

# School News



**Covering the Palo Alto Unified School District**

Volume 2, Issue 6

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

February–April 2020



(Above) Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School Concert – (Below) Ellen Fletcher Middle School Concert



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### Creativity

This edition of the *School News Roll Call* is dedicated to creativity. In the words of Maya Angelou, “You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” Albert Einstein added, “Creativity is intelligence having fun.” Both quotes elicit energy about the power of creativity and having fun by taking concepts to the next level.

Some of the most important work we do in school systems is not easily measured or quantifiable. At the same time, the things we are likely to remember the most are creative in nature. I would invite everyone to consider five memories from your own elementary school experiences. What came immediately to mind? My first image included a gold spray-painted macaroni noodle art project glued on a black background. I also remember a teacher writing a word, like cold, on the board and asking us to make the reader “feel” our description of the word. Finally, my fifth grade teacher played his guitar every day for us to sing along. He would play and ask us to make up lyrics. I learned many things in elementary school, but I remember the creative things.

We are located in one of the creative epicenters of the world, yet sometimes get driven back to rote memorization and algorithms with one path to correct answers. Yes...there are “correct” answers to some problems and creativity does not redefine accuracy. There are also many ways to see problems and multiple paths can reach the same conclusions. We also need space to explore things without “correct” answers or approaches. Complex issues cannot be resolved with simple prescribed solutions. The ability to think, act, and embrace creativity is essential in a world where information is readily available.

I hope everyone enjoys the stories of creativity provided by our sites in this edition. We are committed to maintaining balance in our schools and preserving space to encourage, cultivate, and promote creativity!



**Donald B.  
Austin, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

### Creatividad

Esta edición de *School News Roll Call* está dedicada a la creatividad. En las palabras de Maya Angelou, “No puedes agotar la creatividad. Cuanto más usas, más tienes.” Albert Einstein agregó: “La creatividad es la inteligencia divirtiéndose.” Ambas citas provocan energía sobre el poder de la creatividad y la diversión al llevar los conceptos al siguiente nivel.

Algunos de los trabajos más importantes que hacemos en los sistemas escolares no se pueden medir ni cuantificar fácilmente. Al mismo tiempo, las cosas que probablemente recordaremos más son de naturaleza creativa. Invitaría a todos a considerar cinco recuerdos de sus propias experiencias en la escuela primaria. ¿Qué le vino a la mente de inmediato? Mi primera imagen incluyó un proyecto de arte de fideos macarrones pintado en aerosol dorado pegado sobre un fondo de color negro. También recuerdo a un maestro escribiendo una palabra, como frío, en la pizarra y pidiéndonos que hagamos que el lector “sienta” nuestra descripción de la palabra. Finalmente, mi maestro de quinto año tocaba su guitarra todos los días para que nosotros cantemos con él. Él tocaba y nos pedía que inventemos letras de una canción. Aprendí muchas cosas en la escuela primaria, pero recuerdo aún más las cosas creativas.

Estamos ubicados en uno de los epicentros creativos del mundo, pero a veces nos vemos conducidos a la memorización por repetición y algoritmos con un solo trayecto a las respuestas correctas. Sí ... hay respuestas “correctas” para algunos problemas y la creatividad no redefine la precisión. También hay muchas maneras de ver los problemas y los múltiples trayectos que pueden llevar a las mismas conclusiones. También necesitamos espacio para explorar cosas sin respuestas o enfoques “correctos”. Los problemas complejos no se pueden resolver con soluciones prescritas simples. La capacidad de razonar, actuar y adoptar la creatividad es esencial en un mundo donde la información está fácilmente disponible.

Yo espero que todos disfruten las historias de creatividad proporcionadas por nuestros sitios en esta edición. ¡Estamos comprometidos a mantener el equilibrio en nuestras escuelas y preservar el espacio para alentar, cultivar y promover la creatividad!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

## Happy New Year!

We are celebrating 20 years publishing *School News* and that includes 2 years publishing the Palo Alto Unified School District's *School News*.

During the 20 years curriculum has changed in ways never imagined with the biggest change being technology. Gone are the blackboards, white chalk and erasers. Mentioning the 3 R's would bring a puzzled look and might be mistaken for Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. Discussing STEAM with anyone older than 60 would conjure up images of a train or an iron, but the younger

generation would instantly visualize test tubes and robotics. We have changed the format of most of our publications to glossy cover booklet, but our mission never changes: Education+Communication=A Better Nation. The one constant has been the focus on academics. It is a privilege to publish the excellence from the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

As Dr. Austin said in his message, he has dedicated this issue to creativity.

Enjoy your Spring Break and we'll be back with our next issue May 20, 2020.



**Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

## 创造力

本期 School News Roll Call (《校讯校刊》) 的专题为创造力。玛雅·安吉罗 (Maya Angelou) 曾经说过：“你不可能把自己的创造力用完。创造力这东西，你越用越有。”阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦 (Albert Einstein) 的名言：“创意是智慧在找乐子。”这两句名言都是鼓舞人们激发创造力的能量，升华概念，从中获得乐趣。

在学校体系中，有一些最重要的工作不容易进行衡量或量化。同时，我们往往容易记住本质上具有创造性的事物。我想请大家回忆一下自己小学经历中的五个片段。突然想到了什么？我的第一张画面是一个粘在黑色背景上的金色喷绘通心粉艺术项目。我还记得一位老师在黑板上写了一个单词，比如“寒冷”，要求我们描述这个词，让读者能“感受”到这个词的意思。最后还有，我五年级的老师每天弹吉他和我们一起唱歌。他弹曲子，让我们编歌词。我在小学学了各种知识，但我只回忆起有创意性的教学片段。

我们位于世界的创新中心，但有时，我们被迫回到死记硬背，只用一种方法正确答题的算数教学当中。是的.....有些问题有“正确”答案，而创造力并无准确的定义。同时，我们有很多方法可以解答问题，不同路径可以得出相同的结论。我们还需要去大胆探索没有“正确”答案或方法的事物。循规蹈矩无法解决复杂的问题。在一个信息无处不在的时代，勤于思考、勇于行动和敢于创造的能力显得弥足珍贵。

希望大家喜欢在这一期校刊中我们提供的有关创造力的故事。我们致力于在学校内保持平衡，为激励、培养和促进创造力预留空间！

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Covering the  
**PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## Addison *Elementary School*

650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5935 • addison.pausd.org



**Amanda Boyce**  
*Principal*

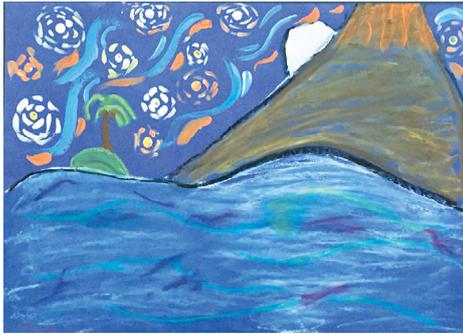
### Inspiring Children to Express Themselves

Two staff members that embody creativity at Addison are our beloved Spectra Arts teachers, Andi Werboff and Aleksandra Dudukovic. They each teach 16 art lessons per year in our classrooms that integrate math, literature, science, social studies, as well as adhering to the state and national standards. During these lessons,

students learn the discipline of art and are exposed to art history while always having the opportunity to use their imagination. One example is a recent Vincent van Gogh Starry Night Variation Project. While the project requires following «rules» based on van Gogh's original painting (landscape in the foreground, 11 stars, a moon, and wind movement), the type of landscape and how the students

depict the beauty of the sky is up to their own personal preference and creativity.

Aleksandra shared that art allows students “to explore and express a feeling within and deviate from prescribed rules.” Often times, our students make connections to something familiar in their own lives, neighborhood, their culture, history, or the world. Art also requires courage to come up with an idea and share it in a personal way, and students need to be resourceful when things do not go as planned. Various media speak to different students and allow for different types of creativity and exploration. The result is pure joy and amazement as students see what was created and the capacity each one of us has an artist. Our Spectra Arts teachers are constantly pushing for creativity, and as Andi stated, “Techniques are essential to learn. But inspiring children how to see and express themselves visually is a challenging and rewarding endeavor.”



## Barron Park *Elementary School*

800 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/858-0508 • barron.pausd.org



**Eric Goddard**  
*Principal*

### Embracing Creativity and Curiosity

At Barron Park, classroom teachers partner with our Maker Studio teacher to infuse creativity across the curriculum. Using creative expression, students are given many opportunities to demonstrate critical thinking, problem-solving, and content knowledge that will support them as they move on to middle school and beyond.

On any given day, you might find students creating sand sculptures, intricate circuitry, tiny Lego factories, or even programming dance steps on a robot. From woodworking to jewelry design, embroidery to Rube Goldberg contraptions, our Maker Studio is a place where all students are welcome to explore, create, and imagine. Students learn cardboard attachment techniques as well as how to create mechanical linkages. They learn how to 3D print and create designs on a 3D laser printer. Students are even designing virtual worlds based on concepts they are studying in class and using augmented reality to bring ideas to life.

As teachers plan units of study, they think carefully about embedding ways for students to embrace creativity and curiosity, and how to empower students to not only ask questions, but to answer them themselves. In first grade, students honed their photography skills using iPads to photograph nature and transform their prints into unique art pieces. Second graders used Makey Makeys to think deeply about characters they are reading about and then animated them with code. Third graders recently studying fossils designed a specialized tool to extract hidden treasures. Fourth graders constructed California boomtowns and then narrated them by programming a robot to give a tour. Fifth graders studying the American Revolution designed artifacts and fashion to bring historical figures to life. These are just a few examples of the many ways students are given the opportunity to innovate, ideate, and make meaning. In so doing, they are building resiliency and agency that will no doubt support them for the rest of their lives.

