

School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Doug Domene

Dear PYLUSD Community,

Like many may undoubtedly know, I have always been a huge music fan. As a matter of fact, my father was a singer – a crooner in the style of

Frank Sinatra. I might add that he was really very good.

Often, as I think about our school district and the tremendous team of people who make it work so successfully, I again think of music. I see the PYLUSD and all those who support it in our community as one colossal orchestra. And in this orchestra, each of you contributes something irreplaceable to the melody, the rhythm, and the sound.

It gives me great pleasure and pride to say that it is a spectacular orchestra indeed! Every sacrifice of time, vision, energy, and financial support is appreciated and valuable.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 12

\$100,000 in Grants to Expand Career Technical Academy Programs

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

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District was the only district in Orange County to receive two \$50,000 grants from the California Department of Education to expand career and technical education programs.

The Specialized Secondary Program grants were awarded to 67 high schools across the state. In Orange County, only four school districts and the county's department of education received grants. According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, the grants are for schools to develop "cutting-edge programs so students can explore areas of study in a deeper way while developing their talents and skills for college or career."

El Dorado High School will expand its award-winning Digital Media Arts Academy to include a broadcasting pathway. El Dorado's academy already offers film and television production, photography and animation. Students in the highly-sought-after academy produce digital portfolios, a weekly broadcast show, and numerous animation/film projects using the best equipment



High School Academies provide real world experience.

in the business. Their recently-built recording and editing studio is complete with computers loaded with a suite of the latest industry software. Students can also earn Apple certification in Adobe Flash, Final Cut Pro and other software used by professionals in the video and film industry. Students have won a myriad of awards, and one student's work was even selected to

See **\$100,000 IN GRANTS** • Page 5

Students Achieve Top National Honors

By Rosemary Gladden-

Director of Community Relations / Public Information Officer

Three Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District students recently achieved top honors at the national level:

Sharleen Loh, eighth-grade student from Kraemer Middle School, was named as one of "America's Brightest Students," an honor presented by Johns Hopkins University. Sharleen is identified gifted, scored in the 95th percentile on standardized tests, and scored in the 87th percentile on the American College Testing (A.C.T.) college entrance exam last year as a seventh grader.

Christian Hong, senior at Valencia High School, was recognized for achieving a perfect composite score on the A.C.T. college entrance exam. Of the 1.6 million students across the nation who take this exam, less than one half of one percent ever attain a perfect score.

Daniel Hamidi, a senior at Valencia High School, will travel to Washington, D.C., this coming March as one of two students selected to represent California in the United States Senate Youth Program. Daniel is passionate about politics and aspires to become a federal judge. He is the school's Associated Student

Body secretary, a student representative on School Site Council and was sophomore class president. He is also the State Speaker of the Assembly for Junior State of America, a National Merit Scholar, and a National AP Scholar. He has volunteered more than 200 hours with the American Cancer Society and was just awarded early acceptance to Yale University.

These are a few of the many recognitions achieved

throughout the year by students in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Congratulations!



Sharleen Loh



Christian Hong



Daniel Hamidi

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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

ShamRock n' Run Registration Now Open



Julie Nibali
President

The 2nd Annual ShamRock n' Run 5K Run & 2K Fun Run Registration is now open! This event, which features a 5K timed run on a certified course and 2K fun run/walk, will take place at 7 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2014 at our new location Yorba Regional Park, La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, (between Imperial Hwy and Weir Canyon). To participate, register at reach4pylud.org and click on the ShamRock 'n Run tab. \$5.00 of your registration fee can be donated directly to the PYLUSD school of your choice.



Last year's event, the inaugural race, surpassed expectations with 1,000 participants. Due to popular demand, the 5K race route has been moved to Yorba Regional Park to accommodate up to 2,000 runners this year.

Proceeds from last year's event are being used to bring back a popular district-wide track event for middle schools. This event had been eliminated due to budget cuts.

- Support our schools as you enjoy running or walking through the beautiful Yorba Regional Park and along the scenic Santa Ana River trail.
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For more information go to our web site reach4pylud.org or contact a representative directly by emailing eventregistration@reach4pylud.org.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year! The holidays seem so long ago and now students are planning their Spring Break, making college decisions and focused on testing.

Superintendent Domene's message on the front page emphasizes how important everyone is to the success of students. The community support is evident in his district highlights.

You have let me know you like contests and you'll find the winner of last issue on page 14 with our Word Search Contest.

Our next issue is May 15.

School News Roll Call

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Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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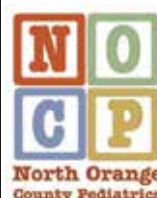
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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

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



Cameron Malotte
Principal

Inaugural OC Middle School News Medium

By Christine Perez, "Matador Messenger" Advisor

First *Newsweek*, now Bernardo Yorba Middle School! After nearly 20 years, BYMS is publishing a student newspaper. In keeping with the time and technology, the "Matador Messenger" is publishing online, using the SNO (School Newspaper Online) WordPress publishing service. Not only is this a first for Bernardo Yorba but it is a first for the Placentia-Yorba Linda USD.

The "Matador Messenger" and its staff of 32 reporters and editors also have the distinction of being the first middle school in Orange County to produce an SNO publication.

After a month of intensive training in journalism, members of the staff were ready to publish. Editors were chosen, beats assigned, photos taken, badges worn, and interviews and research commenced. Campus news, district news, county, state national, international—all subjects of interest to students, staff and this community are researched and reported in our "paper," not just weekly but daily. Students are encouraged to read it and respond to it, for it is *their* publication.

Were it not for the talent and dedication of the staff of reporters and editors as well as the support of the BYMS administration, this publication could not exist. The "Matador Messenger" can be viewed at matadormessenger.com.

Brookhaven *Elementary*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Supporting Our Students

As I walk the campus of Brookhaven Elementary School, I am always amazed at the number of parents, grandparents, and extended family members who are here supporting our students and showcasing the value of education. Our parents and volunteers give back to our students in many ways. If they are not working with students in the classroom, you may find them making copies or providing classroom supplies for our teachers.

In addition to the many ways our parents support the school at the classroom level, they also support our school through their fund-raising efforts. The monetary support of our parents provides great opportunities to extend learning through fieldtrips, assemblies, and art.

As we prepared to send our sixth-grade students off to science camp, I was once again amazed by the committed group of sixth-grade parents who took the lead to help get our students on this trip. Over the course of the year, they put together restaurant nights, movie nights, bake sales, and candy grams among other fund-raising opportunities, which resulted in raising over \$7,000 to help support and reduce costs for all of our sixth-graders attending camp.

