

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District



Volume 14, Issue 78

February / March 2018

Outdoor Science Camp



Victoria Elementary students creating memories that will last forever. Please see page 18.

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SUPERINTENDENT

Students Take Action to Positively Influence Global Issues



Dr. Fred Navarro

Newport-Mesa Unified School District is known for offering a wide variety of programs and opportunities to pique students' interest, and truly prepare them for life beyond high school.

However, some students are not only preparing for the outside world, they are already actively changing it.

Now in its fourth year, the Academy of Global Studies (AGS) at Corona del Mar (CdM) High School is making tremendous progress in teaching students to think critically, evaluate current events and global issues, and encouraging students to be actively engaged with the global community.

AGS inspires students to make informed decisions to improve global issues, such as food shortages, poverty, the world water crisis, vaccinations, and ocean exploration, to name a few.



Through a partnership with the Thirst Project incoming students research the global water crisis, its disproportionate impact on women and children, review data on the water table, diseases, deaths, demographics, current water options, source distances, and the amount of people who would be impacted if clean water was brought to the area. Students then construct a plan of action to increase awareness of the crisis and to raise funds for water

well construction. Once funds are raised, students select a community to build the well and track the progress and impact the well has on the community.

In its four year partnership with the Thirst Project, students have raised more than \$57,000 and commissioned the construction of four wells. The Academy currently has one well in Swaziland and one well in El Salvador already pumping clean water, with two additional wells in Swaziland under construction as part of the AGS student efforts.

Our specialty:

**Congenital
Heart Surgery**

Lucy's specialty:

**Hostess with
the Mostess**

Anna and Jesse brought their 2-year-old daughter Lucy to a pediatric cardiologist, who found a hole and abnormal blood vessel causing a heart murmur. After researching the perfect fit for their family, Newport Beach residents Anna and Jesse felt connected to Shaun Setty, M.D. Dr. Setty performed open-heart surgery to fix the hole and abnormal blood flow in Lucy's heart. Two days later, Lucy went home. Today, at 3-years-old, Lucy hosts tea parties full of heart for special friends.



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Lucy, 3-years-old,
Miller Children's & Women's
Heart Patient



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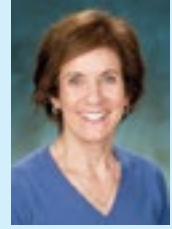
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School Calendar Change 2020-2021

By Vicki Snell, President

To better serve students, many Orange County districts have made the decision to begin the fall semester earlier, with the goal of completing the first semester by the holidays and dismissing students early summer. The benefits of this schedule change would be most obvious to our secondary students in providing them a greater opportunity for dual enrollment college courses (such as advanced placement and international baccalaureate); more instruction time prior to statewide exams; alignment with CIF athletic schedules, currently requiring students to return early for sports; increased opportunities for summer camps, internships, and employment; adequate time for the college application process and orientations; and a more seamless transition to college. It also would provide all students with a true break and quality family time over the holiday break.


Our district's Calendar Review Committee, comprised of certificated and classified staff, parents, district administrators, and employee bargaining units, meets to develop calendar recommendations each year for the district and the teacher bargaining unit to consider. This fall, they developed a fact sheet and a survey that was circulated to inform our school community and obtain input about this potential shift. Information meetings were also hosted.

When reviewing the feedback, the Committee found that the responses on the survey and comments during the informational meetings varied with overall results indicating most respondents did not support the calendar shift. The majority of concerns were surrounding lack of air conditioning in some of our schools. After informing the committee of our district's ongoing plan and timeline to install air conditioning at all schools by 2020, they determined that moving to a collegiate calendar was in the best interest of students. Implementing it three years from now would address concerns related to air conditioning installation and create more time to plan for the transition.

The Committee made the following recommendations, which will move forward to our district and NMFT negotiation teams. Upon completion of negotiations and approval by the Board of Education, the adopted calendars will be made public.

- A traditional calendar for the 2018-2019 school year (Adopted October 10, 2017)
- A traditional calendar for the 2019-2020 school year
- A collegiate calendar for the 2020-2021 school year

Change is never easy and must always be approached in a thoughtful and strategic manner, however, we must always be open to transitions that provide our students more opportunities to be successful in our ever changing world.



**School/Behavioral Problems
Teen Issues/Bullying**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The new year is underway and students are focused on their year end goals.

This issue shows us why NMUSD educates the whole child. The Superintendent's message on page 3 informs about preparing students to be active in the global community. Continuing with several school articles you will read about students giving back to those less fortunate in their local community.

Corona del Mar High School's article on page 10 is very exciting to me to know there is actually a "cell phone free space" left in this world. I do think all cars should have that



engraved on the door handles to remind the drivers when they get in their cell phones aren't allowed.

School News

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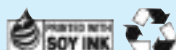
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Heidi B. Starnes, DDS, MS
1401 Avocado Avenue #210
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City of Costa Mesa



Sandra Genis
Mayor

Investing in our youth is a top priority and Costa Mesa does that through several youth programs for preschool-aged kids to teens.

We launched a Mobile Recreation Program to serve school children in underserved communities, and we offer arts and music and sports education each summer with our SMART camp.

Our Recreation on Campus for Kids after-school program, also known as ROCKS, focuses on four areas: educational activities, youth sports, recreation, and arts and crafts and it serves kids who would otherwise not have a place to go after school.

Further, we recognized the need for more sports fields and are partnering with the Newport Mesa Unified School District to ultimately provide \$4.6 million in lighting and general field improvements at Kaiser and Davis elementary schools.

