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# School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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FEBRUARY–APRIL 2019



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

## Our Newest Personalized Learning Pathway in PYLUSD

With the start of the 2018-19 school year, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) introduced La Entrada High School's (LEHS) new Hybrid Pathway. Designed to support high school students who seek an alternative to traditional

classroom instruction, the Hybrid Pathway offers the important resource of daily interaction with educators, while still allowing students the flexibility of personalized online learning.

As a part of this pathway, students attend school for 10 to 15 hours per week on La Entrada's small, yet energetic campus in Yorba Linda. Beyond the classroom, Hybrid Pathway students are responsible for continued academic achievement with online curriculum. Students in the program have the opportunity to meet regularly with highly qualified teachers and an academic counselor during this time.

Pathway participants take no more than two or three courses at a time. Both college preparatory and credit recovery classes are offered as a part of the wide-ranging program. Similar to a traditional high school, Hybrid Pathway students are given many opportunities to academically collaborate alongside their peers in study groups.

For over 30 years, LEHS has afforded PYLUSD students the opportunity to customize their high school experience through an alternative educational environment including an independent study model. Complete with WASC accreditation and an extensive list of a-g CSU/UC approved classes, LEHS empowers its students through textbook, online, and now hybrid-style coursework that results in high academic achievement.

For many years, PYLUSD has focused on expanding the availability of district-wide alternative educational opportunities in benefit of students' unique needs. The addition of the Hybrid Pathway at La Entrada High School not only supports this focus, but it also exhibits the District's commitment to preparing each and every student for success now and in the future.

If you wish to learn more about the Hybrid Pathway in PYLUSD, please call La Entrada High School at (714) 986-7026.

## PYLUSD Awarded for Increased AP Access and Participation for All

From the District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District has been placed on the College Board's 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll.



## CollegeBoard 9th Annual AP® District Honor Roll

For the third time, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) has been named to the College Board's Annual AP District Honor Roll. This distinction, which the District was previously awarded in 2011 and 2018, comes as a result of increased participation and access to Advanced Placement (AP) course work while additionally increasing or maintaining the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on AP Exams.

According to the College Board, just 373 school districts in the United States and Canada were named to the 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll, with less than seven percent of recognized school districts located in the state of California. As a result, PYLUSD stands as one of only five school districts in Orange County and one of only

25 school districts in California to receive this matching distinction.

In 2018, the District administered 4,088 AP exams – 198 more than 2016 – while maintaining an overall 83% pass rate. This increase exceeds the 4% growth threshold required in large school districts like Placentia-Yorba Linda.

Set forth by the College Board, inclusion on the 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data from 2016 to 2018 using the following criteria:

- Increased participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;
- Increased or maintained percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and,
- Improved performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2018 scoring a 3 or higher than those in 2016, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

The District is honored to have received the College Board's AP District Honor Roll recognition for a third time as it reaffirms its unwavering commitment to academic achievement – the core of the PYLUSD mission and vision.

Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) to see the complete 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll.

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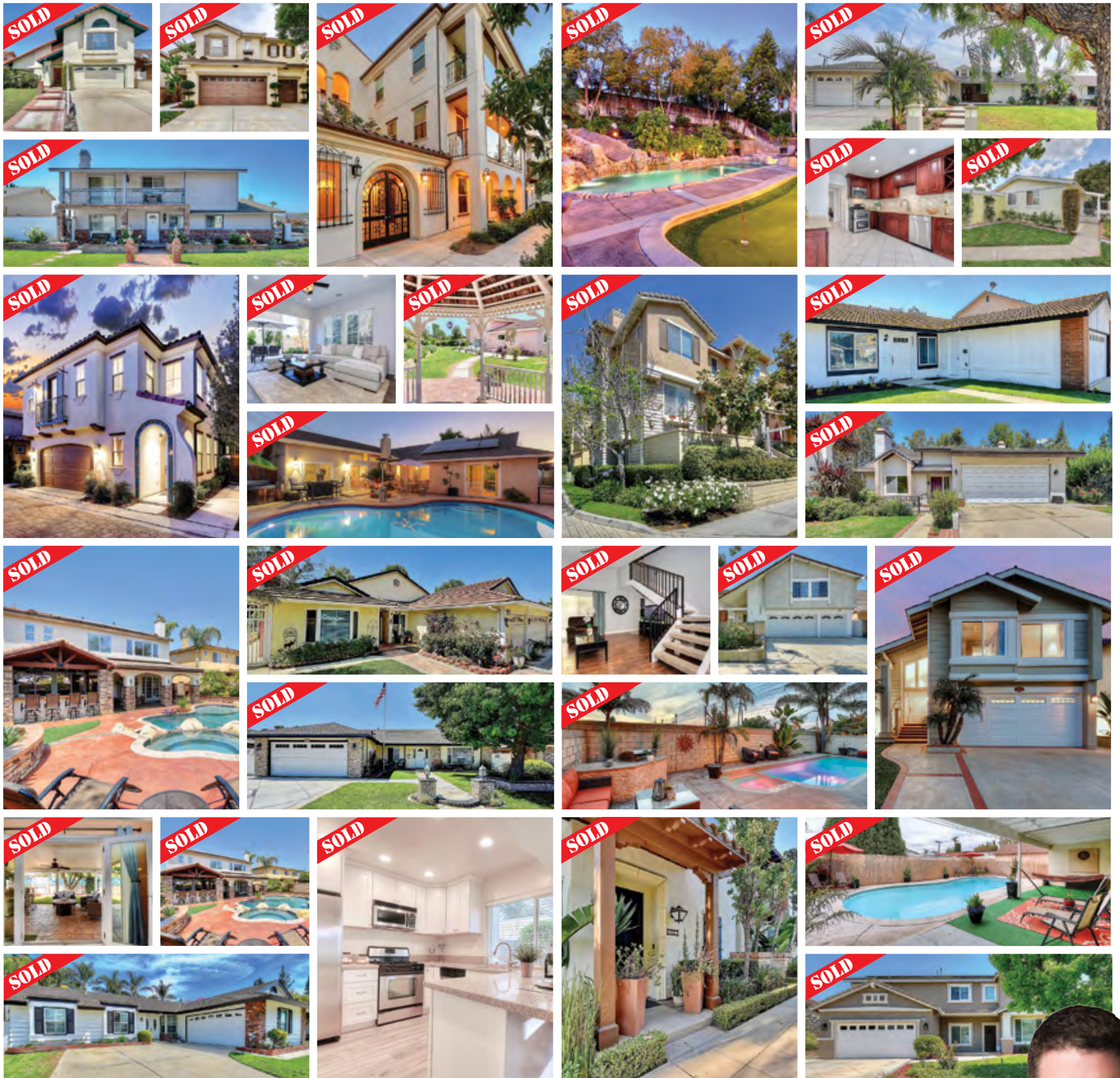