Although sixth grade will benefit directly from these recent fund-raisers, I thank all of our families who participated in supporting our students. Collectively we have made an impact that showcases that we are one team growing together! Thank you to our entire community for the commitment to going above and beyond to benefit our students. You make a difference!

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Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Ensuring Success

Carol Ann Tomlinson, an American educator, author and speaker, noted that, “Excellence in education is when we do everything that we can to make sure they become everything that they can.” Making sure that all of our students can achieve and make progress is a constant process here at Bryant Ranch. As we delve into the Common Core State Standards, the validation of past practice that is linked to academic excellence will not go away. Our teachers will continue to make data-based decisions that focus on problem solving, critical thinking and relevant solutions to help prepare students for college and careers.

This year, teachers will focus on the math Common Core State Standards by communicating reasoning, data analysis, and modeling skills. An example of a successful instructional practice is Cognitive Guided Instruction, which aligns well with the new CCSS in math that we will also continue using.

Another successful research-based program is Spatial-Temporal 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 tool promotes interactive and graphically-rich computer games to help students improve their conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills.

The CCSS allows teachers and students to dig deeper into core skills and concepts, thus ensuring that our learners have every opportunity to understand what is being taught. Our staff is excited about this transition. We will maintain our excellence in education, and do everything we can to ensure the success of our students.

El Dorado *High School*

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



Carey Cecil
Principal

To “C” the Future

Conversations about the Common Core Standards invariably include discussions about college- and career-readiness. At El Dorado, students of all interests and abilities are afforded the opportunity to develop what is commonly referred to as the “4 C’s.” These are communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

In economics, students emulate the work of Bill Gates. They become entrepreneurs (or “Eldo-preneurs”), and create a business that they can initiate with \$500 and their existing skill set. They collaborate on their business plan, pitch to peers who act as investors, and participate in an expo where they can showcase their work. In fact, some students have successfully started the businesses that they have proposed.

Outside of the classroom, the students in Mock Trial put these 4 C’s into action when they compete in front of sitting judges and practicing attorneys in a courthouse. Led by teacher/coach Sunshine Cavalluzzi and her husband, Tony Cavalluzzi of the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defenders Office, the team successfully argued the *People vs. Concha* case. They used their critical thinking abilities, stellar speaking skills, teamwork, and innovative approaches to handle the case. This year’s group was so skilled that they moved up the finals and were named Orange County Runners Up, which is an amazing feat for this rookie team!

Whether through completing projects or competing in court, our Golden Hawks develop the kind of important 21st century skills that are essential to their personal and professional success.

Are you looking for
me for the contest
on page 13?



El Camino Real *High School*

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



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

Going to Griffith!

On December 19, 50 students, accompanied Mrs. Rotkosky and Mrs. G., participated in a cross-curricular activity at Griffith Observatory from noon until 9 p.m. It was a fun-filled opportunity for students to explore the electromagnetic spectrum, different types of telescopes, and Earth’s place in our solar system and to practice astronomical equations and proportions.

Most of the students had never been to Griffith Observatory and were not only surprised at how much they enjoyed the experience but grateful for the opportunity to attend. When asked what they enjoyed most, the top three answers were “the view,” “all of it,” and “the dome movie.” Although the students weren’t able to see the moon because they went on the one day in December it rained, many saw a double rainbow. All agreed it was still worth the long trip, affirmed by the many smiles, memories created, and even songs sung on the bus ride home.



Ivan Cuenca, John Anderson & Airynn Sorenson get goofy at Griffith Observatory.

Esperanza *High School*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

Second-Half Happenings

As we head into second semester at Esperanza, there are some great things happening that are starting us off in the right direction. Our Manufacturing and Engineering program received a specialized secondary grant worth \$50,000 to develop innovative programs for high school students. Also, our Esperanza entertainment unit is pleased to announce that two of our jazz band students, Evan Abounassar and Joel Wenardt, made the All-State Jazz Band.

In the second half of the school year, we have many things taking place with athletics, activities, academics and the arts. One academic program at Esperanza is our rigorous Distinguished Scholar program. Students who apply and qualify for this program will be recognized during second semester, and the seniors will also be recognized at graduation. Spring sports are in full swing, and we are excited to see how their seasons unfold.

In the upcoming semester, we will be holding our eighth-grade Parent and Student Night on April 9. Parents and students will get all the information about what takes place in high school. Parents will get in-depth information on class offerings and how to successfully transition their children into high school. Students will be interacting with high school students during a tour and through activities set up by the ASB and PTSA students. This is a great night, and we hope that everyone can attend.

Glenknoll *Elementary*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

A Busy Season

Glenknoll's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program (PBIS) is still going strong! A group of parents recently painted a mural on our lunchroom wall that featured our school-wide behavior expectations. Our PTA and parent volunteers are also supporting the program with a student store, where the children can purchase items with special "PAWS" cards they earn for positive behavior.

Our courageous sixth-grade teachers and students recently completed a four-day Outdoor Science School in early January.

This program is administered by the Orange County Department of Education, and is held at their site near Forest Falls.

The students explored mountain trails, observed wildlife, and studied the geological features of the San Bernardino Mountains. They were also able to meet and interact with students from other schools, and bunk together in cabins. All the grade levels are planning field trips in the spring.

This year Glenknoll will also be starting a weekly vocal music program for grades 1–4, with a performance planned for late May.



Sixth Graders Carly De Girolomo, Cassidy Gibson, and Celeste Esqueda examine the new PAWS mural at Glenknoll.

\$100,000 IN GRANTS • *From Page 1*

the Cannes Film Festival. Alumni are now employed with companies such as Universal and MTV. This new strand will now expand to train students with broadcasting industry experience such as on-camera training, news directing, sound editing, boom operations, and much more.

Esperanza High School's Manufacturing Program will now offer high school students the opportunity to obtain industry certification in Mastercam and SolidWorks, computer-aided design (CAD) programs used by more than two million engineers and companies worldwide. The grant will also enable the school to provide students "EDU Factor," a career-based curriculum package that familiarizes students with the "World of Engineering and Manufacturing" in a more activity-based setting. Esperanza's program has also earned national recognition. In 2013, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers recognized Esperanza as one of only nine exemplary schools in the nation for its manufacturing program.

These are only two examples of the career technical education opportunities offered in Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified high schools. The district also offers a Val Tech Academy at Valencia High School; a Medical Sciences Academy at Esperanza High School; and a Culinary Arts Academy at Yorba Linda High School as well as a variety of additional courses in partnership with the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program.

Fairmont *Elementary*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Fairmont Students Shine!

