Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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Esperanza High School's Air Force ROTC Program Helps Students Soar

Public and Media Relations
The Placentia-Yorba Linda
Unified School District
(PYLUSD) always seeks
out ways to provide students
with diverse opportunities
to become more college and
career ready.

One example of this is the popular Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFJROTC) program at Esperanza High School.

Started during the 2014-2015 school year, AFJROTC is an elective class open to any ninth through 12th grade student at Esperanza. It is an academic course married with a co-curricular component, similar to band or musical theater. The objectives of AFJROTC are to educate and train high school students in citizenship, promote community service, and instill responsibility, character and self-discipline.

"After serving in the Air Force for 28 years, having the opportunity to build the AFJROTC program at

"What do you want?"

"You'll get it back!"

'Give it away!'



Esperanza has proved to be a perfect new career," said retired Col. Robert J. Weisenberger, senior aerospace science instructor. "That's because I have the best students in the school. They work hard, and do amazing things. They make me proud every day!"

Students have the opportunity to study aerospace science, including the development of flight and applied flight sciences, as well as space exploration. The course is augmented with additional fun activities, such as team-building exercises, intramural competitions and aerospace/technology field trips.

According to freshman Max Goldsmith, "[AFJROTC] is truly a student-led program. We are responsible for daily operations, and we're held accountable for the results." Junior Amelia Johnson added, "The program's emphasis on community service is very important. During the fall semester, we supported a 10K walk/run event for the National Parkinson Foundation. We also participated in the Veterans Day observance at El Dorado High School. I look forward to doing this more in the future."

"In addition to our Aztec Engineering/Manufacturing Academy and Medical Sciences Academy, AFJROTC allows students to excel both in the classroom and in

See ROTC Program • Page 16

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

I want to take this time to heartily thank all of our many community supporters! As we point towards the spring, I continue to be so pleased and humbled to see the diverse, balanced, and quality programs our district is offering students. The humility is so vivid with the amount of engaged support that surrounds our students, and the way they are coated with thoughtful community outreach for each adventure they tackle.

As an educational community, we should feel proud of the many diverse opportunities our young people have to engage their lives and passions. Award winning arts programs, consistently recognized athletic programs, as well as leadership and academic activities that allow our work to extend beyond the traditional four walls of an educational environment. The concept of "college and career readiness" had strong and deep roots of tradition in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District long before it became today's national and state focus.

In an era when we have successfully strived to reach high marks with so many of our traditional assessments, our district and community have partnered to provide a balance for our students. If we looked deep into history, it would be a "renaissance" of a sort that had the "whole-child" as its focus. The evidence around our community and the stellar impression our students leave beyond is impressive. That long-term school and community influence is on regular display with the number of young people who return to our community to serve and raise their families.

The Ford Motor Company used the tag line, "Quality is Job 1," and the quality of students we are producing would be a walk-aroundable definition to that phrase. We are proud, and rightly so, as the investment by our communities is withstanding one of the most valid assessments we know...time!

So, as we head into the spring season, I want to thank all of our supporters for your consistently thoughtful efforts. We are grateful and will continue to pursue levels of excellence that will define our communities and our futures.

"What do you want?"

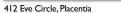
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"You'll get it back!"

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Happy New Year!

By now students are back to their routines and focused on their academic year end goals, which is evident in the articles in this issue. In his message on the front page Superintendent Plutko said, "The concept of 'college and career readiness' had strong and deep roots of tradition in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District long before it became today's national and state focus."

Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices. Our next issue is May 11.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yora Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylusd.org



Julie Nibali President

REACHing Greater Heights

As we enter our 5th year as the education foundation benefitting PYLUSD students, we'd like to reflect on the growth our organization has experienced to date. We started as a small group of passionate school volunteer leaders who valued our school district and knew that enrichment programs are transformative for our students. Based on our personal experiences with PYLUSD, we knew how previous programs that were either cut or severely reduced by past state budget cuts had benefited our own children. Since our inception, with the support

of the District, our community and dedicated volunteers, we are pleased to share the mission goals that have been met:

Athletics - Funding provided by our ShamRock 'n Run and special targeted events: Brought back the District Wide Middle School Track Meet while also providing an annual fundraising opportunity for our schools. The ShamRock 'n Run event also serves as a great community event where we promote and encourage healthy lifestyles and activities; Contributed towards the purchase of CPR Manikins which helped our district become the first in California to require all HS freshman to learn CPR in Health Class; Contribution toward new playground balls and equipment.

Arts - Funding provided by our Seat Dedication program and special PAC events: Offering Teacher Grant opportunities for the Performing and Visual Arts programs; Sponsored our first Preppy K field trip for 800 students to see the Charlotte Diamond Concert; Supported the return of music to 4th graders with the purchase of much needed music stands; Support the Arts Sales Fundraiser during ArtWorks! for visual classroom supplies

Academics – Funded through Brighter Futures Annual Fundraising Campaign and Community Partner support: Sponsor, coordinate and expand Annual Elementary Spelling Bee.