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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By now you are used to writing 2019 as time marches on.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory S. Plutko begins this issue with his article on the front page about the Newest Personalized Learning Pathway in PYLUSD.

In this issue you will read about Celebrating Creativity, Mock Trial, STEM Design, a Sustainable Water-Reduction Project, and much more...

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Our next issue is May 9, 2019.

## Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • [www.byms.org](http://www.byms.org)



**Ken Valburg**  
Principal

### Friendship Bracelets

Bernardo Yorba Middle School has introduced a new elective class this year for students who could benefit from community-based instruction (CBI). The importance of community skills is often taken for granted when they come easily. These skills include, but are not limited to, money management/organization, time management, public transportation use, and social skills.

“Since going out into the community each day is not totally feasible, I thought that having our students raise money each month for the community outings would fit in perfectly with the intent of the class,” shared BYMS teacher Mrs. Gerry. “This month we are making and selling friendship bracelets. The students enjoy learning all the different ways to make a friendship bracelet, and they’re practicing life skills at the same time. They’re problem solving, working together as a team, making goals, and managing both money and time.”

The friendship bracelets have been a huge hit, and our Matadors are super-excited about it.



## R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yora Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • [www.reach4pylusrd.org](http://www.reach4pylusrd.org)



**Julie Nibali**  
President

### The REACH Foundation

TechGirlzClub RULES! The REACH Foundation’s special pilot program for 3rd through 5th grade girls to learn beginner computer coding skills was held at the end of 2018 at the CoderSchool in Yorba Linda. TechGirlz Club set out to introduce computer technology, gain greater comfort with the use of computers, explore participant interest in beginning coding skills and offer valuable hands-on introduction to the world of programming. And it was fun too!



Over the course of 6 classes held after school, the girls were taught hands on computer and coding skills. At the conclusion of the final class, 2 student teams presented the computer game designed and created by their team. The REACH Foundation looks forward to continuing programs that will enrich our students in technology.

## Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • [www.brookhavenelementary.com](http://www.brookhavenelementary.com)



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

### Brilliant Bears’ GATE Academy

Each year our Brookhaven GATE students have the opportunity to participate in our Brilliant Bears GATE Academy, led by fifth-grade teacher and GATE Coordinator Mrs. Sarah Walls.

Brookhaven is a cluster GATE school, which means that our GATE students are clustered into the regular general education classrooms, versus a magnet model in which all of the students in the class are identified as GATE. It has been the norm that the majority of our GATE-identified students remain at Brookhaven and participate in our cluster program.

One of the features of the cluster program is our Brilliant Bears Academy. This year, Mrs. Walls is collaborating with the stellar EDHS Digital Media Arts Academy. Students will participate in hands-on learning activities to explore and create digital and media arts projects. They will use various equipment and learn a variety of skills in order to produce a final video project.

The talents and expertise of El Dorado DMAA teachers Mrs. Audra Ross and Mr. Mark Switzer will be utilized to enrich the learning experiences of our students. Our Brilliant Bears Academy is another shining example of what makes Brookhaven such a special place for our students to learn and grow!





Shannon Robles  
Principal

We've Got Spirit

Our school has a spirit squad consisting of more than 50 students from Preppy Kindergarten through fifth grade. These students practice hard every Monday to learn choreographed routines. Participating in the squad teaches the students responsibility and teamwork and gives them an opportunity to build their self-esteem while exercising and having fun.

Four times per year, the spirit squad performs at our exciting pep rallies. The routines get the crowd involved with fun music. Each pep rally follows a theme and includes games for students from each grade level to compete in. Students are really excited when they are chosen to participate. Everyone joins in to cheer for their friends and grade levels during the games. The pep rallies promote school spirit and a sense of belonging.



It's great to see how the pep rallies bring the community together. Parents, families, friends, and younger siblings (future Explorers) attend. Our school mascot, Henry the Horse, joins us as well. The students really look forward to the pep rallies, and it's a great way to unite our student body and start our day off positively.



Carey J. Aiello  
Principal

Celebrating Creativity

Reid Petersen was announced as the North Orange County Regional Occupation Program's (NOCROP) Teacher of the Year. The student body, staff, ROP leadership team, and PYLUSD leadership team recently gathered to celebrate this achievement.

