

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

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## Standards-Based Assessments

In September, the state released the first batch of new assessment scores that revealed how well students are learning California's English and math instructional standards.

**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent  
Orange County  
Dept. of Ed.

The result? Orange County students had outpaced their state and regional counterparts, both on the English and math portions of the test.

That's good news, yet these inaugural scores also reflect how much more work is needed as we continue our transition to 21st-century learning standards. Indeed, we are witnessing a remarkable transformation for education that's not unlike the construction of a new highway system; and just like building a highway, some time will be needed to fully calculate the economic benefits.

If you're not familiar with the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, student scores in English language arts and mathematics are divided into four achievement bands — standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met and standard not met.

According to data released by the California Department of Education, 53 percent of Orange County students met or exceeded the English standard in 2015, and 45 percent did the same in math. California's rates were nine points lower in each subject, with 44 percent of students meeting or exceeding the English standard and 34 percent meeting or exceeding the standard in math.

It's worth noting that Orange County students actually performed better on these 2015 assessments — at every comparable grade level — than students in the county who first took the California Standards Tests back in 2002.

See **STANDARDS-BASED** • Page 18

## Language Learning



By *Rebeca Nelson, Principal  
Fletcher Elementary*

Fletcher Elementary School was recognized at the Orange Unified School District Board meeting on October 15 for the Mandarin Immersion Program and a new partnership with the San Diego State University (SDSU) Confucius Institute. This partnership with the Confucius Institute will provide support, access to resources, and professional development for teachers.

The Mandarin Immersion program is in its fourth year

of implementation, with 106 students in the program. This program is open to any student interested in learning Mandarin. The Fletcher program is a 50/50 immersion program in English and Mandarin and follows the Utah Model of implementation. Studies have shown that immersion in a second language is the best way to learn the language, aside from living in the country for a period of time. Currently, Fletcher has kindergarten through fourth-grade students enrolled in the Mandarin Immersion Program, with plans for growth into fifth and sixth grades.

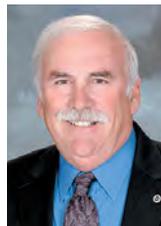
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Covering the  
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Netragrednik by Neta Madison



This issue marks the 11th Anniversary of publishing the excellence from the OUSD. Thank you for continuing to be loyal readers.

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce Isabella, a 4th grader, who will be reviewing her favorite books.

Our next issue is April 13, 2016. Until then Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed forces who are not with their families for the holidays as they continue to protect our freedom.



## SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

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# Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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



**Fayrose Mostafa**  
*Principal*

## Anaheim Hills Elementary is PAWSITIVELY Drug Free

Anaheim Hills Elementary started out Red Ribbon Week (RRW) with a kick off presentation, led by our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) student group, who discussed the history of RRW and a fashion show of what students should wear each day for the week. After the presentation by PAL, students were given a short quiz to check for understanding about the history. The entire school did a flash mob dance to Aretha Franklin's "R-E-S-P-E-C-T." To close out the rally, we had VIP military guests (4 soldiers and 2 Humvees) to share a little about their work, how they demonstrate respect, and the importance of making healthy choices.



# California *Elementary*

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



**Dr. John Albert**  
*Principal*

## Implementing New Technology

California Elementary School is proud to announce the first 24/7 iPad take-home program in the OUSD.

We are pleased to offer this 1:1 iPad program (one device per student) to all K-5 students at California Elementary. By a unanimous vote, our school board recently approved the implementation of this pilot effort to allow our fifth-graders to take their school iPads from class to home.

We are implementing this program in order to help extend our students' learning time. We also want to increase their exposure to the topics they learn in class, and help bridge the technology gap that exists in our schools.

We are also rolling out extensive parent education classes to help our families understand how this new technology is being used as a learning tool for their children. Please see our school's website for a calendar that describes these educational technology classes.



# Cambridge *Elementary*

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



**Jeremy Mortensen**  
*Principal*

## It Takes Us All!

Cambridge Elementary School has been really bringing their theme of "It Takes Us All" to a new level.

Earlier this month, Cambridge hosted its first annual Trunk or Treat event. Parents and supporters were able to bring their vehicles onto the playground black top, decorate the trunks, and hand out candy to eager students dressed up as their favorite characters. Later that night a movie was held under the stars, with free popcorn, and all thanks to teacher, parent, and PTA support.

Cambridge also hosted its second annual School Smarts Parent Academy graduation on October 29, where parents were taught how to support their children's learning and education from preschool through college. It was followed by a potluck and some very touching speeches.



With such an amazing support group, there is no place like Cambridge! Next they will be hosting their first ESL class for parents, with the help of Santiago College.

# Canyon Hills

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



**Janel Carpenter**  
Coordinator

## A Supportive Community

It is a wonderful time of year at Canyon Hills School! Students, families, and staff members are all in a festive mood for the upcoming holidays and exciting events. The Parent Group has been busily working on the annual pumpkin patch and winter activities. We could always use more creative minds and helpful hands. So, if you are a parent, caregiver, or family member, please feel free to join us at our next Parent Group meeting.

The students and staff have quickly settled into the school routine, and many have been active in our Community Based Instruction outings. We practice community safety skills and communication techniques while soaking in the sounds, sights, and learning opportunities in the community around us. Activities have included a local pumpkin patch, an arboretum, nearby stores, restaurants, a bowling alley, and more. We have also had community workers visit us on site.



