

# School News

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Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Volume 19, Issue 99

October 2022



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## Creating Environments Where Every Child Can Succeed



**Dr. Wesley Smith**  
*Superintendent*

We had a wonderful start to the school year and as we focus on students' academic success, improved communication, and maintaining purposeful facilities, we do not waiver from also providing students with services, programs and support to help their overall social, emotional, behavioral and physical wellbeing.

Our schools provide welcoming, accepting and understanding environments where all students can feel safe physically and emotionally. These positive learning environments help students gain confidence, make friends, and connect with others... resulting in reduced stress and improved academic focus.

We recognize the importance of student mental health and wellness. In response, we have added trained staff to better support students in these areas. We have school psychologists; speech pathologists; counselors; health assistants; occupational therapists; social workers; nurses; and school community facilitators, who are essential in connecting students and families to resources and support.

Together with our teachers, classified support team, and school and district administrators, we work collaboratively

to address all students' needs in the areas of positive behavior, truancy prevention, social emotional learning, drug and alcohol prevention, and more.

Building relationships with students is key to their success. We help students learn that their emotions matter. We provide tools to work through difficult feelings and re-engage in learning. We are purposeful in facilitating classroom conversations, building a sense of community and positive school culture. We hold students accountable, while also providing high levels of support. We find learning opportunities with students and their families to help them understand the impact of their actions and find resolution to mitigate unwanted behavior in the future.

We are fortunate to have an incredible community, who has been instrumental in supporting our efforts to expand whole-child support. Our well-established community alliance includes community organizations that provide enhanced services for students and families. And we plan to grow these partnerships to expand before and after school programs and resources.

There is so much we do to support success within the classroom and beyond, and we have a lot to look forward to as we refine and enhance support for all students and their families.



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# School News

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Covering the  
NEWPORT-MESA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Welcome to a new school year. On page 3 Superintendent Dr. Smith begins this issue with his message about creating environments where every child can succeed.

This is our 19th year publishing the NMUSD *School News*. There have been many changes over the

years (including our publication now being digital) and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search on page 25 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is December 7.



## Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • [nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition](http://nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition)



**Todd Hatfield**  
Director

### Recognizing Nutrition Services Workers

By Pam Williams, MPH, RD  
Nutritionist

What is an ordinary day like in the life of those who provide breakfast, snacks and lunch in our schools? It might go like this:

It starts early in the morning when darkness gives way to the light. And just when dawn covers the skies, Nutrition Services workers throughout the district

unlock cafeteria doors or district refrigerators to make mealtime happen on our campuses.

Their day includes making sure the environment around them is pristine. No matter the item being served, workers may busily unwrap, thaw, heat, and prepare the food for each student. They check the temperature to make sure that everything reaches the right degree, or they assemble trays and cutlery.

Then when the time is right, they step up to the serving line and in an almost graceful but noisy dance, hundreds of students waltz through the line at an incredible pace. In less than an hour or two, the whole school has had a chance to eat a nutrient-packed meal.

Then, the cleanup begins, and perhaps a little prepping for the next day's meal. What started as a quiet morning,



ends in a serene afternoon. They lock cafeteria doors or district refrigerators and go home, only to rise and start all over again.

This happens every full school day of the year. They persevere through changing weather conditions, various food shortages and even when the staff count is down,

Nutrition Service workers make mealtime happen every time. This past school year, cafeteria workers supplied over 1.7 million meals. That's a lot of dedication!

Joni Cagle, cafeteria manager at California Elementary School, has worked for the district for 20-plus years. She sums up her experience this way: "I love my job. I love working with the kids. It's a happy place to be!"



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## City of Costa Mesa



**John Stephens**  
Mayor

### Assisting Those in Need

The concerns of today, including the high cost of living and post-pandemic adjustments are hard on families, and distracting for students.

With that in mind, The City of Costa Mesa is working to help local students and their families meet these challenges.

During the last fiscal year, we partnered with Project Hope Alliance and StandUp For Kids (both Costa Mesa non-profits) to serve 126 students across 21 Newport-Mesa Unified District campuses. These nonprofits provide tutoring and mentoring to students who in some cases are this close to being on the streets.

We have also partnered with Save Our Youth (SOY), which provides tutoring, mentorship and enrichment for teenagers.

Economic struggles can make it hard for students to find the time to study, do their homework or just get a good night's sleep.

The city is always looking for ways to uplift those in need. To that end, we have also partnered with the nonprofit Families Forward currently to provide rental assistance and case management for low-income households with minor children. Visit [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org) or call (949) 552-2727 for more information or to apply.

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

## Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



**Dan Stefano**  
Fire Chief

### Let's Get Prepared!

Students, teachers, staff and families are in full stride with a new school year underway! And Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue is promoting Emergency Preparedness and Situational Awareness as we welcome eight new professional firefighters (men & women) serving Costa Mesa and our NMUSD schools! Whether at school, work, home or play, being prepared in the event of ANY EMERGENCY is imperative!



This year, we ask that you participate in the Great Shake Out on October 20 at 10:20 a.m. and please consider JOINING US for our interactive Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Open House, October 22 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) at Costa Mesa Fire Station #4 – 2300 Placentia Avenue, across from Estancia HS!

For more information: [www.shakeout.org/california](http://www.shakeout.org/california) and [www.facebook.com/CostaMesaFireRescue/](http://www.facebook.com/CostaMesaFireRescue/)

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



# Newport Beach Public Libraries



**Christine Chapel**  
Librarian,  
Mariners Branch,  
Newport Beach  
Public Library

## Attention Educators and Students!

The Newport Beach Public Library has created and made available an Educator and Student Services webpage: <https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/children/educator-and-student-services> This page makes it easy to request a class visit to the library; to have library staff visit a class, meeting, or event; for educators and students to request library materials that support a class assignment; and to learn how to get library cards. It is located under the Children's tab on the library homepage. Please check it out.

We also created a Student Success Flyer highlighting some of the features available to students:

### With your library card you can:

- Search the library catalog for materials, place holds, and be notified when it's your turn.
- Checkout eBooks and eAudiobooks for FREE on the Libby App.
- Access FREE databases from home like ABC Mouse, Gale in Context, and World Book for Kids.
- Checkout up to 50 items at one time.

### We also offer:

- Accelerated Reader (AR) labels on most children's library books. You can even search the online catalog by AR level.
- A Readalikes feature in our library catalog that provides recommendations to similar books and lists books in a series.
- Community service opportunities for students ages 12-18, including writing book reviews.
- A state-of-the-art Media and Sound Lab at the Central Library where you can design, edit, and record.

