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Covering the Orange Unified School District



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All Four Measure S Science Centers are Now Open for Teaching and Learning



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SUPERINTENDENT

All Four Measure S Science Centers are Now Open for Teaching and Learning



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen

In November 2016, voters residing within Orange Unified School District boundaries approved Measure S, a \$288 million General Obligation bond to fund facility modernization and construction projects at our four comprehensive high schools. As a result, we were able to construct cutting-edge science centers on the campuses at Orange, Villa Park, Canyon, and El Modena High Schools during the first phase of the bond project. In total, this equates to just over 200,000 square feet of new teaching and learning space, including 71 brand new, state-of-the-art classrooms that are currently being utilized by our staff and students. While some supply chain issues and other challenges caused some delays, we are happy to currently be \$5 million under budget.

Our four Measure S Phase 1 science centers are tremendous assets that will serve our students and community for generations to come. During Phase 2, we are very excited to be able to provide additional campus improvements based upon individual site needs:

A major facelift will occur at our oldest high school, Orange, including the construction of a new Administration and Student Services building that contains a Counseling and Health Center. We are also adding a Panther Plaza and Alumni Corner to the campus to foster collaboration and enhance school spirit.

The second phase of Measure S at Villa Park High School will

focus on the construction of a new 18 classroom building and modernization of existing buildings, including interior remodeling, utility upgrades, the addition of a new passenger elevator, and the relocation of the staircases for the 100/200 building. Traffic flow and access point improvements will also continue during phase two, which is something our community really appreciates.

Canyon High School used most of their Measure S funds during Phase 1, resulting in the largest of our science centers: a 61,000 square foot, state-of-the-art science building that features 12 science labs, 12 standard classrooms, and office spaces for student services and administration. Phase 2 on Canyon's campus will focus on the modernization of the existing science building, including interior remodeling and utility upgrades, as well as the removal of 21 portable buildings from the campus.

El Modena High School's campus will drastically transform during the second phase of Measure S, when two new classroom buildings are added, existing classrooms are modernized, and portable classrooms are eliminated. Additionally, Phase 2 will provide enhanced facilities for drama, art, Career Technical Education, and other specialized programs.

The modern, functional facilities and learning opportunities created by our Measure S projects serve as a testament to what is possible when our community works together.

These facilities serve as tangible reminders of our mission to, in partnership with our community, provide a safe, equitable, and innovative culture of learning for each scholar to have a competitive EDGE as a leader.





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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
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CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

Kate Karp, Anna Zappia
SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen begins this issue on page 3 with an update on the Measure S science centers.

In this issue you will read articles on topics such as: the Science Olympiad, Robotics Program, Kids Heart Challenge, Read Across America, Principal for a Day, The Great Kindness Challenge, and so much more. You'll want to find a comfy chair and plan to read awhile.

Summer is right around the corner and by all indications life will

be back to normal to enjoy group activities. If you are planning ahead for your child's summer activities, we have included a section on pages 27 - 31 with options to consider. The Villa Park library has information to include in your activities. Also, our popular student book reviews will help with reading selections. Last but not least is our Word Search Contest on page 31 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is June 1st just in time to congratulate the graduates.



Summer is almost here!




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OUSD Alternative Education

Parkside Education Center: 250 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA 92869

www.orangeusd.org/parkside



Justin Stanfield
Coordinator

Spring is Here!

Greetings from Parkside Education Center. The year has been flying by and we are all excited to have Spring here!

Our staff and students have been working extremely hard to meet their learning objectives. Our EDGE Virtual Academy, Independent Study and Home School program will all be participating in the CAASP assessment beginning later this

Spring. Not only is this assessment vital to know how our students achieve, but it also helps forge our instructional plan in the future. We look forward to an excellent test administration and obtaining data on student performance.

The Adult Transition Program at Parkside has a busy schedule leading up to our graduation on June 3rd. Our learners are working diligently in preparation for the end of the year and getting ready for our Extended School Year program.

We are extremely excited for what the Spring brings to our campus. If I can assist with anything or if you would like more information on one of our programs, feel free to contact me directly at 714-628-5479.



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Read Across America

By Amie Wilson Bird, Administrator

The Child Development Center preschool had a jam-packed week celebrating Read Across America. Each day had a different dress up theme from crazy hair day to dressing up as our favorite book character. Parents and grandparents came in to share their best-loved books

with us. Our amazing teachers planned activities to go along with each beloved story read. One of our favorites was making and eating green eggs and ham. Most of our students agreed with “Sam” that they are delicious. We wrapped up the week with everyone getting a book to take home courtesy of the Reading is Fundamental program.



Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • www.orangeusd.org/anaheim-hills-elementary-school



Nicole Van Wilgen-Moore
Principal

Big A Ballpark Opening Ceremony

Anaheim Hills Elementary School (AHES) participated in the Big A Ballpark Opening Ceremony on February 17, 2022. This was a grand opening of dual field renovation at Anaheim Hills Elementary School supported by The Angels Baseball Foundation, City of Anaheim, and Orange Unified School District.

A small group of AHES students were able to lead the Pledge of the Allegiance for this event. During the ceremony, some of our Anaheim Hills Elementary students heard from various speakers and community members. The President of the Angels Baseball Foundation, Dennis Kuhl, opened the ceremony. Mayor Sidhu of Anaheim spoke about the Angels and how they have supported

local youth and families throughout Anaheim. Mayor Pro Tem O'Neill and OUSD Board President, Ms. Yamasaki, also spoke at the event. The first pitch was thrown by local Little League baseball players. We are thankful to The City of Anaheim and The Angels Baseball Foundation for their support in opening the Big A Ballpark!



California *Elementary School*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • www.orangeusd.org/california-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Misty Brunasso
Principal

2022 Kind Coins for Peru Campaign

California iInspire Academy raised 600 dollars for the 2022 Kind Coins for Peru Campaign. This is a unifying service project to help bring laptops to students of the San Martín de Porres school in the village of El Guayabo

– Pachacamac, Peru. At California iInspire Academy we believe all children in the world deserve to have access to education so they can have a happy and fulfilling life. Also, responding to the needs of others teaches empathy and compassion. Our STEAM approach allows for our students to learn about global issues and helps

students to be active global citizens. This was an amazing way to fulfill one of our 50 acts of kindness, “Make a wish for a child in another country.” Kindness is working together! Our California Bears show their P.A.W.S. and together we succeed!



