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School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 23

FEBRUARY–APRIL 2016

SUPERINTENDENT



Preparing for the Upcoming LCAP

It's that time of year again ...

In order to receive funding from the state of California, every school district is required to complete a Local Control and

Accountability Plan (LCAP). This LCAP describes how a school district intends to meet annual goals for all pupils, with specific actions that address state and local priorities.

In other words, the LCAP details how money will be spent to meet the needs of our students.

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) firmly believes that we should seek stakeholder input prior to writing our plan.

As such, over the next few months, the district will meet with parents, educators and community groups to evaluate the 2015-2016 LCAP, and to refine and establish goals designed to create a dynamic learning environment for all of our students.

The LCAP will provide a three-year snapshot aligning the district's vision with its expenditures. It is divided into five main sections, each of which details specific actions aligned with the PYLUSD strategic plan, titled "The Advantage," and the California areas of emphasis.

After we gather input, an initial draft of the plan will be shared with the Board of Education, and additional revisions will be made as requested. The final plan is due to the state by June.

There will be several opportunities for you to provide your input. I encourage you to get involved with your school to share your thoughts about how to best meet the diverse needs of our students. Your valuable insight will help ensure that PYLUSD students lead the nation in college and career success.

For more information, visit www.pylusd.org/lcap.

21st Century Learning Embraced at PYLUSD

From the District

If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow.

-John Dewey

What kind of education will our students need today to launch them toward a successful tomorrow?

In this era of exponential change, students in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) are on the right path to access opportunity.

Twenty-first century skills are a set of abilities that students need to develop to succeed in the information age. Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a national advocacy organization that encourages schools, districts and states to infuse technology into education.

This group lists three 21st century skill types: learning, literacy and life.

Learning skills: a focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future.

Literacy skills: to be effective in the 21st century, citizens and workers must be able to create, evaluate and effectively utilize



information, media and technology.

Life skills: the ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills.

PYLUSD strives to impart these 21st century skills to our students. Current district programs that assist in this endeavor include Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program at Valencia High School and our ever-expanding CareerLink Academies, otherwise known as career technical education (CTE).

In fact, several more academies will soon be offered at our four comprehensive high schools. In addition to its popular Digital Media Arts Academy (DMAA), El Dorado High School will soon have a legal studies-focused ED LAW pathway. Additionally, a pharmacy tech

pathway is being added to Esperanza High School's Medical Sciences Academy. Finally, Yorba Linda High's ever-growing Mustang Business Academy (MBA) includes two distinct pathways – one focused on business management, and the other for culinary arts. Other existing CareerLink Academies include Esperanza's rigorous Engineering and Manufacturing Academy, and Valencia's prestigious Val Tech program.

By emphasizing core competencies, such as collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem-solving, our students are better equipped to match content to skill, and evaluate information from a wide variety of sources with an understanding of and respect for diverse cultures.

More importantly, we are preparing each and every PYLUSD student for jobs and careers that might not even exist yet. They are the embodiment of 21st century learners.

CareerLink Academies

On Thursday, Oct. 22, 40 sophomores, juniors and seniors from Esperanza High School's Medical Sciences Academy had the opportunity to take a field trip to Kaiser Permanente in Anaheim. The students watched a reenactment of an appendectomy surgery, heard personal stories from Kaiser staff and asked questions to a panel of medical professionals. Esperanza's Medical Sciences Academy is one of many CareerLink Academies of PYLUSD. Our four comprehensive high schools provide specialized curriculum for students looking to pursue a particular career.



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**Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year! By now your year is well underway. Students are focused on their year end goals. and the Superintendent's message on the front page informs of the importance of parental involvement in your child's school. We all are stakeholder's in the education of our youth.

This issue has information about students giving back to the community, college and career goals, music and the arts, experiencing the great outdoors and so much more. Grab a comfy chair and enjoy!

Our next issue is May 12.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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

New Adventures Planned



Julie Nibali
President

The R.E.A.C.H. Foundation is thankful for our dedicated board members who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our students. We are also grateful for the many supporters and volunteers, both adults and students who have helped make the past year so special.

The new year brings new adventures starting with PYLUSD's Gala celebrating the Visual and Performing Arts on February 20th.



March comes in like lion with healthy activities for students, families, staff and community. On March 1st with the assistance of Yorba Linda High School Track Team and Coach Gomez we will host the 3rd Annual Middle School Track Meet. Then on March 6th we will hit the ground running with the 4th Annual ShamRock 'n Run 5K Run/2K Fun Run. Finally March leaves us like a lamb with Spring Break March 27th to April 1st.

Our web site has detailed information for these and other REACH sponsored events.

