

**FREE**

# School News

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



Volume 14, Issue 80

June 2018



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## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Fred Navarro

## California Distinguished Schools Award

Newport Coast and Sonora Elementary Schools recently received the California Distinguished Schools Award, which honors schools that demonstrate significant gains in narrowing the achievement gap.



### Newport Coast Elementary School

Newport Coast Elementary School (NCE) received the Distinguished School Award for their outstanding Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) model program, which supports the academic achievement of all students, refines the implementation of character education programs, increases attendance, and maintains a low number of suspensions. NCE also received recognition as an Exemplary Arts School for their arts education program.

PBIS is a proactive approach that addresses and reduces disruptive behaviors through multi-tiered interventions that teach students desirable behaviors and reward students for making good choices.

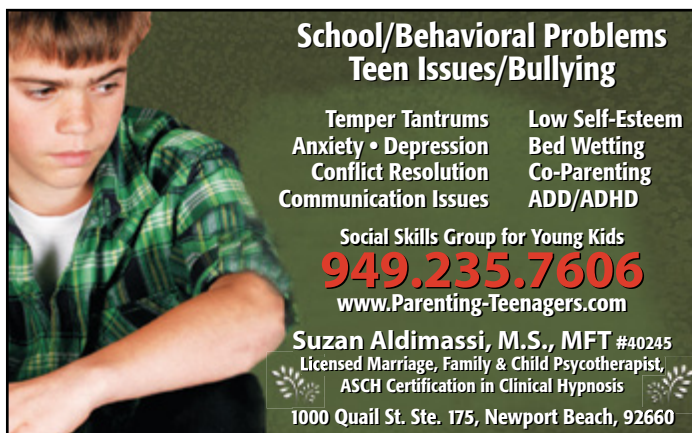
NCE also was recognized as an Exemplary Arts School for its arts education program, which provides consistent arts instruction, incorporates standards-based projects, and demonstrates learning through the arts. All grade levels receive instruction in dance, movement, and music. Throughout the year, school administration and arts teachers evaluate and monitor the impact and effectiveness of the state standards-aligned arts program and instructional practices and the overall impact of student achievement.

### Sonora Elementary School

Sonora Elementary School received the Distinguished School Award for their No Excuses University program. Sonora Elementary was accepted into the No Excuses University (NEU) network in 2010. The NEU model is a national program based on six exceptional systems, which include: culture of universal achievement, staff collaboration, alignment of state standards, data management, and meaningful student interventions.

NEU aligns with state academic and performance standards and fosters continuity from one grade level to the next. NEU's universal achievement culture leads teachers to collaborate and holds the entire school community accountable for meeting standards. It also is aligned to Newport-Mesa Unified School District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals for English language arts and English language development; Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); parent involvement; and school climate and student engagement.

Throughout the history of the California Distinguished Schools Program, 21 schools throughout Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) have received the California Distinguished School designation a total of 42 times. The California Distinguished Schools Program was on a three-year hiatus while California transitioned to its new assessment and accountability system. From 2015–2017, California recognized schools that demonstrated exemplary achievements with the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program. During this time 14 NMUSD schools were recognized with Gold Ribbon Awards.



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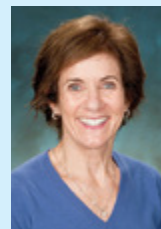
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## Visual and Performing Arts Programs Flourish in Newport-Mesa

*By Vicki Snell, President*

Newport-Mesa Unified School District prioritizes arts education and is a strong proponent of creative expression, offering students the ability to tap into quality arts instruction at all levels of their education.

Our district offers visual and performing art options in all 32 schools. As students progress to high school, they are afforded advanced arts opportunities, including two-dimensional options such as two-dimensional art and digital media, digital photography, print making, video, and film and animation, and three-dimensional options such as ceramics, sculpture, printing and mixed media. They can also enjoy musical theater, drama production, and dance instruction at multiple levels.

We have annual district-wide festivals in strings, band, and choral music. Other district-wide events include a dance invitational, a senior art show, and a visual arts showcase. The visual arts showcase features exemplary

student work in nine categories: three-dimensional craft, such as wheel-thrown ceramics, hand-built ceramics, and mixed media; painting; sculpture; water color; print making; pastels; drawing; photography; and digital design. Due to high industry demand, we are looking into offering animation film. Newport Harbor High School also hosts an annual Evening of the Arts program, which attracts more than 500 guests yearly to meet and view students' professional-quality artwork.

In addition to partnering with the city of Costa Mesa to jointly offer summer arts programs, we also partner with many world-renowned professionals and organizations to connect students with real-world experiences. Our district is appreciative of the countless partnerships that support and celebrate students in all arts disciplines.

The future continues to be bright for arts in Newport-Mesa, and we will continue our legacy of working together to celebrate students in all arts disciplines.





**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



As we end another school year, I'd like to congratulate the Class of 2018 and their families. This is an exciting time as graduates move on to higher learning or join the workforce.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. I enjoy your comments when you email your answers to the contests.

In this issue on pages 25-31 we have included the popular student book reviews to help with your summer selections. Please remember to include the library among your activity choices.

Our next issue is October 10 when we'll be back publishing the excellence from the NMUSD. Until then have a wonderful summer!



## School News

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NEWPORT-MESA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**ADVERTISING SALES:** Paradise Amirshahi  
949-733-1855 • Fax: 562/430-8063

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**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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**Sandra Genis**  
*Mayor*

**City of the Arts**

Many of you may know that Costa Mesa’s official motto is the City of the Arts. And we back that up by supporting arts throughout the community and inspiring local students to pursue programs in performing and visual arts. For example, each year, the mayor of Costa Mesa holds an event that raises funds to directly benefit visual and performing arts education programs.

Another way we support the arts is through the city’s partnership with the Newport-Mesa Unified School District and offering our summer SMART camp for fourth through eighth grade students who attend schools within the Costa Mesa and Estancia High Schools. SMART stands for Sports, Music and Arts Camps. These four-week camps introduce students to two-dimensional and three-dimensional art programs, beginner, string and jazz music and drama and dance performances. To sign up for the SMART camp call our Parks and Community Services or visit our website.

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



**Dan Stefano**  
*Fire Chief*

**Mentor Others**

Costa Mesa Fire Captain Shawn Brosamer recently retired following an impressive 30-year career

serving the community and mentoring others. His final shift was extraordinary; he pinned a new Firefighter badge on someone he has mentored for many years, his son!



