

**FREE**

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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



Volume 13, Issue 17

October / November 2016

## Fall is Fun at School!



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## City of Newport Beach



**Diane Dixon**  
*Mayor*

Tragically, drowning incidents occur year-round and victims are found in pools and hot tubs, the ocean and bay, bathtubs, fountains, and other bodies of water. Year-to-date in Newport Beach, 17 near-drowning incidents have been reported and three drowning fatalities have occurred.

The City of Newport Beach is a member of the Orange County Task Force on Drowning Prevention and together, we're working to reduce the number of drowning incidents and fatalities that occur in the county each year. Children age four and under and seniors age 65 and over are the most at risk for drowning, but medical issues, natural conditions like rip currents, certain medications, and much more, can make people of any age susceptible to drowning.

As the task force studies data and trends and better targets educational and preventative efforts, we're asking all citizens to please be diligent in and around the water throughout the year. Learn to swim, never swim alone, always have a designated "water watcher," and learn CPR. For more information, visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/watersafety](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/watersafety).

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

## City of Costa Mesa



**Stephen Mensinger**  
*Mayor*

There's an old adage that location, location, location is the standard when it comes to home values. But for me, there is a much bigger common denominator – strong local schools.

We are fortunate in Costa Mesa to have excellent public and private schools. When our schools are strong, we attract new families who want to make Costa Mesa their home. Schools are the lifeblood of the neighborhood and the common thread that hold our communities together.

We all appreciate schools as the bedrock for learning, but they also play a role as meeting places and even practice and playing fields and they are essential for workforce retention and attraction.

Local schools are where our children make lifelong friends, but we also know it's where they build that a strong educational foundation that is the key to future success.

With that, I salute our local schools and wish all of our students the very best this coming school year.

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

## Newport Beach Fire Department



**Scott Poster**  
*Fire Chief*

### First Shark Attack

Fall is here and summer is behind us, whew! It was an interesting summer on the beach this year. We had our first shark attack "ever"! The event scared a lot of people and it caught our attention. We have placed monitors in the water off shore to keep an eye on shark activity. The waters off our coast have been home to sharks for many years, but they rarely come so close to the surf line. Researchers think the activity is related to breeding and warm water. We have had some really warm water this summer. The water temps have returned to near normal, and we have not seen any shark activity in recent weeks. An ounce of caution is better than a pound of cure; always swim with a friend and have someone watch the water. If you are swimming outside the surf line, it would be prudent to check-in with a lifeguard. They love talking to you and they are really good people. Please enjoy the water and be safe.

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

## Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



**Dan Stefano**  
*Fire Chief*

### Fire Prevention Month

As we all settle in to the stability of a new school year, October brings us Fire Prevention Month and this year's theme – Don't Wait, Check the Date! Replace smoke alarms every 10 years...

Did you know that the peak time for home fire fatalities is between midnight and 6 a.m. when most families are sleeping? Changing the batteries in your smoke alarm or replacing older models with 10-year smoke alarms are simple, effective ways to reduce home fire deaths. Children and older adults are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas provide the extra seconds needed to get out safely. Create a home escape plan showing two ways out of every room and then practice the plan at least twice a year.

Also, please join us at our annual Fire Prevention Month Open House at Costa Mesa Fire Station 4 (2300 Placentia Avenue) on Saturday October 15 from 10-1 p.m. See equipment displays, live demonstrations, learn about our youth and volunteer programs and take part in games and activities for everyone!

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



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 13th year publishing the excellence from the NMUSD. I receive emails from our readers who are parents, alumni, educators, community members and people relocating and interested in the quality of the schools. We are all stakeholders in the education of students. Thank you for being loyal readers.

The beginning of a school year is always exciting. By now students have settled into a routine and are focused on their goals. The Superintendent and Board of Education messages on pages 6-7 share their priorities and vision for student success.

In this issue, you will read about PBIS, Tech Wheel, AVID Way, Link Leaders, Importance of Attendance, and so much more.

Our next issue is December 7. Until then have a safe Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

## School News

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**Covering the  
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## SUPERINTENDENT

# Students Show Growth in Statewide English and Math Assessments

Results of the 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests showed that student scores throughout Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) improved in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Now in its second year, the Smarter Balanced assessments for NMUSD show a four-percent increase in students having met or exceeded both ELA and mathematics standards.

All but three of NMUSD's 32 schools showed a growth in overall scores, and four schools—Newport Harbor High School, Adams Elementary School, Sonora Elementary School, and Estancia High School—showed a growth of more than 10 percent in both ELA and mathematics standards. Paularino and Harbor View Elementary Schools also showed a growth of more than 10 percent in ELA standards, and Newport Heights Elementary School showed a growth of more than 10 percent for mathematics standards.

All grade levels tested (grades three through eight and grade 11) showed improved scores for both ELA and mathematics standards, with fifth grade showing the highest growth, with an increase of nearly seven percent in



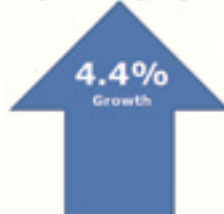
Dr. Fred Navarro

both standards. All subgroups—English learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged and Hispanic/Latino—also showed growth in their ELA scores and mathematics, with the exception of English learners, which remained the same in mathematics scores. NMUSD scores remain above state and Orange County averages in both ELA and mathematics standards.

While statewide assessments provide valuable information about overall student progress and areas for improvement, they do not provide a holistic view of student achievement. As a district, we evaluate students throughout the school year to provide supports to students who require additional development or enrichment.