Two great trademark qualities of our Fairmont Elementary School students are their giving spirits and talented minds. Our students continue to both amaze and astound as they demonstrate these qualities in various ways. In late November and early December, our student council coordinated our annual Holiday Toy Drive, collecting new, unwrapped toys that were donated to families in our community. Through their efforts, we collected 43 huge bags of toys that were donated to Tynes and Topaz Elementary Schools.

We were also very impressed by the talents displayed in our school-wide drama production of "The Sound of Music!" We had 170 students, in two separate casts, participating in the play at our new district performing arts center on the El Dorado High School campus. Center Stage Theater and its producer, Harrison Zierer, along with our PTA drama chairpersons, led this production. It was truly on the list of our favorite things!

Go, Falcons!

George Key School

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



Deby Six
Principal

Community Support, Dedication and a Busy December!

So many holiday events this past season demonstrated the wonderful support of our community!

At our Annual Rotary Christmas luncheon, the Rotarians again outdid themselves. This year, their generosity will allow students to access additional sensory and recreational equipment as an integral part of their functional-life-skills program.

Kristen Fowler's Gingerbread House Extravaganza, in conjunction with the Marines' Toys-For-Tots Program, featured their donation of beautifully decorated gingerbread houses and makings. It made for fun learning activities and holiday spirit for those less fortunate.

Kudos to teachers Patti Linza and Barbara Howe for facilitating their annual Classroom Christmas Bunco. Donations of gift cards by students, families and staff were made to needy families in the PYLUSD McKinney Vento Program. Thanks also to Kathy Eidson's Adult Transition Class, which held a Holiday Sock, Hat and Glove Drive in partnership with the Placentia Presbyterian Church. This extended the students' job training—their weekly work at the church—by filling emergency food bags. Students collected over 150 items, including 100 pairs of socks!

Our inaugural Winter Program was attended by an enthusiastic audience. Each class choreographed a holiday-themed skit, implemented augmentative communication devices to give voice to their words, and created festive scenery. Thanks to Patti Linza and the collaboration of our school community, the show was a big success!

The year concluded with best wishes for our two December graduates, Andy and Matt. We give a bittersweet farewell as we support our graduates and their families in their new life chapters!

What a wonderful conclusion to 2013! Thanks to you all!

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Glenview *Elementary*

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Moises Plascencia
Principal

A Great End to a Great Year

By Mrs. Vega and Mrs. Yeamen, Fourth-Grade Teachers

This year Glenview sponsored a “Toys for Tots” toy drive! Our students were thrilled with the idea of helping other children in the community. But they were especially thrilled by another challenge. If they could fill up the back of a pick-up truck with toys, Mr. Plascencia would dress up like Santa Claus!

The toy drive lasted for several weeks. The last day exceeded all expectations. The students were so filled with joy that they started singing *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*!

All of the toys were delivered to Fire Station No. 8, which is on Riverdale in Anaheim. The firemen were very surprised by the amount we collected. It took four firemen, our librarian, her spouse and her daughter to unload all of the toys! We are extremely proud of all our volunteers, and especially the students, for pouring their hearts and souls into this great cause.



Kraemer *Middle School*

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

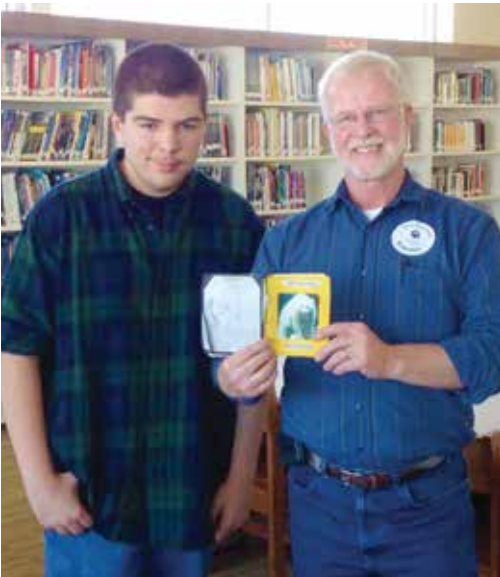


Keith Carmona
Principal

Author's Surprise Visit

Kraemer Middle School students were surprised by a drop-in visit from author Ben Mikaelson. Eighth grade students had recently finished reading his novel, *Touching Spirit Bear*, when Ben, who was on his way home to Montana, came to Placentia to visit Kraemer students. Ben chatted with kids during language arts

class and their nutrition break. The library was filled with enthusiasm as Mr. Mikaelson entertained his fans by reading a chapter from his new book *Jungle Bones*, answering questions about his other works, and telling funny stories about his pet bear. Inquiring minds tossed out questions as Ben signed autographs, posed for selfies, and encouraged students to follow their dreams.



Golden *Elementary*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

Science Night

Golden Elementary hosted their first ever Science Night on January 16, Golden's PTA hosted the event with teacher sponsors. Families worked together on amazing hands-on experiments. They built batteries, determined the best weight for parachutes, used 'code' in Golden's computer lab to solve puzzles, and designed rockets to name but a few activities. The star of the show was the amazing GIANT telescopes. Golden students and parents were amazed to see Jupiter and its four moons. The telescopes were four times more powerful than the ones at the Griffith Observatory! The Orion Nebula was clear, a stellar nursery 1500 light years away! Valencia High School Science Olympiad Team and Robotics Team enthralled and delighted students! Minds were exploding with scientific



La Entrada *High School*

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



Libby Moore
Principal

La Entrada High School has Moved!

We are excited to announce the new location of our La Entrada High School, which has been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and University of California system as an Exemplary Independent Study High School! Our new location is in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Professional Development Academy at 4999 Casa Loma in Yorba Linda. Centrally located in the middle of the school district, this location provides easy access

for any district student who is interested in a personalized education.

La Entrada's personalized high school diploma program is designed for students who desire an alternative to the traditional school setting, where the focus is on completing one subject at a time. This personalized, student-centered program offers the opportunity for a hybrid educational model, whereby students have the option of taking textbook-based courses, on-line courses, or a combination of both.

All students have the opportunity to graduate early in the accelerated track by taking concurrent classes through their resident high school, community college, and/or the Regional Occupational Program. This is a very popular track for motivated students who are interested in completing all of their graduation requirements in three years. In June of 2014, five students will graduate at the end of their junior year. Our senior students who have already completed their graduation requirements at the end of the first semester will be enrolling one semester early in area community colleges.

As a free, student-centered public high school, we partner students, parents and staff to provide a dynamic learning environment which promotes high academic achievement and personal and social responsibility and empowers students to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Lakeview *Elementary*

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



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Soaring Into Space

Lakeview Elementary School teachers are always looking for fun and innovative ways to engage their students to make learning exciting while practicing 21st-century skills. Our teachers want to ensure they integrate collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking into lessons and instruction daily.