As this school year concludes and NMUSD high school graduates stamp their own exclamation points to cap this chapter, a group of younger students are preparing to embark on their own high school journeys within the hallways and classrooms of NMUSD. If something can be offered to share with these graduates and students, it should include the life-long value in mentoring others and in making every effort to leave everything and everyone they connect with, better than when they started!

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## City of Newport Beach



**Marshall  
"Duffy" Duffield**  
Mayor

### Summertime in Newport Beach

You don't have to search long or far to find things to do in Newport Beach this summer. While most people immediately think of water activities related to the ocean and harbor, this town has an abundance of other fun places and events to keep you busy.

For starters, there are plenty of spots to spend an afternoon outdoors. Our community has more than 60 public parks, miles of sandy beaches, the 300-acre Buck Gully Reserve and the 752-acre Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. All are free to access, explore and enjoy. We've got great indoor spaces too. The City of Newport Beach (City) has its own public library system that will offer summer reading and other programs and classes throughout the coming months. The City also has community centers and each has a slate of activities and classes planned. And, be sure to catch one of the free Concerts on the Green or Movie in the Park nights that will be held from June to September. You can find information on all of these places and events and more on the City website or call us at 949-644-3151.

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

## Newport Beach Fire Department



**Jeff Boyles**  
Assistant  
Fire Chief

### Be Safe!

Summer time is quickly approaching and the Newport Beach Fire Department would like to remind everyone to be safe on the beach. One hazard that goes overlooked by beach visitors are sand entrapments. This is a situation where a victim can innocently become trapped under pounds of sand. The victim playfully digs a few feet beneath the surface of the sand, which creates an unstable terrain.

The result can cause suffocation and death. The Newport Beach Fire Department recommends not digging too deep and making sure a friend or family member know your whereabouts at all times.



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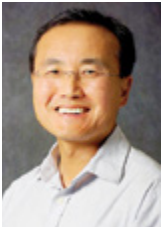
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## Food Allergy Emergencies



**Kenneth Kim,  
M.D.**

*Medical Director,  
Pediatric ICU*

Milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy and wheat represent the top eight food allergens. A food allergy can cause a life-threatening condition called anaphylaxis, also known as anaphylactic shock. Anaphylaxis requires immediate professional medical attention. A food allergy can be diagnosed through a blood or skin test, an elimination diet, or through challenge testing, all of which should only be done under a physician's supervision.

Approximately 40 percent of children and 30 percent of adults have food allergies. Children typically outgrow allergies to milk, eggs, soy and wheat by the time they are five years old if they avoid the offending food. However, most people do not outgrow allergic reactions to peanuts, tree nuts, fish or shellfish.

If you do have a food allergy, you can decrease your chances of having an allergic reaction by:

- Avoiding foods that you know can cause an allergic reaction.
- Asking about how the dish is prepared and specific ingredients when eating out.
- Always reading the food label when purchasing packaged foods.
- Wearing an identification bracelet and carry an alert card in your wallet that describes your allergy.
- Being prepared for an emergency and, if necessary, carry an epinephrine self-injection pen or allergy kit with you at all times.

If you suspect that you have a food allergy, talk with your doctor about being tested and what you can do to prevent complications. For more information about food allergies, visit the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network website at [www.foodallergy.org](http://www.foodallergy.org).



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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*

### Friday Fiesta

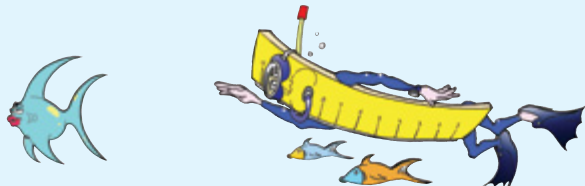
What do you get when you combine a warm springtime evening, delicious food, lively music, and fun games? Well, Adams Elementary School's Annual Friday Fiesta, of course! This year's fiesta will take place on Friday, June 15, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be face painting, amazing auction items, interactive game booths, delicious tacos served from a "taco cart", hot dogs, popcorn, a bake sale, and each grade level will perform a memorable musical presentation.



**The Gama family enjoying the Friday Fiesta, June 2017.**

This festive fundraiser raises monies to provide art assemblies, family nights, as well as other PTA-sponsored events throughout the school year. The entire community is welcome to join in on the fantastic family fun!

**Our next issue is October 10.  
Have a wonderful summer!**



## 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*

### Symphonic Partnership!

Andersen Elementary is very proud to have a partnership with a professional symphonic orchestra as a Class Act School as we continue our goal of exposing our students to the arts. We believe that this experience will enhance student learning by integrating the arts into other subject areas. This partnership will also create opportunities for students to achieve 21st century skills and foster creativity.

Our professional musician, cellist Andy Honea, introduced students to the theme and composer of the year during an assembly. Every classroom had a lesson to explore this year's theme, "Trials to Triumph!", through the music of Ludwig van Beethoven. Kindergarten and first grade experienced an interactive assembly that incorporated the music of Beethoven with singing, dancing and movement. Students in second through sixth grades enjoyed a field trip to a performing arts complex to hear the symphony feature the music of Beethoven. Our culminating event, the Bravo assembly, features our students sharing what they have learned about Beethoven through presentations of art, dance, song and music.

## California *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Jacob Topete**  
*Principal*

### Continuing to Build Community

California Elementary School has a fantastic school community that is well supported by our parents through our PTA and our foundation. Our teams have done an amazing job of adding some fantastic events, which have continued to build a strong sense of community.

This year, we added Science Night, where students participated in hands-on science activities. We just celebrated Cinco De Mayo, and we were fortunate to have a ballet folklórico group from Rea Elementary School come to our school to perform. Evenings like these are fantastic opportunities for families to come together and engage in deepening the educational experience.

The hard work and dedication of our parent groups and volunteers continues to make California a great school with a tremendous school community. Thank you for all you do, Cougar families!

## Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

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



**Marc Trocchio**  
*Principal*

### Real-World Skills

One of the most common criticisms young people have about high school is that it doesn't have anything to do with the "real world." However, graduating students at Back Bay High School are unlikely to share this sentiment. That's because Back Bay's English teachers, Joel Flores and Tracy Camarano, have created a unique senior project graduation requirement: all students must

learn how to write résumés and cover letters, complete a job application, and interview for a job before they can graduate.



Partnering with Costa Mesa-based Youth Employment Services (YES), Back Bay students participated in mock job interviews with human resources representatives from various companies in Orange County and beyond. Many students shared the feelings of Will Vogt, who said, "It was definitely a challenge, but I have more confidence now."