I am pleased to see positive growth in all grade levels throughout the district. This is a good indication that the collaborative efforts of teachers and staff and the dedication of our students are allowing us to move in the right direction. There is still a lot of work to be done, and we will not shy away from that challenge. We are committed to the continued growth of our students to prepare them for successful futures in a 21st-century world.

English Language Arts



Math



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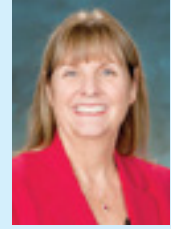
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## Academics, Behavior, and Creativity and Innovation

By Dana Black, President

Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) serves approximately 22,000 students throughout the cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach. NMUSD has 32 schools, from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. As we kick off the 2016–2017 school year, we take this opportunity to share with you our priorities for student success. While there are many contributing factors to the success of our students, the Board of Education has focused programs and initiatives that are centered on three key areas—academics, behavior, and creativity and innovation.

The first building block of the district priorities is academics. The district focuses on providing rigorous and challenging curriculum to meet the evolving needs of students and to prepare them for college and career success. NMUSD works toward providing a seamless and successful shift to meeting the new state standards and providing more project-based learning, real-world experiences, and opportunities to our students. The district is continually expanding Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and is committed to offering challenging opportunities and eliminating barriers that prevent access to AP and IB assessments.



NMUSD schools also maintain high expectations for student behavior. We understand and foster the belief that student success goes beyond the classroom and test scores. We promote restorative practices and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to ensure the social, emotional, and behavioral health of our students. NMUSD currently has 29 schools practicing

PBIS, with the goal of all 32 schools completing the three-tiered system implementation by 2019. Our hope is to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their errors in judgment to become responsible members of our school communities.


The third district priority is something that is woven into all aspects of our education system, creativity and innovation. Whether the goal is to provide rigor in the classroom via unique Signature Academics, provide hands-on, project-based learning experiences with industry professionals, or foster teacher collaboration, creativity and innovation is always at the forefront.

Visit our Web site at [www.nmusd.us](http://www.nmusd.us) or click here learn more about our 2016–2017 district priorities.



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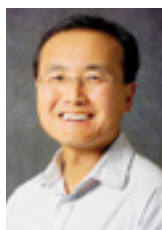
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**Suzan Aldimassi, M.S., MFT #40245**  
Licensed Marriage, Family & Child Psychotherapist,  
ASCH Certification in Clinical Hypnosis  
1000 Quail St. Ste. 175, Newport Beach, 92660

## Sports Nutrition for Children



**Kenneth Kim,  
M.D.**

*Medical Director,  
Pediatric ICU*

A healthy diet, with the right combination and amount of food, is essential for an athletic child's higher level of activity and energy needs. Here are some tips to help children perform at the best levels:

- It takes time to digest food - stop eating two hours before game-day activity starts to save energy levels for the event.
- High-fiber foods are nutritious but may cause stomach upset – don't eat them before activity.
- High-fat foods take longer to digest – avoid them up to three hours before a game or event.
- Eat plenty of carbohydrates (in fruits, vegetables and whole grains) along with a moderate amount of proteins (in meat, eggs and dairy).
- Fluids are critical in preventing dehydration during activity. Experts recommend drinking water or other fluids in 15 – 20 minute intervals during and after the activity to replenish fluid levels lost through sweat.

- The body depletes its readily available energy supply after one hour of exercise. Sports drinks help replenish electrolytes and are a good option for kids who are active for 60 – 90 minutes.
- Athletic kids need calcium and iron in their diets to build strong bones and sustain energy. Dairy products, green leafy vegetables, meat, dried beans and fortified cereals are good sources.

Many children participate in sports that place a heavy emphasize on appearance and weight. This can cause pressure and potentially an unhealthy obsession with weight gain or reduction that could last a lifetime. Dieting is usually not a good idea for athletic kids because they need the additional calories to sustain high energy levels for activity. Dieting also can prevent a growing child from reaching his or her intended height. Parents should discuss diet options with a doctor or nutritionist if a coach recommends that a child lose weight.



## Putting Patients & Safety First

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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*

### Schoolwide Discipline System

Adams Elementary School is excited to continue implementing a schoolwide discipline system called Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). PBIS includes proactive

strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors, thus creating a positive school environment.

PBIS will help foster and sustain an environment in which students can achieve social, emotional and academic success. Teachers and staff have been working together to explicitly model schoolwide expectations, establishing a school climate in which appropriate behavior is practiced and praised. Research has indicated that introducing, modeling and reinforcing positive social and academic behaviors is an important



**Students celebrating their successes during Friday's Lunch Bunch.**

component of a student's educational experience.

Students' successes are recognized by receiving Lunch Bunch Certificates, earning them a chance to enjoy their lunch each Monday and Friday with three friends while sitting in beach chairs on the grass instead of at the lunch tables.

## 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*

### Andersen Opens a Makerspace!

We are off to a great start to the school year at Andersen Elementary school. Over the summer our technology teacher, Mrs. Kirsch worked countless hours at building and putting together our new

MakerSpace. Our MakerSpace inspires students to become participatory learners to uncover their talents, needs, and interests by making, producing, solving, creating, collaborating and thinking. The first week of school many students harnessed their engineering and collaborative skills by creating a macaroni car. Students designed, produced and raced their macaroni cars. Students also graphed their outcomes and collaborated on ideas for redesigning their products. We look forward to many innovative learning opportunities in our new MakerSpace!



## Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

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



**Debbie  
Lucker-Davis**  
*Principal*

### On Track for Success

As we start the new school year, I would like to share our successes from last year! Almost 100 percent of our seniors graduated from Back Bay Continuation High School and Monte Vista Independent Study High School. In June we were able to award close to \$40,000 dollars in scholarships to over 25 students. A special thank you to our donors.