We as a City Council are proud to offer these programs and partner with our schools to do the best we can for our young people. For more information about the ROCKS program or other youth offerings call our staff at (714) 754-5013 or (714) 754-5128.

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5107
www.costamesaca.gov

City of Newport Beach




**Marshall
"Duffy" Duffield**
Mayor

The Newport Beach Public Library offers an abundance of free educational and cultural programs, classes and collections. It is one of our community's most treasured assets and one that is happily shared with our Orange County neighbors and visitors. I encourage everyone to get their free NBPL library card and take advantage of everything the library offers.



It takes a dedicated, professional staff to operate the four library locations in town and groups of talented volunteers that give their time and ideas to help keep our library system among the best in the country. One of those groups is the Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC). Comprised of student volunteers, YAAC members provide valuable input about what they'd like to see on library shelves, help plan teen programs, participate in book and movie discussions, and volunteer at community events. If you are a student in grades 7 through 12 who lives in Newport Beach and would like to serve your community, please consider joining the Young Adult Advisory Council. For more information and a volunteer form, visit newportbeachlibrary.org/teens/young-adult-advisory-council.

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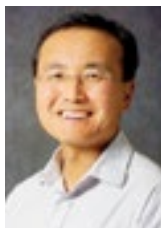


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Flu or Cold?



**Kenneth Kim,
M.D.**

*Medical Director,
Pediatric ICU*

Both are caused by viruses, but not the same ones. Viruses are spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, causing the viruses to land on surfaces that another person touches before touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

They are both highly contagious and have many symptoms in common, but the flu is a serious illness that may have life-threatening complications. In general, a person with the flu will have a fever between 102°F and 104°F for 3 to 4 days. Flu symptoms include muscle aches, headache, sore throat, cough, fatigue and weakness, come on suddenly. Other symptoms including nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are more common in children than adults.

Cold symptoms, including a fever under 102°F, stuffy nose, cough, headache, loss of appetite, chills and sweats, along with aching muscles, are usually milder than those of the flu and appear within 1 to 3 days of being exposed to the virus.

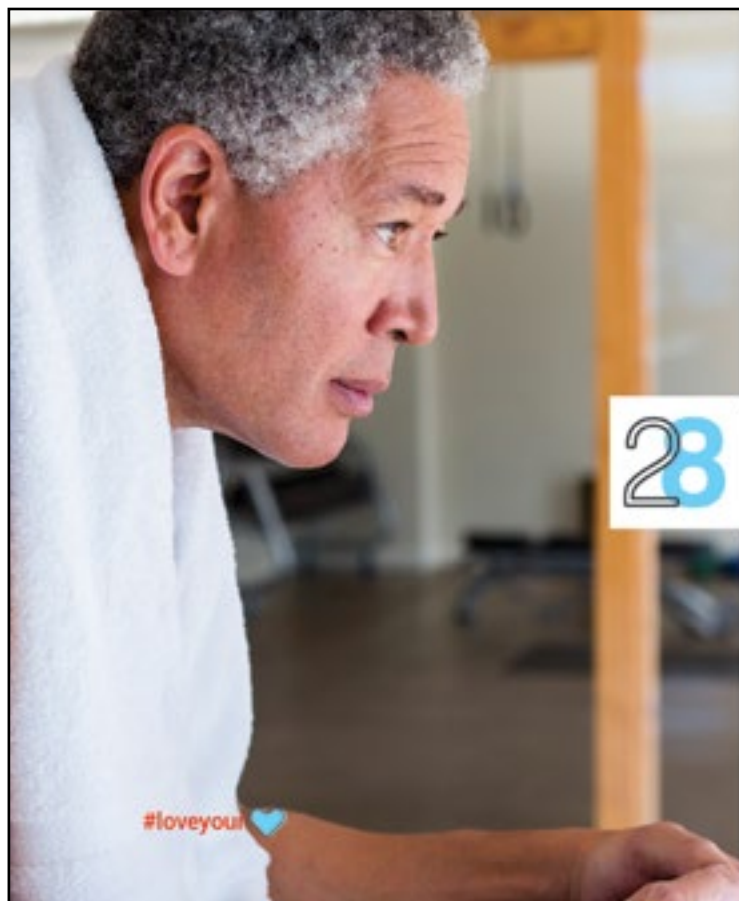
Watch for signs of worsening symptoms: symptoms that last longer than 10 days, trouble breathing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest pain. For children these may include:

- Fever higher than 103°F or a fever that lasts more than three days
- Bluish skin color
- Earache or drainage from the ear
- Flu-like symptoms that improve but come back with a fever or more severe cough
- Vomiting or abdominal pain
- Changes in mental state, such as not waking up, irritability or seizures

If you have any of the symptoms listed above, contact your doctor or seek emergency medical care.



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28

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February is American Heart Month, which means this is a great time to focus on the engine that keeps your body running. Despite the many advancements in modern healthcare, heart disease is still the number one killer of men and women in the U.S. Do you know your heart? Do you know your risk?

March to the beat of a healthy heart. Sign up at
FountainValleyHospital.com/28Days.



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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Gabriel DelReal
Principal

Inviting Readers

For the past seventeen years Deborah Lucas has been the librarian at Adams Elementary School. The Adams library is a rich, warm, welcoming haven for our students, who are also discovering and returning up to 600 books daily! It is extremely well-stocked and open to all students every day.

Mrs. Lucas is grateful for the support of Principal Mr. Gabe Del Real, because he makes it a priority to allocate needed funds every year to support this thriving library. Mrs. Lucas purchases new books by carefully considering the interests of a wide range of readers and reading levels.



Librarian, Deborah Lucas,
reading aloud in her special chair.