# Canyon High School

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Craig Abercrombie**  
Principal

## Taking Pride!

What an incredible first quarter of the 2015-16 school year for Canyon High School! The start of any school year is an exciting time for staff, students and parents alike. When starting a school year as a new staff member, a new student or a parent, getting to know the culture and points of pride for your school is an exciting discovery process.

From welcoming our freshman with the Ambassador program to the welcome-back dance and homecoming activities, Comanche Excellence can be seen across our entire community.

Our Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial and Science Olympiad teams all placed near the top in their respective state competitions. Our Video Production program continues to be a source of pride by compiling countless individual and team awards and helping Canyon receive the prestigious Gold Ribbon Award from the California Department of Education. In athletics, Canyon regularly competes for and wins league and CIF titles, with over 1,000 students participating and multiple Coach of the Year awards. Academically, Canyon provides students with opportunities to challenge themselves and prepare for college and career goals with over 40 honors and AP/IB course offerings and over 40 CTE course offerings. In addition, the arts programs continue to shine with incredible drama productions and band and choir performances.

With so many great programs and opportunities for students, Canyon is truly a great place!

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## Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



**Erika Krohn**  
*Principal*

### Red Ribbon Week

Canyon Rim Elementary School promoted a safe, healthy, drug-free lifestyle during Red Ribbon Week. The students kicked off the week by taking a pledge to live healthy lives so that they can achieve their career and personal goals. The school collected 603 pounds of spare change to benefit a substance abuse prevention program. Also, the Anaheim Fire Department donated several bike helmets and posters to support the healthy lifestyle theme.

Each day of the week, students came to school dressed to celebrate a healthy lifestyle. On Friday, the students “scared” away drugs by wearing costumes and participating in a parade. The week culminated with a spook-tacular PTA Trunk or Treat in the evening!



**Canyon Rim staff scaring away drugs!**

## Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Sandra Schaffer**  
*Principal*

### Working Together

There is no doubt that implementing technology into the classroom is a good idea. However, acquiring all of the necessary equipment to make this a reality can be quite a challenge.

This year, Chapman Hills has decided to pilot a “Bring Your Own Device” program (BYOD) into its fifth and sixth grades. Guided by technology specialist Mr. Rich Ireland, our fifth- and sixth-grade teachers are working together to design lessons that will incorporate the use of a device for 40 percent of the school day.

But this is just the beginning. Our goal is to have students working with laptops and tablets for 90 percent of the day!



**Sixth graders working on their own devices.**

Teachers see these computers and tablets as a way for children to interact and engage with a 21st-century application that can transfer to the real world. Students have the opportunity to work together to research, create, and share their projects with each other, much as they will in college and beyond.

## Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



**Lisa Ogan**  
*Principal*

### A Taste of CV

At its debut, A Taste of CV drew more than 350 parents and students to Cerro Villa Middle School in October. Student goal setting shared with parents and determining strategies to achieve the goals began this innovative evening. Parents and students continued by choosing three out of six sessions presented by teachers and staff.

“Mindset across the Curriculum” concerned understanding a growth-versus-fixed mindset. Growth mindset is the belief that your abilities and intelligence can be developed, leading to a desire to learn.

“Change Your Words, Change Your Mindset” included activities to change your thinking at home and school. For example, “This is too hard!” becomes “This may take some time and effort.”

“Study Skills” provided organization tips and skills to be successful in school. “Technology” provided online resources used at CV, including Haiku, Portal, Edmodo and Kahoot. “What’s Up on Campus?” laid out all the extracurricular activities and academic support available at CV. “Communication Skills Using the 4 L’s” explained how 21st century learners utilize the techniques of Look, Lean In, Lower Voice and Listen to improve communication skills.

Finally, as an added treat, participants sampled food fare from the many clubs offered at CV. The German Club’s bratwurst sandwiches were quite the crowd pleasers and sold out. Plans are already in the works for next year’s event!

## Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Shele Tamaki**  
*Principal*

### Showcasing Engineering Skills

*By Traci Arriola and Sharon Cecchi, Teachers*

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) knowledge is sprouting at Crescent Elementary School, where the integration of STEM curriculum is actively incorporated into everyday learning. STEM has taken root with ideas and activities encompassing research, design, and critical thinking.

Students put their STEM skills to great use when they were challenged to design a model of a geodesic dome using the two strongest shapes, circles and triangles. When given the task to work for the country’s largest geodesic dome manufacturers, students worked diligently to engineer a prototype of their perfect dome home. In addition, students are working to market their dome to foreign consumers, with the mindset of function, appeal, and architectural elements.



Students are encouraged to ask questions, improve, and create new ideas, while integrating engineering practices. This engaging curriculum inspires curiosity and creativity. STEM has launched students into 21st-century learning!



**Dr. Dustin Saxton**  
Principal

## Walking for a Cancer Cure

The El Modena High School (EMHS) Girls League held a campus-wide walk in conjunction with a breast cancer research foundation. Over 400 El Modena students participated in the walk, and Girls League raised in excess of \$3,500 in donations, all of which went to help find a cure for breast cancer.

This is an annual event at El Modena, which began in 2008 when a school employee announced he was doing a three-day

walk in San Diego in support of breast cancer research. The EMHS cheerleaders and Girls League started a school-wide walk to support him in his efforts, and the walk has been going strong ever since. In addition, several home football games are designated as “pink outs,” where all students and fans are encouraged to wear pink in support of the cause.

