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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 16

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

NOVEMBER 2013–JANUARY 2014

SUPERINTENDENT



The PYLUSD Advantage

English novelist J.B. Priestley once remarked, “I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic

waiting somewhere behind the morning.” Each new school year brings with it that very sense of excitement and anticipation for what the year will hold. This year is certainly no exception. It is always an honor to welcome over 25,000 students back to class for another year of learning and achievement.

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Board of Education and I, along with staff members across the district, look forward to providing outstanding educational experiences for all students. In doing so, each of us understands the tremendous responsibility we have in serving our district, and we are honored to do exactly that.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 2

District Launches Award to Honor Innovation, Excellence, Collaboration and Integrity

By Rosemary Gladden
Director of Community Relations /
Public Information Officer

California State University, Fullerton, and the University of California, Irvine, Medical Center were the first two community recipients of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District’s “You Are the Advantage” award. The school district launched the award this year to recognize community members and employees who embody the district’s four core values of innovation, excellence, collaboration and integrity.

The Board of Education honored CSUF for a partnership that initiated a science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or iSTEM, focus at Rio Vista Elementary this year. Tangible evidence of this partnership was clearly evident to students and teachers when they returned to school to find the university had provided 130 iPads, 3 mobile laptop carts, and 3 MacBook computers.

“We are using these iPads in the classroom as yet another



Accepting the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District’s “You are the Advantage” award for the i-STEM program are Rio Vista Elementary School Principal Rafael Plascencia, CSUF Elementary Education Department Chairperson Lisa Kirtman, Director of the iSTEM Partnership, Kim Case, Sierra Vista Elementary School Principal Cindy Rex, Kim Norman, CSUF faculty member, and Head of CSUF’s Instructional Technology Amir Dabirian.

way to engage students in their learning,” said Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Candy Plahy. “Cal State Fullerton will train both the school district’s teaching staff and the university’s student teachers on the use of iPads during lessons in math, science, language arts, and social science.”

See **DISTRICT LAUNCHES** • Page 15

Community Celebrates Grand Opening Celebration of Performing Arts Center

By Rosemary Gladden
Director of Community Relations /
Public Information Officer

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District and community members celebrated the grand opening of the district’s new Performing Arts Center on October 19.

“We are incredibly proud of our visual and performing arts programs,” said Superintendent Dr. Doug Domene. “More than 9,000 students participate in the performing arts. This event showcased the amazing talent of some of these students in one spectacular show.”

The event featured performances by music, dance and theatre students from across the district (elementary through high school). Alumni who are now well renowned in their respective fields also made surprise appearances. In addition, works of art created by middle and high school students were prominently



The 18,000 square-foot performing arts center opened on October 19. The venue has 635 seats and can accommodate various performing groups.

displayed in the lobby and were enjoyed by guests during the reception.

The 18,000-square-foot performing arts center is located on the El Dorado High School campus and is designed as a multi-use concert hall and theatre venue. The house capacity is 635 seats, and the stage can accommodate the following ensemble combinations: 125 musicians, or 70 musicians and 100 choir members, or 230 choir members.

Architectural features include a welcoming glass foyer, stage with fly loft, a state-of-the-art sound system, variable acoustics and orchestra shells that can be configured for different musical performances, and private areas for performers such as a green room. Construction began in 2012, and was funded through the communities support of the Measure A bond measure.



Dr. Doug Domene

We are committed to being a dynamic learning community that prepares each and every student for success now and in the future. To this end, the Board of Education and a large group of stakeholders including teachers, support staff, parents, students and community members joined together this past year to develop a new district strategic plan. This five-year plan of action, referred to as “The PYLUSD Advantage,” provides the framework for making the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District a unique place to learn and grow. The plan will guide our decision-making and ensure that our students will have the advantage of an outstanding education.

As we embrace and implement the PYLUSD Advantage, our first step is to align our entire school program and district organization around specific core values that support our employees and students as they work together to realize the PYLUSD vision and mission. These Core Values are what we stand for and represent, and include the following:

- Excellence – We relentlessly pursue excellence in all academic and organizational endeavors.
- Collaboration – We work together with all members of our school community to ensure student success.
- Integrity – We foster relationships that promote respect, service and honesty to ensure the well-being of all students.
- Innovation – We embrace a culture that celebrates ingenuity and inspires intellectual exploration.

The PYLUSD Advantage provides clarity of direction and keeps our focus on what is important for our students, our staff, and our community partners. To learn more about The PYLUSD Advantage, please visit our website at www.pylusd.org.

Once again, the 2013-2014 school year promises to be one of great success and exciting experiences for our school district and the students we are honored to serve.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is 6th Anniversary publishing the excellence from the PYLUSD. Thank you for being loyal readers.

The Superintendent’s message is the perfect introduction to a new school year. Positive energy produces positive results. The Core Values the District stands for will motivate and inspire students for their entire life.

Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 10 and there you’ll also see who won the contest in the last issue.

Happy Holidays! Our next issue is February 20, 2014...Happy New Year!

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**Covering the
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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

What is 21st-Century Education?



Julie Nibali
President

When we hear or read the words “21st-century education” do we really know what that means?

When the calendar changed to the Year 2000, we were worried about Y2K and the fairly new internet crashing. This did not happen of course. Instead, it was the beginning of an extraordinary technological “revolution.”



This revolution has made possible the greatest information and communication ability ever known. It has allowed more information to be more accessible than ever before, and has made communication between people from around the world far more effective and easy. Today's kindergarteners will be arriving at the career-stage of their lives in 2031. We have no idea how the world will look in five years, much less 17, and yet we are charged with preparing them for life in that world.