The most rewarding parts of her job include connecting students with the books they will love, as well as making recommendations for reluctant readers, which often changes their perceptions about reading.

This incredible resource, and this extraordinary librarian, together foster and encourage our students with their independent reading. "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island," said Walt Disney. "And best of all, you can enjoy these riches every day of your life."

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

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



Dr. Shannon Bray
Principal

Alternative Seating

At Andersen Elementary we are moving from the more traditional classroom of desks with chairs to a variety of alternative seating such as; balance balls, stools, rocking chairs, standing desks, and lap desks. Educational research shows that classroom environments should be conducive to open collaboration,

communication, creativity, and critical thinking. A few of our classrooms have begun the transition to alternative seating and are discovering benefits such as; increased participation and collaboration, improved behaviors, better attention and focus, and less restlessness. Students in classrooms with alternative seating comment consistently that they are "better focused" and "less distracted."

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

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



Marc Trocchio
Principal

Contributing to the Mission

Back Bay/Monte Vista High Schools have continued the mission of supporting Newport and Costa Mesa community members this winter. Recently, in collaboration with The Roosters Foundation, our staff delivered 20 giant boxes of food to needy families in our community. Since 1995, the Roosters have given over 26,000 boxes of food to families in need. Each food box contains a 15-pound frozen turkey, potatoes, stuffing, carrots, canned fruits, and vegetables to feed about 10 people. The Roosters, a non-profit charitable organization, is comprised of professional businessmen who donate to disadvantaged and

at-risk children by supporting public and private programs. The Roosters has been active in philanthropy for 34 years, and we are honored to collaborate with them!

Back Bay/Monte Vista recently participated in the GI Go Jeans for Troops Campaign. In the photo included here, you can see the staff enjoying a day in their blue jeans to promote the program. The GI Go Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization that provides assistance to all military veterans, with a focus on veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, by helping them to find employment, access housing, and secure educational and health benefits.

Back Bay and Monte Vista students and staff are proud to have contributed to the mission!

California *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Jacob Topete
Principal

A Teachable Moment

Recently, Ms. Brown's fourth-grade class read in their literature textbook about businesses helping those in need, particularly about young people starting businesses to help others. This prompted a question from a student: "How can I help those in need?" This question prompted others, and Ms. Brown saw the opportunity for this to be more than just an English language arts lesson.

The discussion stirred the students to action. After ideas were submitted, the class decided to collect toys to donate to the local fire station toy drive. Two weeks later, Ms. Brown's trunk was filled with toys that had been donated by her class.

Thanks to some interesting reading in the class textbook, Ms. Brown's class learned that literature is about more than grammar or vocabulary. It is meant to stir our emotions as human beings.

Hats off to Ms. Brown and her incredible class! Go, Cougars!



College Park *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Rich Rodriguez
Principal

Community Helpers

Recently, our first grade students had the distinct pleasure of meeting Officer Viramontes, Officer Spurgeon, and Officer Spurgeon's K-9 partner, Betty. These fine officers kindly supported our teachers' work around the concept of "community helpers."

First grade students study a variety of concepts via their English Language Arts curriculum. Having Officer Viramontes and Officer Spurgeon join us for this unit was a very special treat. Not only did their presentation underscore authentic, real-world connections between the classroom and the community, but it was also an engaging way to learn. Our first grade students had the opportunity to ask questions, watch a simulated search operation with Betty, and handle some of the special equipment. They even got "deputized" with stickers and pencils!



After a special presentation by Officer Viramontes and Officer Spurgeon, Mrs. Hartgraves and Mrs. Justice allow their first graders to inspect a squad car.

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

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



Dr. Rebecca Gogel
Principal
7-8 Grade



Kathy Scott
Principal
9-12 Grade

Cell Phone Free Zone

This year at CdM a team of teachers and administrators met to brainstorm how to help get students off of their phones and into conversations. The team came up with a new cell phone policy. This policy limits the use of cell

phones in all classrooms and also designates parts of the middle school campus as “cell phone free” zones.



These phone free zones caught the attention of the Today Show who stopped by CdM to film a segment regarding cell phone overuse and what some schools are doing to combat phone addiction and over exposure. Principal Becky Gogel states “Now students are engaging with each other, talking with each other. What students really needed was permission to be kids.”

Costa Mesa *High School (7-12)*

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



Dr. Jennifer Padilla
Principal
7-8 Grade



Jacob Haley
Principal
9-12 Grade

MESA Way

Costa Mesa High and Middle School launched the 2017/18 school-year with a commitment to developing the whole student—mind, body, and heart. We live by the MESA Way—Model Integrity. Engage Respectfully. Show Compassion. Achieve Excellence.

Along with specific and taught expectations, we celebrate our students daily. During the first quarter, we focused on Model Integrity. Middle and High School students were recognized with by their teachers with a special luncheon for modeling the MESA Way. As the second Quarter continues, we now focus on Engage Respectfully.



Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

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



Christy Flores
Principal

Special Connection

There are many opportunities at Davis Magnet School for students to work with one another. Many of the classes have reading buddies with whom students across the grade levels will spend time together reading, solving math problems, and playing games.

There is a special connection, though, between Miss Keller's fifth-graders and students in the four SDC preschool classes on campus. The older students have been visiting the preschoolers since the beginning of the school year once



every month. During this time, the older students read aloud to their younger peers, help them solve puzzles, and play games together. Besides providing academic support, the fifth-graders help their buddies develop their social skills and build their self-esteem.

The preschoolers aren't the only ones who benefit from this relationship. The fifth-graders practice being good role models for their younger peers by modeling the expected behaviors while spending time together. The partnership is a win-win situation for all students!

