

# School News



*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Placentia - Yorba Linda Unified School District**

**VOLUME 5, ISSUE 13**

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

**NOVEMBER 2012–JANUARY 2013**

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Doug Domene**

Welcome to the 2012-13 school year. What an exciting time of year it is! Seeing smiling students and staff members greeting each other demonstrates the importance of relationships on a school campus. It is this connectedness that is an essential element of student learning.

As we begin this school year, I want to encourage you to find ways to connect to your local school. Whether it is through PTSA or booster clubs, whether you choose to work with a teacher and students in a classroom, help your student on a science project, or enjoy a musical or theatrical performance, please get involved. I am confident you will find the time spent rewarding.

The job of educating and equipping your student is an enormous one, one that we can't do alone. We need the strength that comes through students, school staffs and parents standing and working together.

It has been said that "A cord of three strands is not easily broken." It is therefore essential that all three elements - parents, school staff and students – join forces to create an environment conducive to learning. That is our ultimate goal and one that we should work hand in hand to achieve.

Have a wonderful school year.

## Every Day Counts



**Mitchell Han, Golden Elementary**  
First Place–Poster Winner (K-3 Grade)



**Andrea Sutedjo, Woodsboro Elementary**  
First Place–Poster Winner (4-6 Grade)



**Madisyn Roman, Wagner Elementary**  
First Runner Up–Poster Winner (K-3 Grade)



**Jacob Silberfarb, Travis Ranch**  
First Runner Up–Poster Winner (4-6 Grade)

**"Every Day Counts" Attendance Campaign Poster and Video Contest Winners**  
(please see page 14 for article)

## States Adopt Common Academic Standards

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

**In the 2014-2015 school year, the nation is moving to Common Core Standards—a move that means states across the country will use the same academic standards and testing system.**

Forty-six states have already agreed to participate, including California. The standards are still in development; however, 78 percent of the already-released standards match California's current standards which are among the most rigorous in the nation.

Assistant Superintendent of Education, Candy Plahy said, "The Common Core State Standards are designed to prepare students to be college and career ready and internationally competitive. The PYLUSD is strategically preparing for implementation by meeting with school leaders, teachers and, eventually, parents."

The standards emphasize 21st Century Learning Skills: critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity and digital citizenship. They will also emphasize more in-depth teaching of subjects.

"The good news is that over the last few years we have been working with students on more problem-

solving activities and providing more opportunities that give students real-world, hands-on experience," Plahy added.

Elementary students as young as kindergarten are working on Cognitively Guided Instruction and Document-Based Questions. In these learning approaches, students work through problems and, when finished, share their work with the class so that other students can see the many approaches to correctly solving a problem. Document-Based Questions encapsulate critical reading, writing and speaking by having students read primary sources,

*SEE STATES ADOPT • PAGE 14*



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Covering the  
**PLACENTIA - YORBA LINDA  
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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



This is our 5th Anniversary publishing *School News* covering the PYLUSD. The time has gone quickly and it is remarkable the gains in technology during these five years. With the Common Core State Standards being implemented students will be even better prepared for college and careers. It truly is a privilege to publish *School News*.

Congratulations to Carey Cecil being appointed Principal of her alma mater—El Dorado High School.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. Our next issue is February 21, 2013!



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

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylud.org



**Julie Nibali**  
President

The R.E.A.C.H. Foundation is a new non-profit education foundation formed by district parents who have held a variety of leadership positions within PTAs for many years. Our focus is aimed at retaining current successful programs in our school district, as well as introducing new programs designed to strengthen student performance and prepare them for the demands of the 21st Century marketplace.

Our Mission is to develop and provide Resources for the Enrichment of Academics, Arts and Athletics for our Children to reach their ultimate Heights!

Our nonprofit foundation is seeking volunteers and donations to meet the goals of this mission. Any funds raised by R.E.A.C.H. go directly to enrich the learning of PYLUSD students.

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# Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

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



**Cameron Malotte**  
*Principal*

## Standards of Excellence

The students and staff of Bernardo Yorba Middle School are excited about the start of a great new school year. We began the year by celebrating another outstanding year with our school's Academic Performance Index (API) score. While the state has not yet published official API scores, our unofficial projected score will show another year of significant growth. While this is only one indicator of the quality of a school, it is one of which we are proud. High standards for academic excellence are driving these gains.

Another quality indicator of which we are proud is our elective program. Students have the opportunity to participate in many outstanding programs and classes, such as Spanish, drama, discovery lab, art, and vocal and instrumental music. This year we also added a crafts class and a class that will publish an online newspaper. All of these programs have enjoyed tremendous growth and success. Of these programs, however, the most easily quantified success would be that of our music program.

The Bernardo Yorba Entertainment Unit, consisting of the marching band, color guard, banners, and drum major, consistently has been one of the most highly regarded middle school programs in Southern California. This year, they picked up where they left off last year by winning their first parade competition. Additionally, the jazz band has won all of its competitions for the past several years.

The choir program also continues to flourish, both in size and quality. Last year's choirs all earned superior ratings in festivals, and all indications are that the trend will continue this year.

While I've highlighted just two of our outstanding programs, we are proud of all of our young Matadors.

# Brookhaven *Elementary*

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



**David Cammarato**  
*Principal*

## A Culture of Collaboration

It is an honor to represent Brookhaven Elementary School, a California Distinguished School. Our school provides a welcoming environment and is fortunate to have high parent involvement, creative teachers, and hardworking students.

The Brookhaven staff exemplifies collaboration. Each week, grade-level teams meet to discuss student needs, share best practices, and analyze data in order to improve instruction. Brookhaven partners with our parent community, and many of them are working alongside our teachers daily in order to provide students with the best possible experience. In addition, this year Brookhaven has partnered with Eldorado High School's Peer Assisted Leadership (PAL) Program and welcomes 22 high school students on our campus during our lunch hour every Tuesday in order to help facilitate positive interactions among students on the playground. The students at Brookhaven take an active role in helping lead the school through student council. We recently held student council elections, and our newly elected officials are assisting with daily announcements and community outreach. In addition, Brookhaven's PTA provides many opportunities for students, including field trips, Accelerated Reader, Meet the Masters, Walk through California, Walk through the Revolution, and Outreach Concern, to name a few. The PTA is currently in the processing of helping students raise funds for the Outdoor Education Science Program.

