this school year

we began an orchestra for students in grades 4-6 which meets twice a week. During our winter music program all students delighted their families with singing while our orchestra entertained a captivated audience. Andersen is thankful for the support we receive from our district to provide these valuable opportunities for students.

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



Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

Two Ways to Earn a Diploma



Debbie Lucker-Davis
Principal

The Alternative Education Center houses two alternative programs for earning a high school diploma. Back Bay Continuation High School is a daily program for students to complete up to five failed classes. They may graduate from Back Bay or return to their home schools.

Students working full time, attending community college, actively engaged in sports, or dealing with a long-term illness at home will choose Monte Vista Independent Study. Independent Study students follow the same school calendar as the comprehensive sites, with the differences of attending school for a minimum of two hours weekly, completing the majority of academic work at home, and enrolling in one course at a time. The average course takes three full weeks, or about 60 hours, to complete.

Coursework, technology proficiency, CAHSEE exit tests and community-service requirements for both schools are identical to the district's requirements for Estancia, Costa Mesa, Corona del Mar and Newport Harbor High Schools. Tenth- and 11th-grade students are also subject to state-level testing.

Students interested in either program should speak with their school counselor or contact us by calling Mrs. Mielke, counselor, at 949 515 3397.

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

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

Exceptional Readers



Julie McCormick
Principal

Mrs. Randall's fourth-grade class celebrated reaching their goal of reading 3 million words with a tent reading party. The students loved building the tents and spending the day reading there! The students made their teacher especially proud by demonstrating initiative and perseverance as a class. Their next class goal is 6 million words by the end of March.

At a recent flag deck, College Park's top readers were recognized, thanks to our librarian, Jami Paley. Five students have already passed the million-word mark and are fast on their way to reading two million words. By June of last year, there were only three students in the entire school who had read 1 million words. College Park students are shattering all kinds of reading records this year!

Our PTA sponsored another very successful Family Fiesta Night. All students and their families enjoyed homemade tamales, tacos, horchata and champurrado. Each class put together a gift basket to be raffled off to lucky ticket holders. This annual event is always a success, bringing together all of our families for a very enjoyable evening.

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

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Crystal Olson '11, M.A.Ed. '12
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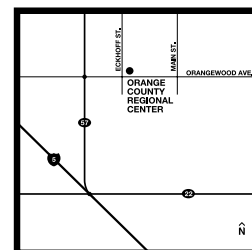
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California *Elementary (K-6)*

Beyond the Textbook



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

Using netbooks, students can create, communicate, and collaborate using 21st-Century tools. We were fortunate enough to receive donations and use jog-a-thon funds to purchase two classroom sets of netbooks, which are being used in our fifth-grade classrooms.

Students are accessing an infinite number of online texts and interactive tools, as well as dynamic Web-based applications, such as Google Docs and Google Earth. Recently our fifth-graders read a story about guide dogs and then accessed Web-based resources, including the textbook Web site, to research and prepare their assignment.



5th grade student Grace working with a Chromebook.

At California Elementary School, netbooks are extending learning beyond the textbook. Our plan is to continue to extend our one-to-one netbook program with sixth grade next year and fourth grade the following year.

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

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

Academy of Global Studies



Dr. Rebecca Gogel
Principal
7-8 Grade



Kathy Scott
Principal
9-12 Grade

Corona del Mar High School is introducing a new Signature Academy for the fall semester. The Academy of Global Studies (AGS) is designed for students interested in our ever-changing world.

The mission statement of the academy reads, "Students who complete the program requirements to graduate

with the Academy of Global Studies recognition will be biliterate in at least two or more languages, will have a strong understanding of international relations, and will apply a global perspective relative to their career interest. Our goal is for Cdm graduates to be globally competent, confident and competitive."

Courses include AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP US History, Comparative Government and a choice of four languages. Participants will also have opportunities to participate in cultural exchanges and academic collaborations with students abroad. Students will have an assigned mentor throughout their four years in the program.

Details for the Academy of Global Studies are being finalized at this time by a task force of students, teachers and administrators prior to our March registration.

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

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

Students Shine at Trade Show



Guy Olguin
Principal
7-8 Grade



Jacob Haley
Principal
9-12 Grade

In December, 27 seniors from ROP Virtual Enterprise class competed in the annual State Trade Show in Bakersfield. Over 100 different schools were represented, making it the biggest trade show ever!