Human resources representatives were impressed with many of Back Bay's students. Some were invited to apply for jobs with these companies, and some of the human resources representatives offered to serve as references for the students.

Thanks to Back Bay and YES, young people are feeling more confident and optimistic about the future.



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

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



**Rich Rodriguez**  
*Principal*

### Padres en Acción

At College Park Elementary, we value physical fitness! During the 2017–18 school year, we partnered with Padres en Acción, a local nonprofit organization. Volunteers from this program help provide structured games during recess and lunch. This program is especially important for those who are reluctant to make new friends or those who typically are inactive.

During Padres en Acción's March Volunteer Drive, we enlisted nearly 20 new parent volunteers. We've also recently partnered with USA Track and Field. In March, we were fortunate to have USATF's Youth Outreach Program Run, Jump, Throw sponsor a track meet. Our students were introduced to many track and field events, and they also got to meet some amazing athletes.

And finally, in April, 26 of our students competed in the Newport Beach City Track Meet. Our athletes represented our school with great effort and sportsmanship, and several qualified to go on to the county track meet.



**Seven parent volunteers get recognized for the service they provide through College Park's partnership with Padres en Acción.**



## 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

### Project Lead the Way

Since 2014, we have fully developed our two Signature Academies. We have the Academy of Global Studies, which enables students to be more globally-minded and bilingual. Our other academy, the Performing Arts

and Multimedia Academy, allows students to pursue their passion in choral, dance, drama, instrumental, and the multimedia and visual arts. This year we are partnering with Project Lead the Way to implement a third pathway of study for students interested in engineering. We currently have a strong middle school robotics program that guided our decision to develop this high school pathway. The first year's course will be Introduction to Design, the second year will be Principles of Engineering and the third course will be Engineering Design and Development.



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## 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

### To Learn and Explore

In September, we shared our commitment to develop the whole student and the code we live by, which we call the “MESA Way.” This stand for Model Integrity, Engage Respectfully, Show Compassion, and Achieve Excellence.

As we close this school year we want to reflect on how our Academies DELTA and ACE foster a middle-to-high school connection that goes beyond academics. They teach our students how to interact with their communities and peers responsibly to embody the MESA Way. Both Academies are challenging, supportive, and engaging, and create a community that allows students to explore and achieve in high-interest subjects.

Our STEM-minded students have flourished in DELTA programs including engineering/PLTW, and they can extend their learning with clubs such as robotics and Solar Boat. In the visual and

performing arts, our ACE students have amazed us at every performance by showcasing months of hard work. Our incredible madrigal choir, bands, dancers, painters, sculptors, actors, and Mesa artists always pack the house and never disappoint.



Art students collaborated on this project during a lunch showcase that celebrates their strengths and diversity.



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## Davis Magnet (K-6)

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<http://davismagnet.nmsud.us>



**Christy Flores**  
Principal

### Life Science Day

Recently the fourth-graders at Davis Magnet School had the opportunity to participate in a unique hands-on Life Science Day. Classroom teachers completed an eight-week science unit that focused on three main Next Generation Science Standards. The first was all about animal structures, functions, and adaptations. The second section revolved around the structure and function of human systems. The third component was all about the structure and function of the eye.



As a culminating event to support their learning, students had the chance to participate in three different rotations. Students dissected owl pellets, took part in the Inside the Outdoors Body of Knowledge hands-on assembly, and dissected a cow eyeball.

This science unit proved to be an engaging, high-level learning experience for our fourth-graders.

## Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/241-6108

<http://earlycollege.nmsud.us>



**Dr. David Martinez**  
Principal

### A Busy May

The month of May signified the last month of the school year at Early College High School as we ended with graduation on May 31. Several other events took place during the month, including students taking final exams for both college and high school credit.

We are in the process of accepting applications for the 2018–2019 school year, which begins on August 8, 2018. New student applications can be obtained from our front office, our Web site, or any of the middle schools in our school district. For more information, please call us at (714) 424-4780.

On May 4 and 18, our students visited two colleges in San Diego, University of San Diego and University of California, San Diego. This trip rounded out our yearlong commitment to sending our students on various college field trips in California. In addition to these two campuses, ECHS students visited: California State University, Dominguez Hills; California State University, Fullerton; Chapman University; and University of California, Irvine. We make it our goal to provide opportunities to visit two California State Universities, two Universities of California, and two private schools annually.

On May 17, we held our annual School Awards Night. Over 100 students were recognized for excellence in academics, citizenship, and community service. This was an exciting night for our seniors, as several of them received scholarships from various nonprofit organizations and community donors.

In closing, I want to wish our Class of 2018 the best with their future higher education endeavors. This class has achieved much over their four years here at ECHS. Almost half of the class has earned an academic grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. It is our hope that they will do their very best in college and beyond!

### School News Roll Call

Have a wonderful summer!  
Remember to include reading  
in your activity choices.





## Eastbluff *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Cheryl Beck**  
*Principal*

### An Epic Battle

Eastbluff Elementary recently hosted the second annual Newport/Mesa Battle of the Books (BOB). This is the finale of a wonderful program during which our fourth- and fifth-grade students read from a list of 20 books decided upon by America's Battle of the Books.

Our students have been reading and practicing "battling" since September. We have learned about Esperanza rising above the difficulties of moving to a new country; animals not having a safe

home; a family escaping the Nazis; children cloned from criminals and escaping their "perfect" town; children trying to find a missing mother; and a child who travels through time to help a cousin.

Eastbluff, Newport Heights, and Sonora sent two teams per school. The participants were well prepared, and the scores were extremely close. Eastbluff did battle to victory for the second year in a row!

Thank you to the librarians from each school, Barbara Yoffa, Sharon Sutton, and Suzanne Chan, and our parents and teachers who provided help and support.



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

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



**Michael Sciacca**  
*Principal*

### Thank You Staff

Ensign celebrates our amazing staff. May 7th - 11th was Staff Appreciation Week. Each day both community and school organizations found unique and meaningful ways to thank our staff for their dedication to our students. ASB provided treats, PTA catered breakfast and lunch, local churches provided snacks and Seabees Connect wheeled a

coffee cart from class to class in the morning. While these are only small tokens of our gratitude, we want to make sure they know how much impact they have on our students and our community. Thank you!





# Estancia *High School*

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



**Michael Halt**  
*Principal*

## Future Health Professionals

In April, nearly 40 Estancia High School students in the Estancia Medical Academy Pathway participated in the annual Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference in Anaheim.

HOSA seeks to empower future health professionals to become leaders in the global health community. The HOSA program is designed to help students develop leadership and technical skills in the medical field.

