

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Placentia - Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 10

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

NOVEMBER 2011–JANUARY 2012

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Dennis Smith

In my 12 years as Superintendent of this award-winning school district, I can recall countless great starts to the school year, but perhaps this year is simply the best.

Academically, our students continue to excel! This year, the district's Academic Performance

Index increased to 859—making it the seventh consecutive year of academic growth for our high performing school district. Way to go!

In academic competitions, PYLUSD students are the ones to watch. This past year, our school district was the only Orange County school district with three high schools finishing in the top ten of the Academic Decathlon. The Orange County Mock Trial Championship Team was our own El Dorado High School, and at the elementary level, Golden students brought home more than 70 medals in the academic decathlon for elementary schools. Congratulations!

Programs in our school district continue to gain in reputation and, more importantly, challenge students to achieve their highest potential. At the elementary level, a new Preparatory Kindergarten program opened this year with much fanfare. Middle schools are now enjoying exploratory technology labs where they can road test their interests in various technology-related career fields. At the high school level, career/technical education programs range from the digital media arts at El Dorado, medical sciences at Esperanza, and technology at Valencia. Yorba Linda is exploring a culinary arts program. Keep up the good work!

School facilities are now second-to-none. In fact, our school district was featured in a positive television news segment highlighting the community's \$600 million investment in our schools, including the interactive technology that is now in place in every classroom—a feature that is unique for any school district. I invite you to view the video on the school district's communications page at <http://www.pylusd.org/communications>. Thank you, community!

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD is also very supportive of the arts, attracting national attention with two recent appearances in the Tournament of Roses Parade and being recognized as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" in America. Bravo!

These are just a few of the many reasons why this is a great time to be part of the award-winning Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District!

District Launches Attendance Campaign



Students miss on important instruction when they are absent from school.

By Rosemary Gladden, Director of Community Relations/Public Information Officer

What could a school district do with an additional \$1 million?

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is eager to find out as it embarks this year on an "Every Day Counts" attendance campaign.

"During these financially difficult times, we are often asked by parents, 'How can I help,'" said Superintendent Dennis Smith. "Here is one way that doesn't cost any money and benefits students."

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is asking the community to join in a campaign which centers on the simple act of having children attend school.

Why? The State of California funds school districts based on student attendance, not on the number of students enrolled in the school district. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) determines the revenue that a school district receives.

Currently, ADA in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District averages 95 to 96 percent. Every one percent increase would bring in an additional \$1 million from the State of California.

In addition, the school district receives a full day's revenue even if a student is present only a

portion of the day. A school does not receive funding for any full-day's absence—excused or unexcused.

"Of course, we would want students in attendance all day, but we also understand that, on occasion, families need to take their children to doctor's appointments or family trips," Smith said. "It would be helpful if, when possible, families schedule these events outside of the school day or if the student could attend class for a portion of the day."

He also emphasized that if students are sick they should remain at home.

Families can help in two ways:

- Make sure that children are in school.
- Bring children to school before a family trip or doctor's appointment.

Attendance impacts more than school funding. "Students miss essential instruction. That's really the heart of the matter—it's about helping students," Smith said. "In the end, this campaign is not about generating revenue but about generating revenue that can provide more services for students."

Schools are in the process of developing student incentives and school-by-school attendance programs. Become informed about ADA by visiting the district's website at www.pylusd.org.

VISTA DEL VERDE
YORBA LINDA GOLF COMMUNITY

HAPPINESS
— is —
giving kids a great place to grow up.



Considering Irvine? Consider Yorba Linda.

Vista Del Verde's Lakeview Elementary 2011 API[†] score was **928**, compared to a score of **918** at Woodbury Elementary in Irvine.

†Academic Performance Index (source: 2011 Growth Academic Performance Index Report, Orange County—api.cde.ca.gov)

Your kids deserve the best, and you'll find it at Vista del Verde in Yorba Linda. In addition to spacious homes, there are parks, trails, open space and the championship Black Gold golf course, as well as some of California's most distinguished schools. Yet even with all this, there are no HOA or Mello Roos fees*. So visit our models or website today and make yourself, and your family, happy.

The Preserve

By Toll Brothers
Luxury Single-Family Homes
From the upper \$600,000s
(714) 695-9940

Heritage

By Toll Brothers
Luxury Townhomes
From the low \$700,000s
(714) 777-6622


Greenbrier

View Home Sites Now Selling
By MBK Homes
Luxury Single-Family Homes
From the low \$900,000s**
(714) 223-7625

VistaDelVerde.com

Toll Brothers
America's Luxury Home Builder®

AERA *Black Gold*

 This is not an offering where prohibited by law. Prices subject to change. Vista Del Verde is being developed jointly by Aera Energy & Toll Brothers. *Vista Del Verde master plan is not governed by an HOA. Heritage at Vista Del Verde may be subject to a community-specific HOA. **Builder incentive has been used to lower the purchase price and is based on buyer closing with MBK Homes preferred lender. Please see a sales consultant for more information.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
PLACENTIA - YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Recipient of the
2008 ACSA
Region XVII Award
for Outstanding
Media Coverage
of Public Education

FOUNDER/CEO/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • fax 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The school district does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



The superintendent's message is such a positive report on the academic performance of the students to begin the school year. To learn, the first step is to show up and the district attendance campaign addresses that issue. Every school article in this issue just makes you want to read more. How fun it must be to go to work everyday knowing you make a difference and for the students to want to attend. Common threads are woven throughout the articles including goals, community, teamwork—success!

Our next issue is February 16.
Happy Thanksgiving!



Get the financial advantage you deserve.

PRODUCTS DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

- Paycheck Assistance Loan
- 3.00% APY¹ Summer Saver Account
- School Employee Mortgage Program
- Auto Loan Program
- Free Checking with a day early Direct Deposit²

ACCESS/CONVENIENCE

- 35 branch locations in Southern California
- 28,000 fee-free ATMs across the U.S.
- Online, Mobile and Text Banking

PERSONALIZED SERVICE

- Each Member is unique - and so is our approach to them
- 77 years of focusing on school employees provides you with expertise you can trust

"I joined because I knew the credit union was the place to build my financial future."

Sarah H.

School Resource Specialist
MEMBER SINCE 2002

Let us help you today!

VISIT
your nearby SchoolsFirst FCU branch

LOG IN
schoolsfirstfcu.org

CALL
800.462.8328

SCHOOLSFIRST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Variable rate, subject to change after account opening. Deposits by payroll direct deposit only, minimum \$50/maximum \$2,000 per month. Participation in School Employee Membership Package required which includes Access Checking; \$300 Overdraft Protection Line of Credit with no credit qualifying; Debit MasterCard®; Online Banking; Online Bill Payment; first box of logo checks free (optional). Direct deposit of at least \$250/month, electronic statements and electronic account notices required. Access Checking monthly fee of \$3 waived with \$250/month direct deposit, or \$500 daily minimum combined share balance, or age 62+; unlimited transactions at SchoolsFirst FCU and CO-OP Network ATMs; six free out-of-network transactions per month, \$1 each after six. 2. Limited to participating districts.

Employees of eligible schools and immediate family members of current Members may join. Eligibility subject to verification. \$5 deposit required to open and maintain Membership. \$15 Membership fee may apply. Some products subject to ChexSystem review.



Federally Insured by NCUA

If you have lice, don't panic...



Safe, Effective Lice Removal Service

Private and discreet~ we come to you!