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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

WICOR

A year and a half ago, Bernardo Yorba Middle School ventured down the path to bringing "AVID" to its students and staff members. The school created several seventh- and eighth-grade AVID classes to help support those students who probably would not have given a thought to going to college. But now, with guidance and encouragement, they most likely will be!

AVID is not just about the 60 students in those classes however. It is also about the other 660 students in our school as well. To provide for the best instructional practices from AVID,

our teachers have also been using the WICOR strategies of Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading.

To highlight this focus, each content area hallway now has a "WICOR Wall" where the teachers can post student work that reflects the WICOR strategies used in their classrooms. WICOR helps our Bernardo staff achieve its mission: to empower students to perform at their highest level and optimize their full potential in every endeavor.

Brookhaven Elementary (K-6)

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



Julie Lucas Principal

Student Leadership Abounds!

In December, our entire student body participated in our Annual Holiday Toy Drive for needy families during the holiday season. Each year, we collect new toys, books and games and give them to our local fire station. Student Council led this charitable endeavor, and our students were again generous and thoughtful in making the season bright.

In January, our sixth-graders visited Camp Cedar Crest near Running Springs for a week of outdoor science education—a tradition that the sixth-graders anticipate each year! Students

fund-raise, and many parents help coordinate this effort so that all sixth-graders can participate. The students learned about geology and survival skills and also grew in their own independence, deepening friendships and returning home wiser and more confident. It was a successful, memorable week complete with many inches of snow, allowing for going tubing and playing in the winter elements!

Students continue to learn and grow at Brookhaven!



Toy Drive

Bryant Ranch Elementary (K-5)

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



Dominique Polchow *Principal*

Trash-Free Lunch Program

How would you like to save \$250 during the school year and help the environment? According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on average, packing a waste-free lunch will save \$250 per child and a whopping 67 pounds of trash!

As we kick off the New Year, Bryant Ranch School is "going green" with a new Trash-Free Lunchtime program, saving money for our families and, most importantly, helping our environment.

Grades of Green, an award-winning nonprofit environmental organization, is helping us get started. Through an assembly, Grades of Green educated our first-through fifth-grade students

about the importance of protecting the environment and how our new program will be beneficial. Our Green Team, comprised of both students and parents, will help keep us on track, reminding students where to sort items from their lunches, including a compost bin that will directly benefit our school garden.

Currently, we produce seven bags of trash each day at lunchtime. By the end of the school year, our goal is to reduce this to only two bags of trash. If we meet our goal by the end of the school year, in just four short months, we could save over 12,000 pounds of trash! That's an astonishing amount of garbage that won't be in our local landfill.

Bryant Ranch is excited to "go green" with our Trash-Free Lunch program!

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

Leadership in ActionEl Camino's Leadership students are excited to team up

with the R.E.A.C.H. Foundation once again! As the R.E.A.C.H Foundation prepares for its 5th Annual ShamRock 'n Run, Leadership is ready to join in on the efforts. This amazing group of hardworking and dedicated students will organize, sort, distribute and prepare over 1,000 Runner Packets. This takes planning, time, and teamwork. Due to its central and convenient location, El Camino is the location for pick up of Runner Packets. Participants will be able to pick up materials on March 17th and 18th. Leadership students will work closely with R.E.A.C.H

Foundation organizers to make this process run smoothly. Students will be in charge of check-in, distributing materials, and handing out t-shirts. Last year was very successful, and we are looking forward to another great year in support of the R.E.A.C.H Foundation.





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Esperanza High School (9-12)

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



Ken Fox Principal

AVID Students

Esperanza High School's first semester of implementing Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) has been a great success. This past summer, eight staff members, including administrators, counselors and teachers, attended the AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, where they were trained in AVID strategies. In addition, the entire teaching staff has participated in professional development opportunities to learn about using AVID teaching strategies in their classrooms.

Twice weekly, AVID students participate in tutorials led by college tutors, where they gain a deeper understanding of the material covered in their core content classes and develop skills necessary to become self-directed learners. In addition, AVID students were invited to attend an I'm Going to College event at University of California, Los Angeles. In March, the class will attend a leadership conference at Pomona College, where they will explore the skills it takes to be a leader and set goals for their future.



Esperanza students participating in an AVID tutorial session with college tutors.





El Dorado High School (9-12)

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



Joey Davis Principal

Future Law Professionals

El Dorado High School has a new academy on campus. ED LAW is our new legal and law program designed for any student interested in careers in the legal field. Students can take a variety of courses, including discovery and business law classes, and participate in our prestigious mock trial program and professional exposure opportunities.

Academy options allow students to take all available accelerated academic courses, participate in other on-campus programs, and still complete the academy requirements. One of

the additional opportunities we now provide for students is peer court. When a student commits a non-violent misdemeanor in Orange County, he or she has the option to be judged by his or her peers. El Dorado hosted its first peer court this fall, and we will host another event on February 28. Our students serve as jurors and determine the appropriate sanctions for the convicted student.

Visit http://www.edlawacademy.com/ for application information.



Fairmont Elementary (K-6)

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



Cynthia Rex Principal

Beyond the Walls!