Early College *High School (9-12)*

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



Dr. David Martinez
Principal

Current Rundown

ECHS completed its first semester on December 21 and started the second semester January 16. In January, our PTSA hosted a college financial-planning seminar through a bank-sponsored community-outreach program. Families learned how to calculate the net cost of college and build a financial plan for their college-bound children. January also marked the beginning of the second semester of Coastline

Community College courses on our campus. We're holding 16 different college courses in addition to the high school courses offered at our site.

In February, ECHS held Information Night in our multipurpose room for parents and prospective students to attend if they hadn't attended our first Information Night

in November. It was an opportunity to share information about our school and the application process which began for all current eighth-graders who wish to attend ECHS in the upcoming 2018–19 school year. On February 10, we are excited to be holding our annual Winter Formal for all grade levels at a country club—this is our biggest off-site school event of the year! Later in the month, our school will be off session February 16–20 for Presidents Weekend while the rest of the school district will be off for Presidents Break during February 19–23.

Finally, we learned that over the past five years, ECHS has ranked number one among 10 similar Orange County schools in the area of SAT test performance. In addition, over 77 percent of our graduates are successfully completing the requirements to be UC eligible upon graduation during this time.

Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Eastbluff PRIDE

Eastbluff School is committed to teaching our students to possess strong character traits and display scholarly positive behaviors. This is achieved through the focus on our positive school wide behavior system, Positive

Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), and our character development program, which is based on the John Wooden Pyramid Program.

Eastbluff students show their PRIDE: Prepared, Respectful, Integrity, Determined, and Excellence. This



acronym clearly defines the expected behaviors in all the different settings on campus. We also added a PRIDE video, where our first- and sixth-graders and our student council modeled expected behaviors across the campus. This is a great way to teach and remind students how to make positive decisions as Eastbluff scholars.

Friday flag decks are a celebration to recognize students for their individual and class successes. It is so exciting to see our students strive to be the best that they can be and work together cooperatively to achieve their goals! We are so proud of our Eastbluff students!

Horace Ensign *Intermediate (7-8)*

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



Michael Sciacca
Principal

Showtime!

The Ensign musical-drama program is back! After many years without a musical-drama program, Ensign resurrected the tradition and performed *Into the Woods* in late January. The cast consisted of 50 Ensign students with a variety of acting backgrounds.

The Ensign Fund parent group financially supported the production in order to ensure

participation access to all interested students. Performing arts are highly valued in our community, and Ensign wants to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to immerse themselves in the arts. Students met after school once or twice a week to rehearse as well as learn foundational skills of performance.

Ensign plans to expand our performing arts to multiple productions in the upcoming years in order to increase the opportunities for participation. We thank the community for showing up and supporting our performances!

Estancia High School

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



Michael Halt
Principal

21st Century Learning Hub

According to educator Beth Holland, “the libraries of the 21st century must provide a welcoming common space that encourages exploration, creation, and collaboration between students, teachers, and a broader community.”

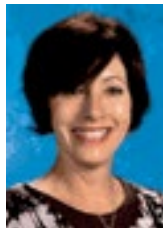
Estancia High School will be starting a major renovation of the library in spring 2018. The main goal of modernizing the library is to meet the needs of 21st century learners by focusing on updates that are in accordance with the four

essential collaborative-space concepts, including creating flexibility, enabling collaboration, providing comfort and integrating technology. Open areas, study rooms and innovative furniture are some of the plans to help accomplish these goals.

The Estancia Library strives to prepare students to be college and career ready by graduation. The library provides access to a variety of settings that meet the needs of today’s learners and allows them to more effectively connect and collaborate, helping to ensure that students have the required 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

Heinz Kaiser Elementary (3-6)

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



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Teacher of the Year

Jillian Holliday arrived at Kaiser Elementary School a little over three years ago, fresh from her credential program at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.

During these few short years, Mrs. Holliday has become the face of what Kaiser is all about: intense care for every student on campus, visionary leadership, constant collaboration with colleagues across campus, imagination, organization, ingenuity, elbow grease, and endless effort.



Mrs. Holliday listens carefully while working with a student

Although Mrs. Holliday serves in the capacity of a Special Education teacher, she knows and is known by students and teachers all across campus. When students enter Mrs. Holliday’s classroom or she enters theirs, they know that, with her at their sides, they can’t help but learn and become more independent students with each passing day.

It is a tremendous pleasure to see Jillian Holliday selected by her colleagues as a teacher of great distinction at our school. It is teachers like her who make Kaiser such a treasure!

Congratulations, Mrs. Holliday!

Killybrooke Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Teaming Up to Serve Our Community

Killybrooke students launched into action to support our community this winter season. Upper-grade students took the lead to engage our school in addressing critical needs in our community and reinforcing the importance of charity and volunteerism. The project was launched with an assembly led by the Team Kids Challenge staff and local police officers and fire fighters. Our student

leaders generated schoolwide support each week for the charitable challenge.

The first week, students took the challenge to collect more than two bins of donated art supplies for Children’s

Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). The second week, students collected more than three bins of gently used towels and blankets for the Pet Rescue Center of Orange County. The third week, students took the challenge to write letters to our troops through Operation Gratitude to show appreciation for those serving in the military, police, and fire departments. Our student body wrote more than 300 letters. During the fourth week of the challenge, our student leaders held a carnival to raise funds for Pet Rescue Center of Orange County.

By taking the challenge, Killybrooke students learned about service, leadership, teamwork, and philanthropy.

Harbor View *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Dr. Todd Schmidt
Principal

Captain's Challenge

Recent research has strongly indicated that regular physical activity is essential to student learning. Throughout the day, teachers at Harbor View find ways to increase the mental acuity of students by finding fun and engaging ways to get students active.