Brookhaven continues to work together in the best interests of students and has recently adopted a new motto: "When you believe in yourself, anything is possible." We look forward to seeing that motto in action.

# Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

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



**Debra Silverman**  
*Principal*

## JiJi Has Arrived!

JiJi the penguin has come to Bryant Ranch! JiJi is the character for our new ST Math program from MIND Research Institute. This is a grade-level math program in the form of instructional software that is research proven. It utilizes spatial-temporal reasoning to teach math concepts that are aligned to state standards. The gamelike format allows students to visualize and manipulate images through a sequence of steps in space and time.

This process is critical to solving problems in math, science and other curricular areas. All of our teachers were trained in September, and students were logged in on the first of October. Students and staff were so excited to get started, and they absolutely love JiJi the penguin. Everyone is engaged in solving math problems visually. ST Math promotes mastery-based learning in a unique way and increases mathematical understanding. We are looking forward to great success with JiJi!



**Students can't wait to get to the computer lab to work with JiJi.**

# El Camino Real *High School*

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



**Gordon Chamberlin**  
*Principal*

## Students and Citizens

El Camino Real High School is pleased to announce that we have a record number of students who have applied to become poll workers in the General Election this November 6. During this election cycle, 43 students were approved by the U.S. government teacher, Kathy Silver, and the school counselor, Karen Edwards, to participate. The students will be trained on campus on October 17th by the Orange County Registrar of Voters trainers. Once trained, the students will be officially designated to work at election polling sites around north Orange County.

The students are looking forward to taking part in national, state, and local politics as an opportunity to learn firsthand about our civic responsibilities concerning voting. Besides voting for the President there are 11 ballot measures of great significance competing for votes. This year we are excited to have the training in a brand new media/tech lab on campus since the school has recently been remodeled. Our hats are off to the following student volunteers: Ashley Alvarez, Graciella Amparo, Ylisa Angeles, Aylin Armenta, Roberta Basua, Jessica Bautista, Urbano Belmontes, James Bernard, Trevor Bosco, Chris Boyd, Francisco Casteneda, Courtney Cole, Jake Cortez, Faithe Denos, Maria Diaz, Taylor Di Buono, Katherine Donoho, Erin Esslinger, Jose Estrada, Megan Forsyth, Alexandra Gasmena, Victor Gomez, Nicole Havlicek, Robert Hernandez, Austin Lamb, Jonathan Leandro, Enrique Marentes, Riley McKeehen, Nick Medina, Daniela Nieto, Michael Rodriguez, Rogelio Rosales, Jaclyn Rubio, Mario Saber, Kandi Sanchez, Kendall Short, Gerald Simmons, Elijah Stewart, Jessica Tapia, Ciara Taylor, Eric Vaughn, Daphne Villaruel and Roger Villegas. This continues to be one of the greatest opportunities for students to engage in the political process. Go Raptors!

# Esperanza High School

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



**Ken Fox**  
Principal

## Super Stats!

Welcome Back! Esperanza High School had a great start to the 2012–13 school year, beginning with our Link Crew freshman orientation, which took place at the end of August. Link Crew is a program that mentors and holds activities for freshmen throughout the year. The orientation at the beginning of the school year welcomes the freshmen to Esperanza and gets them ready for high school life.

In addition to a great start of the school year, Esperanza has also been recognized in multiple ways. Esperanza was named one of the nation's top high schools by *U.S. News and World Report*—we are currently ranked 407 out of 1,500 schools. Our API scores jumped nine points, putting us at 861. Our AP pass rate is 85 percent. The *Washington Post* ranked our academics 221<sup>st</sup> in the nation. Athletically, *ESPN Rise* magazine ranked our men's and women's athletic program 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation, while *OC Varsity* has our programs ranked seventh in Orange County.

The fun at Esperanza doesn't stop there! Coming up this fall, we have Taste of Esperanza, Homecoming, Breaking Down the Walls, Career Day, a canned-food drive and a blood drive. We have a lot planned for the fall, and we are excited to see the effect it has on our campus.

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# El Dorado High School

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



**Carey Cecil**  
Principal

## No Longer Stuck in the Middle

El Dorado High School (EDHS) has a rich tradition of strong academic programs and staff members who pride themselves on providing quality instruction. As our school changes, we continue to evaluate our offerings. While we offer classes for high academic achievers, students considered at-risk, and those with special needs, we have identified a need to better serve students in the academic middle. These students are capable of completing college preparation work but may need strategic interventions to push them to realize their full academic potential. As such, we are proud to offer Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for the first time in the school's history.

The AVID college readiness system is designed to meet the needs of students in the academic middle through its emphasis on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. In addition, students participate in tutorials guided by college students. We are proud to welcome two former Golden Hawks as tutorial leaders. One is a former EDHS Associated Student Body (ASB) president and a graduate of California State University, Channel Islands, who is starting her graduate work in occupational therapy. The other is finishing her undergraduate work at California State University, Fullerton and hopes to pursue a career as a mathematics teacher. Both young women are excited to work with students and to share their college experiences.

The more than 50 freshmen in AVID and their parents have expressed their gratitude for the AVID support system. We look forward to working with them to make their college dreams a reality.

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# Fairmont *Elementary*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

## Soaring to Success...

The new school year is off to a great start, and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know all of our staff, students and families! Each day, I am learning a little more about our outstanding staff and our strong academic program and am observing outstanding teaching in action!

Our new API score of 939 is evidence of the high-achieving and dedicated students and staff and our strong home-school partnership. Our school motto, "Together in Excellence," is demonstrated daily both in the classroom and around campus. Our committed and generous PTA works tirelessly to enrich our students' school experience.

