

FREE

# School News

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



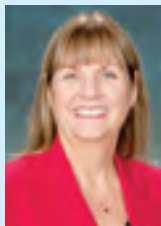
Volume 15, Issue 85

June 2019

## Newport Harbor High School Germany Science Field Trip



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# SUPERINTENDENT

## New Human Relations Task Force to Address Inclusivity Issues



**Dr. Fred Navarro**

Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) has partnered with Orange County Human Relations to lead the district's Human Relations Task Force (HRTF). The task force is charged with making recommendations to our Board of Education on how to further improve issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion to further our ongoing commitment to create safe, respectful, and inclusive schools.

Anyone that was interested in participating in the Task Force was accepted. The Task Force includes staff, parents, students and community members. Various meetings have and will continue to be hosted through the end of Summer for the Task Force to review current district policies and practices, and recommend changes and/or additions to the districts initiatives in these areas.

Among other things, Task Force Members are charged with the following:

- Create forums where diverse groups/individual can have a dialogue with people of various backgrounds and thinking

- Create a community where everyone feels empowered
- Create goals with actionable language for Board of Education consideration
- Recommend actions to educate parents and teach students how to change lens' of public perception
- Recommend actionable items to create safe, inclusive space for everyone to speak on experience without repercussions

NMUSD also has partnered with the Anti-Defamation League, who is leading various community workshops, open to any and all that are interested in attending. The first workshop was a training on implicit bias. This workshop guided participants through a journey of personal exploration for an awareness of the shortcuts and subsequent perceptions we make about people and our surroundings. It also provided basic skills to increase awareness of cognitive biases and offered intervention strategies. Additional community workshops will be hosted each month through August 2019. Future topics will be determined by the task force. For updated information please visit the district website news feed at [www.nmUSD.us](http://www.nmUSD.us).

## Nutrition Services

2985-A Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000  
[www.nmUSD.us/depts/ns/resources\\_parent.php](http://www.nmUSD.us/depts/ns/resources_parent.php)



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

### Whole Grains

*By Francesca Protano  
Dietetic Student Intern*

Pizza tops the list of most children's favorite foods. Here at Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD), Pizza Day is one of our students' favorites. Our pizza is more than ordinary pizza; it's made special with a "whole-grain-rich" crust, which means that the crust is made with at least 50 percent whole grains. In fact, all of the grain products served in the NMUSD cafeterias are whole grain rich.

What are whole grains? A grain is made up of three parts: the bran, the germ, and the endosperm. When companies refine grains, they are not whole because they are missing one or more parts. For example, white rice has the bran and germ removed, and brown rice is the whole-grain version. Commonly served grains include wheat, corn, and rice.

So, why do we serve whole-grain-rich products? Each component in a whole grain provides important nutritional value, such as B vitamins, fiber, and minerals. When part of the grain is removed, the nutritional value decreases. That's why we love whole grains and we make sure to provide whole-grain-rich foods for all of our students.

## School Health Services

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



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

### School Health Requirements

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

In the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, school nurses strive to support students so they are healthy and in school every day. Nurses work collaboratively with educators and families to help students reach their academic goals. As we reach the close of the 2018–2019 school year, it is important to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of another academic year.

As most families prepare for summer, Health Services is planning for fall. We are reviewing student health records and anticipating the new immunization requirements that become effective July 1, 2019. Health requirements for school are necessary because healthy children are better learners. Please consider full vaccination to protect children and support a healthy learning environment.

There are updates for families seeking full immunization and medical exemptions for their students. Detailed information regarding the new immunization requirements is available at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org). Families are encouraged to contact the school nurse with any concerns related to student health and immunization requirements. School nurses welcome hearing from parents and are able to provide guidance specific to immunizations for school.

Health Services wishes you a healthy and enjoyable summer.



## City of Costa Mesa



**Katrina Foley**  
Mayor

### Major Environmental Initiatives

On Friday May 24, Costa Mesa's new Donald Dungan Library opened to great acclaim. It's a beautiful, modern new facility for our entire community nestled in a beautifully re-imagined Lions Park.

The library contains new sections for children and teens and is a great place for students to spend time studying or taking part in activities we are planning.

We are continuing to take donations for the new library. For those interested, please visit our website at <https://www.lionsparkprojects.com/>.

The council has also pushed through some major initiatives that we believe will positively affect our environment.

Topping the list is our Organics First policy. Our city grounds crews are avoiding toxic herbicides and instead using organic methods to keep our parks and parkways free of weeds.

The next initiative is our polystyrene or Styrofoam ban. Non-biodegradable products made from polystyrene, such as cups, plates and food containers, are no longer allowed in city facilities, which is a great first step to keeping that litter out of landfills and oceans.

Finally, mark your calendars for the evening of August 23rd for the Mayor's Ball supporting arts education for our Costa Mesa students.

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

## Newport Beach Fire Department



**Jeff Boyles**  
Assistant  
Fire Chief

### Summer Safety Tips

The Newport Beach Fire Department would like everyone to enjoy their summer without having to call 911 for an accident. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe this summer.

- Pick a swimming spot close to a lifeguard.
- Ensure all campfires are fully extinguished.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back, just in case.
- Keep yourself hydrated.

Use good judgment this summer and always exercise situational awareness. We encourage everyone to join the Newport Beach CERT program. The CERT program is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations. Through training, citizens can put out small fires, provide basic medical aid and search for and rescue victims safely. This program can give you the tools necessary to have a fun and safe summer. Our next CERT training program begins this fall. Applications available by visiting [www.nbcert.org](http://www.nbcert.org).

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

## City of Newport Beach



**Diane Dixon**  
Mayor

### Balboa Peninsula Trolley

The free Balboa Peninsula Trolley will be back in service for the summer on Saturday, May 25. It will operate on Saturdays and Sundays through September 1 and on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. The trolley route has 22 stops along the Peninsula and operates from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Four trolleys will operate during each day of service. It is estimated that a trolley will be at each stop every 15 minutes; however, service may be delayed during periods of heavy traffic.