El Modena is proud to support such a worthy and important cause.



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# 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

## A Wonderful Week

El Rancho Charter School recognized Red Ribbon Week by having some exciting daily lunchtime activities themed around the color red, and by having a fun-filled Spirit Week!

Students and staff participated in events such as crazy sock day, and they wore their shirts backwards on "Turn Your Back to Drugs Day." In addition to beautifully decorating our campus with hundreds of red ribbons and large banners, the ASB worked diligently to create

fun lunchtime relays, games, and contests where students could be seen eagerly waiting for their opportunity to participate.

Lastly, embedded in the school-wide announcements, daily words of wisdom also discussed relevant issues like the importance of being drug free, and how the choice to use drugs can lead to devastating and deadly consequences. It was a great and informative week for all!



# Fairhaven *Elementary*

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



**Karen Sandors**  
Principal

## Focus on Safety!

Safety was the main focus among the fun at Fairhaven's Fall Festival. The Fairhaven community was treated to games, food, giveaways, trunk-or-treating and much more, all in the name of safety!

Fairhaven partnered with many local businesses to put on this great event. The students learned about crosswalk safety, bicycle safety and being safe at home. Students had the opportunity to tour a SWAT vehicle and a fire engine, and they even got to sit on a police motorcycle!



**Jonathan Torres who won a bicycle raffle from the Santa Ana Police Department.**

There was a mini-city set up for students to practice pedestrian and bicycle safety. Another highlight was taking pictures with Officer McGruff, the crime dog.

It was a wonderful community event, and we know that Fairhaven students will be safer for having been a part of it.

# Esplanade *Elementary*

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



**Irene Preciado**  
Principal

## Engaging Families

Esplanade Elementary is proud to augment student achievement outcomes through parent education. Thus far, over 60 parents have participated in Disciplina Positiva during evening classes in September and October. Additionally in October, almost 200 families participated in a Parent Engagement Event after school. Pizza, salad and fruit were served, and children made bracelets and created Halloween masks.

All parents were invited to participate in The School Smarts Parent Engagement Program. This class generates a model for creating meaningful and diverse parent involvement. It brings parents from all backgrounds together in support of their common interest: helping their children and schools succeed. Over 30 parents participate in Mrs. Magana's class on Mondays from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Additionally, parents learn English with Rosetta Stone in the parent center during school hours and participate in nutrition classes or join an exercise group. Moreover, parents participate in leadership roles. Esplanade keeps Eagle families engaged!



## Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Rebeca Nelson**  
*Principal*

### Language Learning

Please see our article on the front page.

## Imperial *Elementary*

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



**Ginette Kelley**  
*Principal*

### Helping Students Soar

Imperial Elementary School, home of the Eagles, is a place where our students soar! Imperial's mission is to provide a high-quality education for each child, and to be a place where we can foster creative and confident students who are able to think critically and communicate well.

Our children will finish their days at Imperial as productive students of their own, as well as future members of a global community who have learned to work together as a result of the collaborative learning model we foster.

As our "Eagles" journey through Imperial, we will give them the opportunity to develop academically and socially. Our school's mission will provide the path to success, guiding both students and teachers throughout the educational journey.

One way that this journey is enhanced is through "Family Nights" that focus on the fun of learning, as well as creating memories that will last a lifetime. Imperial has four Family Nights planned for the 2015–2016 school year. In October we held our Family Literacy Night, and the Family Wonderfall and Bookfair. In February we will be holding our Family Science Night, and in May will be our annual Family Spring Festival.

Imperial believes that we all need to work together to help our students soar!

## Handy *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Michelle Owen**  
*Principal*

### Partners with GRIP

Handy Elementary enters its ninth year with the GRIP program with the Orange Police Department. Our teachers partner with students throughout the year to build relationships and encourage academic success.

Teachers volunteer to meet with mentees on a regular basis to strengthen student's leadership and academic skills. A local fast-food restaurant provides meals to both the teachers and students, and students participate in a variety of activities and fund-raisers throughout the year to give back to their community.

Our mentor program culminates each year in May with an outing to a baseball stadium where the team's players speak with the students and recognize their hard work in making good choices. Handy Elementary believes that strong partnerships between the community and students helps to foster a strong sense of self among students and works to build lasting connections that foster student growth.



## La Veta *Elementary*

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



**Lydia Roach**  
*Principal*

### October Events

October was another action-packed month at La Veta Elementary School. We participated in National Walk to School Day. Students were encouraged to meet at La Veta Park and walk to school.

La Veta also celebrated Red Ribbon week with a variety of educational and fun-filled activities. Teachers and parents worked together to set up an exciting week, where students got to "Team Up Against Drugs" and "Give Drugs the Boot."

La Veta students also participated in electronic student council elections. Fourth-through sixth-grade students logged into their Google drives and voted. Congratulations to the 2015–2016 student council officers! Student council also includes classroom representatives from each fourth- through sixth-grade class. This is true 21st-century learning, because student council officers and classroom representatives speak on behalf of their classmates and report important events, news, and budgetary items back to their classrooms.



