

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Orange Unified School District



Volume 13, Issue 63

September–November 2018

Groundbreaking for Science Center at Orange High School



Board Members Tim Surridge, Brenda Lebsack, Assemblyman Steven Choi, Board Members Alexia Deligianni, Kathy Moffat, Andrea Yamasaki, Rick Ledesma, and Superintendent Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen. (not pictured Board Member John H. Ortega)

Superintendent



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen

Welcome to a Great Year!

Welcome to Orange Unified School District (OUSD)! It is an exciting time in the district as we begin modernization of current facilities and construction of state-of-the-art science centers at each comprehensive high school. OUSD's Facilities and Maintenance Departments are also updating our athletic fields and will be starting the process of renovating Fred Kelly Stadium. You will see a lot of construction at our schools, so please check our Web site for facilities updates and Measure S schedules.

We are also excited to be launching new programs and services as we continue to prepare students for successful college, career and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) experiences. Orange Unified schools provide a balanced instructional experience with continual innovation to ensure our students are able to compete in the global community. The district's teachers and principals are providing a rigorous instructional program that engages all students in deeper levels of collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. We believe that "what's best for our students comes first and foremost," and we continue to push for greater levels of success within our organization.

This coming school year will provide more personalized learning opportunities than at any other time in the history

of the district. Our comprehensive Career Technical Education (CTE) program offers students classes in digital music, aviation, computer aided design (CAD), finance and business, robotics, marketing, fire science, crime scene investigation, marketing, and film making, just to name a few. In addition to these secondary course offerings, the district will be facilitating an expanded CTE program in our middle schools next year.

Award-winning schools and academic success are due to the dedicated and talented people who contribute throughout the planning and implementation of strategic goals. Every one of our dedicated employees strives to lead the district to greater levels of achievement. OUSD faculty members are lifelong learners, demonstrating high levels of care and commitment to student academic and socio-emotional needs. Support staff serves in multiple capacities to ensure successful day-to-day operations, and the leadership team acknowledges the value of professional development and service to students and families. Our community and business leaders are also committed to the excellent education provided by the Orange Unified team—as evidenced in their overwhelming support for Measure S, which we are now seeing come to life on our high school campuses. The success of each and every student is a collaborative effort between all stakeholders in the process of teaching and learning.

Parental and community support are essential for maximizing the learning experience of students. I encourage each of you to work in partnership with teachers and principals to provide students with positive educational experiences. Additionally, I urge you to provide input to our annual Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) development process by sharing feedback at your school. Please stay up to date on Measure S construction, the progress of our innovative educational programs, and other important district communications by visiting the Web site at www.orangeusd.org and following us on social media.



Fall Volleyball Programs for Girls 14 & Under

Pre-Tryout Clinics
Prepare for Tryouts in October!
August 28 - October 4
Tuesdays & Thursdays
6pm - 7:30pm

14 & Under Club Volleyball Tryouts

Saturday, October 6th	Sunday, October 7th
12U - 10:30am - 12pm	12U - 10:30am - 12pm
13U - 1:30pm - 3pm	13U - 1:30pm - 3pm
14U - 4:30pm - 6pm	14U - 4:30pm - 6pm

Looking for a Brief Introduction to Club Volleyball?
Try our Fall **Future Stars** Programs for Girls Ages 10-14!

Fall Session # 1 August 27 th – October 10 th	Fall Session # 2 October 15 th – December 21 st
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Practices: Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:30pm - 6:00pm

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

ADVERTISING SALES: Leslie Rawlings
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:
Gerald Villaluz and Mark Fernandez

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to another exciting school year. We are looking forward to again bringing you the excellence from the classrooms. This is a special issue when the principals share their bios. It is always fun to learn where they went to college, about their families, pets and hobbies.

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Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is December 5.



Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving

Teachers See the Possibilities

At Oaks Christian School, Mary Kay Altizer applies her passion for the arts and educational technology as she leads the school's performing arts department, including a cutting-edge digital recording and production program.



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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169



Fayroze Mostafa
Principal

Mrs. Mostafa is starting her 19th year in education and her 8th year in administration. She and her husband of almost 15 years, Haney, have three children. Dean, 12, will be starting 8th grade and is an animal enthusiast. Aliya, 11, will finish her last year of elementary school and enjoys painting and cooking. Their youngest, Saif, 8, will be starting fourth grade and won the school spelling bee.

Mrs. Mostafa has a wide band of experience ranging from preschool, where she was the director of child development, all the way up to high school, where she served as the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction.

Mrs. Mostafa is PROUD to enter her fourth year at Anaheim Hills Elementary School, home of the Panthers! She has made AHES an exciting place for learning and enrichment – with stimulating activities like VAPA, the school wide morning fitness program, Robotics, Panther Place – the kindness garden, PALS, Green Team and so much more! Mrs. Mostafa's goal is to challenge each student to grow and surpass their potential in an environment that cultivates collaboration and creativity, and harnesses every effort to achieve academic excellence.

This year Mrs. Mostafa is pleased to announce that the school will open with a STEM Lab! Sixth graders will have the opportunity to participate in Pentathlon, which prepares students for success in college and careers by building 21st century skills in communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and character, and the school will also take on AVID. AHES strives in every way possible to be a place that will meet the needs of every student and nurture students to try things that will captivate the imagination and spur new learning. Mrs. Mostafa encourages all students to find a path that excites them. She is looking forward to another exciting and productive 2017-18 school year!

California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104



Dr. John Albert
Principal

Dr. Albert leads the California elementary school team. California is home to the iInspire Academy where technology and language flourish! Dr. Albert has over 20 years of educational leadership experience in which he has served as a teacher and assistant principal at the high school, as a middle school assistant principal and principal, as a K-8 school principal, and elementary principal, and supporting English learners at the district level. He has proudly served at Title I schools and has experience bridging the achievement gap, integrating technology to enhance 21st century learning, and supporting English learners. Dr. Albert earned a bachelor's of arts degree from the University of Redlands, and a master's degree and doctorate degree from California State University, Fullerton. His wife is a second grade teacher and they have two sons, one in 5th grade and one in 8th grade. He is first generation American. His father immigrated to the United States from Hungary after WWII and his mother was from Ireland. Both came to build a better life for themselves and their future family. It is with this same sense of passion that he entered the education field with the goal of helping to build better lives for students.

"We continue to build upon our success that has earned us one of only 400 Apple Distinguished School awards in the world, our district's only California School Board's Golden Bell Award, a Gold Ribbon award, and the Title I Achieving award." As a team we continue our journey of being the premiere one-to-one iPad school and a leader in innovation. Our focus remains on preparing our students to be college and career ready by developing sound foundational skills in reading, mathematical reasoning, science application, and technology integration. Our students apply these skills while mastering 21st century standards. We are also ecstatic to expand upon our very successful Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs that includes coding opportunities for all students, and expanding our Spanish Dual Immersion program into the 3rd grade", said principal Dr. Albert.

Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171



Dr. Karen Hanson
Coordinator

Dr. Karen Hanson is pleased to begin her 7th year at Canyon Hills School. In her background is a unique blend of experience in the fields of both health care and education. As a Registered Nurse, she has worked in the hospital setting, as a school nurse, and as a school health administrator.

She then transitioned into the area of special education administration, earning a doctoral degree in education. Dr. Hanson has spent much of her career working with students with special physical and educational needs. She is committed to furthering the positive work done by the staff and families at Canyon Hills School for these special students.

Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103



Diane Lew
Principal

Diane Lew is looking forward to her third year as the principal of Cambridge Elementary School. Prior to this position, Ms. Lew worked as one of Orange Unified School District's Special Education Coordinators, as well as an elementary school Resource Specialist and Special Day Class teacher. She also has experience as an elementary and middle school general education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Ms. Lew holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from San Francisco State University and Master's degree in Educational Administration from National University. Ms. Lew has a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, an Education Specialist Instructional Credential for Mild to Moderate Disabilities, and an Administrative Services Credential.

Ms. Lew believes in a collaborative school environment in which talented and dedicated teachers deliver 21st century instruction in a fun and safe environment. This approach encourages students to work together to take academic risks using communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity to solve real-world problems that will support them in reaching their full potential and becoming college and career ready.

Ms. Lew is honored to be part of the Cambridge Elementary School team. She enjoys collaborating with staff, families, students, and the community to ensure that all student needs are met by maintaining a safe, structured, and inclusive environment that encourages students to develop a growth mindset, gives students the confidence needed to become creative problem-solvers, and promotes positive relationships and responsible behaviors.

Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year!

Canyon *High School*

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



Craig Abercrombie
Principal

Craig Abercrombie is excited to start the 2018-19 school year at Canyon High School. He is entering his 21st year as an educator and his 16th year in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). After graduating from college, Craig began his teaching career in Arizona. He joined OUSD as an English teacher and the head boys' basketball coach at Orange High School in 2003. While at Orange High, he also served as the athletic director before becoming an

assistant principal in 2011. As the assistant principal, he was responsible for special education, interventions, and curriculum and instruction.

Craig is extremely proud of the commitment to excellence and the amazing accomplishments by the

students and staff at Canyon High School. He feels extremely fortunate to have been able to share in the many successes of the past three years with his fellow Comanche community and looks forward to the many accomplishments to come this year.

Growing up in small towns in Oklahoma and Texas with educator parents, Craig understands the important role a school plays as a part of the community and enjoys working with all stakeholders in the Canyon community CHS the best it can be. He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Arlington and holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education administration. Craig and his wife, Veronica, are residents of Orange and are the proud parents of a seven-year old son, Braxton, who attends Serrano Elementary in OUSD.

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Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027



Dr. Michelle Owen
Principal

Dr. Michelle D. Owen is the proud principal at Canyon Rim Elementary. Dr. Owen holds bachelors and master's degrees in education, as well as a doctoral degree in Education, Leadership, and Policy from Pepperdine University and is currently attending the University of Southern California for her Chief Business Operations certification. With over 18 years of experience and 10 years in leadership, Dr. Owen is passionate about student achievement and quality instruction.

She is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and serves on the Board for the

Association of California School Administrators, Region 17.

Providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that challenge student thinking in the areas of math, science, technology, and literacy is a priority for Dr. Owen. She works with her teachers, students, parents, and community as a collaborative facilitator to ensure data-driven school improvement, professional learning communities, targeted instructional delivery, and school and community partnerships.

Dr. Owen values her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community. As a resident of Anaheim Hills and mother of three, she is invested in all students and strives daily to ensure that Canyon Rim Roadrunners are prepared to be our future leaders. Go Rim!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Welcome to Cerro Villa Middle School, home of the VIKINGS! Mrs. Ogan is proud and honored to enter her fifth year as principal of CVMS. Prior to her serving OUSD, Mrs. Ogan served as middle school assistant principal, summer school principal, teacher on special assignment, middle school math teacher, and elementary school teacher in the Placentia-Yorba Linda, Walnut Valley, and Ontario-Montclair school districts.

Mrs. Ogan received her bachelor's degree in child development with a minor in mathematics and a master's degree in educational administration, both from California

State University, Fullerton. She holds a multiple-subject teaching credential with an authorization in mathematics and an administrative services credential.

Along with Mrs. Ogan, Cerro Villa is proud to be showcased as a California Schools to Watch model middle school and the only comprehensive middle school in Orange County to become WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accredited! Cerro Villa is also considered one of the top ten schools in the nation recognized for its STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) program. This is a tribute to the dedication, performance and high expectations shared by its teachers, students, parents and community. Congratulations!

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043



Jana Saenz
Principal

Jana Saenz is excited to embark on her fourth year as principal at Chapman Hills and is very excited to have a wonderful year. She is honored to be working with the amazing Bobcat staff, students and parent community in an effort to work collaboratively in continuing the wonderful traditions and level of success Chapman Hills has experienced in the past.

Mrs. Saenz is a transplant to Southern California. She grew up in Tucson, AZ and moved to California to attend Chapman University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She then received her Master's Degree in Special Education from Chapman University and later an Administrative Credential for California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Saenz has served many different roles, including special education teacher, general education teacher, instructional coach

and assistant principal during her 17 years in the Orange Unified School District. She has a passion for curriculum and instruction, Positive Behavioral Supports and Running!

Mrs. Saenz resides in Anaheim Hills with her husband and three children. Two of Mrs. Saenz' children attend school in Orange Unified School District thus she is truly vested in the Orange Unified School District both as a professional and a parent.

She is looking forward to highlighting Chapman Hills' best practices in technology usage across the grades levels, STEM, writing, small group differentiated instruction and AVID 4th-6th grades. This year Chapman Hills is excited to add TV's to the classrooms, a new shade structure for the kindergarten yard and a new "fresh start" room to enhance our PBIS (R.O.A.R. Respectful, Organized, Appropriate Attitude, and Responsible) protocol, and continuing our endeavor of our school wide focus of John Wooden's Pyramid of Success character traits. Bobcats R.O.A.R.!

Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371



Shele Tamaki
Principal

Shelé Tamaki comes from a long line of teachers in her family at the elementary, secondary and university levels. Majoring in Elementary Education, she graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* from CSU, Long Beach and earned her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from CSULB. Mrs. Tamaki taught for seven years in grades 2 through 5 while serving as a Social Studies Mentor Teacher and Master Teacher for the Downey Unified School District.

Mrs. Tamaki's administrative experience began in Downey as a Summer School Principal. The following year she served as an Assistant Principal for Capistrano USD. After two and a half years she became an Elementary Principal in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. In 1997 Mrs. Tamaki accepted an elementary principalship closer to home in Capistrano Unified. The next several years, she had the privilege of working with talented school teams who received various awards such as California Distinguished School and the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll with recognition for State API scores over 900.

The past educational experiences afforded her a professional career opportunity to join the Orange USD leadership team in August 2015. Mrs. Tamaki has since served as Principal of Crescent Elementary, a California Distinguished School and Gold Ribbon School. She looks forward to another year working with the dedicated Crescent staff and community to support student success.

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

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



Michele Walker
Principal

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! My name is Michele Walker and I am proud to be starting my 15th year at El Rancho Charter School where I have served as both an Assistant Principal and Principal. Prior to El Rancho, I served as a history teacher, coach, and administrator at Foothill High School.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree and was a collegiate athlete at the University of Oregon. I also possess a master's degree in education administration. I look forward to working with our students, parents, and staff on the next steps of our educational journey!