The third-grade team is in the midst of an awesome unit representing all these things. It is a terrific experience which enriches the hands-on science unit called “The Sun, Moon, and Stars.” They begin with Space Camp to prepare for a shuttle launch to the moon! Each crew member has a specific job, including commander, communication specialist, life scientist, astronomer, and more. During Space Camp, students learn all about their jobs and prepare for and practice their specific jobs aboard the shuttle.



On launch day, “astronauts” gear up in specially made helmets, space suits, gloves, and life-support systems, which are all hand made by the equipment specialist. Once aboard the shuttle, the communication specialist contacts Mission Control (the teacher) and prepares

for launch. Once in space, all astronauts participate in scientific experiments, drive the rover, and eat in outer space. Once all experiments are completed, the commander instructs the crew to prepare to return to Earth.

This mock space shuttle experience is a wonderfully enriching activity all third-graders are sure to remember!

Mabel Paine *Elementary*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

New Year, New Ideas, New Partnerships

Mabel Paine’s staff is starting off the New Year with a new partnership. Along with the month of January comes renewed energy and spirit, which makes it the perfect time to research and plan new strategies to support our students in achieving and becoming college and career ready.

The staff at Mabel Paine kicked off the year by hosting the first in a three-part behavior series taught by the Special Education Department at California State University, Fullerton; Jaymie Shill, our school psychologist; and Jodi Nakamoto, the district’s autism specialist. By partnering with our local university and

district specialists, we are able to give our general-education teachers the expert behavior-intervention training they need to support all students in achieving their highest potential.

The first training addressed the cycle of behavior, specifically rage and tantrums, and outlined practical interventions to use to minimize student behaviors before they reach the peak of the cycle. Our next two sessions will be an introduction to applied behavior analysis (ABA) and will give our teachers the tools to quickly assess and identify the antecedents and consequences of a behavior in order to intervene, redirect, or minimize it so that learning can continue.

We are thrilled to be able to collaborate with CSUF and to be able to add additional positive-behavior supports to ensure success for all of our students.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Paula Kintsch
Principal

Science Fair Week

This past January, Linda Vista Elementary School held another spectacular Science Fair Week. All fourth- and fifth-grade students are required to complete a science fair project, and students in first through third grade are invited to participate.

Students completed the science projects individually or in partners. The students completed the science fair projects outside school time. The Linda Vista annual Science Fair gives students the opportunity to explore a question of their own choice, using the scientific method. The goal of the Science Fair is to enable a fun and meaningful hands-on learning activity for students at all ability levels. Beyond providing exposure to the scientific method, the Science Fair encouraged students to apply problem-solving techniques, to integrate knowledge and skills from multiple subject areas, and to develop skills in cooperation and communication.

To continue with the science experience, students and their families are invited to attend the Linda Vista Family Science Night on Wednesday, March 5 from 6 to 8 pm. The evening will include an insect scavenger hunt from Science on the Go and stargazing through numerous powerful telescopes.

Melrose *Elementary*

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



Vivian Cuesta
Principal

Building Positive Attitudes Toward Reading

Students at Melrose Elementary School know how important their reading fluency scores are in helping them to read with comprehension. They set goals at the beginning of the year and strive daily to meet them. Each grade level has a designated number of words the students must read during a one-minute interval. Students proudly carry their Fluency Cards with their individualized information.

In addition to focusing on specific reading skills, such as decoding, comprehension, and building vocabulary, we also focus on the development of positive reading attitudes. The teachers and staff try to be positive role models for reading. Students are rewarded and praised for making progress toward reaching their fluency goals. Research shows that students with positive reading attitudes tend to not only enjoy reading but also read more. A student’s attitude toward reading has a profound impact upon his or her overall academic progress.

Parents also play an important role in building positive attitudes toward reading. During parent-teacher conferences, teachers talk with parents about the roles they play in the development and shaping of their children’s reading attitudes. Parents are encouraged to take their children to the public library, provide a variety of reading materials in the home, read with and to their children, and set aside at least 30 minutes each day for their children to read.

Creating positive reading attitudes is a gift that will last a lifetime!

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Morse *Elementary*

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



Cristina McCall
Principal

Soaring to New Heights

Morse began this trimester with renewed focus on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in math. Talented and dedicated teachers work together to ensure that all students reach their maximum learning potential by delivering instruction that actively engages students in learning through collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and the use of technology. Student learning is soaring to new heights!

A dedicated team of teachers—Mr. Gomez, Miss Parelli, Mr. Stoffel and Mrs. Ricotta—provided a fantastic Saturday

School experience early in the year. Approximately 50 students participated in rotations where they learned conversational French, honed their spatial-temporal reasoning skills with ST Math, played fun physical education games, and participated in various art and library activities.

Morse Wildcats had fun too! The Glow Party, provided by our fabulous PTA for top sellers of the fall fund-raising event, was a huge success, with over 100 students dancing and glowing in the dark! Fifth- and sixth-graders attended an anti-bullying assembly and sixth grade geared up for Outdoor Science School. Second-graders enjoyed their field trip to listen to the Disney Band. All students excitedly composed stories in hopes that theirs would be chosen for dramatization at the Imagination Machine Assembly.

Our Student Service Organization (SSO) successfully spearheaded the Pasta for Patients coin drive. Morse families historically donate \$2,000 annually to help cure leukemia and lymphoma.

Many more exciting activities are on the horizon for our Wildcats! Be on the lookout for more information about our 50th Anniversary Celebration in May!

Rio Vista *Elementary*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Giving and Learning

At Rio Vista Elementary School, we continue to Believe, Achieve, Succeed for our students, school, and the greater community. For the second year, our students and families are participating in a service project for Pennies for Patients to raise money to help cure leukemia and lymphoma. Last year our families contributed over \$5,000 for this cause, and Rio Vista was the leading contributing school to Pennies for Patients. It is our goal to continue giving back to those in need and raise as much money possible to support the this worthy cause.

As we move into preparing our students to be college and career Ready with 21st-century skills, technology continues to be a vital tool. Rio Vista was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to purchase additional electronic tablets that support student achievement in kindergarten through fifth grade. Students and teachers are utilizing applications, programs, and resources to build creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication, the four Cs of the Common Core State Standards.

Go, Leopards!