One such example in our fifth-grade classrooms is our partnership with a professional hockey team and its Captains Challenge. Students take part in regular physical challenges meant to showcase the importance and value of cardiovascular exercise and physical fitness. Students also get a chance to work on their hand-eye coordination as well as their gross- and fine-motor skills. Students who complete the challenge have the opportunity to not only focus

on their health but also get prizes that include tickets to the team's game and T-shirts!

Students complete the weekly challenges being led by student leaders. It is wonderful seeing our students smile and laugh as they work together to not only complete a challenge but to develop teamwork and collaboration skills as well!



Abraham Lincoln *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Carrie Gammel
Principal

Reading Cafe

Lincoln third grade teachers, Caryn Broesamle, Hillary Keen and Krista Williams asked their students, "Are you Hungry for a Good Book?" to peak their appetites for reading. Students learned book tasting strategies, like absorbing the spicy details of book covers, to choose just the right taste. Students were reminded

that, like food, you won't know if you like a book until you try it. Students met in the Lincoln Reading Cafe to taste books and determine if they wanted to devour the whole book. Each student left the Book Tasting with a book to nibble on over Winter Break. After the event, one ecstatic parent stated, "I have never heard my child speak so enthusiastically about reading before!"



Mariners *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

Giving Tree

This past holiday season, the Mariners school community took the opportunity to give back in two distinct ways. Our PTA sponsored a program called The Giving Tree. As parents and community members visited, they were invited to choose an ornament

from the tree that represented something needed by a local family. A parallel effort to provide food was organized by our student government. After several weeks of collecting, nearly 2,500 canned goods and other items were donated. For many, the holidays usher in a joyous time made warm by family, friends, and food. Extending some of this warmth to our local families was a fantastic way to nurture the vibrant home-school-community connections that make Mariners such a wonderful place to work and learn.



Brownie members Katherine Shaw, Avery Baker, Charlotte Alper, Emma Yokoi and Olivia Shaw in front of The Giving Tree. Parker Appeldorn looks on as her mother, Tyler Appeldorn, chooses an ornament.

Newport *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Amanda Estrada
Principal

Making Caring Meaningful

We always encourage our students to care for their community. This holiday season, they showed that in a big way!

Our PTA organized a food drive for donations to local soup kitchens. Students donated 1,086 boxes of macaroni and cheese! Before actually

donating, students gathered for an assembly where Mr. Nguyen had created a giant domino display with the mac-and- cheese boxes!

Several classrooms worked with local charities to "adopt" families. Students raised money by doing chores at home. A couple of students even raised money with a hot-cocoa stand during the boat parade!

"It feels really good to be able to help a family that needs it with money that I earned myself," one student said.

Students then purchased items from the wish lists provided by the charities, wrapped them up at school, and packed them for delivery. It was a great experience for students to see how they can impact their community!



Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie McCormick
Principal

Influencing the World

As part of the ongoing Kindness Campaign at Newport Coast, our students are composing friendly Valentine letters to the senior citizens at the Oasis Senior Center in Corona del Mar.

This letter writing campaign continued until early February, at which time the letters were delivered to Oasis. This is our third annual Valentine letter campaign to Oasis, and we have received positive feedback from the recipients. It is important for our students to feel that they

are participating in a good act of kindness.

How can your passions impact the world around you? This was a question we recently posed to our sixth-grade students. These children will soon be engaging in an inquiry project that combines their personal passions with actions. The students will then take a step to communicate their research to the world.

In April, their Passion Projects will be on display in a sixth-grade showcase. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to take ownership of their learning and make a difference in their community.

Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

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



Sean Boulton
Principal

They've Got Her Back

It started this year as an NHHS Adopt-a-Family and has blossomed into so much more! Paola Portillo is a NHHS senior who will be first in her family to graduate. Paola currently takes eight rigorous AVID classes and also makes time in her busy schedule to tutor ninth-grade AVID students during her open period.

But Paola deals with additional demands at home. Her mother was diagnosed with brain cancer last year. Her surgery was successful, but she's endured a long rehabilitation and only recently returned to part-time work. Paola took on Mom's responsibilities for many months, postponing homework until late at night while keeping the house clean, helping her younger brothers with their homework, and comforting her little sister.

Paola is also involved in the NHHS Mentor Program. Debbie Brostek, director of our 1:1 Career Junior

Mentor Program, coordinated an effort to help support this deserving family through mentors that included a television journalist and members of the Newport Beach Fire Department (NBFD). The NBFD adopted the Portillo family for the 2016 Christmas holiday and raised over \$10,000. Science teacher Ed Bell had taught Paola during the 2015-16 school year and realized that the student body could also step up to help. He and the junior class officers raised \$750 through doughnut sales and an additional \$2,000 for Christmas with his department colleagues, who spoke to every science class. Mr. Bell adopted the Portillos this year in the Adopt-a-Family program.

To date, students have contributed \$4,500 for the family, donating work paychecks, coin-filled banks, and every denomination of paper currency. The local community is involved with a group of mothers who contribute funds to help with living expenses and start a college fund for Paola.

These goals and values are what Newport Harbor High School is all about.

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Somer Harding
Principal

Outer Space Views

By Lorraine Padilla, Fifth-Grade Teacher

Have you ever wondered what your town looks like from outer space? The students at Newport Heights Elementary are now able to see live views from the International Space Station, thanks to a device called ISS Above.

With this device we first enter a location. The Raspberry Pi box will then light up when the Space Station is above that specific zip code during daylight hours. We currently have the box set to Newport Beach, and have seen views from above the Pacific Ocean, much of Western North America, and even as close to us as Coto de Caza.