Serving Orange County and the Los Angeles South Bay Areas

1.800.372.0373 • info@pixielocks.com

www.pixielocks.com

UCLA Extension

explore. experience. expand.

Prepare for a Career in Early Childhood Education!

Earn credit transferable to a bachelor's degree at UC and CSU campuses. Courses lead to 2 certificates of completion and meet the requirements for Title 22 & California Child Development Permits for teachers and administrators of young children ages 0-5.

Take advantage of what UCLA Extension has to offer:

- Quality curriculum
- Knowledgeable instructors
- Innovative elective courses
- Small class size
- Convenient scheduling
- Quick and easy enrollment

For more information visit us online at uclaextension.edu/teachers or call (310) 825-2960.

KIDS' COLLEGE & TEEN PROGRAM

Visit www.sce.edu/kids for class schedule details or call 714-808-4909

Classes held in Anaheim, Cypress & Fullerton

Winter: Registration begins December 1, 2011; Classes start January 28, 2012

Leap Into Winter

Strengthen Skills. Challenge Creativity. Have a Ball!

Explore over 200 classes...

- Make your own VIDEO GAME
- Sharpen ALGEBRA concepts
- Fun with Phonics-READY, SET, READ
- Boost confidence in MARTIAL ARTS
- Improve READING & WRITING
- Say "Hola!"-Speak SPANISH
- Transform PHOTOS magically
- Create YUMMY SNACKS
- Explore SALT VOLCANOS
- Throw a BASEBALL
- Write from A to Z
- Present a SPEECH
- Tumble through TUNNELS
- Groove to the HIP HOP beat
- Paint MASTERPIECES
- Refine READING COMPREHENSION

www.sce.edu/kids

Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Cameron Malotte
Principal

New Electronic Marquee

The students and staff at Bernardo Yorba Middle School are enjoying their new electronic marquee. The marquee is updated regularly to display important announcements and promote various activities. The ASB (Associated Student Body) had been saving for several years wishing to purchase the marquee with the vast majority of the funds coming from our PTA. Our ASB advisor, Mr. Kish, coordinated the effort of purchasing and installing the marquee with the help of our district staff and outside contractors.



He is also in charge of keeping the message board up to date. When asked about the new marquee, Mr. Kish said, "It is a great way to publicize events and activities to the entire Bernardo Yorba community!" Thank you to Mr. Kish and our PTA for all they did to make this wish a reality.

Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Debra Silverman
Principal

Fire Safety

During the first week of October, students at Bryant Ranch School learned a lot about fire safety, including how to prevent fires. A former student of Bryant Ranch, eighth-grader Shannon Marquiss, arranged for the Orange County Fire Authority to come and speak to the students during their library time about a variety of topics, including: building evacuation; cooking and candle fires; fire and smoke alarms; safety in the canyons; home escape plans; and wildfires. This has become an especially important topic for our community since the wildfires of 2008, when several of our families lost their homes.

The week culminated with Fire Prevention Night, including a visit from the fire truck, an appearance by Sparky the Fire Dog, an additional presentation from the Fire Authority, and dinner. It was an eventful and informational evening for all.

Bryant Ranch students are taking an interest in learning all about the community and how to keep it safe.



Brookhaven *Elementary*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Chuck Hunter
Principal

Support for Our Students

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Brookhaven Elementary School, home of the Bears! We are off to a fantastic year with an excellent educational program and lots of enjoyable activities that support student learning. Our school has an enrollment of 519 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. All students are provided with a comprehensive curriculum, which includes reading, language arts, mathematics, history/social science, science, visual and performing arts, physical education and health. A computer lab provides weekly instruction to all students in word processing, Excel, multi-media, Internet usage, PowerPoint and keyboarding. Students in grades five and six also have an opportunity to participate in our instrumental music program. Students reading at or above grade level receive extended activities, and students reading below grade level receive extra instruction to get them on grade level. We also provide a variety of programs and assistance to students who are having difficulties in their studies.

We have fantastic community support! Parent and community members support our students on a daily basis through volunteering in the classrooms, participating in activities sponsored by the PTA, and membership in the School Site Council. We have an active PTA, which sponsors our field trips, jog-a-thon, student programs, school Web site and other activities throughout the school year.

Brookhaven's staff exemplifies leadership. The staff meets weekly in grade-level teams to plan curriculum and review student needs. Cross-grade-level planning is consistently done to ensure students are ready for the next grade level. We have a strong CORE/Student Study Team, which ensures all students who are identified as needing additional academic support are monitored. The result of this hard work is high student success, as shown on our annual state Academic Performance Index, district assessments and annual writing results.

El Dorado *High School*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



Cary Johnson
Principal

The Missing Link

For some students, the missing link affecting academic achievement and personal growth is a feeling of connectedness. At El Dorado High School, the introduction of the Link Crew program is already filling this gap for students.

The weekend before Back-to-School Days, 130 juniors and seniors attended a two-day training to become Link Leaders to incoming freshmen. The activities director, Eron Campuzano, and teachers Cozette Pettitt and Donnie Bladow led the upper classmen in team building, evaluating their abilities to teach others and embrace school pride. "On the second day of training, the Link Leaders received their Link Crew T-shirts, and you could just sense the feeling of accomplishment," said Campuzano.

Hundreds of freshmen were greeted by a tunnel of peer leaders and an overwhelming sense of energy and warmth. Mr. Campuzano, with his unique talent for engaging students of all backgrounds, led the students in talking with one another, emphasizing the importance of connections and the value of involvement. "Every kid was smiling, excited, and curious about where this day would take them—the Link Crew coordinators, too," said Cozette Pettitt.

Student leaders led breakout sessions, stopping after each activity for the incoming freshmen to consider the potential connection to their experiences in high school.

Link leaders invited their buddies to the Aloha Dance, and all were able to attend one hour early. The vibe on the dance floor was positive, a great start to the year. That same spirit of camaraderie, connection, and Hawk Pride enveloped the crowd at the rival hometown game as the Hawks soared to victory.

El Camino Real *High School*

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • <http://www.elcaino.pylusd.org/>



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

Moving Into the 21st Century

El Camino's campus has temporarily moved up the hill while its facilities are being modernized. So far the move has been well-received by both our staff members and students. A majority of the students actually like the "new" campus better, and their behavior has been reflective of the positive changes.

Most of our teachers are excited about the up-to-date facility, too, which is complete with Promethean boards. This enables more integration of technology with instruction. There is also an impressive Mac lab in ROP.

Additionally, our school is excited about several upcoming field trips. Thirty students will be attending Fullerton College's stage production of

Pride and Prejudice in October. Then, 40 science students will travel to the San Diego Safari Park on November 16 to bring the concepts they study in the classroom to life. They will see first hand the important work that is being done to help protect our endangered species.

El Camino is excited about the new school year, and is moving into the 21st century.



Modernization is underway at the El Camino campus this year. Construction is scheduled to be completed next summer when students and staff will move into their new campus.

Esperanza *High School*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

A Successful Start

Esperanza High School has started the school year off in great form, with an increase in our Academic Performance Index (API) score to 853 and an Advanced Placement (AP) test pass rate of 85 percent. We are going into the 2011-2012 school year with a new look and a positive attitude for what this year brings. In early October, we started our Aztec University meetings for students and parents who are interested in attending college after high school. Counselors and guest speakers cover topics from financial aid, community college, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and college admissions. Please check the Esperanza Web site at www.esperanzahs.com under the PTSA tab to see the full list of dates and times of these meetings.

Also in October, Esperanza enjoyed the Viva Las Vegas homecoming football game and dance. We are grateful to the alumni and community members who came out to support the Aztecs.