Parkview School *Independent Study K-12*

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



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

A Unique Way to Learn

Our goal at Parkview School is to meet the unique needs of a variety of students, all with different learning styles. This program allows them to move at their own pace, yet challenges them to complete assignments based on state and district standards. Students are encouraged to achieve excellence in the pursuit of their studies. Parkview serves students from anywhere within the district boundaries and most school districts in Orange County as well as Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Currently one third of Parkview's students are from outside the PYLUSD boundaries.

Admission is open to any family who is committed to the school's operational and instructional philosophy. A family that might benefit from an independent study program, utilizing the blended home-school model, may have students who: are gifted in a particular field and wish to have more time to practice outstanding skills, such as artists, athletes, or entertainers; have chronic health problems; or thrive in a non-traditional school setting. To ensure success in the program, students should be at or near grade level and have strong study skills.

We are currently holding stakeholder meetings to better learn what families value most at Parkview and what changes or additions may better serve our student population. The keys to success at Parkview are motivated students, strong support at home, and regular communication with the school. Our faculty is available by phone, e-mail, or campus meetings. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rose Drive *Elementary*

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



Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

Roadrunners Practice Collaboration and Compassion

December allowed several opportunities for our students to work together and help others in need. The month began with students enthusiastically participating in our Letter to our Troops campaign. Initiated by our fourth- and fifth-grade student-leadership group, close to 1,000 letters were sent to our troops to brighten the holidays of the brave men and women serving our country.

Initiated by our PTA, our Canned Food Drive was another huge success. Students filled 10 giant bins to the brim with their generous contributions of food and personal-care items, helping Second Harvest Food Bank of OC feed close to 220,000 people this past holiday season!

Finally, our Snow Night not only offered an evening of magic but also provided the perfect opportunity for our families to donate a new unwrapped toy for our Spark of Love toy drive. The generosity of our families was clear when we delivered a truck overflowing with toys to a major sports and entertainment venue in December.



Rose Drive's Spark of Love Toy Drive.

So many opportunities for our students to demonstrate their generosity and thereby experience the results we can achieve when we work together! Go Team Roadrunners!

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Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Making Connections

The Sierra Vista Elementary School Eagles are soaring! Students at every grade level are reaching new heights, powered by innovative and creative programs launched by their teachers.

Recently, third-grade teacher Janelle Betts and second-grade teacher Amanda Robins connected with a local retirement home to plan and implement an intergenerational literacy project. The theme, “Everybody Needs Love and Friendship,” provides the children and their new senior companions with the ongoing opportunity to read, write, and share their life experiences.

Eight-year-olds and eighty-year-olds have a great time finding commonalities as they read and write stories for each other. The seniors will be taking a field trip to Sierra Vista in February with gifts of writing supplies and books for the students. The young friends will present creative art projects to hang on the residents’ doors.

One student, Bryan Wu, was inspired to step up on his own and shared a piano recital for the group in their front lobby. To conclude his performance, he spoke to the residents about what it takes to become a good musician. The audience was delighted to know that children still strive for excellence through hard work and self-discipline.

Future plans for the intergenerational friends include a balloon launch containing poems or paragraphs on love and friendship to share with the community.

Topaz *Elementary*

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



Monica Barrera
Principal

Reaching Our Goals

Topaz Elementary ended the year on a sweet note. We had an exciting snow day recently, and all of our students had the opportunity to play in twelve tons of snow! Afterwards, before they went on break, each student also received a new pair of pajamas from a local church. This was extra-special for many of our children, because it’s the first pair of pajamas they have ever owned.

The grand finale was a performance by our students and staff members. The show opened with a grandiose flair of dancing and singing, and the performances which followed were just as spectacular. We had over 300 family members and friends in attendance. The show definitely warmed the souls of our audience members!

A hundred toys were also donated to our Topaz families to enjoy over the holiday season. In addition, Mr. Sundstrom, Topaz’s beloved PE teacher, donated over 20 bikes to our students. Thank you to all of the staff members and parents who worked endless hours to help make our show a wonderful success!

The Topaz staff is excited to be entering the second half of the school year. We are ready for the upcoming 2014 school year, too! We will continue to focus on student achievement, and are looking forward to a year of great academic growth. We have set a course for more student success, and are grateful for all of the parent and community involvement and support we need to help reach our academic goals.

Ruby Drive *Elementary*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

Holiday Happenings

December was an eventful month for Ruby Drive School. Our school was recognized as one of the best schools for energy conservation during the holiday shutdown. Good job saving those watts! Ruby students are working hard to meet their ST Math goals and a celebration for students who met their first goal was enjoyed before winter break. The kindergarten classes performed the second annual “Gingerbread Man” play for the school and their families in December. Two sixth-graders, Tyanna Cervantes and Ximena Villegas, narrated the play, and parents



and staff volunteers were everywhere during the performances! Winter Wonderland was a huge success, with performances from a dance group of CASA students and the kindergarten actors and singers. The sixth-graders were inspired by their fieldtrip to the California Science Center to see the Endeavor exhibit. Learning is exciting at Ruby Drive!

Travis Ranch School

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

That Extra Degree of Generosity

The Travis Ranch School We Can Make a Difference (WE) Club and Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) joined forces last November and collected so many canned goods for the school-wide food drive to donate to our local McKinney Vento Homeless Food Pantry, there wasn’t enough space to store it, and it was shared with another local food pantry! Our local district families were overwhelmed by this generosity. Then in December, those two clubs organized a holiday coat drive as yet another school-wide effort. Seventh-grade student Katrina Vollmer delivered

354 coats and sweaters to Mary’s Kitchen in Orange, which provides meals and necessities to the Orange County homeless.

Our school theme this year is “Travis Ranch at 212 Degrees!” We have been teaching students that, just like water is hot at 211 degrees but boils at 212 degrees, we strive to make a difference in this world by going that extra degree in everything we do. We put that to the test by giving 212-degree school-wide effort in these drives with amazing results.

Yogi Berra, Hall of Fame baseball player and manager, once said, “You give 100 percent in the first half of the game, and, if that isn’t enough, in the second half you give what’s left.”

Go, Travis Ranch Champions!

Are you looking for
me for the contest
on page 13?



Tuffree *Middle School*

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



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

Well-Documented Spirit!

“Amazing educators who inspire Orange County students” is a local paper’s goal that found a match at Tuffree: science teacher Mrs. Worthington! We celebrate Mrs. Worthington as a classroom hero and appreciate her dedication and talents that provide motivation for learning, innovative teaching strategies, connections to school, cross-cultural acceptance, enabling of achievement and a genuine uplifting of learning spirit! We are proud that her accomplishments were recognized.

Tuffree students demonstrated their spirit of giving and support for others in our community by combining a canned-food drive and a donation from a clothing company. Students helped several families brighten recent holidays; they set up a “mini-clothing store” that was visited to select outfits of clothing, shoes, backpacks and accessories for each family’s youth.