Under the direction of teacher/mentors Mike Milchiker, Cheri Sheldon and

Matt Hancock, our students and their virtual company, GO-TECT, placed in seven of the 12 competitions: Business Plan, second place; Marketing Plan, sixth place; Human Resources, third place; Sales Presentation, fifth place; Perfect Sales Pitch, sixth place; Trade Show Booth, eighth place; and Salesmanship, fifth place.



Having placed second in state, the Business Plan Team qualified to compete in the nationals, held in New York in April. Additional trade-show competitions in Long Beach, San Francisco and San Diego will be taking place. It's only just begun for these hardworking and enterprising students! Congratulations!

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

Early College *High School (9-12)*

College Advantages



Kathy Slawson
Principal

More Early College High School (ECHS) students than ever are being accepted into four-year colleges! Colleges are noticing the preparation our students have as a result of the college courses they have completed.

Registration for college classes can be competitive; however, this is not a problem for college students who have graduated from ECHS. Our students complete University of California (UC) and California State

University (CSU) general education requirements, allowing them to enroll as second-semester sophomores or first-semester juniors, providing them with priority registration. These students are finding that this perk allows them latitude to pursue additional academic interests, such as providing time to study abroad, pursue a double major, take additional electives, or take part in internships.

ECHS graduates also save money. A student who completes 45 college credits at ECHS and enrolls directly into a UC school can save an estimated \$45,000; if he or she enrolls in a CSU, the savings can be more than \$35,000. ECHS graduates report that the financial savings also bring personal and career rewards, enabling them to pursue their aspirations. 2990.

Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/241-6108
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Estancia *High School*

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



**Kirk
Bauermeister**
Principal

This year, Estancia High School is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Estancia welcomed freshmen, sophomores, and juniors when the school first opened in September of 1965.

At the time, the campus received critical acclaim for its unique architectural design, which included a one-roof floor plan, departmental courts without doors to create a sense of community within each academic discipline, and a curricular, split-level library that was the "hub" of the school.

Estancia's 50th anniversary celebration began in October at our Homecoming football game. During the Battle of the Bell Boys' Basketball Game in January, the school also recognized those head athletic coaches who had proudly served Estancia for more than 15 years.

In late March, the Estancia and TeWinkle Schools Foundation will be hosting their annual gala at a local hotel. Estancia's golden anniversary celebration will continue at our Spring Open House on April 2. We will also have the Senior Pep Assembly in early June and the time capsule revealing on June 15.

22323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500
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Rocketing to Learning



Christy Flores
Principal

Students and families from Davis Magnet recently participated in the second of three “rocket launches.” More than 20 students in grades one through six built paper rockets in the science lab.

The students first learned how to seal the fuselage and nose cone and attach the fins. Then they rolled the air compressor and pressure chamber out to the Davis fields for launching. Our best distance was set by a first-grader (with help from his mom). A sixth-grader and a fourth-grader took second and third place.

More than 120 interest forms were returned when the students were first invited to participate last fall. The third launch will be held in April, so eventually everyone will get a chance to fire off their rockets!

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



Horace Ensign Intermediate (7-8)

Ensign Teachers Utilize iPads in the Classroom



Dr. Gloria Duncan
Principal

By Kristine Cross, teacher

Earlier this school year, through fundraising efforts, the Ensign Fund, Ensign's parent foundation, provided each teacher at the school with an iPad to use in their classrooms as a teaching tool. Teachers quickly began utilizing their iPads to allow easier accessibility when helping students. Teachers have been annotating handouts and readings, infusing multimedia presentations

to their lessons, and using it as an additional document camera, taking photos of student work to use as models or examples for the class.

Principal Dr. Gloria Duncan has also planned staff development meetings that support continual learning using the iPads. Ensign teachers have found their iPads to be a useful and productive tool to improve upon and enhance their already rigorous daily lessons.

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



Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

A Passion for Reading



Cheryl Beck
Principal

An amazing group of twenty fourth and fifth graders are participating in the Battle of the Books.