Our Performing Arts Department is now settled in their new modernized classrooms and is ready for some performances. Our band will be performing at the District Band Festival on the evening of November 2 at Bradford Stadium. From November 15-18, our Drama Department is performing the play "Big Love" by Charles Mee. We have some very talented performers who would love to perform for a full house.

The school year is off to a great start, and we look for to a fun semester and a successful year. Go, Aztecs!



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

JOIN THE FUN!

Youth & Family Programs

Zumbatomic®

Zumba® for Kids (Ages 8-12yrs)

Soccer, T-ball, Basketball & More!

Children learn the FUNDAMENTALS of the game while having FUN and making new FRIENDS (Ages 2.5-6yrs)

Adventure Guides






ACCESS TO ADVENTURE PASS

Try Adventure Guides Parent Child Program

Pass good for family (parent and child/children) to attend 1 Adventure Guide event (must pay event fee) before joining the program. Notify YMCA Program Director 2 weeks in advance of the event. Parents must accompany child. Event fees must be paid. 1 Pass per family/ per program year. Restrictions Apply. Offer expires 6/30/12

PC013 Foundations

ymcaoc.org

Parent's Name _____

Expedition Name _____

Authorized by _____

Adult Fitness & Sports

Stay ACTIVE and CONNECTED

Try us out for FREE!

Zumba®, TRX®, Cardio Kick & More!

Adult Soccer Leagues - Join one or form your own with friends!



Try us out for Free!

1 WEEK

Guest Pass*

Share the Health... Bring a Friend.

Guest _____ (First-time guests only)

Valid from _____ to _____

Authorized by _____

ymcaoc.org

* Not to be combined with any offer. Please see membership desk for usage terms.



YORBA LINDA/PLACENTIA FAMILY YMCA

18333 Lemon Drive • Yorba Linda, CA • 92886
(714) 777-9622 • **ymcaoc.org**

Fairmont *Elementary*

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Shawn Knutson
Principal

Together in Excellence

As we begin the 2011-2012 school year we are once again proud to offer a rigorous academic program as a National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished School.

This year again, Fairmont's Academic Performance Index (API) results are excellent! Our school wide API is 940, a 7 point increase from last year. Fairmont's motto "Together in Excellence" emphasizes the importance of teamwork, which is the foundation of our ability to excel. The spirit of teamwork encompasses our school community and strengthens our pursuit of higher levels of academic achievement. Our excellent STAR test scores is a credit to our outstanding teaching staff and also a tribute to our parents who are so dedicated to their child's/children's education. This strong partnership between school and home is the foundation of our students' success.

We are looking forward to another successful year at Fairmont as we celebrate our 40th birthday. Go Falcons!



Fairmont, staff, students and parents remember our heroes of 9-11.

George Key School

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.pylusd.org/schools/georgekey



Deby Six
Principal

New Technology

Staff, students and parents alike are thrilled about our school's new surroundings this fall. From the renovated heating and air conditioning system, to the updated classroom and Life Skills Class furnishings, to the new paint, carpet, and, most especially, the Promethean Boards in each classroom, our 2011—2012 school year is off to an exciting new start!

You can hear a constant buzz in the air as our teachers implement "flipcharts" with their Promethean Boards. Our students can now participate in functional educational activities such as the calendar, weather, circle time, reading comprehension, math, identifying visual schedules and more, all by using their "wands" to interact and respond. The increased attentiveness and participation from our students is fantastic!

This technology buzz was also evident at our recent Back-To-School Night, where the attendance was the largest ever! Families enjoyed the individual classroom Promethean Board presentations and showered the school with support. In particular, they made a gift of iPads for each of our classroom teachers!

George Key is overwhelmed. We are so very appreciative of such thoughtful parent and community generosity towards our students!

Glenknoll *Elementary*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

Up To The Peak!

Glenknoll continues to grow academically and through community involvement! Glenknoll students scored extremely well on their most recent California Standards Tests, receiving an Academic Performance Indicator (API) rating of 930 points, a 26-point gain in one year! Students met schoolwide goals in writing, mathematics and language arts.

The school theme for the year is "Reach the Peak!" and the PTA is sponsoring a variety of activities to promote learning and school pride. Special programs include the Jog-a-thon, Reading



Students show off their new library books.
(Back) Eleni Katsivalis and Bryce Kawell
(Front) Gabriel Flores, Hazel Hagen

Challenge and our first Fall Family Night this year, "It's the Great Pumpkin, Glenknoll Cougars!" On Nov. 10, students will be challenged to "BEE Fit!" in our major fund-raiser, the Jog-a-thon. Students are trying to beat last year's Reading Challenge record of 1,000,000 logged minutes; to help them find fun and interesting things to read, our PTA helped us purchase over 200 new books this fall.

As always, Glenknoll has a variety of volunteer opportunities for parents, guardians and community members. See our web page at for more details.

Glenview *Elementary*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Moises Plascencia
Principal

Hard at Work

I am excited to welcome all of you to Glenview Elementary School for another great year. Every day, I have the privilege of witnessing what makes Glenview a great school that achieves high academic performance.

Last year, students continued demonstrating academic growth and success. California uses the Academic Performance Index (API) to measure academic performance and growth of schools on a variety of academic measures. Glenview's API score grew by 10 points, from 833 to 843!

On any given day, the Glenview community is hard at work. We have an active PTA that provided earthquake kits for the children in preparation for the Great California Shake Out in October. PTA sponsored Red Ribbon Week at the end of October. Parent volunteers are always present at school ready to help.

Our teachers and staff are always looking for ways to push students to higher academic levels while making the lessons fun and interesting. It is a joy to see students eager to write after an engaging lesson. Recently, Mrs. Wisnia asked students to create their own carbonated lemonade using water, sugar, lemon juice, and baking soda. They learned about scientific solutions and mixtures and much more. In every classroom, we have dedicated teachers and students actively engaged in learning.

You are always invited to visit or volunteer. Please visit our Web site at glenviewbulldogs.org for further information about our school and the many opportunities for volunteering. You can also contact your student's teacher.

Again, welcome back for another great year at Glenview Elementary School.

Golden *Elementary*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Kathy Chakan
Principal

Everyday Heroes Soar

The 2011–2012 school year is off to a fantastic start. We began the year celebrating the successes of last spring. Our entire community celebrated the fact that the students at Golden Elementary School did another superb job on the Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing last spring. Our students soared to new academic heights, with an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 949! We are extremely proud of the students' hard work under the guidance of a dynamic instructional team!

A second celebration took place on September 13 at the School Board meeting, when Golden's Pentathlon teams were recognized for their excellent performance at the Orange County Pentathlon competition by Dr. Smith, our superintendent, and the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District School Board. Our sixth-graders earned over 80 medals in the competition, including a number of first and second places. Way to go!

The fall is full of special events as we celebrate learning and school-wide activities. During the month of October our main fundraiser, Jog-A-Thon, celebrates the students' physical fitness as they jog around the track. Red Ribbon Week commemorates our commitment to living a drug-free life and includes a number of motivational events, such as the "Ned Show." The final celebration of the month is Halloween. The creativity of our families shines when the costumes are spotlighted during the school-wide parade.

The month of November will celebrate our students' spelling skills as the students compete within their classrooms and are recognized for their expertise. Top spellers in grades four through six will also participate in grade-level competitions following a format similar to county and national spelling bees. The top sixth-grade winners are being sponsored by the Golden PTA and will participate in the county competition after the first of the year. Be looking for information about this special event in coming newsletters. The school community eagerly looks forward to more celebrations of learning this year.

