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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

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Visual and Performing Arts Plan



Michael L. Christensen
Superintendent

The past seven years of economic downturn have led to hardships nationwide, including within our home State of California. Reduced funding caused OUSD, like many other school districts, to be forced to cut back on

spending. Regretfully, programs that were beneficial to students ended when there were no longer funds available to maintain them.

Last year was the first time since 2007 that the State ended its fiscal year with cash left over in its general fund, and the improving economy led the Board of Education to ask staff to design an action plan for the possible restoration of the elementary music program, a program cut during the budget downfall.

A District Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA) Committee consisting of teachers, administrators and District staff was formulated and charged with the task of determining what steps would be necessary to restore music at the elementary level. The VAPA Committee held numerous meetings to discuss the scope of the elementary music prior to the 2007 funding cuts and the pros/cons of the previous program. All elementary school teachers and administrators were surveyed to glean their feedback on the previous



Students displaying their creativity.

program and, more importantly, what they envisioned the new program should entail. In addition to the numerous committee discussions, pertinent information was gathered from a myriad of school districts to understand their varied, successful art program models.

In September 2014, the District VAPA Committee presented their findings on four plausible models for elementary music restoration and the associated program costs to the OUSD Board of Education. In order for any one of these models to be effective, successful, and sustainable, it was agreed that the program must be aligned to District-wide objectives.

In order to better define those objectives it was necessary to update the OUSD District Visual & Performing Arts Plan, which included two days of strategic planning facilitated by The California Arts Project and the Orange County Department of Education. Stakeholders, including parents and community partners, looked at different focus areas included within the arts plan created in 2007 and analyzed the current strengths and weaknesses in each of the focus areas. Through collaborative and consensus-building activities, stakeholders were able to define the goals and objectives they envisioned for Orange Unified regarding the arts. All stakeholders were in agreement that the foundation of the plan should be Arts for All — equitable access to a quality arts program for all OUSD K-12 students.

Following the development of the District Arts Education Plan, District-facilitated focus groups, consisting of targeted stakeholders, looked at the District Arts Education Plan and provided additional feedback on plausible models that truly provide students with the opportunity to compete in the global economy. Through this process, stakeholders agreed that providing students with instruction in music-only would not be in alignment with our District Arts Education Plan. Instead, based on the plethora of feedback gathered from all stakeholders over the 18 month process, a recommendation to the Board included the Implementation of the 21st Century Integrated Arts Wheel for the 2015-16 school year. In the initial implementation year, 5th & 6th grade students in all 27 elementary schools will receive 90 minutes of instrumental music or participation in an arts wheel where they will have the opportunity to experience theatre arts, visual arts, dance, general music/choir and/or STEM & Art Integration. This model has an initial cost of an estimated \$2.5 million and was graciously approved by the OUSD Board of Education on March 12th. It is expected that the program will expand in future years to include more grade levels.

All stakeholders are excited that OUSD is on the cutting edge of Arts Education, providing 21st Century learning opportunities that enable students to see that they have purpose, voice and the ability to contribute to society!

Anyone wanting additional information about the program or how to donate instruments for our students should contact the Curriculum & Instruction Office at (714) 628-5452.

You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+ for ongoing District updates.

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ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Spring is here and summer is right around the corner. With students focused on academic goals, testing and choosing colleges it is a very busy time.

The Superintendent's message is exciting about the Visual and Performing Arts Plan.

In this issue you will read about robotics, Read Across America, Learning Academies, STEM Lab, Health and Fitness and so much more...

Be sure to enter our Word Search on page 20 and it is open to all ages! Our next issue June 3rd.



Netragrednik
Neta Madison



Orange Unified School District

GRADUATION 2014-2015

Promotion & Graduation Schedule Thursday, June 11, 2015*

Special Education School

| School | Time | Location |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Tuesday, June 9, 2015* Canyon Hills | 10:00 am | Gymnasium |

Middle School Promotions

| School | Time | Location |
|---|----------|---------------------------------------|
| McPherson Magnet | 9:00 am | McPherson Magnet Cafeteria |
| Portola | 9:00 am | Portola School Field |
| Yorba | 10:00 am | Yorba School Field |
| Cerro Villa | 10:30 am | Cerro Villa Outdoor Amphitheater |
| Santiago Charter | 11:00 am | Santiago Charter Outdoor Amphitheater |
| Friday, June 12, 2015* El Rancho Charter | 9:00 am | El Rancho Outdoor Amphitheater |

High School Graduations

| School | Time | Location |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| El Modena | 1:30 pm | Fred Kelly Stadium |
| Canyon | 4:00 pm | Fred Kelly Stadium |
| Orange High | 4:30 pm | Orange High Outdoor Theater |
| Villa Park | 7:00 pm | Fred Kelly Stadium |
| Richland Alternative Ed | 10:00 am | Fred Kelly Stadium |

Website



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California Elementary School
1080 N. California St.,
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Interest Form: Spanish



BEGINNING 2015-2016 ORANGE UNIFIED IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE SPANISH IMMERSION ACADEMY



The Inspire Academia at California Elementary School will be an innovative and premier one-to-one iPad program that seamlessly infuses 21st century learning and technology into a Spanish Immersion curriculum. Students will learn to be bilingual and bi-literate in both English and Spanish while mastering 21st century skills. Students will have

the opportunity to continue their language skills in middle school and high school and have the honor to earn college credit by taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Spanish. Students will graduate with a Seal of Bi-literacy on their diploma and college transcripts. Students will enter the workforce with 21st century skills and will be prepared to communicate and collaborate with the over 500 million people worldwide that speak Spanish. Space is limited and families interested in the program may call to schedule an appointment to learn more about this exciting program.

Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



A Literary Visit

By Kathy Short, Librarian

In honor of Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday, Anaheim Hills Elementary School was pleased to welcome children's author Scott Sussman to read and present his delightful books. Scott, visiting us from his home in Rome, Italy, shared his stories of adventure, courage, and friendship.

Sandra Miller
Principal

Scott Sussman was born in Fountain Valley, California in 1971. When asked why he writes for children, he said, "Because anything is possible in the mind of a child. Tables can talk, French fries can refuse to be eaten, and your socks can complain that your feet stink. For me, that's fun." More information on Scott and his books can be found at www.octopusinkpress.com.



In addition to the two assemblies, Mr. Sussman visited several classrooms that morning and enjoyed lunch with 17 students who had earned 1,000 Reading Counts points! We were all excited to have Scott Sussman join us and share in our love of literacy at Anaheim Hills!

California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. John Albert
Principal

Learning Academies

We are proud to announce the launch of an innovative and premiere iPad educational program called the iInspire Academy. This new 1:1 program seamlessly infuses 21st-century learning and technology into the regular curriculum.

We currently have 62 percent of our classrooms integrating this new technology on a daily basis, and an expansion is planned for next year. To maximize its benefits, our teachers have been involved in intensive professional development. Our level of student engagement has skyrocketed since the start of the program.

We are also launching a kindergarten Spanish Immersion Academy for next year. This innovative, application-based 1:1 iPad Academy will integrate technology into a Spanish-immersion curriculum. The students will spend 50 percent of their day learning Spanish and 50 percent English. They will graduate bilingual and bi-literate.

We are currently accepting students in grades TK-5 for our new iPad Academy, and kindergarten students for the Spanish Immersion Academy. Scan the QR Code picture for details.



Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



It Takes Us All

It has been a fun and productive winter at Cambridge Elementary School, and we look forward to an amazing spring.

Our families have been involved in many activities, including monthly spirit assemblies, Funky Friday, Run Club, book fair, our annual winter performance, Science on the Go, Art Masters, and Read Across America Day. There is more to come, including Imagination Machine, our spring carnival, and a new parent program.

Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Cambridge will be administering the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) starting the week of April 13. We are hosting an information session for families on April 6 at 2:30 p.m. Students will be honing their skills using pretests, practicing keyboarding, and reviewing the Common Core State Standards all month long. We look forward to a successful testing season!

Thanks to our parents, teachers, and community members for giving our students a wonderful educational environment. It takes us all!



Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Karen Hanson
Principal

Opportunities for Fun and Learning

We are midway through another wonderful year at Canyon Hills School. Students continue to grow and progress in a safe, nurturing environment. Our caring, professional staff enjoys being part of each child's life during the week.

Over the past few months, students have participated in a variety of school activities, including the second annual Snow Day, provided by our hardworking and supportive Canyon Hills Parent Group. Students enjoyed a fun and educational experience. Additional support came from employees of a nearby department store in Yorba Linda, who donated their time throughout the day to assist students. They also brought items, such as storybooks and stuffed animals, which were donated to the students. During the event, students had opportunities to interact with one another, learn to take turns, experience new sensory activities, and build fine- and gross-motor skills. Snow Day remains the most anticipated yearly event at Canyon Hills.

One of the community organizations that generously donates to our school is a local church youth group. Middle and high school students and their leaders provided an excellent dinner and entertainment for the annual Valentine's Sweetheart Dance at Canyon Hills. Approximately 50 volunteers prepared and served dinner, provided music, and encouraged Canyon Hills' students to get out on the dance floor. Individual students were selected as the princes or princesses to represent their classes.

School activities and field trips, made possible by your generous donations, offer an opportunity for students to utilize many practical skills in the areas of communication, socialization, and community integration. A focus at Canyon Hills is encouraging student communication. At school, students continue to use a variety of new technologies, including tablets, to support expressive language development.

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Canyon *High School*

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Dr. Kimberly Fricker
Principal

Dauntless Decathlon Competitors!

After regional competitions held on two consecutive Saturdays that ended in February, Canyon High School's first-year Academic Decathlon Team earned a first-place finish in Division III. Overall, Canyon High School finished seventh in Orange County out of the 47 county high school teams that competed.

Academic Decathlon is a 10-event scholastic contest that started in Orange County in 1968. Since then, it has grown to national levels, and governing rules require that students of all achievement level make up teams. Teams can consist of nine members, with no more than three A students, three B students and three C students. At least two students in each achievement level are needed for a team to enter the competition.

Canyon students started studying in September and organized their efforts around this year's theme, "New Alternatives in Energy: Ingenuity and Innovation." Canyon High School students also earned a first-place finish in the decathlon's Super Quiz—a game-show-style competition in which students have to answer questions within seconds. Leading the way for Canyon was sophomore Chuyin Wen, who finished seventh overall individually in Orange County. Also earning top 10 county finishes were juniors Johanna Villacorta and Teline Tran.

Furthermore, Chuyin scored a perfect score in science and in the interview portion of the competition. Juniors Anoushka Patel and Teline Tran also earned perfect scores in the interview. Seven county students earned a perfect score in the interview.

Academic Decathlon coach Mr. Dao said, "Decathlon helps students think critically, communicate, collaborate and create as a team. And students honestly feel they are a part of a family."

When asked what Academic Decathlon can provide students, senior Angeline Phan said, "Now I feel I can accomplish anything!"

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Erika Krohn
Principal

Every Student Succeeds

Our mission at Canyon Rim Elementary School is to provide a safe and nurturing academic environment, one that supports and empowers unique learning styles, academic success, and the ability to become life-long learners and productive members of society.

Each trimester our teachers meet with the principal, the RTI2 teacher (Response to Instruction and Intervention), the RSP teacher, a school psychologist, and a speech teacher to form a Collaborative Academic Support Team (CAST). Its purpose is to discuss the learning needs of those students who are not meeting grade-level proficiency in reading or math, or are struggling with behavior issues. Each student then receives an improvement goal.