Cambridge *Elementary School*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • www.orangeusd.org/cambridge-elementary-school



Dana Encheff
Principal

AVID Successful Student

AVID has been an important part of our school for the last several years. In addition to training our teachers and keeping them up to date with AVID's best practices, we have high expectations for our students and train them in how to keep an organized binder that will promote academic success. Our AVID Binders are an integral part of our AVID practice and align with our school's

Cubs ROCK values---Responsible, Organized, College and Career Ready and Kind. Students do more than just store papers in these binders, though. They personalize

them with their AVID Successful Student posters that helps create a vision and goal for who they want to be in their academic learning path. They organize notes that they take, and revisit to help them succeed on learning activities and assessments. They fill them with tools, such as multiplication tables, academic vocabulary lists, and sentence starters to help access the curriculum. Our students are proud of the work they put into their binders, and our team uses a variety of incentives to give students constant positive feedback. As students graduate from our campus, we are confident that they will use these practices to continue to ROCK until they reach College and Career.

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • www.canyonhighschool.org



Craig Abercrombie
Principal

New STEM Building

Canyon High School opened the doors for students and staff to our new STEM building on Monday, January 24. The excitement was palpable as everyone got their first look inside this amazing building with 24 brand new general and science classrooms. Larger classrooms, natural light, and state-of-the-art technology are just some of the amazing features that were waiting for our staff and

students. Beyond the interior of the building, the Measure S project also created a new student-centered quad on campus. The new area held its first event in February when Canyon High School hosted Winter Formal on campus for the first time in several years. The new quad provides ample room for dancing, photo booths, games and seating areas. We are so excited for our students to reap the benefit of our district and community's commitment to passing Measure S and providing our students with a first-class education.



Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • www.orangeusd.org/canyon-hills



Dr. John Erratt
Coordinator

Halfway through a Successful Year

We are over halfway through another successful year at Canyon Hills and are happy that we have been able to resume many of our regular activities including trips to Canyon High School for snacks and social time with the students there.

The staff, teachers, and service providers collaborate to create engaging, fun, and interesting lessons and activities. I would

also like to acknowledge our Transportation Department and the bus drivers and aides who make sure that students are transported to and from school safely. Our caring and professional staff enjoy being part of our students' lives each day.

We continued many of the traditional Canyon Hills activities this fall and winter. We held our Fall Celebration with door and pumpkin decorating contests in October. The annual Thanksgiving Feast returned in November, and our

Winter Holiday Celebration capped the Fall Semester before Winter Break. We celebrated Valentine's Day outdoors, crowning our Valentine's royalty. We are looking forward to the Spring Egg Hunt and to welcoming our parents back to campus for Open House in May. Our Student of the Month award assemblies have been virtual, as we celebrate the individual accomplishments of our students in class.

Innovations in technology have become a standard at Canyon Hills. We incorporate communication and educational technology into our daily instruction. Our students enjoy access to the myriad of educational activities and virtual field trips available online. We received high-quality, wireless speakers for all classroom which have improved access to instruction for all student.

As we approach the end of the school year, we are planning safe rite of passage activities for students moving between major grade levels and graduating from our program. Thank you to all the faculty, staff, and parents who are making this year successful.

Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • www.orangeusd.org/canyon-rim-elementary-school



Bree Tippets
Principal

Rallying around Wellness

This year, Canyon Rim Elementary partnered with the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge Program. This program prepares elementary students for success by supporting their physical & emotional well-being. The Kids Heart Challenge program brought our school community together in a fun way, to rally around physical and mental wellness. Our students learned how they can have happy

and healthy hearts, while our families were challenged to get active, and together, we also had the opportunity to raise necessary funds that went towards helping those affected by heart diseases and stroke.

As a school, we had 283 students pledging to heart health, and we have raised over \$10,300 so far to help others. Not only were we able to help out in our community through this partnership, but our school will also be getting money back for new playground equipment. We're so proud of our Canyon Rim community! Way to go Roadrunners!



Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • www.cerrovilla.org

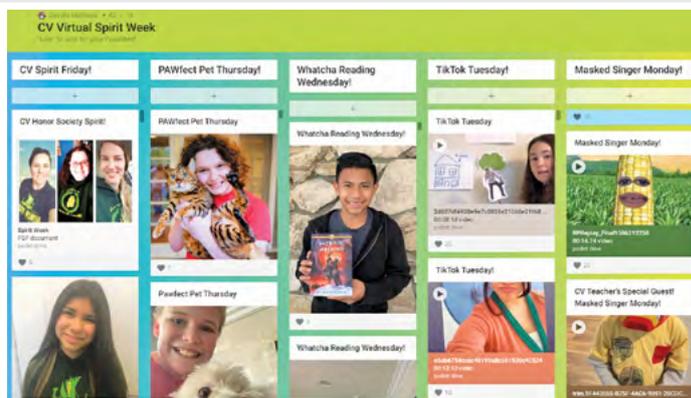


Madeline Morrison
Principal

Exciting Happenings in February

CVMS has been busy celebrating many events since the return from Winter Break. In January, we spent some time focusing on school-wide WICOR in support of our AVID program, which culminated in a WICOR Bingo game in Homerooms. We were also able to host our very own CV Showcase, highlighting our classes and electives for current and future families.

February was an incredibly busy and exciting month, beginning with Lunar New Year. Each day in our announcements, a member of our Mandarin class spoke about the traditions of this holiday and taught the class a new word. We also celebrated school-wide by making paper lanterns to decorate our school. To celebrate the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day, we had two spirit days, sports jerseys and red/pink shirts. Kindness Club sold Kindness Grams in celebration of Valentine's Day. Staff also celebrated with our annual "Soup"er Bowl event. To recognize black history in February, we celebrated the achievements and accomplishments of members of the black community each day in our announcements. We also had a music trivia competition in our homerooms featuring songs by Black artists from throughout the decades.



Speaking of decades, our month ended with a week of decades spirit days leading up to our school "decades" themed dance. We also celebrated 2-22-22 as "Twos"day, a twin spirit day with a lunchtime trivia activity sponsored by our Math Club. Finally, we enjoyed visits from 6th graders from our feeder elementary schools where we were able to showcase our electives, show students how to register for classes, and offer students tours around our campus. We look forward to seeing them all as Vikings next year! Contact Principal Morrison to schedule your tour of our awesome school. We'd love to have your child join us next year!

Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • www.orangeusd.org/chapman-hills-elementary-school



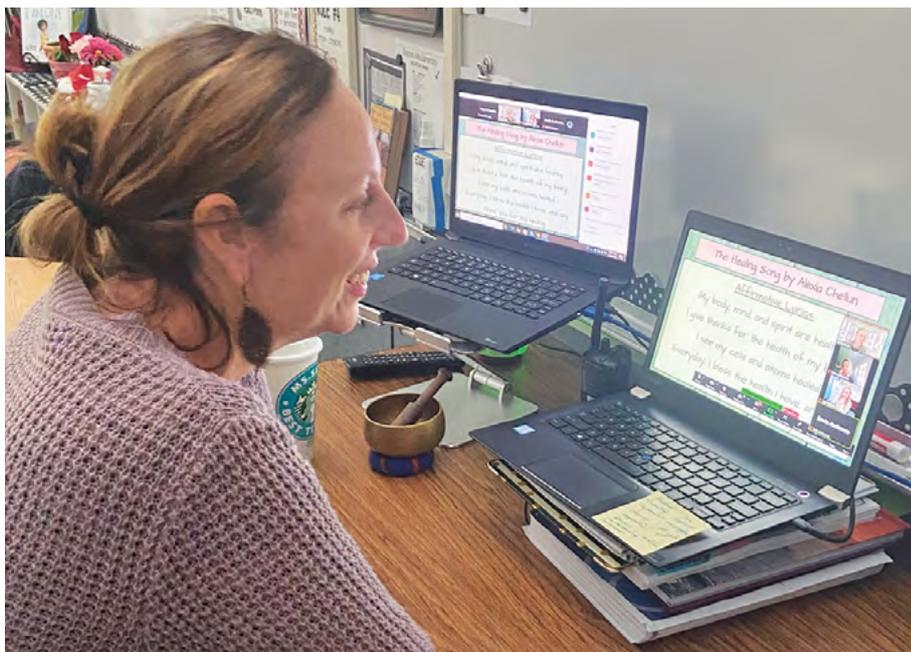
Lana Merha
Principal

Mental Health and Wellbeing

One of the greatest lessons we have learned throughout this pandemic is the importance of prioritizing mental health and wellbeing. At Chapman Hills we have focused on supporting the social and emotional needs of our students, staff, and school community. It is common

to walk through our school and see students engaged in mindful moments. Upper grade students have benefited from participating in restorative circles which focus on strengthening relationships and building authentic communities. In partnership with PTA, Mrs. Safa hosted a virtual Wellness Workshop for parents where she shared ways to sprinkle in mindfulness throughout the day. Another family engagement event to promote mental health will include a read aloud on mindfulness, guided breathing, and

the opportunity to create a calming jar. These family activities, along with classroom lessons, foster a loving, safe environment where we can continue to work through the challenges of life with grace and resilience.



Crescent Elementary School

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.orangeusd.org/crescent-elementary-school



Antoinette Coe
Principal

Students Build Their Way to State Finals!

Crescent's Robotics Program is open to students in grades four through six and eligibility to compete is based on an application process and a commitment

to work and practice after school and on weekends. Students work collaboratively in problem-solving, critical thinking, designing STEM projects, and building robots for competitions. Sponsored by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, these VEX IQ events utilize Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and social skills to increase and enrich learning.

Three teams competed in the Los Angeles and Orange County Regional competitions during the month of February. All three teams qualified for the States in San



Diego! One team even received special recognition for Elementary Excellence at two separate competitions.

We are proud of the success of our students and Robotics Program. We are eager to hear about their experience and success at the State and World levels!

El Modena High School

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.elmodenahs.org



Sandra Preciado
Interim Principal

Celebrating Our New Science Center!

El Modena is proud to announce the opening of our Science Center. On Tuesday, February 22nd, we had a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate this monumental learning environment for our students. It was a great celebration of so many key individuals who were instrumental in the Measure S Initiative. They had a vision for facilities our students deserve, and now it has come

to fruition. This brand-new state-of-the-art facility is over 43,000 square feet and boasts 4 large chemistry labs, 8 general science labs, 2 combinable standard classrooms, and a living skills suite for our moderate/severe special education students. According to Claudio Castillo, ASB Treasurer, "This building is a gamechanger both academically and for the culture of the school!" It will be the centerpiece of campus that will provide students with advanced learning facilities and enrich the academic climate of El Modena High School.



El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • elranchocharter.org



Michele Walker
Principal

Robotics Program

Robotics continues to soar at El Rancho. Robotics began its journey during the 2018-2019 school year. Both teams were supported by parents and staff and reached the 2019 VEX IQ Robotics World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky, both teams finishing in the top 100 out of 400 teams.

A third team was added the following year, and all teams made impressive gains and qualified for the State and World Robotics Championships. However, the season was cut short by the pandemic, and they continued to compete virtually. In the 2020-2021 school year, teams continued to meet and compete virtually. Winning the Build, Excellence, and Innovate awards, all three teams went on to compete in the Virtual State Robotics Championships, one team securing an automatic ticket to the 2022 World Robotics Championships.

As we returned to school this year, students, parents, and staff were excited to have the teams up and running and meeting in person. They have met several times a week during the school year to work on strategy, driving skills, and the intricate notebooks that students keep. Competing throughout the year, all three teams have qualified for the 2022 State Robotics Championships held in March.

El Rancho Robotics also hosted its 2nd annual tournament on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Thirty-six teams throughout Orange and LA Counties participated in the competition, including two teams from Crescent Elementary. We appreciate the support of all robotics families and high schoolers who stepped up at the last minute to serve as judges.

We are excited to see what the future holds for El Rancho's Robotics program!

Esplanade *Elementary School*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • www.orangeusd.org/esplanade



Christina Yokoyama
Principal

Saturday Enrichment Academy

Saturday Enrichment Academy days are back! The pandemic that began in March of 2020 put a halt to many of the fun, extracurricular activities at school. As health metrics have improved in our community, schools have been able to resume beloved

activities and events that engage students and create lasting memories. Esplanade

Elementary School is pleased to be able to bring back our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) themed Saturday events. Once or twice a month, students at all grade levels are invited to attend Saturday Enrichment Academy and participate in STEAM activities. In grade-level groups, students rotate to different STEAM activities throughout the morning led by Esplanade teachers. On a recent Saturday, students participated in science experiments, engineered with Legos, and created artwork using mathematics concepts. Students were having so much fun that when it was time to clean up and move to the next rotation, students exclaimed, "But we

just got started!" They had not realized that they had been working on their activity for an hour. Esplanade staff is eager to continue to host more STEAM-themed Saturdays this spring and is busily planning upcoming activities including robotics, coding, seasonal art, and even some cooking. It is wonderful to see students engaged in hands-on learning and having fun at the same time.