**National Walk to School Day.**

## Jordan *Elementary*

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



**Andrea Roman**  
*Principal*

### One Busy Start!

Jordan Elementary School has had a busy start to the school year! We held our annual Jog-a-thon, and Jordan School would like to thank our parents and second-grade teacher Mrs. Morris for helping make this day such a success. Our students and parents ran together to help raise funds for our Arts Program.

At Jordan, we have been focusing on writing, and we were fortunate enough to have a visit from author Dow Klump, who shared with students the importance of the writing process and connecting what they are learning about writing and making a real-world connection.

Finally, we have begun our Morning Family Literacy Project. This is a great opportunity for parents to read, check out books to read at home, and build a love for reading at home. Parents who attend can earn free books, get their family picture taken to be displayed in the library, and earn a morning doughnut party. We invite all our families to attend every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Jordan Elementary School in partnership with parents and community is committed to providing a safe and positive learning environment that prepares students to become responsible global citizens and excel as 21st century learners.

## Lampson *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Maria Chairez**  
*Principal*

### A New Focus

As educators, one of the toughest questions we face is, "How will we prepare our students for 21st-century careers?" Our vision is to provide a launching pad for global leadership through the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for all students (STEM).

STEM is an initiative intended to promote and prepare students for careers in the field of science, computers, math, engineering, and technology; as well as foster logical thinking, a desire for inquiry, strong reasoning skills, and the ability to work collaboratively.

Our own STEM initiative will integrate computer science in the form of coding, with direct application to math and robotics. We cannot think of a better way to introduce these skills either than with a familiar and fun product: Legos! Our first rollout has been with the LEGO classics, which enable and empower our students to freely build projects by using their imaginations.

We are also going to be introducing a fun but focused STEM component based upon the current Common Core State Standards. We are preparing ourselves to move into the future to help address the upcoming Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as well. During these sessions, our students will learn to apply computer science and math concepts by learning to code on Chromebooks; building their own robots through the use of strong engineering principals; and eventually activating their robots while also wrapping up their actions within a story framework.

We at Lampson desire to push the cutting edge of technology and really solidify our students' knowledge for the benefit of their future. However, we are also pleased by the intangible benefits that our students will draw from our school's STEM vision and initiative, such as self-confidence and a sense of relevance to the academic subject matter.

**Happy Holidays!**

## Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



**Robert Johnson**  
*Principal*

### Keeping Safe

Linda Vista's Red Ribbon Week celebration was an example of the strong partnership between school staff and the PTA. This year's school theme, "SAFE," focused on the benefits of giving and of being a positive force in the greater community as well as safety with food. Daily spirit activities, including Sock It To Hunger Day; Orange Day; Crazy Hair Day; Be a Buddy, Not a Bully Day; and Linda Vista Pride Day, reinforced these concepts.

In addition, several lunchtime speakers included a representative from the OC Rescue Mission to introduce our weeklong canned-food drive; a school resource officer from the Orange Police Department, and the Villa Park High School Link Crew. The week culminated with a Canned Castle contest in which each class used the canned goods they donated during the week to build a "castle."



**"Canned Castle" contest.**

Thank you to PTA for organizing this eventful and informative week!

## Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

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



**Amy Hitt**  
*Principal*

### Fun and Support

The Nohl Canyon Elementary School community has been at it again—planning fun, educational activities that bring our parents, students, and staff together, forming even stronger bonds. Thanks to Sarah Laursen and Dana Grogger, our students put on a special thank you to our service people and memorialized the heroes who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Chloe Laursen sang our National Anthem as a beautiful conclusion to the morning.

Our dads were both the recipients and planners of our next two events. On October 9, our parent group coordinated a huge Donuts with Dads event. We had hundreds of dedicated dads enjoying orange juice, coffee, and doughnuts with their children. Coordinated by Ken Domer and Jeff Wartenberg, our Dads' Club hosted a movie night on October 16. Dads and their children watched a movie and enjoyed popcorn and lemonade.

Red Ribbon Week followed shortly thereafter, kicked off by an IMAX movie about healthy habits and fresh starts. Our jog-a-thon was the big conclusion. Each year Nohl Canyon's 7th annual Run for Your Life Jog-a-Thon supports students' healthy habits and serves as one of our parent group's big fund-raisers, supporting the purchase of technology, our kindergarten through fourth-grade music program, Art Masters, field trips, assemblies, noon sports, and many other programs. A million thanks to this year's team—Nancy Shcharber, Laurie Rhode and Kim Domer—for their hours of service and to the Dads' Club for setting up the track and doing the manual labor.

What great, fun ways to support our school and community!

# McPherson Magnet

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



**Joe Erven**  
Principal

## Literacy Lunch!

At McPherson, we invite families to have lunch with their children with a focus on literacy three times a year. Our first Literacy Lunch on the Lawn for the 2015–16 school year took place in October, and parents were invited to come to campus to read on the lawn with their children. We asked parents to bring their lunch, lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Parents started showing up at 11:00 a.m. and setting up their area on the lawn for their children. We were happy to see that parents were reading with their children. Then afterward, all of our students from kindergarten through eighth grade were able to play together.

The Lunch on the Lawn event supported the Scholastic Book Fair and our PTSA pumpkin sale. It was an immensely popular event and showcased parental engagement here at McPherson.



# Olive *Elementary*

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



**Katherine Rizzo**  
Principal

## Reaching Their Potential

We had a very busy October at Olive Elementary School. We launched the month with our Donuts with Dads event, where we served 360 donuts to the Olive fathers and their students. Parents and teachers also met during Parent Conference Week. Thank you parents for your overwhelming support!