This year many students have chosen to attend Back Bay to make up credits from failed classes. Failure often stems from

poor attendance. Students who attend school regularly make progress with us. We have many options to support students as they continue taking grade-level course work and make up failed classes.

Monte Vista supports students who work, are enrolled in college and technical programs, have children, or are struggling with emotional and social issues. Our goal in both schools is to ensure we provide each student with an individual plan to complete high school and graduate with a diploma from the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

If you think this program might work for you, please contact us at (949) 515-3389.

## California *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Jacob Topete**  
*Principal*

### Off to a Great Start

I am so excited to be joining California as the new principal. I am looking forward to joining a fantastic staff to provide first class education to our children. California's work in the areas of technology and the arts, coupled with strong instruction in the core content areas make California an incredibly exciting place to be. I spent a year teaching at California as a kinder/first grade teacher

in the 2008-2009 school year. It was a wonderful year, and I am excited to be back. California has great support from its community through the work of the PTA and the California School Education Foundation. The support they provide to our campus creates a dynamic environment where students have opportunities to participate in band, show choir, and access technology throughout the campus, and attend fantastic community events. We are off to a great start and poised for an incredible school year. Go Cougars!!

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

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



**Julie McCormick**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back

As we open the new school year, we want to welcome our new part-time assistant principal, Amanda Estrada. Miss Estrada comes to us with 11 years of elementary school teaching experience at Rea and Newport Heights Elementary Schools.

All students in grades TK-6 are now receiving time in the science lab enjoying hands-on experiences and engineering activities focused on the Next Generation Science Standards, or NGSS. The NGSS curriculum is also going district-wide this year.

We opened a new first-grade Mandarin Immersion class this year, in addition to another kindergarten Mandarin Immersion class. Teachers Vivian Lam (kindergarten) and Tingting Mei (first grade) teach approximately 50 percent of the day in English and 50 percent of the day in Mandarin. Visitors are welcome to observe!





## 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

### Tech Wheel

The school year has begun and with the new school year come many changes. Last year our staff voted to approve a new 8 period block schedule. This new schedule has allowed us the opportunity to

add a few new elective courses. One of these exciting courses being offered in middle school is the Tech Wheel.



The Tech Wheel is a 12-week rotation course in which students gain experience in coding (Mr. Garret), web design (Ms. Kerrigan) and robotics (Mr. Selby). All of this learning takes place in our state of the art technology laboratory with access to laptop carts and 3-D printing. Students are looking forward to exploring the world of technology through the guidance of these experts!

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

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



**Guy Olguin**  
*Principal*  
7-8 Grade



**Jacob Haley**  
*Principal*  
9-12 Grade

### Great Facilities Drive Great Curriculum

We are excited to once again be back for another school year and can't help to be thankful for the wonderful enhancements to our campus over the past three years. We have received a brand new middle school building,

performing arts center, remodel of band, choir, and art rooms and the latest is our state of the art Mustangs Field. The facilities on our campus are a testimony to the drive for excellence within the NMUSD and the Costa Mesa Zone. We continue to thrive on developing students who are of the mind, heart, and body as evidenced by our rich curriculum offerings, commitment to community service, and active athletic programs.



## Davis Magnet *(K-6)*

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



**Christy Flores**  
*Principal*

### New Enhancements to Our Day!

The school year is off to a great start for the Davis Magnet School community! There are some exciting new additions to the Davis Magnet School campus that will provide additional learning opportunities for our students in STEAM.

Students will be able to create art projects and take art classes in our new Art Studio complete with a kiln. For the first time ever, we will have a Robotics Lab dedicated to the

multiple robotics programs available to our students during and after school.

Another first at Davis Magnet School is the KDMS Newsroom and Media Center. Mrs. Flores and students will lead broadcasts for the classes to view. Davis Magnet School now has a 3-D printer, and we are also excited that all students in grades 3 through 6 are one to one with Chromebooks. These new tools will continue to enhance the excellent teaching and learning that takes place within the classrooms on a daily basis.

The Davis Ducks are ready and excited for the 2016-17 year!



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

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



**Dr. David Martinez**  
*Principal*

### Getting Older and Better!

Early College High School opened its new modernized building complex in August. The remaining projects that are being completed on the campus through October are new landscaping, new flooring and walls in the multipurpose room; new blacktop courts; and an extension of the field.

The school will celebrate its 10th birthday later this year. In those 10 years, ECHS has been recognized as an AVID School in 2007, a California Distinguished School in 2008, a Gold Ribbon School in 2015 and a California

Department of Education Honor Roll School in 2016.

This school year, ECHS is also expanding its course offerings in the performing arts. Students will not only have the opportunity to participate in an after-school yearlong dance program but they can also participate in a new after-school yearlong acoustic guitar class provided by Coastline Community College. The dance classes take place from 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesday in our multipurpose room, and the guitar classes take place from 4:20 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both classes are very popular as shown by the over 30 ECHS students enrolled in each class.

## Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Cheryl Beck**  
*Principal*

### Chromebooks and a Flexible Learning Environment

Our sixth-grade students began the year with some exciting new changes. We know that our students learn in different ways, and this includes the type of learning environment.

Our sixth-grade teachers worked hard to transform their traditional classrooms into a flexible learning environment. Students now have a choice of what kind of table and seat they would like to select for their learning. Seating is now a choice, and can range from standing, sitting on a yoga ball, stools, a wobble seat, or a traditional seat.

Our students are eager to try all seating venues to find which one works best for them. They are also excited to begin our 1:1 Chromebook take-home program. Thank you to our EDADs for the Chromebook donation!