A 21st-century education will prepare our students to live and find success in a hi-tech, increasingly diverse, globalized, complex, media-saturated society. It must teach our students the following skills: critical thinking, collaboration across networks and leading by influence, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurship, effective oral and written communications, accessing and analyzing information, and curiosity and imagination.

The mission of the R.E.A.C.H. Foundation is to seek, explore and develop the kind of educational experiences and opportunities that will prepare our PYLUSD students to become 21st-century learners. Greater exposure to the powerful benefits of critical thinking (academics), creativity (the arts), and healthy well-being (athletics) will help our children reach their highest potential.

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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

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



Cameron Malotte
Principal

Inspiring 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 the achievement of an important milestone in the school's API score. While the state's goal is an API score of 800, Bernardo Yorba surpassed the 900-point mark this year with an API of 901. We also met all of our growth targets. 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 program of which we are proud is our developing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) program. The groundwork for this program began at the beginning of last school year, but we have moved forward this year with full implementation. Our motto is "Inspiring Excellence," and we are training students to be "Respectful, Responsible and Safe." Thus far, students and staff alike have responded well as we continue to work to improve the overall culture of our school to be even better than it already is.

Complementing the PBIS system are several other programs that are already in place. These include our Spirit Card Parties, which are sponsored by our PTA; Student of the Month and Student of the Semester awards; New-Student Luncheon; noontime activities/games/competitions; intramural tournaments; and our outstanding WAVE (Work, Attitude, Values, Excellence) program that recognizes students for achievement in academics and citizenship.

With all that in place, it is clear that the Matadors of Bernardo Yorba Middle School are "Inspiring Excellence!"

Brookhaven *Elementary*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Recipe for Success

Brookhaven has the perfect recipe for success: an outstanding teaching staff, hardworking students and supportive parents! The results are in, and Brookhaven Bears deserve a gold star!

Last month, we received our scores back from last spring's STAR tests. We're happy to report that our students did an outstanding job! Thanks to the hard work of our teachers and the support you as parents gave, we've increased our API (Academic Performance Index) 16 points to 915. Way to go, students!

Brookhaven's students show pride in their school and their learning. They're responsible and well behaved, arriving each morning ready to learn and get involved with school activities that happen throughout the year. They're always willing to help out around campus, take on community-outreach projects, and support one another. Brookhaven's parents play a critical role in student success as they work together in their children's best interest. They're supportive of the school and are involved in the classroom and schoolwide events.

As we begin a new year, Brookhaven is proud to celebrate its fabulous staff, students and parents. Brookhaven's outstanding teachers are committed to high academic standards. They value the relationships they build with their students from the beginning of the year and the role they play in connecting with students as they're taught. Focus on instruction and implementation of our outstanding district programs has led to a significant increase in student achievement.

Thank you, teachers, parents and students, for your hard work and commitment to making Brookhaven a great place to learn!

Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Everything to Ensure Success

Carol Ann Tomlinson, an American educator, author, and speaker, said, "Excellence in education is when we do everything that we can to make sure they become everything that they can." Ensuring all of our students achieve and make progress is a continuous process at Bryant Ranch Elementary School. As we delve into the Common Core State Standards, the validation of past practice that is linked to academic excellence will not go away. Teachers will continue to make data-based decisions focused on problem solving, critical thinking, and relevance, preparing students to be college and career ready.

This year, teachers will focus on math Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by communicating reasoning, data analysis, and modeling. An example of a successful instructional practice we will continue using is Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), which aligns well with the new CCSS in math. Another successful, research-based program is Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math®, also known as "JiJi Math." This software program was created by the MIND Research Institute and is graciously paid for by our PTA. This 21st-century learning promotes interactive, graphically-rich computer games that students improve their conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills.

The CCSS allow teachers and students to dig deeper into core skills and concepts, truly ensuring that our students have every opportunity to understand what is being taught. The Bryant Ranch staff is excited for the new transition while we still maintain our excellence in education, doing everything we can to ensure the success of all our students.

El Camino Real *High School*

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



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

Building the Bridge

By Christine Bonner and Jennifer DiCarlo
Teachers – Language Arts

Despite the challenges we face at El Camino Real High School (ECRHS), students and staff are determined to rise above our limitations. One of the basic tenets of our school is to continue to strive and never to give up, no matter what challenges arise. As a result of this spirit of determination, El Camino has been designated a Model Continuation High School three times and has been awarded a six-year Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation numerous times.

Our small size allows for individualized attention and fosters a nurturing and supportive environment. In addition, all instructors are teaching in their credentialed areas and are implementing the Common Core State Standards strategies in their instruction. Smaller class sizes and scheduling flexibility encourage students to work more productively.

Students transfer to ECRHS for credit recovery, but all of our students face unique challenges. On a daily basis, students are held to the same rigorous standards as students in other high schools. All classes have direct instruction, and student work is completed in class, rather than assigned as homework. We have traditionally placed a heavy emphasis on helping at-risk students develop positive attitudes and effective skills to make them career and college ready. Hence, we continue to build the bridge between failure and success.



El Dorado *High School*

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



Carey Cecil
Principal

Honoring Fallen Heroes

Last spring, El Dorado High School (EDHS) student Andrew Binnings approached the administration about working together to complete his Eagle Scout Project, the goal of which would be to honor former Golden Hawks who lost their lives in service to our country. What started small has now become a community effort to build a lasting tribute at the school site.

Binnings, now a junior, said, "The project was inspired by the chalk wall mural along Valencia Avenue," which was drawn when Marine Corporal Claudio Patino died in battle. In addition to Corporal Patino, the EDHS Veteran's Memorial will honor Marine Staff Sergeant William Harrell, whose son currently attends EDHS, and Army Sergeant Jason Weaver. All of them are graduates of EDHS.