Our interventions include small-group instruction from the classroom teacher, RTI2 groups, Radical Readers (a peer tutoring program), and a "Lunch Bunch" for student socio-emotional needs, as run by our psychologist. Canyon Rim is also proud to offer mental health support provided by a counselor. If additional help is required for a student to become successful, our staff then invites the parents to a Student Success Team meeting to brainstorm a more intensive course of action.

Our teachers are also trained to meet the needs of advanced learners. Instruction is differentiated by using greater depth and complexity tools, such as Thinking Maps, close reading, additional resources for research, Accelerated Reader levels, ST math progress, as well as integrating multimedia into projects.

Canyon Rim's goal is for every Roadrunner to be able to take on the challenge of middle school, and ultimately college and career!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lisa Ogan
Principal

STEM Lab

The long-awaited Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Lab has arrived! Cerro Villa Middle School is proud and excited to present this new introductory elective course.

Beginning in the third trimester, the lab will allow students to experience different career pathways in the STEM fields. Students will rotate through 18 different modules throughout the year. Each station is specifically equipped with the hardware, software, tools, and instructional materials necessary to learn technologies such as flight, robotics, electricity, architecture, computer graphics and Animation, forensic science, and alternative energy, to name just a few. All of the lessons consist of hands-on, real-world situations, which will bring students closer to college and career readiness as they think through and solve problems in a project-based scenario.

A grand opening celebration is planned for April 15.



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Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Robots Invade Chapman Hills!

For the first time, robots have invaded Chapman Hills! This school year, we are excited to have a new robotics club for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Mr. Higgins, our club advisor and 4/5 combo teacher, has 10 upper grade students who meet weekly to learn the ins and outs of building a robot. These dedicated students spent several weeks building a robot from over 850 pieces that can pick up blocks with its front loader arm, maneuver 360 degrees, and open and close its claw. Ultimately, the students will learn how to write code for the robot which will allow it to be self driven. The students are looking forward to participating in a district robotics competition in May.



Members of the robotics club.



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Crescent *Elementary*

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Randi Leach
Principal

Robotics Champions

By Robin Nelson, Teacher – 5th Grade
and Natalie Carias, Teacher – 3rd Grade

On Saturday, February 14, the Crescent Elementary School robotics teams competed at the VEX Robotics State Championship in Pasadena. Both teams, made up of third- through sixth-grade students, qualified to compete at the VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky in April.

The robots were designed to play with an opposing team's robot during an alliance, skills-match game of stacking colored cubes. Each robot was required to have the ability to grab and stack at a high level. There were many variables, including the balancing of cubes, precision driving, and observance of other robots on the field, which added a significant challenge.

Team A won first place for individual robotic skills and first place in programming, setting the elementary world record in both. They also received the Overall Excellence Award. Team B won the Robotic Design Award for the best in the state.



Crescent Robotics Teams win awards and set world records at the VEX Robotics State Championship.

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El Modena *High School*

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Dr. Dustin Saxton
Principal

Film Talent

El Modena Television achieved victory at the Orange County Film Festival when they entered a public service announcement called What's Cookin'? This PSA was filmed to remind people to stay healthy and be aware of what they put into their bodies every day.

At the Festival, EMTV was nominated for best PSA, best producer, and best cinematography. Director Emily Olmos accepted the award for Lauren Tran, Skyler Meador, Henrik Albihn, Josh Seigel, and Jacqui Imfeld, as well as everyone else who took part in the filming and producing. The actors involved, Sam Gault and Karen Imfeld, were also a major factor in the PSA's success.



Our school's EMTV program gained some well-deserved recognition after the astounding amount of effort they dedicated to What's Cookin'? EMHS is very proud of this program. The students who participate show true talent and passion for what they do.

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



John Besta
Principal
Business &
Operations



Michele Walker
Principal
Academic
Programs

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders

El Rancho's ASB Leadership class for 2014-15 is very proud of the events and activities that they have facilitated so far this year. We kicked off our fund-raiser in August and raised close to \$50,000 in cookie dough and magazine sales to provide enhancements to the Coyote experience at El Rancho for the upcoming year. In September, ASB collaborated with our AVID classes in hosting a welcome lunch to over 100 new seventh- and-eighth-grade students who came from out of country, state or district.

El Rancho sponsored our yearly Movember fund-raiser in November, and ASB partnered with a local frozen-treat business in raising over \$300 in profit to give to our Movember campaign. Through Southwest Community Center in December, ASB facilitated the adoption of 14 needy families and in conjunction with other classes provided over 300 presents and gift cards to make the holiday happier for so many. ASB's weekly recycling efforts have raised over \$1,800 as we continue to save the planet one plastic bottle at a time!

We have had a busy first semester and look forward to making a difference in our second. El Rancho relies on ASB for most activity facilitation, but in the classroom, we are working on growing our future leaders using the tenets of John Wooden's Pyramid of Success. We are learning that being effective leaders takes equal amounts of effort, poise, self-control, initiative and taking care of others. El Rancho is proud of their student leaders and hope that they go on to make a difference as leaders of tomorrow.

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Karen Sandors
Principal

A Community of Readers

Our Fairhaven Falcons celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday in March. The students and their teachers could even be seen wearing their Dr. Seuss attire, and also pajamas!

This year the festivities began with guest readers from the community. These included Maureen Christensen, president of the 4thh District PTA; Vicki James and Phil Morse, former Fairhaven principals; Santa Ana Deputy Police Chief Doug McGeachy; Ron Moreno from the SAPD Traffic Division; Cecilia Iglesias, district representative, Office of the 37th Senate District; and Floretino Olivera, from the California Highway Patrol.