Riders can park for free at the City's Avon Street parking lot, which is located near the intersection of Avon Street and Tustin Avenue. The trolley can accommodate wheelchairs, bicycles, surfboards and beach gear and is a fun alternative for traveling along the busy peninsula.

Visit our website at [newportbeachca.gov/trolley](http://newportbeachca.gov/trolley) for the route map and more details.

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

## Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



**Dan Stefano**  
Fire Chief

### School Preparedness Academy

Recently NMUSD teachers and district staff participated in a school preparedness academy at Back Bay High School, led by Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue's Brenda Emrick. The School Preparedness Academy – Disaster Skills for School Emergency Responders is modeled after CMFR's very successful Business Preparedness Academy.



The school-specific training aligns with NMUSD's emergency response plans and operational goals for each school, focusing on a range of preparedness planning skills for work and home, including disaster medical skills.

NMUSD's principals and leadership will have the opportunity to attend the School Preparedness Academy this summer, with future Academies already in the works for the 2019-2020 school year.

Please stay engaged and remember — It Takes a Community to Protect a Community!

P.O. Box 1200, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 • 714/754-5106



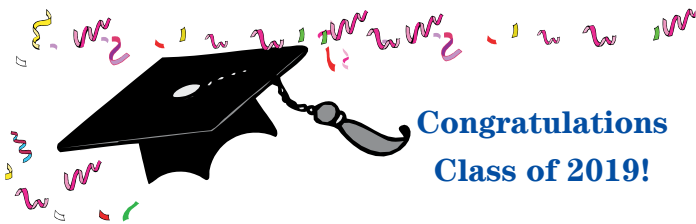
**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



We are at the end of another successful school year. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. If you missed any issues, we post both current and archived on our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com).

Please include the library (see pages 24 & 25) among your activities this summer. We have included student book reviews, fun and learning camps on pages 24 - 27, and our word search contest on page 23. Have fun!

Our next issue is October 9.



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Covering the

**NEWPORT-MESA**

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## Autism: Why Early Identification is Important

According to a 2018 report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), an estimated one in 59 births in the U.S. has autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Currently, more than 3.5 million Americans live with an ASD.

### What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

ASD is a complex developmental disability with signs that appear during early childhood. Because it impacts individuals differently across a variety of behaviors, it is called a “spectrum condition.”

Behaviors associated with autism can include: delayed learning of language, difficulty with conversation and eye contact, poor motor skills, sensory sensitivities, lack of spontaneous or make-believe play, and persistent fixation on parts of objects.

### What causes autism?

The generally accepted belief by researchers is that autism is caused by abnormalities in brain structure or function. Brain scans of children with autism and who

do not have autism show differences in the structure and shape of the brain. Heredity, genetics, medical problems and environmental factors may also play a role in brain development that results in autism.

### Why is early identification of autism important?

According to the CDC, Autism is treatable and although individuals will not “outgrow” the condition, studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes.

### What can parents do if they are concerned about their child's development?

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the CDC have developed a list of behaviors and Signs and Symptoms as part of the “Learn the Signs. Act Early” initiative. Parents of children up to five years old can track their child's development milestones and have an evaluation by a multidisciplinary team if they have concerns.

## Make time for men's health.

## Be there to make memories with those who care about you.



We know that sometimes the last thing men want to do is make a health appointment. Unfortunately, the statistics don't favor delays. One appointment may give you much of the info you need to know to continue to be a loving partner, active dad or granddad and doing the things you like to do.

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## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Stacy  
deBoom - Howard**  
*Principal*

### An Amazing Year

Spring has sprung! Our All-Stars kicked off spring with our annual Jog-a-Thon. Students ran around the track smiling, dancing, and enjoying time with their friends. School spirit was all around. Just look at Mrs. Brown's class!

We have had an amazing year. Thank you to our fabulous PTA for all of their hard work this year. Looking back, we made so many memories. There were movie nights, dinners out, school play, a dance with loved ones, FIBO art, Friday Fiesta, and more.

Thank you to our amazing All-Star staff, which is one of the hardest-working teams around. Each person comes to work with a smile and is dedicated to supporting our students both academically and socially. The magic that happens on campus every day is truly remarkable!



Thank you also to our students who make each day extra-special. You have done a great job this year, and we look forward to seeing you on September 3rd. We hope you have a safe and relaxing summer, and remember to read!

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

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



**Dr. Shannon Bray**  
*Principal*

### Grandparent's Day Celebration!

In April Andersen students put on a spectacular show for their Grandparents! The theme was "Dolphins Through the Decades." The darling kindergartners and 6th graders highlighted the 50s with the hit song, "Blue Suede Shoes." The fantastic 1st and 5th graders showcased the 60s with "Surfin' USA." Our talented 2nd and 3rd graders sang a 70s tune "Lean on Me" and our amazing 4th graders rocked the 80s with "Eye of the Tiger." Also entertaining was the Andersen Orchestra who played a medley of tunes from the decades. Following the performances grandparents had time to visit their grandchildren in their classes and participate in many activities. Grandparents Day is always a highlight of the year!



## Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

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



**Mike Wagner**  
*Interim Principal*

### Only Weeks Away

Another great year at Back Bay and Monte Vista high schools is winding down. Our seniors are finishing their final graduation requirements and are looking forward to June 20th, a day that will change their lives, and one that they have been anticipating since they first began kindergarten 13 years ago.

As adults, we feel like time flies by in a flash. High school students rarely agree with this sentiment until they get near the end of their senior year. Then they suddenly tend to agree that the years since kindergarten have gone by quicker than they imagined.