Set to be completed by Veteran's Day, the memorial will be located in a large planter in front of the Social Science building. Architectural and landscape drawings reveal a permanent stone structure in a semi-circle with a tall pole displaying the American flag. The memorial will contain the names of those who served, their dates of graduation, and a time capsule planted by the families of the fallen heroes. With the help of volunteers from the local home and garden store, architects, scouts, and other community members, the entire planter will be renovated and landscaped.

We are proud to be Americans. We are proud to honor these brave soldiers.

Glenknoll *Elementary*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

Go for It!

In celebration of the Winter Olympics, Glenknoll started off the year with a new theme: "Be Bold, Go for the Gold!" Our school mascot, Glen K. Cougar, appeared at the opening ceremonies to recognize individual students for their summer accomplishments, as well as the school for its increased Academic Performance Indicator score of 941.

Over the summer, some students sent Glen postcards from their summer vacations, and Glen awarded autographed folders for some of the most interesting and creative ones.

Our very active PTA has planned many themed "Go for the Gold!" events throughout the year, including our first Book Fair that was held on October 15-17. There was also Family Night on October 16, and our third-annual Fall Festival held on October 25.

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



Glen K. Cougar welcomes Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. Rees's Kindergarten Classes to Glenknoll

Esperanza *High School*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

A Spirited Start

We started this year off earning a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation with a six-year clear, based on our attention to teaching, curriculum, and achievement of state standards. We then went straight into freshmen orientation Link Crew, as well as registration for all students. We had a great time with the Esperanza High School versus Yorba Linda High School football game and spirit week. This is a great local rivalry that promotes school spirit for both schools.

October flew by with Breast Cancer Awareness Week, Homecoming, Red Ribbon Week, a blood drive and a whole school assembly focusing on not texting and driving. The assembly featured speakers who have been affected by distracted drivers or have been the distracted driver themselves. It also offered a driving simulator so students could see the impact of driving while distracted. This was an eye-opener for our high school drivers.

Esperanza is so proud to announce that the Esperanza Entertainment Unit received a grant of \$30,000 from Disney VoluntEARS. This grant will be used to enhance our already award-winning entertainment unit!

Fairmont *Elementary*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Forever Falcons

Fairmont Elementary School students are off to a soaring start! As always, our dedicated staff works daily to provide excellent instruction to our students so that they may reach their potential.

The 2013-2014 school year brings about many exciting changes. Chief among them is the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in math. Fairmont, and all of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, is currently implementing CCSS in math, and our students are excited about the "new way we are teaching" math. Students are enjoying the hands-on, manipulative-filled lessons and discussions taking place in our math classrooms.

The CCSS goal is for students to leave 12th grade college and career ready. The new standards are about learning fewer concepts to greater depth and mastery.

Fairmont staff and students participated in our annual jog-a-thon held on October 25. This year's event theme was Forever Falcons. The students enjoyed running the track with their friends while raising money for our school. Thanks to our generous school community and PTA, it was a great success!

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George Key School

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



Deby Six
Principal

New Students, Technology and Partnering

This school year opened busily at George Key School, highlighted by the addition of several new students, the initiation of Golden Helpers, the ongoing implementation of our assistive technology, the Unique Learning System (ULS) curriculum, our Art Master's Program and Back-to-School Night!

We are so happy to have several new students join us from as far away as Korea and as nearby as Brea and Los Angeles! We welcome them and their families to our own family. We are excited to have them join us in all activities, including the first

Art Master's session led by parent Kathryn Kadletz.

Partnering with our neighbor, Golden Elementary School, resumed to everyone's delight. Five fifth-grade helpers from Mrs. Bloomquist's class—Abby Sansone, Cheyenne Martinez, Tessa Pennington and Lily Navarro—started their weekly visits to Mrs. Fox's class at recess. We very much appreciate their enthusiasm as they participate in fun activities with our students, who enjoy them tremendously!

Excitement abounds with our assistive technology emphasis as all George Key teachers continue to be incredibly creative in their implementation of classroom curriculum, iPad, visual schedules, GoTalk, various switches, and other devices to augment student communication and meet student needs. This also includes a newly configured head-control device synced with a computerized communication system constructed by speech therapist Jayme McLeish, thus giving a "voice" to nonverbal students!

Given the great turn out at Back-To-School Night, ongoing parent support, and the teachers' and staff's tremendous dedication, we are off to another wonderful start at George Key!

Glenview *Elementary*

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



Moises Plascencia
Principal

A Positive Message

Our students are off to a great start this school year. Glenview Elementary School's PTA, staff and students helped open up our school year with a fun and exciting outdoor student assembly to promote a positive message: Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best (NED). The acronym NED is simple and a fun way to remember and easily recall this important message, which is applicable to every student every day in the classroom, on the playground, and at home.

Promoting student success is a partnership we share with our parents, PTA, teachers, staff, and students. It is exciting to see students encourage each other during play time at recess, but it is even more rewarding



when students take this message to the classroom and apply it to their learning.

For more information about Glenview and how you can join our PTA, please visit us at www.glenviewbulldogs.org. Remember: Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best!

Golden *Elementary*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

Fourth-Grade STEM Education

Golden Elementary has recently begun implementing the LEGO Robotics curriculum in fourth-grade GATE as part of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) education.

"Working with Lego Robotics, I have learned that cooperation is key when working with partners," said fourth-grader Braeden. "Listening and following directions correctly is always important, and even if something seems impossible, one should never give up." Sam described it thus: "Cooperation is key in the building process and programming. Working with your partner by

compromising may be useful because it helps work over problems. Also, learn from your mistakes and go back to fix them. Be thorough, and don't rush." And Vincent said, "LEGO Robotics engineering takes the ability to cooperate with others and also plenty of perseverance for when things don't go as planned!"