This competition consists of Eastbluff School and 7 private local schools. Our students meet to discuss, debate, and answer specific questions about the twenty books on the BOB list. A favorite book was *The One-Handed Catch* by MJ Auch about a boy who lost his hand in an accident and persevered and learned how to play baseball and draw! We had a mock BOB competition at school this week and the



students were so enthusiastic to answer the questions! Our competition day is March 10th. We know our readers will have a wonderful day!

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

Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

A Dickens Debate



Dr. Todd Schmidt
Principal

At Harbor View Elementary School, one of our goals is the development of 21st-century skills. While we encourage and use technology, it is the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills that take center-stage. This year, with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the development of higher-order thinking skills is more important than ever.

Recently, several of our fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in a unit centered on Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol." Students read the book, went to see the play adaptation, and then watched the Jim Carrey movie remake. As a culminating activity, students were organized into three groups and were asked to provide a rationale as to why their medium was the best one. Students then debated in front of their peers, parents, and other members of the Harbor View community about which version was the best and why. They were allowed to use their notes, their teams, and their electronic tablets to deliver the pros and cons. It proved to be a powerful and highly educational experience!

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

Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

Getting Our Code On



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Killybrooke students celebrated Computer Science Education Week with the Hour of Code, a national initiative to promote computer-science education nationwide. Students received a one-hour introduction to computer science designed to demystify code and show that everybody can learn the basics.

Computer science education promotes logic, problem solving and creativity—skills necessary in today's businesses. It's important to provide our children with the opportunity to learn computer science early on, especially with the increase in technology-focused careers. With hard work and a little math and science, everybody can code!

Upper-graders used their 1:1 Chromebooks to code, while younger students rotated through our computer lab for coding activities. Many students continue to code using the great activities provided by code.org and other websites.



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

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

Introductions are In Order at Kaiser



**Dr. Deborah
Granger**
Principal

As 2014 ended, Kaiser welcomed Marc Africano to its staff. Mr. Africano has transitioned from a position as a beloved teacher in NMUSD to that of an assistant principal shared by Kaiser and Mariners Elementary Schools. He jumped right in and quickly has become a favorite with students, staff, and the entire Kaiser community. Marc brings great expertise in the areas of instructional technology and mentorship.

When he is not providing leadership on Kaiser's Chromebook initiative, Marc is planting "seeds" with students and teachers alike to "grow" positive and delightful change at our school. He truly is polishing the gem and making Kaiser shine. And, Mr. Africano is a professional sand-castle designer! Who could ask for a cooler assistant principal!

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



Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

Digital Solutions



Carrie Gammel
Principal

Mrs. Ratfield's sixth grade class is exploring a wide array of digital options through their devices, using them to enhance RCD and STEM. Students launch the internet to access Learning Management Systems, Haiku and Edmodo, both of which include an array of resources and technology enabled tools, such as Quizlet for vocabulary flashcards, individualized

real time math assessment tools on student progress on the Common Core through Khan Academy, Learn Zillion, and Edmodo's Snapshot. Through "digital synchronous solutions" like Nearpod, students participate in interactive, real-time multimedia presentations. Currently, all students are learning the fundamentals of programming and engineering" through Minecraft, preparing to collaborate in teams, and transfer these skills to larger content driven projects.

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



Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

Veteran's Day Program



Pam Coughlin
Principal

Each year Mariners Elementary School has a fabulous Veteran's Day program. This year was no different. Twenty-five veterans came to be part of our program. They all had ties to Mariners (fathers, grandfathers, uncles and friends). One of our Boy Scout troops posted the colors and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Each veteran shared their experiences and lets us know which of our students they were representing. Once the students were in class the veterans were escorted to different classrooms and spoke with the students in more depth about their experiences and allowed the students to ask questions. This was the part of the program the students found most interesting.

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



Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

Helping Those in Need



Sean Boulton
Principal

Newport Harbor High School participated in the season of giving this November and December. In November, NHHS collected canned and packaged foods from all classes and was able to donate over 3,000 pieces of food to the S.O.S. food bank in Costa Mesa. It was the largest private donation S.O.S. received the week of Thanksgiving. In December 55 classes participated in the S.O.S. Adopt-A-Family program and were able to fully "adopt" 35 families for the holiday season.