Please consider the Newport Beach Public Library resources throughout your educational endeavors and let us know how we can help!



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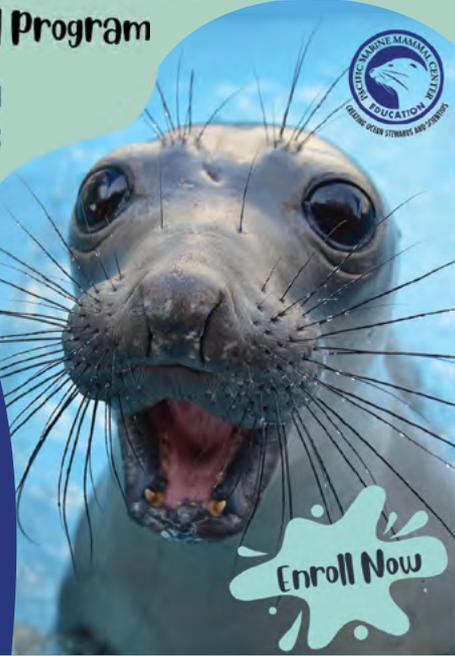
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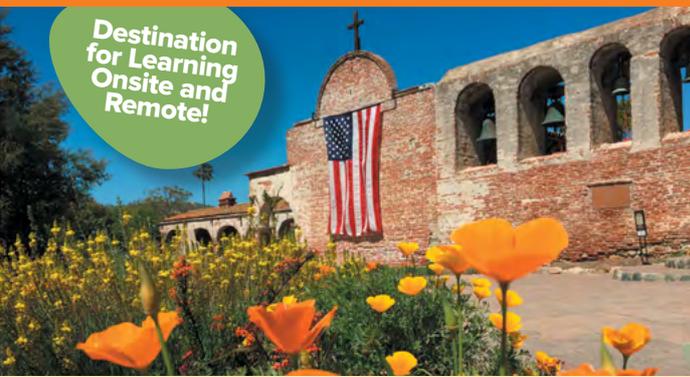
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# Student Support Services

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



**Sara Jocham**  
*Director*

## LETRS

In a cross-division collaboration and in support of our Board's priority of focusing on early literacy, Elementary Education Services and the Special Education Department have two cohorts of teachers participating in a rigorous two-year professional learning program called LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. The cohorts consist of 28 special education

teachers across elementary and secondary schools, two special-education teachers on special assignment (TOSAs), 41 general-education full-time support teachers, and

English language arts/English language development TOSAs representing all 22 comprehensive elementary sites. The training provides teachers with a "deep knowledge to be literacy and language experts in the science of reading."

LETRS focuses on the science and then the application of the science to support educators in being highly knowledgeable in early literacy. The special education cohort began on Aug. 25 with the LETRS kickoff, and the general education cohort kicked off on Sept. 9. The kickoff began with an opening call to return to "our why," an overview of the two-year-long commitment, and an initial dive into the digital system. We are looking forward to our first year together!

## Early Childhood Education

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



**Michelle O'Neill**  
*Coordinator*

## Exploring Pumpkins

We are excited to be welcoming our preschoolers to the 2022-2023 school year. Our preschoolers are immersed in age-appropriate, research-based literacy instruction and explorations in science and math. The preschool program carefully integrates teacher-directed instruction with structured and independent play activities that promote healthy social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

NMUSD has 12 preschool sites, including tuition preschool and state part-day and state full-day preschool classrooms. Our preschool curriculum is based on developing the whole child. Our teachers' lesson plans foster the physical, emotional, social, and cognitive growth of each child. A "Desired Results Developmental Profile" is used to assess children in all areas and set goals for their individual growth and development.



Our preschool curriculum is also aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks. Our classrooms integrate the following research-based curriculum: World of Wonders PK (English language arts and math), Bridges PK (math), Hand Writing without Tears (fine motor), and Second Step (social emotional). Our preschool students from Killybrooke Preschool recently enjoyed using their five senses to explore pumpkins!



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## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • [adams.nmusd.us](http://adams.nmusd.us)



**Stacy  
deBoom - Howard**  
*Principal*

### Working Hard and Being Kind

Welcome back to our amazing All-Star students and families! We are going to continue our focus this year of “Kindness” on campus, online, in the community, and at home. Any act of kindness, whether big or small, can have the power to change someone’s day!

We would like to congratulate our amazing All-Star Community for achieving the PBIS Silver Recognition. Our motto at Adams is “Work Hard and Be Kind,” and this is reinforced by our school’s PBIS matrix. Our staff developed the

STAR rewards system, which recognizes students who meet the expectations of Safety First, There and Ready, Act Responsibly, and Respect Everyone. We have also developed mentorship programs, and host regular meetings and classes to support the students who may need some extra help to develop these skills and characteristics.

Monthly discussion meetings also help our educators determine which students might need more support, as well as the best practices for facilitating the development of quality citizens. We look forward to celebrating our students throughout the year for their Working Hard and Being Kind!

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

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • [andersen.nmusd.us](http://andersen.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Tiffany  
Lewis**  
*Principal*

### Setting High Expectations

Andersen Elementary is eager and excited to begin what promises to be the best year ever. We are thrilled to continue to provide the kind of academic experiences for our students that are rigorous, relevant, and build relationships.

Andersen has hit the ground running this year and is off to an amazing start! We are so excited to welcome over 100 new students to our campus. In addition to our new kindergarten classes, we have added a TK class and 50 new students in grades one through six.

We are proud of our rich traditions, and the educational accomplishments of our students, staff, and community. At Andersen Elementary, we strive to ensure that our children are engaged in an environment focused on high expectations reflecting of academic, social, and emotional

development. As principal, I am committed to helping sustain the positive culture of kindness that we have here at Andersen.

Our youngest learners begin their academic careers surrounded by highly skilled and dedicated staff members. Planning instructional opportunities to activate young minds in a culture of curiosity becomes the focus of daily routines within our school. The collective effort to strive towards 21st-century excellence, within an environment that is conducive to our children achieving their full potential, is impressive. We will continue to set high expectations for our diverse learners.

Growing student success happens when our teachers and our Andersen Elementary families work together. By embracing our PRIDE Values, we can create the most beneficial learning experience for our students. I have seen the fantastic results of this collaborative effort reflected throughout our campus.