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El Modena *High School*

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



Gail Richards
Interim Principal

Gail Richards will be serving as the Interim Principal for El Modena High School this fall, until the new principal will be hired. Gail began her career as a Biology teacher at El Modena in 1972. During her long career in education, she worked at Canyon High School, El Rancho Middle School, Orange High School as Assistant Principal, back to El Modena as an Assistant Principal and then Principal of El Modena. She finished the last 14 years of her career as the Principal of Irvine High School, retiring 11 years ago. She has been working part time, for the past 15 years, at the Orange County

Department of Education, as a trainer in the Institute for Leadership Development. Post retirement, Gail has worked in several interim positions: Assistant Superintendent for CAPO, Principal of Villa Park High School, and most recently the Executive Director of Secondary Education for OUSD. She is happy to come full circle back to El Modena High.

Gail is a graduate of UC Irvine, where she received her BS degree. She completed two graduate programs: one in Counseling and Psychology and the other in School Administration.

Gail is married to Stan Richards. They have 2 daughters and seven amazing grandchildren.

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157



Christina Yokoyama
Principal

Mrs. Christi Yokoyama is proud to continue for the 3rd year as principal at Esplanade Elementary School. Mrs. Yokoyama has been an educator for 18 years. She also served Orange Unified School District as the assistant principal of McPherson Magnet School for three years. Prior to joining OUSD, Mrs. Yokoyama was a classroom teacher and teacher leader in the Tustin Unified School District, teaching at both the elementary and middle school levels.

Mrs. Yokoyama holds a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno and a Master's degree from California State University, Fullerton, both in Biological Sciences. She continued her education at CSU Fullerton by earning her teaching and administrative

services credentials. Mrs. Yokoyama is a National Board Certified Teacher, she participates in WASC accreditation committees, and was a Cotsen Family Foundation Fellow, specializing in reading and writing instruction.

Mrs. Yokoyama resides in Rancho Santa Margarita with her husband and three children. Mrs. Yokoyama enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends. She is proud to be part of the OUSD family and is excited to continue the progress occurring at Esplanade Elementary School. She looks forward to working with the community, students, and staff of Esplanade in their pursuit of 21st Century teaching and learning through a strong foundation of core academics integrated with STEAM exploration. Positive changes are happening at Esplanade; you cannot help but catch the enthusiasm for learning that is prevalent on campus. #EsplanadeStrong

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178



Karen Sanders
Principal

Karen Sanders is thrilled to be returning for her fifth year as the principal of Fairhaven Elementary School. Mrs. Sanders has been in education for over 30 years previously in the Ocean View School District having worked as a teacher in a variety of grade levels, middle school assistant principal, and elementary principal. Mrs. Sanders received her bachelor's degree from Long Beach State University, master's degree from Alliant University and administration credential from UCI.

When Mrs. Sanders is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband and grown son and daughter and her first grandson. Mrs. Sanders also enjoys reading, bowling, and attending Angel games. As principal, Mrs. Sanders feels privileged to have the opportunity to work with a committed staff, supportive families, and motivated and engaging students. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and supporting everyone in the Fairhaven community. Mrs. Sanders is extremely excited to be returning to a school with a proven record of high academic achievement and is looking forward to another great year, building relationships, and continuing the Fairhaven tradition of striving for the best.

Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181



Sara Pelly
Principal

Sara Pelly is the proud principal at Fletcher Elementary - OUSD's Dual Language Mandarin Immersion School. She is attempting to learn Mandarin along with her students, although her students are learning much more quickly!

Mrs. Pelly began her teaching career at Crescent Primary School in OUSD where she taught for nine years, and then moved to Centralia School District in Buena Park

where she taught in the Gifted and Talented program with first and second graders. After becoming an administrator, Mrs. Pelly was a Student Support Community Liaison then, served as principal for eight years. She was able to learn some sign language at her most recent school in Centralia that housed a Total Communication program serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

A native Coloradoan, Mrs. Pelly attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma where she earned her teaching credential and a B.S. in Elementary Education. After working as a college Admission Counselor, she traveled to California for a job interview, and fell instantly in love with the beautiful city of Orange. Teaching preschool for the summer, Mrs. Pelly decided to stay in California to begin her teaching career, and earn her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction and Administrative Services Credential at Chapman University.

Mrs. Pelly spends her free time volunteering at local nursing homes, shelters and hospitals with her dog Orvis, who is a licensed therapy dog. She and her husband Mike also enjoy fly-fishing, and are involved in the Men's and Women's Lacrosse Parent Booster programs at Chapman University, as well as the Community Foundation of Orange.

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Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183



Erika Krohn
Principal

Mrs. Erika Krohn is the proud new principal of Handy Elementary School. She is looking forward to continuing Handy's commitment to excellence and achievement while establishing positive relationships with this wonderful community. This is Mrs. Krohn's 3rd principalship in Orange Unified. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, she was a principal and assistant principal in La Puente, and an elementary school

teacher in Rowland Heights. Her recognitions include: Orange Unified Administrator of the Year in 2012/2013, PTA Outstanding Administrator in 2013, and Outstanding Administrator from Los Angeles County Bilingual Director Association in 2008. Under her leadership and with collaboration of staff, her schools have earned the Golden Bell Award, Title I Academic Achievement Award, and Gold Ribbon School. Mrs. Krohn is a product of Orange Unified Schools: Taft Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle School, and Villa Park High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University, and a Master's Degree from National University.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krohn enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 children. When not at Handy, she can be found at her kids' sporting and dance events and skiing the slopes of Mammoth.

Mrs. Krohn is looking forward to joining the dynamic Handy community. She and the staff will be working collaboratively to provide extraordinary learning experiences that the students will never forget!

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282



Amber Miller
Principal

Amber Miller is honored and excited to be named the new principal at Imperial Elementary School. She looks forward to collaborating and building partnerships with the students, teachers, and the community of Imperial Elementary. Mrs. Miller has dedicated her career to the Orange Unified School District where she has served as an educator for 15 years. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher at California

Elementary School. Mrs. Miller was also a Reading Resource Teacher, ELD Resource Teacher, Title One Instructional Specialist, and most recently the Assistant Principal at La Veta Elementary School.

Mrs. Miller received a Bachelor's degree, Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, and Master's degree in Elementary Education from Chapman University. She also holds an Administrative Credential and Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University. As an educator, Mrs. Miller is passionate about fostering a positive school culture and climate where every child can be successful. She is dedicated to ensuring that all students are exposed to 21st Century learning opportunities and that students gain the skills necessary for life-long success.

As an Orange County native, Mrs. Miller lives in North Tustin with her husband Justin, daughter Kennedy (age 10), son Maverick (age 7), and golden retriever Pilot. She enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. Amber Miller is looking forward to a successful school year and is most excited to be a new member of the Eagles community!

Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187



Lorena Rubio
Principal

My name is Lorena Rubio. I grew up in Costa Mesa and attended schools in Newport-Mesa USD. I also attended Orange Coast College and transferred to Cal State Fullerton to complete my BA in Liberal Studies. I then received an M.A. with a BCLAD teaching credential from National University. Then, attended Concordia University and received an M.A. in Educational Administration.

My journey in the education field began right out of high school as an instructional aide and activity supervisor at the elementary school I attended as a child. While clearing my credential, I began working for the Santa Ana Unified School District and taught there for 18 years. In SAUSD, I also held a two-year position as a Certificated Learning and Achievement Specialist. This position gave me the

opportunity to train, coach, and support teachers and staff in the implementation of Common Core Standards. Within this position, I developed curriculum, contributed knowledge of best teaching practices, and worked effectively with other educators across the district in collaborative settings. This past year, I had the opportunity to join the amazing Jordan Elementary community!

As an educator, I will make every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. I believe that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. My personal mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths. It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to another successful year at Jordan!