Estancia's HOSA students selected health science or health professions events to compete in and spent numerous hours outside of the school day over the course of several months preparing to compete against other HOSA students from across the state of California. This year, Estancia students competed in a broad spectrum of approximately 20 different events, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation/first aid, nursing assistant, medical photography, medical terminology, emergency medical technician, forensic medicine, clinical nursing, health career display, dental medicine and terminology, sports medicine, and job-seeking skills.



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

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



**Dr. Todd Schmidt**  
*Principal*

### Good News Calls

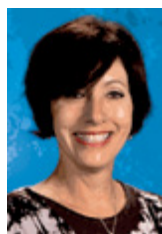
Over the past year, Harbor View has been working on an incentive system known as Good News Call of the Day! What happens is that any teacher or staff member can recognize a student for doing something special, something extraordinary or something beyond expectations. The teacher or staff member escorts the student to my office during recess or lunch, and we call the parents on the spot! The teacher then explains the reason for the call and showcases what the student did to warrant this phone call. We then let the student sign the Good News Call of the Day board and receive a special wristband to commemorate the occasion. Finally, we take pictures and share the news on social media so that other community members know how special our students are.



Sometimes, parents only get negative phone calls from the school. It is systems like the Good News Call of the Day that look to shake up that expectation. #hvepride

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

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



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
*Principal*

### Definitely 21st-Century Learning!

Some education pundits complain that schools seem impervious to change, and that things look pretty much the same as they did 100 years ago. I'd like to invite them to Kaiser! With great appreciation for the unified efforts of our faculty, staff, and parents, our Kaiser students now conduct research, compose essays, and share their learning using Chromebooks.

A vibrant robotics program also requires the use of multiple devices. However, it's not all about electronic tools! In engineering class, Kaiser students learn the Engineering Design Process. We celebrate "failures" and multiple attempts at solving problems as well as creative thinking.



### Sometimes, 21st century learning isn't in the classroom at all!

Then of course, classroom spaces are also undergoing change. As teachers embrace flexible seating, our students experience everything from traditional desks to yoga balls, along with high-top tables and stools, to even group tables with umbrellas (in the classroom)! We also have "bucket" seats and rainbow rugs.

Thanks to tremendous dedication and creativity, the one thing that remains unchanging is teacher and community commitment to meet student needs.



## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

### After-School Excitement!

When the 3:05 p.m. bell rings at Killybrooke, it signals the end of the formal school day and the beginning of exciting after-school programs!

Killybrooke students love expanding their horizons with after-school arts and athletics. Our most recent addition to our after-school offerings, the Pacific Chorale Academy, recently wrapped up its first year at Killybrooke School. This exciting program provides students with additional music instruction provided by a professional vocal coach from the Pacific Chorale and our school's music specialist.

Students in Robotics Club learn key principles of applied science, technology and engineering. They learn computer programming and other skills to help them build robotics projects. Killybrooke students participate in the Ranch Program at Centennial Farm to learn about farm gardening, leather crafts and livestock.

Our PTA sponsors a wide array of enrichment programs that include Talent Show, Karate, Dance and Pilot Cup Soccer. Students who need more time and support to reach proficiency in core academics attend the Project Excel program, which provides an additional six hours of instruction weekly. Project Success and City of Costa Mesa ROCKS programs provide after-school care until 6:00 p.m. each school day with engaging programs like basketball and running.

We are proud of the wide array of high-quality after-school programs we offer to engage, inspire and equip students to be successful and well rounded.

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

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



**Carrie Gammel**  
*Principal*

### Kindness Week

Kindness, compassion and empathy are just a few of the words on the hearts and minds of Lincoln students, staff, parents, and community. Our commitment to these values was recently highlighted and celebrated during Lincoln's 2018 Kindness Week.

Throughout the week, students and staff were encouraged to show kindness toward their school and community, toward their class, toward their grade level, toward their family, and toward themselves. Daily quotes and kindness challenges

inspired everyone on campus to write uplifting chalk messages around campus, to write kindness letters to peers and staff members, to sit and/or play with someone new, to help out at home in new ways, to self-reflect about positive attributes, and to be on the look-out for random acts of kindness. Kind is definitely the new Cool at Lincoln Elementary!



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

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



**Somer Harding**  
*Principal*

Newport Heights Elementary is forming their own student run broadcast news production team, KNHT SHARK NEWS

Students this week have just participated in a comprehensive interview process to become part of our first ever news team. We have selected:

News Producers, Story Editors, Director/Asst. Director, Camera A and B, Sound, Wardrobe, Anchors, Reporters, Technical Director, Technical Editors, and more.

Our goal is to find stories around school that we want to tell and then use our newly purchased, fully equipped, professional video production carts to create our broadcasts that we will share with our school community. This is one of the phenomenal new opportunities for students to create content that will be available in our Shark Tank, opening June 7th.

Any big production takes a lot of teamwork and collaboration. It should be fun - stay tuned!



## Mariners *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Matthew Broesamle**  
Principal

### Forces Behind Literacy!

We value literacy at Mariners Elementary, and we believe that all students can achieve at high levels. Macaulay Guyser and Kelly Woods, reading-intervention

teachers who support students in grades kindergarten through second grade, work daily to help us turn this belief statement into a reality.

Ms. Guyser and Ms. Woods are wrapping up their second year at Mariners. Using Fountas and Pinnell's Leveled Literacy Intervention program, Ms. Woods and Ms. Guyser provide systematically designed supplementary reading lessons



**Macaulay Guyser and Kelly Woods, reading intervention teachers at Mariners Elementary, work diligently each day to both support and promote literacy on our campus.**

Every day, Ms. Guyser and Ms. Woods make a true difference!

that build on the work of our amazing classroom teachers. With their guidance, struggling readers work on phonics, reading comprehension and writing. Students work with Ms. Woods and Ms. Guyser for a discrete period of time before they are then reassessed. The aim of this intensive intervention is to quickly bring our struggling readers to a level of proficiency that will ensure their success with the rigorous content standards their classmates tackle during core instruction.

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

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



**Julie McCormick**  
Principal

### We are Grateful for Their Support

There is much to celebrate and take pride in here at Newport Coast! Our Newport Coast sixth-graders recently displayed their Passion Projects at a showcase for their peers and families. These projects incorporated the students' research skills and community outreach.