As a National Blue Ribbon and Distinguished school, Fairmont offers its students a rigorous comprehensive curriculum in which all students are supported as we strive for success. Students are participating in our "Walk to Read" program designed to meet students' needs in reading comprehension and fluency.

If you have a chance, check out our redesigned school website. I am honored and proud to be the new principal at Fairmont and look forward to a successful, memorable and fun school year! Go Falcons!

# George Key School

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



**Deby Six**  
Principal

## Celebrations!

This school year opened busily at George Key School, highlighted by the ongoing implementation of our new Unique Learning System (ULS) curriculum, the Brain Train mobile library, our Art Masters Program, Patriot's Day, and Back-to-School Night.

The ULS curriculum is specially developed for our students and designed to address the California standards with the support of our SMART Board Technology and Assistive Technology devices.

The now famous George Key Brain Train mobile library, led by our Adult Transition Program students, resumed its classroom visits this year, to everyone's delight.

September 11 was our Patriot's Day celebration, honoring our country's 9-11 heroes and families. A flag raising, listening to a student-read patriotic story, and the singing of our national anthem began a new tradition.

Finally, September 27 brought our Back-to-School Night, with a great turnout of students and parents. We started strong at George Key!



# Glenknoll *Elementary*

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



**Doug Slonkosky**  
Principal

## A Big Surprise

Glenknoll started off the year with a new theme and a big surprise. Our theme for the year is "Get Your Game On," and to help increase school spirit and teamwork, we now have a Cougar mascot just like the big leagues!

The students voted in a special telephone poll to name their new mascot "Glen." Glen then surprised the students and staff members at our First Friday Assembly to help kick off the new year. To complete the theme, the PTA also provided a "Tailgate Party" for lunch. The cafeteria served football-shaped chicken nuggets, and the PTA donated new sports equipment to the school.

Our very active PTA is also planning many more sports-themed events during the year, including a "Battle of the Books," a Jog-a-thon, a book fair, and family nights. Our second-annual Fall Festival was also held on October 25.



**Glen, the Cougar, announces the school theme, "Get Your Game On!"**

As always, Glenknoll has a variety of volunteer opportunities for our parents, guardians and community members. Please see our Web page at [www.glenknoll.org](http://www.glenknoll.org) for more details.

# Glenview *Elementary*

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



**Moises Plascencia**  
Principal

## Teamwork Works!

Welcome to Glenview! Here, we know that students do best when parents and teachers work with them as a team and inspire them to do their best. Together, we can help our students succeed.

It's exciting to see the eager faces of our students as they arrive on campus. Throughout the day, students are recognized for exemplary conduct with Bulldog Pride Tickets, given for being Safe, Ready, Responsible or Respectful. Students are collecting and saving their pride tickets and will have opportunities to exchange them for prizes. Every trimester, students are recognized for perfect attendance and with Honor Roll for academic excellence.

To further student success, teachers participate in professional development, ready rooms and classroom learning environments, and prepare schedules to meet educational needs. Every day, students participate in Walk to Read, when they regroup for reading in order to meet specific reading-level needs. In our science room, students learn about electricity, circuits, geology or the human circulatory system. They engage in PE twice a week for grades one through six and in music for fifth and sixth grades. Kindergarteners through sixth-graders also participate in computer lessons and visit the school library once a week. We work as a team to ensure our students' success!

I encourage you to take time to become more familiar with our school and to create a homework-friendly home environment that will promote educational success. For additional information, you can visit our school website or call our office.

Thank you for your commitment to education. I look forward to seeing you soon. Go Team Glenview!



# Golden *Elementary*

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



**Roann Carpenter**  
Principal

## Soaring to Great Heights!

Golden Elementary continues to achieve at the highest level, with an estimated API score of 948 for 2012. Students in fourth-grade writing showed tremendous growth, with 97 percent of all fourth-grade students scoring a 6 or higher on the writing rubric, a 9 percent improvement from 2011. In fifth-grade science, 95 percent of all fifth-grade students met or exceeded state standards. In English language arts, 87.5 percent of all second-through-sixth-grade students were proficient or advanced on the 2012 CST, while in mathematics, the percentage was 87.8 percent proficient or advanced. Students are achieving at the highest level!

It's becoming clear to me why Golden is such a special place. It's a place where a third-grade teacher shares her vision for quality literature by bringing a tent to make the story come alive; where teachers use technology to make the lesson clear, guiding instruction with visuals, clear sound and thoughtful questions in classrooms across the campus; and where Golden's physical education teacher knows all the students and encourages their fitness goals, instilling confidence.

As the newest Golden Eagle, I'm so appreciative of the wonderful support so many parents provide through the PTA—field trips, computers, software, books and so much more. Is it any wonder that Golden students are off to a tremendous start in a place “where every student shines?”

# Kraemer *Middle School*

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



**Keith Carmona**  
Principal

## 'AVID' Achievers

Kraemer Middle School is proud to have a variety of programs that connect students to school in multiple ways. One growing program at Kraemer is AVID. AVID, or Advancement via Individual Determination, is a program that identifies students who would be first-generation college students and puts them immediately on the path to enter a four-year university after graduating from high school. AVID is a six-year program that begins for students in the seventh grade at Kraemer and continues until they graduate from Valencia High School.

Students who enter AVID have already shown academic promise, and they dedicate themselves by participating in Socratic Seminar-style tutorial sessions in math, science, social studies and language arts. The tutorials, which are guided by college students, empower AVID students to ask questions about topics they're struggling with in their classes. From there, a group of peers assists them in helping find a solution.

Kraemer students benefit from receiving guidance from their high school peers as well. Valencia AVID students come on campus at Kraemer to share their experiences, help students set goals, and positively encourage our middle school students.

Nationally, nearly 80 percent of students completing an AVID program do enter a four-year university after high school. This success has been replicated with Kraemer and Valencia students. For over 10 years, high percentages of Kraemer and Valencia AVID students have gone on to attend nearly every University of California and Cal State campus.