Students Kaitlyn, Becca, and Nundini.

As students move forward with Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the 21st Century Skills of collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication will open doors to success!

Kraemer *Middle School*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

Involving Our Parents through Workshops

Kraemer Middle School recognizes that involved parents create successful students. To help support parents during the middle school years, Kraemer is hosting a series of parent workshops throughout 2013-14.

During these sessions, we'll provide parents insight into how to assist students with projects and essays and will also give information on school involvement, safety and online resources. Our teaching staff will lead these meetings, so it's also a great opportunity to meet teachers and administrators.



Our first Parent Workshop in October guided parents in how to gain access to the online grading system and also featured a session on the shifts in Common Core math. It was attended by over 75 parents and was a great success.

Upcoming Parent Workshop dates, all available in English and Spanish, are Nov. 13, Jan. 15, Feb. 26, April 2 and May 7. Sessions begin at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

La Entrada *High School*

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.laentrada.pylusd.org



Libby Moore
Principal

Valuable Partnerships

The Adult Transition Program (ATP) is a district-wide program that provides individualized support in special education for students from ages 18 to 22. Its aim is to assist with a successful transition from the students' old roles in high school to their new roles as adults in the community.

Students learn valuable vocational, mobility, community, social and independent-living skills in a community-based model. Based upon each individual's unique needs and IEP goals, these adult students will be ready to make informed choices and become active participants in their community. Four credentialed teachers and job coaches help support the adult students on campus and within the community.

The Adult Transition Program has a wide variety of community business partnerships. Currently there are over 11 local businesses that have opened their doors as jobsites for our adults, with some businesses at multiple locations within the Placentia-Yorba Linda area. We very much value these local partnerships.



Teachers Ryan Shaw, Jamie Randall, Jill Callahan, and Bill Greenfield.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Paula Kintsch
Principal

Standards Still High!

The Linda Vista Elementary School community believes in providing a challenging, nurturing and active learning environment for all children that ensures educational success, a lifelong desire to learn, and personal and civic responsibility. In keeping with this belief, our continued focus will be to increase student achievement and promote positive choices and responsibility.

Linda Vista parents were invited to the Common Core Coffee Talk in October to hear a presentation on the new Common Core Math. The presentation also included a discussion on the adoption of the new Common Core State Standards and the focus on the 5 Cs. These are Critical thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and digital Citizenship. The grade-level standards have changed, and so have the teaching methods, with more of an emphasis on applying what the students actually learn as opposed to merely filling in test bubbles. More Common Core presentations will be scheduled throughout this school year, including the upcoming one for language arts.

School safety is also important, and that's why we continue to promote a positive behavioral approach to discipline. Students show responsibility by following rules that are clearly identified and discussed at the beginning of the year, and they are rewarded with positive incentives for doing just that. Students earn rewards within the classroom as well as outside it, including Linda Vista Lion's Pride Cards and the Golden Ticket.

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 2013–2014 school year!

Our parents, teachers, students and staff members continue to collaborate as a team to best support the students and school community. Lakeview is a strong Professional Learning Community. Teachers meet regularly to analyze how they can make good learning strategies great, and those that are great even greater!

Grade levels work together to create lessons that are meaningful, as well as utilize interactive classroom technology to help enhance student learning. This year we will also continue to expand student leadership opportunities. Thanks to the wonderful support of our fabulous teachers and PTA, we now have three leadership clubs for the fourth- and fifth-grade students: Lion Pride, the GLEE Club and Peer Mentors.

Through these groups, our students have the opportunity to get involved with school announcements, peer assistance, community support, building character traits, social-group behavior strategies, spirit days, and much more.

Our goal is to make every Lakeview child feel safe and respected every day. We want to build their self-confidence to ensure a productive and successful learning environment. We will continue to be a proactive rather than reactive culture, one that builds strong values for learning.

The school's motto is: "Lakeview Lion ... Roaring to Achieve!" Our PAWS-itivity shows when we "R.O.A.R." This means Respect each other and yourself, be On time and on task at school every day, Achieve your personal best (never give up), and Responsibility is the key to success.

Mabel Paine *Elementary*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Who's Got the P.O.W.E.R.?

Mabel Paine staff continues to work diligently to implement our Positive Behavior Intervention Support plan (PBIS) designed to promote positive behaviors.

PBIS is a systemwide approach to behavior management in which the behavior standards are infused into every part of the school atmosphere. The acronym *P.O.W.E.R.* was created by the staff to help the students remember the standards expected of them in all aspects of their school day: Pride, Own Your Actions, Well-Prepared, Engaged, and Respect. The idea is to explicitly teach the expected behaviors and precorrect student behavior before it becomes a problem.

The students have the opportunity to earn a P.O.W.E.R. band each month for exhibiting their Mabel Paine Horse P.O.W.E.R. and are allowed entrance into the P.O.W.E.R. activity of the month. The students are crazy about the bands and wear them with great pride. At the end of the year, the students who have earned a band every month will gain entry into the end-of-the-year P.O.W.E.R. Extravaganza: our annual D.J. Dance Party!



Students enjoying their first P.O.W.E.R. reward of the year.



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Positive Parenting

Supporting Military Families



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

People can get into huge discussions about whether deployment soldiers is necessary or whether war is the answer to solving problems. But the fact remains that thousands of men and women are paying a price to serve our country. They give up precious time with their families, risk being wounded or even losing their lives, and come home forever changed by the trauma they have seen. Whether you agree with the cause they are fighting for or not, these families deserve our assistance.