The children chose a topic that they were passionate about, and then created a display for the showcase, which exhibited a wide variety of their works. Some of the projects included raising funds for

the Pacific Marine Mammal Institute by selling sea animal shape cookies and donating the proceeds to the Institute; seeking new ways to reduce single-use plastic straws; and writing and publishing a book on the basics of coding.

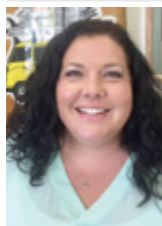


We are also honored to have recently received both the California Distinguished Schools Award and the Exemplary Arts Award for our continued focus on activities such as our PBIS practices, enrichment music and art programs, and extracurricular orchestra and chorus. We are fortunate to have the support of the district, our NCE PTA, and our NCE School Foundation to be able to provide these wonderful opportunities for our students.



## Newport *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Amanda Estrada**  
Principal

### Student Leadership

This year we have expanded our Student Council so that we can include more children as part of the Student Leadership Team. Fifth- and sixth-grade students first had to apply to be a part of the Team, then acquire a teacher recommendation and commit to being good role models on campus.

With the help of their faculty adviser, the students have had many opportunities to practice their leadership skills and learn how to organize activities. They have participated in a beach clean-up, organized a March Madness basketball tournament for

students, decorated our hallways with bulletin boards, and organized spirit days.

Our sixth-grade students also have the special role of running our Friday Flag Decks. One of the Student Leadership Team's most important and favorite roles is serving as "PALs." This stands for Peer Assistance Leaders. They help out during lower-grade recess by facilitating games, mediating conflicts, promoting good behavior with "Best on the Beach" awards, and including anyone who doesn't have someone to play with.

The younger students love having the PALs to play with, and it is a great opportunity for the older students to be leaders on campus. Part of the PALs team is pictured.



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

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



**Sean Boulton**  
Principal

### 'Grease' Breaks Audience Records!

Newport Harbor Theater Department's production of *Grease* broke recent attendance records with over 1,800 people coming through the doors over two weekends! Adding to the festive settings on Saturday nights were food trucks, a student DJ playing '50s music, and a classic car show featuring cars from locals as well as the original Greased Lightning car from the 1978 movie, which came courtesy of an automotive

museum and an exotic car-rental service.

Over 40 students were involved in this production. Their duties ranged from acting to production crew and tech operators to a student band led by Mr. Ledon. Additionally, at the final Friday-night performance, Mr. D'Aquino was introduced to three special guests: Sandy (Happy Laschelle), Frenchie (Stephanie Scheck-Penticuff) and Rizzo (Christina Betz-DeMichele) from NHHS's 1988 production of *Grease*. They all came to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their production!



## Paularino *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
*Principal*

### In the Circle

Paularino Uses Buddy Circles to Promote Social Emotional Learning. You might be asking, "What is a Buddy Circle?" It is an area on the playground where students can go if they are feeling lonely or too shy to ask their classmates to join

in play. If someone sees a classmate in the circle, they are supposed to approach them and ask them to join their group. The goal is to help students become more empathetic toward their classmates and to make sure everyone has someone to interact and play with! Prior to adding the circles, all students participated in class discussions around kindness and empathy. Using an inspirational picture book, the principal or district specialist led the students in a collaborative conversation to grow their thinking and understanding around empathy and ways to show kindness.



## Pomona *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Megan Elsten Brown**  
*Principal*

### It Takes Hard Work

Colin Powell believes that, "A dream doesn't become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work."

As a proud member of the Estancia Zone of Schools, Pomona Elementary believes strongly in the power of setting a goal, planning effective strategies to reach it, and then putting your head down and doing the hard work needed for achievement. Then, we celebrate!

That is exactly what our students did in regards to independent reading. Last year, only 30 percent of Pomona's fourth- to sixth-grade students were meeting their reading goals. This year we collectively set a school goal to have at least 50 percent of our students meet them in the 2017–2018 school year.

We have already exceeded this aim, with 68 percent of the students meeting their goals in Cycle 4, and 61 percent of the students meeting their goals in Cycle 5! Above is a picture from our most recent Reading Celebration where you can see the students celebrating and reflecting on their hard work and success.





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

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



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
Principal

### History Comes Alive

Rea Elementary School recently participated in the California Weekly Explorer program. This included the fourth-grade's Walk Through California; the fifth-grade's Walk Through the American Revolution; and the sixth-grade's Walk Through Ancient Civilizations.

Through a commitment from the PTA, our students were able to experience these

remarkable programs. They are designed to allow children an opportunity to actively participate in a rich retelling of ancient history. Through storytelling, games, and drama, history comes alive!

These programs require that students must take roles, prepare a costume for the day, and practice their lines. Through a great deal of preparation among our teachers, students, and parents, the day finally comes together in an amazing way that is part school play, part game show, and an ideal hands-on learning experience!

This wonderful assembly leaves a lasting impression on our students, and truly makes history come alive.



## Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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

<http://sonora.nmusd.us>



**Christine Anderson**  
Principal

### Math Mission Spy Lab

3rd graders at Sonora participated for one week in a Math Mission to practice state testing in a fun format. They entered a spy lab that was filled with black lights and laser lights for crime scenes. Students received a ransom note from John Rockefeller stating that his fortune was at stake. To get his

money back students had to complete 5 different Math Missions. Students wore disguise glasses and black to help with their disguise. Students worked in groups of three. Each time they completed a mission they received a secret letter. Once they had all 5 letters, they had to unscramble them to determine the secret code. What a fun way to practice for state testing!

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

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

<http://tewinkle.nmusd.us>



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
*Principal*

### Really Leading the Way!

Education STEMs—pun intended—from the ability that students have to acquire knowledge, apply knowledge, synthesize that information to create learning for themselves, and contribute to the learning of others. Through their Medical Detective class, students who participate in Project Lead the Way from Newport Mesa Unified School District researched different

occupations in the medical field, applied that knowledge by writing fictional stories, and then dedicated the stories to first-grade students in Capistrano Unified School District.

Students at the elementary schools were gracious and thankful for our Trojans' contribution. First-graders edited the stories, wrote thank-you notes, and closely read with fascination. Learning is fun! And when you are passionate about what you learn, depth of knowledge becomes a natural part of the experience. Ms. Woods has taught her students to be scientists in their learning and share their knowledge in hopes of spreading the love of learning.



## Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
*Principal*

### 21st Century Learning Happens Here!

Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 are taking STEM learning to a whole new level. In addition to frequently using the DASH Robot carts provided by the district, our scholars

also receive instruction from BitScouts every Friday. They just can't get enough time figuring out technology and programming – and that's positively impacting their experience in math and overall in the classroom. This year we also had a tremendous interest in Robotics so we started a club that has been met with much enthusiasm. This month, they created a robot capable of lifting and transporting containers and water bottles. Today it's a water bottle, tomorrow it's driving a car!