An ROP teacher at El Camino since 2010, Mr. Petersen is admired for his spirit of service, quick wit, and dedication to encouraging creativity. NOCROP Superintendent Terri Giamarino shared how, "In addition to being an exemplary teacher, Reid has served as a Professional Learning Community lead teacher, ROP staff development workshop presenter, and CTE conference workshop presenter. His students are frequent attendees at ROP board meetings and are recognized for their contributions to the global community."

Mr. Petersen's class provides an outlet for expression and creativity; he is an instructional leader and a true champion for students. Given his seemingly endless energy and constant sharing of new ideas, the ECRHS team wonders when the man finds the time for rest!



Joey Davis  
Principal

Our Own Legal Beagles

El Dorado is incredibly proud of our Mock Trial program. Mock Trial is an academic competition team run and organized by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Each school receives the outline of a case and has to prepare a prosecution and a defense team.

The victorious team is determined by a panel of lawyers and judges. Under the leadership of Mrs. Sunshine Cavalluzzi and Ms. Dana McIntosh (both EDHS alumni), our teams had a wonderful season this fall. One team was composed of upperclassmen and one of underclassmen.

The teams represented themselves well, going undefeated in the round robin portion of the competition. Both teams made it to the playoffs, with one team reaching the semifinals for the county before losing to the eventual champions.

Three Golden Hawks were selected for recognition by the Constitutional Rights Foundation: Carissa Lin, Colby Bladow, and Lia Mimun. In addition, Dana McIntosh was selected as our Coach of the Year.





# Esperanza High School (9-12)

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



**Gina Aguilar**  
Principal

## Focusing on the Positive

Each year the Esperanza ASB hosts “What If Week,” choosing positive themes that support important social concepts such as wellness, tolerance, and anti-bullying. Each day of the week a different “what if” question is asked of the students, with various activities and events to help support the theme.

One day our students were asked, “What if we accepted ourselves?” They watched a meaningful video about

self-acceptance and were asked to write down something they really liked about themselves.

The week culminated with an assembly where speaker Jeff Eben talked to our students about his life motto, “Share the Love.” Mr. Eben, a former coach, teacher, and principal, had his dreams of getting a football scholarship cut short at the age of 16 when he was paralyzed in a tragic accident.

In sharing his story, Mr. Eben encouraged our EHS students to focus on the positive and ask themselves how many “wins” they have had each day.



## Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students’ hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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# Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • [www.fairmontelementary.com](http://www.fairmontelementary.com)



**Cynthia Rex**  
*Principal*

## Let's Build a Community!

Fairmont Falcons start early to lay the foundations of a strong community.

Our Transitional Kindergarteners and Preppy K students learn the real-world businesses of trade and banking in a setting and with a curriculum they understand: blocks! They build homes, schools, grocery stores, banks, and more. Through pretend play, students learn the occupations, functions, and inter-connectedness of each element of their community. They also increase their spacial awareness, vocabulary, and communication skills.

One Preppy K “worker” was heard saying to another “worker,” “Will you please cover for me while I’m out for a few minutes?” They’ve learned that the job must be done! Observing this level of responsibility in our youngest

students confirms the excellent job that our two teachers Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Borrego are doing every day.

Registration for Preppy K students who turn age five before March 31st began in late January. Registration packets will be available in Fairmont’s front office.



# George Key School *(K-12)*

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • [www.georgekey.org](http://www.georgekey.org)



**Kim Smith**  
*Principal*

## Holiday Fun

George Key celebrated the season with songs and fun when we presented a fantastic holiday show for our parents and friends! Our students danced and played instruments as audience members clapped along. One local community member even donated supplies and services to make a beautiful ceramic tile with our students and their families.

The tiles were created to represent each family, and were complete with buttons, international coins, and engraved tiles.

Each one was designed for and by George Key students. The donor also came back over the break and installed a gorgeous tile mosaic in the front courtyard of our school. This will be a lasting memory for our George Key students, staff, and families.



The day ended with a surprise visit from Santa. Since Santa knows our students so well, he left his candy canes at the North Pole and instead brought a homemade scarf for every student. Our students smiled from ear to ear as they snuggled up to this very special visitor!

# Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • [www.glenknoll.org](http://www.glenknoll.org)



**David Cammarato**  
*Principal*

## Importance of Family Support

I’m amazed at the number of parents, grandparents and extended family members that are on campus supporting our students and showcasing the importance of education. These volunteers give back to our students in many ways—working with students in the classroom, making copies, or providing classroom supplies.

They also support our school through fund-raising and extending learning through field trips, assemblies and art. They’ve organized restaurant nights, bake sales and a Harvest Festival. Their efforts helped make possible the sixth-grade outdoor-science camp organized by the sixth-graders’ parents—over \$6,600 was raised to help support and reduce costs for the sixth-grade campers!

Although sixth grade will benefit from these fund-raisers, I thank all our families who attend schoolwide events. Collectively, our staff and community commitment have put students first, and it shows. On behalf of our students and staff, I thank our parent community, which goes above and beyond to benefit our students. You make a difference!



**Sixth Grade Science Camp**



# Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • [www.glenviewbulldogs.org](http://www.glenviewbulldogs.org)



**Alondra Ramos**  
*Principal*

## STEM Design in Action

Glenview's fifth-grade scholars designed and built Tom Sawyer rafts for a special STEM activity that demonstrated their mathematics, science, engineering, and technology knowledge and skills. The students made predictions to launch discussions on the most efficient raft designs that would pass water tests, weight tests, and distance-traveled tests in science class, under the direction of fifth-grade teacher and science expert Kim Wisnia.