Jordan Scholars can and will succeed!

Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153



Heriberto Angel Jr.
Principal

As we begin an exciting new school year, we would like to welcome back all families to Lampson, a place that is rooted in its community and fosters critical thinkers today to solve tomorrow's challenges.

Mr. Angel, our principal, is in his third year at Lampson Elementary. He has served in various educational capacities such as K-6th grade teacher, middle school dean, middle and high school assistant principal.

Mr. Angel earned a BA in Sociology and Global Studies from UC Santa Barbara and a MA in Elementary Education from Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Angel loves spending time with his family. He and his wife, Gladys, have a 12-year old daughter, Mia, an 8-year old son, Mateo, and a 6-month old son, Max. He is a devoted Laker, Dodger, and 49er fan!

The 2018-19 school year promises to be filled with golden opportunities for our students. We embark on this journey with a pledge to you ALL that this will be a year of engaging and rigorous work in our classrooms, combined

with special community events and extracurricular activities certain to encourage our Leopards to be involved and stay connected. We will continue to build upon and refine our classroom instruction, professional development, and on-going progress monitoring of our students. Our Lampson family is committed to providing a safe learning environment that will teach our students to think critically.

We want...we need...and we value your involvement and support in your child's education! Get involved by serving on our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), School Site Council (SSC), English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), and/or other school groups.

We are excited about the upcoming school year! Here is to an incredible new school year as we work together to make Lampson a great place. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of our students.

For our latest school information and happenings follow us on Twitter (@LampsonLeopards) or Facebook (Lampson Leopards) or visit our website at <https://www.orangeusd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5>

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La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155



Lydia Roach
Principal

Mrs. Lydia Roach became the Principal of La Veta Elementary School in 2014. She has been an educator for 35 years and has worked in various elementary schools in the Orange Unified School District including Handy, Riverdale, Canyon Rim, Lampson, Running Springs, and now La Veta. Mrs. Roach was both a primary and upper grade teacher, a bilingual resource teacher, and a reading resource teacher before becoming

an administrator. In addition, she was the Assistant Principal at both Running Springs and Lampson for four years before becoming a Principal. She was the Principal at Running Springs Elementary School for seven years before becoming the Principal at La Veta Elementary.

Mrs. Roach grew up in the city of Orange and is a

product of the Orange Unified School District. As a student, she attended Esplanade Elementary, Fairhaven Elementary, Santiago Jr. High and El Modena High School. Mrs. Roach continued her education at San Diego State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree and an elementary teaching credential. She then graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Master's degree in Educational Administration with an administrative credential.

Mrs. Roach currently resides in the Anaheim Hills area with her husband Russ of 34 years. She has two children Kyle, age 29, and Lara, age 24. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two golden retrievers Brody and Bailey. Mrs. Roach is proud to be a "Viking" and looks forward to continue working with the wonderful students, staff, and families of the La Veta School community as they "S.A.I.L. Into 21st Century Learning".

Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Ginette Kelley
Principal

Gigi Kelley earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from CSU Long Beach. After graduation, her first professional job was as a Prevention Education Specialist working in partnership with schools in Southern California. Gigi returned to school, earning her California Teaching Credential from CSU San Bernardino. Her teaching career took her first to Rialto and then to Fullerton School

District as a classroom teacher.

Hearing the call of administration, Gigi returned to school to earn a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She remained in Fullerton, however she moved out of the classroom and into district administration. She served that district as a Program Specialist for Gifted and Talented (GATE) program and also the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program. She also had the opportunity to serve as

Interim Junior High Assistant Principal.

Through her experiences as an educator, she has had the opportunity to develop new and innovative approaches to student success by creating, planning, and implementing instructional practices for district-wide programs. In 2005 she was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, bringing innovative technology to classroom instruction. The summer of 2017, she attended the Discovery Education Principal's Summit.

Gigi developed and taught curriculum for teacher GATE Certification, in partnership with Hope International University and has worked as an adjunct professor for HIU, teaching a course in Educational Leadership.

This is Gigi's first year at Linda Vista, though she is not new to OUSD. She has served the last six years at Imperial and is ready for a new adventure. As she steps into her new school home she is looking forward to meeting the families and community, and most especially the students of Linda Vista! Go Leopards!

McPherson Magnet

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



Joe Erven
Principal

McPherson Magnet is excited to open our doors for the 2018-2019 school year. As the principal of McPherson, Mr. Erven looks forward to working together with teachers, parents and students to create a positive and engaging learning environment for everyone.

This will be his fifth year as principal of McPherson Magnet. Prior to his current position, Mr. Erven taught science for nine years and served as an assistant principal for five years all within the Orange Unified School District. Mr. Erven received his degree in zoology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and also has a master's degree in educational administration.

Nohl Canyon

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203



Heather Bosworth
Principal

Ms. Bosworth is honored and excited to be spending another year with the outstanding staff, students, and families of Nohl Canyon Elementary. She looks forward to continuing to build collaborative partnerships with the Nohl Canyon community to provide innovative learning experiences for all students!

Ms. Bosworth previously served Orange Unified School District as the principal of Sycamore Elementary and as Coordinator, 21st Century Teaching and Learning, in the Office of K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and GATE. Prior to joining OUSD, Ms. Bosworth was a classroom teacher, teacher leader, and professional developer in the Laguna Beach Unified School District and a classroom teacher in Capistrano Unified School District as well. Ms. Bosworth has significant experience and training in the areas of professional development for teachers, instructional technology, and elementary curriculum and assessment. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Studies and Master's degree in Education and Reading from California State University, Fullerton, as well as a certificate in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) from UC Irvine. Ms. Bosworth is a National Board Certified Teacher who holds professional educational credentials in Multiple Subject Teaching, Reading Instruction Specialist, and Administrative Services.

"Nohl Canyon is passionate about children and enthusiastic about the possibilities for continued student success with 21st Century teaching and learning. I look forward to continuing our strong partnership with students, families, and community members to inspire excellence within every scholar."

Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218



Heather Darrow
Principal

Heather Darrow, Principal of Olive Elementary School, is proud to be a part of the educational team of Orange Unified. Prior to her administrative career, Mrs. Darrow was an elementary classroom teacher, a teacher on special assignment, and an Assistant Principal. As a teacher and administrator, Mrs. Darrow has served on many site and district level committees, which has instilled in her a passion for

helping every child succeed. Always looking for learning opportunities, Mrs. Darrow earned two Master of Arts degrees from Concordia University, one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Educational Administration. Prior to her graduate studies, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University, Fullerton.

Mrs. Darrow grew up in Orange County, where she spent several years as an Orange resident and OUSD parent. Mrs. Darrow's positive experience as an OUSD parent and love for the community is what inspired her to join Orange Unified School District as an educator. As she begins her third year as a Principal in the district, Mrs. Darrow is excited to continue learning and growing with the community of Olive Elementary School.

When she is not at work, Mrs. Darrow enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters. They often watch movies together, go on walks, and always eat dinner as a family. It is only with the support from her family that Mrs. Darrow has been able to fully appreciate the journey through her educational career.

Orange *High School*

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



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Mr. Dennis McCuiston is beginning his fourth year as Principal of Orange High School and he is entering his 21st year as an educator and 24th year with the Orange Unified School District. Mr. McCuiston started his career as a campus supervisor at Orange High School and later became a special educator at Portola Middle School where he gained tremendous experience as a teacher. He went on to work at Orange High School where he taught for 9 years, was

the head baseball coach, athletic director and eventually serving as an assistant principal. In 2011, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP where

he worked with Community Day School, ROP, Educational Options and Home School. In 2013 he was appointed as the Principal of Richland High School serving students from all OUSD High Schools. Mr. McCuiston earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Chapman University and a Masters in Education Administration from National University.