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

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



**Michael Sciacca**  
*Principal*

### Enrichment Electives

Ensign Intermediate begins the school year offering two new enrichment electives. This year Ensign students can add robotics and Speech/Communication to their elective choices. Our robotics class will allow students to explore the field of advanced robotics, build prototypes and compete with other students across the state. Our Speech/

Communication class allows students to gain experience in written and oral communication. Students will use creativity, logic and emotional appeal to express their ideas to an audience of peers, staff and industry professionals on a variety of communication platforms. The introduction of both of these classes is another step in providing more opportunities for our students to connect their education to their passions.

## Estancia High School

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

**Michael Halt**, *Principal*

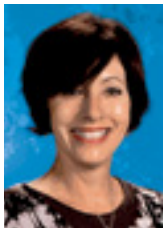
### Estancia Creates Links

Estancia High School's new Link Program kicked-off their first Freshmen Welcome Day on August 31st by greeting incoming freshmen with a spirited tunnel of staff and upperclassmen. The Link Program's goal is simple: link all freshmen with junior and senior mentors, "Link Leaders", making them feel comfortable, supported, and connected throughout their first year of high school. As new students walked through school doors and a tunnel of cheering Eagles, their journey with the Link program had begun. Led by sixty-five Link Leaders, the class of 2020 participated in games and activities focused on the themes of involvement and teamwork, and also made a formal commitment to graduation. Their journey will continue as social and academic activities are planned throughout the year.



## Heinz Kaiser Elementary (3-6)

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



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
*Principal*

### The Best First Week Ever

Kaiser Elementary School had its best opening ever!

Our third-grade grew to seven classes this year. This meant adding a fantastic teacher to the crew: Timothy Searcy. Then along came Lisa Yee (fourth grade), Kim Loughran (speech), Christine Spilka (special education), and Kristin DeMicco (our assistant principal). New classroom and noon-time aides completed the team.

I am filled with great optimism about this year's prospects.



**All Kaiser students discover the joy of reading in a school library with a tree house!**

Our teachers are committed to creating and finding joy, developing grit, and supporting those students who struggle as we implement PBIS and its powerful (and sometimes arduous) instruction.

Thank you to the PFO and KWSF for your ceaseless efforts on behalf of all of our Kaiser students and teachers!

**Thank you for reading *School News*!**



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

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



**Dr. Todd Schmidt**  
*Principal*

### Unlock Your Superpower

Many of us have heard of the value and importance of incorporating and infusing 21st-century skills into our curriculum as a means of leaving the 20th century and embracing innovation in our schools. Sometimes known as the 4 Cs, communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration are essential skills that students need to have to be college and career ready.

Personally, I am a big fan of experiential learning; hands-on is my go-to whenever we can make it happen. With the school year just starting, I wanted to find an opportunity for our students that made 21st-century skills a hand-on experience. I found my answer in Breakout EDU.

Quite simply, Breakout EDU takes the entire 21st-century learning experience and puts it into an inexpensive wooden box with a series of locks and keys. Students solve the puzzles to unlock the box! If we truly believe that students are more than test scores, we need to create environments where students can explore and innovate—and it starts with “unlocking” those opportunities for ourselves and our students!

## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

### Points of Pride

When someone asks what makes Killybrooke Elementary School an amazing school, we share our Points of Pride. We provide a challenging academic program taught by an outstanding teaching staff. Killybrooke was honored as a 2016 Gold Ribbon School and earned the Title I Academic Achievement Award. We are a proud member of the No Excuses University

Network of Schools, promoting a college-bound school culture. We have earned Honor Roll status from California Business for Education Excellence in 2009, 2010, 2012,

2013, 2014, and 2015. Killybrooke is a safe, caring, and motivating environment for students.

Some of the many programs we are proud to offer our students include: netbooks for each student in second through sixth grades; a state-of-the-art science lab with a credentialed science specialists; Hands-On Robotics Club; music and art programs; a wide array of after-school programs focusing on academics, enrichment, recreation, and sports; a full-day kindergarten program; and a high-quality preschool.

Killybrooke School is a renovated facility surrounded by a beautiful park-like setting and is located in the Halecrest neighborhood. We are proud to be Killybrooke Colts, preparing the next generation to lead and succeed!

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

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



**Carrie Gammel**  
*Principal*

### Off to a Great Start

What a wonderful first month of school! Our students are full of energy and excitement as they return to the routine of school. Our staff is focused and committed to ensuring our school culture is positive, friendly, and safe! All Lincoln staff are part of the design and implementation of our school-wide behavior program. We refer to this as our ROARS program. The ROARS program

stands for Respecting others, Owning your actions, Always trying your best, Ready to learn and Showing Safety. At each Flag Deck, we recognize our students for showing ROARS behavior. In addition, student council provides updates including skits on how students can demonstrate this behavior. Our efforts to celebrate positive character development are making a difference every day at Lincoln!





## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Matthew Broesamle**  
*Principal*

### Looking Forward to Great Things

Mariners Elementary School had a great opening to the school year. We are looking forward to great things as we move forward. The staff has done an outstanding job of preparing for a successful school year as we challenge each of our students to achieve their personal best.

Our parent groups, PTA and foundation put in many hours to raise money to

support a variety of programs for students to participate in throughout the year. Some of the activities that are in place for our students include Art Masters, Walk Through History, and a variety of assemblies and field trips.

Our sixth-grade students are preparing for their five-day trip to science camp, which is near Lake Arrowhead. Students have the opportunity to explore the great outdoors with numerous hikes and outdoor activities. Camp is always a highlight of the sixth-grade year.