Imagine you are a young mother (or father) and your spouse has just left for duty. You are alone with three children and fear you may be alone forever. You develop a system of survival, dealing with your children's reactions to becoming a single-parent home. A year or two later, if you are one of the fortunate ones, your spouse returns home unharmed physically. You expect your spouse to jump into the parenting arena and take half of the burden—but your spouse can't because of the trauma of the wartime experience. Perhaps the children start misbehaving to get the absent parent's attention, and a new version of chaos takes over. Or maybe the children have trouble adjusting to the new situation and don't respond to the discipline of the parent who has been absent.

Since Desert Storm, I have worked with deployed families, helping them to construct and re-construct their discipline system so that the children are provided the safety of a consistent front, whether it is one parent or two. While it is imperative for a military family to establish consistent boundaries and consequences, it is equally important that every parent do so. Through my Web site (parentingsos.com), my books, and private parenting coaching sessions, I constantly encourage parents to vacuum the chaos out of their homes and teach children to take responsibility for their choices.

For families where a military spouse is deployed, the assistance of other families is often appreciated. Take the children to the park with your children, invite them over to watch a movie, or take the family a dinner. Any act of kindness distracts them from the grief of being alone will likely be a blessing. Military wives often feel out of the normal arena and yet are experiencing otherwise normal life. What moment of kindness can you deliver to such a family? Their sacrifices are for the safety of our country; we need to make sure they feel like a positive part of our communities and care about them as people.



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 35 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho www.ParentingSOS.com and Kindle

Recess



Kate Karp

Recess is here, and just in time, too. Award-winning musician Justin Roberts, along with his Not Ready for Naptime players, has whipped up a whimsical collection of songs to play, imagine and relax along with and have a generally good time in the process. Just like recess.

Everyone, whether a dreamer or a doer, has a song here. “My Secret Robot” and “Otis” concern a couple of most unusual imaginary friends—the name Otis is a clue to one of them. “The Princess Wore Pink” is a fantasy of how a gently subversive

individual—OK, she happened to be a princess, so she had perks, but she used them for leadership—made a much-needed change to her town. “Looking for Trains” is a lovely, lilting song reminiscent of autumn evenings with an added flavor of Simon and Garfunkel. “Every Little Step,” dedicated to Roberts’s dog, Udo, sounds just like what a dog would think and feel: “There’s no trouble as big as my heart is wide.” And if you’re a teacher and “School’s Out (Tall Buildings)” doesn’t choke you up with happy tears, I don’t know what will.

The collection is available on CD, and there’s a limited edition that includes a pop-up robot and special web links for craft activities and bonus media.

Who among us hasn’t waited for that last enchanted click of the minute hand that rings the bell? Take a little break and enjoy *Recess*!

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



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Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you
email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put PYLUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by Dec 15, 2013
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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

**Congratulations to Jean Keyburn
Winner of the May Contest!**

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

Melrose *Elementary*

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



Vivian Cuesta
Principal

Active Schools Acceleration Project

And the winner is...Melrose Elementary School! We will be teaming up with First Lady Michelle Obama in her new Let's Move! Active Schools campaign. Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) is an initiative of ChildObesity 180, an organization that uses evidence-based research, multi-sector leadership, and an integrated portfolio of initiatives, which together accelerate systemic change or reverse the childhood obesity epidemic.



Practicing their in-class movement break, Melrose students, Jasmin Marin, Jesus Hurtado and Janet Salgado strike an Eagle Tree Pose.

Based on our strong application and demonstrated commitment to increasing our physical activity for our students and teachers, we were chosen to receive an ASAP grant to launch our Just Move program this fall. This is a step we took to make our school an Active School. We are now part of a nationwide movement spanning all 50 states. Educators, parents, and others schools like ours are stepping up to show America that physical activity is a fundamental component of what defines a great school.

Morse *Elementary*

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



Cristina McCall
Principal

A Community of Learning

Learning is in full swing at Morse Elementary School. As the new principal, I could not be happier to serve this terrific community. Morse has established an amazing reputation for helping students achieve high levels of learning and for taking time to shape each child's ethical and moral compass. The teamwork and strong sense of community that parents, teachers, and students exhibit is both refreshing and exciting. I am very proud to be a new member of the Wildcat family!

The fall brought many activities, as we've forged ahead with learning and implementing the Common Core State Standards. Students enjoyed activities and assemblies that enriched our understanding of the

scientific world. The fall fund-raiser, Red Ribbon Week, Battle of the Books, the book fair, and Trunk or Treat were a reflection of the phenomenal efforts of the Morse PTA. The school community eagerly looks forward to more fun-filled events that enrich learning!



Kaitlyn, Kylee, and Cameron planning for Battle of the Books.

Rio Vista *Elementary*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Cybersteps on Our New Journey

As we welcomed students and families to the 2013–14 school year, we embarked on a journey to seek, explore and develop educational experiences and opportunities that will give our students skills needed to compete as 21st-century learners and reach new heights in academic achievement. This journey began last year as teachers wrote individual proposals to integrate classroom use of iPads.

Three mobile iPad carts have been added through a partnership with California State University, Fullerton. The staff has experienced its first professional development that included a hands-on approach with a focus on the 5 Cs within the Common Core framework: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Digital Citizenship. Teachers explored apps like Nearpod and ShowMe and created and explored QR codes.



We look forward to this new venture and the partnership with the university as we strive to provide our students with opportunities to develop as lifelong learners in our 21st-century digital society.

Parkview School *Independent Study K–12*

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



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Meeting Student Needs

Parkview School is one of Placentia-Yorba Linda's hidden gems. This kindergarten through 12th-grade facility serves the area's home schooling community. Although our families meet with the site teachers to share student work and receive lessons and support, Parkview offers so much more.