Welcome  
Back to  
School



# Back Bay/Monte Vista High School

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • [backbay.nmusd.us](http://backbay.nmusd.us)



**Kirk Bauermeister**  
Principal

## Business Management

Welcome to the Business Management Pathway program here at Back Bay High School. The Business Management Pathway is part of a Career Technical Education program that is unique to our district. This one of kind program offers students the opportunity to have hands-on

industry specific experience. Our goal is to provide a learning environment for students to develop the professional skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

Our program is partnered with a company called Spyder3D. We will work with industry professionals in our very own graphics media technology studio, called Spyder Lab. As part of the program students will not only focus on concepts associated with business and entrepreneurship, but they will have an opportunity to earn certifications on the design/manufacturing equipment in the lab. Students will apply their skills through a student enterprise.



## California Elementary (K-6)

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • [california.nmusd.us](http://california.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Linda Kim**  
Principal

## Welcome Back

Our California Cougars returned to school this year with full force! We are so thrilled to have our amazing students back on campus again.

To welcome back our families, our CSEF and PTA have already hosted community events like our Welcome Back Picnic at Smallwood Park, Game Night, Skate Night, and monthly Coffee Chats that were well attended. In fact, it was a full house each time we brought our families together! There is undoubtedly a revival of energy and excitement at California School with increased parent participation. Our PTA memberships alone already reflect a 15% increase from the previous year. California Cougars had an awesome start to the school year thanks to the



**Our Kindergarten teachers show our Cougar Cubs the way at lunch time.**



**Welcome Back Picnic at Smallwood Park hosted by our amazing CSEF and PTA.**

dedication of our talented school staff, our hardworking students, our supportive families and our strong parent groups. Let's continue to make this the best year, yet!

# Cloud Campus (TK–12)

[www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus](http://www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus)



**Dr. Racquel Stephens**  
Principal

## Our Online Option!

Cloud Campus is excited to start the 2022–23 school year! Cloud Campus is in its third year of operation as a full school option for families in NMUSD. At Cloud Campus, all of our students TK–12 participate in both synchronous and asynchronous learning daily. Our elementary students have specialists for music, PE and science. We have our club rush coming up soon as well as our parent-teacher conferences.



At Cloud Secondary, students in grades 7–12 are also participating in a variety of online classes from our core classes to AP classes to specialty electives such as digital tech and world languages. Our school year started strong, and our back-to-school nights were a success. In elementary, our students are creating a weekly flag-deck video to show to the school every Friday, and we had our first assembly as a welcome back to school. In secondary, our junior class is preparing for the PSAT on Oct. 12. Our seniors gathered at the Back Bay campus for an ice cream social.

Our students are eager for clubs to start so Club Rush is coming soon, and students can join the club of their choice. So many great things happening in the Cloud!

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

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • [cdm.nmusd.us](http://cdm.nmusd.us)



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



**Jake Haley**  
Principal  
9–12 Grade

## The September Serenade

*By Summer Perry,  
CdM Sophomore*

To mark the end of summer and the beginning of fall, the September Serenade event showcases both the vocal and instrumental parts of CdM's music program. With enthusiasm and excitement, Mr. Ball started off this year's

evening by saying it would be “a bit of a whirlwind...” This led to the first performance of the night, which was by Notoriety, who sang *Let Me Ride* and *River of Dreams*.

The audience's participation made an incredibly huge impact on the atmosphere, as parents and students were instructed to shout the lyrics of *Sweet Caroline* alongside the Men of Note. Sydney Foster, a sophomore at CdM and a singer on Vox Angelica, remarked that, “Sweet Caroline was one of the best parts, and the audience going ‘bum bum bum’ was amazing.”

The most iconic performance of the night was made by none other than Profundo, which sang from Disney's *Tangled I Have a Dream*, accompanied by the use of props such as Rapunzel's dress and a bright blond wig, which ended the song with laughter and applause from the large audience. Following Profundo, the Triads put on a spectacular performance of Kate Bush's *Running Up That Hill*, which transported the audience from our big gym to Hawkins, Indiana in 1986.

The September Serenade in its entirety was an enormous success. As Senior Olivia Knowles, an alto singer on Madrigals, explained, “All the seats were filled, there were even people just standing outside because [the gym] ran out of seats, which was great.” Following the September Serenade comes our CdM Vocal Music's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, a winter orchestra concert, and a winter band concert. Look out for these future performances, and track their progress throughout the year!



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

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • [collegetpark.nmusd.us](http://collegetpark.nmusd.us)



**Jake Topete**  
Principal

### Celebrating Our Community

It has been a great start to the school year at College Park! To celebrate our first week back at school, our PTA hosted a fantastic Welcome Back event for our families. Fantastic food, fun activities and a great time together as a community really started the year off on a great foot!

Our PTA along with our community continued their work together as we hosted our first Jog-A-Thon since 2020. The event was a great success! Children had a wonderful time raising

money, earning prizes and jogging on a beautiful day with their classmates. The following week at Flag Deck, we celebrated the success of our event, which raised over \$28,000, with Mr. T in a silly costume; a visit from our superintendent, Dr. Smith; and some other fun celebrations and recognition of our top money raisers.

We are so fortunate to have such an incredible community here at College Park! Their partnership, along with our PTA and dedicated staff, has College Park poised for an amazing school year. Thank you to all who helped make this event the great success that it was. Go Cougars!

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

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • [cmhs.nmusd.us](http://cmhs.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Eugene Kwong**  
Principal  
7-8 Grade



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
Principall  
9-12 Grade

### A New Mustang in Town

We kicked off the new school year at Costa Mesa Middle & High School with a new high school Principal, Dr. Potnis (All staff picture). We welcomed new staff members with activities to build community and set goals for the year. (Goals picture). Our staff

collaborated on lesson design to elicit and respond to student thinking through active student engagement, questioning techniques, meaningful feedback, and empowering student voice. Students are encouraged to share what they learn and know with one another. In



addition to primary instruction, we are happy to continue our after school Learning Lab to provide additional academic support, our online tutoring platform Paper, and a robust Wellness Center to provide wrap-around student support. Our high school athletic teams have been off to a good start this fall and in the coming

weeks we will host the marching band competition, a dance performance, and our fall musical, *Willy Wonka Jr.*



## Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • [davisagnet.nmusd.us](http://davisagnet.nmusd.us)



**Christy Flores**  
Principal

### Platinum Recognition

For the first time Davis earned the highest level of recognition as a California PBIS Platinum School. The Platinum recognition is a testament to the dedication of every teacher and staff member who contributes to our systematic approach in teaching, reinforcing, and mentoring our students towards modeling our school's core values and behavior expectations.