Olive students recently participated in the Great California Shake-Out. We rehearsed a 6.5 magnitude earthquake to practice our earthquake safety drills. In the case of an earthquake, our students are prepared to duck, cover, and hold, as well as listen carefully for specific directions from adults.

Our sixth-grade students spent the week at Outdoor Education learning all about the stars, animals and their habitats, and participating in group activities and hikes. We also had our first Family 100-Mile Run Night. Many of our families came together to run the field and rack up the distance towards their goal of 100 miles! It is so exciting to see our staff and families working together on a healthy program where everyone can be successful.

We are looking forward to the season. Mrs. Taluaga, an Olive parent, has started our Wednesday Art Club. Thirty students meet on Wednesdays to experience first-hand art lessons and activities for a six-week period. Also starting in November is Olibots, our third-grade robotics club assisted by parents Mrs. Taluaga, Mr. Kelley, and teacher Mrs. Schwartz.

Sixth-grade classes are participating in the 1:1 Bring Your Own Device initiative, and are leading the way to a practice where our students are now able to bring their own devices to school as a learning tool. Mrs. Burkhart and Mrs. Saulten are engaging students in a variety of applications across all content areas by teaching them how to utilize technology.

At Olive, we are aiming to make sure that our students are always working towards their highest potential.

# Orange *High School*

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



**Dennis McCuiston**  
Principal

## Panthers Lead the Way

Orange High's five Simon Family Scholars were recognized and honored at the school's recent Simon Scholar banquet. Angel Diaz, Nancy Gomez, Michael Juarez, Atmary Martinez, and Gage Kizzar are recipients of this recognition that, along with support from Chapman

University, will award these students a full scholarship.

The students delivered well-written and heartfelt speeches at the banquet. These young men and women have overcome personal adversity unknown to most, and they continue to achieve strong academic success. They made Orange High School proud of their journey and accomplishments, and many of them also had to overcome their fear of public speaking!

The audience was amazed by their stories, and by their courage to share them in public. These students made their families proud, their school proud, and they should most certainly be proud of themselves. Congratulations to our Orange High School Simon Scholars!



# OUSD Alternative Education/ROP

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



**Germaine Martell**  
Coordinator

## Always an Alternative!

It is hard to believe, but we are coming to the end of the first quarter for the 2015-16 school year. The first 10 weeks of school have been filled with fantastic learning opportunities and wonderful community events! We have welcomed many new students and friends to our community.

Along with some of our new initiatives such as the Conceptual Physics Lab, we continue to concentrate on the new California Academic State Standards. Our teachers are collaborating to present the key concepts and approaches for the SBAC tests coming in the spring. We held two college- and career-ready information nights along with Back to School.

Our faculty and staff consider it a tremendous responsibility and an honor to be part of the Alternative Education site. As we say, "There is always an alternative" in meeting the needs of our students!

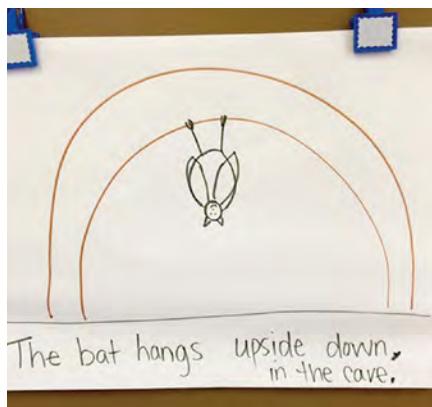
# Orange Pre-K SDC

5125 E. Gerda Dr. Anaheim, CA 92807 • [www.orangeusd.k12.ca](http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca)

## Ready to Write

By Bree Tippetts, Director

Orange Unified Pre-Kindergarten Special Day Class School is proud to participate in the new district writing initiative, Write From the Beginning and Beyond. Orange Pre-K is responsible for introducing writing at developmentally appropriate stages while laying a solid foundation. Our teachers have taken part in grade-level trainings and are implementing this fabulous curriculum.



We set our school focus on teaching our students the concept of character and the importance of including details. Our students are using academic language to describe their drawings. With daily implementation, our students have exceeded our goal and expectations! We have introduced setting and are having discussions about the details included in the setting. Some of our students are beginning to demonstrate an understanding of the written word by making marks for each word or even using phonetic spelling.

We are excited to continue using Write From the Beginning and Beyond to better prepare our students for kindergarten.

# Palmyra Elementary

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



**Brenna Godsey**  
Principal

## Core Strategies for Growth

Palmyra Elementary is excited to be an AVID school this year! AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination, is being implemented in all of our sixth-grade classrooms. It provides a system and structure that can provide our students with the skills they need for future success in middle school, high school, college, and career.

AVID sets high expectations for our students, while also providing the support they need to be successful. Our AVID teachers foster a growth-mindset in their students by encouraging hard work, effective decision making, and higher-level thinking. Its core strategies involve the writing process, Socratic questioning, collaborative learning, and strong organization. In fact, all of our sixth-grade



students were recently provided with an "AVID Notebook" to help stay organized! We are excited to begin this endeavor at Palmyra, and plan to expand it each year to help us keep focused on college and career readiness.