Because most of our students were referred to us with a deficiency in credits, our seniors often find themselves

overwhelmed with the daunting task of making up credits and completing the courses that every senior takes, but both at the same time. They do get it done, however, despite the obstacles they face. So at this time of the year they get a chance to celebrate and enjoy the end-of-year activities that seniors look forward to, like Prom, Grad Nite, the Senior Breakfast, and, ultimately, graduation day.

We offer our deepest appreciation to our students' families, our PTSA and ASB, and the community organizations which support us throughout the year. Our faculty and staff members are beyond proud of the efforts of our Back Bay and Monte Vista students, and we wish our seniors a fantastic final stretch of their K-12 education. The end, which is also a beginning, is only weeks away. Go, Bulldogs!

## California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Jacob Topete**  
*Principal*

### Spirit Squad

Each year, fifth- and sixth-grade students volunteer to be a part of the California Cougar Spirit Squad. Each morning, two students deliver the morning announcements on the PA system to all of our students on campus and lead our school in the Cougar Oath. Students also work in pairs each day and come to the kindergarten play yard during recess to lead organized games and

serve as student leaders to our kindergarten students.

Our Spirit Squad also oversees our classroom recycling program. Students are responsible for working with our amazing custodian, Mr. Z., to collect the recycling from the classroom bins.

Finally, each week, two of our Spirit Squad members assist me with our Flag Deck ceremony on Friday by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and our Cougar Oath and sharing important announcements. I am so proud of our Spirit Squad leaders!





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

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



**Dr. Jennifer Padilla**  
Principal  
7-8 Grade



**Jacob Haley**  
Principal  
9-12 Grade

### Excellence Achieved

As we wrap up another year at Mesa, we reflect on the final attribute in The MESA Way—Achieve Excellence. There are so many accomplished and talented students at Costa Mesa Middle and High School. Here are just a few examples:

Middle School Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (M.E.S.A) students placed in the UCLA MESA State championships for their hard work on the technical paper, prototype pitch and poster symposium.

Our graduates celebrate the culmination of four years of hard work. They have committed to universities and postsecondary career and training opportunities, including UCLA, Stanford, Duke, UC Berkeley, UCSB, United States Air Force Academy, Chapman, Concordia, SDSU, and OCC with plans to transfer to a UC school. These students not only excelled in academics but also took part in some of Mesa's amazing extracurricular activities including athletics, Band, Cheer, ASB, Madrigal Choir, Mock Trial, Color Guard and drama.



**M.E.S.A. Middle School students, pictured with Advisor, Mr. Nguyen (right) competed in the UCLA M.E.S.A. State Championships at UCLA on May 4th.**



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

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



**Rich Rodriguez**  
*Principal*

### First Annual Bingo Night

What is one certain way to bring a school community together for several hours of fun? Bingo, of course!

The College Park PTA recently sponsored our first annual Bingo Night, and it was a huge success. The evening included food, prizes, and dozens of winners. Several special guests helped by calling Bingo numbers, including Char Metoyer (School

Board President), Rich Rodriguez (Principal), Ryan Longacre (Assistant Principal), Lauren Mahlmeister (PTA President), Christy McAnlis (PTA Secretary), and Taylor Hartgraves (Teacher) and her son, Cullen. Round after round, we mingled with parents, cheered on our students, and simply had fun with one another. It was a great way to

connect with our community, and it was a nice reminder that our best work is accomplished when it is predicated on mutual respect and camaraderie.

The College Park PTA would like to thank the Mariners Elementary PTA for loaning us the equipment that made this evening



**Several families recently came out for an evening of food, prizes, and fun during College Park Elementary's first annual PTA Bingo Night.**

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

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



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



**Kathy Scott**  
*Principal*  
9-12 Grade

### Welcome!

On May 3rd, our middle school community was thrilled to welcome the next class of seventh-graders to our campus. The students were greeted by our current student leaders, who shared their experiences at CDM Middle School and introduced key staff members.

Our drama department also performed one act from the recent smash hit Spamalot; our combined middle and high school drum line entertained the crowd with their

remarkable technique and sound; and our Jazz Band kicked off the presentation with a fun improvisation.

Also joining the lineup was one of our award-winning choirs to encourage the new students to become a part of our performing arts programs. Another highlight was our Mandarin Chinese teacher Mr. French, who taught all of the students to say "Oh, no!" in Mandarin.

A middle school staff member reported that this program has quickly become their favorite event of the year, displaying some of the best parts of our middle school all in one event. Next year's seventh-graders left the campus feeling enthusiastic about becoming Tritons. Kudos to ASB Director Michael Dobyns for organizing such an awesome welcome rally!

## Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

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



**Christy Flores**  
*Principal*

### Maker Space Jr. Challenge Winners!

This spring our Davis Magnet School fifth-graders participated in an inaugural program through the Orange County Department of Education called the "OC Maker Challenge, Jr."

Fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Katie Danahy took the lead with this project and guided all of the fifth-grade students through these weekly STEAM challenges. The students were prompted to design and

build or significantly repurpose a product that solves a problem, need, or want. Two projects were selected to represent Davis Magnet School, as well as NMUSD, at the Competition. Both projects were fantastic, but one of them

went on to win first place!

Three students worked together to create Project Prosthetic. Their project synopsis consisted of the following: "We could not imagine not having the ability to pick up objects like our toothbrush, cellphone, or pencil, could you? The solution for the problem is that Project Prosthetic provides a motor-powered hand which can be used for everyday tasks. If someone does not have a hand, they are able to pick up items using the prosthetic hand. We included a motor so that it best resembles a real, functioning hand."

The inaugural OC Maker Challenge Jr. program was a wonderful hands-on learning opportunity for all students. We are looking forward to next year's challenge!