Dennis has dedicated his career to serving the Orange community. He believes in the OUSD core values and trusts that OUSD is not only preparing students to compete in a global economy, it is preparing productive members of society. Dennis, his wife Julia, son Luke, and daughter Avery are proud residents of Orange.

Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207



Brenna Godsey
Principal

Brenna Godsey is excited to begin her fifth year as the Principal of Palmyra Elementary School. Principal Godsey has had the pleasure of working with Orange Unified students for the last seventeen years. Prior to coming to Palmyra, she served as an Assistant Principal at Canyon High School for five years and a Science teacher for eight years. Mrs. Godsey received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cell

Biology from the University of California San Diego with a Minor in Law and Society. She attended California State University, Fullerton where she earned her teaching and

administrative credential along with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Godsey lives in the Orange Unified community with her husband and three children, Jackson, 11, Declan, 7, and Quinn, 3. She enjoys skiing and going to the beach with her family.

Mrs. Godsey is committed to fostering positive relationships with the students, staff, parents, and community of Palmyra Elementary School. A positive school culture and climate is the key to the academic and social success of all of our students. Mrs. Godsey is honored to continue her tenure as the Principal of Palmyra and is looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265



Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Mr. Jeremy Mortensen has been in education for 18 years, this being his seventh as principal in the Orange Unified School District. Mr. Mortensen has lived and taught all over the world including Canada and later Australia, where he also earned his Masters of Education degree from Griffith University, Gold Coast Australia. He later taught in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Fontana, California, where he earned

the Teacher of the Year award in 2005. Mr. Mortensen taught grades three through seventh during his time in the classroom and has been a school administrator for 11 years.

Mr. Mortensen believes in a 21st Century, blended learning classroom environment where students not only learn the foundational skills needed to succeed, but also integrate real-world skills that will enable each student to be college and career ready for tomorrow's

Corporate America. An inclusive, hands-on, technological, collaborative approach is at the forefront of his educational model. Students are given the opportunity to have fun while they learn through the guidance of their knowledgeable and caring teachers, who understand the demands of our "digital native" students while focusing on each child's individual needs.

2018-2019 will mark Mr. Mortensen's third year at Panorama Elementary School. According to him, Panorama is a wonderful school with incredible students, families, teachers, and staff members and the proud recipient of being an Honor Roll School by the National Campaign of Business and Education Leaders. Mr. Mortensen is thankful for the relationships he has built with our Panther families for the past two years and is excited to continue to build relationships throughout the upcoming years. He looks forward to another year of excellence!

It is going to be a great year at Panorama. Go, Panthers!

Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271



Sally Hughson
Principal

Mrs. Sally Hughson is in her 4th year as principal at Prospect Elementary School. Mrs. Hughson was the principal at Linda Vista Elementary School for 7 years; 2008-2015. She has been an educator for 27 years. She has worked at Cambridge, Handy, West Orange and Running Springs where she was the Assistant Principal. Mrs. Hughson taught lower and upper grades and was a reading resource teacher, ELD resource teacher and

an Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Hughson grew up in the Orange area and attended

Orange Unified schools beginning in kindergarten and graduated from El Modena High School. She earned her BA in Communication Disorders and a Master degree in Educational Administration from California State Fullerton; she earned her teaching Credential from Chapman University.

Mrs. Hughson lives in Santa Ana with her husband Steve of 38 years. Her son Grant works in watch designing, her daughter Katie and husband Danny Quesada live in Monrovia with their daughter Gracie June. Mrs. Hughson enjoys trips to Catalina, relaxing in the desert, walking in Peter's Canyon and spending time with her family and friends.

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361



Jill Katevas
Principal

Portola Middle School has a long history of serving students here in Orange, CA, so Jill Katevas is really proud to continue her role as principal! The staff is incredibly dedicated to serving their students and so Mrs. Katevas recognizes that it is a true privilege to work at Portola. Mrs. Katevas was born and raised in Long Beach, California and earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from Long Beach State. She earned her teaching credential from Chapman University and has proudly served as a public educator for the past 19 years. Though education is a second career for Mrs. Katevas, she learned early on that her ability to work with others, think on her feet, and persevere through all challenges that determined her ultimate success in working with children. Thus, she is committed to fostering

these skills in Portola students which is why she has tripled Portola's elective program offerings and included a STEAM Academy to enrich the learning opportunities and college-career readiness skills of students. Portola also boasts of extensive use of technology with 1:1 (student to device) ratio in over 90% of our classrooms.

Throughout her tenure as an educator, she has learned that true education goes beyond a strong academic program on campus. She knows the value of developing strong partnerships with parents and the community, as she believes it truly takes a village to raise a child. Thus, she is committed to working closely with Matador families and the broader Orange Community to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education that will support their academic achievement, transition to high school, and their ultimate pursuit of college and career goals.

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167



**Dr. Elsie Briseño
Simonovski**
Principal

Dr. Elsie Briseño-Simonovski is excited to be starting her fourth year as the Principal of Richland High School! Dr. Briseño-Simonovski has been a part of the Orange Unified School District leadership team since 2010. Earning her Ph.D. in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University in 2015, Dr. Briseño-Simonovski has served as an educator for 20 years. Her educational experiences include teacher, literacy coach, project director, middle school assistant principal, district coordinator and district administrator. She holds a Multiple Subject Credential, a Specialized Reading Certificate from UCLA, and an Administrative Services Credential. She received a bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Teacher Education from UC San Diego, and holds a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Briseño-Simonovski is the 2017 ACSA California Administrator of the Year for Educational Options. Additionally, she will be serving at the State level as the newly elected President-Elect for ACSA Educational

Options Council in 2018-2019.

Dr. Briseño-Simonovski's areas of interest include special education, literacy and language development. She is most passionate about ensuring the equity and access of learning for all underrepresented students. As she begins her 4th year as the seated Principal, she is very excited to expand their course offerings to include Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish, ASB, Online Health, Weight Lifting/Fitness, Music, Guitar, Graphic Design, Video Production, Photography, Theatre Arts, STEM Lab and Microsoft Office Suite certification. Richland is very proud of the work it has done in recent years to strengthen its partnership with Santiago Canyon College (SCC). This year SCC Career Coaches will be at RHS weekly to provide information to students about college and career choices which include: jobs, certifications, resumes, internships and classes. She and her staff look forward to the 2018-2019 school year as they continue to celebrate their rich diversity, positive school climate, and strong sense of community, GO CONDORS!



Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512



Mark McLaughlin
Principal

It is with great pride that Mr. Mark McLaughlin will enter his second year at Running Springs Elementary, home of the Redhawks. Mr. McLaughlin has served as a teacher and administrator at both the elementary and middle school level for the last 17 years in the Downey Unified School District. He completed his undergraduate degree at San Jose State University and prior to working in education was employed in the

Aerospace industry. Mr. McLaughlin has since earned a Master's Degree in Cross-Cultural Education.

As an educator, Mr. McLaughlin has been a part of the development of a distinguished STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) program, worked with the implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW), and an award winning Robotics program. His experience includes creating a safe and caring school culture with high expectations. He is

approachable and ready to serve the Redhawk community.