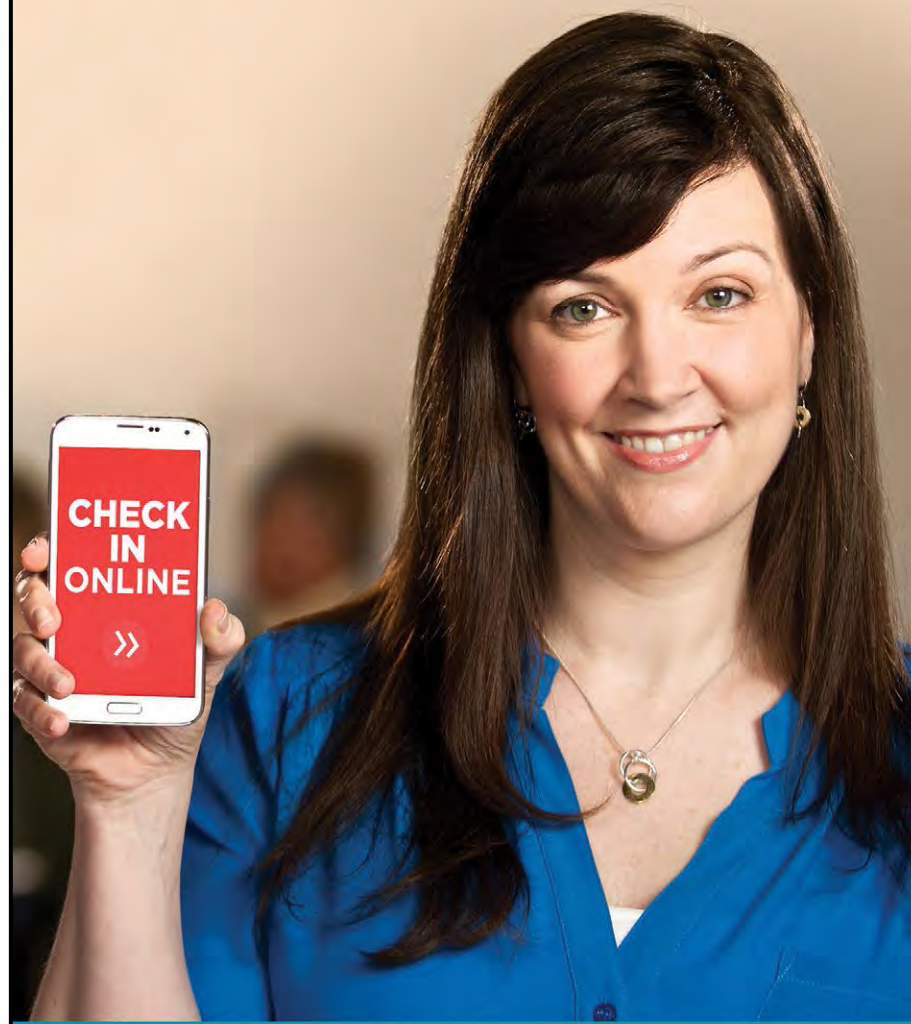


Our hardworking board members Sandee Van Oyen, Veena Gupta, Vivian Cuesta, Nancy Higashida, Julie Nibali, Carrie Johnson, Melina Michaels, Stephanie Vande Kappelle, Kathleen Callahan, Debi Grant, Rose Mergelmeyer and Nikki Linen.

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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

Above and Beyond!

For every special event at BYMS and even on an ordinary day, you will see social science teacher Mr. Shen getting into position to take the perfect picture. Mr. Shen's photography is becoming legendary, as he has a remarkable talent to capture the smiles of students wherever they may be on campus. He gives of his own time and energy to celebrate what is right at BYMS.

AVID teachers Mrs. Cyrus and Mrs. Swarm have worked tirelessly together to teach the new AVID classes this year. They just took 58 students on their first college visit to Chapman University.

New to BYMS this year is language arts teacher Ms. De Friese's use of her passion for drama and her grant-writing skills to receive funding through Donors Choose.org. Through these funds, the students had the opportunity to design, construct, and perform William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, using sock puppets.

Every day, BYMS teachers give more!



Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Giving Back to Our Community

A "high paw" is in order for our student council, led by Mrs. Leifeste and Mrs. Dykstra. It has been a season of giving back for these young leaders. During the Thanksgiving holiday, student council led a food drive which provided much-needed food for those in need. As we turned the corner and went into the Christmas season, these students sponsored a toy drive to support children in the Orange County area. In addition, they went on a field trip after school one day to a local senior living facility to spread some joy through singing Christmas carols to the residents there. The seniors were very excited to see Brookhaven Elementary School's students taking the time to celebrate the season with them.



These are wonderful examples of the great leadership of our student council and the values the season represents. Thank you to all the parents, students, and teachers who helped to make all of these events possible.

Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Make Every Day Count!

Good school attendance goes hand-in-hand with a successful academic career. Students who are here every day and on time build great habits for life. At Bryant

Ranch, "Explorers Show up; On time; Attend daily; Ready to learn." New this year, our SOAR attendance program is monitored weekly and posted in the school office for all to see. Our goal is 98% or higher. Once a class has earned 10 attendance ribbons of 98% or higher, classes enjoy a popcorn party as a reward. Nearly half of our classes have already earned this incentive! First instruction can never be replaced! Make sure to SOAR to school every day and on time!



Mrs. Whitcroft's 5th grade class about to enjoy their popcorn incentive!