Fairhaven *Elementary School*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • www.orangeusd.org/fairhaven-elementary-school



Christina Hiraes
Principal

Thank You Commander Hernandez

Fairhaven Falcons welcomed Santa Ana Police Department's Commander Gil Hernandez for their Principal for the Day Event on March 3, 2022. Students were excited and greeted him with a warm welcome. Commander Hernandez was able to visit with Fairhaven students. He was given a beautiful card from the TK

students that had a picture of him and each one of their fingerprints saying thank you for his service. As he visited classrooms, he was impressed on how respectful students were who greeted him with handshakes and thanked him for being here. Many students asked questions from "why he wanted to become a police officer?" and "how long he was on the force?" Fairhaven Falcons were also happy to share that becoming a police officer was their goal as well because they also want to help people and make the community a better. Thank you Commander Hernandez for inspiring us to be better and reminding us that making good choices now help us to develop life-long habits for a great future!



Fletcher *Elementary School*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • www.orangeusd.org/fletcher-elementary-school



Sara Pelly
Principal

Ms. Le is Our Principal for a Day

A highlight of each year at Fletcher is Principal for a Day! It was our honor to host Kim Le, Proprietor of the Pacific Conservatory Music Academy in Orange as our guest principal. Ms. Le has taught several of our Fletcher students

and provided scholarships to many for summer camps. Ms. Le had fun reading to first graders, visiting our orchestra class, and was impressed hearing our Mandarin Immersion students speaking and singing in Mandarin!

This district-wide event in OUSD allows our community members to spend a morning at a school, visit classrooms and learn about the programs offered. The second half of the morning is a welcome from Dr. Hansen, OUSD Superintendent,

and a group session with the district administrators and school principals where honored guests have an opportunity to share about the schools they visited.

Come back any time, Ms. Le!



Handy Elementary School

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • www.orangeusd.org/handy-elementary-school



Erika Krohn
Principal

Mrs. Krohn Reads to Miss Bitter's class

Handy Elementary School celebrated Read Across America February 28-March 4. Handy scholars kicked off the week by receiving a bookmark, taking a Reading Pledge, and hats off to reading

by wearing a hat! Each day had a spirit day such as *Tied up in a Good Book*, *Reading Takes You Places*, *Reading Makes You Bright*, and *Read Your Shirt*. Handy Staff each recommended a favorite book in a cute video. Special reading activities took place each day in classrooms such as focusing on a different book genre, studying books from different geographic regions, creating book trailers using iMovie,

and reading outside on a blanket. Handy hosted a variety of virtual and live guest readers, which the students just loved! What a fun way to celebrate the joy of reading!



Imperial Elementary School

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.org/imperial-elementary-school



Diane Lew
Principal

Let's Work Together

Imperial Elementary School joined other schools in OUSD and throughout the state of California in celebrating The Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 24 – 28, 2022. Our Mental Health Counselor, Belinda Mejia, partnered with students

and staff to design activities for each day of the week centered around a word of the day (i.e. gratitude, empathy, acceptance, love, and respect.) Our Imperial Student Council helped to make posters to place around the building to demonstrate our school's commitment to kindness in very creative ways! The Great Kindness Challenge is an opportunity to reinforce the importance

of kindness and community that Imperial Eagles demonstrate throughout the entire school year. Imperial appreciated this special opportunity to come together as a community to organize and facilitate the week's activities. Working together helps us move closer to our shared goal where every member of our school community feels valued and cared for!



Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • www.orangeusd.org/jordan-academy



Lorena Rubio
Principal

The Importance of Reading

At Jordan Academy, we participated in Read Across America Week, the reading motivation and awareness program held annually, on the week of March 1st. During this week, students and teachers took part in reading activities and festivities that honored the theme of “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.” Students read with a buddy from a different class,

attended a Kickoff Assembly, listened to a guest reader from our community, wore crazy socks inspired by *Fox in Socks*, and read outside with their classmates. On March 1st, we were honored to welcome back California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, for the fourth year in a row. He shared about the importance of reading, read aloud *Say Anything!*, and shared the book’s message of making your voice heard to make a positive difference. Mr. Thurmond is a proud supporter of Jordan Academy!



Lampson Elementary School

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.orangeusd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5



Alejandra Pantoja
Principal

Saturday Enrichment Academy

Lampson Elementary has had two very successful Saturday Enrichment Academies. The first one was held in January and the second one this past weekend (2/26). Over 75 students participated. It is a great opportunity to offer integrated enrichment activities to students.

During the course of the Academy, students participated in Science, PE, Art and LEGO Educational sets. All of these enrichment activities build on science, coding, STEAM learning, creativity and creative problem solving. But best of all.... it’s fun!!!

La Veta *Elementary School*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • www.orangeusd.org/la-veta-elementary-school



**Sheryl
Anderson-Glass**
Principal

Angels Adopt-A-School Program

In February, our students and families joined in the Kids Heart Challenge where they participated in choosing one additional activity to increase daily. The options were to be kind to

those they encounter, or exercise more to promote heart health. Our La Veta Vikings knocked it out of the park and earned over \$5,000 for the American Heart Association. Our community is so giving and willing to help. The students were very excited to work towards an attainable goal and see results with their choices.

La Veta was chosen to participate in the Angels Adopt-A-School Program. Adam Cali, Angels Manager for the Foundation and Community Initiatives was the Principal for the Day and had great fun visiting the classrooms and interacting with students and staff.

Read Across America Week was in early March. La Veta students and staff showed their true school spirit with



dress up days which included crazy socks and hats, and their favorite character from a book. La Veta classrooms were filled with reading activities promoting literacy and fun while building school culture and capacity. I am so proud of our Vikings and know that they will continue to make a tremendous impact on creating a school that is successful in academics and social emotional learning.

Linda Vista *Elementary School*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • www.lindavistaelementary.com



Renee Ybarra
Principal

Paw Bucks

Welcome to Spring! There are great things happening at Linda Vista!

We just finished our first ever Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser for the American Heart Association. February was Heart Health month. Our goal was to raise \$5,000 & we surpassed it by raising over \$7,000! I am so proud of our students for learning about heart health and supporting a wonderful

organization like the American Heart Association. We celebrated with a fun and heart-pumping event put together by our Student Council students and supported with parent volunteers and PTA.

We also just completed our very first Saturday Enrichment Academy. Students at all grades had a blast learning to code robots using the Blockly app and Dash & Dot robots we recently purchased. Our upper grade students learned

quickly and shared their knowledge with our younger students, teaching them to code, too. Students are already asking when they can come back for more fun learning!

We are so excited to be offering after school tutoring for many of our students. Our fall tutoring session was a great success with students showing awesome growth on their iReady Diagnostics. We are positive we will have the same success with our spring session as well.