We can also center the device on another region depending upon what we are teaching. For example, a sixth-grade class studying Ancient Egypt can program the ISS Above to alert them when the Space Station is above the Nile River during daylight. We can also use it to track major storms, such as hurricanes.

Evie, a fifth-grader at Newport Heights, says, "The ISS Above is awesome to have in the classroom, because it relates to a bunch of lessons!" Another student, Alexis, shared with us that, "I love the ISS Above because I always learn something new, and I get to see what the Earth looks like."

This device has sparked major interest in current events regarding the International Space Station and the study of outer space. I can't wait to see what else they explore!

Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Amy Nagy
Principal

Caring for Others

Paularino feels fortunate to have so much love and support from our community; we want to do the same for others. We feel character education is as important as the academic learning. One way we show our character is through various community giving campaigns. During the past year, we have supported many charities including:

Camp Kesem, a child's friend through and beyond a parent's cancer; Pennies for Patients, for people impacted by blood cancers, American Heart Association; Make A Wish Foundation; SOS; a drive to support the 2017 hurricanes and earthquake victims; and most recently Pajama Day, wear a pair and bring a pair for Orangewood Foundation. We look forward to continuing our support of worthwhile organizations in the future.



Pajama Day was a big success! More than 120 pajamas were donated to Orangewood Foundation.

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

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



Dr. Duane Cox
Principal

AVID Family Nights

AVID, or Advancement via Individual Determination, is a team effort in which all school-site and district staff, parents, students and community work to prepare students for college readiness and success in a global society. Our recent AVID family night, Fall in Love with Reading, was a huge success. Students were motivated to come to the night as different grade-level students

communicated their love for reading and what they are doing to make reading a priority. Some grade levels shared poetry, personal writing, reading goals, ideas for families to

support reading in the home, AVID reading strategies and more. Costa Mesa Library staff challenged students and families to regularly visit the library. All Rea students were presented with the Costa Mesa Library Card Challenge.

Activities during the evening included students matching favorite books to their teachers and creating bookmarks with a reading goal. All children left the evening with a book at their reading level to take home.

Let's continue to make reading a priority in our community and recognize that strong reading is a foundation for college readiness and success in a global society.

Pomona *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Megan
Elsten Brown**
Principal

The Ordinary is Extraordinary

As principal of Pomona Elementary, I have been provided the opportunity this year to find the extraordinary in the ordinary.

When I say ordinary, I am referring to teachers who are doing what teachers ordinarily do. They come to work early, work diligently with students all day delivering instruction and facilitating learning, and then stay after school working to plan

units and lessons that will inspire their students to think critically and build necessary skills.

But the extraordinary thing is that they are doing it with two new material packages, one in English language arts/English language development, and one in mathematics. Another extraordinary thing is that when you walk into their classrooms you would never guess that they are new to these programs. Their students are calm, engaged, and making significant progress. Our teachers are extraordinary!

Sonora *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Christine
Anderson**
Principal

Wonderful School Partner

How do we love our school partner? Let us count the ways! Each year, in addition to school supplies and volunteering, we are provided with a fabulous Holiday Carnival for Sonora Families, completely free of charge! Kids play soccer climbing into huge inflatable soccer balls, decorate cookies, make ornaments, have fun making faces in the photo booth and racing to be the first to bite their donut off the string! Everyone had a great time!



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

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



Dr. Dipali Potnis
Principal

Collaborative Teachers

TeWinkle Middle School is known for students who are respectful, empathetic, accountable, and proud of being Trojans. They learn how to exhibit those characteristics from their incredible teachers. The teachers at TeWinkle are exceptional at collaborating with one another. They do this by grade level, content team, as well as departmentally, analyzing data with the intent of best serving our wonderful students.



Our math teachers spent a day looking at data and pacing, as well as sharing best practices as a whole group. They were passionate as they discussed articulation between the elementary and middle schools and even the middle and high schools. They value this time to have professional dialogue and gain support from their teammates.

What is most dynamic about this group is that they possess a growth mindset. They want to do right by our Trojan scholars.

Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal

Outdoor Science

Our Victoria 6th graders traveled to Arrowhead Ranch in Lake Arrowhead this January 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!



Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Scott Wilcox
Principal

Future Leaders

Whittier School recently held our Trimester One Awards Assembly. At the end of each trimester, we recognize those Whittier Dolphins who

have stood out among their fellow scholars in excellence and effort. In addition to our monthly PRIDE awards (Personal Best, Respect, I Am College Bound, Determination, and Excellence), these trimester assemblies are one of our most important campus events. Parents are invited and students are recognized in areas such as: Language Arts, Math, Writing, Citizenship and Effort, to just name a few. Hard-working reward recipients are then treated like stars in a whirlwind



of camera flashes as proud teachers and parents snap photos. Future leaders can be found here at Whittier Elementary!

Wilson Elementary (K-6)

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



Mia King
Principal

Loving Math

The students at Wilson Elementary have been having a blast with our new math curriculum, Bridges. Students in Ms. Ischinger's third grade classroom are engaged in Number

Corner. This is an opportunity for students to have experience in different mathematical concepts. The calendar focuses on Equivalent Fractions and feature fractions represented as parts of a whole, rectangle, square, hexagon, or circle. In their search for patterns, students will make observations about equivalent fractions and will compare different fractions of the same whole. Students are highly engaged and our teachers have done a wonderful job in implementing the new curriculum.



Woodland Elementary (K-2)

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



Tiffany Lewis
Principal

How Does Your Kindergarten Grow?