After lunch, we continued our love for reading with the "Reading with the Relatives" event. Family members were encouraged to bring their favorite books to read with their students. Even though the weather did not cooperate, this did not deter our families from joining in with the fun. Here at Fairhaven, we are building a Community of Readers one book at a time.

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Irene Preciado
Principal

Innovative Instruction

Esplanade teachers and students are so excited about technology!

We have been making some rapid gains in learning through our use of these new tools. Nearly two-thirds of our teachers have participated in eBadge, a district-wide technology advantage. Through this program, and with the guidance and support of Abby Mann, our instructional specialist, Esplanade teachers are now utilizing several different applications to help design highly engaging content and delivery.

Some of these applications include Smore, Haiku Deck, Storybird, Book Creator, Zaption, ChatterPix, Newsela, Discovery Education, iMovie, Kahoot, Wordle, and Easley. Teachers and students are using Chromebooks and iPads for whole- and small-group instruction, and have also effectively designed lessons that address our school's theory of action.

Our school's focus is on helping students develop critical thinking skills through close reading, as well as the ability to cite evidence to support their writing of learned content. Students also learn to demonstrate digital literacy through the use of online tools. Increased student engagement and excitement about learning is truly inspiring!

From kindergarten through the sixth grade, every Esplanade student also has the opportunity to communicate, collaborate, create, and engage in critical thinking. Our teachers strive to create a rich learning environment, as well as provide the resources and support our students need to share their work to create projects and digital portfolios.

To ensure this access to content, and use of technology, our staff continues their commitment to 21st-century teaching and learning through formal professional development and ongoing professional collaboration.



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Fletcher *Elementary*

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Rebeca Nelson
Principal

Lunar New Year

Fletcher Elementary School celebrated Lunar New Year, ushering in the Year of the Ram. Fletcher's Mandarin Immersion students, students from San Diego State University (SDSU), and the Global Cultural Education Foundation shared music and performances with parents, students, and teachers. Fletcher's kindergarten and first-grade students sang about the Lunar New Year, and the second- and third-grade students performed a skit about the animals of the zodiac.



Students from SDSU's Confucius Institute played the Chinese violin, the erhu, and guitar and presented Fletcher with Chinese artwork. The Global Cultural Education Foundation brought beautiful dragon costumes and decorative Chinese displays. All students at Fletcher attended the Lunar Celebration assembly and had lessons in the classroom to learn more about Lunar New Year celebrations around the world. Classes also had the opportunity to decorate Lunar New Year lanterns, which are now on display in the library.

Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Andrea Roman
Principal

Enriching Experiences

It's been a fun and exciting beginning of the 2015 year at Jordan Elementary School! Our students have begun Meet the Masters and are learning about great artists such as Monet, da Vinci, and soon Frida Kahlo. This program was made possible with donations from our parents and families. We showcased our students' art work at our Open House in March.

In February, we hosted a Science Night, where Jordan families enjoyed a fun evening of experiments and exploration. A special thank you to Ms. Anthony for helping to organize this fun night and to all the teachers and staff who ran the science stations. As a future school event, a group of parents will be going to California State University, Fullerton to take a campus tour and explore all the university has to offer their children as future college students.

Finally, we celebrated Read Across America Day. Our students participated in decorating their classroom doors, and parents were invited to read on the lawn with their students and enjoy a picnic. Parents brought their favorite books to read, blankets, and their children's favorite lunches. It was a great day for our students to enjoy reading!

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ginette Kelley
Principal

Realizing State Standards

During the 2014–15 school year, Imperial Elementary School has been implementing the new California State Standards by providing students with real-life situations that extend and enhance their learning. The special education students at Imperial have been growing vegetables in raised planter gardens. The students plant seeds, prepare soil, care for plants, and eventually harvest their bounty. This program will soon be composting the remains from their plants and other organic waste. A true hands-on learning experience!

College and career readiness comprise a focus in our new state standards. The Imperial Student Council held a College and Career Day in which all students dressed in the jersey of the desired college or in the wardrobe of the profession they are currently planning for. The upper-grade students were visited by a variety of professionals who came in and shared about their chosen career. The students learned about what it takes to prepare for those professions.

The students of Imperial are preparing for the future, one in which they will be productive members of society. Imperial is a place where students SOAR!

Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Michelle Owen
Principal

Art Masters

At Handy Elementary, our motto is "Learning Today Makes a Brighter Tomorrow!" In addition to our great academic programs at Handy Elementary, we also incorporate the arts through our Art Masters program.

Every year, our parent-organization partners with a wholesale framing company to offer our students opportunities to study and create famous artwork from around the world. Each student first studies a famous artist or era followed by working with professional artists to create individual student pieces. This year, our students are studying M.C. Escher, Louise Nevelson and the Mexican muralists.



Handy students showcasing their work created during Art Masters.

Currently, the students are studying three-dimensional design through the study of Louise Nevelson, a famous American sculptor. Students are using their knowledge of three-dimension to better understand the concepts of contract and balance.

At Handy, we believe that strong partnerships between academics and the arts foster connected learning for all students to thrive.

La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Lydia Roach
Principal

Lots Going On!

Look what is happening at La Veta! Our kindergarteners started the month of February by learning all about shadows and groundhogs. They created shadow pictures that are now displayed in the front office. Fourth-graders are studying environments and about how ecosystems survive. They each picked an animal and its biome to research and write about. Then, they made a mask of their face and turned the mask into the animal.



Lunch with loved ones.

Congratulations to two of our sixth-graders, Joseph Ettipo and Jocelyn Ha, for representing La Veta at the Orange County Spelling Bee! We recently held a La Veta family picnic during which the students enjoyed having lunch with their loved ones.