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

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



**Dr. Duane Cox**  
*Principal*

### Collaboration: A Positive Impact

Newport Coast Elementary (NCE) staff, parents and community comprise a professional learning community (PLC). Our purpose is to build leaders who will change our world. Through our PLC, our school has had tremendous success for a number of reasons, with teacher collaboration as an essential one.

When teachers meet regularly to collaborate, students benefit from uniformity across grade levels; shared ideas between grade-level colleagues; collective creation of goals; familiarity between students

and teachers at all grade levels; fine-tuned, tailored instruction based on assessment scores; discussions among teachers about student work; and collective decisions about how to best ensure high levels of learning for each child.

Research by the National High School Alliance (2003) has identified “collective responsibility” of students as the factor having the most significant impact on teachers’ ability to improve student learning. The NCE school culture was transformed as we accepted the collective responsibility for the learning of all students.

All of the stakeholders at Newport Coast Elementary School—students, staff, parents and community—benefit from a culture of collaboration.

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

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



**Sean Boulton**  
*Principal*

### Learning to Write Well

This summer a group of six Newport Harbor High School students helped register English language learner families at Whittier Elementary School. They were there for two days answering questions, calming nerves, and getting students prepared for the 2016–2017 school year.

Within the Newport Harbor Zone, we are building strong relationships between the five elementary schools and one intermediate school. We are currently working on study and writing rubrics in English from grades six to ten. The increased vertical articulation will seamlessly transition students from one grade to the next, build consistency, and strengthen our students’ writing ability.

The Harbor Zone will have its students writing at grade level to be prepared for the rigors of high school English essay writing.



## Newport *Elementary* (K-6)

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



**Rich Rodriguez**  
*Principal*

### Learning with Technology

Third grade has been diving in quickly as they begin utilizing their netbooks. Within minutes, students were able to access their Google Drive accounts, create new third-grade folders, share their folders with their teachers, and produce new documents within these folders! These third-graders were engaged and eager

during the entire writing process as they completed multi-paragraph essays.

Students also showed their understanding of school rules by playing a game called Kahoot on their netbooks. This game-based learning tool creates an interactive way of learning. Looking at various multiple-choice questions, students click the answers in hopes of being the first with the correct response. The students were laughing and having fun while reviewing how to display Best on the Beach behaviors.



**Mrs. Cabellion's third grade class on their chromebooks**

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

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



**Somer Harding**  
*Principal*

### Students Achieve Great Heights!

We are proud to announce that our teachers, staff, community, and students are achieving great heights in many ways.

The NHES students who took the 2016 Smarter Balanced

Assessments collectively showed over a 13 percent growth in math, plus a 9 percent growth in language arts. We believe this growth was attained through targeted interventions provided to the students' areas of need.

We are also excited to be continuing our STEAM program as an opportunity for students to engage with robotics, cooking, foreign language, and orchestra. In the spring, our robotics team placed second overall at the N-MUSD Competition and Showcase, and the excitement for TEAM NHES is growing!



**Newport Heights Robotics Team (5th and 6th graders) Placed Second at the Newport Mesa Unified School District's 2016 Competition and Showcase**  
**Coaches: Mr Kimme and Mrs. Laquin.**

It's going to be a great year at NHES, where "Students Achieve Great Heights!"





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### *San Clemente*

1031 Avenida Pico, Suite 202  
San Clemente, CA 92673  
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## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
Principal

### Encouraging Messages

Thanks to the amazing teamwork of our staff, students, and parents, Paularino Elementary School's students made awesome academic improvements! We are looking forward to another exciting year.

In September, each of our teachers wrote a message of hope for the students and posted it on a bulletin board. Here are a few examples.

Principal Amy Nagy wrote, "I hope you continue to make excellent academic progress while having fun doing it!"

Sixth-grade teacher Sara Wilkinson wrote, "Learn something new and have fun!"

Third-grade teacher Jennifer Whitley wrote, "My dream for you is that you will believe in yourself just as I do!"

Lelah Langworthy, a second-grade teacher, wrote, "I hope that my students will feel excited to come to school and comfortable sharing their interests and talents with the class."

New kindergarten teacher Kileen Cowan wrote, "I hope to have a wonderful, fun, and exciting first year at Paularino! I'm so happy to join the Panther family!"

It's going to be a great year!

## Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Megan Elsten Brown**  
Principal

### Gratitude

One of Pomona Elementary School's mottos is Positive Attitudes Will Succeed (PAWS), and it is the cornerstone of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program, which was launched this year. We also believe in the power of gratitude and view it as a powerful force that will take us beyond our perceived limits.

The Pomona learning community is grateful for the opportunity to serve our students and families for another year. We are grateful for a talented and caring staff and for students and families who

love coming to school. We are grateful for the resources to employ enough support teachers to ensure that our students have strong foundational and thinking skills.

We also appreciate the ability to provide enrichment. Pomona offers an award-winning choir, robotics, a chess club, band, a gardening club, studio art, a competitive math team, science and music specialty classes, and one-to-one technology devices in third through sixth grades.

This year Pomona's PAWS program set the stage for a great start to the school year, and there is a true sense of joy on Pomona's campus. And joy is the simplest form of gratitude.

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

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



**Dr. Kalim Rayburn**  
Principal

### Committed to AVID Way

Rea kicks-off the school year as an all AVID elementary school with heavy emphasis on the WICOR strategies that has permeated the campus. WICOR, which stands for Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading guides grade level teams through a model with proven strategies that support students comprehension of increasingly complex levels of learning. Teacher, Dawn Turner shared that "positive changes are happening with our students and parents as they embrace the raised level of expectations." Her colleague, Kasey Canale says "every morning I feel inspired because I get to work on the frontline with our students who need us the most and a great team." With all inclusive classrooms, our special education teacher Andrew Haire highlights the camaraderie between



peers that celebrates academic growth through small celebrations and teacher Nicole Bussell shares that "our team is fully committed to the AVID way."