Classes are available to each student every week. Some classes support academic learning, especially in the core areas of mathematics, English language arts, social studies and science.

But others are for enrichment, including an elective wheel, music and drama, leadership, and chess and sports.

Our students and parents can also participate in monthly field trips. This year they include a tour of a landfill facility, the California Science Center, Superior Court of California, STARR Ranch Field Ecology Program, and more. High school students can participate in online discussion boards in academic subjects, and connect with their teachers for a minimum of one hour per subject per week.

Accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges group (WASC) was attained during the 2009–2010 school year, and our Parkview staff, students and families work hard to keep improving the school. This past year our API score grew by 14 points, to 859!

Parkview is a tightly knit academic community. Parents help in classes and organize field trips. When it comes time for the spring musical, they also sew the costumes, help with practices, and support the production in all ways. Parkview is truly a collaborative effort, a united school community that works for the benefit of all students.

Rose Drive *Elementary*

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



Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

TEAM Roadrunners: Together, We Achieve More

What a rewarding start to the school year! September featured our Patriot Day Memorial Service, which allowed us to honor fallen heroes and the incredible feat of human nature with poetry readings, a flag salute and the creation of a unity chain. Now hanging in our MPR, this chain represents every student and staff member at Rose Drive and provides a visual reminder of the magic that happens when we unite.



We're excited about several academic developments, including the implementation of our new Common Core Math Program. Students are on their way to becoming 21st-century thinkers as they delve forever deeper into mathematical concepts and further their critical and algebraic thinking skills. The introduction of computer programming for our fifth-graders promises a closely linked development of the Common Core approaches, including logic, sequential thinking, problem solving and troubleshooting. We look forward to sharing more exciting news as the year progresses.

Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Doing Good

The Sigma Nu fraternity from CSU Fullerton has adopted our Eagles. They believe, as did Thomas Jefferson, that "every human mind finds pleasure in doing good to another."

Members of this service-oriented group come to our school every Friday. The Eagles call it "Fraternity Friday," and they can't wait to meet their college friends during lunch. It's here that they connect for lessons in sportsmanship, manners, respect, and how to have healthy fun. Within minutes, the field of 200 or more students is transformed into six organized teams in friendly competition.



Their game of choice? Whacko! Our fraternity friends pitch, coach and umpire as they engage each student in healthy exercise and a good time. Their side conversations include answers to questions like, "How long does college take?"

Every minute matters at Sierra Vista. Our children learn life lessons, build a sense of community, and dream about their future ... even during recess!

Ruby Drive *Elementary*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

News and Highlights

Ruby Drive is off to a terrific start, with new staff members and a campus that has undergone a beautification program! Mrs. McKibben, our site administrator, is professional, organized, kind and supportive. Mrs. Seward, a second- and third-grade teacher, is an El Dorado graduate who has subbed since 2011, and has two children attending school in the district. Mrs. Fetter, a computer lab assistant, is in her 18th year with the district. She enjoys gardening and listening to country and 80's music.

Mrs. Dellar, a speech-language pathologist, has worked with a broad population, from pre-K children to adults with neurological disorders, and is learning to play the piano. Mr. Chavez, an education specialist, comes to us with 13 years of experience. He has five years of coaching varsity baseball at YLHS, and has also coached girl's golf at El Dorado. All of these individuals are excited to be at Ruby and appreciate the friendliness of the staff.

In other news, the primary teachers are ecstatic about the school's increase in enrollment. The old staff lounge building was removed, and the new cement work looks very nice. Back-to-School Night was also well-attended, with many positive remarks.

Our parents work hard to support Ruby Drive. The students also enjoy raising money through fundraisers. The fourth-graders appreciate how the lunch supervisors keep students safe by enforcing the rules. The fifth-graders say there's pride in the air, which gives them hope, and that their teachers are kind and loving. And our sixth-graders are happy to have vocal music back!

Topaz *Elementary*

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



Monica Barrera
Principal

Reading and Learning

Greetings from Topaz Elementary School! We are excited about the 2013–2014 school-year and ecstatic to be able to continue providing the best education possible for all of our students.

We kicked off October with our Read for the Record Day. We read the book *Otis* by Loren Long and had a school-wide sing-along to "Old McDonald Had a Farm." A special and heartfelt thank you goes out to Topaz's own librarian, Mrs. Lumby, who planned the fun-filled day for our students and staff to enjoy.

In addition, we are supporting our district's Every Day Counts campaign with our Attend for Success at Topaz incentive program. Our school goal is to increase our attendance percentage rate by one-half percent from the same month of the previous year. Students who attend school every day will be rewarded for weekly, monthly, and trimester attendance.

We look forward to a successful year!



Travis Ranch School

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Champion Trailblazers Add Steam

This year's theme at Travis Ranch School continues to be "Champion Trailblazers" and that extra effort it takes to become a "true champion."

However, this year, we have added the words, "212 Degrees" in a variety of places throughout our campus. We shared with our students the significance of these statements:



At 211 degrees, water is hot. At 212 degrees, it boils. And with boiling water; comes steam. And steam can power a locomotive. Raising the temperature of water by one extra degree means the difference between something that is simply very hot and something that generates enough force to power a machine. It reminds us that seemingly small things can make tremendous differences.