Each family was provided with a large box of brand new clothes and toys. NHHS, also collected over \$5,000 in gift cards for these families in need. The students and staff are



elated to help those in need in our local community.
600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300
<http://nhhs.nmusd.us>

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

The Joy of Giving



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

Newport El students got into the holiday spirit of giving! Five classrooms participated in community giving projects including: Share Our Selves, Ariel's Treasures,

Project Linus, and Families Helping Families at the Child Abuse Prevention Center. The 152 students from Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Saba, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Jennings, and Miss Bray donated: over 120 gifts including bikes, cookware, bedding, clothing, lots of toys, books, \$350 in gift cards, and two Christmas trees! Families, foster children and patients were the deserving recipients. From taking a shopping trip to making a one-of-a-kind blanket to wrapping the presents together, we're proud of our



Miss Bray's fifth graders shopping for gifts to wrap.

students for their enthusiasm, compassion, and joyful giving to others...they truly showed and felt "Best on the Beach!"

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

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

Awesome Attendance



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

As Newport Coast Elementary School (NCE) continues to focus on all students learning at high levels, we recognize that school attendance is essential. Last year our attendance rate was 95 percent, and this year we will improve to a rate of 97 percent. Did you know that, nationwide, students miss an average of three school days per year? Absences at NCE and throughout the district are excused for three reasons: significant

illness; family emergency; or a religious holiday.

We believe there is tremendous power in the recognition of good attendance, so we are celebrating our students through our new Perfect Attendance Winners (PAWs) program. Students who attend all day every day throughout the trimester are recognized by their teachers and are entered into a raffle. Our December flag deck was a celebration of our students with strong attendance.

In addition our teachers and parents have joined in supporting our goal to reach 97 percent attendance for all students. The NCE community is committed to all students learning at high levels, and strong attendance supports the accomplishment of this mission.

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

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

Sixth-Grade Science Camp



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal

Each year, Newport Heights sixth-graders have the opportunity to attend science camp and apply their classroom science knowledge to an outdoor learning environment.

This year, our students attended Arrowhead Outdoor Science School. The school teaches from the California State Board of Education Science Education Framework and is updated annually to complement science education standards.

The students hike and hear, see, feel, touch and smell scientific details outside the classroom, interacting with nature and their surroundings. This hands-on alternative-learning style is an effective way to internalize science concepts.

Despite the rain, the students had a blast. They built shelters in the wilderness with items they found in nature. The shelter had to hold at least one person. They hiked 1,000 feet to Strawberry Peak, a prominent peak in the San Gabriel Mountains. They took a night hike to learn to adapt their night vision and hearing, and worked with their cabinmates on team-building activities.

Students returned Friday afternoon bubbling with excitement and lots of stories. I am sure that this will be one of the most memorable experiences they'll have in their school career.

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



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Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

Focused on Common Core Standards



Dr. Amy Nagy
Principal

Paularino teachers are focused on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The standards were developed to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career, and life upon graduation from high school. We believe students also need to be able to effectively and efficiently use technology!



Genna and Daniela (DJ) Fifth Grade Students.

The CCSS require students to employ technology thoughtfully to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. All of our students are learning computer skills and fifth

and sixth grade students use 1:1 devices throughout the day. Recently, our whole school participated in the Hour of Code, an introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics.

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

Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

Pomona Elementary is at Your Service!



Megan Elsten Brown
Principal

Pomona Elementary strives to provide a balanced program that includes rigorous academics, arts and sciences, athletics, and character education. Included in Pomona's character education program are opportunities for our students to serve others. On January 19th, Pomona's sixth graders spent their day off of school at UCI working with The Illumination Foundation preparing supplies for Orange County's homeless. Students learned about the extent of and the root cause of homelessness and served as boots on the ground in an effort to end the cycle of homelessness. The day ended with a tour of the University Campus and talk of gratitude. Pomona students are grateful for all that they have and all that they are able to give to others.

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

Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

Getting Prepared



Christine Anderson
Principal

Sonora is proud to be an official "No Excuses University" (NEU). Our school became a No Excuses University School in 2008, joining schools from across the nation to raise the bar for academic excellence and promote college readiness. There are currently about 185 NEU schools.

NEU schools believe that every child has the right to an education that will prepare them for college and the work place. We believe this begins in kindergarten, and that all students can and will succeed academically.