A tiered support system begins with clear behavior expectations that are communicated and modeled throughout the year using tools and positive reinforcements, such as behavioral instructional videos, assemblies, read alouds, RULER Social-Emotional lessons, and positive reinforcements. Tier II supports are applied using Check-In, Check-Out, PAL Student Leader Mentorship, Social Skills Groups, and more. The addition of our Counselor and Behavior Specialist, who lead our Wellness Team have made a significant impact on the supports available on campus completing the Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports. A HUGE "Shout Out" to the Davis community for this recognition!



## Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • [earlycollege.nmusd.us](http://earlycollege.nmusd.us)



**Dr. David Martinez**  
Principal

### An Eventful Start

As ECHS is the "Home of College-Bound Scholars," we are looking forward to our students' will and drive to succeed this school year.

Shortly after we literally rang in the 2022-2023 school year with our school's cowbell on August 10, ECHS was bestowed by the California PBIS Consortium for

the second time in our history with its Platinum Level Award. This makes both 2019 and 2022 the only years in which we have reached this highest level of meeting the mission and objectives that are set forth in support of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

The month of September proved to be quite eventful, with in-person Back-to-School Night occurring for the first time in three years on September 1. Lunch-time spirit events and our House Competition were also held during the week of September 19-23, right before our ASB ended the month by hosting the annual outdoor Blacklight Dance on September 30 after school.



We are looking forward to participating in the annual NMUSD College and Career Night being held virtually this school year on October 19. We will be holding our first ECHS Information Night on October 26 for students and families interested in ECHS for the 2023-2024 school year. Please check our website at <https://earlycollege.schoolloop.com/> for more information on the other information nights we will be offering,

as well as any other events we are hosting for applicants. The ECHS Application for the 2023-2024 school year will be made available on October 19.

Lastly, ECHS is also being considered for a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence this school year as we prepare for our visit in March of 2023! This is in recognition of our making progress in reducing our student achievement gaps, while also raising our overall school measures in UC/CSU eligibility, grade point average, and rising rates of meeting or exceeding the state-wide proficiencies in English language arts and math during the past five years.

## Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • [eastbluff.nmusd.us](http://eastbluff.nmusd.us)



**Cheryl Beck**  
*Principal*

### Eastbluff Pride!

We had a great opening of our 2022-2023 school year! We were very excited to start the year with so many returning traditions, like the EDADs Welcome Back Breakfast, Back to School Night, Student Council elections, after-school clubs, and much more!

We were also thrilled to open up a new TK classroom! Our school theme is “Kindness,” and we are focusing on intentional acts of kindness with Eastbluff Pride! We kicked off this theme at our first Friday Flag ceremony. We are excited to have back our Flag Deck tradition of fostering a sense of community and participating together.

We also talked about what kindness means: We can choose to be kind in any given situation, we can spread kindness wherever we go, kindness is contagious, and kindness can change everything!

Eastbluff School is so proud to have been recognized with the Platinum PBIS Award. Our consistent implementation of PBIS strategies has made such a positive impact for our students’ academic and social emotional success, and it has created our wonderful school culture.

We are also committed to teaching our students strong character traits and scholarly positive behaviors. This is achieved through the focus on our positive school-wide behavior system, and character development through our John Wooden Pyramid Program.

Our Eastbluff students show pride every day. Prepared stands for: be Prepared, Respectful, Integrity, Determined, and Excellence. This acronym clearly defines the expected behaviors of our great students. We will again this year award our students with PRIDE tickets on Fridays, and every other month the students will be showing their best Eastbluff pride with our Student of The Month Awards at Flag Deck.

We are so proud of our Eastbluff students, and are looking forward to an exciting year together!



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

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • [ensign.nmusd.us](http://ensign.nmusd.us)



**Samantha Payne**  
*Principal*

### After School Tutoring

Ensign Intermediate is excited to offer an after school tutoring program for our students run by our students. Every Tuesday and Thursday, the Ensign Library welcomes in 20-30 students looking for extra help on homework and assignments. They are met by 10-15 Ensign student volunteers who give their time and experience to as many students as possible. We often have nearly

a one to one ratio of tutor to student! Who better to help you with your math homework than a student in with the same teacher who had a firm grasp on the material taught? Our student volunteers are rewarded with community service hours that they use towards their membership in the National Junior Honor Society and in our campus’ AVID program. The students are, of course, supervised by staff members who are also offering help. It has been and will continue to be an uplifting, fulfilling and supportive program for all students involved.

# Estancia High School

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



**Michael Halt**  
Principal

## Off to a Great Start

The 2022-2023 school year got off to a great start here at Estancia High School! Nearly 75 percent of the Class of 2026 attended Freshmen Welcome Day on August 19. Estancia faculty members dressed in their class-colored shirts, and over 60 Link Crew Leaders dressed in their Link Crew shirts, all to greet these freshmen as they entered the gym

through our spirit tunnel.

Freshmen Welcome Day is designed to be a powerful orientation event that makes our incoming students feel excited and proud to be attending Estancia. It also allows them to develop the kind of relationships and strategies that will contribute to their success in high school.

Our ASB leaders and Link Crew Leaders also helped the students locate their classrooms. The teachers even greeted them at the threshold of their rooms to help create a positive and welcoming learning environment.

The students then viewed special “Welcome Week” videos in their Estancia Tutorial-Advisory Program classes that informed them about school activities and athletics. There was an introduction from the activities director and athletic director, information about our 5-Star program designed to incentivize involvement and positive behavior, and what counseling and support resources are available here at EHS.



**Estancia Link Crew Leaders ready to welcome and support the class of 2026.**



## Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • [harborview.nmusd.us](http://harborview.nmusd.us)



**Gabriel Del Real**  
Principal

## Wild About Books

Harbor View Elementary School students are Wild About Reading! To kick off our school's recent Read-A-Thon, over 100 Harbor View students logged onto Zoom at 7 p.m. on a Monday evening for a scavenger hunt, picture book read-aloud, and Kahoot challenge!

Students on their couches, at the dinner table, or in bed with their pajamas joined their fellow Harbor View Vikings to listen as I read *Wild About Books*, by Judy Sierra. This book features a librarian who begins reading books to animals in a local zoo. Quickly, the animals become enthusiastic readers themselves and cannot get enough of the books. Soon the librarian opens a new branch of the library in the zoo, and the animals are enthralled with their options at the “Zooibrary”!

To begin their read-aloud, the students participated in a scavenger hunt where they had three minutes to find stuffed animals, books about animals, animal costumes, or a live animal in their homes. The children excitedly shared their animal friends or discoveries on camera. Quickly, our Zoom screens were alive with animals of all types. Live birds, cats, dogs, and students wearing animal costumes joined in the fun. The students also held up examples of books about wild animals of all types.