El Camino Real *High School (9-12)*

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • www.ecrhs-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

College and Career AVID Language Arts

Students at El Camino Real High School are excited about the new College and Career AVID Language Arts class. Fullerton College has joined together with ECRHS to help get students on track towards attending college. Each Monday, staff members from FC spend time with students, helping them work through the application process, assessment, and financial aid applications. Students are beginning to explore the many options available to them. For many, attending college is becoming an exciting reality. "I took this class because I want to know what to expect when I start college. I want to be prepared and confident when I head to college." –Erika B.



Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

Honors and Recognition

Esperanza High School has some exciting things happening throughout campus. Our girls cross country team came in first place at the CIF finals, winning their first title since 1996. Rich Medellin, their coach, was selected as OC Register Coach of the Year for girls cross country. Also, our girls soccer team won the Excalibur Tournament and is now ranked first in Orange County. We also have some great things going on in performing arts. Our the Esperanza Jazz Band was invited to the 2016 Mingus Festival in New York City. Only three high school jazz bands were selected from across the nation. The students will travel to New York to take part in classes and clinics at the Manhattan School of Music as well as a jazz competition. This is an incredible honor for our jazz band.



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El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

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



Joey Davis
Principal

Celebrating Our History

Welcome to the second semester. It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as the new principal of El Dorado High School (EDHS). Since taking over in early January, it has been a pleasure to start getting to know the staff, students, history, and culture of the El Dorado Golden Hawks.

Before coming to EDHS, I spent over 15 years as a history and social science teacher, and most years I coached basketball and softball. I am in my 10th year in the district. I served as an assistant principal at Valencia and Yorba Linda High Schools before working two years at the district office as Director of Assessment and Accountability. Working at the district allowed me the opportunity to work with all of the schools and implement numerous programs across the K-12 curriculum. I received my master's degree in educational technology so, besides the new state testing program, I was also involved in the new elementary technology curriculum, Bring Your Own Device, and the Google Summit for teachers held at EDHS last summer.

El Dorado has some exciting events coming up over the next few months. Most notably, 2015-2016 marks the 50th anniversary of EDHS, and Mr. Campuzano, our activities director, has put together a team of alumni and longtime staff members to plan the celebration. We are targeting homecoming weekend, October 14 and 15, for the celebration. There will be many events on campus, including tours and performances. More information will be available soon.

Thanks for all your support of El Dorado High!

George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Deby Six
Principal

Communication and Social Skills Enrichment

This winter brought enriched learning experiences for the students of George Key School in the domains of peer socialization and functional communication. With their augmentative communication devices, including digital communication switches and electronic tablets, they entertained and delighted families and staff by singing and acting out holiday songs at both our Rotary Club Luncheon and our winter programs. Alongside their Golden Eagle peers, who joined the winter program performance, George Key students were able to reinforce and enrich their communication and socialization skills.

A big thanks to the Eagles for their understanding involvement and to the fantastic staffs of both schools for facilitating these wonderful experiences for our students!



Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

GATE Students Are Soaring

On Friday, January 15, our GATE students participated in a technology academy with GATE lead teacher Mrs. Shea and parent Mr. Lee.

The students explored a coding program called Scratch, which was created by the MIT Media Lab. Mrs. Shea and Mr. Lee also led the students through the basics of coding and how to create their own games. Over the next eight weeks our students will be using their new coding program to develop interactive stories,



Teacher, Pat Shea, Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Brent Lee.

games, and animations for a special showcase of their work at the GATE Family Night event on March 10.

Our students' excitement is contagious, and a joy to watch. We are looking forward to seeing what their creative and collaborative minds will be producing during this event. Our students are learning and utilizing valuable skills – such as collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking – which will help them succeed in the 21st century!

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

Outdoor Fun

Glenknoll students and staff members have had a very active winter, and are looking forward to the spring!

Our courageous sixth-grade teachers and students recently completed a five-day Outdoor Science School in early January. The program is administered by the Emerald Cove Outdoor School, and was held at their site near Green Valley Lake.

Students explored mountain trails, observed wildlife, and studied the geological features of the San Bernardino Mountains.



6th Graders Katie Whitaker and Brianna Jones take a "tubing" break at Outdoor Science Camp.

They also experienced a major snowstorm. They were able to interact with students from other schools and bunk together in cabins. Meals in the dining hall completed the camp experience.

Many Glenknoll parents remember their own outdoor education experience in sixth grade as being one of the high points of their elementary school education. Our sixth-grade class will also be adding this to their own list of favorite learning experiences. Thanks go to the Glenknoll PTA and our sixth-grade parents for making this event possible.

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

Stars and Students Shine

By Terry Mulcahy

The multipurpose room at Golden Elementary School became a planetarium, and Mrs. Hope's classroom was an operating theater, so students and their parents could explore the wonders of these and many other amazing science investigations. Mr. Demonte demonstrated angioplasty for our budding doctors, Mia and Kayla. Normally full of jump rope games and bouncing basketballs, the blacktop was covered with telescopes, which allowed students to get a close-up look at the moon and view the stars and planets.



Dr. Demonte, Mia, and Kayla.

Valencia High School students set a shining example for Golden's future scientists and engineers during this amazing night as well. Thank you, Valencia High School!

Over 400 students and their families got hands-on experience with 14 different science and engineering explorations, from constructing boats from foil that held marble weights to racing snails. Students explored and learned that science is a blast!