# Duveneck *Elementary School*

705 Alester Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/322-5946 • duveneck.pausd.org



**Leslie Crane**  
*Principal*

## Spectra Art

Our students are extremely excited and benefiting greatly from our Spectra Art Program.

Thanks to the generosity of PiE, our art instructor, Ms. Stephanie Maples, is able to deliver engaging hands-on lessons to our children. Each child is able to express their inner artistic ability with confidence, support, and excitement. Our students look forward to going to art classes every month because they have fun and are able to learn new ways to produce artistic masterpieces. Ms. Maples incorporates a variety of mediums from paint, pencil, charcoal, and clay. Her classroom is a picturesque artist's studio that has a vibrant energy and comfortable, well-loved vibe. During each lesson, she introduces the project, materials and instruction, including examples of finished products, and then lets each student create their own unique piece of work. We are grateful to offer this enriching experience to all our students at Duveneck.



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## El Carmelo *Elementary School*

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**Danaé Reynolds**  
*Principal*

### **Hidden Gem in the Heart of Midtown**

Increasing Student Learning Through Teacher Professional Growth, Creativity Through Arts Integration.

Arts Integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both. —The Kennedy Center

Arts Integration brings in joy, fun, and kinesthetic movement, supporting students that benefit from an active classroom environment. Students are motivated to collaborate, ensure everyone has a voice, and all ideas are considered, creatively demonstrating their understanding of content through performance.

Arts Integration to grow second grade conceptual understanding in geometry includes chanting types of lines, drawing lines with body parts, studying paintings, and using academic language with partners. Third graders

learn about the rich lives and experiences of Ohlone people through reading, discussing, and writing. They also inhabit the role of an Ohlone person through demonstration using tableaux, solidifying their learning through multiple modalities: visual, auditory, verbal, and kinesthetic. Lifting the level writing development, fifth graders work in groups to develop powerful sentences where prepositional phrases are acted out and moved to the beginning, middle, or end of the sentence.

We are fortunate to have Teaching Artist Piper LaGrelus join our faculty, providing Arts Integration. Through Arts Integration, teachers are growing their repertoire as practitioners. As classroom teachers participate in these lessons with their students, they experience the shift in student engagement. The dual role of a teaching artist, increasing student learning and teacher professional growth, is an incredible opportunity. Having a teaching artist on site increases teacher efficacy as they begin to recognize that they can use theater games, tableaux, chants, or other forms of expression during lessons to increase student learning.

## Ellen Fletcher *Middle School*

655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-9810 • fletcher.pausd.org



**Melissa Howell**  
*Principal*

### **Creativity is Contagious**

Albert Einsein said, “Creativity is contagious, pass it on.” Creativity is seen in many facets at Fletcher Middle School. Our staff, students, and community thrive best when they are able to tap into the creative side of their minds and spirit.

Our students are able to express themselves creatively through a variety of outlets at Fletcher and we celebrate and honor each of their efforts. Some of the outlets include: web design, industrial technology, art, foods, or broadcast.

We can also see students creatively in our amazing World Language classes (Spanish and French) and even through performance in band, orchestra, choir, and drama.

Our dedicated and hard-working staff are creative with the delivery of a lesson, science lab, or writing activity. The JLS staff enjoys the act of bringing their curriculum and their love for their content alive. We read together, we plan together, we research together, we learn together, we engage in meaningful conversations, and we support each other. Our staff (teachers, support staff, and administrators) are risk takers when thinking about ALL children.

We are Fletcher Middle School! Go Tigers.



## Escondido *Elementary School*

890 Escondido Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94305 • 650/856-1337 • [escondido.pausd.org](http://escondido.pausd.org)



**Marcela Simoes de Carvalho**  
*Principal*

### Where Anyone Can Be Anything!

Ask an Escondido student what the best part of coming to school is; you will undoubtedly get a flood of differing answers. One of the common themes in their answers would be related to spending time with their friends, talking about the books they read, the games they like to play, or places they want to explore. Linked to these youthful joys is the idea of imagination and creativity.