# La Entrada *High School*

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



**Libby Moore**  
Principal

## Our Year to Move!

This year we are very excited about the prospect of moving to our new site on the Esperanza High School–West Campus. We have been busy meeting with the architect to finalize drawings for our new school. Once finalized, we will display the architect's design in the main lobby. Please stop by anytime and visit with us about our planned move. In addition, we will be meeting with parent and student groups this year in order to build a new culture, which will take us to our new site!

In addition to planning for our move this year, we are also in the mid-year of our Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. Teachers are analyzing data and reviewing our goals as we focus on learning in preparation for our March visit. In a never-ending quest to raise student achievement, we have enrolled all of our students in an online academic support class, whereby students log on daily and complete activities in all core academic subjects. This is an accelerated program, where students complete five credits every four weeks, and continued engagement in the curriculum will ensure mastery learning as we progress throughout the school year.

It has been an exciting opening at La Entrada High School this year, and we look forward to showing off our new campus!

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# Happy Thanksgiving!





**Katherine Dailey**  
Principal

## Lion Pride

Lakeview Elementary, a California Distinguished School, is proud of its rigorous academic program. Our students are highly motivated to excel in their core areas of strength, or improve in those which are a challenge. Our goal is to provide GATE students with the opportunity to develop interests and strengthen knowledge. While maintaining a sense of class community, we also want to challenge them to meet their fullest potential.

Our GATE students are clustered within the general education classrooms, and they have teachers who have been trained in instructional differentiation. This clustering provides them with an opportunity to have higher level and more complex discussions with their fellow GATE and high-achieving classmates.

In the cluster setting, the students also have an opportunity to compact the regular classroom curriculum and progress through the standard texts at a faster pace. They can also receive the next grade's supplemental materials on focused subjects like math and language arts.

All Lakeview students are given the opportunity to have their needs met. So in addition to the regular classroom curriculum, our GATE-identified students can also participate in "Lion Pride." This is a student leadership group composed of fourth- and fifth-grade GATE-identified students. The Lion Pride members hold frequent meetings that are full of enrichment activities in all academic areas.

These interests may include the Battle of the Books, technology studies, a poetry unit, chemistry and biology academies, Lego-robotics, schoolwide play, interactive learning board presentations, a real-life math lab, photography, art and more!



**Paula Kintsch**  
Principal

## A Transitional Year

Linda Vista is off to another great and exciting school year. The staff is looking forward to serving the students, and our Linda Vista Lions are ready to tackle the challenges of a new year.

Our dedicated teaching staff continues to prove that they are truly educators who are committed to learning. For instance, each year they implement research-based instructional strategies, such as small group and differentiated instruction, to help meet the needs of all our students. The staff also continues to work collaboratively through our Professional Learning Communities to identify essential learning objectives and refine their teaching to meet student needs.

This year, during our Professional Development Days, staff will be busy participating in activities to begin the transition to the Common Core State Standards. These new standards are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that our young people will need for success in college and career as 21st century learners.

We value our Linda Vista families as partners in this endeavor, and throughout the year we will continue to provide you with additional information as well as communicate the school's progress. Here are some things that you can do to support your children through this transition: familiarize yourself with the new standards; come to PTA meetings and coffee talks for updates; and increase the amount of informational texts that your child reads at home.

We are looking forward to a fantastic school year. It is my sincere pleasure to be a member of the Linda Vista community!

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# Melrose *Elementary*

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



**Vivian Cuesta**  
Principal

## The Education Success Project Symposium

In September, my support team and I were invited to be participants and share the Melrose Elementary School story at Loyola Marymount University. One of the project's goals was to share educational success through the power of storytelling.

Thirty-four schools were asked to reflect on the models of effective education and highlight key strategies for improving student achievement. Participating schools were asked to tell their success stories in order to gather information on what works in education.

The stories served as a source of inspiration, a critical reference tool, and a starting point for new communication networks and collaborative opportunities.

This provided a valuable opportunity for a frank discussion of education reform in California and beyond and the chance to discover solutions together. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mr. Tom Torlakson was one of the featured speakers.



**We shared our API growth chart and 20 point gain! Go Marlins!**

# Mabel Paine *Elementary*

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



**Tamie Beeuwsaert**  
Principal

## Student Valets in Disguise

Mabel Paine Elementary School started off the year with a brand-new cast of characters working the parking lot. Like many elementary schools, we wanted to organize a Student Valet program, using our oldest students to help ensure the safety their peers, as well as provide a timely student drop off and pick up procedure. The problem was how to motivate our students to volunteer for the job on a weekly basis and how to make sure the adult drivers paid attention to their directions.

Leave it to our wonderful PTA, which heads up the program, to think out of the box and make it the most sought-after volunteer position on campus! To be a student valet at Mabel Paine, you must first stop by the office and sift through the prop box to decide what your costume will be for the day. Everyone wears an orange vest for visibility, but then they don oversized sunglasses, wings, goofy hats, foam fingers, Mickey Mouse hands, and anything else they can find. Not only are our students having fun as they are directing the cars to "please pull all the way forward," but no one can ignore them in their wild and crazy get ups!

After two weeks, we have fewer tardies, less traffic congestion, and a lot more smiling faces in the early hours of the morning.

# Morse *Elementary*

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



**Kathie DiRocco**  
Principal

## Nonfiction Reading

During our current professional development work, the Morse Avenue Elementary School teachers identified a great need for additional nonfiction reading. Our grade-level teams are identifying nonfiction instructional materials that will additionally support reading comprehension skills. Teachers have also received questioning and discussion strategies to support reading comprehension, and we want to share some of them with you.

Your children and their reading skills benefit greatly from discussing what they are reading. Nonfiction includes a wide range of materials including magazines, newspapers, information from the Internet, directions, recipes, and books.