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

Gold Mine of Knowledge!

Glenview was selected as one of two district schools to partner with the All About Food program, which integrates science, history and healthy nutrition through interactive science lessons. Recently, sixth-grade Scholars learned about Egyptian culture and the important role food plays in history.

This spring, Glenview's garden will be expanded for students to have hands-on experiences planting and harvesting.

Second-grade Scholars shared a reader's-theater performance with other classrooms about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in honor of his birthday.



Fourth-graders enjoyed an interactive museum presentation on the California Gold Rush. Students examined historical artifacts and learned to "do-si-do" to a Gold Rush-era square dance song. Many thanks to the wonderful docents from the Bowers Museum!

A student-valet team helped launch a new drop-off zone in January. Student leaders model Practice Safety and Show Your P.A.W.S. every morning at the drop-off zone, greeting other students, opening car doors, and assisting with unloading vehicles.

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Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

Big Victory

The Kraemer Middle School Science Olympiad team is quickly becoming the Southern California team to beat. Already this winter season it has won two prestigious invitational tournaments in preparation for the upcoming county competition.

The Science Olympiad is a national academic competition that tests student knowledge and ability in 23 different disciplines of science, including biology, engineering, chemistry, physics, robotics, and earth science. Many of the events put competitors through rigorous examinations, while others require them to construct bridges, self-propelled cars, catapults, and rockets to be tested on the day of the competition.

Kraemer captured victories in the Ladera Vista Invitational in Fullerton, as well as the Muscatel Invitational in Rosemead. In winning the Muscatel Invitational, Kraemer also defeated the third-, twelfth-, and nineteenth-ranked teams in the country.

Additionally, this winter our Kraemer Science Olympiad team hosted its own invitational. Over 25 teams from across California traveled to Placentia to take part.



La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

Welcome, Ms. Hamilton!

Students and staff at La Entrada High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's Independent Study high school, are very excited to welcome new staff member Ashley Hamilton! Ashley has degree in educational counseling with a pupil personnel services credential. She will offer assistance with college scholarships, applications, and financial aid, and she will help to familiarize students with career training opportunities in the area.

In addition, Ashley will assist with programs to help students connect with each other and the school. One of these programs is the new Peers and Pizza program. This program is open to all students at La Entrada. At Peers and Pizza, students will have a chance to meet other students and participate in discussions, led by Ashley, which focus on valuable skills, such as social skills, time management, study skills, goal setting, and college and career preparation.



Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lve-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Paula Sitar
Principal

A Busy Season

The Linda Vista Elementary School Student Council once again held their new toy and book drive during the holiday season. Our school community definitely showed their holiday spirit by donating many new toys and books to the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Fire Engine 10 in Yorba Linda picked up our donations. Our students were also treated to a demonstration of how firefighters prepare to go into a burning building. The firefighters even helped Linda Vista celebrate the retirement of our beloved and wonderful secretary, Cindy Gjersvold.

We had another fantastic musical this year called *Lion King Jr.* It was held at the Performing Arts Center at El Dorado. Our students once again amazed the audience members with their many talents. Many, many thanks go to our wonderful PTA, to all of the show's committee members, to our wonderful directors (the Huston School of Music), and to the wonderful parents who put in numerous hours of volunteer time to help make this production a success.



Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lak-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Katherine Dailey
Principal

An Active School Culture

As we move forward through the second trimester of the school year, our Lakeview teachers, staff, and students are continuing to ensure that everyone can feel safe and happy at school each day.

Through our fourth- and fifth-grade leadership students (along with their supervising teachers and principal), we seek to guide a school culture where our students will feel empowered to become the best learners that they can be. The Lakeview Lions are always “Roaring to Achieve,” and our PAWS-itivity shows!

Leadership students will be working hard this semester to model and practice good habits and character traits. For instance, when a child is struggling or feeling down, many times just spending a few minutes of listening, sharing, or showing compassion can give them the chance to feel confident during their hard times, as well as gain support from peers and staff members.

Our ROAR motto is, “Respect each other and yourself!” So go, Lions!



Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • www.me-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



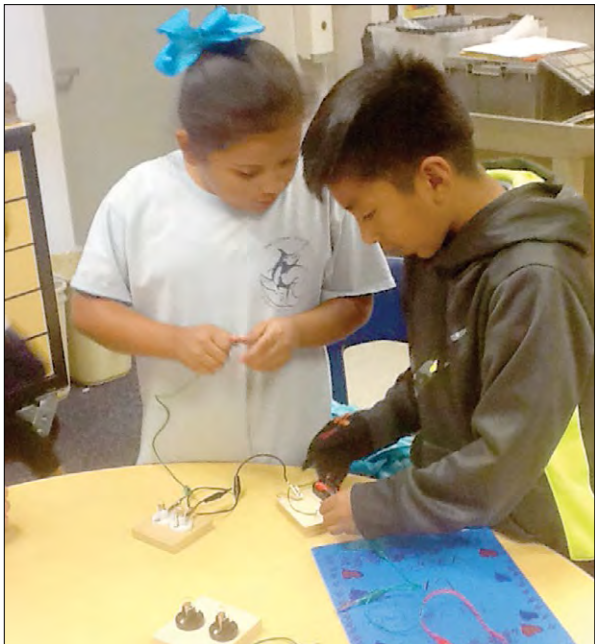
Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

Magnificent Opportunities

English learners at Melrose Elementary School had the opportunity to participate in an extended-day program specifically designed to improve their language skills. Students were able to choose from five different topics of interest.