At Escondido, there is one event that highlights our student's capacity for creativity, the annual Talent Show. It is a 20+ year PTA sponsored event enlisting witty fifth grader emcees and two casts with 90 seconds of the most creative and entertaining of acts. Last year a team of Kinder Ninjago Ninjas wowed the audience with some pretty cool dance martial art moves. Hearts filled with

joy humming along to the Bruno Mars song, Count on Me, played on a ukulele and sung by a student who just started learning how to play a few weeks before the performance. Eyes blinked twice as a youngster dressed in her authentic mariachi outfit sang in fluent Spanish the beautiful traditional song Los Laureles. The show even pleased those obsessed with science. Imagine an intense, yet very respectful discussion between two famous scientists, Einstein and Tesla, arguing which one is the smartest. The script was written entirely by two very creative second graders who had to know a lot about the scientists to come up with some of the jokes. This year the Escondido community will be wowed at Talentopia: Where anyone can be anything!

Children have a fantastic superpower - they can think up some of the most wonderfully creative things in the world.

## Fairmeadow *Elementary*

500 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0845 • [fairmeadow.pausd.org](http://fairmeadow.pausd.org)



**Iris Wong**  
*Principal*

### Many Highlights of Being a Firebird

One of the many highlights of being a Firebird are the multitude of lunchtime activities available to our students on any given day throughout the week. One is our Noon Sports Program, which is a long standing and fun tradition that promotes organized teamwork and collaboration between third,

fourth, and fifth graders. In addition to being one of the team members, fifth graders get an opportunity to be Noon Sports Captains, where they lead and organize their team players throughout the season. Students also have a great time watching and cheering on each other throughout the various sports seasons.

Another lunchtime opportunity our Firebirds can participate in throughout the week are Comic Book Club and Board Games Club, which are also very popular. Both clubs give our students the chance to practice building upon their social skills as well as their artistic creativity.

Due to the close proximity to JLS Middle School, we have partnered up with the eighth grade leadership class. The leadership students work hand-in-hand with our Firebirds by tending to our school garden during Garden Club, facilitating organized sports and activities with students in grades K-5 as well as helping out Walking Club where students walk laps around our field for exercise and fun.

As you can see, all of our students have a plethora of lunchtime activities to choose from during the week!



# Greendell School

4120 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-0833



**Shannon Coleman**  
Principal

## Teen Time

When it comes to creativity, our young students at Greendell School are innovators! Young children have a natural curiosity and learn through the creative exploration of the world around them.

They fully immerse themselves in each activity throughout the day with a sense of wonder that reminds us of why early childhood is such a magical time.

The creativity of our students is evident just by observing them in class: inventing complex play scenarios together, creating their own unique versions of the same art project, or discovering new uses for everyday classroom materials. High school students from the Paly Early Childhood Development course lead a program for the Young Fives students at Greendell called Teen Time. Nathan Strope, one of the Paly teen teachers, described the experience of working with young students:



It's hard for me to put my love of Teen Time into words. I'll start with the kids. They are bundles of curiosity and joy, who express the complete range of emotions. Children see the world in a unique way and their perspective is fascinating to me.

The other teen teachers and I also get the opportunity to be kids as well. It's a really nice change of pace to be at Greendell where we are all present in the moment. I remember sitting with a couple of other teen teachers

and some of the children making the most giant castle possible out of blocks; there was laughter in the air from both teens and children. We get to be part of their games as well, some as classic as tag while others can be original like block bowling: we built a bowling alley out of blocks and kept tallies of each kids score. Finally, and most importantly, we get to help (and watch) them grow.

## Frank S. Greene Jr. Middle School

750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/494-8120 • greene.pausd.org



**Valerie Royaltey-Quandt**  
Principal

## Creativity Using Math

When we think of creativity in schools, we generally think about our Visual and Performing Arts, or our wide array of electives like sewing, world foods, or industrial arts. But students have so many opportunities to demonstrate creative thinking in many subject areas, and our math teachers have designed lessons specifically to give students

the opportunity to express math learning in creative and visual ways. Here are a few examples:

In Math 6, students were challenged to develop timelines on topics of their preference surrounding their birth. Their birth would be considered "zero" on the timeline and students researched family or themed events before and after their birthdates. Some students chose topics such as Marvel Movies, history of Boeing, Olympic swimming, or their families. In addition to applying historical events to a timeline, students practiced the technical piece of scaling and organizing events on timeline, applied the concept of positive and negative numbers, and practiced their measurement and presentation skills.

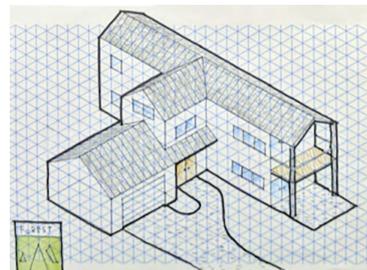


In 6/7 SAI Math class, students practiced fractions by creating "fraction pizzas," where students could choose and then decorate their pizza with ingredients showing different numerators and a common denominator.

Math 7A students had created their own dream house using proportional reasoning. Students really enjoyed designing their own homes and could demonstrate their math

skills in the creative process.