After the scavenger hunt, I read the story and students listened intently as I shared the colorful pictures on screen along with the rhythmic rhyming verses of each page. To wrap up the experience, the children logged into Kahoot to compete in a quiz that recalled details from the story. By the end of the evening all of the students were able to log their minutes in the school's Read-A-Thon.

Our Harbor View Elementary students are wild about reading, and wild about books!

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

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • [kaiser.nmusd.us](http://kaiser.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
*Principal*

### What a Great Beginning!

Kaiser staff members, students, and families jumped right in when the school year began! The PFO membership drive was a grand success! An additional intervention teacher is on the way! Students indulged in their love for reading at the fall book faire! Student Council elections, the first “Frozen

Friday” and dinner fundraiser are in the rear-view mirror, and the first Skate Night was packed with parents and their Kaiser kiddos. The Read-a-Thon has already met its first goal and a special dress-up day is on the way! Classroom and lunchtime volunteers are busy supporting our teachers and students and after school music programs have students strumming and singing! Coming soon will be Kaiser’s special STEM program with Vanguard University, tryouts for the musical, and the annual Bully Prevention Poster Contest.



**Kaiser Knights are cosmic readers!**

It’s been an auspicious start to a busy and exciting school year with great thanks to Kaiser’s teachers and community. It is going to be a marvelous and action-packed year!

## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • [killybrooke.nmusd.us](http://killybrooke.nmusd.us)

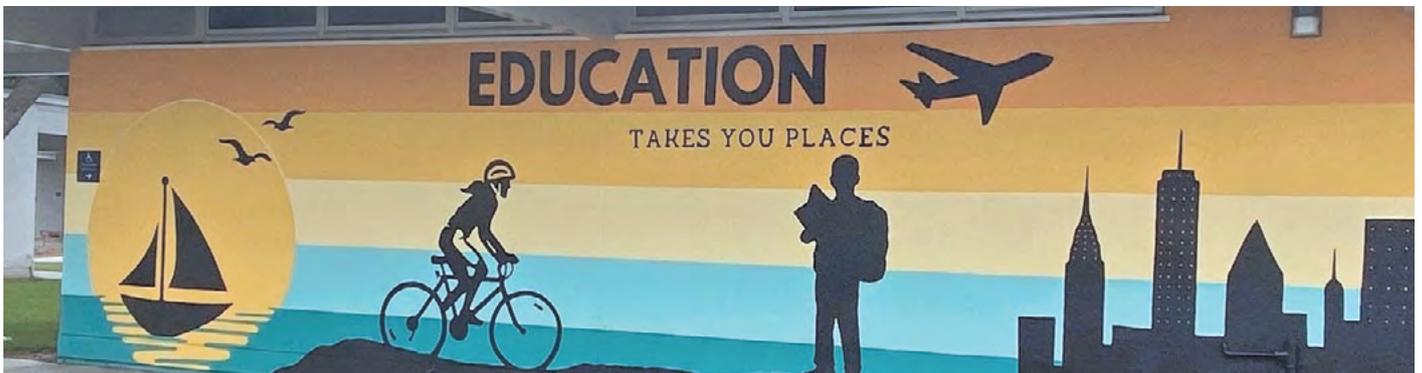


**Laura Sosa**  
*Principal*

### Education takes You Places

Killybrooke, home of the Colts, has kicked off an incredible 22-23 school year. With high academic standards, a focus on student engagement, a welcoming culture, and a top-notch team dedicated to supporting our students, we will continue the pattern of excellence that Killybrooke is known for. As such, our school wide theme for the year is Education takes you Places. We will focus on encouraging students to SOAR

to new heights by actively engaging in their education, while fostering the understanding in each of our students that they can also rise by lifting others. Our scholars are kind, capable, and huge contributors to the success of our Killybrooke community. We can all reach new heights by working as a team, celebrating the success of others, and being intentional to bring positivity to campus each day. This theme mirrors our newest mural addition to campus and inspired a flyover during one of our Flag Deck assemblies. We can’t wait to see all of the places education will take us this year!



**Our newest mural depicting our school wide theme.**

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

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • [lincoln.nmusd.us](http://lincoln.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Kristin DeMicco**  
*Principal*

### A Variety of Opportunities

Lincoln students have quickly settled back into the rhythm and routine of school, and we have already had an opportunity to provide students with a variety of enrichment opportunities that will continue throughout the year. First, under the direction of our amazing music teacher, Mrs. Duffin, our 4-6th grade band and chorus have started rehearsals and are looking forward to performing both on campus as well as out in the community in the coming months. Also, thanks to the generosity of our parents and the hard work of our PTA, all our students are experiencing STEM classes and art classes during their school day. Finally, student leadership opportunities are growing on our campus this year. We recently held student council elections and we will be bringing PALs back to our campus as well. I am so proud of our Lincoln students and looking forward to a great year!



**Lincoln Student Council Officers for the 22-23 School Year.**

## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • [mariners.nmusd.us](http://mariners.nmusd.us)



**Matthew Broesamle**  
*Principal*

### Off to an Incredible Start

Mariners Elementary is off to an incredible start in 2022! Our students and staff are committed to showing Mariners PRIDE on campus and throughout our community. We have had some great events to kick off the school year to educate our students, teachers and parents. These events include Behavior Smart Start Rotations, Thinking Maps training, and Coffee with the Principal. WE HAVE BEEN BUSY! Another highlight we are excited about is welcoming our community back on campus for FUN Mariners family events.

Our PTA held their first family event of the year in mid-September... Family Bingo Night!! It was a huge hit! Our multi-purpose room was packed with enthusiastic families for a night filled with fun energy and pizza. It was incredibly great to see our community together for a night of Bingo. We are very grateful for our volunteers

that made this event such a success. Additionally, a special thank you to a few 6th grade students who led each game. Students and families listened with great anticipation for numbers to be called with the hopes of being the first to yell "Bingo!"



**6th grade students leading Bingo games**

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

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • [nce.nmusd.us](http://nce.nmusd.us)



**Somer Harding**  
*Principal*

### Morning Crew

To create a greater sense of community, and in order to get our teachers into the classroom first thing in the morning to get their day started, our parents have created a new space for volunteerism – Our Parent Crew – Morning Car Line.

So far it has been an incredible success!

Each classroom is assigned 1 or 2 weeks out of the school year, and parents from that class step up to help us get our students out of their cars and greet them in the morning. Parents are reporting that it is fun to see their friends and neighbors and say good morning to all. Students are arriving excited to see which parents will be out front and what theme they may have chosen for their week. We kicked the new program off with a bunch of dads in neon yellow shorts – they were a big hit!



## Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • [newportel.nmusd.us](http://newportel.nmusd.us)



**Amanda Estrada**  
*Principal*

### Grow With Gratitude

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a joyful start! Our theme for the school year is “Grow with Gratitude,” and there are so many things for which we can be grateful.

For example, our amazing parent community who attended our “Chalk the Walk” event and used sidewalk chalk to write positive messages on the sidewalks around campus. It was a wonderful way to welcome our students on the first day of school.

We are also grateful for the training opportunities we had over the summer. The teaching staff and I learned about Thinking Maps, an instructional strategy designed to help students organize their thinking. We are excited about the impact that this teaching strategy will have on our students’ critical thinking skills and academic achievement.

Additionally, we are grateful for our RTI team of teachers (pictured). With our RTI (Response to Intervention) rotations program, we differentiate instruction to ensure that student needs are being met. Children who need additional time and support to meet grade-level expectations work in smaller groups to close

the gap, and those who are performing at or beyond grade level receive extension and enrichment instruction geared to take their learning even further.

By practicing gratitude and working together, we know that the 2022-2023 school year is going to be amazing!



## Newport Harbor High School (9-12)

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



**Sean Boulton**  
Principal

### Oktoberfest for our Staff

NHHS Culinary brought Oktoberfest to the Staff Lounge to kick off October. We planned out an extended lunch and served our teachers.

Here was the menu:  
Laugenbrezel mit Obatzda:  
Giant Soft Pretzels with Brie and Caraway Cheese Dip

Bratwurst: Grilled Brats in a Warm Hoagie Roll served alongside Traditional Toppings

Kartoffelsalat: German-Style Red Potato Salad with Warm Bacon Vinaigrette and Chives

Gurkensalat: Crisp Cucumber Dill Salad  
Apfelkuchen: Old-Fashioned Apple Cake with Whipped Cream and Housemade Caramel

Apfelschorle oder Eistee: Classic German Apple Spritzer or Iced Tea

It was delicious, a way to usher in the fall, and celebrate another corner of our magical world.



Auf Wiedersehen!  
The Shipyard Students

## Newport Heights Elementary (K-6)

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • [newportheights.nmusd.us](http://newportheights.nmusd.us)



**Terri Clarke**  
Principal

### Be Proud. Be Kind. Be You!

This year we continue to focus on our Shark PRIDE, kindness, and celebrating our individuality with our motto: Be Proud. Be Kind. Be You! The first day of school, students were welcomed to campus with signs of positivity and encouragement as well as photo spots; each week we promote T-Shirt Tuesdays where students and staff are encouraged to wear apparel that promotes positivity and Spirit Wear

Wednesday to show off our Shark PRIDE; plus we celebrate our students at Flag Deck with “Shark of the Week,” Shark PRIDE winners, Monthly Awards, Big Bucket winner, and more. This month we are introducing student experiences, this is an opportunity for students to turn in their Shark PRIDE slips for a chance to win a fun experience with a staff member such as Art with a 5th grade teacher, Guitar Lessons with a 3rd grade teacher, Handball with the Principal, Ozobots & Robotics with the Shark Tank Technology Teacher. We are looking forward to a fantastic year where students “Achieve Great Heights!”



## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • [paularino.nmusd.us](http://paularino.nmusd.us)



**Annalisa Schwartz**  
Principal

### Welcome Back!

For the 2022-2023 school year, our teachers and staff members are fully committed to supporting the academic, social emotional, and behavioral needs of our students. Our teachers are hard at work implementing the district-adopted curriculum and differentiated strategies that will help support all learners.

We are fortunate to have a part-time school counselor as a member of our Panther staff to better address the social emotional needs of our students. We are also excited that our students and staff are able to integrate these new positive behavior supports in the classrooms and on the playground.

Paularino is especially fortunate to have a robust Wellness Center team composed of key staff members who can support our students in various avenues, from health, behavior, academics, and social emotional to attendance. Our Wellness Center Team meets regularly to discuss the variety of concerns and needs of our Panthers and how to best approach them.

After a few years of strict health and safety guidelines, our new “normal” is now here. The beginning of the school year allowed us to open our doors and kick off the term with our parents on campus on the very first day of school. We were also able to have visitors at our weekly Friday Flag Deck, and the return of PTA Family Nights. Our teachers and staff are so excited to have our parents and community members re-engaged in our school.

Thank you to all of our Paularino families for your continued flexibility and support. Welcome back, Panthers!

## Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • [pomona.nmusd.us](http://pomona.nmusd.us)



**Cindy Pedroso**  
Principal

### Welcome Back

The Pomona staff and teachers were thrilled to welcome back our panthers and continue to bring back all the wonder experiences that are part of a school year. It is exciting to feel the renewed energy that

it is felt throughout the classrooms and walkways. Students entered with excitement and bright smiles. This year we are thrilled to bring students new enrichment opportunities and experience we haven't been able to over the last couple of years. Our focus continues to be on providing students with a rigorous and supportive learning environment, from STEM to musical theater. Students will not only reach new academic milestones but do it with confidence and a positive self-image. Pomona has always been dedicated to support the whole child and this year is no different as we have added calm corners to every classroom. We look forward to a wonderful and productive new year.  
#pomonapathes #patherpride



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

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • [rea.nmusd.us](http://rea.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

### **Certified AVID School**

At Rea, we are proud to be a certified AVID School. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID is a systematic approach to building college readiness in the elementary grades. Students may choose to join AVID in middle and high school to continue their college readiness experiences. Through AVID, our students develop academic habits they need to be successful in middle school, high

school, and college, in an age-appropriate and challenging way. Students learn about organization, study skills, and communication, and learn to ask and answer high-level questions that go beyond routine answers. Our strong college-going culture encourages students to think about their college and career plans. In close partnership with PTA, we host several AVID Family Nights each year. These parent-child events are designed to strengthen the bond between school and family as well as build knowledge and motivation towards student goals for college and career.

## Sonora *Elementary (PK-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • [sonora.nmusd.us](http://sonora.nmusd.us)



**Mia Doidge**  
*Principal*

### **Enjoying the Arts**

Sonora Elementary TK – 2nd grade students were able to enjoy their first field trip of the school year! For many of our students, this was also their first time riding a school bus, so they were all smiles! The students headed over to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and saw the performance of “The Joshua Show.”

This was an entertaining production of a character named Mr. Nichols who shows his best friend the joy in being yourself. There was live music, tap dancing, comedy, and puppetry that the students came back to school excited to share all about! These experiences help our kids recognize and develop their own creativity, potentially a passion in the arts, and an appreciation for the performing arts.