Our Leopards are getting even more motivated to be Safe, Kind, & Responsible, as they are earning Paw Bucks for these behaviors and Super Bucks for excellence in Academics. Our Student Council worked together to create prizes for various amounts of Paw Bucks and Super Bucks. We have a weekly prize box, monthly Lunch on the Lawn, monthly Lunch with the Principal in the Atrium, and monthly popsicles, to name a few of the prizes kids can save up to purchase.

It's a great time to be a Linda Vista Leopard!

McPherson Magnet School

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • mcpersonhome.meteormail.net



Brenna Godsey
Principal

Science Olympiad Program

McPherson Magnet School is a Kindergarten through 8th grade school with a STEM Magnet focus. McPherson students participate in STEM activities throughout the school day as well as extracurricularly. Matthew Pagaduan, Omya Srivastava, Alejandro Bonilla

and Melia Cortes are middle school students who participate in the Science Olympiad program. They are proudly wearing their ribbons for placing in the “Storm the Castle” event at the Sierra Vista Invitational Science Olympiad event in Irvine. They built a trebuchet with help from volunteer coaches. Also, all of our Middle School students participated in McPherson’s Science Fair. Many of our students have projects that are moving on to compete in the OC Science and Engineering Fair. We are also excited that the traditional McPherson family STEAM night is returning this spring. This event is sponsored by our Education Foundation and provides an opportunity for families to interact with a variety of STEAM related activities.



Nohl Canyon High School

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • www.orangeusd.org/nohl-canyon-elementary-school



Jeff Jones
Principal

Kids Heart Challenge

Nohl Canyon community displayed an overwhelming generosity while participating in American Heart Association’s “Kids Heart Challenge” during February. The Kids Heart Challenge kicked

off with a school-wide zoom assembly on January 19th. Students were introduced to the power of the heart and the many children affected by adolescent heart conditions. Through Kids Heart Challenge, students earned various prizes for their donations along with completing a series of tasks called “Finns Challenge” which supports heart surgeries for young children along with earning



We've raised
\$14,389.00

Our goal is
\$12,000.00

students a lunch with the Principal. For the next three weeks, Nohl Canyon Roadrunners continued to donate generously and surpassed the 2015 donation record of \$7,200 after only one week. The fundraiser concluded on February 14th with a record donation amount of \$14,389! Nohl Canyon had 315 students registered (60% of student body) and 21 students complete Finn’s Challenge. Our Nohl Canyon community truly displayed how big our hearts are!!

Olive Elementary School

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.org/olive-elementary-school



Heather Darrow
Principal

Oceleaders Lead

Olive elementary is dedicated to supporting our school and extended community. Our student leadership team, the Oceleaders, work together to coordinate activities which teach our young

Ocelots to give back to each other and those in need. One example of this work is our recent partnership with The American Heart Association through our Jump Rope for Heart event. Each morning, over a period of two weeks, Olive Oceleaders announced healthy heart facts for our students to raise awareness of the cause. Additionally, our students and families worked with our Oceleaders to raise funding for The American Heart Association in an effort to give back to an organization that supports patients in need. Being mindful of others and putting others first



1st Grade



6th Grade

builds strong character and kindness in our students and staff. We are proud our Oceleaders and Ocelots, and we thank our families for their support of this work throughout the year. Go Ocelots

Orange High School

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangehighschool.org



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

JROTC Team to Compete in the National Academic Bowl Championships

Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (MCJROTC) cadets have risen to the challenge through their participation in the 2021-2022 JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl. The cadets from Orange High School have advanced through two intense phases of online competition.

The Orange High's MCJROTC Academic Team composed of cadets Sean Perez, Anh Pham, Dylan Salamipour, and Pedro Velasquez will compete in the Championship event in Washington, DC this June.

The team earned top scores out of the 108 Marine Corps JROTC academic teams that competed from around the world. The team is one of the only MCJROTC Academic Bowl teams in the nation to advance to the final competition. Students were tested on their knowledge of core curriculum such as math, science, and language arts, as well as current events, citizenship, leadership skills, and financial literacy.



Palmyra *Elementary School*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • www.orangeusd.org/palmyra-elementary-school



Christina Bletterman
Principal

PAL Peer Assistance Leadership

In February, Palmyra's PAL students began a peer mediation program during recess. We have been working on building active listening and problem-solving skills in preparation for mediating playground conflict. PAL consists of 5th and 6th grade students interested

in building leadership skills and working together to benefit our school and community. As our school leadership team, they are also responsible for weekly school announcements. Earlier in the year, our PAL students hosted a non-perishable food drive with all donations being provided to the Orange County Rescue Mission. We donated hundreds of items to families in need just in time for

Thanksgiving. We meet monthly to discuss our goals and complete activities that build strong communication skills and provide them with an opportunity to share their ideas about how to make a difference here at Palmyra. Go Pintos!



Panorama *Elementary School*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • www.orangeusd.org/panorama-elementary-school



Erin Rosselli
Principal

Cub Club

The Panorama community empowers our scholars to be active learners and leaders through our Cub Club. Panorama Elementary's Panther Cub Club pairs upper grade and lower grade students to create a cross-age tutoring program. Our upper-grade students have

an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, build confidence, and experience success working with their younger peers. Our younger cubs strengthen their early reading skills by working each day with their partners on phonological awareness, phonics, high-frequency words, and decoding. Additionally, the cubs work on improving their early math skills by focusing on number sense. Cub Club has led to an increase in attendance and on-time arrival, the development of supportive relationships, and significant growth in our youngest readers. Most importantly, all our participants enjoy their time together and have fun while learning.



Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • www.orangeusd.org/portola-middle-school-6-7-8



Jeff Morgan
Principal

Principal for the Day

It was a great pleasure to host our Principal for the Day, Corporate Executive Chef for Rodrigo's restaurants, Allan Aguinaga on March 3rd, 2022. Chef Allan visited with students, specifically our AVID class. He spent time in talking about his personal journey to become a chef. Our students asked him questions as well. This all ties into what we try to do here

at Portola Middle School, and that is College and Career Readiness all through an AVID lens. Our students in passing and nutrition were so excited to have Chef Allan here. They came up and shook his hand and had so many great questions for him. Chef Allan is a prime example of someone who followed his passion and is now successful. Chef Allan and shared with the class something that his dad has told him since he was young, "If you do what you love, you won't work a day in your life". We truly appreciate his passionate message to our students and for becoming part of the Matador Family.