Similarly, Math 8 students did a transformation project where they acted like architects and had to design a floor plan for an apartment complex. Then they used rotations, reflections, and translations to make an entire floor of the apartment buildings (same layout, just different orientation). Lastly, they were asked to dilate the floor plan with a scale factor of two in order to get a penthouse apartment. Using math creatively connects relevant skills with new learning!



# Henry M. Gunn *High School*

780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/354-8200 • [gunn.pausd.org](http://gunn.pausd.org)



**Kathie Laurence**  
Principal

## Happy New Year!

Creativity can be found in all the nooks and crannies of Gunn High School. We see it on the stage from our musicians and thespians as they perform, each of them bringing their own creative nuances to their performances. It can be found on the athletic fields and in the gym as our student-athletes,

take in their situations and make decisions on next steps to help their team's success. In each of our classrooms, our teachers call upon students to be open-minded and to look at problems and issues from multiple perspectives. Most importantly, we find creativity and thought in the number of student-initiated projects that are presented each year as possibilities for Gunn to adopt to make it a better place for the whole community.

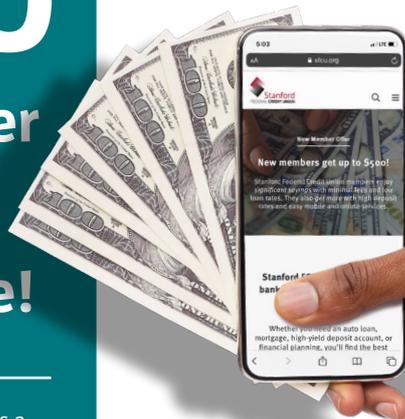


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# Herbert Hoover *Elementary School*

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**James Sherman**  
*Principal*

## **Invention Convention**

Creativity abounds at Hoover! As we ring in the new year, the sights of sounds of our Hoover Invention Convention (IC) put a spotlight on our incredible students.

IC has been a part of Hoover for many years. Led by our amazing Susie Rigas, IC is like a science fair on steroids. All students are encouraged to participate, and with a record number of participants last year, the excitement just continues to grow.

What is Invention Convention? Well, it is chance for our kids to develop an original idea, service, object, or improve on one already developed that will meet a specific need here at school, at home, or in the world.

A few years back, a child noticed a dangerous situation at school that he felt could be remedied. We have students and parents cross traffic that is moving pretty quickly as the cars come off busy E. Charleston Road. There is an opening for people to walk across and a crosswalk, but there was nothing to keep them back. He modified a retractable belt system that is magnetic when no one is there to hold it, keeping kids and families back from the fast-moving traffic. It can be used by a parent helper to hold back cars when our students need to cross.



Thanks to this Hoover student, our families are safer, and we actually have more people choosing to walk and ride their bikes because of this! Last year, a young lady told her father she still didn't think that area was safe enough. She developed a type of signal light that we may put into practice here soon. Amazing!

Our creative students have developed ocean clean-up devices to rid the oceans of plastic; a device that helps children tie their shoes; an invention that helps keep squirrels from digging up plants; an enhancer for headphones that allows a child to hear their parents calling them even when they are listening to music or playing video games; and my personal favorite, a fairy catching device!

What an amazing place this is!

# Jane Lathrop Stanford *Middle School*

480 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-5188 • jls.pausd.org



**Chris Grierson**  
*Principal*

## **Creativity at JLS**

The middle school years can be a challenging time for students. Many students navigate changes in their social relationships and shifts in their own academic interests and hobbies. At JLS, one helpful layer through what can be a tenuous middle school experience is our school's focus on creativity.

Creativity surfaces through the lives of JLS students in numerous ways. We are fortunate to provide hundreds of students with rich visual and performing arts programs of band, orchestra, choir, art, sculpture, industrial art, industrial technology, drama, which all provide a wide variety of performance art opportunities. We are also aware of the opportunities to foster creativity through our critical thinking and problem-solving within each one of our content areas. Our teachers cultivate a broader perspective of solutions through persuasive writing, complex mathematical problem strings and science experiments with claims and evidence, and even through strategy building in PE classes.

Every student at JLS is encouraged to contribute creatively to our learning community. Creative participation promotes our school's values of membership and belonging because it relies on communication, which in turn helps foster empathy and understanding across our campus. Self-possession (the way students recognize and define their own strengths, weaknesses, talents, and skills) is another bi-product that helps move our students forward. By having a high frequency of opportunities to demonstrate their creativity, students have increased levels of access towards success across content subjects and spaces. Their creative accomplishments, large or small, result in their own satisfaction, pride, and establish sense of belonging. These experiences also develop a student's resiliency and grit when faced with future challenges.

Students who are creative encourage other students to think differently. With 1,100 students, we are excited to have such diverse thinkers and problem-solvers who help make our school a dynamic and exciting place to learn and grow!