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

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/241-6108 • [earlycollege.nmusd.us](http://earlycollege.nmusd.us)



**Dr. David  
Martinez**  
*Principal*

### Outstanding Scholars

Early College High School has much to be thankful for that goes beyond being on the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* National Best High Schools list or named a 2019 California Distinguished School. On May 22, many students were recognized at our Annual Awards Night for their Growth, Resilience, Integrity and Tenacity (GRIT) mindset, which is exemplified by their excellence in coursework, character, and community. More than 38 percent of our students have achieved a cumulative unweighted academic grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, 13.3 percent will receive Champions for Character Awards, and 10.5 percent have completed 100-plus hours of community service in 2018 alone.

Our Class of 2019 graduated on May 30 after enjoying one last time together at Grad Night, which they spent at local amusement parks. Within this class, 23 percent are University of California bound, with 96 percent going directly to college to continue their studies either this summer or fall.



**Sofia Chavez (ECHS Class of 2019) attending College Signing Day on May 1st at UCI. She plans on studying Nursing and is a Los Angeles Angels Senior Scholarship recipient.**

## Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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## Eastbluff *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Cheryl Beck**  
*Principal*

### Hands-On Fun

Over 400 people attended our first annual Eastbluff STEAM Fair last week. The event included 24 stations of science, technology, engineering, art and math fun. Top activities included the construction of a flotation device for real live ducklings, Fling-A-Peep Catapults, scientific inquisition regarding air buoyancy, hydraulic powered rockets, spin art, biology displays, architecture and engineering exploration, and a disassembly lab.

Other highlights included a nitrogen ice cream show, demonstrations by our own Eastbluff VEX/IQ Robotics Team, and our local junior college students' volcano creation.

Our families enjoyed this PTA-sponsored evening, whose main goal was to promote family engagement among our already close-knit community. Thank you to our local vendors who provided great hands-on activities, and to all of the teachers and parents who volunteered their time to guarantee such a successful event. We are already looking forward to STEAM Fair 2020.



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

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



**Michael Sciacca**  
*Principal*

### Family Day

Ensign hosted our first annual Family Day over this past weekend. Over 150 Ensign families attended the event, which was held on our campus on a Saturday.

Family Day was organized by our Families of Ensign Connected (FEC) a parent group, whose mission is to connect all of the Ensign

families from the variety of neighborhoods that feed into our school. The Day consisted of Student performances including Mariachi bands, martial arts demonstrations, folk dancing, Seabee Dance team and more.

Ensign teachers, staff and administration were present to connect with our community and send a clear message that we are all part of our Seabee Nation.



# Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • [estancia.nmusd.us](http://estancia.nmusd.us)



**Michael Halt**  
Principal

## Preparing Tomorrow's Builders

In April, Estancia High School Construction Technology students competed in the 2019 Design/Build Competition in Huntington Beach, which was sponsored by the Building Industry Association (BIA) of Southern California and the California Homebuilding Foundation (CHF). This annual event brings together tomorrow's builders

and today's industry professionals in a fast-paced construction competition that mimics the real-world pressures of inspections and deadlines while enforcing the values of safety, teamwork and craftsmanship. Students had one and one-half days to build a garden shed from the ground up by following blueprints.

In preparation for the competition, Estancia students practiced after school and on the weekends over the course of four months under the guidance of mentors from local home builders. Estancia took first place in the overall competition and first place in safety, earning the highest scores after both days of the competition. This was the first time Estancia entered the competition.



**Students building a garden shed during the Design/Build Competition**

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## Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Todd Schmidt**  
Principal

### Strong Lesson of Empathy

In light of recent events in the district that made national headlines, the Harbor View team began to discuss ways that we could increase our efforts to emphasize the importance of empathy and tolerance both in our classrooms and on our playgrounds.

In our sixth grade, students recently completed a novel study of the book *Number the Stars*. As a culminating activity, our entire sixth grade traveled to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Students were led on an educational and emotional journey as they heard firsthand of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. The culminating activity was a touching

presentation from a Holocaust survivor who stressed that the only reason she survived was because of the kindness of others.

This was such a powerful, real-world life lesson for all of our students that we will be making an annual tradition.



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

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



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
Principal

### "K" is for...

Kaiser students, staff members, teachers, and families celebrated Kindness Week in April. A team of amazing parents created a gorgeous "butterfly effect" backdrop that promoted spreading kindness. All students

received "Let's be kind" t-shirts, took pictures in front of the kindness butterfly, had a special parent-sponsored recess art project, and made a point of thanking each other for acts of kindness. We even had a visit from the mayor! We wrapped up the celebration with a special pizza party in which twelve students each had the chance to extend a hand of kindness to others and invite guests for lunch and treats. The week might have ended, but kindness reigns at Kaiser!



**Mayor Foley joins Kaiser parents in celebrating Kaiser's Kindness Campaign!**



## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

### Showcasing the Arts

The arts are an important part of our educational program here at Killybrooke. Research shows that experiencing the arts can have a positive impact on the academic and social-emotional outcomes for students.

All of our students participate in music education classes with a credentialed music teacher during the school day. Students learn vocal and instrumental techniques, and

participate in two school-wide performances each year. In addition, they can learn the techniques of famous artists through the Meet the Masters program, and create their own art using the same medium or style as the artist.

Our students can also opt to participate in additional experiences at lunch and after school. There is an art program for students in the multipurpose room monthly during lunch. This provides them with an optional fun experience with their peers. The Learning Conservatory also provides an opportunity for our students to engage in a musical theatre production after school. This year's production, Moana, was a big hit.

Through a partnership with the Pacific Chorale, our students can also experience training in vocal technique and ensemble singing after school. One Pacific Chorale Academy fifth-grade student vocalist shared that, "I like the Pacific Chorale Academy because I've made a lot of friends."