Our NEU schools work collaboratively to develop six exceptional systems so that each student can excel academically and be prepared for college-level work. Each classroom represents a university of its choice, and authentic college chants are done daily across all grade levels.

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

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

Peer Leaders



Dr. Kalim Rayburn
Principal

Sixth graders have been creating their legacy through their work as Peer Leaders. Peer Leaders have been modeling the way for peers through their unique delivery of behavior rotations and serve as conflict managers. Wanting to sustain efforts, they manage the Shark

Shack selling a variety of school supplies and taps their business leader potential. Recently, Peer Leaders coordinated school wide efforts to adopt a family and support SOS with their Toy drive. They kick-off our school day with an energetic flag salute and student motto where they hail with pride “We are capable, talented and intelligent SHARKS going to college!” Wearing bright blue t-shirts, sixth graders are paving the way for what it means to be a Peer Leader.

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



Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

Outdoor Science School



Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal

Our Victoria 6th graders traveled to Arrowhead Ranch in Lake Arrowhead this month for four days

of Outdoor Science School. Students were thrilled to participate in outdoor science activities. During our fun filled stay we learned exciting concepts about astronomy, earth science, and zoology. Each day at camp was filled with songs, activities, hikes, and games. Students loved the night hike under the stars where they studied the constellations. The “courage walk” during the night hike challenged students to use their understanding of nature as they explored the wilderness. Our Voyagers also learned valuable skills of team work



and collective accountability during their stay. Victoria's visit to Arrowhead Ranch created memories that will last forever!

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

Teaching Excellence at TeWinkle...



Kira Hurst
Principal

This year, Brian Ristow has been selected as TeWinkle's Teacher of the Year!! Mr. Ristow serves as a Special

Education teacher and is an inspiration to our community.



Teacher of the Year
Brian Ristow.



Jackie Washington, Rebeca Millam, Yassi Motamed, and Terry Kling.

Jackie Washington was honored as a finalist for the California League of Middle Schools Region 11's Educator of the Year award for her exemplary contribution to middle level education.

Yassi Motamed and Terry Kling were recognized in Sacramento as UC Davis' C-STEM Teachers of the Year for excellence in computing and STEM integration in education.

Rebeca Millam was chosen as a Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Master Teacher Fellow. Mrs. Millam is one of only 7 Fellows chosen this year to receive this national award recognition.

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



Parent Training at Our Center



Scott Wilcox
Principal

Thanks to many generous volunteers and donors, spring 2015 will be the one-year anniversary of our Whittier Elementary Parent Center. This past year has been a busy one. Naturally, the center is the official meeting place of our PTA, but a plethora of parent training classes are happening here, too!

One of the training classes offered to our parents is called Partners in Print. Parents learn to use the same literacy strategies at home that are used in the classroom. Parent trainees can even graduate from the program and go on to train other parents. Another class, called Padres en accion (Parents in Action), trains parents in nutrition and physical activity. This will culminate in parent volunteers motivating students at lunchtime by organizing healthy activities.

More classes and programs are still in the works! We are proud of our Whittier parents and are thankful for our Parent Center!

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

The Value of Citizenship



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

The month of February is when we support and celebrate citizenship.

We have found that there are various ways in which our students can demonstrate an active commitment to service. Our student council has just completed a very successful canned food drive, and we are now working on our "Love the Library" drive, since reading is a top priority at Wilson.

During this "Love the Library" campaign our students and families donate to the library, the very important hub of literacy here at school.

This drive complements our monthly "Reader Hall of Fame" recognition, where one lucky student is selected to receive a special book to mark his or her commitment to reading. This award is always kept secret until the rally itself. When their name is announced, the lucky winner then comes forward to receive their new book and speak to the student body about the importance of reading.

Soon after our Love the Library campaign ends, we will be starting our "Pennies for Patients" drive to collect money for children who are suffering from lymphoma. Clearly, our students are learning the importance of citizenship.

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

Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

Santa's Arrival



Lauren Medve
Principal

It's an annual tradition at Woodland Elementary for Santa to visit all the good little girls and boys.

This year was no exception. Santa arrived in a Costa Mesa police car accompanied by his helpers. After singing a few carols, every student was personally greeted by Santa and given a special candy cane. However, the best thing was saved for the very end when the Woodland office staff, Carol Brunell and Kym Gordon, and Principal Medve were able to ask Santa for their special gifts.