Have a book scavenger hunt. Before reading, ask questions using the title, table of contents, chapter headings, glossaries, or index to find answers. Ask questions that require your child to locate and point out the answers in the actual text.

Make predictions about the author's purpose, intention, or main focus. Look at diagrams, charts, tables, maps, or pictures in the text and ask questions about them. What does the author mostly want you to know about?

Follow multiple-step directions, such as to assemble something, play a board game, or follow a recipe.

Help your child differentiate between cause and effect and fact and opinion.

Most of all, the time together reading and discussing should be enjoyed. Discovering a new topic together and building more common interest is an investment in your relationship.



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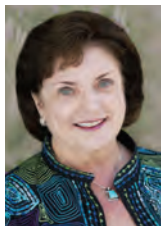
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# Parkview School *Independent Study*

K-12

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



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
Principal

## A Solid Academic Base with Individual Choice

Parkview School is pleased to welcome Rose Marie Baldwin-Shirey as our new principal. Mrs. Baldwin-Shirey serves concurrently as principal of Tuffree Middle School, located adjacent to Parkview. Mrs. Baldwin-Shirey notes that "Parkview is a top-notch high-performing school." She is excited to join the team of parents, students and teachers whose collaboration results in an exemplary program that personalizes successful learning for students, and she looks forward to continuing and building on that legacy.

Each week, Parkview offers both Academic Day and Elective Day. Teachers present curriculum-standards-based lessons that academically support students in writing, science and social science. Our extensive elective program includes performing arts, leadership, critical-thinking activities and Elective Wheel.

Parkview's annual Back to School Picnic in the Park represented a sense of community as it brought families together to attend orientation sessions and an activity program designed to review support of students' individualized instruction.



(teachers except where indicated) Parkview's staff welcomes you—  
(L to R) Loree Begin, Assistant Administrator, Heidi Chipman, Debra De Spenza, Rose Marie Baldwin-Shirey, Principal, Rocio Sobschak, Lisa Chouchan, Darlene Jagger, and Kim Rothenberger

# Rose Drive *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Linda Adamson**  
Principal

## Wild About Learning

A heartfelt thank you to everyone at Rose Drive Elementary School for welcoming me so warmly. I have joined an incredible community and enthusiastically look forward to working together. Speaking of success, last year's projected Academic Performance Index (API) score stands at 923, a testament to the teamwork present at Rose Drive, where our staff, parents, and PTA community work closely together to ensure the best possible education for our students.

September featured our Patriot Day Memorial Service, marking the 11-year anniversary of September 11. Together we recalled how people were brought together, demonstrating strength, unity, and commitment. We gathered to honor our fallen heroes with poetry readings and a flag salute, led by our local Boy Scout troop.

This year marks the implementation of our new Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) behavior expectations program, with a focus on positive behavior. Academically, our kindergarten and preppy-K students can look forward to weekly rotations involving hands-on learning and articulation. First-grade teachers are excited about implementing math labs, incorporating Cognitively Guided Instruction methodology in support of the new California Common Core Standards. Second-graders will be "going green" with new online options for homework, while third-graders anxiously await their annual astronomy night. Our fourth- and fifth-graders are becoming more effective writers and challenging their analytical skills as we move closer to core standards. Continued upper-grade programs will include robotics, video production, photography, community-based leadership, and Scratch computer programming (including an interface card, PicoBoard).

As you can see, Rose Drive is an exciting and stimulating place to be. We can't wait to report more good news as the year progresses.

# Rio Vista *Elementary*

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



**Jackie Howland**  
Principal

## Staying Positive

*By Jose Cabrera, Assistant Principal*

Rio Vista Elementary School kicked off the 2012-2013 school year with a focus on student achievement and a safe learning environment.

During the first week of school, each grade level held a Leopard Laws assembly, where students received a refresher on behavioral and academic expectations. This is Rio Vista's third year of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), a systems approach for establishing the social culture and individualized behavioral supports needed for schools to be effective learning environments for all students.



Rio Vista demonstrate positive behavior.

This year, we will continue to focus on high expectations. Each class has defined and continually teaches positive social expectations. Whether students are in the library or walking to lunch, students follow expected behaviors. Within this system, the staff acknowledges positive behavior and arranges consistent consequences for problem behaviors. Rio Vista has seen a remarkable improvement in student behavior. Go, Leopards!

# Ruby Drive *Elementary*

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



**Monica Barrera**  
Principal

## A Positive Note

Greetings from Ruby Drive Elementary School! We are excited about the school year and ecstatic to be able to continue providing the best education possible for all of our students.

Our first month of school went smoothly. This year, we are incorporating a school-wide behavior support system called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which will supplement our current school procedures. This framework will allow us to enhance our learning environment, make higher academic achievements, continue a positive school culture, and



Ruby Parent Greeters

increase our daily attendance, our highest priorities. All of these endeavors will support our district's Every Day Counts campaign and improve our overall attendance.

Also, our parent greeters are in high gear. From the first day of school, Ruby Drive has had four to six greeters at the front of the school welcoming students and families as they walk on campus. This is a great way to start off the day on a positive note!



# Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



**Cynthia Rex**  
Principal

## Our Eagles SOAR!

Sierra Vista School students learned what it means to Stay safe, Own your own behavior, Accept responsibility, and Respect people and Property (SOAR). Beginning the first day of school, teachers taught behavior expectations at various locations throughout the school. Students had opportunities to practice the correct behavior and learn by doing. After three days of morning lessons, students participated in a spirited game of Jeopardy during an assembly to show what they know. The teachers provided the entertainment by singing “S-O-A-R” to the tune of “YMCA” to conclude a great start to the year!

PTA also jump-started the year with a large increase in memberships. Three classes reached nearly 100-percent participation in the membership drive. Way



**Third grade teacher, Mrs. Dawn Page, demonstrates expected playground behavior on the first day of school.**

to go, Mrs. Ashe, Mrs. Cabral and Mrs. Page! President Brenda King opened a recent meeting with the wise thought, “Proper procedures provide protection.” With the number of big events coming up, her leadership will ensure positive results!