A few of the positive messages we are communicating to our students this year are: Courage is fear holding on a minute longer. —George S. Patton; Inches make a champion. —Vince Lombardi

And then some...these three little words are the secret to success. They are the difference between average people and top people in most companies. The top people always do what is expected...and then some. They are thoughtful of others; they are considerate and kind...and then some. They meet their responsibilities fairly and squarely...and then some. They are good friends and helpful neighbors...and then some. They can be counted on in an emergency... and then some. I am thankful for people like this, for they make the world a better place. Their spirit of service is summed up in these three little words... and then some. —Carl Holmes

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

No Kid Hungry Campaign

Valadez Middle School Academy is tackling a big problem head on: childhood hunger. One in five children go to school hungry every day, and we wanted to make a difference for children in Orange County! For two weeks, we asked students and staff to donate \$1 to help provide 10 meals to a child in need through the No Kid Hungry Campaign. Our students rose to the occasion and donated more than \$1,401. We had a banner on which students recorded their donation and asked the students to wear orange in support of this worthy cause.



When asked why she donated, eighth-grader M.J. Valenzuela replied, "I donated \$2.00 because I want all children in Orange County to have enough food so they are not hungry and they can do well in school!" This is another awesome example of Valadez students showing social responsibility. Way to go, Eagles!

Tynes *Elementary*

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



Debra Silverman
Principal

Roaring with Successful Behavior

The Tynes Elementary School Tigers are roaring this year with their new positive behavior program. Our students are earning rewards for making excellent behavior choices, following all school rules,

and exhibiting good citizenship. Everyone at Tynes is responsible for creating a positive environment.

Students earn Tynes Tiger tickets for "doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right place." The tickets can be redeemed right away or saved for such rewards as popcorn, pencils, notepads, storybook garden, lunch with the principal, and a full-length movie at the end of the school year.

In addition students are earning rewards for their great classroom behavior when they complete all class work and homework for the week. We have so many outstanding students that it is difficult to choose the Principal of the Week award winners.

The Tynes Tigers are roaring with successful behavior and good choices each and every day!



Tuffree *Middle School*

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



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

A Special Honor

Tuffree's focus on academic achievement has culminated in its most recent Academic Performance Index (API) score of 912!

This accomplishment was driven by our passion for each student to reach proficiency. With additional honors sections this year, all of our seventh- and eighth-grade accelerated GATE/ honors learners now have explicit honors instruction in language arts, social studies, science and math.

Tuffree's Jazz I students, directed by Mr. James Hahn, were honored with an invitation to perform on the USS Iowa during D-Day ceremonies. The students were recognized for their demonstration of respect, outstanding musicianship, and stellar representation of Tuffree and the PYLUSD. The students gained a deep appreciation for those who served on this great battleship, which earned 11 battle stars in World War II and the Korean conflict.



Tuffree Middle School Jazz I students were honored by an invitation to perform aboard the USS IOWA for D-Day ceremonies.

One elderly World War II veteran respectfully stood up as our students performed. This reminded them of our veterans' dedication to making our nation and the world a more peaceful place, in protection of their freedoms.

Valencia *High School*

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



Jim Bell
Principal

Another Record Year

As principal of Valencia High School, I am pleased to announce that the National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named 10 VHS seniors as National Merit Semifinalists for 2013–2014.

This is a record high for both Valencia and the other high schools in the PYLUSD. To qualify, the students had to score at least 223 out of 240 on the PSAT taken in October of their junior year. The students included Collin Amano, Chad Atalla, Simran Chadha, Brian Chu, Daniel Hamidi, Brandon Kao, Brian Lin, Garret Lin, Aaron Patel and Mayher Uppal. Only six public and private high schools in Orange County had more Semifinalists.

In addition, Valencia had a record high of 22 National Merit Commended Scholars. Students had to score at least 203 on the PSAT to qualify. The students were Andrea Bae, Ryan Borden, Kwang-Tao Chou, William Fletes, Richard Gleiser, Alexandra Guerrero, Christian Hong, Harrison Hsueh, Jessica Hu, Lisa Jian, Nadaa Kenanga, Tanvi Mamtora, Ryan McLaughlin, Angeline Nam, Anna Nguyen, Michelle Nguyen, Neera Patel, Jeremiah Sahabu, Neil Shah, Nikhil Shah, Iffathul Shariff and Mark Walker.

Valencia also had a record high of three seniors identified by the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP). Those identified by the NHRP represent the top 1 percent of Hispanic students nationally. These students were Alexandra Guerrero, William Fletes and David Lepore.

Most of the students mentioned above are diploma candidates in Valencia's prestigious International Baccalaureate Program.

Wagner *Elementary*

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



Patrick Brown
Principal

Fitness and Funds

Wagner Elementary School and our PTA started off the 2013–2014 school year with its biggest and most exciting fundraiser ever, the school-wide jog-a-thon. With the theme of “Live Healthy–Be Fit,” the jog-a-thon was planned to coincide with Red Ribbon Week so the students could focus on “Healthy Bodies = Healthy Minds.” The jog-a-thon was held on October 24 during the students’ scheduled physical education times.

PTA set a goal to raise \$20,000 to fund the many assemblies, programs, materials, and extra activities that the Wagner students all enjoy. This \$20,000 goal encompassed the entire fund-raising budget for the year.

The students were able to earn T-shirts, ice-cream parties, pizza parties, and many other great prizes from their pledges. The PTA is very grateful for the outpouring of support and donations they have received from the local businesses. Over \$1,000 in prizes were donated for the event. Having a chance to win one of these great prizes made this a very special and very exciting fundraiser for all of the students at Wagner.

We are all thankful to our students for their efforts and to the community for the support that provides Wagner students with so many opportunities!



When you are finished enjoying your holiday cards, please help abused, abandoned and neglected children by mailing your used cards to:

**St. Jude's Ranch for Children
Card Recycling Program
100 St. Jude's Street
Boulder City, NV 89005**

They create new cards out of your old ones and sell them to raise money for the children.

Thank you,
Kay Coop, Publisher
School News Roll Call

Van Buren *Elementary*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

Dads are “Flipping Out”

What makes a good school a great one? Good test scores? Well-behaved students? Rigorous and relevant instruction? A caring staff? It is all of those things and many more.