## Sonora *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Christine Anderson**  
Principal

### No Excuses

Mrs. Fenn's sixth grade class has adopted Concordia University, Irvine (CUI) as part of Sonora Elementary school's No Excuses University program. Students wear Concordia shirts every Friday and start each day with their Concordia chant. Hearing that freshmen at Concordia University are gifted

with scarves upon arriving to campus, we set out to include Sonora 6th graders in this wonderful tradition. Retired CUI Professor, Martin Schramm, generously donated a portion of the funds for the scarves. He delivered them personally to our Friday Flag Deck to bestow them on our students. Students were overjoyed to be welcomed as honorary Concordia students and are looking forward to their college graduation in 2027.



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

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



**Kira Hurst**  
Principal

### Starting School Before School Starts

For some Tewinkle School students, school started way before September 6th. Seventh and Eighth grade Honors Math students showed up for Tewinkle's Math Boot camp. Students along with Honors Math Teachers Mrs. Woods and Mrs. McKenzie reviewed mathematical strategies and formulas to gear kids up for the beginning of the school year. Students were both nervous

and excited, but more importantly they were eager to get their Honors Math on! Parents were excited as well, "I think it's a great way to start school, before school starts," explained one parent. Honor students are held to the same high expectations as all other Tewinkle students with added rigor, accountability, and responsibilities.





## Victoria Elementary (K-6)

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



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
Principal

### Going to Be a Great Year

Something I have always loved about education is the fresh sense of renewal that accompanies the start of each new school year. As the 2016-2017 school year kicks off our staff has renewed their commitment to work diligently to provide

all students with a challenging, relevant educational program. We know this renewal is not unique to educators but applies to our students and families we serve. This year our opening day began with a "Hope Wall" where our students and families shared their hopes for the new school year. So many of the responses conveyed a desire to learn exciting new things, make new friends, help others, and have fun....it's going to be a great year at Victoria!



## Whittier Elementary (K-6)

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



**Scott Wilcox**  
Principal

### Dual-Immersion Program

This past summer, a group of incoming kindergartners got a jump start on their year in the kinder dual-immersion class. These new Whittier friends are enrolled in a bilingual class in which 50 percent of the instruction is in English and 50 percent is in Spanish.

The extra two weeks in the summer, called the Dual Immersion Summer Readiness Program, was organized to help

both students and parents become a bit more acclimated to the new school and the new program. While Mr. Arceo taught the students their ABCs and other important kinder basics in English and Spanish, the parents received training on various topics. Whittier's parent coordinator, Laura Wagenseller, worked with Ilse Taborga to provide parents with the tools needed to support their little burgeoning bilingual scholars. All involved are very excited to begin this first step in our Dual Immersion Program at Whittier!

## Wilson Elementary (K-6)

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

**Mary Manos, Interim Principal**

### Off to a Roaring Good Start!

As interim principal, it's been my pleasure to work with such dedicated and supportive staff. We started our school year with many positive ideas for student success.

At our first flag deck, we reviewed safety and had our PBIS team review our Wilson Wildcat ROAR S—R for respect, O for ownership, A for attitude, R for responsibility and S for safety. We ended with a great cheer. Students went back to class inspired to study, learn and grow.

We're so fortunate to have an excellent support staff

and wonderful classroom and intervention teachers. Our specialist teachers include science, PE and music. We truly believe that our teachers share with students a priceless gift—hope for their future.

Wilson parents share that hope for their children. We were very pleased to have a big turnout of parents at Back to School night in September. Staff shared with the parents the positive aspects of PBIS and the meaning of ROAR S. In their classroom presentations, the teachers shared with parents the materials and tools they use to help students build their futures.



## Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

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



**Tiffany Lewis**  
*Principal*

### Woodland is growing!

Over the summer Woodland Elementary received additional playground equipment in our Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten area. In addition to the new structure the tricycle track was extended to encircle both play structures. Keeping all kindergarten students together

on the kindergarten playground is important not only for safety, but it gives the students access to the unique features of the kindergarten play area, such as the tricycle path and sand box. This is a welcome addition to our 215 TK and Kindergarten students!



## Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*

### Across-the-Board Gains

In August, the state released the second round of scores from new online assessments aligned with California's English and math standards. Once again, Orange County students outperformed state and regional averages — and posted across-the-board gains at every grade level tested.

Our county's early trajectory on these assessments is highly encouraging, yet the Orange County Department of Education has its sights set on a much higher goal. Our vision is that "Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success."

This ambitious vision was first outlined in 2014 in a plan that included a set of eight strategic priorities for OCDE, along with goals and key performance indicators for each. The plan has since been refreshed for 2016, reflecting the latest educational developments and metrics.

What hasn't changed is our commitment to the original priorities: College and Career Readiness and Success; 21st-Century Competencies and Academic Standards; Local Control and Accountability Plans; Technology in Support of Teaching and Learning; Communication and Collaboration; Special Populations; Business Services, Legal Services, Legislative Advocacy and Other Key Services; and The Whole Child.

Each of these areas is tied to concrete goals and measureable objectives designed to ensure we're doing everything possible to equip Orange County students to

thrive in college, in their careers and in life. We do not perform this critical work alone, but our staff plays a vital role in collaboration with educators, parents, students and our communities.

Like other county offices of education in California, OCDE exists to support school districts by offering programs and services that would be burdensome — and, in some instances, cost-prohibitive — to manage at the local level.