## Charles W. TeWinkle *Middle School (7-8)*

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • [tewinkle.nmusd.us](http://tewinkle.nmusd.us)



**Ixchel Sanchez**  
*Principal*

### We're Back!

Our TeWinkle Trojans are off to a great start. I would like to say that I was so grateful for the families that were able to attend our Back-to-School Night on September 21. We had a strong turnout, and enjoyed seeing families on campus meeting with their children's teacher and to be able to put a face to a name!

A big shout-out is due to Ms. Delgado and her ASB students who assisted with coordinating and decorating. They did a fantastic job! Our support staff was also able to help many of you create and log into your Schoology account, which allows parents to monitor their children's assignments and grades.

It is critical that we have your most current phone number and email address to continue to communicate upcoming events and activities, and/or in the event of an emergency. Many of you also had a chance to meet and welcome Mrs. Amber Burkhart as well, who is our new assistant principal.

Thank you to the TeWinkle community for supporting our students, faculty, and staff. You are very much appreciated.



## Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • [victoria.nmusd.us](http://victoria.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
*Principal*

### Sense of Renewal

Something I have always loved about education is the fresh sense of renewal that accompanies the start of each new school year. As the 2022-2023 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. In the spirit of Ted Lasso, our opening day began with our belief in hope and what is possible when one 'believes'. With a strong team spirit and work ethic, the team will be strong together no matter the outcome....it's going to be a great year at Victoria!



## Whittier Elementary (K-6)

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • [whittier.nmusd.us](http://whittier.nmusd.us)



**Randy Lempert**  
Principal

### Our Special School!

Whittier is a special school that offers a robust learning environment from preschool to sixth grade. We provide the only elementary Spanish dual-immersion program in the NMUSD. Our students are passionate about showcasing their Whittier PRIDE inside and outside the classroom. We love to reward our students when we see them doing their Personal best, showing Respect, saying "I am college and career ready," showing

Determination, and living with Excellence. Teachers at Whittier are dedicated to serving the needs of our students and providing them with a caring and engaging learning environment.

Our Whittier community is an involved community that is passionate about the best experiences for our children. We have an active and dedicated PTA that continues to support the needs of all learners. Students at Whittier participate in science and music classes that provide unforgettable hands-on and enriching experiences. Many of our students at Whittier are involved in our after-school program, Project Kidz Connect, where students stay after school and actively participate in various fun-filled enrichment opportunities.

Whittier Elementary School remains an excellent school that genuinely embraces our students and community. I look forward to working with you to bring out the best in your child this school year. I look forward to connecting with you and your family to help your child be their best at Whittier.

Go Dolphins!

## Wilson Elementary (K-6)

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • [wilson.nmusd.us](http://wilson.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Heckert**  
Principal

### Wilson Wildcats are ROARING

A Wilson Wildcats ROARS each day! Wilson prioritizes safety and positive choices. Our goal is to reinforce students for positive actions when they focus on R- Respect, O - Ownership, A - Attitude, R - Responsibility, and S - Safety. We want to create a safe place to learn.

Each week students have opportunities to earn Wildcat tickets for their ROARS

choices. Wildcat tickets are put into a school-wide drawing where students are rewarded. Students can also earn a special lunch with the principal for ROARING! Classes also earn SUPER Roars tickets for demonstrating a whole class positive choice!

In September, we learned about Respect. We learned that respect is earned and there are different actions to show respect. We also recognized students from each class for demonstrating respect. In October, we will focus on ownership and accountability.



## Woodland Elementary (K-2)

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • [woodland.nmusd.us](http://woodland.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
Principal

### Art of the Ancient Americas

Woodland Dragons are once again able to participate in the Art Masters program thanks to the generous support of our PFO! This year we are continuing to learn about culturally diverse artists.

This month our students explored the art of the Olmec, the Maya, and the Aztecs who lived in Central America long ago. By studying the artifacts, monuments, icons, sculptures, and masks, they learned about how people lived in these ancient civilizations. Once learning about the artists, our art teacher, Mrs. Williams, led them in an activity that emphasized color, pattern, repetition, and variety. The icon they designed featured colors and patterns related to that region. Woodland Elementary is a GREAT place to learn!



### 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, 2022

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

Thank you **Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics** for sponsoring our drawings  
[BarkateNehiSmiles.com](http://BarkateNehiSmiles.com)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT     | HALLOWEEN      |
| CANDY         | JACK O LANTERN |
| CARVE         | MUMMY          |
| CEMETERY      | SKELETON       |
| COSTUME       | SPIDER         |
| DECORATIONS   | SWAMP CREATURE |
| FRANKENSTEIN  | TRICK OR TREAT |
| FRIGHTFUL     | VAMPIRE        |
| GHOST         | WEB            |
| GHOUL         | WEREWOLF       |
| GRAVE         | WITCH          |
| HAUNTED HOUSE | ZOMBIE         |

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K	K	N	L	E	D	G	L	H	Y	Y	C	D	T	E
C	P	U	B	R	I	U	J	T	L	M	Y	I	E	L
A	Y	A	I	E	P	V	L	F	K	M	C	I	R	E
J	J	H	J	W	S	D	C	U	X	U	B	F	Y	T
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T	B	X	U	U	D	U	T	S	O	H	G	W	R	N
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**S.T.E.A.M.  
CALLING ALL READERS**

# *RACE TO SPACE* **READING CHALLENGE**

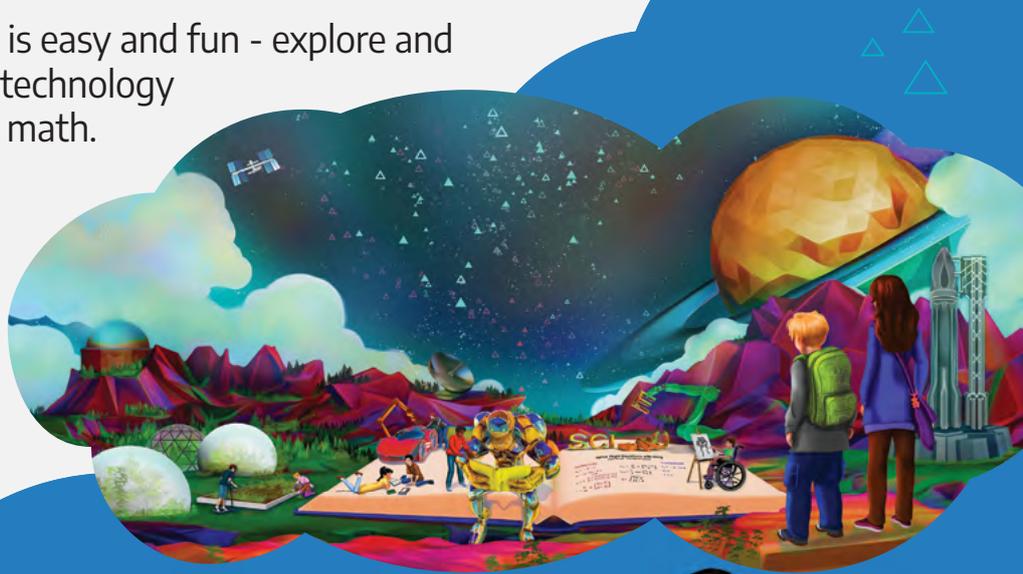
Presented by Orange County Children's Book Festival

**OCTOBER 14 - NOVEMBER 4, 2022**

The second annual **S.T.E.A.M. Race to Space Reading Challenge** is here!