La Entrada *High School*

4175 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 www.laentrada.pylusd.org



Libby Moore
Principal

Google-Eyed with Glee!

We have been excited with the opening of the school year! We are fortunate that Sean Williams has joined our staff. Mr. Williams is a Google-certified teacher and Google apps trainer. He also teaches computers in education to prospective teachers and online graduate students at the University of Laverne and serves as a consultant and trainer for the Orange County Department of Education in CTAP, Google and online learning. He has been working with students this year to revamp our school website, adding new technologies to maximize communication with our parents and community members and to transition La Entrada High to a Google Apps for Education School.

Our students have reported that it is "awesome working with such a talented technology instructor." In our effort to provide educational options to all students, La Entrada High is expanding last year's online pilot program to offering every student the opportunity to take one or more online courses this year. As a result, students can choose a hybrid model of textbook-based courses and online courses or all textbook-based courses. Students will continue to meet one-on-one with their academic teacher on a weekly basis. Bimonthly direct-instruction classes in all core courses are again offered this year. To meet the UC/CSU entrance requirements, students taking science will be attending bimonthly labs.

Our students are busy working on the yearbook, planning their National Honor Society community service activities and planning extracurricular activities for the student body. It is proving to be a very outstanding year as we serve the needs of our students!

Kraemer *Middle School*

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Keith Carmona
Principal

New Library/Media Center

The start of the year at Kraemer was celebrated by the opening of a brand new library/media center. Built ground-up, the new media center is a state-of-the-art facility which brings the function of a library into the 21st century. In addition to housing Kraemer's extensive collection of books, the media center is equipped with 38 new computers and an LCD projector. There is room for multiple classes to come to the library to complete research projects. Additionally, comfortable reading areas and laptop-ready student study tables create an inviting atmosphere for Kraemer students to use at all times during the day.

Kraemer has also continued its outstanding academic growth. This past year, Kraemer's API grew 30 points to 881. This gain, which amounts to 91 points in two years, is the most growth of any middle school in PYLUSD! We are proud of what our students continue to accomplish.



Brea Optometry

*A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell
where his influence stops.*
~Henry Brooks Adams

Dr. John Larcabal, O.D.
Dr. Diane Almanza, O.D.
Dr. Lisa Matsui, O.D.

(714) 671-2020
400 West Lambert Road
Suite A
Brea, CA 92821



www.breaoptometry.com

Linda Vista *Elementary*

5600 S. Ohio, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavista.pylusd.org



Paula Kintsch
Principal

We're Not Even Halfway Yet!

It's rewarding to know how much our students have accomplished already during the first two months of school! The students enjoyed learning all about Johnny Appleseed, making homemade applesauce, dissecting squids, learning about the regions of California and testing the laws of gravity. These are just a few of the many exciting learning experiences taking place at Linda Vista.

Linda Vista's Academic Performance Index (API) results were exceptional, with a score of over 900 points yet again! The school-wide API was increased by 34 points from last year, making the 2011 API score of 943. Congratulations, Lions! This outstanding accomplishment is a credit to our excellent teaching staff, who work daily to ensure that all students learn at high levels of academic achievement. It is also a tribute to our parents, who are so dedicated to their children's education. A strong partnership between the school and home is the foundation for successful students.

Our PTA is an important Linda Vista partner in creating an outstanding school program. The PTA provides all of the Linda Vista students with wonderful opportunities such as Meet the Masters assemblies, Imagination Machine, Family Reading Nights, Book Fairs, International Fair, after-school programs and wonderful field trips that enhance the learning of the state standards at each grade level. We are extremely fortunate to have this group working together for our children.

The dedication and partnership of the staff, teachers, parents and students is what make Linda Vista an extraordinary school! Go Lions!

Mabel Paine *Elementary*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Racing to Make a Difference

Here at Mabel Paine our wonderful PTA along with individual families are busy planning and creating new ways to support the education of our students in these trying economic times. By implementing a new incentive program for the annual membership drive, our incredible PTA has already raised over \$7,400. In addition, one of our families, who prototypes and designs after market car accessories, has decorated a car with the Mabel Paine logo and school colors as a way of advertising for our upcoming Jog-a-thon.

On Oct. 15th, the car will be participating in an amateur Rally

Cross Race, and the family will raise money for the Jog-a-thon by offering rides on the race course in the specially decorated car for a donation. Thank you Mabel Paine families for truly making a difference. Let's start those engines!



Lakeview *Elementary*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Ready to Roar!

The Lakeview team has had an incredible start to the new school year. Our parents, teachers, students and staff members continue to collaborate as a team to best support our school community.

Lakeview teachers are working together to create a strong Professional Learning Community. Each Wednesday is early-release day, and it is here that our teachers meet and analyze how they can make good learning strategies great, and great ones even greater. Grade-level teachers work in unison to create lessons that are meaningful. They make an effort to utilize new interactive classroom technologies to help enhance student learning.

This year we are continuing to expand our student leadership opportunities. Thanks to the wonderful support of our fabulous teachers, and the PTA, we now have three leadership clubs for the fourth- and fifth-grade students. These are Lion Pride, the GLEE Club and our Peer Mentors.

Through these leadership groups our students will have an opportunity to get involved with school announcements, peer assistance, community support needs, enrichment, character trait building, social group behavior strategies, spirit days and anything else which can benefit our students.

We hope to eventually offer more leadership opportunities for our younger students. We want to build a sense of self-confidence and create a productive and successful learning environment for them. Our goal is to make every Lakeview child feel safe and respected every day.

Thank you to every member of the Lakeview School Community. You are our everyday heroes that make me feel so proud to serve as your principal.

Melrose *Elementary*

974 Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • www.melrose.pylusd.org



Vivian Cuesta
Principal

Building Community

Our Back-to-School Night was a great success! We had more than 90 percent of our parents attend this very important night. As educators, we spend a great deal of time in school teaching, working, and learning. Our classrooms become "second homes," not only to us but our students as well. Teachers took this opportunity to build relationships with parents that they would be working with throughout the year. Here are some of the ways we encouraged parents to become part of our community as our partners in education.

Get to know your child's teacher and school staff. Communicate regularly with your child's teacher. Attend all parent meetings, school activities and functions.

Join and support the PTA. Consider volunteering to help at the school.

Let your child know how important you think education is and set learning goals together. Know your child's homework requirements. Enhance your student's learning by getting to know the grade-level curriculum and providing learning opportunities. Read to your children every day and encourage him or her to read.

Support the school's dress and conduct rules and discipline policies. Most importantly, encourage daily and prompt attendance. Our attendance rate last year was 97.3 percent up half a percent from the previous year.

We are excited and look forward to a great new school year working together with our parents to achieve academic achievement for all. We hope our enthusiasm is contagious!

Morse *Elementary*

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morse.pylusd.org



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

On the Right Track

The start of a new school year always brings about an anticipation of new beginnings. And this September was no exception, as our Morse students and teachers began the year with their new schoolwide motto, “Morse Wildcats are responsible, respectful, prepared and kind.”

Last year we began laying the foundation for the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, or PBIS. This behavior intervention model promotes positive acts in our students. It is an all-encompassing system of behavior management, where each member of the school community is held accountable for supporting positive behavior on campus.

The goal of PBIS is to not only create a positive effect on student academic behavior, but on social behavior as well.