# Panorama Elementary

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



**Kathryn Martin**  
Principal

## Art of CAREing

Panorama Elementary takes pride in the successes of our students. Panorama Panthers work diligently daily to achieve both academically and as responsible citizens in our ever-changing world. The traits they possess are assets they will carry into their bright futures. Panthers remember that when they share, cooperate, or comfort those in distress, they are developing skills that will be necessary as they grow into adulthood. Cooperation and collaboration in each classroom keeps them engaged and achieving. Panthers behave in a manner that is honorable, compassionate and respectful.

As part of who we are, Panorama Elementary emphasizes service to our community. From the community Trunk or Treat event to Operation



Joy—Panorama's outreach to mommies-to-be at Camp Pendleton—Panthers strive to serve others daily. Panorama teachers not only stress the importance of these skills but students and teachers alike also demonstrate them through CAREing: Courtesy, Achievement and Responsibility for Everyone.



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## Portola *Middle School*

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



**Jill Katevas**  
Principal

### Field Activities Return

Portola Middle School is committed to creating programs and opportunities for students to develop strong bonds to their school and to get engaged in their learning and the entire middle school experience. We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to participate in co-ed, after-school soccer games. Each middle school plays on Tuesdays against one of the other Orange Unified School District middle schools. All teams will then play in a tournament at Kelly Stadium on December 3.

This entire experience has allowed students to develop school spirit and team bonds. Most importantly, they are translating their motivation to their education. According to one Portola student, “We’re very passionate about soccer. Having the opportunity to play has given students a reason to try harder in school.”



## Running Springs *Elementary*

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



**Joseph Vidal**  
Principal

### Bring Your Own Device

The 21st century learner needs access to the digital world and digital tools to be prepared for college and career. This year, we’re rolling out our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in the sixth grade. The goal is to raise student achievement by providing all students an opportunity to access curriculum and content in a blended learning environment. Currently, OUSD technology coaches are working with our sixth-grade team to establish routines, discuss digital citizenship, develop blended learning activities, and provide additional assessment solutions.

With BYOD, students are comfortable using their own devices, and the use of technology dramatically increases student engagement and time on task. Additionally, they’re more organized with their notes, have unlimited opportunities to access information and resources, and individualize their learning by excelling at their own pace.

Running Springs is having an innovative year, and we look forward to our BYOD rollout as a huge success!



## Prospect *Elementary*

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



**Sally Hughson**  
Principal

### Themed to Win

Prospect Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week as a reminder of how important it is to be drug free, bully free and living a healthy lifestyle. Students discussed these important topics in class. Michelle Bolton, our school psychologist, visited every class and did a presentation on what to do if you see bullying and how important it is to put a stop to it.

Every day, we had a theme and an activity. Monday’s was “Too Cool to Try Drugs,” and we wore sunglasses. On Tuesday, it was “Turn Your Back on Drugs,” and we wore our shirts backward. Wednesday’s was “Be a Jean-ius”—we wore jeans and ate healthy snacks. On Thursday’s “Team Up Against Drugs,” we wore our favorite sports team shirts. And on Friday—“RED-Y to Make Good Choices”—we wore red! School spirit was up every day!

Finally, all students took the pledge to live healthy and drug-free lives.



## Richland *High School*

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



**Dr. Elsie Briseno Simonovski**  
Principal

### College and Career Ready

This past quarter at Richland High School, students and staff were working very hard to achieve the goals of 21st-century college and career readiness. As a school that promotes diversity in teaching and personalized learning, we are proud of our recent program enhancements in our Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. Richland is very proud to announce that the state concluded that there “were no official findings,” which means that Richland is in compliance with the necessary regulations.

Our campus, under the supervision of Dr. Elsie Briseno Simonovski, is very proud of the hard work, commitment, and dedication of the entire Richland staff and student body. Today, our CTE program provides a 21st-century, real-world, relevant, engaging curriculum based on career- and college-readiness skills. This year, we are very excited to share that business, graphic design, art, video production, and digital photography courses are being offered on campus. Finally, this year, for the very first time, Richland students will be working through our CTE program teacher, Mr. Todd Smaretsky, to design and launch our very first Richland High School digital yearbook.

Richland continues to excel in providing a learning environment that is personalized and aligned to meet the needs of all 21st-century learners. Go, Condors!

# Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



**Dr. James D'Agostino**  
Principal

## Check Us Out!

Santiago Charter Middle School is growing in leaps and bounds! We have increased our enrollment by 70 students from last year, as we remain one of the top choices in our community for middle school students and their families.

We have also added some classes this year that our students are really enjoying, such as a brand-new STEM Lab that features robotics, film editing, aerodynamics, and rocket launching. We have also added several speech classes, a guitar class, and a film class. Our electives continue to be a big draw for our students too, as we try to center the middle school experience on student exploration in addition to high academic achievement.

We are also heavily involved in the community with activities such as McTeacher Night (where we broke the store sales record that we set last year), and a canned food drive to support the Friendly Center here in Orange.

We are so very fortunate to have outstanding teachers, a kind and caring office staff, and the best and most supportive parents on the planet! It really is a team effort here at Santiago that makes us such a great school, as well as the largest growing school in the Orange area. We invite our community to stop by and check out some of the wonderful things that our students are doing to make a difference in their community!