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



District Transportation

Information, the Lifeblood of Transportation



Pete Meslin
Director

We pride ourselves on providing safe and efficient bus service for approximately 5,000 NMUSD students each day. How do we manage to accomplish this without being constantly stressed? The answer is that we have built good systems which rely upon accurate data and well-trained professionals.

You might be surprised to know how much information we use every day, and how important it is to our service. In

addition to the obvious sources like addresses and maps, we access and use vehicle metrics, incident reports, time schedules, inspection reports, student demographics, school schedules, GPS data, proficiency charts and training records, to name just a few.

We also carefully use even more data to properly serve our students with special needs. For these students, we might use medical information, behavioral supports, and equipment specifications.

In many ways this information really is essential to us, which is why we spend so much time verifying its accuracy and ensuring its proper use. Please consider that the simple school district form you complete might end up being used by your student's bus driver to help ensure your child's safety.

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

Nutrition Services

Nutrition Services By the Numbers



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

Who are we? 167 dedicated, passionate professionals proudly feeding students at our 32 schools. Our mission is to support the learning process by providing nutritious food choices for students and promoting healthy lifestyles for the school community.

How many meals do we serve each year? 900,000 breakfasts, 1,800,000 lunches, 216,000 after school program snacks

How much food do we buy each year?
Food budget \$3,400,000, cartons of milk 1,845,000, pounds of fresh produce 600,000.

What's on the menu? Lean proteins – chicken, turkey, beef, beans, nuts, seeds, low-fat yogurt and cheese
Whole Grains: rice, pasta, tortillas, cereal, bread and rolls
Milk: non-fat chocolate and 1% white
Vegetables: fresh carrots, jicama, cucumbers, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes
Fruit: fresh apples, oranges, tangerines, bananas, kiwi, strawberries, grapes

How much do student meals cost?

Elementary School: breakfast \$1.25; lunch \$3.00

Secondary School: breakfast \$1.25/\$1.75; lunch \$3.00/\$3.50

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

School Health Services

Keeping Schools Healthy



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

School Nurses and Health Assistants are managing the front lines when it comes to keeping schools healthy places. During winter months, the health office is busy responding to sick children. This time of year, there is typically an increase in flu like illness throughout the County and also in schools. On occasion we are confronted with communicable disease outbreaks such as with the measles outbreak that began last December. One of the functions of school nurses and the health services staff is to prevent the spread of infectious disease at school. School nurses work closely with the health department whenever there is an unusual amount of student illness and when there is communicable disease at school. Families will receive notices when there are health concerns. Families can help keep schools healthy by notifying the school when children are ill and keeping sick children home until well. Please reach out to your school nurse with any health concerns. The school nurse is part of the education team and available to support a healthy school experience for students.

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LIBRARY • From Page 6

Corona de Mar Branch Library Events

Go Green Craft Club on Thursday, February 26 at 3 p.m.
 St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. Join us as we go green at craft club.

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
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- Activities include: swimming, tennis, racquetball, basketball, arts & crafts, volleyball, karate and more!

Contest!!

This picture is in one of the school articles in this publication. When you find it, email the **school name** to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
 Please put NMUSD in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by March 15, 2015.
 From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations Lauren Gilliam
 Winner of the December Contest.

**Our Contests are Sponsored by
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(SUM15) * New Enrollments Only

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SUMMER CAMP LOCATIONS

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(949) 548-6770 | ymcaoc.org/mariners

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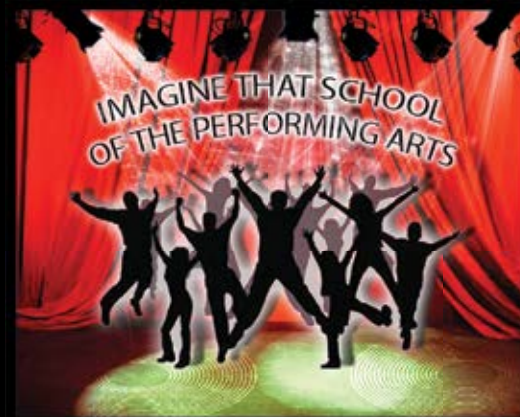


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