We continue to celebrate PBIS accomplishments by having a Viking Pride raffle each Friday in which one student from each class is chosen and gets to come to the office to pick a prize.

Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Maria Chairez
Principal

Reading and Science

This year, Lampson Elementary School students have been improving their reading scores. Nelly Aguilar, Ryan Lotts, Peter Bui, Kevin Lopez, and Gina Sanchez recently exited the Read 180 program due to increased reading proficiency. Congratulations to Mrs. Holguin for helping students meet their goals.

Lampson began the Reading is Fundamental program, and twice this year students were able to pick their own books to keep. We held a read-a-thon, and students read 184,958 pages. Special thanks to our parents for encouraging their children to read.

Science Night is being planned for March 26 from 5 to 6:30 p.m., where families will enjoy fun, free science activities. We hope students gain a love of science.



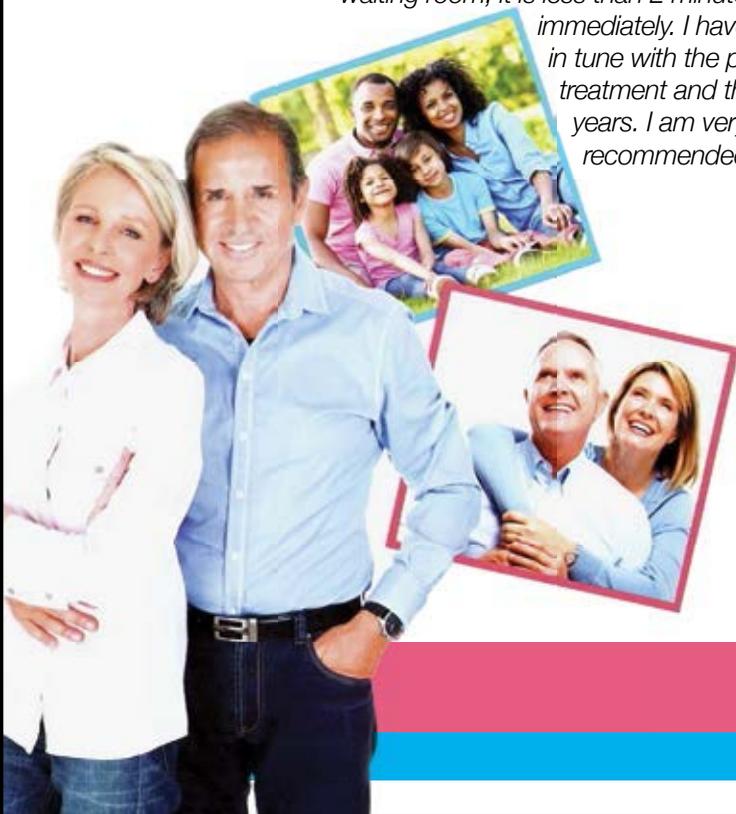
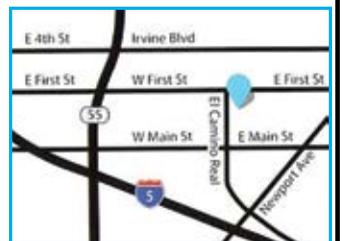
Several Lampson teachers are attending trainings sponsored by University of California, Irvine and the Orange County Office of Education to help them implement the Arts in Science curriculum. They are reporting good results with their new science lessons.



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Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Sally Hughson
Principal

PE Coaches

Some students dread PE, but not us students at Linda Vista Elementary School! Thanks to the supportive members of our P.T.A., we have PE twice a week.

Linda Vista has a pair of coaches that come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week to help our teachers with PE. Coach Joel Andrews teaches PE for the primary grades—K-3—and Coach Jennifer Angel teaches the upper grades—4-6. We get to exercise, play games, and learn how to stay healthy and safe. They even show up on rainy days!

Both coaches work really hard and plan activities that keep us entertained and moving around. We are grateful to have these two at our school and are thankful that our community has helped to provided them.



Max King and Emilie Tran.

McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Joe Erven
Principal

Reading Across America

During the week of March 2, students at McPherson Magnet School literally Read Across America to celebrate Dr. Seuss' 111th birthday. Students in all grade levels took the reader's oath in the library and received bookmarks to remind them of their oath. Each class also shared the love of reading, across America, with students in Washington D.C. Our students had the ability to ask each other questions, including "Can you play in the snow at recess?" and "Is it fun living so close to Disneyland?" The classes then exchanged summaries of books that they had read recently and enjoyed.



The picture shows our fourth-grade students in Mrs. Robinson's classroom speaking with Ms. States' class in a Washington D.C. public school. McPherson would like to send out a big thank you to Mr. Glen Warren and Mrs. Martha Martinez for coordinating this event.



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Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Amy Hitt
Principal

School Musicals

Last year, Nohl Canyon students performed in our wildly successful school musical, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, directed by Regina Roun/Literacy Onstage and coordinated by parent Beth Condon. This year's musicals were The Aristocats and Annie.

Todd Humphreys, a school parent with acting experience, worked every day to help coordinate the students and details. Over 60 students participated in each musical. In addition to selecting a cast and learning the lines, the director and

coordinator also managed the costumes, singing, practice sessions and choreography. One of our other after-school programs, led by Larissa Marantz/OC Art Studios, designed and created the set backgrounds.

The Aristocats opened in December, with leads Carter Audet-Marrero (Thomas O'Malley), Phoebe Drobish (Duchess) and Ben Griffithe (Edgar). Annie opened early in April and starred new-to-NC student Calli Niles as Annie.

We're so proud of our student stars no matter what role they play!



Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Katherine Rizzo
Principal

Jumping, Running, and Learning

February was Heart Healthy Month at Olive Elementary School. In an effort to raise our awareness of physical fitness, students heard heart-healthy facts each morning during the morning announcements. On February 12, our students participated in a jump-rope fund-raiser and raised just over \$4,000 for a national charity! Way to go, Ocelots!