During the summer, a group of lead teachers worked to develop lesson plans for the specific classroom and outdoor settings. The teachers infused these lessons with Smartboard technology, and developed flipchart tools for the expected positive classroom and outdoor outcomes. So when our students returned to school in the fall these lessons were ready to be taught in their respective classrooms.

The students who are now “caught in the act” of exhibiting positive behaviors are rewarded with a “Caught in the Act” certificate, which is then entered in a monthly drawing. Students at all grade levels are eager to earn these certificates, and to see a copy of them displayed in the school’s MPR.

Morse students are on the right track to becoming responsible, respectful, prepared and kind members of the community.

Rio Vista *Elementary*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/630-7680 • http://www.riovistaschool.org



Jackie Howland
Principal

GOALS

Students at Rio Vista Elementary School have Growth Opportunities through Athletics, Learning and Service (GOALS). More than 100 students have signed up to participate in this after-school program, which is designed to help students through a combination of athletics, educational enrichment and community service.

The program offers a variety of athletics, such as ice hockey, tennis, roller hockey, and soccer. Students learn sportsmanship, skills and fitness while having fun. Students compete in state-of-the-art facilities including a sports arena, championship tennis courts, a fitness course, and an aerobic outdoor training area.

Once a week students receive academic enrichment classes designed to enhance their classroom learning. Students are expected to maintain good grades and behavior to experience in this outstanding non-profit program.

Students also learn the value of community service by participating in community clean ups, anti-graffiti programs and leadership training. Rio Vista is proud to partner with GOALS for student success.



Rio Vista students learn soccer fundamentals.

Parkview School *Independent Study*

K-12

2189 North Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 www.parkviewpylusd.org



Libby Moore
Principal

Celebrating 10 Years

Ten years ago, Parkview School opened its doors to a handful of students. This fall, staff welcomed back over two hundred K-12th-grade students. We have grown from operating out of a single room to a five classroom campus nestled between Tri-City Park and Tuffree Middle School.

“I love the freedom Parkview gives us,” parent Wendy Gentz said. “They offer classes that the kids love. They are ever-evolving and get better every year.”

This year, we are pleased to offer Pee-Wee Glee and Tone Chimes, which were made possible through a grant. We have also restructured our middle school academic day to include literary analysis, beginning composition, earth science, physical science and life science courses.



Teacher Darlene Jagger greets a new student at the annual Back to School Picnic

High school students can take advantage of on-campus classes, which include biology, chemistry, advanced composition, Spanish, leadership, art and upper-level math tutoring.

Congratulations to our Parkview family on 10 very successful years serving the community!

HU-LA-LA!

CUSTOM – 1 OF A KIND – CORE TRIMMER

HULA HOOPS



Great for abdominal workout,
trimming inches & core workout.
Or Just Plain Fun!

Great Entertainment for Birthday Parties of All Ages & Office Parties

Private or Group Lessons Available
Classes offered at Yorba Linda Community Center,
East Anaheim Community Center, Downtown Anaheim Community Center
and coming soon to the Orange Area!
Go to website for more information

714 803-5650
www.Hulala4you.com

Melodye Wintemute
Certified in Personal Training
and Group Fitness
Certified Hoopnotica Dance Instructor



Rose Drive *Elementary*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Liana Neuland
Principal

Reasons for Celebration

"Wild about Learning" continues to be the Rose Drive theme this year. We had a very successful opening to school. Rose Drive students, staff and parents have a lot to celebrate as we begin our new school year. Since 2008, our API score has increased by 61 points to an all-time high of 929. Last spring, we were one of just 22 schools in Orange County to receive a 10/10 API ranking for similar schools. Our enrollment is also growing, as it has increased by about 30 students.

One of the keys to our success is our level of teamwork. Our staff, parents and PTA community work closely to provide the best possible education for each of our students. Each year, our PTA supports our school by funding quality programs such as Mind Institute's ST Math; two programs from Renaissance Learning, MathFacts in a Flash and Accelerated Reader; grade-level field trips; and schoolwide assemblies such as Walk Through California, Walk Through the American Revolution, and Meet the Masters. We all are looking forward to our November Jog-a-Thon, which will help fund these programs and activities.

As we move through the year, we are asking parents to help us "Go Green," and we are posting all Principal Newsletters and other school and PTA information on our website for parents to view. We always have copies of current posting in our office for parents who request them.

Ruby Drive *Elementary*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.pylusd.org



Monica Barrera
Principal

Starting Off With a Smile

We are off to a great start at Ruby Drive Elementary! I am proud to report that our Academic Performance Index score (API) is 802, an increase of 44 points and our highest score ever!

Many exciting events have occurred at Ruby these first few weeks of school. Last year I promised all of the second- through sixth-grade students that I would kiss a pig if they met their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. And indeed, I kissed a pig on Friday, September 30!

Representatives from the Chivas USA team joined us in the celebration. The Chivas Fighter Mascot engaged students in many fun interactive activities. In addition, every Ruby student received a ticket to the next Chivas USA game.

Also, in honor of September 11th, our Ruby Drive PTA purchased commemorative T-shirts for the school. A ceremony was held and a schoolwide photo was taken to remember the tenth anniversary.

We also have a new program on campus called GRIP. It stands for Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership. This collaboration between the Orange County District Attorney's Office, local law enforcement and the Orange County Probation Department emphasizes self-esteem building and the making of good choices.

As a part of our GRIP collaboration a parent-greeter program is now in full swing. Each morning an average of three to five parents stand in front of the school to welcome students, parents and community members with a friendly "good morning" or a smile. We are excited about starting a productive new year.

Sierra Vista *Elementary*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.pylusd.org/schools/sierravista/index.asp



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Eagles—Soaring to Success!

See our colors blue and gold above, where the Eagles rule the sky. Sierra Vista is the school we love, and united we will all arise!

Our students succeeded in raising our spring 2011 API score by 28 points to an all-time high of 920! The teachers facilitated this growth by differentiating instruction, teaching lessons aligned to the state standards, and working together as grade-level teams and as a school.

"If you make math a game for them, they don't even know they are learning—they are just having fun!" said second-grade teacher Mrs. Keenan.

Children thrive in a balanced program. Our Student Council and Ecolutions Green Team started the year off with very successful activities such as the Constitution Day Flag Raising and a school beautification workday. This month, students will walk through the Revolution, the Ancient World and California during our favorite in-house field trips. Our schoolwide reading program, with a collective goal of reading 1,800,000 minutes by June, began in October, and sixth-graders are busy fund-raising for their Outdoor Science Camp.

Supporting Sierra Vista in every way is our outstanding PTA. Just take a quick look at our new website, www.sierravistapta.com, where you will find current information and answers for every question. We are the mighty Eagles!

Topaz *Elementary*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topaz.pylusd.org



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Old and New Friends

It is great to be back—to new classes, new friends, new families, and new opportunities for success. Topaz School has at its core the wonderful staff, teachers, students and families that have accomplished so much.

Many new families, students and even some new teachers have joined Topaz this year. The new teachers are impressed with the detail of focus and commitment to each individual student. New students, of course, love all of the activities available to them at noon recess, with roller ball tournaments, 50-yard dashes, hoops and more. New families comment on the quiet atmosphere, the excellence reflected in the awards on the wall, and the teachers who know so much about their children in such a short time.

Last week old and new enjoyed our visit by the Grucato family llamas to enhance our Read for the Record event. All classes read the book *Llama Llama Red Pajama* to help create a record with other readers from around the world. The opportunity to pet and observe real llamas made it truly a day to remember. An outstanding student from each class was selected by the teacher to feed one of the llamas a treat, and everyone was able to pet the very friendly llamas.