We are all looking forward to meaningful moments together.

# Topaz *Elementary*

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



**Rafael Plascencia**  
Principal

## Tradition of Excellence

Staff, students, and parents wasted no time in preparing for another year of success. With a large number in attendance at Back-to-School Night, Mr. Plascencia shared with parents the continuing high results and future expectations for Topaz Elementary School students.

Students and teachers celebrated successes with our annual Go Back event, held the first Friday of the school year. During the last hour, the students returned to their previous year's classrooms to be recognized for accomplishments on the California Standards Tests (CSTs). During this celebration, reunited classes enjoyed and applauded each other's successes. To recognize advanced or proficient scores, students received gold or blue ribbons, which they proudly display on backpacks and desks.

Now in new classrooms with new teachers, the goal is the same—continue the tradition of excellence!



**Students earn gold and blue ribbons in recognition of test results.**

# Travis Ranch School

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



**Cindy Freeman**  
Principal

## Champion Trailblazers: Finding Greatness Within

Travis Ranch School has a new theme this year: “Champions.” We are using this theme to teach students that everyone—we mean *every* student—has greatness within him or her. We cannot be champions at everything, but everyone can be a champion at a few things. As one athletic-shoe commercial says, “greatness is no more unique to us than breathing. We are all capable of it. All of us.”

When Travis Ranch eighth-grade ASB students were asked how they would describe a champion, they stated the following exact quotes, which could be a lesson to all of us:

Champions strive to do their personal best.  
Champions accomplish their personal goals.  
Champions stand as role models for others.  
Champions try until they succeed and never give up.  
Champions have a winning attitude.  
Champions take risks...stepping outside their comfort zones.  
Champions want to meet new people.



**Champions push themselves to achieve MORE!**

# Tuffree *Middle School*

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



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
Principal

## Running Smart

Tuffree School continues its tradition of a Commitment to Excellence as students' achievement exceeds goal targets again this year—a direct reflection of our teachers' passion for student achievement and focused hard work. Staff extended opportunities for accelerated learning this year, with the addition of both seventh- and eighth-grade Honors science courses. Accelerated Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) and Honors learners now have explicit Honors instruction in language arts, social studies, science and math.

While all curriculum departments at Tuffree are committed to student achievement, our Physical Education Department outran all efforts! Knowing that students view the backs of each other's shirts as they participate in running and other activities, the teachers added academic vocabulary words,



**“Cell” and “Independent Variable” are two academic vocabulary words seen by Tuffree students every day on the back of Matt Wilson's and Eric Lund's Physical Education shirts.**

which are displayed on the backs of the physical education shirts. Each time they hit the track, students are exposed to key vocabulary that they must know for ongoing tests and end-of-year assessments. Students become familiar with definitions throughout the year, building confidence and boosting assessment performance.



# Tynes *Elementary*

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



**Cristina McCall**  
Principal

## Our Collective Best

We have had a wonderful start to the school year!

We're excited to announce that Tynes has been awarded a VH1 Save the Music Foundation grant of band instruments worth \$30,000. This will help support the restoration and expansion of our instrumental music program.

Our school community remains committed to its mission of providing academic excellence to all students. This goal is achieved primarily through our Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The team approach allows us to maintain a clear focus on learning, collaboration and results. It allows for each child to receive the collective best from our teachers, and not just the best that one teacher has to offer.

Our remarkable PTA also continues to support parent and community involvement by providing a number of meaningful programs for our Tigers. The overall educational experience at Tynes is enriched by the PTA's support of a plethora of activities. These range from field trips to assemblies, to classroom support, and more. We are looking forward to another fantastic year!

# Valencia *High School*

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



**Jim Bell**  
Principal

## Setting Assessment Records

Last spring proved to be a banner season for student academic achievement at Valencia High School. Valencia students scored record highs on almost every significant assessment. Tiger freshmen, sophomores, and juniors scored record highs on 11 of the 15 California Standards Tests (CSTs). In addition, sophomores scored record highs on both the English/language arts and math sections of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Because of our students' performance on the CSTs and the CASHEE, Valencia's Academic Performance Index (API) is 818,

which is an all-time high. Valencia has now experienced 11 consecutive years of API growth, totaling 200 points. Last spring, we administered 1,225 Advanced Placement (AP) exams and another 343 International Baccalaureate (IB) exams. Both of these are high watermarks for Valencia scholars. However, more impressive was the 88-percent pass rate on both AP and IB exams and the 50 seniors who achieved the lofty status of being named International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipients.

On another note, Valencia has two National Merit Semi-Finalists, Christina Cui and Charlene Shi, and a record 20 National Merit Commended Students, including Luc Beauregard, Scott Choi, Sagar Desai, Brandon Huang, Eric Huang, Andrew Im, Michael Im, Saumya Jani, Mackenzie Jordan, Chanchal Kahlon, Yoona Kim, Patricia Le, Aimee Lee, Nathan Pak, Rachel Pham, Eugene Ryang, John Shin, Melanie Swang, Shirley Yu, and Tiffany Zhu.



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# 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

## Read for the Record

On October 4, the Valadez MS Academy celebrated literacy by joining 2.5 million other people across the United States in reading *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad*.

Dr. Al Mijares, the Orange County Superintendent of Schools, inspired our students to succeed by sharing his experiences and his vision. The eighth-grade students also partnered with their little buddies from Rio Vista Elementary and Melrose Elementary to share in reading about the adventures of Ladybug Girl and guide them through ladybug activities.



Bug trackers and treats make reading even more fun.

Everyone was a child at heart when given the opportunity to interact with live animals, which included a tarantula and a baby tortoise. All the little first-grade buddies returned to the schools with their own copy of the book, along with a bag full of treats, huge smiles on their faces and a heart full of memories.

Someday, they will be the ones who will inspire a new generation of students to discover the joys of reading.