## Juana Briones *Elementary School*

4100 Orme St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0877 • briones.pausd.org



**Katy Bimpson**  
*Principal*

### **Getting Creative to Support Growth!**

At Briones, our staff is getting creative to support a wide variety of student needs; provide engaging learning opportunities for students and staff; and troubleshoot problems that arise throughout the school.

Our site Leadership team, comprised of teachers, specialists, and the principal, coordinates professional learning and is refining our school's vision and mission.

Realizing that we wanted to increase shared leadership opportunities, we created a new Collaborative Solutions Committee (CSC). The CSC will troubleshoot site-based issues that arise and improve existing school-wide practices.

Our talented Reading Specialist has also gotten creative in order to get quality literacy training to our classroom aides and student attendants. She is providing after-school trainings that both teachers and aides have attended. As a result, our aides are able to work closely with teachers to reach more students using research-based instructional strategies!

The teaching staff has also been getting creative to facilitate deeper learning for students. First, third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms have piloted multi-age “houses” where students in these four grade levels get together to do a variety of activities including reading, writing, tinkering, and coding! Our adaptive PE and general education PE teachers have teamed up to co-teach inclusive PE classes across grade levels. This has helped students to build empathy and has led to increased connection among students. We are also fortunate that our librarian has incorporated Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities into library lessons and is collaborating with fourth grade teachers to embed social and emotional learning activities into the library and classroom programs.

A few ways that have enriched the learning experience for everyone at Briones include: trying creative ways to increase shared leadership; providing engaging cross and inter-grade level learning opportunities; incorporating STEM and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into library and classroom programs; and providing training for our learning support staff.

## Lucille M. Nixon *Elementary School*

1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 • 650/856-1622 • nixon.pausd.org



**Mary Pat O'Connell**  
*Principal*

### **Creativity for Life!**

Children hunched over their art projects, carefully painting, recreating images from their minds onto the paper...a student practices a tune on the recorder and then makes up a variation for fun...! Thanks to the generosity of our community in their support of PiE, and the ongoing commitment of our Board of Education, we provide strong arts programs in our schools for all students beginning in preschool. At a recent Family

Art Night at Nixon, children and adults put their creative juices to work making and appreciating art!

It is limiting, however, to equate creativity only with the arts. Sir Ken Robinson, renowned author and thinker about creative schools, defines creativity as “a process of having original ideas that have value.” Using this definition, we cultivate creativity across all disciplines at Nixon. Young children can be very creative in their play, inventing new games and roles for each other, building things with blocks or sand or maker-cart supplies. We recognize the important role of play in our students' development.

Creativity grows from imagination, bringing something to mind that is not otherwise present, combined with the discipline of mastering a skill or understanding a topic. We read to students everyday, and they read to themselves, encouraging the development of their imaginations as they conjure images in their mind's eye of what is being read. We engage them in discussions about what they read, supporting children to make connections between ideas. Using diagrams to map out math problems exercises creativity, just as challenging students to find multiple strategies for solving a single problem does. Writing requires linking together ideas, a sequence of events or character traits in an imaginary person. A child can have an original idea that might not be original to the world, but is original to them at their stage of development.

We believe all children can be creative and can be supported in becoming more creative. Creativity is iterative – we try and sometimes fail; try again and make improvements. This is an important mindset for solving problems – for writing, for investigating in science, for living life!

# Ohlone *Elementary School*

950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-1726 • ohlone.pausd.org



**Dawn Yoshinaga**  
*Principal*

## Visual Arts Program

“The creative adult is the child who survived.”- Ursula Le Guin

Ohlone students take creative risks. Ohlone students have voice, agency, and purpose. We hear them when they share their passion. We see them when they reflect their lens.

Creativity is one of the Goals of an Ohlone Education. Our project-based instruction provides everyday opportunities that integrate student voice and ingenuity across all aspects of their learning.

Our visual arts program is a true staple of Ohlone. We value artistic expression, and students receive weekly art lessons. Our office and hallways are filled with student creations that are inspired by the work of impactful artists of the past and present.

Creativity is an integral part of student learning at Ohlone. In science, students demonstrate their creative understanding of the properties of polygons through building robots. Students use creative logic through trial and error as they collaborate to build marble runways to learn about potential and kinetic energy. In social studies,



students create tactile representations of Colonial period clothing and participate in simulations which provide impactful learning experiences.

Our ability to learn and express ourselves through the creative process is a gift that is nurtured and celebrated in all Ohlone students!

# Palo Alto *Adult School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3752 • paadultschool.org



**Dave Hoshiwara**  
*Principal*

## Creative Collaboration Combination

Two of the more popular Adult School classes are Upholstery and Woodworking. Traditionally, these two classes fill up shortly after the registration buttons become live. Many Upholstery students come to the front office to ensure their ‘spot’ and the classes often close on the first day.