We are heading into another great year at Topaz.



Travis Ranch School

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Larry Mauzey
Principal

New Year, New Changes

First, we are excited to welcome a Preppy K program to our site. This program provides students born in late summer or fall the opportunity to participate in a developmentally appropriate two-year kindergarten program. There are currently 28 students enrolled in our program.

This year, we also are adding a math intervention class for students in first through eighth grades called ST Math. Developed by the Orange County MIND Institute and currently implemented in many schools district- and state-wide, ST Math is a Web-based program that uses engaging games to help students understand math concepts and master the essential building blocks for math success. We are offering two sections of this program in middle school and have targeted additional students in grades first through fifth grades who also may benefit from participation.

You may have noticed that we are under construction in our elementary blacktop area. We are in the process of building a permanent cafeteria for our elementary students. Once the ground breaking begins, we anticipate construction will last approximately six months.

Because you are a valued partner in your child's education, home-school communication is essential. The best way for you to stay up-to-date on campus happenings is by checking our school Web site, www.travisranchschool.org, looking at teacher Web sites (which are linked to our school site), and viewing our electronic marquees.

We truly look forward to working with the entire Travis Ranch community to create another fun, successful year for our students.

Tynes Elementary

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.tynes.pylusd.org



Cristina McCall
Principal

Commitment to Excellence

We've had a marvelous start to the new school year! Our "Commitment to Excellence" has fared fantastic results on the state's STAR testing. Over the past several years, our Academic Performance Index (API) hovered at 796. Relentless focus on standards-based instruction last year broke the barrier as our API soared to 833 (all time high), a 37 point increase from 2010! I am most proud of our students and teachers for this great accomplishment!

GATE Signature practices are in full swing at Tynes! Fourth grade students apply their creative talents in designing and

programming robots. Fifth grade students learn essential budgeting skills as they calculate amounts of material needed to build bridges. Sixth grade students with cameras in hand, search for the perfect shot that tells their Digital Story.

We're excited to share all of the wonderful happenings at Tynes, and look forward to the remainder of the school year!



Fourth graders Arthur Jones and Sukhjinder Atwal
prepare their materials to program their robot.

Tuffree Middle School

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

Exciting New Electives!

As a 2011 California Distinguished School, we continue our focus on academic achievement. Our staff's passion for enriching student learning gave us two new elective programs that exercise critical thinking and provide experiences in the digital world and scientific phenomenon.

Broadcast Journalism for eighth-graders supports the successful Digital Media Arts Academy at El Dorado High. Students use high-end computer software to create original digital video productions that employ effective principles of storytelling, technology application and media technique. Students collaboratively strengthen traditional language arts, art literacy and contemporary digital-media literacy.

In Journey to Discovery, seventh-graders enjoy scientific-method problem

solving in real-world situations such as why the ocean doesn't freeze or how airplanes fly. Students feel as if they were in an episode of Discovery Channel's *MythBusters* as they test applications of energy, laws of motion and states of matter. Active engagement leads to fun and strengthened skills for science STAR testing in eighth grade.



Broadcast Journalism Tuffree students practice principles of storytelling, technology application and media technique

Valadez Middle School Academy

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.pylusd.org/schools/valadez/index.asp



Minerva Gandara-Boggs
Principal

Love of Llamas

On October 6, our Valadez eighth-grade students partnered with first-graders from Melrose and Rio Vista schools to read the book *Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney. Their goal is to help set a world record by having 3 million children read the same book on the same day.

The festivities began with Placentia Police Chief Hicks reading *Is Your Mama a Llama?* to over 500 pajama-clad students. The eighth-grade students then read to their first-grade buddies and also presented them with their very own copy of the book provided by the Pearson Educational Foundation.

All Valadez students demonstrated their love of llamas, and their commitment to help others, by raising funds to purchase real llamas for donation to families in



Up close with a new friend

Latin America. The highlight of the day was a special llama parade led by Superintendent Dennis Smith. It gave everyone a chance to pet the furry and friendly animals.

It was a day of literacy with llamas!

Van Buren *Elementary*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



Ken Valburg
Principal

Centrally Located!

This fall, the Van Buren students were welcomed to school with a new library-media center and classrooms for fourth- through sixth-grade students. Through the voter-approved Measure A bond, these buildings were constructed over the past year and half, and they replaced 15 rather worn-out portable buildings. Last June, the school held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Dr. Smith and other school district dignitaries in attendance.

In September, the students entered wide-eyed into their new classrooms, eight in all. Each classroom building contains four classrooms with a computer pod in the middle. The design of the buildings allows students to quickly change classrooms and facilitates teacher collaboration. The library-media center building also houses the computer lab, the teacher work-room, occupational therapy and the school psychologist's office. The beauty of these buildings is how naturally they fit with the existing campus. Van Buren now has one of the nicest elementary campuses in the district!



Wagner *Elementary*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.pylusd.org/schools/wagner/index.asp



Patrick Brown
Principal

Making New School-Year Resolutions

The August release of API scores brought good news to the Wagner school community. An API score of 892 reflected a 12-point increase from the previous year. Congratulations, Wagner!

One of the most important aspects of a school is the way it feels when you walk on campus. Do your children know all of the rules? Do your children come home each day excited to tell you about what they've learned and the fun they've had in the classroom, at the lunch tables and on the playground? We at Wagner want to make sure that you can answer yes to those questions.

During the summer, our school leadership team met and worked with a consultant to develop, organize and implement a positive behavior-intervention system, known as PBIS. The purpose of PBIS is to learn strategies to improve the social culture, learning and teaching environment, and individual behavior required to achieve academic and social success for all students. Our goal is to increase positive and on-task behaviors, which will in turn decrease distractions and increase instructional time.

One of the keys to the PBIS program is that each student should have five positive interactions with adults for every intervention. Five positive comments for every correction is a goal that we are striving for. When we hold awards ceremonies, our goal is to acknowledge those students who exhibit the character qualities we value and to celebrate the individuality of each student.

Valencia *High School*

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Jim Bell
Principal

Class of 2012-National Merit Scholarship Program Awards

Mr. James Bell, principal, announced today that nine Valencia seniors: Megan Lee, Cara Ta, Laila Atalla, Jason Chi, Elizabeth Knarr, Alan Herbert, Boyoung Kim, Allen Lin, and Katherine Pierce have been named Semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) in the fall of their junior year. The National Merit Corporation named 16,000 Semifinalists from some 1.5 million-program entrants in 2010. Representing less than one percent of each states high school seniors, National Merit Semifinalists are the highest-scoring program entrants in each state. They have the opportunity to advance to the actual cash awards given as Merit Scholarships by the universities they ultimately attend.

Eleven additional students: Cynthia Bor, Harji Charaia, Clarence Chu, Daniel Kim, Rachel Leiken, Kellan Liem, Richard Ma, Biola Macaulay, Neil Srinivas, Jason Wan, and Lindsey Youngquist were named as National Merit Commended Students. Commended Students placed in the top 5% of the 1.6 million entrants in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

In addition, Valencia Seniors: Biola Macaulay and Andy Anusiem were selected for the National Achievement Recognition Program. This program recognizes the top 5,000 African-American students in the United States based on their PSAT scores and outstanding academic achievement. Seniors Matthew Ruiz and Alexander Saucedo were selected for the National Merit Hispanic Recognition Program. This program recognizes the top scoring Hispanic students in the United States based on their PSAT scores.