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District has many great schools, and Van Buren Elementary School is one of them. One of the things that stand out at Van Buren is the number of parents involved in the variety of events and activities that take place throughout the year. On most elementary school campuses, mothers are the backbone of the volunteer corps, and that is true at Van Buren for many events, but for the Annual PTA Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast, it is the dads who take center stage.

On Saturday, September 14, about a dozen dads flipped 1,800 pancakes, grilled 42 pounds of sausage, and mixed up 70 pounds of pancake batter! Way to go, Dads! A good school is a great one when all members come together to create a safe, supportive learning environment in which all students can and will succeed.

Woodsboro *Elementary*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

The 3 R's Our Way!

Last year, Woodsboro Elementary School had a team of parents, teachers, an administrator and a school psychologist who developed a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) plan. With the coordination of Miss Johns, Mrs. Hawkins and Mr. VanderKooy along with Mrs. Irely and Mrs. Brushwyler, staff members and parents, every student learned the meaning of the Woodsboro Way.

The first week of school, students learned what being Respectful, Responsible and Ready looks like in every area of the school. They were taught the behavior expectations for the hallway, lunch area, restrooms, playground, and arriving at and leaving from school. Students will be recognized and reinforced with Woodsboro Way Cards (WWC) and incentives throughout the year. It is very exciting to see students saying, “Good Morning!” to their teacher, and principal as they arrive at school and treating each other the Woodsboro Way.

The Woodsboro Bees are following The Woodsboro Way: “Beeing” Respectful, Responsible and Ready.



Evelyn Gutierrez, Michael Amini, Darrius Huynh, Seth Gonzalez and Ms.Fargo

Yorba Linda *Middle School*

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



James Hardin
Principal

College and Career Readiness

A student who is ready for college and career can qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses leading to a baccalaureate or certificate or career pathway-oriented training programs without the need for remedial or developmental coursework. However, not every student requires the same proficiency in all areas. A student's interests and post-high school aspirations influence the precise knowledge and skill profiles necessary to be ready for postsecondary studies.

A single cut score on a test given to high school students does not take into account this individualization of the match between knowledge and skills on the one hand and aspirations on the other. A secondary program of instruction should be designed to equip all students with sufficient knowledge and skill. The measure of success should be student success in his or her chosen field of postsecondary education or post-high school training. Measuring this requires a more specialized and adapted assessment strategy than can be achieved with a single cut score on a single test.

Yorba Linda *High School*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Riding High!

The 2013–14 school year started with a very special recognition for the YLHS students, staff and community. Yorba Linda High School has joined an elite group of high schools in Orange County that have an API (Academic Performance Index) of 900 or higher. There were only eight other Orange County schools that exceeded this mark, and only four of these were comprehensive high schools similar to YLHS. We are very proud of our 1,750 students and our staff for their success in scoring a 904 on this 2013 California Department of Education STAR Test.

In addition, our Mustangs earned an 85 percent pass rate on 1,019 College Board Advanced Placement Exams and scored 40 to 60 points higher than the state average of the SAT exams. YLHS academics are leading the stampede here at Yorba Linda High School, and we are looking forward to another great school year!

DISTRICT LAUNCHES • From Page 1

However, technology is not the only benefit the district has enjoyed. At its inception four years ago, the partnership brought student teachers from Cal State Fullerton's Teacher Education program to Linda Vista Elementary School. The student-teaching program will now expand to two additional schools, Rio Vista Elementary and Sierra Vista Elementary.

In September, the award was presented to UCI Medical Center for opening their doors during the summer to Valadez Middle School Academy students for a two-day "Doctor for a Day" experience.

As part of the "Doctor for a Day" program two middle schools (one from the East Coast and one from the West Coast) were invited to a behind-the-scenes opportunity to learn about the medical field. The visit included a tour of the facility laboratories, hands-on use of equipment, and time with doctors and medical experts.

"The goal of the program is to stimulate students to advance to higher education," said Minerva Gandara, principal of Valadez Middle School Academy. The school was chosen because they had developed a positive, ongoing partnership with UCI Medical Center over the past two years to

provide athletic physicals to eighth-grade students who are preparing for high school sports. The other school was from Brooklyn, New York.

During their memorable two-day visit, students were provided access to the hospital's:

- Surgical Education Laboratories where they were given hands-on time to use and conduct virtual surgeries, such as microscopically removing an appendix and a gallbladder;
- da Vinci Surgical System® which is used to perform robot-assisted surgeries;
- Surgical Education Center where students learned to suture wounds;
- Ultrasound Lab where students used the x-ray equipment;
- Nutrition Lectures where students learned directly from experts in the field; and
- Much more.

After their exciting visit, students spent time at Crystal Cove beach where they participated in team-building activities with the New York students.

Traveling home to Placentia dressed in their surgical scrubs with Certificates of Completion in

hand, all of the students shared that they wanted to become doctors, according to Principal Gandara.

"It was an amazing day, and the doctors invited us to return again next year," she said.

The *You Are the Advantage* award celebrates innovation, excellence, collaboration and integrity, which became the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's core values this past summer when the Board of Education adopted a five-year strategic plan. Referred to as the "PYLUSD Advantage," the strategic plan will serve as a roadmap to guide the PYLUSD in decision making to better prepare students for college and careers. Students, community members, business and civic leaders, as well as staff joined in the development of the plan over the past year. The conversations centered on the community's vision for the future of this district.

To view the plan in its entirety, visit the district's website at www.pylusd.org.

The school district will continue to present the *You Are the Advantage* award throughout the year to individuals or groups who embody the PYLUSD's core values.

School News

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