Under the guidance of Mrs. Haeefe, the Olive Track Club has been holding afternoon practices each week in preparation for the spring Foundation Games. We are so excited that nearly 80 students run relays, practice drills, and participate in timed races each Wednesday afternoon. We are very thankful to the parents who come to assist with these practices, and we are looking forward to some great competition at the games! Ready, set, go, Ocelots!

Additionally, Olive students in third through sixth grades have been taking practice tests regularly for the upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium state tests. Students visit the computer lab to take practice tests and hold discussions on technology skills, which will assist them in being successful on the test.

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Orange *High School*

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ernest Gonzalez
Principal

STEM Scholarship Program

Chapman University, The Simon Foundation and Orange High School have partnered to create the Simon STEM Scholarship Program. The program was created to provide OHS students with transformative experiences in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and to greatly enhance their college preparedness. This program supports the personal and intellectual growth of inquisitive students by placing them within a dynamic educational ecosystem jointly developed through the partnership. While attending OHS, scholarship recipients will receive a computer, academic support and college-level research experience. After graduation, they will receive a full scholarship to Chapman University including tuition and housing. Four students will be selected yearly and by 2020, it is expected that the program will provide \$1 million annually to 24 Simon STEM scholars.



STEM finalists: Moses Carias, Elizabeth Espitia, Nancy Gomez, Dang Khoa Bui, Hazel Guerra, Michael Juarez, Atmary Martinez, Gage Kizzar, and Angel Diaz.

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Parents are Partners

Panorama Elementary School is honored to have amazingly involved parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents! Adults from both the local community and our regular Panorama family take time from their busy schedules to help serve our students. On any day of the week you can walk through our campus and see a grandmother, an uncle, a mom, or a dad working with a small group of children either inside a classroom or under the shade of a tree.

Panorama is also blessed with a wonderful PTA. It actively serves our school in every way, from raising funds to sponsoring our Family Nights and programs. They are volunteers, leaders, and true role models. PTA



members can even be found directing traffic in the parking lot!

Our families at Panorama make a difference for every child in the school. The adults that surround our students are welcome at Panorama any time!

Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Brenna Godsey
Principal

A Team Approach

Introducing the Palmyra Elementary Robotics Team! We have 12 students participating in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) afterschool program with faculty advisors Mary Hinton and Michelle Bretza. The students are learning the basics of robotics, problem-solving skills, and the importance of working as a team.

Michelle Bretza said, "This is such a valuable experience for our students. This hands-on learning experience allows them to experiment and be creative."

The team is planning to participate in a competition with Orange Unified School District schools, but the biggest reward is coming together as a team to create their first robot.



Sixth-grade student Abril Ariza said, "I love learning about math and engineering. We are learning the names of the parts and how to work as a team to put them together."

In addition, Palmyra will host a STEM family night this spring in order to foster school-wide awareness of STEM education.

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Jill Katevas
Principal

Art and Literature

Portola Middle School is proud to share how its art department is taking 21st-century teaching and learning by storm!

Currently we have several cross-curricular programs that combine art, literature, music, and social studies. Three years ago we created our renowned "Art and Writing at Portola Program." Here students in the art classes can work with students in the English classes to help create picture books. The English students write the story and the art students do the illustrations.

This theory of combining literature and art has also been the basis for our current Portola Art Contest theme, where the students design an illustration for a sequel to their favorite novel.

The use of technology has also become a regular staple in our art program. Our students can now use iPads to research and design their projects. They have also brought the iPad into the learning process by using videomaking applications to help present their projects and express their creativity.

Portola's art program is best known for creating on-campus murals that depict universal themes. To date, it has created five murals: the Greatest Athletes in History; California History with the Portola Expedition; Creativity in Math, Science and Art; Great Nautical Novels; and Great California Novels. The latest mural, entitled "Renaissance Artists and the Cities They Work In," is now in production and will be shown in June. During this unveiling our music program will be proudly playing the music of the time.

We are so proud of these students and their work. These efforts reflect extensive knowledge of math, geography, art, and history. Mr. Blake, their teacher, recently remarked that, "We have some high-level creative thinking going on. The students can take their imagination to new heights, which will empower them in the future."

Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Elena Rodriguez
Principal

Early Literacy Classes at Prospect

By *Ellen Davidson, Instructional Specialist*

Prospect Elementary School's weekly parent/toddler literacy classes, led by Ellen Davidson, Instructional Specialist, and Marcela Galicia, Community Liaison, are exploring the pre-literacy skills that lead to school success.

We have been singing songs, moving our bodies, and engaging in word-play activities. Spoken language is the very beginning of reading. Pre-readers can learn many valuable comprehension skills without opening a book. We have been telling stories using family photographs and exploring sequencing, character, and problems and solution. We also used a weekly grocery advertisements to categorize foods.

At our last meeting, we categorized and sorted pantry items and worked on fine-motor skills by shaping play dough into geometric shapes. We also counted play-dough leaves to feed our giraffes on our math mats.

The parents and toddlers both enjoyed learning about things that they can do at home to promote early childhood literacy.



Prospect parents and future Prospectors learning about sorting with Mrs. Davidson.

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Museum of Tolerance

In March, 75 Richland students were given the opportunity to visit the Museum of Tolerance.

This educational opportunity allows students to learn beyond the text and experience life-changing personal-growth and social responsibility.

The students were chaperoned by three history teachers that prepared their students with Holocaust and human-rights lessons in the classroom. History teacher Nicole Connally said, "As we prepare to take our students to the Museum of Tolerance, I am reminded of what a privilege it is to work for a school and district that place a tremendous value on student success. This opportunity is a meaningful investment in our students' education, and I am excited to hear all about the many ways in which this experience will have a profound effect on the lives that are touched by participating in this trip."