# Van Buren *Elementary*

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



**Ken Valburg**  
Principal

## Morning Walk and Talk

What is the best way to wake up and be ready to learn? Science teaches us that exercise increases the chemicals in our brains that boost our ability to learn.

At Van Buren Elementary School, students and parents head to the playground each morning and enjoy a brisk walk for 10 minutes before school starts. When the bell rings, students are ready to learn as soon as they walk into the classroom. This simple activity also creates opportunities for students to socialize with their friends and for parents and guardians to have fun and connect with their children. Instead of standing in line for 10 minutes with teachers supervising students to keep their hands and feet to themselves, students can utilize their natural energy to prepare for the rigors of the academic day and have fun doing so!

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# 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 923 reflected a 27-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 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.

Our school is entering into year two of PBIS, and further support systems and recognition opportunities for students are being developed and will be provided. 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 that 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.

# Yorba Linda *Middle School*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



**James Hardin**  
Principal

## Synergistic Technology Lab

We proudly present our Synergistic Technology Lab, an 18-module program through which students will learn, investigate and apply skills associated with many different disciplines in the areas of technology, robotics, light and sound, oceanography, electronics, machines and mechanics.

Our goal is for students to complete nine of the 18 modules in a semester. Within each seven-day cycle at each module, students will complete objectives and activities. For example, in the flight technology module, students will learn the principles of flight and piloting by using a computer flight simulator. Each student will evaluate his or her partner and prepare a written critique of the partner's flight.

Students will also be introduced to navigation and plot a course using angular measurement and computation. Objectives include exploring the basic principles of aerodynamics by operating a flight simulator; designing and constructing an airfoil; producing and measuring lift on an airfoil; using a navigation plotter to determine the direction and distance for a flight plan; using flight-simulator software to test calculations; and using computer software to examine the factors that change the value of lift.

Activities include identifying Bernoulli's principle and the effect of velocity on pressure; effects and factors of stall, force and lift of an airfoil associated with basic aerodynamics; designing, building and testing a wing using a wing tester; demonstrating an understanding of how to calculate distance in nautical and statute miles; and identifying necessary flight navigation tools.

We are proud to be one of six district schools, along with the Tiger Woods Learning Center, on the West Coast that offer this outstanding program.

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Boys and Girls Ages 5 - 14

### Wanna Play?

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**Winter Season**  
**Jan 19 - Mar 16**

# Woodsboro *Elementary*

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



**Shirley Fargo**  
Principal

## Positive BEEhavior

The Woodsboro Elementary School staff has accepted the challenge, along with other schools in the district, to become a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) school. We were awarded a three-year grant, which will allow the development of a school-wide plan to promote positive behavior. Lessons will be created to teach students expected behavior and the "Woodsboro Way." The goal will be to permeate the Woodsboro community with respectful, responsible students who are ready to learn.

This year is the planning stage; next year will be the kick-off and implementation year, and the following year the plan will be refined using data to make a decision on the plan's effectiveness. PBIS includes a computerized data collection system, which will help as we develop, implement, and refine our program. The Woodsboro PBIS team is made up of teachers, parents, noon supervisors, and an administrator. The Orange County Department of Education supports our team with training and funds for incentives over the three years.

We look forward to next year, when we kick-off the Woodsboro Way: "BEEing" Responsible, Respectful, and Ready!



Parent and student volunteers make school safe.

# Yorba Linda *High School*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



**Dave Flynn**  
Principal

## Academic Excellence

The 2012-2013 school year is our fourth year, and we opened our doors to 1,810 students. We are looking forward to continuing and enhancing the programs that the Yorba Linda community expects and deserves from a comprehensive high school and offering the academic course work and co-curricular programs that prepare our young adults for the next stage in their education experience or for stepping into the world of work.

The Yorba Linda High School (YLHS) staff and community were very excited to graduate our first class of seniors in June. The Class of 2012's commitment and dedication in opening Yorba Linda High School helped to establish the Mustangs as one of top high schools in Southern California in just three short years. Academically, our seniors earned over \$1.75 million in scholarships and grants and dedicated 44,100 hours to community service.

Our students' academic performance on College Board Advanced Placement Exams earned an overall 84-percent pass rate on over 800 tests in 19 curricular areas. In addition, our Mustangs participated in California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) and set a standard Academic Performance Index Score (API) of 871 for 2010-2011 and expected 893 for 2011-2012. All of our students are getting "connected" to YLHS, and we invite our parents to participate in one of the many booster organizations and PTSA.

Go, Mustangs!



# “Every Day Counts”

By Rosemary Gladden

Director of Community Relations/Public Information Officer

Last spring, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District launched a district-wide attendance campaign called “Every Day Counts.” The goal: to convey the message that when students miss school, they miss instruction. In addition, when students are absent, the PYLUSD does not receive State funding for that day—regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Congratulations to schools, students, parents and community for increasing attendance from 96.5 percent to 97 percent in only a few short months! This is a particularly impressive feat given that the district’s average daily attendance was

nearly perfect when the campaign started. This effort translated into over \$700,000 in additional revenue to the PYLUSD. A portion of the revenue was returned to schools based on their attendance increases. The money will also make a huge difference in saving student programs and services during the State’s ongoing fiscal crisis.

As part of this effort, a district-wide poster contest was held in the elementary schools, and a video contest was held for middle and high schools.

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is pleased to recognize the following winners

**Mitchell Han, Golden Elementary**

First Place – Poster Winner

Kindergarten – Third Grade Category

**Madisyn Roman, Wagner Elementary**

First Runner Up-Poster Winner

Kindergarten – Third Grade Category

**Andrea Sutedjo, Woodsboro Elementary**

First Place – Poster Winner

Fourth-Sixth Grade Category

**Jacob Silberfarb, Travis Ranch**

First Runner Up – Poster Winner

Fourth-Sixth Grade Category

**Valadez Middle School Academy**

Video Contest

First Place - Middle School Category

Teacher: Mr. Castro

**El Dorado High School**

Video Contest

First Place - High School Category

Teacher: Mr. Switzer

To view the winning posters and videos, visit the school district’s webpage at [www.pylusd.org](http://www.pylusd.org).