Way to go Voyagers!





## Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Scott Wilcox**  
Principal

### Dolphin Boot Camp

Our Whittier Dolphins know that a healthy body contributes to a healthy mind, and so in April we had a special “Boot Camp Day”!

Parents were invited to join their children at recess and lunch for special structured activities. Ninety parents joined our students for games like parachute target practice, tunnel relays, hula hoop competitions, tug of war, and more.

This special Boot Camp Day was made possible by our own parent volunteers from Padres en Accion (a division of the Kid Healthy Organization). The program trains parents on how to use structured outdoor games as a way to promote healthy habits in their community.

The parents train every month to learn how to engage the students at recess and lunch in fun and healthy activities. There is also a monthly nutrition class for all Whittier parents as well.

Our Whittier Dolphins (and their families) are making good health a priority!



## Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Mia King**  
Principal

### Biodiversity

Our students at Wilson love a good adventure! Especially when it is connected to their learning and exploration in Science. The students in second grade has a blast

attending a field trip at a nature center. Students became scientists and went on a hike through the center, had a hands-on experiment to learn about landforms, and discovered that plants depend on animals for pollination. In addition, they discovered the importance of biodiversity and learned that they are surrounded by different kinds of living things. We love seeing their enthusiasm and smiles as they learn and come back to tell all about it!





## Woodland *Elementary* (K-2)

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



**Tiffany Lewis**  
*Principal*

### Work Spaces

Students at Woodland and here in Mrs. Peterson's second-grade classroom learn and practice their math skills during Work Places. Work Places are math stations that use games and activities to make learning enjoyable and effective. They're designed for students to use independently whether they work alone, with partners or in small groups while our teachers observe, interact, and help as needed.



Most Work Places revolve around concrete or visual models. In Work Places, students choose, collaborate, and cooperate with peers. The games and activities capture their enthusiasm and create environments that make concepts and skills tangible and learning memorable and meaningful.

Work Places are introduced throughout the year, usually with each one set up to handle up to six students. During Work Place times, students use the materials at tables, clusters of desks or open floor areas. It is an exciting and productive time!

## 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*

### Paularino Green

*By Pamela Williams,  
MPH, R.D., NMUSD  
Nutritionist*

Let's face it. Maintaining school gardens is quite a task. Pulling weeds, planting seeds, and watering can become overwhelming. But this is not the case at Paularino

Elementary School!

Teachers Jennifer Whitley and James Partner started a garden club. Every Thursday, approximately 20 to 25 students gather together after school to help work in their garden and learn a few things about fresh produce.



They have learned about what foods to plant in what season. They have harvested lettuce from the garden, washed it, and prepared lettuce tacos. Recently they explored red and golden beets. They ate them raw, roasted, and even tried the leaves. The grand finale was a decadent chocolate and beet muffin. It was a hit!

Future ideas include growing additional produce, learning about fruits and vegetables, and listening to experts like master gardeners and nutrition educators. As Janet Kilburn Phillips said, "There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments." Way to go, Paularino!

## School Health Services

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



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

### Immunizations and Student Health

Around this time, most of us are thinking about summer fun. However, planning for the beginning of the next school year is critical—and that includes meeting school health and immunization requirements.

Those of us at school want to make certain children are healthy. As educators, we know good health influences attendance at school. Children spend much of their time at school engaged in collaborative group activity. This close contact could put children at risk for sharing illnesses and for vaccine-preventable diseases.

Under California law, children are required to have certain immunizations for school. Upon school entry, immunization records are required. Each subsequent year, families are encouraged to send updated copies of immunization records to school before summer break and certainly prior to the first day of school in the fall. The school nurse is a resource to discuss immunizations and to make certain children are immunized appropriately for age and grade. Parents may also check with their healthcare providers.

Please contact the school nurse to address any immunization concern.

## Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

### Helpful Writing Book

Do you ever feel the pains of writer's block? Chances are, you have, if you've ever written before. Well, here's the funny and extremely



useful solution! Insightful and hilarious, *642 Things to Write About* is endlessly helpful. Containing prompts like "A houseplant is dying. Tell it why it needs to live," to "A day in the life of the person sitting next to you," this book will give you the best ideas to spark your creativity.

This book is amazing for beginning and experienced writers alike. I'd give it seven out of eight trifold shards for being inspirational and creative, seemingly never running out of things to give you. 642 is a lot of prompts, after all. And even if you're not a 'writer,' per se, this book is great for passing the time. So pull up some cushions, make yourself a cup of tea, and release your inner writer!

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd." When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 trifold shards with 8 being the highest



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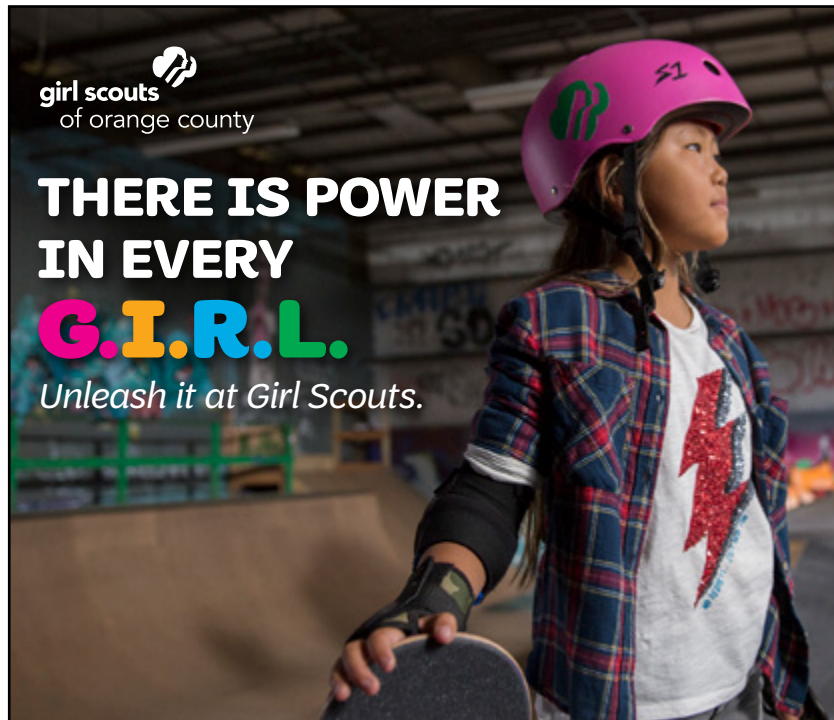
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# Newport Beach Public Libraries



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

## Reading takes You Everywhere!

This summer, get ready to for an adventure around the world and beyond at the Newport Beach Public Library. Travel to your local branch to see a variety of performances, participate in 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 23-August 11

Schedule your summer itinerary with a stop at each of our excellent programs. Check times and locations at <http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar>.