After days of predicting, designing, building, and testing raft materials, the students organized raft races against rafts of similar size. The student design teams competed against the other teams in class. During these races they measured the rafts' efficiency using handmade paper Tom Sawyer figures.

The students were also able to connect to the reading of the story completed in their fifth-grade language arts class. Our student design teams made every effort to ensure Tom Sawyer's safe travel, and a successful voyage on the rafts.

# Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • [www.kraemerms.org](http://www.kraemerms.org)



**Keith Carmona**  
*Principal*

## Creating Personal Journeys

In recent weeks, Mr. Twamley's 8th graders have been reading the fictional tale of Cole Matthew's exploration to find meaning to his life in the midst of a remote Alaskan Island. While discovering symbolism and imagery in *Touching Spirit Bear*, students paralleled the main character's project to create a totem pole representing their own personal journey. After doing ample research and writing, each student was inspired to complete an essay and digital speech to accompany their individual totems.

Last Friday, students were rewarded with a personal visit from the author Ben Mikaelson to culminate the novel study with a question and answer session in their Language Arts class.



# Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • [www.golden.pylusd.org](http://www.golden.pylusd.org)



**Dr. Alison DeMark**  
*Principal*

## A Stellar Evening

Golden Elementary School held the sixth annual Family Science Night on January 16. Though we had been showered with four consecutive days of rain, our families showed up in full force to enjoy an evening of superb science activities, shows, and dry skies! Students and families participated in chromatography, heart dissection, robotics activities, and so many more Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities, which were led by Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District middle and high school students. It was awesome to see many Golden alumni return for the evening!



We also had two incredible interactive presentations. A portable planetarium allowed students and their parents to be transported to the ends of the Milky Way and make comparisons between the size of our galaxy's suns. Families also had the opportunity to attend one of two birds of prey showcases, where they saw falcons fly and eagles soar. A wise owl was also available for photos.



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# La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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**Carrie Bisgard**  
*Principal*

## Excelling in Concurrent College Classes

The number of students at LEHS who are successfully completing college courses while still enrolled in high school is on the rise!

La Entrada High School is the PYLUSD's award-winning independent study program for ninth- to twelfth-grade students. Like each of the traditional PYLUSD high schools, LEHS will be hosting a Fullerton College course called "Music Appreciation" on campus this spring. Our students enjoy the convenience of having this music course on their home campus, as well as the fact that this section is populated exclusively by PYLUSD students.

In addition, many students choose to enroll in and attend college courses on the campuses of Fullerton College, Santiago Canyon College, Irvine Valley College, or other local community colleges as Special Admit Students. For each three-unit college course (one semester), our students can earn 10 high school credits. They may also earn up to 40 elective credits through dual enrollment.

All students over 16 years of age are encouraged to take advantage of dual enrollment in college courses, as it provides early exposure to college and valuable experience in a college setting. The flexibility of our independent study schedule allows our students the ability to take college classes at a variety of times, such as weekday, evening, or weekend, whichever suits the student best.

Sarah Miller, our counselor, has a great deal of expertise with the registration processes at these colleges, and assists our students with their enrollment, registration, and course selection. As Special Admit Students, our students are not required to pay tuition or registration fees. Families are only responsible to pay for the students' books, the college health fee, and any related lab costs.

# Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • [www.lak-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.lak-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Tamie Beeuwsaert**  
*Principal*

## Making it Meaningful

As the old year came to a close, our Lakeview community dedicated themselves to working together over the holidays to serve families with babies through an organization called Samuel's Trees. The generosity of the Lakeview community and their willingness to "slow down" and "do something meaningful" was awe inspiring.

Because of this generosity we were able to collect \$9,000 worth of gift cards. This enabled us to create 30 Christmas trees consisting of \$300 worth of gift cards. We then donated one tree to each of the families who has a baby in the Critical Care Unit at CHOC. Together we are making a difference.

As an educational leader, I am constantly pondering how to help our students and families dig through the "information smog" or "data surge" that is thrust upon us all on a daily basis. When and how often should we be helping our students to slow down or take a scheduled pause from the media? How often do families have the time now to sit down together and play board games or read a book; or better yet, how often do children choose screen time over an offer of quality family time?

My only conclusions are that now more than ever, in this ever-changing, fast-paced technological world of ours, we have to teach our children how important it is to take a "pause" to love and serve others. We have to specifically teach them how to connect with people, be kind, be compassionate, and learn about the joy that will come as a result of their actions.

My New Year's wish is that everyone will be able to slow down and take a planned pause to connect with the people they love the most and do something meaningful together.

# Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • [www.lve-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.lve-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Kristen Petrovacki**  
*Principal*

## Green Lions

Recently, Linda Vista Elementary School was awarded the Project Zero Waste Grant, which is helping us to create a sustainable waste-reduction project on campus. A group of enthusiastic third-grade students, also known as the Green Lions, are taking the lead on this project for our entire school.

These students have submitted applications and have gone through a special selection process in order to participate. Their service work will involve educating their peers on the importance of recycling, keeping data on the decrease in waste production after the implementation of our program, and physically collecting and sorting all the recyclables around campus.

Although our initial focus will be paper and plastic, we hope to eventually expand the program to incorporate composting and waste-free lunches. We are incredibly thankful for these service-oriented students who want to make a difference. This is a significant step forward for our school, and we are excited for what is to come.





# Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • [www.me-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.me-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Cynthia Alvarez**  
Principal

## Engaging Students in 21st-Century Skills

The classroom teachers at Melrose work together with a computer specialist to incorporate a number of STEM activities into their lessons. Our role is to develop skilled learners for the many jobs which yet exist.