A parent remarked, "My kids are excited for rehearsals and performances. My sixth-grader is proud that he earned the Pacific Chorale Academy jacket before he transitioned into the middle school music program. My fourth-grader loves earning medals for sight reading music." In addition, our Killybrooke students also participated in the recent PTA Talent Show to share their talents, which included singing, dancing, magic acts, and other performances.

It is wonderful to see our students thrive as artists. We look forward to seeing them continue in their endeavors as they enter their middle school years with the numerous opportunities available at Costa Mesa Middle/High School.

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

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



**Dr. Kristin DeMicco**  
*Principal*

### Leopards Make a Positive Difference

May was Make a Positive Difference in the World month at Lincoln. One way our students showed their commitment to making a positive difference was through our Garden Club's Grow Your Own competition. The challenge was to grow a plant from seed and enter it under one of the following categories: floral, edible, tallest, or most unique.



We had 20 budding gardeners participate and most of the grades represented, including kindergarten! All the participants were winners and we hope they will continue to grow and care for their plants in the months ahead and see beautiful and delicious results! Winning plants were awarded ribbons and all participants received a prize to take home and add to their garden collections! We are already looking forward to next year!



## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Matthew Broesamle**  
Principal

### Our 'Tech-Savvy Influencer'

Technology and its worthwhile advances move quickly, but Mariners Elementary is lucky enough to have just the right person to help our students keep up. Ryan Ratfield, technology instructional assistant and "tech-savvy influencer," supports a variety

of technology-based learning experiences in grades TK

through 6. Under his guidance, students learn about robotics, how to write code, how to leverage Google classroom, basic computer science, and very soon, basic circuitry! He collaborates closely with teachers, and his class-based projects provide students with engaging instruction on Pear Deck, Google Slides and Documents, and a variety of Google Extensions.

In Mr. Ratfield's hands, technology is both a set of tools and a subject worthy of inquiry and experimentation. According to second-grade student Hugh McDonough, Mr. Ratfield's lessons are very helpful. As he puts it, "we need to know how to do all of these things when we get older."

Happily, Hugh's opinion is shared by many of our students!



**Mr. Ratfield leads Mrs. Urbaniec's second graders through a lesson that targeted the use of both images and text.**

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

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



**Julie McCormick**  
Principal

### Hollywood comes to Coyote Council!

Coyote Council has recently started filming Monday morning announcements in the new Coyote Creation Station. Students produce, write and

film the Monday announcements using a Padcaster, iPad and WeVideo.

Student newscasters will be covering a variety of topics including promoting HOWL behavior, testing strategies, PTA events, current NCE news and student/teacher interviews. This exciting new technology addition has enriched the school community. Coyote Council has stepped up to the challenge and exceeded expectations as we end a successful school year.





## Newport *Elementary* (K-6)

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6965 • [newportel.nmusd.us](http://newportel.nmusd.us)



**Amanda Estrada**  
*Principal*

### Wonder and Challenge

We're very fortunate at Newport El to be located on the beach. Whale-watching season begins in March each year, and they did not disappoint! When a whale is spotted in front of school, we announce it on the loudspeaker so staff and students can go out to the beach to enjoy the experience. One morning, we had at least five whales put on quite a show for us! Some people think the whales can hear all the students oohing, and

that encourages the whales to be even more active.

Our location also comes with a unique challenge. We need to be prepared in the event of a tsunami. This year, we participated in National Tsunami Awareness Week. Teachers shared with their students resources about why tsunamis occur and what we need to do to stay safe. We held a schoolwide tsunami-warning simulation that included evacuating our entire campus to the second story of a nearby building and activating the district emergency-response team. The students did a fantastic job, evacuating in record time!



**Staff and students lined up on the shore whale-watching**

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

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • [nhhs.nmusd.us](http://nhhs.nmusd.us)



**Sean Boulton**  
*Principal*

### Trip to Germany

We are very proud of our fellow Sailors who went on the recent Newport Harbor High School Germany Science Field Study. The primary focus was Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Our field study team visited a farm in the Black Forest that is transitioning from dairy and meat farming to produce wind, solar and biogas. Biogas is the industrial use of cow

excrement and silage to produce methane, which can then be burned to make electricity. Generators powered by biogas warmed water, which heated the local school, community pool, and 20 houses.

The timeliest moment was our visit to Dachau. Students viewed a 20-minute video of the atrocities that happened there and then walked around the grounds. The students were incredibly respectful, and we were all moved to the point that we did not want to take pictures. Some students even wanted to walk by themselves to process their emotions.

For our teacher who organized the trip, Mr. Smith, the most interesting part was the displays about how a society could possibly allow itself to get to that point. He also shared that some of the most important conversations were about how the current Germans feel about what happened.

The Munich Olympic Village, the BMW factory tour, Salzburg, and the transportation museum in Lucerne were other highlights. And our students certainly did their fair share of eating pretzels, sausage, and chocolate as well.

These are the experiences that education is all about.





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

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



**Somer Harding**  
*Principal*

### Sea Symphony Orchestra

Our wonderful music and orchestra teacher, Colin Hacker, collaborated with the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) Arts Commission to create our first-ever cross-bay elementary school concert. Mr. Hacker teaches at both Newport Heights and Andersen Elementary Schools.

At a recent meeting of the NMUSD Arts Commission, a team of parents and educators from both schools helped Mr. Hacker develop the idea of creating a larger orchestra and schedule a concert this year. These students have their teacher in common but they had never met each other. They learned through this experience that musicians can sit beside someone they have never met and work together to share their love of

music with an audience.

Before the event, Mr. Hacker said, "I think the students are ready and excited. They will be seated next to another musician they have never met but one who has similar abilities. They will learn to play together."

Dr. Bray, principal of Andersen Elementary, said, "Our students were extremely excited to meet the other students in the orchestra from Newport Heights Elementary. They loved getting to choose the name of their orchestra and they're glad they have T-shirts to wear to show they are part of this group."