Valencia's nine National Merit Semifinalists this year puts us in a very select group of top Orange County High Schools. Out of the ninety-three public and private high schools in Orange County only five schools had more National Merit Semifinalists than Valencia this year.

Woodsboro *Elementary*

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Making Sure Our Students Succeed

Woodsboro started out the year with renewed energy and excitement. We recently celebrated our latest Academic Performance Index (API) score of 915, which was a gain of 31 points over last year!

With a strong, well-defined reading intervention program called Walk to Read, highly qualified instructors and instruction, plus the support of a caring community, we will be sure to maintain our great academic achievement.

Woodsboro has many research-based programs and interventions that support all types of learners. The reading interventions, English language development for second-language learners, and enrichment programs such as Walk Through California, Walk Through the American Revolution and Walk Through Ancient Civilizations, all promote a quality, comprehensive education.

Each of these programs reinforces the California state standards to help enrich our students. Many of them are also supported by our very active PTA. With their financial support our kindergarten through fourth-grade students can continue to participate in vocal music activities and Holiday events.

This group also provides our students with the opportunity to participate in a professionally directed musical. This year the show *Aladdin* will be performed in a local theater! Our GATE students will also have challenging curriculum and enrichment activities, too. They will participate in the Orange County Math Field Day competition, and will also visit local universities as a challenge to them to pursue higher education.

Woodsboro is planning another successful school year. Everyone is working hard to guarantee the success of our students!



James Hardin
Principal

Eager for Knowledge

At Yorba Linda Middle School, we are proud this year to offer the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program to our students. AVID is an academic regularly scheduled elective class, held during the school day, which teaches using writing as a tool of learning, the inquiry method, and collaborative grouping. The three main components of the program are: academic instruction; tutorial support; and motivational activities.

Our AVID Mission Statement is: "To close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society." The curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, and Reading (WICR) method. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective classes, in content-area classes in AVID schools, and even in schools where the AVID elective is not offered.

AVID students will participate in field trips to colleges and universities. Honors eighth-grade students, high school and college students act as role models and facilitate academic discussion in regularly scheduled tutorial groups. Students develop academic and social skills for success in all subject areas. Guest speakers provide motivation and college and professional career information. AVID students participate in extracurricular and community events.

The word avid is defined as eager for knowledge. There is not a better definition that describes these students and their teacher, Ms. Taylor, in their quest for achievement.



Dave Flynn
Principal

Ready to Stampede!

Welcome to the Home of the Mustangs! This year, we opened our doors to our first senior class and a total of 1,760 students.

We have added 23 new members to our team, including one additional counselor, a full-time choir and photography teacher, and a culinary arts/ROP Career Pathways teacher. New classes include Advanced Placement Government/Economics, AP Statistics, AP Physics, AP English Literature and a full elective course program.

Congratulations to last year's freshmen, sophomores and juniors who participated in the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) exam. The Department of Education goal for this program is 800 or better. YLHS students scored an 872 on the Academic Performance Index (API), placing us as one of the top performing Orange County high schools. We are proud of our students and look forward to our current freshmen class, who will add their mark to our academic and co-curricular programs.

Connecting with one of our many programs is key to student success and making the high school years rewarding and successful. We hope students, staff and parents will "Run with the STAMPEDE" in establishing YLHS programs that provide community Service, develop Teamwork, demonstrate Achievement, show Mastery for the task at hand, let Passion shine every day, use Ethics and values to guide our daily decisions, Dedicate ourselves to be the best and always strive for Excellence.

Please check our website for updated staff information, activities and the 2011-12 event calendar. Our website will help you with questions and direct you to the staff member who can assist you with your YLHS experience.

Go Mustangs!

NEW
Rules!!!

Football Word Search Contest



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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put PYL in the subject line

Entries must be received by December 15, 2011

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Clipping | Interference | Safety |
| Coach | Kicker | Scrimmage |
| Conversion | Linebacker | Special Teams |
| Cornerback | Loss of Down | Super Bowl |
| Defense | Offsides | Tackle |
| Downs | Personal Foul | Tailback |
| Field Goal | Possession | Touchdown |
| Flanker | Quarterback | Yardage |
| Goal Post | Roughing | |

Y	N	F	L	N	O	I	S	S	E	S	S	O	P	E
P	W	Q	I	R	W	B	G	R	P	P	Z	S	K	Y
L	O	U	N	E	C	O	R	N	E	R	B	A	C	K
E	D	A	E	K	L	D	D	C	R	E	D	F	A	S
G	H	R	B	C	G	D	I	F	S	Y	O	E	B	E
A	C	T	A	I	N	A	G	N	O	Y	W	T	L	D
M	U	E	C	K	L	E	E	O	N	S	N	Y	I	I
M	O	R	K	T	V	F	R	F	A	M	S	W	A	S
I	T	B	E	X	E	A	H	E	L	L	R	O	T	F
R	Y	A	R	D	A	G	E	H	F	A	P	Z	L	F
C	M	C	G	N	I	H	G	U	O	R	N	O	B	O
S	G	K	T	A	C	K	L	E	U	M	E	K	S	R
F	S	U	P	E	R	B	O	W	L	J	E	T	E	T
I	J	E	V	C	O	N	V	E	R	S	I	O	N	R
C	L	I	P	P	I	N	G	E	F	J	P	T	R	I

Congratulations to Teri Glomb Winner of the May Word Search Contest.

Volunteerism



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

It is valuable or important to teach children to do for others. I am very concerned that today's children put a price tag on anything they do on the helping scale. Parents reinforce this idea by continually giving their children money for helping with something. A few years back, the son of a family that had moved in next door to me came over to talk. I was trimming bushes in the front yard and had accumulated a lot of cuttings on the lawn. The boy asked if he could help, so I got him busy loading trash cans. We talked the whole time, totally enjoying each other's company. When we finished, he asked me if I was going to pay him. Seeing the opportunity for a life-lesson, I responded, "If you

wanted a paying job, you needed to negotiate that in the beginning. It is not acceptable to be kind then ask for money for your kindness." The next day I asked him if he wanted a job helping me pass out flyers in the neighborhood. He was excited to help and quickly reassured me that he would not ask for money. I laughed, "This is different," I said, "This time I am asking you to work for money."

For children volunteering can be offering to help with something at home or joining a group of young people who do service work. I remember one Thanksgiving when my daughter Kathleen became increasingly worried about an elderly couple who lived on our street. After discussing it with me, she invited them to our family dinner—they declined, as the man was not well. So on Thanksgiving Day, a parade of youngsters took the whole feast to their home and entertained them with an original play. I still remember the look on the woman's face when she looked over the children at me and mouthed those two small words, "Thank you." Whether your child takes food to a neighbor on the street or ends up working with an organization to stop world hunger, the principle behind any service is that each of us must do something to help other people. I think volunteerism is best taught by what the parents model. Call it personal tithing—giving of yourself to make the world a better place.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written three books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. Sandy lives in Meridian, Idaho. www.ParentingSOS.com

Good for the Mind—Great for the Heart



**Dr. Shari
Sweetnam**

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about trades, people and being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others

via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Dr. Shari is the founder of the "Brainpower" program for schools, Author of "*The Learning Toolbox - Memory Skills for Everyone*" used in schools nationwide, "*Inspiring the Love of Learning*" and "*The Algebra Toolbox - The UN MATH Solution*" in schools Fall 2011. Dr. Shari is a syndicated columnist, radio host and author of over 200 articles on the topics of Learning and Memory. Contact Dr. Shari at info@doctorshari.com. For a schedule of radio and television appearances see www.doctorshari.com.