Hi-tech robots are a great tool that can engage our students and also develop life-long learning skills. One robot we use is a tennis ball-sized device connected via Bluetooth to a mobile device such as an iPad. It can roll at a speed of up to 7km/hr in any direction and spin, flip, and change color.

The students can also use an app to direct its movement by designing and using code. With this, they develop important 21st-century skills such

as communication, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Mrs. Toscano is leading the way in the fifth grade by incorporating coding lessons into her instructional day, and with the support and guidance of our computer specialist, Mrs. Pierro. As teachers, we need to provide our students with opportunities to “learn how to learn” and help them to discover and solve problems.



# Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • [www.mabelpaine.org](http://www.mabelpaine.org)



**Melanie Carmona**  
Principal

## Health and Nutrition

Mabel Paine has had some exciting visitors! In a span of two weeks, our Preppy

K and Kindergarten classes have been visited by a paleontologist and a pediatrician. Dr. Bautista, a parent from Mrs. Avila-Perez's class, came to share her knowledge with our students on what a pediatrician does.

In Science, our Preppy K students were learning about health and nutrition, and her expertise coincided with our unit beautifully.

She brought in tools that she uses to check her patients and taught us about the inner workings of the ear.



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# Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • [www.morseschool.net](http://www.morseschool.net)



**Tonya Gordillo**  
*Principal*

## Curious Students

With the addition of the new Inquiry Lab, our students have many opportunities to dig in and learn through hands-on experiences, and then document their discoveries through collaboration and note-booking.

Throughout the school day our Morse teachers co-teach with the district science instructional coach to develop new learning experiences for our curious scholars. For example, our first-grade scholars recently learned about air through creating and manipulating parachutes to discover how air moves an object.



In addition, the Inquiry Lab is also open during lunchtime for our scholars to explore and inquire. Students code using Chromebooks to program robots that can roll throughout the classroom and alternate colors as they move. As our students become more sophisticated with their coding, they can begin creating tracks to race.

Our student scholars are now programming the robots to race around a track changing colors as they go. In the Inquiry Lab, curious students are always encouraged to explore!

# Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • [www.parkviewpylud.org](http://www.parkviewpylud.org)



**James Hardin**  
*Principal*

## Gift of Gab!

In December, the Speech and Debate team participated in the Heideman Winter Invitational in Tustin, taking home numerous awards. Benjamin Reichenenthal challenged himself with Storytelling; Gabriella Mercado competed in Declamation and Impromptu, winning a finalist medal in Impromptu; Kayla Seo won a finalist medal in Impromptu and placed first in Original Narrative; and Alyssa Varela won a fifth-place trophy in Impromptu and second place in Storytelling. Team captain Nathan Guerrero competed in SPAR debate and placed fifth. Kayla Bermudez-Kim also competed in SPAR debate and received a finalist medal.

In January, four team competitors participated in the prestigious Claremont Wolfpack Invitational. Zahra Washington competed in Original Oratory, Kayla Seo competed in Impromptu Speaking and Duo interpretation with Gabriella Mercado, and Alyssa Varela competed in Impromptu Speaking and Humorous Interpretation. Hats off to Gabriella, who advanced to semifinals in Declamation! This is a huge accomplishment for Gabby, a middle-schooler, who competed against some of the top high school students in the nation!



# Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • [www.riovistaschool.org](http://www.riovistaschool.org)



**Jose Cabrera**  
*Principal*

## Measuring Our Growth

Rio Vista welcomed the new year with many exciting opportunities for our young scholars! On any given day our students are engaging with and demonstrating their dedication towards achieving their online instructional goals.

We recognize that every student is unique, and that the path that he or she will take to accomplish their goals may be different. Every student from kindergarten to the fifth grade has a reading and math goal. Each goal is clear, specific, measurable, and achievable. The students carefully track their progress to help make their growth more apparent and meaningful.

This is our school's opportunity to empower each student to take ownership of their learning, promote a growth mindset, and improve academic achievement. By measuring our growth, we hope to encourage our students to have a long-term vision of what they want to achieve, and the short-term motivation to help keep them inspired to take action.

This image highlights the students who have demonstrated their growth, and are proudly displaying their goal sheets.





# Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • [www.rosedrive.pylusd.org](http://www.rosedrive.pylusd.org)



**Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi**  
Principal

## Makerspace/STEM Club

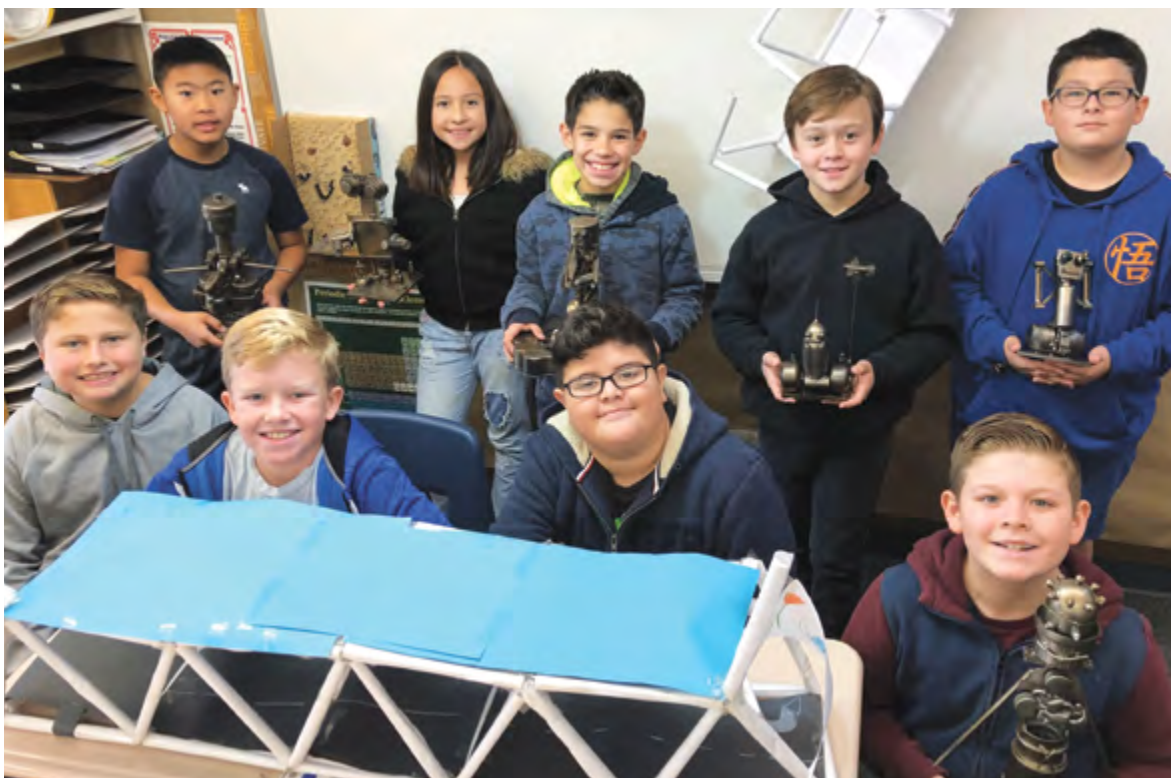
Our mission at Rose Drive is to meet the needs of all our students both intellectually and socially while instilling a thirst for life long learning.

Currently, at Rose Drive we have a Makerspace/STEM club where upper grade students are exposed to the makerspace design thinking process and practice hands on teaching and learning that is focused on student centered inquiry.

Our 5th grade teacher, Mr. Fredstrom, leads our Makerspace club after school and students this year have had the opportunity to create an uncycled robot, a rocket, a paper bridge, podcast recordings, and more. In addition, students were also able to interview a civil engineer and learn real world applications in constructing bridges.

Our Makerspace lab is a great place where young students have an opportunity to explore their own interests, learn to use tools and materials, both physical and virtual and develop creative projects.

Roadrunners are makers, dreamers and thinkers, and we learn by doing!



# Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • [www.rub-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.rub-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Diana McKibben**  
Principal

## A Student Showcase

Ruby Drive is being recognized as an AVID Showcase Elementary School! After successful completion of an evaluation process last spring, our school received the special Showcase designation, which is given to only a handful of elementary schools in Southern California.

AVID Showcase schools may host an event for other teachers and administrators to observe how the school has implemented AVID, and to share best practices. Ruby Drive will host its first Showcase in February. Several students will be student ambassadors and guide the guests.



In the classrooms, additional student ambassadors will highlight the successful AVID strategies and practices used in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading.

Using AVID's WICOR strategies, our Ruby Drive teachers actively teach academic behaviors and higher-level thinking in their daily lessons. Students and parents have embraced and supported these strategies in the classrooms and at home. Consequently, greater student organization and scholarly thinking are in evidence in all classrooms.

# Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • [www.sierravistapta.com](http://www.sierravistapta.com)



**Jacque Bluemel**  
Principal

## Big Buddies!

Sierra Vista students and staff members pride themselves on living out our kindness initiatives #choosekindness and #proudtobeaneagle every day at school.

The Big/Little Buddies at Sierra Vista are one avenue in which this takes place. Our primary classes are paired with an upper-grade classroom to work together at least once a month. The program coordinator, Amanda Guy, creates a monthly idea document that teachers can refer to when planning Big/Little Buddy class time.



The upper-grade Big Buddies model scholarly behavior and show kindness when working with their Little Buddies on reading a book, using the Chromebook to create a Flipgrid based on content learned in social studies, or working together during the PK blocks. We are so proud of all of our students when they, "SOAR Like an Eagle!"



# Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • [www.topazschool.org](http://www.topazschool.org)



**Christa Borgese**  
*Principal*

## Winning Behavior

The Topaz Elementary School Tigers are excited to share the progress of their Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. Students earn cards inside the classroom and out on the playground for being Respectful, Organized, Achieving, Responsible, and Safe (ROARS).

Each week, students may trade these cards for a small weekly raffle or save them for bigger incentives, such as playground equipment for the classroom, an invitation to a monthly theme party, or game time with the principal, among many other choices. The school also uses many community donations, including toys, gift cards, and school supplies, for special raffles, which students can enter by trading in their ROARS cards.

Additionally, the school was fortunate to receive a large donation of scooters from our physical education teacher, Scott Sundstrom, and his friends.

Upper-grade students who would like to a chance to win a scooter can write essays describing how they have shown ROARS on campus.



# Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • [www.travisranchschool.org](http://www.travisranchschool.org)



**Susan Metcalf**  
*Principal*

## A Group Effort

Travis Ranch has a long-standing tradition of producing an annual school play. Made possible by the support of our PTA, past shows include Annie, The Lion King, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and the Beast, and Peter Pan.

Participation in the production each year is offered free of charge to all interested students.

A local professional theater company is brought in to run the auditions, rehearsals, and more, which provides our students with a first-class theater experience! Ticket sales and fundraisers such as concession stands also financially support this effort.