As a coach of youth sports for 14 years he understands the importance of developing the whole child, teamwork, and goal setting. He believes that learning should be highly engaging, promote critical thinking, and should contain the rigor necessary to prepare our students for a competitive global economy. He embraces the growth mindset and believes that together, an inspired school community can overcome any challenge.

Running Springs has established a strong reputation in academics and community involvement. Recognized as a Common Sense Media School, Running Springs will continue to prepare our students to use technology safely and responsibly. The facilities and technology are in place to lead ALL of our students to SOAR into a 21st Century education, be college and career ready, and global citizens. He is looking forward to continued service to the highly successful students of Running Springs Elementary.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



Dr. James D'Agostino
Co-Principal

Dr. Jim D'Agostino is in his eighth year as the Executive Director at Santiago Charter Middle School. He takes pride in being visible to parents and students and demonstrates that by greeting everyone each morning as they enter the Santiago campus. His philosophy of making everyone feel welcomed and valued into the school, while continuing to strive toward academic excellence, is part of the leadership style that he brings to the school and the entire school community. His positive

attitude and energy has helped to create a very welcoming and caring culture at Santiago which has resulted in increased enrollment and community involvement.

Dr. D'Agostino is a former history teacher and special education teacher. He has been an administrator for the past eleven years and believes that building and fostering healthy relationships is a critical component to success in life. Personalization is the one thing that he prides himself on bringing to his students and school community. Prior to becoming an educational leader, Dr. D (as the students call him) owned a restaurant in Buffalo, NY and was involved in a family business as a licensed insurance agent. He loves working at Santiago, as it ties into both the business, and educational aspects, of his professional background.

Dr. D'Agostino credits his beautiful wife Valerie for all of her support in his personal life, and credits his staff and faculty for all of Santiago's success. Dr. D'Agostino is also very involved in the Orange community serving on the Community Foundation of Orange Executive Board, The Santiago Canyon College Foundation Board, The National University Advisory Board, and The Pure Game Board of Directors.



Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

Mrs. Pedroza is excited and honored to be starting her third year as Co-Principal of Santiago Charter Middle School and be a part of a community dedicated to the success of all Santanas; a community who sees potential in every Santana and a community empathetic to the personalized needs of each Santana.

Mrs. Pedroza started her career in education eleven years ago as a Biology Teacher at El Modena High School and had a variety of leadership roles at the school site. In her five years of teaching at El Modena, she was named El Modena Teacher of the Year and PTSA Teacher of the Year. From the classroom, Mrs. Pedroza served as OUSD's District Office Assessment Coordinator and then Principal of Serrano Elementary. During her time as an Orange Unified administrator, she was recognized for her work to support the district's transition to new assessments by being named OUSD Administrator of the Year and ACSA (Association of California School Administrator) Region 17 Technology Administration of the Year. Mrs. Pedroza is passionate about Educational Technology, STEM Education, early literacy and building those 21st Century Skills required for students to be active and inspired stakeholders in their education.

Mrs. Pedroza lives in Orange with her husband Robert and their 7 year-old daughter, Addisyn and 5 year-old son, Trent. Mrs. Pedroza is proud to be a "Santana" and looks forward to another great school year.

Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277



Renee Ybarra
Principal

Welcome back Sycamore Sea Lions! Renee Ybarra is very excited to be beginning her second year as the principal at Sycamore Elementary, and her 5th year in school administration. Mrs. Ybarra has been an educator for 22 years in four different districts, and loves being part of Orange Unified. She spent many years as an elementary teacher in Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th & 5th grades. She received her Bachelor's

degree in Child Development from CSU Fullerton, along with her teaching credential in 1995. She returned to CSUF and received a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2002, and then received her Master's degree in Administration from Concordia University in 2012.

Mrs. Ybarra has been a proud Orange resident since 2005. Her two daughters and husband are all products of OUSD (VPHS class of '18 & '21, and OHS class of '89). Though she loved growing up in Fountain Valley, the city of Orange has become Mrs. Ybarra's adopted hometown. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and baking.

Mrs. Ybarra is passionate about students learning and gaining knowledge through a wide variety of experiences, both in and out of the classroom. She cares deeply about the whole child and understands that every aspect of a child's life impacts their learning, which is why the Sycamore team developed the motto: Educating and caring for our community, One child at a time! Mrs. Ybarra is looking forward to continuing the work that the Sycamore team began last year, focusing on supporting students in sharing their thinking and ideas. Teachers will be focused on asking thoughtful questions that get our Sea Lions thinking deeply about their learning.

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. – Walt Disney

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275



Katherine Rizzo
Principal

Welcome to Serrano Elementary School, Home of the Eagles! Mrs. Rizzo considers it a privilege to be a part of a hardworking, knowledgeable and supportive school community and welcomes you to the 2018-19 school year!

This is Mrs. Rizzo's twenty-ninth year in the field of education having had experiences ranging from school secretary, teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. This is her eighteenth year as an elementary principal. She looks forward with enthusiasm to the new school year, providing the highest quality education for children. Her vision is to create limitless opportunities by fostering a collaborative culture whereby professionals learn in a community to empower students and truly believes that all students will be successful!

Mrs. Rizzo earned her undergraduate degree from La Sierra University, attended Chapman University where she earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and went on to earn her Administrative Credential from Cal-State San Bernardino. She also served as adjunct professor at Cal-Baptist University, School of Education and La Sierra University, School of Education. Most recently she joined Orange Unified School District and served as Principal at Olive Elementary for four years, this is her third year as Principal at Serrano.

As an educator, Mrs. Rizzo makes every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. She believes that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. She feels without a doubt, the most successful students have family members that communicate regularly with the school. Her personal mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths. It is with great enthusiasm she leads Serrano Elementary staff and community and is looking forward to a very successful year! Go Eagles!



Introduce books to children early and they will be readers for life. And they will introduce their love of reading to their children.

(Left) Andrew as a baby and (Right) 50 years later reading to his sons



Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254



Connie Smith
Principal

Taft's Principal, Connie Smith, celebrates 37 years in education. Her experience includes classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator. Connie came to Taft in 2014 and in 2016 she and the Taft Team received the distinct honor of becoming a California Gold Ribbon and Title I High Academic Achieving School!

Connie earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and her master's degree in school administration from California State University, Fullerton. She taught in the Orange Unified School District, served as an Assistant Principal in the Capistrano Unified School District and Principal in Tustin Unified School District.

Connie's many professional associations and accomplishments have included former Association of

California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, member of the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors and Orange Unified School District's 2010-2011 Administrator of the Year.

Connie was born and raised in Orange County. She has been married to Phillip Smith for 25 years and is proud of her two sons, Garrett, who is a student at Concordia University Irvine and Grant who attends the University of San Francisco. Connie is also a volunteer at the Orange County Bob Hope USO at John Wayne Airport and is a member of Kiwanis of Orange.

Smith says, "I am looking forward to a fabulous year of student growth, Taft's commitment to AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), expanding our STEM programs and our new character development program, Harper for Kids."

Villa Park *High School*

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



Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

It is great humility, honor and responsibility that I begin my third year as Principal at Villa Park High School. Villa Park is not only home of the Spartans...we are a School of Excellence (where Winners Win!), we are a newly crowned 2017-2021 California Gold Ribbon School and we just earned our six year WASC Accreditation for 2018-2024! I am also beginning my 12th year as a member of the Leadership Team in the Orange Unified School District.