Are We there Yet?



**Rozanne Lanczak
Williams**

Tips for Traveling with Tots

While I acknowledge that all the fun electronic stuff can be life-savers at times, please remember that there are many great ways to engage young children during those special times you share en route that will also boost their learning and thinking skills as well as nurture closer bonds.

Planes, Trains, . . .

Air travel can be challenging for anyone these days and more so with the little ones along. Cramped spaces, long delays, and lack of access to food and drink can present all kinds of problems. Be prepared! Pack a bag for your child with lots of goodies. Include snacks—healthy treats as well as a few of your child's very favorite ones to pull out when needed as a diversion. Bring sippy cups instead of drinks and continually fill them with water or juice. Bring books—and lots of them. Bring books that your child can read on his/her own as well as some new surefire read-alouds. Bring a few activity books with crosswords and other puzzles geared to your child's age, as well as self-contained craft kits, cards games, and paper and crayons. Bringing a travel journal is also a lovely idea. Along with a few toys your child can't live without, including a favorite "huggable," bring several small new toys. My friend Beth, who has traveled numerous times to England with her three boys, at times all under 5, says to wrap every item you bring like a little present. What child doesn't like opening

gifts? And the act of opening will take time and keep your child engaged. Beth also says to bring along a box of band-aids. 3 and 4 year olds love them, and will enjoy opening them (this takes forever!) and placing them on real and perceived boo-boos. Also, what better way to enhance your child's fine motor skills? Once again, my best advice: please do not get on an airplane with your young child with only an electronic game to amuse him/her.

. . . and Automobiles

Car trips can be a little easier on little ones, since you can stop frequently and let them run around a bit. Along with the items listed above, books on tape are a wonderful activity for kids in the car. Plug them into the car system so that you can comment or discuss the story or encourage your child to make predictions on what will happen next. When a child listens to the story, they have to create a picture in their mind of what is going on and this is a powerful way to build comprehension skills. That's why you should intersperse movie watching with books on tape when you're on the road. I also highly recommend music videos and CD's. Music accesses and stimulates different parts of the brain.

For lots and lots of more great ideas, car tips, and travel games, go to www.MomsMinivan.com.

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: www.magicbookgarden.com

Volunteering is Magical!



Jodie Lynn

Volunteering at your children's schools, youth activities, daycare facilities, church and anywhere else you see a need is always a worthwhile endeavor. It can make a huge difference in your community and in the life of your child and your child's teacher or leader. In addition, it may very well lift up your own spirits.

Seeking Opportunities: Make time to seek out volunteer opportunities. Here are some guidelines:

Get to know your child's teacher, coach, and others.

Doing so will help you observe and learn in which areas she/he needs the most help.

Visit the school or attend meetings and practices to determine the volunteer requirements. In today's society, many organizations are requiring criminal background checks, so be prepared. Look at it as a positive move on the part of those who are now implementing these new guidelines, rather than a hassle—it could prove to be safer for your children and provide a mentally healthier environment.

Sign up early. If you would like to have more options in more areas, sign up early. Depending on the ages of the children in the group, they may have different opportunities, especially in early elementary classrooms. For example, volunteers are needed one to two days a week in many, while others may ask for only one day a month.

Schedule volunteer time around your job or schedule. After selecting which area you would like to volunteer, go over the time, days and location with your supervisor or make sure this won't interfere with anything you need to do. If none of the times are workable, there are plenty of things you can do at home. For example, making artwork to hang on the walls for specific projects, plays or themes or in the music room, gym or library is often highly appreciated. Most volunteers are moms. Many moms now have home-based offices, which allows for a highly flexible schedule. Keep a calendar of all activities that provide a potential volunteering opportunity. Ask the school for a copy of the school calendar so you can evaluate your options carefully. If you feel your time would be better utilized in the school play during the holidays, sign up for that as soon as possible. Or, if you are really into science or book fairs, find out exactly what volunteer positions are available that would best fit your talents. Perhaps you love to go on field trips with your kids. Find out which ones are coming up and get on the volunteer schedule.

Once you commit to a volunteer position, keep on top of it by jotting everything down in a personal calendar. Getting all the details helps immensely in figuring out in a flash when something is going to happen and who is doing what and when. One of my favorites is the large flat wall calendar by ThinkBin. The ThinkBin Family Calendar was created by two moms who found themselves spread too thin and could not find an acceptable system to keep their families organized. (See www.ThinkBin.com for more details.) Another favorite is one I love to carry with me wherever I go—*The Busy Body Book*. It has awesome pouches, wide columns and an area to organize schedules for up to five different family members. Check out www.BusyBodyBook.com and see what I mean. Both of these are incredible tools in getting organized right from the start, which is crucial to having a successful school year.

The Benefits of Volunteering: Volunteering is more meaningful than you might imagine. Everyone benefits, and kids love to see their parents in their classroom and out and about in the community. It teaches them the importance of spending time helping others, making a difference, caring and sharing. Research has shown that kids whose parents volunteer have amazing self-esteem, more motivation and are higher achievers. Best of all, they are more likely to demonstrate patience, execute quality leadership skills, thoughtfulness, kindness and see challenges in a more positive manner—a true recipe for tomorrow's future leaders, our children!

Jodie Lynn is an award-winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best-selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having, Doing, and Surviving It All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

Love Me for Who I Am



Kate Karp

"Please don't try to fix me. Love me for who I am. I may not talk the way you talk, but I've got some things to say....And I may not walk the way you walk, but I've got some place to go." *Love Me for Who I Am* Grammy-award nominee Brady Rymer has taken diversity and inclusion to a new and worthy level.

Love Me was inspired by Rymer's work with children at the Celebrate the Children School in Wharton, N.J. The school specializes in alternative learning styles, including autism and other communicative disorders. Rymer's lyrics celebrate the children there and surprise us with the realization that the feelings and thoughts in them are universal among us.

Rymer and the musicians provide catchy folk- and reggae-flavored tunes. The CD art was created by Zoe Kakolyris, an artist with Asperger syndrome who is also deaf. The songs themselves deal with identity, discomfort, tuning out, moving around—or not—and other traits that characterize autism but have a broader reach. "Picky Eater," "I Don't Like Change" and "Who Wants to Wear Shoes?" describe a special-needs child's extreme discomfort with certain sensations or things that go off



pattern. "So Many Ideas" addresses the frustration of not being able to communicate feelings and ideas—"I've got so many ideas in my head, Yeah, they're hard to get out, I wanna scream and shout"—ever have writer's block? "Wiggle Alive" and "Squish Me, Squeeze Me" are about physical issues. "Squish Me" brings to mind the "hug machine" invented by Dr. Temple Grandin, arguably the most celebrated person diagnosed with autism; as a teenager, she created the machine to deal with stress and sensory overload.

Grandin herself commented on *Love Me*, saying "I really liked it. I hope it gets widely played." Such an endorsement is underscored by the five percent of the sales that will go to Autism Speaks, a nonprofit research and advocacy group.

Visit www.BradyRymer.com to find out more about his work with understanding autism.

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

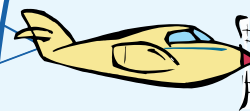
School News 
Education+Communication=A Better Nation

Join Our Sales Team!
Work from Your Home

Ask for Kay • 562-493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

It's Our 3rd Anniversary Publishing the Excellence from the PYLUSD!



2011



2010



2009



2008



Thank you
for including
School News
among your
reading choices.

Reading
Rules!