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Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Antoinette Coe
Principal

Know Your States!

Knowing the 50 states and capitals is at the core of our fifth-graders' academic studies, but every year, we invite all students to participate in an enriching experience that tests the students' geographic knowledge and rewards their efforts—the Know Your States Challenge.

Students prepared for weeks by using resources and sample tests available on the PTA website as well as by utilizing our giant map painted on the playground. The assessment was administered using grade-level-appropriate tests and administration processes.

We had 197 of our students conquering the Know Your States Challenge and earning a certificate and a special party. The next level saw 139 students



dominating the challenge by identifying the capitals of all 50 states. They earned a certificate, a medal and a special party. We are so proud of our participants and grateful to the PTA and all of our amazing volunteers for their support and time!

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Bobbie Lansman
Principal

Celebrating Dr. Seuss!

Serrano had a great Week of the Reader celebration with Dr. Seuss activities in March. Besides celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss on Monday, there was Hat Day thanks to The Cat in the Hat, and Animal Day with the wearing of animal clothing, face painting and animal accessories to connect with wonderful Dr. Seuss books such as The Lorax, Yertle the Turtle, Horton Hears a Who, If I Ran the Zoo and many others. On Wednesday, every classroom received a copy of Oh, the Places You'll Go! Students and staff dressed in clothing of a desired career or wore attire of a location they have been to or would like to visit.



Heather Coulter cooks up a Dr. Seuss treat of *Green Eggs and Ham*.



Third grader Angelina Roach reads *Oh, the Places You'll Go* and wants to visit Japan.

Finally, Friday culminated the week with a Reading on the Green pajama day. Students read and picnicked on the big apple field. There were a number of other fun activities and prizes for all students to celebrate the joy and fun of reading.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. James D'Agostino
Principal

Celebrating 20 Years

Santiago Charter Middle School celebrated its 20th year as Orange County's very first Charter School this year. Santiago marked this event by hosting a community event at the school which welcomed back all employees of the school for the past 20 years. The Principal at the time of the charter adoption, Mary Ann Owsley was present to give a special recognition to all of those employees who helped to implement the Charter. OC Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Assemblyman Don Wagner, Councilman Mark Murphy, Councilwoman Kim Nichols, and Orange Mayor Tita Smith all attended and presented Santiago with a proclamation for their 20 years of successfully providing a high quality education to all of its students through the years.



Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Heather Bosworth
Principal

Inclusive Learning Academy

Sycamore Elementary is committed to maximizing every student's potential within a 21st century learning environment. In January, we launched the opening of our Learning Academy Center for our kindergartners in order to prepare all students for college and career success.

Students can receive special instruction at the Center. There is a variety of learning opportunities through differentiated instruction designed to meet individual needs. A typical day begins with all students in their homerooms. Throughout the day, small groups visit the Center to work on a specific skill or area of academic need. This allows for earlier and more direct academic, social and behavioral intervention.



The Center supports Sycamore's vision to be an engaging place for all students. It fosters learning communities that value, celebrate and respond to diversity. Based on the student success we've seen, we plan to grow the Learning Academy Center by one grade level each year.

Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Connie Smith
Principal

Paws-itive Behavior

By Patty Ruiz, Resource Teacher and Nicole Fitch, Instructional Specialist

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has taken on a new look this year at Taft Elementary School. Our PBIS winter assembly kickoff was led by our student council members, who presented skits showcasing the “dos and don’ts” of our school-wide “paws-itive” behavior program.

The students presented our six different areas of appropriate behavior: in the classroom and during assemblies; on the playground; in the walkways; in the bathrooms; at the lunch tables; and in the library and computer lab. These skits were presented in a fun and meaningful fashion that engaged students and had them laughing and smiling throughout the entire performance. As a result, the students gleaned a different perspective, seeing positive and negative behavior from the point of view a peer rather than hearing the rules of right and wrong from a teacher.



Taft continues to instill positive behavior by encouraging students to be respectful, responsible, ready, and kind throughout the school day, every day. When caught engaging in paws-itive behaviors, Taft Tigers can earn Taft Tiger tickets, which are entered into weekly drawings, with the chance to win prizes or lunch with the principal.

Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Debra Larson
Principal

Happenings at VPE

By Jeannie Krever, Aekta Patel, Christina Kendall, and Maurine Tombrello, Sixth-Grade Teachers

What do the Olympics, theater activities, and political debates have in common? Why, our Villa Park sixth-grade simulations of course! According to historical records, the first Greek Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 B.C. They continued on for centuries, and were recently reenacted in the sixth-grade here at Villa Park Elementary School.

For this special event our students dressed in traditional Greek clothing. They enjoyed competing against each other in activities such as paper plate discus throw and straw javelin toss. In the debate segment, individual students chose up sides and took a stance on women’s equality, expansion of territory, and other concepts.



The students also participated in the Greek simulation by acting in period theater and re-creating an Acropolis building. All of this was done after we completed an earlier reenactment of Ancient Egypt.

Our students will complete their studies of Ancient Greece with various festival projects. Then they are off to Rome!

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Ed Howard
Principal

Advanced Placement Options

Now is the time! Challenge yourself. Villa Park High School (VPHS), in partnership with Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS), is working to identify students who should challenge themselves by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes next year. Our goal is to include students in who have shown the ability to be successful in AP classes through PSAT results, grade-point averages, and teacher/counselor recommendations. EOS has helped us develop strategies to recognize and recruit students. If you feel your student is ready for an AP class, have him or her speak to the counselor.

We are extremely proud of the work that goes into our AP program and the results that our students realize. This year we are on track to give over 1,300 tests in over 20 subjects. It is a great time to be an AP student at VPHS. For more information about our AP offerings and program, please contact Carol Mooney at cmooney@orangeusd.org.