I have previously served Orange Unified from 2007-2010 at El Modena High School as Assistant Principal, Curriculum/Instruction, ROP, Cheer and Athletics; Principal at Cerro Villa Middle School from 2010-2014 and Administrative Director, Student and Community Services, 2014-2016. Before joining Orange Unified, I served in the

Downey Unified School District as adult school teacher, social studies teacher, football coach and Vice Principal at the comprehensive high school level for 13 years.

My wife Jennifer (a Canyon High School graduate) and I have two children: Katelyn, 22, graduated from Canyon High School and recently graduated from Chapman University and Kenny, 20, graduated from (you guessed it!) Villa Park High School and plays college football at Cerritos College. Thankfully, I am now happy to report the Comanche-Spartan score at my house is now evenly balanced and tied at two!

I pledge to continue to serve all students, parents, staff and our community. We have an amazing and professional staff and we all look forward to working with you all, our greatest resource, our families, in the upcoming years in continuing OUR School of Excellence that is Villa Park High School!

OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867



Justin Stanfield
Coordinator

I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Coordinator of Alternative Education. The 2018-2019 school year marks my 3rd year as the site administrator here at Alternative Education. I am very proud of all the hard work and accomplishments by our students, staff and families here.

Prior to my time at Alternative Education, I was an Assistant Principal at Villa Park High School for five years. While at VPHS I oversaw discipline, student records, guidance and curriculum. My

time and Villa Park was amazing and I had the pleasure of working with some of the best administrators, teachers, students and parents around!

Prior to my time in OUSD I was a classroom teacher and coach in the Irvine Unified School District. I taught middle school history and PE for 2 years at Sierra Vista Middle School and then spent 4 years in the same capacity at Creekside Continuation High School.

I am extremely excited to serve the students and families of Alternative Education. If I can ever be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281



Sara Beggs
Principal

Dr. Sara Beggs has worked in Orange Unified School District and the field of education for fifteen years. Following nine years of elementary teaching experience, she moved to the District Office as an instructional specialist supporting teachers and students in curriculum, instruction, and intervention. She then accepted an administrative position as Coordinator of Inclusive Schooling. Dr. Beggs is thrilled to be named Principal for Villa Park Elementary School and is honored to carry on the rich traditions and rigorous learning environment currently in place at VPE.

Dr. Beggs grew up in Orange County, received her undergraduate degree from Radford University, and her graduate degree from Chapman University. She was awarded her PhD in education and disability studies from Chapman University in 2017. Dr. Beggs deep-rooted philosophy and belief that ALL children can thrive and be

successful in the general education environment drives her passion to ensure a Multi-tiered System of Support for all students. She embraces the whole child, engages every learner, and empowers all students. Furthermore, Dr. Beggs views a safe and collaborative school environment as key to a successful school culture. Partnerships with parents and community partners are essential components to that success.

Dr. Sara Beggs is a proud mother of two beautiful little girls Charlotte (5), and Caroline (2). Charlotte starts kindergarten this fall so she is keenly aware of the importance of family involvement and the significance of the school community. During her free time, Sara enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with her daughters, husband Jeff, and Great Dane Winston.

As the VPE principal, you can expect that she will be visible, accessible, and collaborative. Dr. Beggs is looking forward to working together as partners in learning.

Go Bobcats!

West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283



Sandra Preciado-Martin
Principal

Mrs. Preciado began working in Long Beach, at Jordan High School as an On Campus Alternative Suspension Monitor, while attending California State University, Fullerton. She then moved to Milliken High School in Long Beach as a Bilingual Parent Liaison. After she completed her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish Literature, Mrs. Preciado began her tenure in Orange Unified as a Spanish teacher at Canyon High School. She taught every level of Spanish from the introductory level Spanish I to AP Spanish Literature. During that time, she also returned to California State University, Fullerton to complete her Master's Degree in School Administration. After Mrs. Preciado's 12-year teaching tenure, she had the privilege of making El Modena High School her home for three years as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mrs. Preciado then found a new home in 2015 as Principal of West Orange Elementary School. Mrs. Preciado is very excited to continue her service to the students and parents of the West Orange community. She is particularly looking forward to continuing her work at West Orange Elementary School with AVID implementation, targeted interventions, technology integration and quality first instruction. Outside of school, Mrs. Preciado enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, running slowly and reading.

Yorba *Academy of the Arts Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161



Tracy Knibb
Principal

Welcome to Yorba Middle School, home of the mighty TOROS! Tracy Knibb is excited and honored to be starting her sixth year as the principal of Yorba Middle School. Mrs. Knibb was the Assistant Principal at Yorba before taking the lead for the Toros. Prior to coming to the Orange Unified School District, she was an English teacher and Title I Coordinator for eight years in the Downey Unified School District.

Mrs. Knibb and her staff are eager to return from summer break and kick-off another great school year! The team will continue their vision to build and foster strong collaborations and relationships with parents, students, and the surrounding community. Mrs. Knibb's passion for ensuring that students have equal access to College and Career Ready learning opportunities has led to the addition of their brand new College and Career Lab, which will allow students hands-on with learning opportunities in industries such as: the medical field, culinary arts, hospitality, dentistry, and more! Mrs. Knibb and staff are steadfast in their commitment to provide students with real world experiences that will bring them closer to being college and career ready.

Mrs. Knibb is married with two daughters: Jocelyn, 12, and Zoey, 13. She believes strongly that middle school makes a lasting impact on all students and is dedicated to the Yorba motto: Toros will read critically, communicate effectively, and strive to persevere!

Immersing Ourselves in the Natural Wonders



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
Orange County
Dept. of Education

Outside the urban glare of Los Angeles, we found a night sky packed with stars and a still silence interrupted only by the wind's whisper and the chatter of crickets and frogs. It was different, yet familiar.

My father packed little more than a kerosene lamp, a small tent and some fishing gear for those family camping trips of my youth. But it was never about what we brought or left behind. It was about immersing ourselves in the natural wonders of Southern California's mountains, forests

and beaches — and discovering that we were connected to something bigger.

Whether we were on a KOA Campground or Refugio Beach, every direction offered frontiers to explore, mysteries to be solved and scientific observations to be made, without textbooks, lab coats or microscopes. Allowed to chase our curiosities, my brothers and sisters and I were laying deep foundations for learning. But if you asked us, we were just having fun.

Today, technology has emerged as a primary frontier of childhood exploration. But while there are obvious benefits to raising tech-savvy children, I echo the sentiments of countless researchers who suggest we're missing out on opportunities to nurture brain development and strengthen mental health when we close ourselves off from nature.

Author Richard Louv, who has written extensively on this subject, points to an emerging body of evidence connecting nature to greater physical and emotional health. By contrast, disengagement from the natural environment results in what Louv terms "nature-deficit disorder," which, he says, correlates with attention difficulties, greater rates of physical and emotional illness, and reduced use of our senses.

Louv isn't alone. A number of writers, psychologists and academics have produced volumes quantifying the benefits of direct exposure to nature. At the same time, studies continue to show we're spending less time outdoors and more time with electronic screens, which do little to stoke happiness or well-being.

Access is part of our challenge. Census data shows that more than 80 percent of Americans live in urban areas, some of which lack parks or open space. And while more children are participating in organized sports, fewer kids are experiencing the outdoors through unstructured play, according to Louv, who blames a perceived lack of time, as well as concerns about safety.