Prospect *Elementary School*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • www.orangeusd.org/prospect-elementary-school



Mary Hinton
Principal

Prospect Programs!

Prospect Elementary is excited to return to some previously loved programs and engage in new programs. Prospect hosted a Virtual Family Night focused on STEAM activities. Students

received a baggie with the necessary materials, a QR code or link, and signed on for an hour of family fun! Activities included making a mini-Lava Lamp, building a balloon-powered rocket, designing the tallest gum-drop building, and creating slime...which was Gobs of Fun! Almost 100 students participated in the evening, and requests for more fun family nights were swirling around the playground the next day!

Also, Prospect holds an after-school club designed to support student wellness. Students engage in team building activities, gain leadership experience, and strengthen their social skills. Cathy Mendez, Counselor, facilitates the groups' activities.

Prospect is proud of our students, families, and staff for going the extra mile and staying #ProspectStrong!



Richland High School

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • www.orangeusd.org/richland-continuation-high-school



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Building Community

A strong sense of community makes the foundation for a strong school year. With the pandemic bringing forth unprecedented changes to the way schools operate, staff at Richland sought to bring back community building events to shape and nourish Condor spirit.

“Thankful Thursday” events are held each quarter to gather staff, students, and community members throughout the year. Orange North Rotary Club hosted the first Thankful Thursday in October with a BBQ for students and staff. Fostering relationships with community members is paramount to Richland High School. Our community volunteer organizations and businesses continue to cultivate positive school culture through their generosity and time. The second Thankful Thursday in December was hosted by our very own teachers and staff. A selection of games was curated in classrooms allowing students the opportunity to play and connect with their teachers and peers, all while enjoying hotdogs and nachos.



Community building is not just a way for students and staff to connect with each other, it also is a way to build leadership skills. Within campus, Richland's ASB tirelessly works at providing a variety of at-school engaging activities known as “Richland Games” along with running a student store. Through these community building activities, students involved in ASB are not only helping bring community to campus, they are nurturing character skills necessary for their future career and college endeavors.

Running Springs Elementary School

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • www.orangeusd.org/running-springs-elementary-school



Mark McLaughlin
Principal

Dr. Seuss Inspiring Student Action

Read Across America is a celebration of reading that was created by the National Education Association and held on Dr. Seuss's birthday (March 2nd) each year. At Running Springs, we celebrate Read Across America with student action in mind. Student action,

a story that raises awareness about poverty and hunger, and read the Dr. Seuss classics *Green Eggs and Ham* and *Fox in Socks*. Inspired by these stories our students donated canned goods, food, and socks to families in need. The students also had fun dressing in pajamas and “crazy socks” while engaging in a variety of reading activities throughout the day.

where students apply learning and engage in some form of contribution or service, is a fundamental part of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. The goal is to support children as they begin the learning journey towards becoming adults that are change agents! Our students watched Maddi's Fridge,



Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.santiagocharterms.org



Dr. James D'Agostino
Co-Principal



Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

Conservatory for the Arts

Santiago Charter Middle School has already been hard at work thinking about the 2022-2023 school year, and we cannot wait to share our programs with the community!

This fall, we will be hosting a no-cost Expanded Learning Program that is

available after school for all interested students. We will offer time for homework, social emotional lessons, sports,

and other high-interest enrichment classes developed specifically for the middle schooler, like babysitting training, or art—just to name a few!

We are also thrilled to announce Santiago's Conservatory of the Arts for the 22-23 school year! We will provide seventh and eighth grade students with opportunities to explore their interests in the visual and performing arts and to develop their creative talents through targeted, small-group, after-school instruction. Any interested student with a desire to learn more about a particular area of the arts may apply. Enrollment in this program is limited!

Serrano *Elementary School*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • www.orangeusd.org/serrano-elementary-school



Laura Kresl
Principal

Food Drive

The month of February was filled with many great activities here at Serrano. We focused on kindness month and then capped it off with The Week of the

Reader. As one of our kindness activities, we collected spare change to purchase goats for those in need across the globe through Heifer International. We wanted to keep the kindness vibes going for The Week of the Reader and incorporated a food drive! Students decorated the nonperishable foods so that those who received them would be inspired to read! Our food drive will benefit those who visit the Friendly Center here in our school community. Our Serrano Eagles choose kindness!



Sycamore Elementary School

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.orangeusd.org/sycamore-elementary-school



Saturday Enrichment Academy Partnership

This year Sycamore Elementary and West Orange Elementary collaborated to bring our students together with an array of STEAM activities during our Saturday Enrichment Academy. Instead of hosting

two different Saturday programs, Dr. Lucia Perales, Principal of Sycamore and Dr., Monica Murray, and Principal at West Orange decided to combine resources and offer one program that will benefit both schools. This partnership was created to provide students from both school with one or more absences the ability to make-up some of the learning lost on the days the students were absent. Research has shown that there is a direct link between student success and school attendance. Missing school can cause students to fall behind academically and feel disconnected from their peers.

On January 22, 2022, West Orange Elementary hosted the first Saturday Enrichment Academy. On February 26, 2022, Sycamore had seventy-one students attend and



Saturday Enrichment Academy

participate in the academy. Attendance for the Saturday program close to double for both school through this partnership.

Students were extremely elated to work with “new” teachers (teachers from the school who hosted). A 2nd grade student from Sycamore commented that she was excited to be taught by Mrs. Shelton, her future 5th grade teacher. She stated, “Ms. Shelton was super sweet, I hope to have her as my in 5th grade teacher.”

Dr. Perales, asked another student if he would recommend the Saturday program to other students, without skipping a beat the student replied, “Yes! my favorite part was the robots, those were fun!”

The reminder of the partnership for Saturday Enrichment Academy will be on the following March 12 @ West Orange; April 23 @ Sycamore; May 21 @ West Orange. We know that this will be a partnership that will continue for years to come as it allows our students to learn and engage with phenomenal teachers from both schools.

We are very thankful for the staff members at both schools: Mrs. Shoemaker, Mrs. Shelton, Ms. Gay, and Ms. Wong, Ms. Cox and Mrs. Norma de Leon for leading the Saturday Enrichment Academy.

Taft Elementary School

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • www.orangeusd.org/taft-elementary-school



Thank You Ms. Ruiz and Mr. Moises!

Taft Tigers are busy doing amazing things each day! We have recently started our field trip endeavors and are excited that every grade level is taking an off-campus trip in the upcoming weeks! In addition, we have celebrated

several dress-up spirit days and our students are loving coming to the Saturday Enrichment Academies. Our incredible staff has provided fun, engaging, hands-on activities to over 100 students each time we offer SEA. We are looking forward to our upcoming family events including Open House and Science Night. More details will be coming soon! Finally, we are so happy to celebrate our Taft Employees of the Year - Ms. Patty Ruiz, our resource specialist, and Mr. Moises Cisneros, our head custodian! We are so thankful for all they do for our school!