There is mounting evidence that active learning in less structured, participatory spaces like gardens is more likely to transform children's food attitudes and habits, and that

school gardening, especially when combined with nutritional education, encourages more healthful food choices.

Woodland's school garden is a powerful environmental education tool. Through gardening, our students are become responsible caretakers. They have an opportunity to engage in agricultural practices on a small scale, learning about the responsibilities and impacts of land cultivation.

We are thankful our teachers and Foundation support this worthwhile and beneficial program.



Nutrition Services

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



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

Think About Your Drink

By Hajra Bawany, Dietetic Student Intern

Staying hydrated with plenty of fluids throughout the day is important, especially during the warmer months. However, sometimes it can be a struggle to drink enough water or to stay away from sugary drinks.

Water is the best way to hydrate. The human body is about 70 percent water. Every cell and organ require water to function properly. Throughout the day, water is

naturally removed by the body through sweat, urine and other ways. Therefore, daily water intake is needed to replace what is lost.

Did you know that sugary drinks can actually make you thirsty? Plus, drinking sugary beverages instead of water can clog pores, cause acne, and may fill our bodies with extra calories. Yet, it is easy to overlook these drinks as a source of added calories. These calories can affect how our bodies move and grow. The best way to avoid sugary drinks is to not have them in the house.

If you are tired of water, try adding fresh fruit slices for a refreshing drink without the added sugar.

School Health Services

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



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

Dental Health Month

Our Health Services teams promote oral health habits throughout the year in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. School nurses and health assistants actively support oral hygiene through instruction and guidance. When students frequent the health office, it is an opportunity for us to encourage a sense of wellness that includes oral health needs.

Some students frequent the health office specifically because they have dental pain, or a loose baby tooth, or they might have some issues with braces.

It is difficult for students to concentrate and learn when they are experiencing pain and discomfort. Our health personnel are able to help these students receive the care they need at school, or from their dental provider, so that they can feel good about themselves and are at school ready to learn.

Oral health influences many aspects of an individual's well being, including school performance, speech, one's smile, and perhaps most importantly, the way one feels about their own self. At Health Services, we believe that oral health matters. So please help your children make it a top priority. And as always, please contact the school nurse for any concerns regarding your child's health.

District Transportation

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



Pete Meslin
Director

Goodbye

I have announced my retirement, effective 3/31/18. It has been a good 15 year run. Here are a few of our accomplishments:

- We've improved our service enormously.
- We have reduced our budget significantly.
- We've increased our driver training by almost 100%.
- We've upgraded the age and quality of our fleet.
- We've created the Handbook for Transporting Students with Disabilities.
- We've increased our field trip service and now perform approximately 3000 trips per year.
- We've implemented Bus In the Classroom which is a program that trains students about how to stay safe around the bus while also training our drivers. It was

the recipient of the California School Board Associations Golden Bell Award.

- We have fostered independence for many students with special needs by serving them at bus stops other than immediately in front of their houses.
- We've created a School Bus Safety Roadeo team and it has won dozens of awards.
- We've given the joy of Halloween to many of our students that are most severely disabled. They now get to trick-or-treat and feel the love of the holiday.

Because of all of this and much, much more I have won the National Leadership Award. Our team really is phenomenal and it has been a pleasure to lead them and to serve you.

Please give whoever wins the job as my replacement every courtesy (plus some) that you have given me.

April Fools' Day: Measuring Time and Dates

By D.H. Coop

The early Romans had an eight-day week. The German tribes used a five-day week and recorded the passage of time by night, not day. Thus, the term *fortnight* for 14 nights is a holdover from the older times. Later, the Romans began using the seven-day week, and as their empire spread, so did the seven-day-week calendar.

Seven was a number that the early civilizations had a natural leaning toward. Seven even today seems to be the optimum number that one can memorize easily. Examples are the seven-digit phone numbers, the Seven Hills of Rome and the Seven Wonders of the World.

When the Roman Church adopted the Julian calendar, the year ended and started on March 25 around the vernal equinox, which falls on March 20–21, and the Feast of Annunciation signaled the beginning of the new year. This all seems to have changed with the shift to the Gregorian calendar and the new year starting on the first of January. The story goes that some refused or did not hear of the change of the new date and continued to celebrate the old date. These traditionalists were made fun of, and the first of April became the day for fools.

Many different cultures also had a day of fools—Purim in the Jewish culture and Holi in the Hindu. The Romans had Hilaria—the cheerful ones—to celebrate Cybele, the mother of the gods. In France, the day is known as *Poisson d'Avril*, or “April Fish,” which is a time when individuals play pranks on the young, or “fools.”

The practical jokes made their way into popular culture when a Professor Joseph Boskin decided to set the history of the day straight in an interview with a reporter for the AP News Network. The reporter wrote an article on the origins of the day as told by the professor that started in ancient Rome with Emperor Constantine and the jester Kugel, who told Emperor Constantine he could govern as well as the Emperor. He was given one day to govern. Emperor Kugel then ordered the day to be celebrated every year. The story was reported by Fred Bayles for the AP news and sent over the airways only to discover they were the victims of a prank!

In some cultures, the prank must be done before noon. However, it is best to check all stories told on April first!

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

League of Legends

There was a time when video game consoles were considered incompatible with academics, based on the belief that they distracted rather than stimulated young minds. But many educators are now recognizing the potential of gaming to engage students in science, technology, engineering and math, otherwise known as the STEM fields, while introducing them to 21st-century careers. And that's what's driving the creation of the Orange County High School Esports League.

Funded by the Samueli Foundation, the new league will be structured similar to high school sports, with teams of eligible students competing in the multiplayer fantasy game League of Legends, which combines action and strategy.