In November, almost 200 students in PK through the eighth grade performed in The Wizard of Oz. To prepare for their parts, students took part in more than 56 hours of after-school rehearsals, in addition to eight hours of tech rehearsals the week of the performance. Two casts performed in a total of four performances at the El Dorado Performing Arts Center.

This amazing production was a family affair, with 136 parents volunteering close to 1,000 hours to help supervise rehearsals and performances, make sets, and sew costumes!





# Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • [www.tuffree.org](http://www.tuffree.org)



**Cindy Freeman**  
Principal

## ASB Leadership is Flourishing

Although Tuffree's ASB Leadership Program has been in place for many years, it has really been flourishing recently!

Our ASB students are required to attend several leadership conferences and workshops throughout the school year. We entrust our 30 ASB student leaders with meaningful responsibilities, allow for their creative ideas, insist that they do community service, and hold them to high standards of character and academic excellence.

It is impressive to observe the many ASB-sponsored lunch activities, dress-up days, pep rallies, and dances that are so enthusiastically embraced by the entire student body. As a result, our school atmosphere has been consistently charged with positive energy!

Our school's website, Facebook, and the ASB's Instagram page are filled with pictures of all the fun happenings. Additionally, the ASB supports many new clubs on campus, such as the Drama Club, the Games Unlimited Club, Spero Club, and a dance team.

Through the leadership of Tuffree Activities Director Karen Sieper, there is something for every student here at school. Active student engagement in extracurricular activities is the key to helping each and every student feel that school is relevant, responsive, and a place to belong. Developing student leadership is the best investment that a school can make in the lives of its students.



# Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • [www.johnotynes.org](http://www.johnotynes.org)



**Dr. Debra E. Silverman**  
Principal

## Annual Spelling Bee... Setting the Pace for the Future

Each January, Tynes holds its annual Spelling Bee. Students in grades 4,5, and 6 are eligible to participate and take several rounds of qualifying assessments. Finalists are chosen and each grade level has a specific time to compete. We have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each of the three grade levels. Winners in the 6th grade portion can advance on to the county level. All of the students who participate are encouraged to continue on to the district spelling bee as well.

We congratulate the following students who placed in our Tynes Spelling Bee; Fourth Grade: Jonah Valtairo (1st), Rachel Ingle (2nd), and Joshua Manimbo (3rd), Fifth Grade: Dylan Nguyen (1st), Julianne Ramos (2nd), and Wendy Trindade (3rd), and Sixth Grade: Benji Tovar (1st), Sienna Gomez (2nd), and Ethan Mertz (3rd).

Tynes is very proud of all of YOU!



# Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • [www.valadezacademy.org](http://www.valadezacademy.org)



**Refugio Gracian**  
Principal

## Respectful, Responsible and Kind

Valadez Middle School Academy recently began "branding" our campus with P.B.I.S. inspired pillar and wall decals highlighting our schoolwide cultural expectations of being Respectful, Responsible and Kind.

The Valadez Middle School Academy The P.B.I.S committee, which is composed of teacher leaders and administration, is working diligently and purposefully on a daily basis to emphasize the importance of our school wide expected behaviors in an effort to encourage citizenship, positive relationships, character building and school pride.

Additional upcoming P.B.I.S. branding will include:

- A shade structure featuring our P.B.I.S. school wide behavior expectations
- Benches
- Banners highlighting our P.B.I.S. school wide behavior expectations





# Valencia *High School (9-12)*

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • [www.vhstigers.org](http://www.vhstigers.org)



**Olivia Yaung**  
Principal

## University Acceptance Begins

As principal of Valencia High School, I am proud to share the exciting news many of our seniors have received in recent days as universities are announcing Early Decision Admission results.

Zakary Lawal- Brown; Sydney Shafer- West Point, Marquette University; Connie Chang-Chien- Johns Hopkins; Alexander Duong- Virginia Commonwealth, Temple, Pittsburgh, Toledo, University of Alabama; Haley Mustafa- Baylor, Arizona State University; Allyson Batoon- Menlo College; Keilani Sparks- Chapman University with \$20,000 scholarship; Amanda Fortner- Arcadia University; Nicole Fortner- Arcadia University, Northern Arizona University; Stephen Sweet-Ohio State, University of Pittsburgh; Tim Park- San

Diego State University, Whittier College; Kara Brushwyler- Montana State, Grand Canyon University, Azusa Pacific, Point Loma; James Holmgren- Cal State Sonoma, Humboldt State; Chris Leung- Baylor, Point Loma, Whittier College; Amaya Quintero- Northern Arizona University; Ricky Castillo- University of Florida; Jordan Wood- University of Montana, Chloe Chavez- Baylor; Jacqueline Pierce- Rockhurst University, Marquette University; Makenna Thomsen- Colorado State; Roan Makwana- Colorado State; Adeline Woltkamp- Chapman University; Khushi Patel- Chapman University; Aryam Banaji- University of Denver; Taylor Brown- DePaul University.

Many of these students have also been recognized by the National Merit Recognition Program or National Hispanic Recognition Program and are enrolled in our prestigious Valencia Academy or AVID National Demonstration Program.

# Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • [www.vanburenelementary.org](http://www.vanburenelementary.org)



**Connie Roe**  
Principal

## Leading the Way

The Van Buren Elementary Student Council is supporting our local Placentia community with a very special canned food drive.

In the two weeks leading up to the “Big Game,” our student council members led the way with their very own “Soup’r Bowl.” Students from Preppy K to the sixth grade were encouraged to donate canned goods and place them into the box of the team they predicted would win the big game: either the Los Angeles Rams or the New England Patriots.