Villa Park Elementary School

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • www.orangeusd.org/villa-park-elementary



Dr. Sara Beggs
Principal

Twosday Twins

At Villa Park Elementary we have many things to celebrate. Our students and teachers enjoy celebrating through spirit days, awards assemblies, and dance parties. February

was a busy spirit month at VPE. We celebrated 100 days of instruction with activities and dressing up like we were 100 years old in TK, K, and 1st. In First grade we celebrated 101 days of school dressing up as 101 Dalmatians. On “twosday” 2/22/22 we dressed as twins. This month, we are celebrating Read Across America week dressing in stripes. Along with spirit days, we also were thrilled to invite parents back on campus for our student of the month and bobcat awards assemblies. In addition, our students earn kindness tickets for acts of kindness out on the playground. The classes with the highest number of kindness tickets collected for the month earn an extra recess and a picnic dance party in our beautiful quad. We sure know how to celebrate at VPE. GO BOBCATS!



Villa Park High School

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • www.villaparkhigh.org



Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

Unforgettable Season!

We are so excited that our Varsity Traditional Comp Team has brought back a CIF State Title to Sparta! This is the inaugural year that CIF has held this event and our student-athletes have made history by winning. In addition, they attended the USA Spirit Nationals, held at the Anaheim Convention Center, in Anaheim and earned runners-up at this prestigious West Coast National event!

The National High School Cheerleading Championship, held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at The Walt Disney World® Resort on February 11-13, 2022, is the pinnacle of cheerleading competitions for high school

cheerleaders across the country. This was our Varsity Game Day Team's first time competing in Florida, and we are proud to announce that they are 5TH IN THE NATION out of 79 teams! We are honored that Varsity TV followed our team on camera and audiotape back stage during warm-up, competition and outtakes for comment. This is similar to being “microphoned-up” as seen on ESPN or the NFL Network. In addition, they also earned TWO USA SPIRIT National Titles in the “Crowdleading” Division!

“This was an iconic history-making season; beyond all the titles, is a group of 26 athletes who strived to work hard, believe in each other, and create unforgettable memories as a family. I am incredibly impressed with their passion for the sport of cheer,” stated Coach Izzy, Villa Park High School Head Coach.

West Orange *Elementary School*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.org/west-orange-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Monica Murray
Principal

Forces and Motion Assembly

What an exciting time of the year! Our Warriors have been busy with STEAM, Math, and a great deal of school-wide events. In January 3rd-5th grade participated in a Forces and Motion assembly where they dived into the topic of inertia via hands-on

experiments. In February, we had our VAPA Showcase, our Heart Heroes Challenge, where

we raised \$3800, celebrated the 100th day of school, had our 1st STEAM/Library night all about the Magic of Science, and had an onsite STEAM Museum. Our students engaged in manufacturing methods and techniques, energy, technology, simple machines, gear ratios, 3D printing, robotics, geometry, structures, friction, and gravity during our STEAM museum. Later on this month, we are thrilled to celebrate Global Recycling Day with a recycling robot competition. Our Warriors will create a robot out of recycled materials found around their house. In addition, we are doing a month-long March Madness competition across all grade levels using I-Ready.

This is a fun way to promote the importance of I-ready reading while competing against other classes. The class with the most iReady Reading lessons PASSED will move to the next round to win the match. There will be four rounds (1 round per week) for March. The winner will be announced on Friday, March 25th, and will receive bragging rights as well as a fun treat!



Yorba *Academy of the Arts Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.org/yorba

Eddie Espinosa, *Interim Principal*

Expanding Computer Literacy

The addition of the Verizon Innovative Learning program has been a tremendous help to all the students at Yorba Middle School. Through a grant, Verizon has provided a Chromebook for every student. This is not just any Chromebook, but one that has a built-in modem that connects to the Internet even if the student's home does not have Wi-fi Service. Obviously, a device without wireless service is extremely limited as to how much it can be an efficient tool to students. It is a wonderful sight to see every student, in every class using their devices in class to do research, write reports, explore science and math, and even record music like the pros do. The playing field is level regarding access to being able to expand their computer literacy, regardless of demographics.

The Verizon Innovative Learning program also has brought us a new teacher, Linda Manion who does a

magnificent job at training our staff and monitoring the progress of the students. Ms. Manion has quickly become a vital part of our staff and we are so happy to have her on board. Thanks to her dedication and diligence, we are seeing that students are much more involved and engaged in their learning. This is a direct result of her efforts and influence on our campus.

Our students are much more confident about their computer skills. Now, in every class you can see students collaborating and communicating as they tackle their assignments and projects. Yorba students are learning problem solving skills which, of course, causes student achievement to increase. As our students are using technology every day, in every class and in every period, they are becoming much more interested in STEM careers. Yorba is proud and grateful to be a Digital Promise/Verizon Innovative Learning School.

Villa Park Library

17865 Santiago Blvd, Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714-998-0861 • www.ocpl.org



Kristina Jones
Librarian II

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Justin Martinez

Passionate about Taekwondo

To start with, passionate means to care about something or to have a strong feeling about something. I am passionate about taekwondo.

First, taekwondo teaches you self-defense so you can defend yourself if you get engaged in a fight. Taekwondo can help defend you and others. It is good to defend others to protect them from getting hurt. Taekwondo is a lot of hard

work so you gain a lot of strength. Since you will have a lot of strength, nobody will dare to fight with you.

Next, taekwondo teaches people discipline so you are well mannered. Discipline is very important in taekwondo because you must learn to respect and obey your parents in the rules of taekwondo. Taekwondo teaches you to not fight someone because it may not be worth the fight but in some cases taekwondo can be very useful for self-defense. Taekwondo teaches us master precepts so we can learn how to have discipline and to be well mannered. Now I am going to list the master precepts that I have learned so far. Master precept number one is honesty, number two is diligence, number three

is modesty, number four is bravery, and number five is service. The master precepts that I have to study next are the spirit of taekwondo, courtesy, integrity, perseverance and bravery.

Finally, taekwondo teaches you to persevere, to never give up and to never stop trying. Perseverance is one of the most important parts of taekwondo martial arts because you can accomplish anything if you keep trying. For example, on our promotion test if a student is struggling to break a board, my master will have them kick the board until they break it no matter how many times it takes. We also have extremely long forms that we have to memorize similar to school geometry terms. We have forms for every belt color and the higher rank you reach the more difficult the form gets. You also have to still remember the previous belt color forms and your current form for your promotion test. For my promotion test I have to remember 4 extremely long forms in order to pass my promotion test. We also have to do kicks and punches to break a thick board.