This concert was a wonderful opportunity for both schools to showcase the importance of music and celebrate the new Sea Symphony Orchestra that has been formed in NMUSD. We hope this continues as a great tradition at both schools.

## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
*Principal*

### Learning Social and Emotional Skills

At Paularino, students are not only learning to read, write, and understand numbers, they are learning social and emotional skills. Students learn to set and achieve positive goals, show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and understand and manage emotions.

We use literature, community circles, and

school-wide events to foster these skills.

This year, our student council organized a Pajama Day to support foster youth, a Food Drive for Veterans, a Jump Rope event for the American Heart Association and a Pennies for Patients collection for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Through these school-wide events, students are learning the importance of helping others and just how impactful their involvement can be in helping to support our local community!



**Pajama Day - Students were able to wear their pajamas if they donated a pair of pajamas to give to the Orangewood Foundation, an organization supporting Orange County foster youth.**

## Pomona *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Carrie Gammel**  
*Principal*

### Kindness Matters

When the Pomona Community decides to participate in a kind initiative, they go the extra mile. Pomona's cheer team kicked off the week with a kindness cheer. The week was filled with ways for our students to learn, explore, and practice kindness.

Students were given a goal to do as many good deeds as possible. They had lists of kind acts they could perform for others which included things they should say more often. As a result, you could hear the kind words, "please, thank you and no, thank you," as well as holding doors, and helping people in physical ways all around campus. The students acted from their hearts.

Kindness matters! Community Matters!



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

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



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
*Principal*

### Packed Spring Festival

Rea Elementary School held its Spring Festival in April with over three hundred people in attendance. This event engages our parents, students and community in games, entertainment and food. Our student Baile Folklórico Program, which comprises over 20 dancers, provided entertainment as they danced to traditional Mexican music. A juggler, an alumnus of NMUSD, kept the

audience in awe as the emcee ensured that everyone was tapping their feet to music.

Throughout the evening, students went to various game booths where local churches, upper-grade students and parents provided students with activities and prizes. The home-cooked food was remarkable as families relaxed at tables and ate tacos, quesadillas, tamales, pozole, mole and more.

The Rea Festival was a special night that brought families together to share food, fun and lots of Rea Shark Spirit.





## Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Christine Anderson**  
Principal

### Thank You, Mrs. Chan!

Sonora Elementary School was extremely lucky to welcome Mrs. Chan as our school librarian last year. Since she began at Sonora, she has added over 3,000 books to our library! Mrs. Chan has also worked tirelessly to update the library's furniture and bookcases.

Mrs. Chan implemented a Morning Reading Club at Sonora. She matches strong readers in upper grades with younger students, who come in to get help with their reading skills. The students can come to coach or to receive help every morning before school.

Mrs. Chan hosts weekly events in the library at lunch, including LEGO Day and Puzzle Day, and she hosts a crafting session for every holiday. Mrs. Chan also volunteers her time to coach our school's Battle of the Books team. Students in fourth and fifth grades meet in the library at lunch each week to read, discuss, and practice answering questions about the books on the assigned reading list.



Recently, Mrs. Chan organized a school-wide book swap. Students brought in books from home that they no longer wanted and received tickets to come to the book swap. For each ticket, they were invited to take two books home with them. We received so many donations that many students were able to take home a whole box of books!

Our PTA chose to honor Mrs. Chan with an Honorary Service Award this year, and we can't think of a more deserving recipient. We are so grateful for everything Mrs. Chan does for Sonora.

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

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



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
Principal

### Just Like Home

Open House was a huge success! There were hundreds of students, parents, and community members joining us to celebrate achievement. Teachers displayed a variety of incredible student work. It is evident the level of rigor and creativity our students are exposed to daily. Families were so impressed by their children, and the hard work that

they have dedicated to their schooling. Our staff spends a significant amount of time creating a home for our students. At the core of our TeWinkle community, we place the value of relationships as an integral part of all that we do; we believe that knowing our families and students and understanding their long-term goals will allow them to thrive.





## Victoria Elementary (K-6)

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



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
Principal

### The NED Show

On May 1st, our students had an opportunity to learn more about having the right mindset. Our teachers and students have actually been learning how important mindset is to learning all year long – but on this day our students had the opportunity to

experience  
The NED  
Show.

NED means:

- “N” Never give up  
- have focus and persistence.
- “E” Encourage Others – be kind and share learning.
- “D” Do your best – with diligence and excellence.

We learned about having goals and working hard to reach them. One of the best parts of the



show was the awesome yo-yo skills. The students watched with awe as the performer did some awesome tricks. And, we now have students practicing their yo-yo skills in our NED zone here at Victoria. Our favorite part, “Remember NED and keep it fun and you can be a CHAMPION.” Our kids will be champions because as Victoria Voyagers, we SOAR!

## Whittier Elementary (K-6)

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



**Scott Wilcox**  
Principal

### Recycled Art Fair

Whittier Elementary School students created amazing “trash-to-treasure” works of art in support of Earth Day and Green Week. During Green Week, the school community is encouraged to intentionally find ways to recycle, reuse, and reduce trash accumulation. Students started the week by wearing green and ended the week with a doo- decorating contest, where students

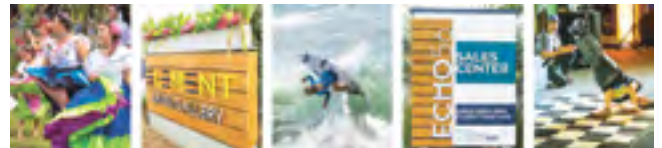
assembled decor using recycled items connected to this year’s theme, “Protect Our Species.”

An exciting new aspect to this year’s celebration was our first annual Recycled Art Showcase. Students were invited to get creative with used materials and find imaginative ways to develop original works of art, games, or useful items for the home. Students used materials such as aluminum cans, egg cartons, and cardboard to make masterpieces.