The spirit of service is valued in our students’ willingness to find meaning in reaching out to others.



The spirit of service to others is valued at Tuffree as students set up a “mini-clothing store” for personal selections by community families.

Valencia *High School*

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



Jim Bell
Principal

Valencia Academics: Today and Tomorrow

As Principal of Valencia High School, I am proud to announce several noteworthy early university acceptances by Valencia seniors. Daniel Hamidi was accepted to Yale; Brandon Kao to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Pennsylvania (Penn); Mayer Uppal to Penn; Andrea Bae to Notre Dame; Cole Engstrom to United States Naval Academy and to the Coast Guard Academy; Luisa Parish to the Schools of Engineering at Ohio State, Michigan, Purdue, Illinois, Tulane, Arizona and Minnesota; Renee Monzon and Joshua Gonzalez to

Baylor; Danica Mauer to Chapman as a Presidential Scholar; Mitchell Joppru to Florida Tech; Brianna Munoz to Fordham; June Jung to the Art Institute of Chicago; Amber Hoskins to the School of Nursing at Point Loma; Mark Walker to Texas; Savina Dhupar to Drexel; Mimi Lovering to UCLA on a music scholarship; Jeremy Barragan to St. Johns; Erin Moon to Biola; and Adam Lipshin to the School of Engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Hamidi, Kao, Uppal, Joppro, Dhupar, Lipshin, and Parish are all International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates. Engstrom, Munoz, Hoskins and Barragan are Val Tech Diploma Candidates.

Valencia has had at least one student accepted to MIT six of the past eight years. Patricia Widener and Alejandro Dos Reis are recent grads. Candice Wu and Curtis Wu are slated to graduate this year. Felicia Hsu is currently a junior at MIT with a 4.0 GPA.

I am confident that this list of early acceptances is only “the tip of the iceberg.” Valencia’s Class of 2014 has nine National Merit Semifinalists, 23 National Merit Commended Scholars, and well over 50 IB Diploma Candidates.

Tynes *Elementary*

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



Debra Silverman
Principal

Student Valet Program

Safety is our number one priority at Tynes. This month we started our very first Student Valet Program to improve the flow of the parking lot and provide a safe welcome for students to come to school each day. Students applied for the position and arrive early each day to serve our community helping students out of their car quickly. This is a fabulous leadership opportunity for our students and teaches them safety and respect for others. In addition, the arrival every morning is smooth and creates a positive, safe environment to drop off children. Student valets were trained in safety and wear bright orange vests while on duty. We have four teams who rotate weekly. We are so proud of our new student valets and the wonderful service they provide to our school.



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

Tech Team

In October, our Valadez Middle School Academy’s Tech Team competed at California State University, Fullerton in the annual Pumpkin Launch. Team members built a 10-foot trebuchet that could hurl pumpkins 400 feet. The goal was to strike targets with the pumpkins for points. Unfortunately, they were unable to hit a target this year despite some impressive chunks.

The Tech Team has also been designing and building model rockets for the Team America Rocketry Competition (TARC). They began in October using computer-assisted design software to design a rocket that would travel 825 feet, carrying two eggs, and able to touch down on the ground about 50 seconds after liftoff. They built and tested their rockets and are now modifying them. Over the next two month’s they will continue testing the rockets to qualify as one of the nation’s top 100 teams for a trip to the finals in Virginia.



Van Buren *Elementary*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

Van Buren Roadrunners Running to Fitness

Every morning, students at Van Buren Elementary School arrive early before school to get some healthy exercise as part of the school's 100 Mile Club. Third grade teacher, Jennifer Adams wrote a grant funded through First Lady Michelle Obama's Active Schools Acceleration Project to allow the school to implement this excellent program. The students' goal is to run/walk 100 miles at school during the school year. During the course of their running and walking, the students earn incentives include a t-shirt, which they proudly wear, a certificate and for those reaching the 100 mile mark, a beautiful medal presented at a school-wide awards assembly. Over 600 students participate and after 10 weeks, the school has collectively covered 6,441 miles. Thanks to teachers Jennifer Adams and Tricia Johnson, school staff and many parent volunteers, the program is a runaway success!



Wagner *Elementary*

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



Patrick Brown
Principal

New Year Brings 50th Anniversary

The new year has been a very welcoming and exciting one for Charles Wagner Elementary School. Our focus during the fall was hoping to make our jog-a-thon the only fund-raiser needed for the 2013–2014 school year. We were hoping to raise \$20,000 through that one event. We surprisingly exceeded our expectations by raising a grand total of \$26,000! We want to thank our dedicated students, supportive parents, and hardworking PTA members for making our jog-a-thon such a wonderful and fun event for the students. All of Wagner Elementary will be able to benefit from the success of this event.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary for our school, which was dedicated and opened to students in December of 1963. It is named after Charles Wagner, a prominent rancher and farmer who settled in Placentia in 1873. The celebration for this historical event will be held on April 4. It will be a day filled with special activities and surprises. Many honored guests will also be in attendance during this special time. We are all looking forward to celebrating this milestone in our school's history.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary for our school, which was dedicated and opened to students in December of 1963. The celebration will be held on April 4.

Woodsboro *Elementary*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Combining Nature and Technology

One of the characteristics of the 21st Century Classrooms is the use of technology by both teachers and students to enhance and support learning; access, evaluate, use, and manage information; research; organize; and communicate. In an effort to provide and promote the use of technology, the Woodsboro PTA, a county newspaper's program to place Chromebooks in schools, and the Woodsboro staff are collaborating to bring Chromebooks and a 3-D printer to Woodsboro.

Jodie Hawkins, a fifth-and-sixth-grade teacher, has written a grant and is working with all of the sixth-graders to teach them about the science of *biomimicry*. Biomimicry, or *biomimetics*, is the examination of nature and its models, systems, processes and elements and then emulate or take inspiration from them in order to solve human problems. Students are currently researching and learning about animal behavior and using this information to solve real-world issues. For instance, woodpeckers hit their heads against trees without physical harm to their heads. This information could be used to develop a better football helmet.

With the Chromebooks and a 3-D printer, students will be able to imagine, develop, design, and create their own answers to problems that they have researched. Woodsboro's students and teachers are thrilled to lead the way in the use of technology to solve real-world issues.



Yorba Linda *Middle School*

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



James Hardin
Principal

Professional Learning Communities

What is collaboration? It is a systematic process in which we work together interdependently to analyze and impact professional practice in order to improve our individual and collective results. Educational research supports the fact that developing a staff's capacities for talking together may be the most significant investment staffs can make to improve student learning.