# Taft *Elementary*

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



**Connie Smith**  
Principal

## Sharing Skills

*By Kelly Acosta, Teacher, Sixth Grade; and Lindsay Krill, Teacher, Third Grade*

This year, our AVID sixth-grade students are showing their eagerness to share their leadership skills by helping implement a new physical education program with our second- and third-graders.

The sixth-graders are showing their knowledge and experience by helping lead these younger students through 13 different physical fitness stations. Some of these stations are geared towards gross motor skills, such as jump rope and handball, while others focus on yoga moves like the carrot stick.

This program incorporates good physical fitness. It also has a nutrition station geared towards daily food groups to help familiarize the younger students with good nutrition and health.



**The students Brian Del Rio, Abraham Chavez, Natalie Ramirez, Alice Fuentes, Amy Navarro, Jennifer Silvestre, Merelin Alcantara, Andrea Garcia, and Julisa Elias are showing off their throwing skills while trying to make the ball into a bucket.**

We feel that this program provides strong leadership opportunities for our sixth-graders, together with a fun, exciting, and safe learning environment for all. The second- and third-graders are definitely having a blast taking directions from their fellow sixth-graders!

# Serrano *Elementary*

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



**Ashley Pedroza**  
Principal

## 21st-Century Learning Opportunities

Serrano Elementary School is soaring into the 21st century with a variety of innovative and inspiring STEM opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math for each and every Serrano Eagle.

On a weekly basis, our Serrano students are now participating in a STEM challenge where 160 teams – which include each student – are provided with a bag of supplies, a timeframe, and a challenge.

In addition to offering the weekly challenge, Serrano is also the proud home to six robotics teams, a computer lab used for coding, Chromebooks for each student in grades four to six, and iPads in every single kindergarten through third-grade classroom.



Our Serrano staff, parents, community, and students are joining forces to provide a digitally enriched program to every Eagle. Our students work to collaborate on their learning, solve problems, and experience engineering design through the many educational opportunities that are offered by our school.

# Sycamore *Elementary*

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



**Heather Bosworth**  
Principal

## Science Fun

Sycamore Elementary School doesn't just teach science to students; we teach parents, too! Each October, Sycamore teachers open their classrooms to families for a night of hands-on learning, where parents work together with their children to conduct experiments, program robots, and explore electronic tablets. Although this family engagement tradition began only three years ago, over 240 families attended the event this year. "Our goal is to get parents and students involved in science and, in turn, create a love for learning," said Heather Bosworth, the



school principal. "I believe parents are a vital part of any child's education."

The experiments consist of simple activities the participants can do as a family, such as making goop, launching straw rockets, and making raisins dance. "Science Family Fun Night is for everyone," said Mrs. Bender, the teacher who coordinates the event. "Our goal is to bring the school and community together in a very positive way."

## Villa Park *High School*

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



**Ed Howard**  
Principal

### The SPARTAN Way

It is an exciting time in the Orange Unified School District. There is much a buzz about Growth Mindset and our ability to better educate our students as we continue to learn how the human brain works. We are taking this research and working to transform it into student achievement.

At Villa Park High School, this can be witnessed through our seven tenets of the SPARTAN Way: Spirited—pride in self, school and community; Prepared—on time and ready to go; Achieve—your best effort; Respectful—of self, staff, and peers; Trustworthy—reliable, honest; Adaptive—handle change and diversity; and Noble—high intellect and moral levels. Striving to adhere to these expectations in all aspects of our lives will allow us to grow and develop.

This year we have also incorporated our One More Thing goal. In all facets of our work, we will push ourselves to do “one more thing.” We believe doing one more thing can be the difference between failure and success for many of our students. In instruction, intervention, motivation, and relevance, I am asking my staff to continue to do their best work and, when needed, one more thing.

We are off to a very nice start of the school year and would love to encourage you to join us on the field, stage, or any of our other venues as our Spartans perform. You will witness the SPARTAN Way firsthand while supporting our school community.

## West Orange *Elementary*

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



**Sandra Preciado-Martin**  
Principal

### West Orange Angeles Night

On

September 30th over 120 students and family members participated in the West Orange Angels Night. Students,

faculty, families and friends came together to cheer our home team on and raise money for the West Orange science programs. Our West Orange Warriors were so enthusiastic that they could be seen throughout the night on the big screen dancing and cheering the home team's efforts to defeat the Oakland A's. The fund raiser was a great success and generated additional funds that will be used towards the 5th grade Science Camp field trip to Arrowhead in the spring of 2016. Although our Angels were defeated by the Oakland A's that night, the West Orange Community had a great time cheering for the Angel's.



## Villa Park *Elementary*

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



**Raeanne Little**  
Principal

### Student Newscasts

By Gwen Hodgson and Mikayla Kendall, Students – 6th Grade

Sixth-graders at Villa Park Elementary School have an innovative way to develop their reading, writing, speaking, and technology skills by creating and sharing digital school newscasts. Every month, a different sixth-grade class is responsible for reporting on events happening in that specific month. Creating the newscast allows students to gain experience interviewing, writing scripts, reporting, and editing digitally.



VPE 6th Graders Gwen Hodgson and Mikayla Kendall.

It takes about a week to prepare for recording the newscast, and students rehearse before recording. Students also think about how to make their newscasts entertaining for their fellow students by bringing in props and adding humor to their scripts.

Student council leaders take a key role in producing the newscasts. Without Villa Park's sixth-grade representatives, there wouldn't be a newscast! Who knows, maybe someday you will see a few of these student journalists on the nightly news.