One of the more creative ideas from last year was a collaboration between these two popular classes.

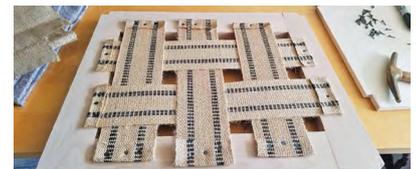
Students in the Woodworking 2 class were given an ambitious project of building a craftsman style rocking chair. The rocking chair was inspired by a design

appearing in Fine Woodworking Magazine. This design was sufficiently complex that students were required to sign up for two terms.



Students completed the frame design with joinery consisting of 30 mortises and tenons, four of which contained compound angles. Two of the three back rails were curved. The students then completed the upholstery piece, so that they had constructed the entire rocking chair. Each rocking chair was customized to fit the owner (e.g., height, leg length). A truly creative, unique customized project!

Enroll in the Adult School for our spring classes starting in March!



# Palo Alto High School

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3701 • paly.pausd.org



**Adam Paulson**  
Principal

## Art in Unusual Places

Creativity flourishes at Palo Alto High School. In addition to all of our award winning Visual and Performing Arts, Journalism, and creative projects in all disciplines, we host events that showcase our students' creative talents and energy. One of my favorite events each year is called "Art in Unusual Places." Students throughout the course of one week display or perform art

all over campus. Our most recent run of this event included being serenaded by our choir in the Tower building, finding the entire campus in polka-dots, rock bands on the Quad, and students playing classical music during a gym class! Another creative pursuit that makes our campus special is our students' art that is showcased on all of our buildings across campus.



Fiery Arts Winter Showcase



Showcase Art

These pieces inspire and make our campus beautiful. Lastly, one of the most unique aspects of Paly is our Fiery Arts program. Paly hosts one of the few high school glass blowing studios that allows our students the opportunity to create beautiful works of art.

## Word Search Contest Words Associated with School

**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 **Palo Alto** in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by March 15, 2020**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers  | Focused     | Principal  |
| Character  | Homework    | Recess     |
| Classrooms | Instructors | Reunion    |
| Curiosity  | Integrity   | Student    |
| Discipline | Learning    | Success    |
| Educators  | Mentors     | Technology |
| Encourage  | Nutrition   | Thinkers   |
| Excellence | Parents     | Workers    |

**Congratulations to  
William Fellows and Gia Vakkiaganti  
Winners of our November Contests!**



## Palo Verde *Elementary School*

3450 Louis Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-1672 • paloverde.pausd.org



**Annora Lee**  
*Principal*

### **A Community of Thinkers and Doers**

Palo Verde Elementary is a community of thinkers and doers. Teachers, students, and support staff all value the journey of learning just as much as the satisfaction of completing a project or task. Our teachers work tirelessly to infuse their lessons with opportunities to spark creativity and joy in students.

Assisting students in discovering their own passions and interests

means giving them permission to try, share, and even stumble. A school-wide example of this would be our Noon Art Wednesdays. On these days, parent volunteers brace themselves for the crush of students who race through the door. They put out reusable and recyclable materials with no guidelines on how to use them. It has become THE place for children of all grade levels to gather and let their creative energies flow. A beautiful mix of children crowd around tables to construct, deconstruct, then reconstruct. The energy is delightfully loud and exciting.

Learning looks different in every classroom, but the common thread you will find within each one is a celebration of students as individuals. I see this daily

when visiting our youngest writers in kindergarten, to our budding graphic novelists in fifth grade. Other times, the work is intentionally made collaborative to highlight how differences can enrich outcomes. It might mean a group design challenge using materials from the Creativity Cart, or strategic partnering during an art or music session. Our students have repeatedly demonstrated that community and comradery can be built by acknowledging the unique strengths that everyone brings to the table.

At last November's PiE Art and Music event, hundreds turned out in support of our Student Art Showcase. A very dedicated team of parent volunteers worked to assemble a display of student-created work from every classroom. Parents, grandparents, and children of all ages came out to not only view, but also try their own hand at creating masterpieces at the interactive stations led by the Spectra Art and music staff.

No matter the age, grade, or learning profile, there is time and space to be original and imaginative at Palo Verde. It is a collaborative effort made possible by our amazing staff, parent, and community

volunteers. We are a team that strives to keep every student's joy for learning alive. When I think about how that fits within the framework of the PAUSD Promise, I could not be more proud.



**2nd Annual Art and Music Night**

## Walter Hays *Elementary School*

1525 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5956 • hays.pausd.org



**Mary Bussmann**  
*Principal*

### **Creativity Abounds at Walter Hays!**

First grade teacher Ann Kitajima believes, "We all have the ability to be creative. What separates the innovators from the rest of us is believing in our ability to create change in the world. The creative process allows freedom for students. Students build their confidence and retain more when they're engaged in creative thinking connected to the subject."