Yorba Linda Middle School uses Wednesday time together to do just that: develop professional learning communities! A systematic process is implemented where every member of our staff engages in the ongoing exploration of four crucial questions that drive the work of those within our school. We continually address a number of questions throughout the year. What do we want each student to learn? How will we know when each student has learned it? How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning? And how will we deepen the learning for students who have already mastered essential knowledge and skills?

The Yorba Linda Middle School Staff continues to analyze and discuss state and national standards, district curriculum guides, and student achievement data. Our community continues to support our commitment to improving learning in our school. We continue to maintain a high level of excellence in progressing forward with professional learning communities by providing professional development; encouraging staff buy-in; recognizing the difference between "teaming" and true collaboration; continuing positive school culture; and building trust.

Adult Transition Program

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



Libby Moore
Principal

Individualized Support

The Adult Transition Program (ATP) is a district wide program that provides individualized support for students 18-22 in special education to transition successfully from their role in high school to their new role as adults in the community. Students learn valuable vocational, mobility, community, social, and independent living skills in a community-based model. Based on each student's unique needs and IEP goals, adult students will be ready to make informed choices and become active participants within their community. Four credentialed teachers and job coaches support the adult students on campus and in the community.

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

Yorba Linda *High School*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Competing With the Best

The Mustangs started the school year with a very successful fall sports program and band and color guard performance awards. The Yorba Linda High School (YLHS) athletic teams were Empire League Champions in football (10-0), mens water polo, womens volleyball, tennis, golf and cross country. Mens water polo finished as CIF finalists.

The YLHS Band and Color Guard competed in parades and field shows, with over 15 performances in the fall that earned first place and sweepstakes trophies and recognition as a Top 10 at the Southern California Championship. The YLHS Jazz 1 Band performed at the Nixon Library for the mayor's annual State of the City for Yorba Linda, which was a special recognition.

During second semester, we look forward to the success of our winter and spring sports teams, along with superior performances by the Mustang concert band, orchestra and choir. We also look forward to our spring musical, "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying." Our Theater Department took home many Macy Awards for last year's musical.

I also want to give a big shout out and thank you to our PTSA and President Kristen You for their support of the YLHS Web site and providing new benches on our campus for students to use and enjoy. YLHS is blessed to have such an active and supportive parent organization.

FEATURE • From Page 1



Dr. Doug Domene

This year we launched our five-year strategic plan for our school district, and we found it very fitting to entitle it, the "PYLUSD Advantage." This advantage that our district demonstrates and enjoys comes from the harmonious collaboration of school leadership, classroom education, school support teams, and actively engaged community members. I wholeheartedly believe that we offer everything a family could want in an educational experience right here in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Let me share a few highlights:

- We posted the second-highest pass rate of any Orange County school district on Advanced Placement exams over the past three years.
- We have recently invested \$600 million-plus in school renovations including equipping every classroom with interactive technology.
- We offer career-minded academies at all comprehensive high schools.
- Our district comprises 28 National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished Schools.
- 95% of our high school graduates attend a college or university.
- Over 9,000 of our district students participate in our highly-acclaimed music program.
- Our seniors have received more than \$10 million in scholarships each year.

These results are exceptional, and yet they represent just a note or two of the excellence and achievements that our schools represent. Like a great symphony, this community works in unison to support education. That's a gift, a gift that I never take for granted. As my father would say, "Keep your vision in focus; find the magic in serving people; make a very special kind of music; and thank the people who make it happen." For that, I wish to say to all of you, "Thank you, PYLUSD Community, for supporting our schools and for equipping our students for success."

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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What is a Garden



Nancy

I was invited to write “over my garden gate” and have been trying since then to define “garden.”

A garden can be a pot of flowers in your window, even your terrarium, or a small planter box on your porch or patio. A garden can be a wide swath of flowers and trees curving around a magnificent green lawn, bordered by tall graceful trees and enclosed by a winding brick road and driveway, even if all in your imagination.

I have many gardens on my ranch in Northern California, some actually planted and growing in the ground and others planned on paper or dreamt of in my head. Most of my gardens have flowers in them and some vegetables and several others both. A garden is a place to grow ideas, plans, to dream as well as harvest its bounty for your vase, table and cupboard.

And so my “garden” is defined. Now to that gate!



Sometimes I feel we have moved into prison gardening, due to all the deer fencing we have erected to protect both yard gardens and veggie gardens.

We seem to have mostly bucks here and they can be up to 9 in number at a time. The does will number many less, usually no more than 2 or 3 and they like to raise their young in the orchards. The deer often winter over on the property, hunkering down in the barn during bad weather or in a little open shed near the garden. I love having them here, just do not like them eating all MY stuff.

So far this year we have managed to keep them outside the fencing. I always believed it illegal to feed the little darlings but recently discovered a feed store selling “deer food”... frankly I thought everything I planted was deer food! Since I purchase cracked corn for the quail, I just moved two little trays out near the end of the garden by the pasture fence and the deer have been confining their snacking on that corn and the container of bird food under the pine tree.

Yawning, newly perked coffee in hand, I opened the dining room curtain to find a doe as surprised as I was. She was nibbling a young hedge alongside the window and her expression clearly said: “What do you want?” About 10 feet away stood a young buck, front feet firmly placed alongside my blooming pink rose, and he was obviously asking “Are you going to stand there forever?.” I hated to move my hand from the curtain, knowing they would both bolt in fright however the day’s chores were calling and one of us had to move. I did and they both ran to the far corner of the yard, one hopping over the neighbor’s orchard fence and the young one stopping to graze on a beautiful yellow rose cascading down from the pomegranate tree. And the day began.

Back to the garden!



Publisher’s note: Nancy is a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, retired school board member, and community volunteer. Nancy is a rancher in Northern CA. I don’t think I have ever known anyone quite as appreciative of nature as Nancy. She can stand in the middle of a field of weeds and find beauty in the gentle swaying of the tassels. At the end of her busy day, rather than settle down for a much needed rest, Nancy is preparing sugar water to not disappoint the hummingbirds the following morning. After much arm twisting, I convinced Nancy to share with our readers a few tidbits of her days on the farm. Enjoy!

Good Dental Health
Word Search Contest

Entries must be received by April 15, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Breads | Eggs | Milk |
| Brushing | Examination | Nutrition |
| Cereals | Fish | Orthodontist |
| Checkup | Flossing | Pediatric |
| Daily | Fluoride | Sugar |
| Dairy | Fruits | Tooth |
| Dentist | Guidelines | Vegetables |
| Development | Healthy | Water |
| Diet | Meat | Whole grains |

Congratulations to Rosalind Kanter
Winner of the December Word Search Contest!