## Yorba *Middle School*

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



**Tracy Knibb**  
Principal

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Yorba Middle School believes that we are preparing our students for jobs that haven't yet been created. To accomplish this, we must provide them with opportunities to both think critically and explore relevant, real-world situations.

This school year we are excited to be offering a STEM Lab that merges the worlds of science, technology, engineering, and math in an environment that will foster student discovery. In pairs, students work through modules in real-world scenarios with teachers serving as facilitators of learning.



Some examples of these modules include digital music, structural engineering, computer-aided drafting, and alternative energy. The STEM Lab is also equipped with hands-on instructional materials that can highly engage our students and leave room for creativity and innovation.

We believe that offerings like the STEM Lab can give our students a chance to venture into the world of STEM careers, and help them plan and set strong goals for the future.

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Isabella's Book Review

**A Page-Turner**



Isabella A.

*Flexible Wings* is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often. When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breathe because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!



I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella will turn 10 this December and wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.



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\*Source: Girl Scouts Research Institute, 2012 Alumnae Impact Study



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**STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENTS • From Page 1**



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent  
Orange County  
Dept. of Ed.

Drill down a little deeper and you'll find several local success stories. At Middle College High School in the Santa Ana Unified School District, an astounding 99 percent of 11th-graders met or exceeded the CAASPP standard for English. The Irvine Unified School District posted the highest math scores in the state among districts with 25,000 students or more. And when you combine the number of students who met or nearly met the standards in Orange County, our population posted rates of 76 percent in English and 72 percent in math.

California officials have stressed that the new assessments should not be compared with those of previous years, as the tests — and the standards on which they are based — are so fundamentally different from the bubble-in versions that preceded them. Yet these results can and will serve as the baseline for measuring future progress in Orange County and elsewhere throughout the state. Even more important, they're ensuring teachers and administrators have the information they need to make data-driven instructional decisions in the classroom.

In the end, it's less about state and regional test scores and more about meeting the needs of each student — and ensuring all are equipped with the knowledge and skills required for college and career readiness and success.

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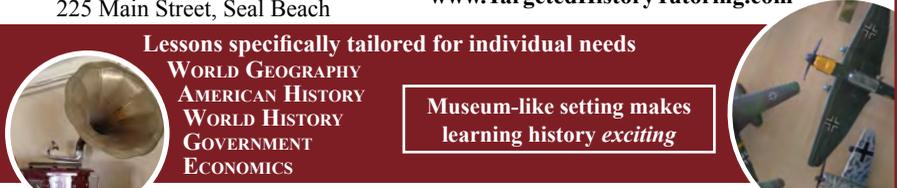
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# Winter Words Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put OUSD in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by January 15, 2016.**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |               |             |              |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| BLIZZARD      | ICE SKATES  | SNOWBOARDING |
| BOOTS         | ICICLE      | SNOWFLAKE    |
| CABIN         | MARSHMALLOW | SNOWMAN      |
| CHILLY        | MITTENS     | SOLSTICE     |
| FIREPLACE     | MOUNTAINS   | SOUP         |
| FREEZING      | OLYMPICS    | TOBOGGAN     |
| FROST         | POPCORN     | UMBRELLA     |
| GINGERBREAD   | RAINCOAT    | VACATION     |
| HOLIDAYS      | SCARF       |              |
| HOT CHOCOLATE | SLED        |              |

**Congratulations to Carmen Solorzano  
Winner of the September Contest!**





# Orange Unified School District Provides Classes in Full-Day Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten\*

Kindergarten Registration begins on  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**  
with the exception of McPherson Magnet School

To participate in the lottery at McPherson Magnet School (K-8),  
parents must attend one of the following orientation meetings at McPherson Magnet School:  
**Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.**

For more information on the OUSD **Mandarin Immersion Program** at Fletcher Elementary,  
or the **Spanish Immersion Program** at California Elementary, visit the OUSD Website. \*\* \*\*\*

- To receive a Kindergarten Registration packet, parents must have all the required documentation:
  - Child's birth certificate
  - Child's current immunization records
  - Two address verifications  
(Even if a sibling currently attends the school, verification is required as the family may have moved.)
- Each school site determines the date that packets must be returned to their site.

## Open Enrollment Information:

K – 12 Open Enrollment will be held  
**February 29 – March 11, 2016**  
Additional information is posted  
on the OUSD Website.

➤ For more information regarding Kindergarten Registration, parents should contact the school site directly or go to the OUSD website at <http://www.orangeusd.org/scs/#enroll>.

\* **Transitional Kindergarten** information — A parent information meeting will be held Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the District Office Board Rooms 1, 2 and 3, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\* **The birthdate requirement for Transitional Kindergarten is:**

Sept 2 – Dec. 2, 2011 (students with these birthdates can only attend Transitional Kindergarten.) Students with birthdates between July 1 and Sept 1, 2011 may attend Kindergarten or TK.

\*\* **Mandarin Immersion Program** information — A parent information meeting will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at the District Office Board Room 3 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\*\*\* **Spanish Immersion Program** information – A parent information meeting will be held Thursday, January 28, 2016 at the District Office Board Room 2 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Orange Unified School District is located at  
1401 North Handy Street, Orange, CA  
[www.orangeusd.org](http://www.orangeusd.org)**



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