Saturday, June 23: an interactive musical show for the entire family. Remember to enter our opening day raffle and pick up your reading game sheet!

- Week 1: Billy Bonkers Magic
- Week 2: Let's Go to Asia craft program
- Week 3: Polynesian Paradise Dancers
- Week 4: Let's Go to Africa craft program
- Week 5: Flights of Fantasy Story Theater
- Week 6: Let's Go to South America craft program
- Week 7: The Ocean Adventure
- Saturday, August 11: Finale and finishers' party

Participating in a summer reading program reduces learning loss while out of school and helps students perform better when they return in the fall. How can parents help make reading fun?

- Allow kids to choose reading materials that interest them, including comic books, magazines, and picture books.
- 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!
- Plan a trip based on a book, such as one about tide pools, an art museum, or one of our California Missions.
- Set aside at least 20 minutes of reading time for you and your child each day. Relax and enjoy!

## Closures Reminder:

All NBPL locations will close for Independence Day on Wednesday, 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  
949/644-3075

## Day at the Beach –Word Search Contest

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

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put NMUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2018

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

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FLIP FLOPS	FIRST AID KIT
PAIL	COOLER
SHOVEL	DRINKS
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BOOK	

**Congratulations to:**

**Lauren Gilliam and Carmen McCormick**  
Winner of our April Word Search Contest!



## Sophie's Choice



**Sophie O.**

### Lightning Queen

This book is filled with hope and determination made by the characters. One of my favorite things is that the author based the book off of something that does happen between the Rom people and other cultures. Among the best of friends, you'll see that even after death you shouldn't give up happiness. The author's

presence is felt through the presence of the description of the characters and the scenes. You'll notice that people you thought you hated in the book change their characteristics with the help of Teo. Although I love all the characters I'm pretty sure my favorite person is Esma Queen of Lightning. She is strong spirited, happy, and strong-willed. This book will take you on an adventure of your own as you follow along with the main character's many adventures.



Sophie Olko is a 5th grader who loves to read and write her own stories. She enjoys soccer, loves to bake, act, draw and sew. One day she would like to have her own baking show.

## Richard's Book Review



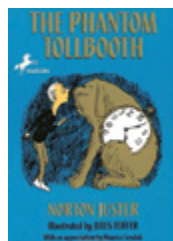
**Richard J.**

### The Phantom Toll Booth

This book starts with a boy named Milo being incredibly bored. One day after coming home Milo finds a toll booth in his room. He decides to go through to see what would happen. Suddenly

he finds himself in the land beyond, in a town full of creatures, which wouldn't go anywhere or do anything until the time keeper - a dog named Tock - scares them into getting on with their lives. Milo befriends Tock the dog. Together they go through a great adventure. They meet King Azaz, who rules over letters and words, and other magical creatures.

I liked this book because it is strange, but fun. Milo learns great lessons that make him appreciate different things in life. I recommend reading this book to understand the great story where so many magical things happen. I give this book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.



Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

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## Christina's Book Review



**Christina J.**

### Greek Mythology

This is the first book of Pandora series, which are based on ancient Greek mythology. Pandora, a 13-year-old demi-god (because her dad is a god and her mother is a mortal) is sent on a quest to retrieve the seven deadly sins that were in her dad's safekeeping that she's accidentally released. The sins are jealousy, vanity, laziness, greed, anger, lust and fear. This book is about Pandora having to catch jealousy. She and her family are summoned before Zeus, the main god in Greek mythology, who threatens to destroy all of human kind and her family if she doesn't catch the sins and evils within a certain time. Along with the hardships of tackling the task, Zeus's wife, the most powerful goddess Hera goes out of her way to foil Pandora whenever she can.

I enjoyed reading this book and the entire Pandora series. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is 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).



## Book Review By Katrina



**Katrina D.**

### Unique Read

*All the Birds in the Sky* is an unusual cross between fantasy and science fiction that follows two children named Laurence and Patricia with unusual talents. Patricia is a witch struggling to understand what she's supposed to do with her powers and Laurence is a computer geek with a longing to leave this planet behind. Though close friends as children, age and ambitions pull them apart as adults. But as the world falls apart around them and the technology geeks and witches go to war over what is to become of Earth, the two of them must decide what side they will have to take, what risks they are willing to take and if they'll be able to live with hurting the other. This book is quite a unique read as Anders blends scientific theory with magical abilities, creating a strangely powerful and intriguing story.

I give this book a four out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.



## Jenna's Review



**Jenna C.**

### Dear Girl,

I want you to read this book because it will tell you how wonderful, how smart, how beautiful and how loved you are. Let me tell you little bit about this book. You can turn any page to feel like you. You can raise your arms to answer, you can feel



like being pretty, but of course you may feel the opposite. Sometimes you need to cry, or ask a lot of questions, or decorate your room like you. Find people like you or unlike you. Say no if you think you need to say no. This book also guides you to show that there are no rules about what to wear or how to cut your hair. This book can tell you about the amazing girl inside you. I hope you will enjoy it as I did.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

## Isabella's Book Review



**Isabella A.**

### One of My Favorite Books

*Notes from the Midnight Driver* is about 16 year old Alex Gregory. One night, Alex was left alone at home and rampages through his dad's alcohol cabinet that was still full even though his dad no longer lived with Alex



and his mom. He gets drunk and drives to his dad's house. A couple houses down, Alex crashes into a yard. He is taken by the police and passes out. At his trial the Judge decides that community service is better than jail. He's assigned to an old man, Solomon, who is always grumpy and lives in a nursing home.

Gradually they help each other. In the end, Alex is even able to reunite Solomon with his daughter.