We look forward to next year’s Recycled Art Showcase and all the creativity it will bring!

## GERALD VILLALUZ PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN

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## Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Mia Dodge**  
*Principal*

### Robotics Group

The Wilson Wildcats have had a roaring experience in Robotics! Our sixth grade teacher, Mr. Searcy, is facilitating the Wilson Robotics group and students have had so much fun learning about engineering and technology through Robots.

The boys and girls on the team practice weekly to build and navigate the robots. The team also comes up with a unique blueprint in which they can be strategic in navigating the robots. One of the students, Bryan, said this about his experience in robotics: "Robotics is really awesome and I'd like to continue it at Tewinkle. It's taught me how to use creativity and about teamwork."

We're very proud of our Wilson scholars and their enthusiasm about robotics!



## Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

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



**Tiffany Lewis**  
*Principal*

### Communication Improvements

Communication is a building block upon which we construct other life skills. When communication is impaired, there is little chance for success in the classroom, in making and keeping relationships, in literacy, or in learning. Children with poor communication abilities have difficulty understanding classroom instructions and struggle to participate in class discussions.

At Woodland we are so fortunate to have Andi Pixley, our speech and language pathologist, to help us with these issues. Andi works with our students to address language disabilities, voice impairments, stuttering, and articulation, such as when a child has trouble making a certain sound. But she does so much more than that. A large part of her day involves working with students developing social skills.

Many of our children with language delays also have trouble with social skills. This may be due to certain conditions that impair social skills, such as autism, or it may be because social interactions rely heavily on language skills.

Whatever the cause, one of the best ways to help improve social skills is through the use of social skills groups.

Doing social skills training in a group setting allows children to practice new skills with their peers instead of just talking about them theoretically. Often this involves lessons outside the therapy room setting. Practice is crucial for these children to actually be able to use those skills in real life.

Woodland is lucky to have Mrs. Pixley!





# Nikki and Ace

## The Animal House



He was a crazy dog,  
says the paws running  
around the house  
always energetic and  
playful;

A cute one too, says  
the never ending puppy  
face looking right at you;

And a good, guard dog, says the kids not feared by the  
103-pound Rottweiler standing in the hallway,  
always waiting for someone,

But not a dog for a woman, says the torn up stuffed  
animals found around the house.

A dog lived a wonderful life, says all the time spent  
with the family's pet

And the toys scattered as we played fetching  
the tennis ball around the backyard,  
as mom made dinner and dad sang on the guitar.

Playtime was always fun, says the panting dog running  
inside along with the kids.

And the summers heat, says the empty water bowl.

It was exciting here, says the barking dog waiting to  
come inside.

Something went wrong, says the last visit to the vet  
and the abandoned toys. The backyard now showed he  
was not around anymore; the devastated teenagers  
say they loved him more than anything.



And the parents?

The stuffed animals  
no longer chewed  
and thrown around  
as they were before  
— but a clean, neat  
house, a quiet house  
sits with a missing  
piece.

Publisher's note: It is always difficult to say goodbye to a pet.  
Nikki wrote a heartfelt tribute to her beloved Ace.

## Office Terms –Word Search Contest

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

**Entries must be received by July 15, 2019**

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

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# Newport Beach Public Libraries



**Liz Aaron**  
Children's Librarian,  
Newport Beach  
Public Library

## It's Showtime at Your Library!

Summertime is fun time at your public library! Enjoy a variety of free shows and craft programs and earn prizes while you have fun reading. There are also Summer Reading Programs for teens and adults; ask a librarian for details.

### Summer Reading Program: June 22-August 10

The show must go on! Be sure to get a front row seat at these awesome events all summer long. Check times and locations at <http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar>.

Week 1: Pacific Animal Productions

Week 2: Crafts—Let's Go to the Movies

Week 3: Show Me the Bunny! With David Skale, Magician

Week 4: Crafts—It's Showtime at Your Library

Week 5: Cory Hills, Percussive Storyteller

Week 6: Crafts—Under the Big Top

Week 7: Kids Imagine Nation grand finale

### Tips for Parents

Participating in a summer reading program reduces learning loss while out of school and helps students perform better in class and on standardized tests when they return in the fall. This summer, allow your children to choose books based on their own interests and have fun reading!

How can parents help make reading fun?

- Allow kids to choose reading materials that interest them, including comic books, magazines, and picture books.
- Visit the library with your child and ask a librarian for suggestions!
- Take time to read for your own pleasure and talk about what you're reading.
- Read a second copy of your child's book along with him or her. Discuss the book and take turns reading aloud to each other. Use silly voices!
- Encourage your child to write new stories using a book's characters or write a letter to a book's author.
- Plan a trip around a book, such as one about tide pools, an art museum, or a national park. Don't forget a book of ghost stories for your evening campfire!
- Set aside at least 20 minutes of reading time for you and your child each day. Relax and enjoy.

**Reminder: Closures:** All NBPL locations will close for Independence Day on Thursday, July 4.

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

949/717-3800 • [www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids](http://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

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## Costa Mesa Public Libraries



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

### Books are just the beginning!

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### Opening soon- the new Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library!

Features of the new library include a spectacular children's library, 2 study rooms, 2 community rooms, and much more.

### Join us for our summer programs:

- Our **Summer Reading Program** begins June 17 and runs through July 28. Special shows are on Wednesdays at 10:30am.
- **Lunch at the Library** runs June 24 – August 2 from Noon -1pm. Children under 18 receive a free lunch!
- Weekly storytimes and events!

Come visit our Costa Mesa Libraries for computers, books, programs, and Teen & adult volunteer opportunities. Our eLibrary features databases and for younger readers we offer BookFlix.