Science Club focused on the study of Mars missions and Mars rovers. Students learned about simulations, models, the constraints experienced by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineers. They also raced rovers. Marlin News and Technology Club recorded interviews with students and created Google slide presentations using electronic tablets and netbooks.

STEM Club explored the engineering design process by building scribble robots, designed to propel themselves and scribble on a piece of paper unassisted. Readers Theater focused on expression, intonation, phrasing, and prosody while allowing students the opportunity to experience different characters. Utilizing Cognitively Guided Instruction math strategies, students in the Math Club worked collaboratively to solve math problems and explained problem-solving and critical-thinking strategies.



Students in the STEM Club using the engineering design process create a working circuit that will power a light bulb.

Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Giving: An Annual Tradition

It's an annual tradition at Mabel Paine Elementary for our student leaders—The P.O.W.E.R. Posse, led by Jacquie Nolan—to sponsor a toy drive right before the holidays. Their goal is to collect brand-new toys and donate them to students within our district who are less fortunate.

Our students and families love this service project and once again went out of their way to donate large amounts of toys to ensure that every student in our district had a happy holiday. The P.O.W.E.R. Posse members reveled in the opportunity to collect the gifts before school each morning in December and were even

more excited to see the toys pile up in Mrs. Nolan's classroom. We had so many toys to give this year that a large SUV had to be borrowed in order to pick them up on delivery day!

Our students' hearts were filled with the joy of giving, demonstrating that happiness doesn't result from what you get but what you give.





Cristina McCall
Principal

Growth Mindsets

Morse Wildcats have enthusiastically embraced brain-based research by learning about mindsets in the classroom, and implementing AVID Elementary in grades three to six! Our teachers recently attended the Advancement Via Individual Determination Summer Institute (AVID) to learn how to embed helpful strategies to maintain school-wide structures. AVID Elementary’s philosophy is grounded in the idea that a growth mindset can be taught to students to help lead them towards success in following their dreams and aspirations.

Our staff has studied Dr. Carol Dweck’s “Growth vs. Fixed” mindset research. They have learned that intelligence is malleable, and can be developed through persistence, effort, and a focus on learning. Our Morse Wildcats have engaged in many growth mindset activities recently, such



3rd grade students share phrases and words that support a growing brain!

as drawing and identifying the characteristics of a successful student, understanding how words shape growth, and learning how strong neurological connections occur each time we learn something new. We are excited to be continuing our work towards a Growth Mindset!



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Engaging Our Parents

Rio Vista has continued to make great strides in promoting and moving forward with many different initiatives to help support the vision of PYLUSD Advantage. We want to especially welcome our newest members to the Rio Vista family, who are now part of the new Rio Vista State Preschool. The Preschool team has decided to adopt Biola University to help support our school-wide college readiness initiative. Soon these preschoolers will be getting T-shirts and a special flag to hang outside their classroom. Thank you to Sylvia Cuesta and Alma Padilla for their attention to detail and countless hours of work.

We continue to engage parents with our monthly Coffee with the Principal event. We also continually update the school community through our website and new Twitter feed at @riovistaschooll. Our school culture continues to shape the mindset of our students, teachers, and parents. We even have a picture of a “Collaborative Commitment Statement” signed by our staff members, and which we proudly display in our front office.



Preschool writing lesson.



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

A Closer Look

Parkview School, serves Preppy K through 12th-grade students, providing a blended approach to learning by providing independent study as well as on-site classes. Parkview’s independent study is an alternative to daily classroom instruction and is consistent with the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) course of study, utilizing the same curriculum as the traditional schools. Independent study is an instructional strategy that responds to students’ individual needs and styles of learning. It provides a different modality for acquiring the values, skills, and knowledge all students strive to gain, as documented in a written master agreement. Goal setting, time management, and self-discipline are recommended prerequisites for, and results of, successful academic progress at Parkview.

While the personalized nature of the independent study can provide a safety net for students who are not able to thrive in a more traditional setting, the program is rigorous and demanding. The Parkview student body includes athletes, actors, students from families of hardship, medically or mentally/emotionally fragile students, accelerated students concurrently pursuing careers or advanced degrees, and students of families that choose to educate their children through a homeschooling model. Graduates of Parkview are as well or better prepared for the future than those who graduate from a comprehensive high school program. PYLUSD is a community that greatly values its students and believes they belong to all of us. Parkview students are welcomed at their traditional schools of residence for some concurrent events. At the high school level, students may attend up to two classes while still attending Parkview. At the middle school level, students may attend up to two elective classes. Parkview families are thankful for the individualized program PYLUSD makes available to them.



Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

Teamwork and Compassion

Compassion and teamwork were the two traits in action during holiday season. TEAM Roadrunners, our fifth-grade student leadership team, organized a card-making day during which students created personalized holiday cards for Meals on Wheels recipients. TEAM Roadrunners hand-delivered stacks of beautiful heartfelt cards—rays of sunshine to those in need! This was followed by our third annual Snow Night, which was the perfect opportunity for students to give to those in need by donating toys for our Spark of Love toy drive. There was unprecedented participation, and a toy-filled truck overflowing with new, unwrapped toys was proudly delivered on a following morning, all in the hopes of brightening the holidays for so many children!

Our annual Kindergarten Holiday Program was the perfect way to end this magical season, only this year we added a Preppy K program. Students dressed in holiday attire entertained us with an array of holiday carols, delighting their beaming family members!



Roadrunner Toy Drive Drop Off.



Diana McKibben
Principal

Real-World Experiences

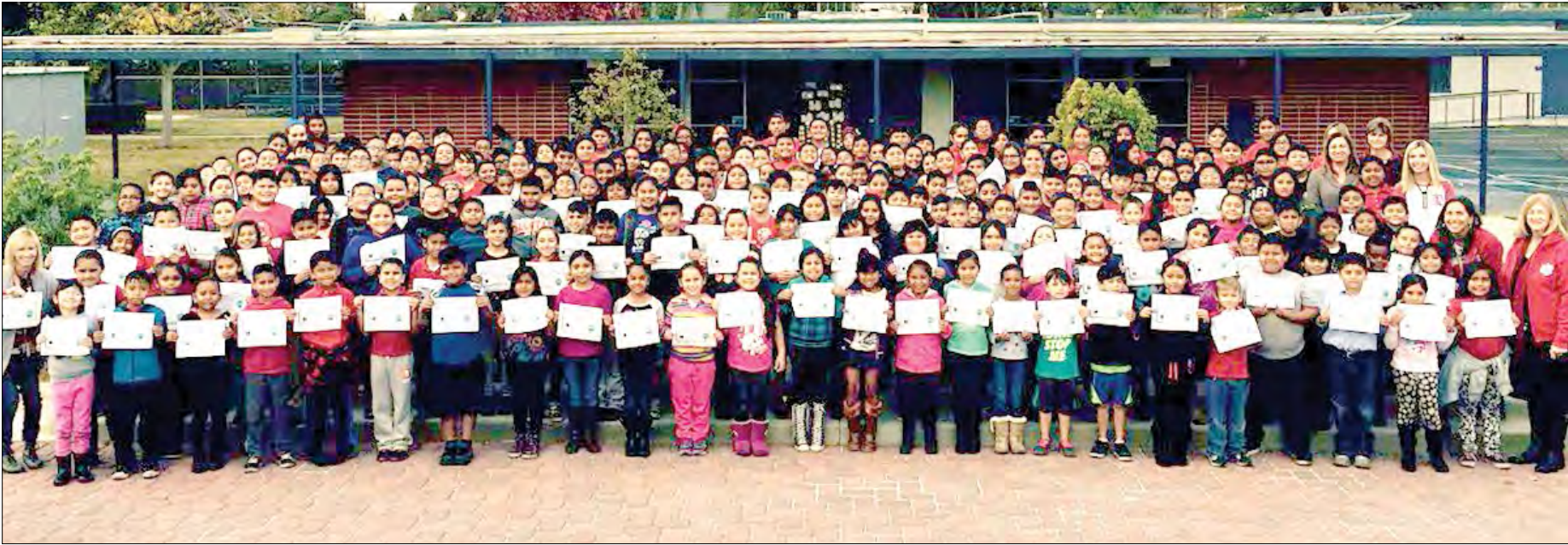
Our Ruby Drive second- through sixth-grade students became real computer programmers during the recent nationwide “Hour of Code” event.

The students were able to create a sequence of steps for computer games that included *Frozen*, *Star Wars*, *Minecraft*, and *Angry Birds*. They found the exercise interesting and fun!

A big thank-you goes to Ingrid Requeno, our new computer instructional aide, for coordinating all of the activities, printing certificates, and picture-taking. She later explained that this event gave our students a chance to see what a computer scientist does.

Mrs. Burrows’s fourth-grade class embraced the challenge of being the ones who programmed what happens in the games. Not only did they realize how complex this can be, they also learned how interesting it was to be in charge!

Mrs. Stonich’s fourth-grade class worked on coding *Minecraft*. All of the students were actively engaged and focused on their tasks, and enjoyed learning new skills and receiving a certificate!



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FEBRUARY—APRIL 2016 11



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Electric City Sparks Brilliance!

Sierra Vista teachers Noelle Lopez and Randi Kelley directed the construction of a miniature city—a dazzling display of cardboard community buildings complete with twinkling lights and paper-clip switches! Students lit up the multipurpose room with their Electric City, energizing their parents and friends with a radiant show of electrical genius.

Making connections with creative circuitry, the students hooked up their structures and stood by to enlighten their audience as to the science behind it all. At a nearby workstation, family members learned how to build parallel and series circuits. This brilliant project-based next-generation science event certainly sparked some energy at Sierra Vista! The evening concluded with a family tour of neighborhood holiday lights, hot chocolate and yummy treats. Move over Edison—the Eagles’ future is bright! They are wired for success!