I would give this book five stars without hesitation. It is an amazing book with an amazing theme. It's definitely one of my top 10 books.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

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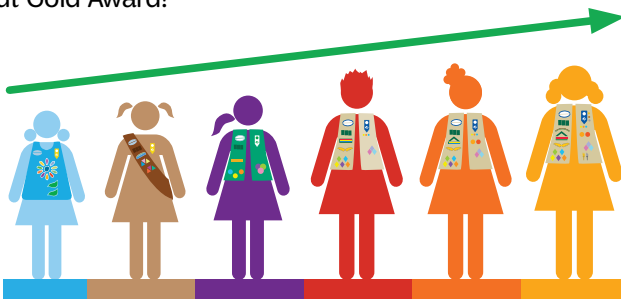
Girl Scouts is the perfect extension to the classroom because Girl Scouts...

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



## CA Distinguished Schools Program



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

After an extended hiatus, the California Distinguished Schools program is back. This award, considered the top honor for California's public schools, was put on hold for three years as our state overhauled its accountability system to incorporate a broader set of metrics. Following its return in April, 43 campuses across Orange County are now celebrating their status as newly minted California Distinguished Schools.

In all, 287 elementary schools in California earned the distinction in 2018, which means about 15 percent are in Orange County. That's pretty remarkable considering we're home to less than 7 percent of the state's elementary schools, and it is without question a reflection of the commitment to innovation and educational excellence on the part of our teachers, staff, students and parents. Even if you're not familiar with the California Distinguished Schools program, you've probably seen the logo that is often displayed on school campuses as a badge of honor. Yet the value of this program goes far beyond the emblem or even the pride that comes with earning such an accolade. It is also a way to highlight breakthrough educational strategies that can be replicated elsewhere throughout the state. That's because schools that pursue the Distinguished School title must agree in advance to share their signature practices so that other educators — and students — may benefit. And they'll have plenty to choose from in Orange County alone. Let's start with Murdy Elementary School, a California Distinguished School from the Garden Grove Unified School District. Murdy is reshaping its culture by embedding technology across all grades and content areas, ensuring students have the academic, personal

and digital literacy skills they'll need to thrive in the 21st century. Tablets, green screens, 3D printers — these are among the high-tech tools being used to stoke creativity and discovery, encouraging young minds to explore new ways of thinking. About 15 miles away, Newport Coast Elementary in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District was recognized on the strength of its exemplary Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program, or PBIS for short. Offering multi-tiered interventions and incentives for making positive choices, Newport Coast has minimized the number of behavior-related issues, which in turn has made classroom instruction more effective and improved outcomes for all students. These results are backed up by district assessments, report card grades and teacher observations. At Crescent Elementary in the Orange Unified School District, officials have focused on teaching the whole child while embracing the school's diversity as a strength. The school provides a strong, integrated curriculum that empowers students to take responsibility for their learning. Moreover, Crescent says its efforts to foster collaboration among stakeholders have made an impact on academic achievement, attendance, character and community-building. This list goes on of Orange County schools and their signature practices, which include leveraging technology, collaboration and engaging instruction to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students, ensuring they're ready for college, careers and life. The California Distinguished Schools program may have taken a brief leave of absence, but Orange County schools never rested. Instead, they have steadily advanced on the path of continuous improvement, and the long-term benefits will far outweigh any accolade or logo.



## Reading

By D.H. Coop

Reading is an elementary key to success in the educational system. Take, for example, a teacher assigning a reading exercise that will take an hour of reading. That assignment was based on a certain amount of time that it would take to do the reading, say, 500 to 800 words per minute. If one reads at a rate of 250 words per minute, then that reading time has just become a minimum of twice as long for that individual. I was one of those individuals and therefore identified as a slow learner.

I was not a slow learner. I process information differently, and the method of teaching reading did not allow for that difference. When I was taught to read, they started by telling me to use my finger to point at each word as I said it out loud. When I mastered that, they told me to stop using my finger. Later, I was told to stop saying the words out loud. Finally, I was told to stop moving my lips, and that ended the lessons on how to read.

The problem was, I was still saying each word mentally, and that slow my ability to read fast. My mind would jump ahead of my reading and try to finish the sentences before I read them completely, and I would have to start all over and reread a number of times, slowing the process of reading even more. Therefore, I learned the tricks of not reading to pass assignments that most students use to get their work done on time. Plus, I developed a method of listening and memorizing material in class to compensate for the poor reading skills. I can honestly say that I did not read a book until I was around 20 years old.

So, how did I learn to become a reader? The solution for me was to break the habit of saying each word mentally as I read. The problem was not that I could not read. I could read, but just slower than my mind was willing to wait. The key was to go back to the finger and move it faster, allowing my eyes to move across the words without giving them time to pronounce the words. When one enters a room, he or she does not pronounce everything they see mentally in the brain. The brain registers every item without having to pronounce it mentally. The same principle can be done with reading.

A simple method to increase one's reading speed is to first find out what your reading speed is. Read for one minute and then count the words, and that will give you an idea of your speed. Then for practice, use your finger or a guide to move across the page fast enough so that you do not pronounce the words mentally. Do this for five minutes each day, and within 30 days, your reading rate should double. This will be frustrating at first because you're retraining your mind to work more efficiently without the conflict of trying to pronounce each word as you read it.

This will develop your reading skills and is not shortcut as scanning or skimming skills they are different from reading skills. Reading skills allow you to comprehend at a faster rate of speed when reading and makes reading more enjoyable. However, this is not a solution for all reading problems. It is a method that one can try—it did work for me. I am never without a book now.

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](http://www.HistoryDepot.com)

## Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. Volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. .

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.

- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam





## EMBASSY CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT

Embassy Consulting Services, LLC is committed to building and maintaining safe, respectful and inclusive school communities. Our Safe Schools Summit is designed to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to provide education, awareness and knowledge to help create safe schools.

### EVENT INFORMATION

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Alpert Jewish Community Center  
3801 E. Willow Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90815

Early Bird Registration  
\$119.00 before July 1, 2018

General Registration  
\$139.00

Morning and Afternoon Refreshments and Lunch Included

### TOPICS & THEMES

- Building a Safe School Climate
- Assessing and Managing Students of Concern
- Responding to an Active Shooter Incident
- Debrief of the Santa Barbara Isla Vista Shooting
- Expert Panel Discussion
- How to Prevent the Next School Shooting
- Conducting Effective Threat Assessments

### FEATURED KEYNOTE

#### **Antoinette Tuff**

##### **The Inspiring True Story of How One Woman Saved an Atlanta School Under Siege.**

Antoinette Tuff's courage and faith prevented tragedy for 870 children while a school was under siege by a heavily armed gunman. As the nation faced yet another Sandy Hook story of tragedy, one woman rewrote the ending. Antoinette will share her survival techniques that she used on that fateful day to disarm the shooter.



FOR EVENT DETAILS AND TO REGISTER VISIT

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