Examples include year-round professional development for teachers, technology support in and out of the classroom, legal services, immersive science education through our award-winning Inside the Outdoors program and fiscal support. In fact, our Business Services staff works with all Orange County districts to ensure their budgets support local and state goals, and they even process payroll for nearly 100,000 educators and staff.

Of course OCDE also operates its own instructional programs. Our Alternative Education program, commonly known as ACCESS, serves approximately 17,000 students annually, including home-schooled students, working teens, homeless children and other students who benefit from a non-traditional learning environment. Similarly, our Special Education division provides enhanced learning opportunities for students with significant needs.

OCDE's services are too numerous to list in a few paragraphs, but each exists to support children, educators and families throughout Orange County to fulfill the audacious vision that our students will lead the nation in college and career readiness.

## 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)



### It's Pumpkin Season

*By Pam Williams, MPH, RD; NMUSD Nutritionist*

Autumn is the season for going to school and doing homework. It is also the season for growing and carving pumpkins. But did you know that pumpkins taste good?

Of course we eat pumpkin pie, but we can also add chunks of pumpkin to our favorite soup. We can roast it and add seasoning like cinnamon, and we can mix it in with our

favorite vegetables. The flavor is mild and enjoyable. But what's also so wonderful about adding pumpkin to our diet?

Pumpkins supply vitamins, fiber, and other ingredients that help us stay healthy. They are low in calories, and a good source of the color orange. In the body the orange pigment is used to make Vitamin A. This vitamin maintains healthy skin, a strong immune system, and good vision.

Here in the NMUSD our students enjoy exploring this autumn vegetable. For example, they may learn that pumpkins float in water, even the big ones! Or, they may learn how they grow.

This autumn season, let's add exploring pumpkins to our list of things to do and discover their versatile flavor!

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

## School Health Services

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



### Healthy Children Learn Better

Children are back in school, fall is here, and with it comes October, my favorite month!

By now, those of us in school have settled into a routine. Students and teachers have gotten to know one another, and the learning process has truly begun. Parents have been to Back to School Night and now have an idea of our educational focus and how to best support their students for the year. But what about student health?

A major effort in September was to ensure that our students met the immunization and health requirements for school participation. Nurses met students and discussed special needs with families to develop care plans for the school day. Medication orders were reviewed, dietary needs were identified, specialized health care procedures were implemented, and nurses collaborated with physicians in the community as well as with school personnel.

In October and November, a large focus will be on vision and hearing screening for our students. If you have a student with a health concern, please be certain that you have communicated it with the school nurse. Remember, healthy children learn better!

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

## District Transportation

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



### Welcome Back

I hope it has been a fulfilling summer break for you. For us, as usual, it has been busy. We adjusted all of our routes due to increased instructional minutes, implemented a new online bus pass registration and payment system, re-checked a variety of bus stops for safety, and, of course, provided bus service in support of various summer programs. I spent some

rewarding vacation time sharing some of the great things we do at state and national conferences.

Before we knew it, it was time to welcome back our drivers at our annual startup event. This year we were honored to have Board members Martha Fluor and Charlene Metoyer as well as Superintendent Dr. Navarro attend. We also welcomed a few newly trained and certified drivers.

In addition to training, we celebrated drivers who had perfect attendance last year. This is quite a feat when you consider the volume of people (and associated germs) our drivers come into contact with every day. This year's winners are Olga Sandoval, Jason Greenberg, José Chavez, Robert Bremmer, and Ricardo Sandoval, who is also our 2015–2016 Driver of the Year.

**Pete Meslin**  
*Director*



## Isabella's Book Review



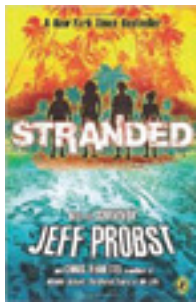
Isabella A.

### Get Lost in the pages of *Stranded*

*Stranded* is the first book and the best in the series. When Carter and Jane's mother marries Vanessa and Buzz's father, uncle Dexter a boat captain takes the new four siblings on a bonding trip. However, it doesn't exactly turn out that way. A storm sinks the boat. They try to get in the life boat, but Dexter gets in first. The storm takes the life boat away from the young kids. Fortunately, they make it to a close by island that is rocky and full of jungle. They were starting get along and now they are in the middle of the South Pacific! This could be good or horrible. Will these kids survive each other?

I give this book three and half stars because it can be fun, exciting and adventurous, but also a bit long in some parts.

Isabella is in fifth grade and continues to enjoy writing fictional stories based on true events, which she looks forward to learning how to publish when she is older. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.



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# Newport Beach Public Libraries



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

## Fabulous Fridays are Coming

Kick off your weekend at Newport Beach Public Library! Central Library is launching a new program for school-aged kids called Fabulous Fridays @ 4 the second Friday of each month at 4:00 pm. Come hang out with kids ages 4-9 years old, listen to stories, and work on crafts. On October 14, we'll feature not-so-spooky monsters by reading from Roald Dahl's *The BFG* and creating monster bookmarks. We'll be closed for Veteran's Day

on November 11, and then we're back on December 9 with Holiday Fun!

Fridays aren't the only fabulous day of the week. We have storytimes at the Central Library or one of branches almost every day of the week. And there are lots of special programs at all the branches. Today's tech-oriented learners will love the Coding for Kids program at Mariners Branch Library on November 8. It's a hands-on workshop that will introduce kids to simple coding techniques and, perhaps inspire them to create their own programs.

Save the date for these children's events:

### Central Library

October 20, 4 p.m. - Make haunted clay no-bake crafts to celebrate Halloween.

November 5. - Drop in between 12 and 3 p.m. for crafting fun.

November 15, 4 p.m. - Discover Native "artifacts" like a real archaeologist!