Winning rewards and prizes is easy and fun - explore and read stories about science ▶ technology ▶ engineering ▶ the arts and math.

Everyone who finishes the challenge gets a personalized certificate of completion and a goodie bag.



**Eager readers earn virtual tickets to win bonus prizes! Here are just some**

- ▶ Book bundles
- ▶ Coding lessons
- ▶ Chromebook



Visit **ReadSteam.org** to sign up

**Science ▲ Technology ▲ Engineering ▲ Arts ▲ Mathematics**

- ▶ Registration begins **October 1, 2022**
- ▶ Open to SoCal students' grades TK-12
- ▶ Endorsed by the Orange County Department of Education

# Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

Our country has long likened its drug prevention efforts to a war, marshaling resources at the local, state and national levels to disrupt the production, distribution and consumption of illegal substances.

But the rise of fentanyl represents a dark and deadly new battlefield that is like nothing we've ever seen before, forcing us to rethink the rules of engagement.

Two factors make this synthetic opioid exceedingly dangerous. First, fentanyl is incredibly lethal at roughly 50 times stronger than heroin and about 100 times more powerful than morphine. Second, many of fentanyl's users don't even know they're taking the drug because it's often hidden in counterfeit pills made to look like common prescription opioids or other medications.

There is also little in the way of quality control in the manufacturing process, meaning doses can vary wildly. Fittingly, "One Pill Can Kill" is the name of the campaign launched by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reduce America's fentanyl supply.

"The DEA confiscated over 20 million counterfeit pills in 2021," says Stephan Lambert, OCDE's coordinator of prevention education. "If you buy a pill from anywhere other than a pharmacy, you should assume that it's fentanyl. It's virtually impossible to tell what is counterfeit, and it's not worth the risk. When tested, 42 percent of those confiscated pills had a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl."

In Orange County alone, the number of fentanyl-related deaths skyrocketed to 717 in 2021 from 57 just four years earlier. That's an increase of over 1,100 percent, and fentanyl fatalities now account for more than three-quarters of all overdose deaths. At the same time, drug poisoning cases have emerged as the leading cause of

accidental death in Orange County, mirroring national rates.

These sobering statistics should command the attention of our entire county. To that end, the Orange County Department of Education is working closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to make sure educators and families have the tools and resources needed to help combat this crisis. On Nov. 4, both agencies will be joined by Orange County Superior Court Judge Maria D. Hernandez for a special Fentanyl Forum set to cover a range of topics, including fentanyl's impacts, how to talk to young people, and how to respond to drug overdoses and poisonings.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and distracted by the countless challenges we face at any given moment. And there's a narrative that young people tune out well-intentioned warnings about drugs and peer pressure from adults. But our kids are listening. As we continue to model vigilance, I urge all Orange County families to look for teachable moments to talk to their children about fentanyl and the dangers of taking drugs from anyone other than a licensed medical professional.

These conversations will vary by age, but even young children can benefit from regular check-ins to dialogue about the pressures they're experiencing at school or what they're hearing from their peers. Regular chats can also serve as a baseline to track changes in a child's state of mind.

The fentanyl-related trends we're seeing are disturbing and disheartening, but they are not irreversible. When unified, millions of Orange County voices are powerful enough to communicate that we won't tolerate this poison in our communities and that one life lost is too many.

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## Parent To Parent



**Jodie Lynn**

### Teen Drinking

**Q.** Now that my husband and I have returned to the office, we think that our 16-year-old may be having friends over and engaging in drinking alcohol. We've noticed certain bottles of liquor are either missing or maybe diluted. It took us time to figure this out. We haven't approached our son yet because we wanted to see if you had some pointers to try and keep things from becoming an explosive situation.

**A.** Your son will probably try to dodge and avoid the discussion as well as deny drinking. To make the most of the conversation the two of you will need to take some time to think about the issues you want to discuss before you talk with your son. Consider how he might react and ways

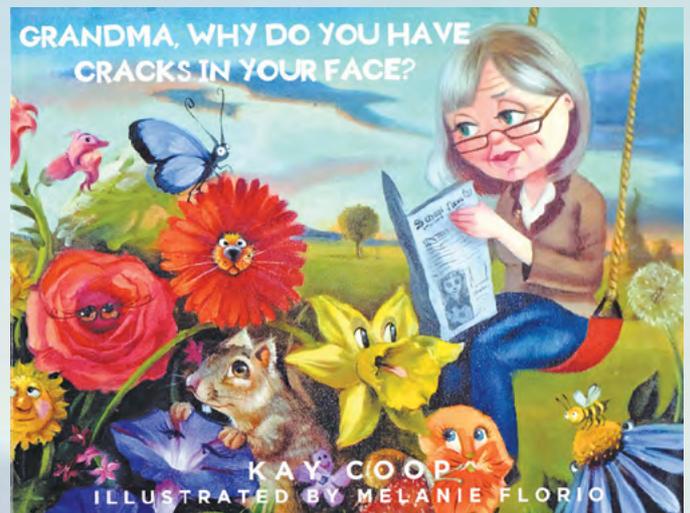
you might respond to his questions. Be as prepared as you can for various scenarios. Avoid shaming him, especially since it may backfire, and be ready for him to claim that the two of you are setting an example by having alcohol in the house. Parents influence their teens, and sometimes even younger kids, when it comes to alcohol consumption. The old saying, "Do as I say and not as I do," will be exactly what he may bring up first. If it gets out of hand or doesn't give you the results you want, then a counselor may be able to help. Whatever you do, start this process as soon as possible and approach it with patience and love but also assertiveness.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)



# Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop  
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



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*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?* Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.