Overall, taekwondo is a great sport for everyone. I think anyone that is good hearted, disciplined and good mannered can most certainly succeed to reach black belt. Lastly, taekwondo is good for everyone because they can learn self-defense and discipline.



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665 N. Tustin St. #Q Orange, CA 92827

David's Review



David H.

The Aliens

Title: *We're Not From Here*

Author: Geoff Rodkey

We're Not From Here is about a kid named Lan and his family who travel from their human colony on Mars to a faraway planet Choom

to start a new human population. Unfortunately, once they get there, the aliens on Choom tell them to leave immediately. Now they have a big problem that they have to figure out because they don't have enough fuel in their spaceship to go back to Mars. What do they do? Read and find out! I really liked this book and I recommend that you should read this book too if you like action, suspense, and humor.



David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Jenna's Review



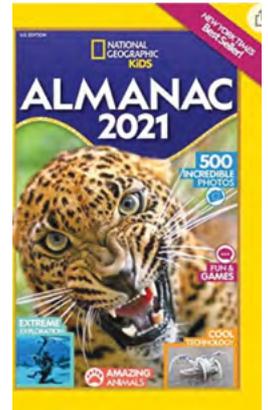
Jenna C.

Have it all!

Title: *Almanac 2021*

Which language has the most first language speakers? You might want to hit up for an almanac. What's an almanac?

It's basically a book that speaks facts. Maybe you don't like that type of person, but you might like that type of book. Maybe you can also learn more things like, do you want to know where Alexander the Great was buried? How future homes may be built? Studying rocks? It has it all. From wanting to study stars to knowing about the coolest cats, you can imagine. It's as real as red being red and green being green but, as versatile as the library books.



Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.



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Daniel's Review



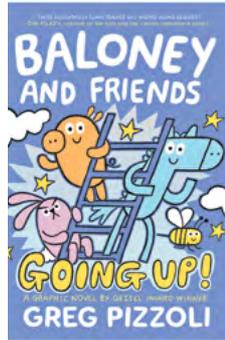
Daniel H.

Funny Friends!

Title: *Baloney and Friends: Going Up!*

Author: Greg Pizzoli

Baloney the pig and his friends Peanut the horse, Bizz the bee, and Krabbit the crabby rabbit do funny things and have fun in the



many short stories of this second book of the Baloney and Friends series! You'll laugh about the things they do, like finding a lost sneeze, using a ladder, and appreciating trees. My favorite story is when Baloney and his friends make up a silly theme song for their group and everyone helps out in their own way. Baloney is my favorite character because he is a good friend. I felt happy when I read this book and I think you should read it too!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Who is BOB?

Bob by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead is a magical fiction about a girl who helps an old friend find home. Olivia (Livy) is 10 years old when she travels to Australia to visit her grandmother she hasn't



seen in 5 years. Livy doesn't remember much from her last visit to grandma's, but when she sees Bob, she has a feeling she may have known him. Bob is a short greenish creature in a chicken suit. He doesn't know who he is. He doesn't remember anything about his family or where he came from. When Livy was 5, she promised she would help him find home. Bob has been waiting in her closet at grandma's house for Livy's return ever since. Livy and Bob become closer friends as they try to unravel the mystery of where Bob came from.

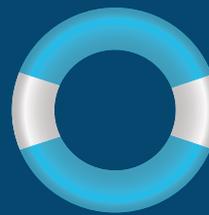
This book is sweet, emotional, and magical with a touch of suspense. I also learned more about friendship from the book. I give this book 5 stars.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

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Taeyoung's Book Review

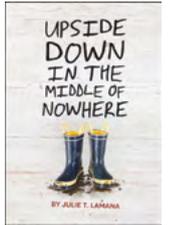


Taeyoung K.

Love and Courage

Title: *Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere*

Author: Julie T. Lamana Alex, Betsy, Donna, Elsa, and Fiona. Do you know what these are? They are not the names of my friends. They are all hurricane's names.



This book is about a girl and her family who lived in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans where 'Hurricane Katrina' hit.

Armani Curtis is waiting for her 10th birthday. She is very excited for her birthday and looking forward to it. It seems that everything goes well. However, Hurricane Katrina hits her town on her birthday. What will happen to her and her family? Can she go through with this hard time? What do the boots in the book cover mean for her?

This is a realistic fiction story for upper graders. As you read the book, I am sure that you can find yourself cheering for Armani.

Taeyoung K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

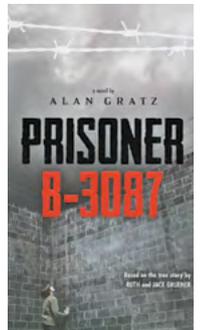
Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

True Courage

Based on the true story of Jack Gruener, *Prisoner B-3087*, a beautifully written realistic novel by Alan Gratz, describes a young Jewish boy's life which slowly breaks apart as Nazi soldiers



invade his city. On top of being snatched from his home and forced to work in 10 concentration camps, Yanek Gruener persevered through his hardships by never relinquishing his drive to survive. For example, even when Gruener suffered the pain of starvation and being tattooed, he did not flinch nor express his despair. In the end, he was rescued and reconnected with his neighbors and relatives by the American army; the story teaches readers about determination and self-control. Readers who enjoy sorrowful war tales will enjoy this historical fiction. I am reminded to have a heart of gratitude and to remain strong in challenging times.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.

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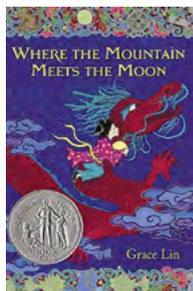
Katie's Review



Katie C.

Spirit of Adventure

Unique from the classical fantasy tales, *Where The Mountain Meets The Moon* by Grace Lin, finds the main character, Minli, setting off on a journey that takes her on a



wild adventure. In a quest to find a fortune for her poor family, Minli's good character rewards her with wildlife friends, including a dragon. Minli is brave, courageous, and sure to inspire anyone with her fearlessness. From the stories that she hears from her mother to actually living in a fantastical world similar to the ones she heard about, you will find out of the box thinking that won't disappoint. Spun in with traditional storytelling, this book synthesizes cultural aspects in a way that is sure to resonate with many. I recommend this book to anyone who is searching for the spirit of adventure.

Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

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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, 2022

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