OC Public Libraries [www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)  
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**Mesa Verde Library**  
2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/546-5274

## Jenna's Review



**Jenna C.**

### The 12 Labors

*Goddess Girls Athena the Wise*

Athena was walking in the cafeteria and asked "Who is that?", to her friends. The entire cafeteria at Mount Olympus Academy (MOA) was surrounding a boy.

Aphrodite, one of her goddess girl friends said "You haven't heard? His name is Heracles." A few moments later, principal Zeus spoke on the speaker "CALLING ATHENA!" Athena entered the office. Zeus talked to Athena about how Heracles needed to pass his twelve labors or he would be kicked out of the school. Zeus said that Athena needed to help Heracles succeed. Can Athena help Heracles to succeed for him to stay at MOA?

I recommend this book series to kids who like to learn more about Gods and Goddess's lives. It feels like you are living in the moment.



Jenna is a third grader. She likes art and soccer. She likes imaginary stories and someday she wants to be a book illustrator.

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## B is for Book



**Bailey**

### Princess X gets an A+!

*Princess X* is an awesome book with a great story line and interesting illustrations.

May's life hasn't been so great since her best friend Libby died in a car accident. Her favorite memory is drawing comic books with Libby. Their character was named Princess X. Years after the accident, May sees their

Princess X on a sticker! She sets up to find out who else knows about Princess X.

This book is full of adventure, mystery, and even comic books inside! The clues to follow keep you hooked. The author made the situation in the book feel realistic and like it fit in the modern world.

I would recommend this books to upper grade students and middle school kids. I rate it 5 out of 5!



Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.

## Manhar's Book Review



**Manhar M.**

### A True Story

*The Hen Who Sailed Around the World* by Guirec Soudée is an amazing true

story where a boy describes his voyage around the world with his brave and adorable red hen named Monique. They took three and half years to complete the journey. This book talks about the special bond between animals and the humans. The book is full of interesting photographs and maps that helped me to visualize their exciting trip. My favorite photograph is the one taken by a drone when they were in the middle of icebergs!

After reading this book, I also want to have a pet and go on a long sailing trip! This book is a must read for all ages.



Manhar M. is in Kindergarten. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

## Christina's Book Review



**Christina J.**

### Journey for Victory

*The School for Good and Evil: Quests for Glory* by Soman Chainani

The 4th book in *The School for Good and Evil* series follows through the quests of recently

graduated students (most of which are children of famous storybook characters) on a journey to create their own legends. These kids will be either heroes or villains of their own stories. But as Tedros, the son of King Arthur of Camelot, struggles to rule his Kingdom, it is realized that a great menace is keeping Tedros from being able to pull Excalibur from the stone, which causes other students to fail in their quests. Now several former and current students are off on a journey to save everyone's story from getting ruined. I enjoyed this book, as it is like the Harry Potter series, you read from book one and on, and watch the characters grow, change and become the great heroes and villains they were trained to be at school. Now they have to use these lessons against a villain who threatens to disrupt their world. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.



Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

## Ethan's Review



**Ethan H.**

### A Curious Spark

*The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown is a fun and thrilling book that is filled with adventure, action and tragedy. It is about a robot that falls off a ship and gets washed up on a sandy beach on an island.

A curious otter and its otter friends give the robot life. The robot roams the forest on the island with a curious spark in his eyes. The animals on the island didn't know what a robot is, so they were afraid of him. The robot learned that his name was Roz and made new friends with that name. Roz learned about friendship by making new friends on his adventures. He learned about death through a tragic accident involving a family of geese. And he learned about parenting when he adopted a son and started his own family. I recommend this book to people who love adventures!



Ethan H. is a third grader. He likes math, science, reading, playing chess, and physical activities like soccer, basketball and handball.



## Common Sense Media



### Encouraging Teens to Read for Pleasure

The amount of time that teens spend reading for pleasure has declined a lot over the past few years. Whether this is due to time spent with screen media, or other factors is unknown.

Fortunately, we do know the way to encourage readers of any age: Keep books in the house, set aside daily reading time, and read yourself. For teens specifically, it may help to tap into whatever they're passionate about — if you can name it, there's a book about it. In a world filled with entertaining diversions, it can be difficult for teens to find reading material that really motivates them to read. Check our reviews (you can sort our book reviews by age, genre, and topic). Here are some more ideas:

**Try an ereader.** Ereaders offer your teen a bit more independence, flexibility, privacy — they're great for travel.

**Consider humor.** Some teens just need the funny.

**Draw inspiration from pop culture.** Late-night comedians, musicians, and even software developers (think Steve Jobs) are great subjects (or authors!) for teen reading because they're relevant to teens' lives.

Insist that they read the book before seeing the movie.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

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## Girl Scouts Congratulates California Distinguished Schools

Girl Scouts of Orange County congratulates **Newport-Mesa Unified School District's Early College High School** on being recognized as a Distinguished School by the California Department of Education's Distinguished Schools Program.

We applaud your efforts to create opportunities for students to succeed and shine at every stage of their lives. Your extraordinary commitment to students motivates our communities and builds a brighter future for us all!

### Educators and Girl Scouts: Stronger Together!

From earning her first Girl Scout Daisy petal in kindergarten to achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award in 12th grade, Girl Scouts is the perfect extension to the classroom, a place where girls discover, connect, and take action!

Learn more at

[girlscouts.org/educators](http://girlscouts.org/educators)



The **Girl Scout Gold Award** is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for girls to engage in a rigorous process that calls for leadership at the highest level, as they tackle issues they are passionate about.

#### Gold Award Girl Scouts:

- Earn college scholarships
- Demonstrate high educational and career outcomes
- Are active in their communities
- Access a supportive Girl Scout network

Learn what Girl Scouts are doing in OC at [girlscoutsoc.org/gogold](http://girlscoutsoc.org/gogold)



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