At lunch time, our Maker Space is bursting with students experimenting, building, forming, composing, assembling, innovating, and deconstructing to understand how something is put together.

Third grade teacher Brian Hubbs states, "My students absolutely love art, especially when given the freedom to create their own pieces. When students have the opportunity to create, many of them work on a drawing, while others are building something from our maker materials. Whether it is drawing/coloring their favorite

movie character, folding origami or painting a beautiful landscape, students become fully present and engaged in their work. Creating art increases student's ability to analyze and problem-solve in a variety of ways, which I notice plays out during other lessons."

Second grade teacher Michele Ketchum has observed Student Council representatives she mentors create inspiring Core Values skits and PowerPoint presentations which they present on the weekly Live Stream broadcasts to the student body. They create scenes illustrating how students use the Core Values to generate solutions to social challenges they encounter. They serve as positive and inspiring role models for all students as they view the live broadcast!

Students' creativity muscles have been evident not only in their artistic projects, but within their writing as well. The Units of Study Writing Curriculum supports students writing on topics of their choosing within the genres of narrative, non-fiction, poetry, and fantasy. I look forward to writing classroom celebrations at the conclusion of each unit.

## Ethan's Review

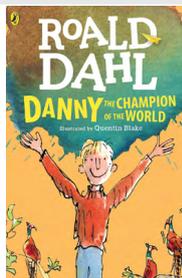


Ethan H.

### The Deep, Dark Secret

*Danny, The Champion of the World*  
By Roald Dahl

Danny is a little boy who lives in an old, rusty, broken-down carriage at a filling station with his dad. His mom died



when he was very young. Danny has always admired his dad's strength and bravery. He always looked forward to his dad's stories about a Big Friendly Giant that captures and bottles dreams because it sparked his imagination. Danny woke up one night and discovered that his dad was not home. He went outside to look for him and saw a shadowy figure moving on the street. It was his dad! Danny finds out about a deep, dark secret his father had. Read *Danny, The Champion of the World* to find out what happened next! I loved reading this book because it was filled with action.

I recommend this book to people who like suspense and mystery.

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.

## B is for Book



Bailey

### Life is Numbers

*Rated* by Melissa Grey is an intriguing, mystery like book.

In this society, it truly matters what people think because every person has a "rating". Their rating reflects just about everything, from if they have a good job, to if they said "thank you" to the waiter. The future of every individual lies on their rating. When someone vandalizes Maplethorpe Academy with red paint reading "THE RATINGS ARE NOT REAL," it will bring these six students together, Bex, Tamsin, Hana, Chase, Noah, and Javier. Although they have absolutely nothing in common, they thrive together! But will they be enough to solve the mystery and conclude the corruption of their society?

This dystopia depicts a possible reality that will keep the reader thinking days after finishing the book. I have read the book several times and it still fascinates me. I rate it 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.



## Sean's Book Review

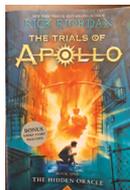


Sean

### Banned from Olympus

*The Hidden Oracle Book 1 of Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan

Some of you guys may enjoy Greek mythology, and if you do, this is the book for you. Apollo, the god of poetry, music, and the sun, was banned from Mount Olympus (the home of the Greek



gods) and is now a wimpy, mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos. He starts his quest to show his father, Zeus, that he belongs in Mount Olympus. Apollo runs into many new and ancient encounters, such as Roman emperors and peach spirits. He works with a daughter of Demeter, Meg, who is his new master and helps him along the way his treacherous journey. I think that everyone who reads this book will enjoy the twists, jokes, and adventures that Apollo experiences. Overall, I loved reading this book and I enjoyed the way Rick writes because you can understand and imagine everything that's happening. I give this book a 10 out of 10.

Sean Cheng is a 5th grader who enjoys cubing (Rubik's Cubes), watching Rubik's Cube videos, and playing basketball. His favorite subjects at school are math and P.E. He loves his 3 guinea pigs and looks forward to summer vacations.

## Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

### The Mystery of the Feather

Title: *Pearl the Cloud Fairy*

Author: Daisy Meadows

Once upon a time there were two girls named Rachel and Kirsty. They have a secret that they can turn into fairies to help fairies all the time!



The queen of the fairies gave fairy dust to them. One day all the people had clouds over their heads. The girls felt weird. Why would everyone be sad, grumpy, or angry? At home they met a fairy of clouds. The fairy's name was Pearl. She said that a goblin took a feather away from the fairies. The seven feathers control the weathers. The girls went to the candy factory and saw the goblin eating cotton candy. He also had the feather! Pearl asked Rachel and Kirsty to get the feather. Can these two girls complete their mission? I like this book because it gives adventurous stories in detail. I recommend this book to people who like fantasy.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to create stories as well.

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