The winner of Van Buren's Soup'r Bowl was announced in February. All of the canned goods collected during the two-week period were donated to H.I.S. House of Placentia, a transitional living center for the homeless. Thank you to our dedicated student council members, and teachers Jennifer Adams and Cassie Raichel, for spearheading this lively contest and charitable giving opportunity for our school and community.

# Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178



**Kelli McFedries**  
Coordinator,  
Special Education

## Associate Student Government

Our goal at Venture Academy is to create a community where everyone has an opportunity to be connected to our program. In that spirit, during the 2018–2019 school year, Venture Academy started Associated Student Government (ASG).

ASG is a student-led organization that develops student leaders and supports the development of the campus culture. These leaders represent the student population by advocating for new and innovative pathways to improve student success and by enhancing the overall environment for students.

At Venture Academy, we believe that ASG will build a more positive school climate and a more connected student body. In addition, ASG allows students to build their leadership skills while learning more about themselves and how to work with a team. ASG gives students practical leadership experience in a safe environment.



Venture Academy's ASG is currently working on is the creation of a student union on campus. We are proud of our student leaders!



## Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • [www.wagnerwildcats.org](http://www.wagnerwildcats.org)



**Janice Weber**  
Principal

### Wildcats at Your Service!

At Wagner, W.A.Y.S. stands for “Wildcats at Your Service!” This sixth grade leadership body was formed last year by Ms. Stacy Hoffman and continues to grow under the guidance of Mrs. Peggy Mendez. W.A.Y.S. students assist the school, staff, students, and community with a variety of projects.

To name a few, W.A.Y.S. led the Pennies for Patients drive to raise over \$1000 for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society! W.A.Y.S. also assists during the week of “The Great Kindness Challenge” by reading quotes of the day, facilitating the creation of kindness trading cards, and helping younger peers play games during One-Lunch Wednesdays.

W.A.Y.S. students are learning the value of civic and personal responsibility. The future leaders of tomorrow are Wildcats, full of character, and at your service!



## Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • [www.ylms.org](http://www.ylms.org)



**Greg Kemp**  
Principal

### From Idea to Knowledge to Creative Expression

Teacher Jodi Bonk challenged her sixth- and seventh-grade language arts students to create art and literature while researching topics of interest.

It all started with the word “music.” Students worked independently or in groups to decide what intrigued them—what they wanted to know more about. This became the essential question, which drove their research. Throughout the process, students were given opportunities to change the direction of their research based on new ideas and interests.

To add to the cognitive demand, students were expected to incorporate another idea, such as power, conflict, change, patterns, or relationships, into the essential question. These questions were ultimately answered through careful analysis and strategic organization to create an expert level of understanding, which they demonstrated in their collaborative Google documents.

To demonstrate their learning, students created art using technology. (This idea came from them!). Students had the freedom to explore and try new techniques, applications, and mediums. Our hub of creativity was grounded by a project management process to ensure that the students accomplished what they set out to do. Our classroom soon became a museum, where students showed off their work and spent time learning and enjoying the creativity of their peers.

Because we are a class that values feedback, students finished by offering thoughtful suggestions for improvement and congratulating those whose projects deserved compliments.

This whole experience was driven by the students in the ultimate pursuit of creating self-starters and self-managers.

## Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

7575 E. Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • [www.woodsboro.pylusd.org](http://www.woodsboro.pylusd.org)



**Dr. George Lopez**  
Principal

### Spring Semester

Woodsboro sixth graders recently headed to the mountains right after the holiday break and participated in a four-day science camp. The weather was perfect, with snow on the ground.

While at the Big Bear camp, our scholars learned a great deal about our environment. For example, they tested water for such things as pH levels and bacteria. They studied tree life, the habitat, and the stars while taking many daily and night-time hikes.



One of the campers, Mason Surratt, said that his favorite part was hiking at night and looking at the beautiful stars in such a clear sky. “I also was amazed to learn that some pine cones weigh as much as 20 pounds,” he said.

Looking forward, our Woodsboro students will soon start preparing for their school play *Seussical the Musical*, which will be held in May at the Curtis Theatre in Brea.

## Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • [www.ylhs.org](http://www.ylhs.org)



**Dave Flynn**  
Principal

### Go, Mustangs!

The Mustangs have finished their first semester of the 2018-2019 school year. We are looking forward to springtime activities with sports, dances, and theater/music performances.

One of our highlights this spring will be the March visitation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges group of professional educators. Its eight members will be on our campus for four days visiting classes and talking with staff, students, and parents. They will also be reviewing our academics and co-curricular programs.

The Yorba Linda staff has prepared an extensive report focusing on academic performance for all students, and has developed action plans to address student mental health and wellness. The report is a reflection of the past six years and a strong focus for our staff, students, and community for the next six.

As always, please follow us on [ylhs.org](http://ylhs.org) for all of the latest YLHS information/programs, along with our 2019-25 WASC Report.



# UCI Health

## Smarter *healthcare* now closer to *home*

Introducing our new  
state-of-the-art medical  
facility in Yorba Linda,  
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Powered by breakthrough research and advanced treatments from the University of California, Irvine, our team of compassionate, top-tier doctors and health professionals offers you superior care in:



- Breast Health
- Cardiology
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- Imaging
- Integrative Health
- Neurology
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- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Urology

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visit [ucihealth.org/yorbalinda](http://ucihealth.org/yorbalinda)  
or call 714-790-8600



### Our Locations

-  UCI Health — Yorba Linda Multispecialty  
(Opening February 2019)  
18637 Yorba Linda Blvd.
-  UCI Health — Yorba Linda Primary Care  
19871 Yorba Linda Blvd.