In 2004, Rhonda L. Clements, professor of education at Manhattanville College in New York State, conducted a survey of 830 mothers nationwide. While 71 percent of them reported playing outdoors as children, only 26 percent said their kids did the same on a daily basis. Interestingly enough, the results showed little differences between rural and urban settings.

With supercharged academic standards and a greater

focus on the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, some educators may choose to ignore these trends. But we do so at a tremendous cost given such extensive evidence that nature — in addition to being intertwined with a number of scientific fields — not only sharpens minds but amplifies learning in other subjects.

Indeed, a recent study of children ages 9 and 10 revealed that hands-on lessons in nature produce students who are more engaged in their other academic studies. Moreover, a duo from UC Berkeley points to more than 100 studies that demonstrate how exposure to nature can have positive impacts on thought processes, as well as our physical and mental health.

This is why environmental education programs like OCDE's Inside the Outdoors are so vital.

Since 1974, Inside the Outdoors has been nurturing student knowledge and stewardship of the natural environment with highly qualified staff and 15 field trip locations throughout Orange County and Los Angeles counties. Lessons are aligned with the state's instructional standards, and for classes that can't venture out, the program dispatches Traveling Scientists to schools, often accompanied by wildlife.

Inside the Outdoors logs more than 150,000 hours of environmental STEM learning each year and has served some 3.5 million students to date. Suffice to say, many of these students might not otherwise have these experiences.

In April, about 100 teachers, school administrators and experts gathered in Orange County to discuss how outdoor and environmental learning experiences can be used to help develop a well-rounded curriculum. Jointly organized by OCDE, Inside the Outdoors and the state Department of Education, the symposium also offered educators a preview of how environmental literacy is being incorporated into the state's Next Generation Science Standards.

Richard Louv was also in attendance as the event's keynote speaker. The renowned author told the audience that "Every teacher who connects students to nature is doing sacred work."

It is that and more. Teaching students about nature and immersing them in the natural environment is both transformative and enduring, producing benefits to our bodies and minds that we are only beginning to understand. Even as we prepare young women and men for an increasingly digitized world, we must continue to create opportunities to recharge their minds and spirits in the great outdoors.

As a child, my family didn't take lavish vacations. But I am fortunate that we could occasionally escape the urbanized confines of Los Angeles to experience a larger world that asked as many questions as it answered, and today these trips are among my most cherished childhood memories.

Years later, I see how they prepared me for life as an educator, as well as for trips with my own sons, who similarly had moments to gaze up at the countless stars and wonder.

Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

Tests Your Imagination

The Magician's Nephew by C.S Lewis is about Polly, Digory, and Andrew. Andrew makes gold rings that take you to other worlds, and green ones that bring you back. Polly touches the gold one and Digory follows. On



their way back, they encounter a witch who destroys her world and hitch-hikes back with them. In London, Andrew becomes her slave and the witch causes chaos. They get the witch into what they thought was her world, only to find the world is becoming Narnia. Narnia has talking animals and the witch flees north. The lion in charge gives the cabbie man and his wife a special job, while Digory and Polly search for a cure for Digory's mother.

What will become of Narnia and the outsiders?

I rate this book 5 stars a because of the excitement and how it makes the reader (no matter how old) use their imagination.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

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Common Sense Media

Social Media Can Be a Force for Good

By Caroline Knorr



For a few years now, many teens have been saying that social media — despite its flaws — is mostly positive. And new research is shedding light on the good things that can happen when kids connect, share, and learn online. As kids begin to use tools such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and even YouTube in earnest, they're learning the responsibility that comes with the power to broadcast to the world. You can help nurture the positive aspects by accepting how important social media is for kids and helping them find ways for it to add real value to their lives. For inspiration, here are some of the benefits of your kid being social media-savvy:

It lets them do good. Twitter, Facebook, and other large social networks expose kids to important issues and people from all over the world. Kids realize they have a voice they didn't have before and are doing everything from crowdfunding social justice projects to anonymously tweeting positive thoughts. Check out these sites that help kids do good.

It strengthens friendships. Studies, including Common Sense Media's *Social Media, Social Life: How Teens View Their Digital Lives* and the Pew Research Center's *Teens, Technology and Friendships* show that social media helps teens make friends and keep them.

It can offer a sense of belonging. While heavy social media use can isolate kids, a study conducted by Griffith University and the University of Queensland in Australia found that although American teens have fewer friends than their historical counterparts, they are less lonely than teens in past decades. They report feeling less isolated and have actually become more socially adept, partly due to an increase in technology use.

It provides genuine support. Online acceptance — whether a kid is interested in an unusual subject that isn't considered "cool" or is grappling with sexual identity — can validate a marginalized kid. Suicidal teens can even get immediate access to quality support online. One example occurred on a *Minecraft* forum on Reddit when an entire online community used voice-conferencing software to talk a teen out of his decision to commit suicide.

It helps them express themselves. The popularity of fan fiction (original stories based on existing material that people write and upload online) proves how strong the desire for self-expression is.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

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Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

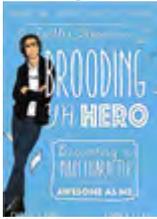
An Enjoyable Read

Brooding YA Hero: How to Become a Main Character (Almost) as Awesome as Me

Broody McHottiepants had always been the protagonist — it was who he was.

So when an Author tells Broody that he can't be in anymore novels, something in him changes. That couldn't be right. He was Broody

McHottiepants, the par excellence. Then, an idea hits: what if he could write his own book, telling the world how to become main characters like him? Yes. That was what he would do. And nobody — not even his evil ex girlfriend — could stop him.



Reading this book was definitely an experience for me. At first, I disliked Broody's personality, because he was shallow and conceited. However, as the story progressed, his character arc was interesting to observe. Through his experiences, he realized that change can be good. Overall, it turned out to be a enjoyable read that left me with a new look on the young adult genre. Four out of five bookworms.

Lucy is a 7th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

Things in the Sky—Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put OUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by October 15, 2018

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| STARS | RAIN |
| SUN | SNOW |
| MOON | SLEET |
| AIRPLANE | WIND |
| KITE | CLOUDS |
| BALLOON | SMOG |
| JUPITER | FOG |
| MARS | PLUTO |
| MERCURY | RAINBOW |
| SATURN | ROCKET |
| URANUS | |



Congratulations to:

Aiden Bell, Carol MacDonald, Teri Simmons and Rebekah Anderson
 Winners of our June Word Search Contest!

Note-ables



Kate Karp

I Am Your Food

When you were young, you were probably told to not play with your food. Surely, however, no one told you not to talk to it.

Well, here's your chance! Gunnar Madsen, a Grammy-nominated artist and cofounder of the prolific, oddball acappella group The Bobs, has set out a surreal buffet of brain food.

High schoolers, middle-schoolers and certainly adults, will chow down on *I Am Your Food*. Some of it may be too rich for young children, but they'll love the music and will likely run around the house yodeling "Diet of woooooorrrmmms!"

Everything's turned on its ear, and sometimes, it's an ear of corn. The CD starts, appropriately enough, with breakfast. The rollicking "10,000 Pancakes" is about finally getting enough to eat; conversely, it'll whet your appetite for the rest of the tunes. "Egg Salad in the Sun" is ripped from every overblown ballad by the psychedelic group The Doors and has a sense of droll menace—you *don't* want to eat that egg salad, nor do you want to consume the moldy crud in "Shelf Life."

Of course, we don't have to eat the same things to get along, but communication with edibles is practically mandatory. Just watch out for those worms.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.




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