There will be tournament play and awards for top performers of course. But the ultimate goal is to promote teamwork, problem-solving and communication while nurturing student interest in STEM. That's why a number of heavy-hitters have signed on as league partners, including the Orange County Department of Education, OC STEM, Connected Camps, the UCI Connected Learning Lab, UCI's Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, UCI Esports, the Henry Samueli School of Engineering at UCI, and the firm Alvarez & Marsal.

Gerald Solomon, the Samueli Foundation's executive director, holds the vision that the Orange County High School Esports League will emerge as a STEM learning and enrichment program.

“Online platforms like esports are the new social gathering places for kids,” he says. “We need to understand these new digital platforms, like gaming, and innovate ways to optimize kids' learning experiences.”

Meanwhile, it hasn't gone unnoticed that gaming as an industry is exploding, with worldwide revenues surpassing \$100 billion in 2017. By some estimates, video games have financially eclipsed music and movies combined, and even more growth is expected, opening the door for a new generation of software developers, game designers, animators, audio engineers, writers and producers.

Preparing students for these types of high-demand, high-skill and high-wage jobs is among the top priorities of OCDE, which in 2014 launched the OC Pathways initiative along with Saddleback College.

Today, OC Pathways comprises 14 school districts, nine community colleges and numerous businesses and community groups, all working to develop rigorous coursework and work-based learning opportunities in the target sectors of healthcare and biotechnology, engineering and advanced manufacturing, and information technology and digital media.

Esports is a logical extension of this work, and the right partners are in place to strategically connect students' natural interests with the skills they'll need to land the coveted careers of the 21st century.

Today it's League of Legends. Tomorrow it's limitless.

Newport Beach Public Libraries



Liz Aaron
Children's Librarian,
Newport Beach
Public Library

Libraries for Lifelong Learning

You may be up to your ears in schoolwork, but why not take time to learn about something you're really interested in! Whether it's learning a new language, investigating ancient history, or creating a new craft, libraries are a community's center of lifelong learning. Come explore a new topic today!

Books and Media — Did you know that our children's collection contains over ten types of materials for discovering new ideas and information? We have fiction (chapter books) in hardcover and paperback, graphic novels, books in Spanish, easy (beginning) readers, picture books, non-fiction books, biographies, DVDs, music CDs, books on CD, picture books with a CD (kits), and magazines. Don't forget that you can also download ebooks and audiobooks as well as explore many databases! Ask our library staff to help you find an item that's just right for you. We're always happy to give suggestions.

Technology — Adults, you may have checked out a laptop at our reference desk, but did you know that at the Central Library you can also borrow cameras, tripods, GoPros, turntables, and other "tech toys"? Learn to edit your photos in our Media Lab, or convert old tapes to digital files. For an auditory experience, try our Sound Lab!

Programs — Learn about a different culture or enhance your STEAM skills at these fun programs:

Lunar New Year Celebration — Learn about a variety of cultures that celebrate Lunar New Year while enjoying crafts and holiday treats at our Central Library! Saturday, February 10th at 11:00am.

LEGO "Block" Party — Develop your building techniques at our weekly LEGO event. Located at Mariners Branch every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 pm.

Craft programs: All four branches offer monthly craft programs for developing fine-motor and problem-solving skills. Visit <http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar> for times and details.

Adult programming — Also check our calendar for a variety of programs aimed at adults, including musical performances, lectures on fine art or medicine, author visits, and more.

Reminder — All NBPL locations will be closed for President's Day on Monday, February 19.

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

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

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Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



Dan Stefano
Fire Chief

There are many responsibilities and expectations placed on the professional women and men who serve in Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services, but one of the most important areas we focus on is developing healthy lifelong habits and heart healthy living.

February is American Heart Month and it is an opportunity for you to join the Costa Mesa Fire Family and the American Heart Association in making time for your family to be more heart healthy.

To be more heart healthy, we encourage you to engage in family activity time each week; balance exercise, proper nutrition/hydration, and quality rest 30 minutes on weekdays and 60 minutes on weekends. Remember your family is your team and make sure everyone is all in. Work together performing chores around your home, meal planning and preparation. Make progress but not perfection to healthy living. Healthy living means a little progress each day. Simplify your family's schedule. Prioritize, quality over quantity as a starting point for effective stress management. Live and lead by example. Walk the walk and model heart healthy living to your family and friends.

For more information about Heart Healthy Living - <https://healthyforgood.heart.org/>

Newport Beach Fire Department



Jeff Boyles
Assistant Fire Chief

The City of Newport Beach Fire Department is reminding everyone to stay fire safe and regularly clean out dryer lint traps. According to the U.S. Fire Administration:

- 2,900 home dryer fires are reported each year and cause an estimated 5 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss
- Failure to clean the dryer is the leading cause of home dryer fires
- More home dryer fires occur in the fall and winter months, peaking in January

Most of the lint is trapped by the dryer's filter, and is also carried through the vent system along with moist air. Lint is highly combustible material that can accumulate both in the dryer and in the dryer vent.

Accumulated lint leads to reduced airflow and can pose a potential fire hazard.



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

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Veterans who have served their country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, 1st Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan will bring their stories to your classroom. They will share stories about Pearl Harbor, Battle of the Bulge, D-Day, air battles in the war-torn skies of the South Pacific, Desert Storm and even experiences of being Prisoners of War.



Teachers Call to Schedule a Speaker

(714) 979-1049 or (714) 501-0941

swllmsca@gmail.com • www.FC-OC.org

Contest!

This poster is in a school article in this issue.

When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put NMUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by March 30, 2018. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

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