## El Dorado High School Graduate is Appointed Principal of Her Alma Mater

By Rosemary Gladden, Public Information Officer

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District announced the appointment of Carey Cecil as the new principal of El Dorado High School, the school that she graduated from in 1994 and where she currently serves as assistant principal.

“Carey is a perfect match,” said Superintendent Doug Domene. “She is a proven teaching professional, instructional leader, and admired by the El Dorado students and community. Not only that but she walked in the shoes of the students whom she will serve.”

Cecil is a graduate of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District having attended Sierra Vista Elementary, Tuffree Middle School and El Dorado High School. She then enrolled in Chapman University where she graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors and was named the Graduate Student of the Year by their School of Education.

In 1999, Cecil joined the PYLUSD as a teacher at Valencia High School where she taught English/language arts, honors classes and the school’s highly regarded International Baccalaureate (IB) program. She was also a consulting teacher, Mock Trial coach, and participated on the district’s literature review committee. In 2006, she became El Dorado High School’s Dean of Activities—the staff position



**New Principal Carey Cecil**

that works directly with students and booster clubs on all campus activities including student leadership development. Her own leadership ability quickly became evident and she was named the school’s Assistant Principal of Curriculum in 2009.

Cecil succeeds Cary Johnson who has served as an outstanding principal at the school since 2010 and last month was promoted to the district office as Director of Secondary Education. In this capacity, Johnson will oversee all of the middle and high schools. Under Johnson’s leadership, El Dorado received high acclaims. El Dorado launched the successful Digital Media Arts Academy, a four-year career and college readiness program where students experience film, television, photography and web animation creation. In 2011, the school was Orange County’s Mock Trial Champions and, in 2012, Newsweek Magazine named El Dorado one of “America’s Best High Schools.”



**Cary Johnson**

Cecil is excited about the future. “There is a passion for the El Dorado culture because we are a family that has accomplished great things for students and we are poised to accomplish even more,” she said.

### STATES ADOPT • FROM PAGE 1

logically formulate opinions, write a clear and concise composition supporting their premise, and articulate their work in front of the class.

At the secondary level, the PYLUSD offers more advanced courses and, in 2011, was named a “National Achievement District” based on the number of advanced placement classes offered as well as the successful passage rate on exams. The district also offers numerous high school academies including Digital Media Arts, Val Tech, Medical Sciences and others where students express their creativity while working on real-world projects. The PYLUSD academies are also connected with businesses and local colleges to offer students internships and certification.

The Common Core State Standards will have a new student assessment system called Smarter Balanced, which will replace California’s Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) system in two years. Smarter Balanced, still in development, will be computerized and designed to test more than one standard at a time.

The PYLUSD will continue to plan and meet with stakeholders during the 2012-2013 school year, partially field test coming requirements during the 2013-2014 school year, and be ready for full implementation in the 2014-2015 school year.



# New Look for El Camino Real High School



**New front entrance to El Camino Real High School.**

*By Rosemary Gladden, Public Information Officer*

When El Camino Real High School students returned to school in September, they walked onto a completely refurbished campus thanks to the community's Measure A school bond.

"It feels like a brand new school and has all of the special features," said Principal Gordon Chamberlin. "Students already experience a quality education and now they will be in facilities that match the first-rate atmosphere that we offer at our school."



**Students enjoy their new science classrooms.**

## What do students and staff say about their new campus?

Jake, Grade 12: "I am speechless on how this school turned out! Everything is brand new and looking so good! The guest entrance and the new marquee are probably my favorites. The way it says 'El Camino Real High School' looks so sharp and catches my eye right away. I can proudly say that I go to El Camino Real High School."

Mary, Grade 12: "I love this new campus. It looks like a real school now. There is a better learning environment, and we have nice looking classrooms. This school is finally getting what it deserves, and I'm proud to be a student here."

Teacher Christine Bonner: "When I think back to the first year that I started teaching, the transformation is utterly amazing! My first year at El Camino I had chalkboards, orange carpet, orange and gold cabinets and tables for students instead of individual student desks. Two weeks ago when I walked inside the science classrooms and the new front office, I teared up. We are beautiful inside and out."

El Camino was built in 1976 and is a three-time California Model Continuation High School.

## The result was worth waiting for.

- Campus Entry, Inviting Office / Staff Areas – The administration office is now at the front of the campus. The inviting office areas include visitor seating, a conference room, and offices for the counselor, nurse and attendance clerk. Staff will also enjoy a spacious lounge.
- 12 Classrooms – Each classroom comes with all new finishes and is equipped with interactive technology that can be found in all Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified schools. This equipment includes interactive white boards, distributed sound systems, document cameras, web tablets, teacher microphones and integrated switching systems that allow teachers to control monitors by a simple touch of a button.
- 4 Enhanced Elective Classrooms – The two science laboratories come complete with demonstration tables, safety equipment, display cases and a connected storage room. Apple computers fill the new graphics design classroom. The ceramics classroom includes work tables and a new kiln. The woodshop classroom now has a dust collection system, and the art class features work spaces for students.
- Multi-Media Computer Lab / Multipurpose Room – This large space includes 25 computer lab stations and a folding wall to allow for meeting space.
- Improved Lunch Area and Restrooms – The lunch area now has new hard scape and lunch tables. New restrooms are located throughout the campus.
- Enhanced Kitchen – The food service area also received an upgrade in size and includes new kitchen equipment.
- Parking – The reconfigured parking lot offers better circulation. New landscaping and school curb appeal welcomes visitors.



**The school office area is more spacious and welcoming for visitors**

Modernization is more than carpet replacement and paint. School interiors undergo complete demolition down to the frames and are re-built with new electrical, fire alarms, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, technology infrastructure, drywall and energy-efficient lighting.

Thank you, community!





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