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Orchestra Program

The Visual and Performing Arts program at Travis Ranch School (VAPA) is exemplary. There are many aspects of the Travis Ranch VAPA program to be proud of, but we are most proud of our middle school orchestra program. The members of the Advanced 1 Orchestra were recently chosen to participate in a prestigious professional recording session. These student-musicians sight-read and recorded music in a simulated film scoring studio, learning the critical role that orchestra

musicians play in delivering pitch-perfect performances. They also experienced the excitement of working in a real recording studio. Taught by industry composers, arrangers, conductors, and studio musicians, this workshop culminated in a revealing example of our orchestra members’ hard work – a screening of their recorded score as set to original film footage. In addition, our orchestra students regularly utilize technology (such as Google Classroom) to submit videos of performances, receive feedback from teachers and peers, evaluate performances, and collaborate on class music.



Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Monica Barrera
Principal

Having a Ball!

Topaz Elementary ended the year on a positive note! Hundreds of toys were donated to our Topaz families to enjoy over the holiday season. In addition, Mr. Sundstrom, Topaz's beloved PE teacher, donated scooters to our students.

We are ready for the 2016 school year! As part of our GRIP Program, 16 staff members have volunteered to be mentors to some of our students. This incentive is part of our PBIS efforts to keep upper-grade students engaged and motivated at school. We kicked off our Mentor/Mentee Program with a Muffins with Mentees breakfast where both parties were able to get to know each other.

In addition, a local supermarket donated \$1,000 worth of sports equipment to Topaz. Topaz students received new soccer balls, basketballs, rubber playground balls, tether balls, field cones, jump ropes and ball pumps. We are definitely going to have a ball this year at Topaz!



Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

Food for Thought!

Food seems to be a favorite topic of middle school students. In Tuffree's Foods/Nutrition class Mrs. Rho builds on this interest to foster our students' mastery of 21st century learning skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, written and oral communication, and creativity. She skillfully infuses mathematics skills into lessons as students apply basic skills such as estimating and more complex ones such as proportional relationships.

To successfully complete weekly group food projects, students must demonstrate sophisticated collaborative skills just like what will be required in future careers, including working appropriately and productively with others and leveraging the collective intelligence of group members.

District Chef Ramon Solorzano provides frequent real-life experiences that enrich students' critical-thinking skills and career pathway awareness. "Chef Ramon" recently guided our Iron Chef activity, which required not only collaboration, creativity, mathematical skills and critical thinking but also career awareness of a chef's challenges in superior food-presentation skills!



Tuffree Foods/Nutrition students eagerly share their creation with District Chef Ramon Solorzano and Principal Rose Marie Baldwin-Shirey.

Christ Has Risen! He Has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

March 25
Good Friday Tenebrae
(service of darkness) at 7 p.m.

March 26
Easter for kids egg hunt,
egg decorating, craft, singing:
10 a.m. – noon

March 27
Easter Sunrise service 7 a.m.,
Easter Breakfast,
Festival worship and praise 9:30 a.m.



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Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Winning Both Ways!

Tynes Elementary School is excited to celebrate the students involved in our Peer Mentor Program! The SDC and sixth-grade team leaders, together with our school psychologist, have created a wonderful program that allows general-education sixth-grade students to interact and be social role models for our SDC students in grades one through six.

Sixteen sixth-grade students volunteer for the program and act as soccer coaches, reading buddies and art teachers. They also work on social skills such as turn taking by playing fun games. The teachers facilitate the interactions between the students and give advice on how to best engage their students.



Tynes Elementary Peer Mentors eating lunch with their buddies.

Our sixth-graders will learn patience, compassion, respect and responsibility while building their self-esteem, and our SDC students will reap many positive benefits from their new friends!

Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



Rick Lopez
Principal

University Acceptance Begins

As principal of VHS, I am proud to share the exciting news many of our seniors have received in recent days as universities are announcing Early Decision Admission results. Clarissa Aguirre- Stanford, June Ho Park- Princeton, Celeste Chen- Carleton, Dante Noffal- Cal Poly SLO, Brayan Montiel Zarate - APU, Adam Worden- CSUF / DigiPen, Adla Jaber- CSUF, Shivam Shah- CSUF, Yahve Nuno- CSUF, Jennifer Avellaneda- CSUF / CSULA, Jenifer Gonzalez- CSUF, Glen Hernandez- CSUDH, Michelle Luna- CSUF, Katie Monroy- CSUF / CSULA, Carlos

Muniz- CSULA, Norma Ocampo- CSUDH, Ozzy Ordaz- CSUDH, Ricardo Pineda- CSUF, Melissa Quero Gopar- CSUDH, Paulina Ramos- CSUF, Daniel Rosete- CSULA, John Rubalcaba- CSUDH, Jessenia Sandoval- CSUF, Anallely Sotelo- CSULA, Samantha Walle- CSUF, Austin Ting - CSUF, Kevin Tran- CSUF, Lindsey Wyatt- Colorado State University, Derek Castillo- UNLV, Maribel Aguirre- CSUF, Sydney Duran- St. Mary's College / CSUF, Jessica Burke- Baylor / University of Alabama, Mitchell Nishimoto - SDSU / ASU / Chico State, Ashley Fernandez - Dixie State. Many of these students have also been recognized by the National Merit Recognition Program and are enrolled in the AVID Program and prestigious VHS Academy.



Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.valadezacademy.org



James Hardin
Principal

College and Career Readiness

At Valadez Middle School Academy, our staff is preparing students for college and career. We define college and career readiness as follows: 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 for 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. Therefore, 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 skills. 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 that can be achieved with a single-cut score on a single test.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Going Google Crazy!

Van Buren students are paving their way through the 21st century with the help of a new set of Chromebooks. This fall, our third-graders received a brand new Chromebook cart in their pod.

Teachers have students well on their way to becoming Google experts through using shared Google Docs and Google Slides to complete writing prompts, research projects and book reports. They are learning to embed pictures, text and symbols to enhance their work! Many of our go-getters have even sent extra projects and letters to not only their teacher but the principal as well!

Teachers will continue to enhance student learning through the use of Google Classroom. With three carts now in use at Van Buren housing 120 Chromebooks, students in grades three through six have daily access to interactive learning and further developing their 21st century skills! Second grade, get ready—our next cart is on the way!



Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.wagnerwildcats.org

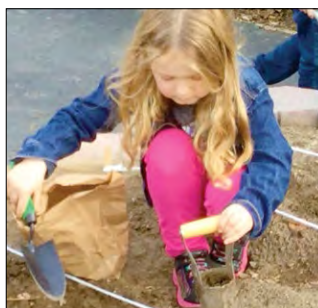


Patrick Brown
Principal

Some New Beginnings

“Keep Reading. It’s one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have.” And what could be more exciting to a child than entering a space filled with books just waiting to be read?

Wagner Elementary is off to a great adventure with the long anticipated completion of its new library and computer lab. After many hours of loving preparation by school librarian Janet Vash and computer instructional specialist Amy Troup, the Wagner students eagerly entered their new library and computer lab. And they were not disappointed! Without a doubt, the students will be enjoying this beautiful facility for many years to come!



Each spring the Wagner family is also greeted with a profusion of wildly colorful tulips blooming in a long, raised bed just inside the kindergarten playground. The kindergarten students recently planted some bulbs there, which they will gently tend and watch as they bloom. The result will be a beautiful display for all to appreciate.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Getting Down to Business

Welcome to 2016 and the second semester of our 2015–2016 school year. The staff at Yorba Linda High School is excited to see the large numbers of students taking classes in our newly formed Business Management Pathway. This program joined our longstanding Culinary Arts/Hospitality-Hotel Management Pathway to form the Mustang Business Academy (MBA). These new courses include an introduction to business, a business technology and communications class, and a capstone class in business management, which includes individual student internships. Students participating in the MBA program and completing all requirements will be recognized for their dedication and fulfilling the academy standards.

This year we are also excited to see our community’s participation in our PTSA Mustang University Information Nights and morning Coffee with Counselors, which is held in our library. Both programs offer parents and students the opportunity to look at college applications, scholarships, test results, and financial aid. Visit our Web site at ylhs.org for more information and meeting times. Programs are open to both parents and students from all grade levels.

Happy New Year!

Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Enjoying the Outdoors

Recently, our sixth-graders had a fabulous week at Outdoor Science Camp. On Monday, they left hundreds of parents standing on the sidewalk, waving goodbye. All week, they were knee-deep in snow, learning about the environment, discovering how to build a shelters in the snow, comparing different types of trees and leaves, and gaining information about animal and plant life cycles. Did you know that a chinchilla has 60 hairs per follicle and cannot get wet or it will mildew or mold? They clean themselves by rolling in dust. Students learned this while holding a live chinchilla.



Our outstanding teachers invest a great deal of time planning, preparing, and getting all of the paperwork organized for our students to attend. Our PTA parents also invested time fund-raising and communicating with the parents to give students the opportunity to participate in this memorable week at Outdoor Science Camp.

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Cameron Malotte
Principal

A School to Watch

Yorba Linda Middle School (YLMS) received word recently that it has been selected as a California School to Watch. This is a very competitive award, with a rigorous application process. Schools must use a self-rating rubric to identify areas of strength and room for growth in four major areas: academic excellence; developmental responsiveness; social equity; and organizational processes. Once that was done, a team of teachers worked with the rest of the staff to write the application and gather evidence to support the claims made in the application.

The Schools to Watch program is sponsored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Each participating state must have an organization (or organizations) to certify the results. In California, some of the participating organizations are the California League of Middle Schools, the California Department of Education, and the Association of California School Administrators. Once the applications are read by a team of middle level educators, certain schools are selected for a site visitation by another team of educators to validate the claims made in the application. Those teams send their recommendations to the state superintendent of public instruction for final approval.

On February 18, a grand celebration was held for the entire YLMS student body, staff, and community at the Thomas Lasorda Jr. Field House, at which time the school was presented with a Schools to Watch banner. Later in February, a team of teachers will travel to Sacramento for the state recognition. Then, in June, a team of teachers will travel to Washington, D.C., to receive national recognition.

This award is an affirmation of all of the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students.



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