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)

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

IS TXTNG KILLNG SPELNG?

Dear Dr. Shari,



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

I heard that the habit of texting is destroying our ability to spell. That terrified me. My kids are constantly texting and online. They are constantly using things like “lol” and shortening words. Do you really think texting is that bad? I don’t know how to view this or what to do!

—Mari - NY

Hello Mari!

Think about this: one of the ways you learn to spell is viewing and writing the word -correctly. You learned the words of our language by seeing them, reading them, and writing them, correctly, over and over again.

Now, let’s say you are seeing horrific simplifications, even “made-up” words... over and over again. The question is, are we subconsciously “re-learning” to improperly spell words by “short cutting” and abbreviating so frequently as in texts, tweets and emails? Hmmmmmm. Logic tells us, “Of course.”

In the old days, anyone over the age of ten, when seeing a misspelled word, would view it as something to be corrected. The non-word “thot” or “laf” would elicit a giggle and a quick correction. No longer! Now, it is expected.

Our brain is constantly at war between what we know is a proper spelling: T-H-O-U-G-H-T and our desire to communicate more expeditiously: thot. The average adult might have a stronger sense of differentiation between correct and incorrect spelling...but what happens to a child who experiences the shortcuts as the norm?

If you see a “non-word” like “thot” one hundred times, does it register in your brain as the correct spelling? Eventually, the brain has to pick one, right?!

I suppose that depends on a few factors. Let’s consider these:

Age: I, for example, am a classic offender.

I text and tweet daily. I rarely bother to punctuate a quick text. Then again, I was deep into adulthood before texting, tweeting and emailing. Does my core knowledge of spelling and grammar remain dominant? Let’s hope so

(I’m afraid to ask my editors).

What about an eight year old who is learning (and feverishly using) text spelling on a daily basis, before a solid framework of spelling and grammar is developed?

Comparative Frequency: If a child is texting and tweeting more often than “real” reading and writing, is he destined to become a terrible speller?

Mari, we both know that texting, tweeting and punctuation shortcuts are here to stay, given how many machines we use to communicate these days. And with the desire to communicate IMMEDIATELY, we can probably expect to move into symbols and even more non-words. That doesn’t mean you should give up!

Here are the best three suggestions I can offer as a response to your heartfelt question.

Fortunately most teachers won’t allow the shortcuts and are just as diligent about taking a red pen to a misspelled word. This should keep us in line, for a while!

More reading, results in improved spelling ability and improved grammar. Read to your kids, (have them follow along) read with them.

Writing real letters and making use of the rules of grammar is an important skill to develop if you expect to be taken seriously in the professional world. Practice it!

in shrt, i thnk U R rite. its bad, We R rsing kds who wnt be abl to spll.
Good luck Mari!

TEACHERS! Tell us YOUR experience with this topic! Are we becoming terrible spellers because of texting?

Write to: info@doctorshari.com with I’M A TEACHER! in the subject line, and share your thoughts!

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Distracted Driving Kills



Karley Cable

“Distracted Driving is the leading cause of all fatal accidents which are the #1 killer of all young people ages 16-34” -NTSB Wilson High School student, and brand-new driver, Karley Cable, (16) has formed a new non-profit organization: The M.A.D. Movement=Making/A/Difference. “It’s a group of socially-conscious artists using their talents to make the world a better place.” She created a website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com> and is working on her first big project: A ‘Don’t Text and Drive/It Can Wait’ awareness campaign being sponsored by Verizon, AT&T and several local businesses.

As a brand new driver, Cable was very upset by two horrible accidents that occurred in her neighborhood over Memorial Day weekend last spring. Seven teens were tragically killed due to distracted driving just days before their high school graduations.



“Every time I’m in the car, I see people texting and driving. I also see how quickly an accident can happen. I wanted to make people aware of how dangerous it is. I’m hoping to get every new driver to take the pledge not to text and drive.”

Cable rounded up the support from her friends on Wilson’s Advanced Dance Team who are also all new drivers, as well as several talented film makers from Orange County High School of the Arts and produced a powerful video piece showing the dangers of distracted driving by using music and dance to convey the important message in a creative new way. “The piece is very powerful and different from other distracted driving videos out there. It will hopefully make the audience think before they grab their phones in the car. It’s been a lot of fun to work on and very special since all of us involved in creating the video are new drivers ourselves and we have all taken the pledge not to text and drive.”

The video short, titled “ALMOST THERE” was shot in early September in Long Beach. A screening reception was recently held at the historic Art Theatre and participants had the opportunity to view the finished product on the big screen. The video has been entered into several prestigious film festivals and will be shown this summer in conjunction with the national “IT CAN WAIT” campaign.

Cable is a junior this year at Wilson High School where she is an honor-roll student, Link Crew Leader, former Varsity Cheerleader, and member of the Advanced Dance Team. Outside of school she is excited to be interning at Nordstrom South Coast Plaza where she is on the Fashion Board. She also continues to pursue her acting career. This summer Cable won a prestigious Discus Scholarship for students excelling in academics, arts, and community service. In 2012 she was a national “KOHL’S KID’S WHO CARE” scholarship winner and ABC-News named her a “Cool Kid” volunteer winner and ran her story. When Karley was just 12 years old she wrote, photographed and published her first book: *Raisin, A Doggie’s Tale*, “The Story of How I went from Dumb-Dog to Tail-Waggin’ Tutor” (Amazon Books) The story is based on her real-life experiences adopting her Pug dog, Raisin, and training him to be a therapy dog who works with children having difficulty learning to read. The book won several awards and got the attention of Oprah Winfrey, Regis & Kelly, and an invitation to the White House where President Obama received an autographed copy. The book continues to generate funds for various animal shelters and rescue groups. Cable recently completed her second book, a YA novel, *Blood, Sweat & CHEERS!* which should be released next summer. She also has plans to adapt it for a TV pilot. Cable made her professional singing debut at age 4 when she was invited to sing the National Anthem at the Hollywood Bowl. She has appeared in numerous ads and commercials for Disney, Macy’s, Sprint, Nationwide Insurance, Mattel and many others. TV shows and movies include: 8 Simple Rules..., Arrested Development, Fired-Up! and Frostbite. She has also done many professional musical theater productions including: The Sound Of Music, The Wizard of OZ, ANNIE, and Phantom of the Opera. She hopes to receive a scholarship to attend college at USC or NYU so she can continue pursuing her career while earning her degree. <http://themadmovement.weebly.com>