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West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Dr. Jennifer Bourgeois
Principal

Engineering Challenge Accepted!

The adrenaline rushing through your veins, the screams of laughter ringing through the air, the clackity-clack of the track: these are some of the images that one thinks of when we talk about roller coasters!

Our third-grade students recently participated in an engineering challenge. They were charged with designing and building a roller coaster which would meet the set criteria for an amusement park. The students were given a limited number of supplies to help complete their task, and they each had to collaborate on how they were going to achieve this goal.



Third graders Yosselyn Gasparico, Nautica Willams, Matthew Sevilla, and Miguel Martin adjust their roller coaster design to ensure the marble will be able to travel from the beginning to the end without stopping.

While observing the students, one could hear them confidently working together to problem-solve how to get a marble from the beginning of the track to the end. Student Jason Morales remarked that, "I thought it was fun that we were able to collaborate and build our design."

This project was just one of the many engineering challenges that our third-grade students have participated in this year.

Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Tracy Knibb
Principal

Yorba Toros

On February 27th over 300 elementary students were chanting "Toros, Toros, Toros!" These students were participating in the annual incoming student visitation to Yorba Middle School. The purpose of

the visit was to introduce incoming students for the 2015-2016 school-year to the campus, staff, and students.

The students were entertained with an interactive assembly that included media presentations, teacher and student presentations, musical performances, and the highly anticipated Fear Factor game! Students were then led by ASB students on a tour through the campus. The visit wrapped up with a booth fair. Students were given the freedom to explore booths set-up by the various departments, clubs, and electives that Yorba has to offer. They were able to interact with students and gather valuable information that will help them be involved in their middle school experience.



OUSD Child Development Services

Parkside Campus: 2345 E. Palmyra. Orange, CA 92869 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca/child_care/

Full STEAM Ahead

By Jim Stephens, Director

On Thursday, March 5, the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) Centers for Afterschool Recreation, Enrichment and Safety (CARES) program held the second annual CARES Science Fair at the district office. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) skills have become increasingly necessary in order to move through our complex world and globalized economy. Tremendous energy and momentum are now devoted to improving these skills in our students, so that they can fully participate in modern society. Over 45 STEAM projects were displayed and demonstrated during the fair.

OUSD CARES out-of-school programs work closely with the Orange County Department of Education, the OUSD Science Center, the OC Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Initiative, and the Discovery Science Center to increase student interest, engagement, and knowledge of STEM/STEAM processes and concepts, along with increasing staff competence, confidence and motivation to facilitate these learning opportunities.

OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



Building the Dream

It may be hard to believe, but we are coming to the end of the first semester of this 2014-2015 school year. Our students continue to amaze me with their talents and commitment to academic excellence here at Alternative Education.

Both our Community Day School and Home School will have a WASC visitation this month. The staff is eager to highlight our successes over the last three years. The students are also participating in mock interviews in preparation for the upcoming Career Fair to be held on our campus.

Every teacher now has a Smartboard, and their use of this new technology is a critical component of each class lesson. In addition, a parent night was recently held to help prepare our families for the upcoming SBAC tests.

Walt Disney once said, "You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful idea in the world, but it requires people to make the dream reality." This is certainly the case at Alternative Education!

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Whole Health Everyday 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 (Please put OUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | D | I | C | F | Q | R | H | F | G | V | D | Z | J | C |
| T | L | T | G | V | P | M | R | S | D | N | O | M | L | A |
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| Y | X | O | A | H | A | R | C | I | S | N | E | H | U | R |
| O | G | S | D | L | F | H | B | M | T | O | A | E | T | O |
| H | L | N | M | Q | I | Y | I | A | I | U | Y | K | D | T |
| B | B | O | O | C | B | N | A | T | U | R | A | L | M | S |
| R | N | M | K | K | E | I | E | I | R | I | F | H | B | F |
| V | D | E | A | R | R | E | D | V | F | S | Z | S | G | C |
| U | N | L | A | E | H | T | L | A | E | H | H | C | I | Y |
| F | E | L | T | C | K | O | H | L | I | M | N | Z | O | F |
| A | S | A | P | R | W | R | P | E | D | O | T | W | F | N |
| O | W | P | R | V | C | P | Y | X | R | U | U | G | W | K |
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**Congratulations to Cathy Radke
Winner of the last issue Word Search Contest!**

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TUITION DUE: MAY 29TH

TUITION DUE: JUNE 15TH

TUITION DUE: JULY 13TH

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¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20**

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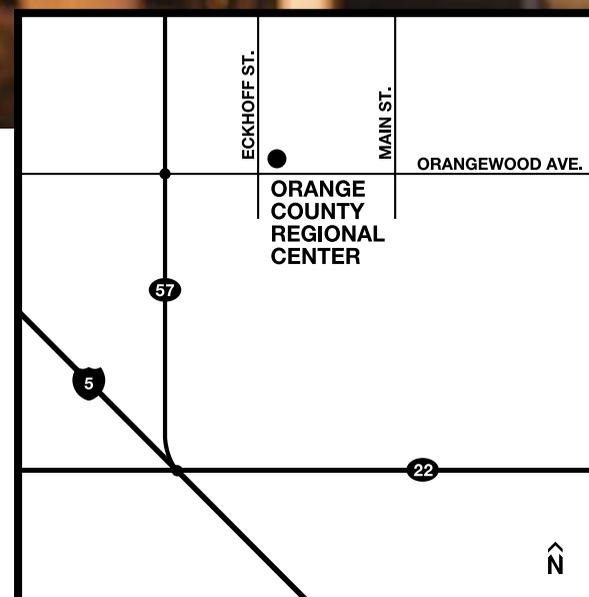
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