### Mariners Branch

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - Design, build, and invent at our weekly LEGO "Block" Party.

October 25, 4 p.m. - Get in the spirit with fun Halloween crafts.

November 8, 4 p.m. - A special hands-on workshop introducing kids to simple computer coding.

November 22, 4 p.m. - Celebrate Thanksgiving with fun crafts.

### Balboa Branch Events

October 19, 3:30 p.m. - Not-too-spooky crafts, games and treats. Halloween costumes welcome!

November 16, 3:30 p.m. - Whooo loves crafts? Drop by for adorable fall crafting.

### Corona del Mar Branch Events

October 27, 3 p.m. - Fun with friendly ghosts, pumpkins and other Halloween crafts.

**Reminder:** All NBPL locations will be closed for Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11. All locations will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday and remain closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25.

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

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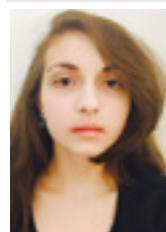
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## Christina's Book Review



**Christina J.**

### Captivating to Read

*Emily Windsnap and the*

*Ship of Lost Souls*, written

by Liz Kessler, is about the

main character Emily, who

keeps seeing a mysterious ship

appearing and disappearing

without a trace, only at certain

hours each day, growing fainter

each time. Emily and her friends try to figure out the mystery behind it, and the closest they could get to solving it is that a similar looking ship had recently disappeared with all its passengers on board. Later Emily finds herself near the ship and bravely accepts the challenge to solve its mystery once and for all. She meets people having a good time, without any care in the world about their past. Emily comes to realize that these people are the missing passengers of the missing ship and that



they had their memories of the past slowly erased, and now they are stuck on this ship that is temporarily suspended in between our world and Atlantis. Emily only has a few hours to save the doomed passengers before they are all trapped in another dimension forever. With quick thinking Emily manages to find a way to save everybody and reunite them with their families.

I liked this book a lot. The story unfolded smoothly and was very captivating to read, keeping me guessing and worrying along the way with the main character. The suspense is great and the story itself is mind-boggling.

I rate this book 5 out of 5, with five being the best.

Christina J. is a 7th grader. 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).



## Michael's Book Review



### Big Nate in A Class All By Himself

Nate knows he is destined for greatness. When a fortune cookie confirms that, he is very excited. The fortune reads "Today you will surpass all others." He soon learns that trouble seems to be



Michael H.

following him everywhere. Instead of something good happening, bad things happen. He receives detention slips from all of his teachers. Confused by it all Nate tries to figure out, how it all went wrong.

Later he realizes that although he did have a really bad day, his fortune cookie was correct. He surpassed all others by establishing a new record. He was the first person to get 7 detention slips in one day! Nobody could believe it, but Nate was happy because his fortune came true.

I give this book 5 stars because it kept me interested the whole time. His adventure made me laugh and Nate didn't give up until he made his fortune come true. I may never want to come close to that record, but reading about it was fun.

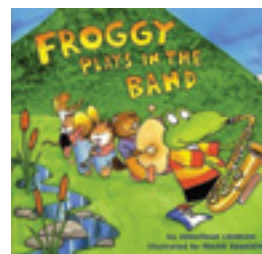
Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

## Richard's Book Review



### Follow Through Pays Off

The book, *Froggy Plays in the Band* by Jonathan London, is one of the series of books about Froggy by this author. Froggy and his friends wanted to be in a band, but



Richard J.

they weren't good at it, so their music teacher told them they had three weeks to practice until the march, and if they did good they might win a prize. At first Froggy and his friends didn't play well, but after they practiced hard for 3 weeks they ended up sounding very good in the marching band and got a Golden Trophy in the shape of a saxophone as a reward.

I liked how the story is that in the beginning Froggy and his friends were discouraged, but practiced hard anyway, and all their hard work had paid off, because practice makes perfect, and everyone should stay determined and work hard to follow through to reach their goal. I also liked many fun illustrations in the book by Frank Remkiewicz.

Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

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## Lucy's Book Review



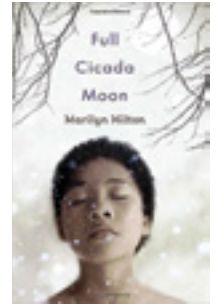
Lucy Davis

### Perfect!

*Full Cicada Moon*

Author: Marilyn Hilton

Mimi is a girl living in 1969, and the Apollo mission is soon going into orbit. For her, that's the dream job: to go into space and make scientific



discoveries. But then she moves to Vermont, where with a new school and no friends, half African-American, half Japanese Mimi seems to fit out. Soon, though, things change when she meets Stacey and Timothy. They tell her to follow her dreams, that "girls can work wood and touch the sky"; if they believe that it's possible.

With a poet's pen and ability to make stories come to life, Marilyn Hilton creates a perfect story about a girl striving to do the unlikely.

I give this book five bookworms for its cleverness and thoughtfulness.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

## Halloween 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 November 15, 2016

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

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CANDY	GHOUL	SWAMP CREATURE
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CEMETERY	HAUNTED HOUSE	VAMPIRE
COSTUME	HALLOWEEN	WEB
DECORATIONS	JACK O LANTERN	WEREWOLF
FRANKENSTEIN	MUMMY	WITCH
FRIGHTFUL	SKELETON	ZOMBIE

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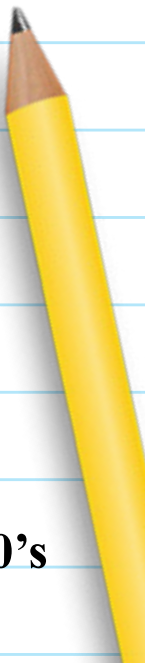
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