Fairmont students upgrade their tech skills every day! Chromebooks offer endless options for students to research questions, enhance learning, and find solutions for real-world

Preppy K and kindergarteners tackle early-learning websites. IPads ignite first-graders to interact with educational games and check for understanding of concepts. Second-graders connected with Code.org to activate Star Wars avatars. Have you heard of Kahoots? Our third-graders have! They'll tell you that it is game

based and makes it fun to learn any subject in any language on any device.

By fourth grade, our students reveal masterful typing skills and word processing to publish final writing pieces. Fifth-grade students recently ran technology to research and create "how-to" presentations. Creating websites to share book reviews triggered the sixth-graders' tech talents to rouse readers' interests.



With 21st century skills, learning at Fairmont reaches past the walls of the classroom into the world!

Glenknoll Elementary (K-6)

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



David Cammarato Principal

Science in the Mountains

Glenknoll Elementary School has a strong tradition of our sixthgraders attending science camp in our local mountains. In January, students spent a week at Camp Cedar Crest in the San Bernardino Mountains. While at camp, students study a variety of topics, including ecology, geology, wildlife, and local ecosystems of the area. I had the

opportunity to visit camp and go on a few hikes, play in the snow with our students, and share a meal with them, and I could see that our students enjoyed the positive experience.

I want to thank the committed group of parents who stepped up to raise money to support this endeavor. I also want to thank our incredible teachers for being willing to leave home for a week in order to support this program. Without your dedication, this trip would not be possible. You have all made a difference for the students at Glenknoll!





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George Key School (K-12)

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



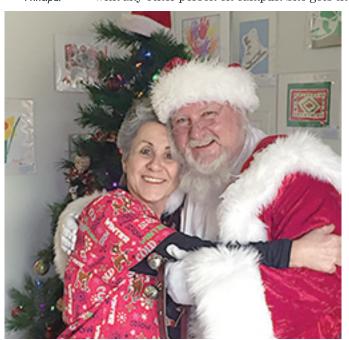
Kim Smith Principal

Farewell

George Key says "Hello" to a brand new year, and "Good-bye and good luck" to a dear friend!

Jean Speakman has been the secretary of George Key School since 1998, and an employee of the district since 1985. Jean has such a heart for these very special students, which made her decision to retire "the hardest decision of my life."

The students responded to Jean in a way that I have not seen with any other person on campus. She gets the biggest smiles,



the loudest laughs, and the most endearing looks you can imagine. Every day she could be heard singing "Boom Chica Boom!" through the office just to make a student smile!

Jean is a remarkable human being with a heart of gold. She will be greatly missed, and will always hold a special place in the heart of our George Key family. We love you, Jean!

$Golden \ {\it Elementary} \ ({\it K-6})$

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



Roann Turk Principal

Beyond the Books

A third-grade student walks the path that a Native Californian from the Tongva tribe walked hundreds of years ago. Stepping back into the life of the original inhabitants makes community history come alive. Fifth-grade Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students build roller coasters that marbles fly down, doing loops, twists and turns that defy gravity and teach the laws of physics.

Sixth-grade students transform themselves into characters from ancient Rome or Greece during a Walk Through Ancient Civilizations program and analyze the geographic, political,

economic, religious, and social structures of early civilizations. Families enjoy hands-on science experiences, such as gazing through telescopes at constellations, dissecting pig hearts, and making polymers during Family Science Nights.

At Golden Elementary School, students and their families learn in many ways. Teachers, staff, and parents plan, organize, and support many varied learning experiences that bring education beyond the walls of our classrooms and beyond our books. Our students can be found "walking through" California history and the American Revolution. They learn to lead and mentor other students through our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program. Upper-grade students learn governance and leadership skills in student council.

All areas of curriculum are pushed beyond the boundaries of the books. Boys and girls can hone their writing skills in our Nanowrimo program, where they produce a novel. Arts education is integrated with musical revues, such as "Charlotte's Web, the Musical" performed by our third-graders. Math and art were integrated with a Modigliani area project in fifth grade and with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) robotics projects in fourth grade. Students learn to code in Hour of Code and hone math skills in 10 Marks virtual competitions.

Bringing learning into the third dimension and educating all aspects of the child make Golden students shine!

Glenview Elementary (K-6)

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



Alondra Ramos Principal

Winter Wonderland and Holiday Joy

Over 260 Glenview students saved their \$50 Bulldog Bucks to attend a special Winter Wonderland PBIS Principal Party in December to celebrate our students' successful, respectful, responsible, and

Glenview parents donated over 1,000 marshmallows, hot cocoa, and other treats in an effort to create an indoor winter

safe behavior at school.

wonderland for the day! Principal Ramos and parent volunteers assisted the students in building snowman graham cracker treats by hand. Glenview scholars enjoyed cups of hot chocolate and candy canes as holiday

treats for "Showing their PAWS" at school. Also in December, as a token of goodwill and holiday joy, our Glenview fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students and parents "Christmas caroled" along Glenview Avenue. Our Glenview neighbors and community were delightfully surprised one evening with the gift of a cappella music as a special holiday treat! The evening was such a success that Glenview hopes to make it a new holiday tradition.



Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

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



Keith Carmona Principal

Getting Connected

Kraemer Middle School's aim is to find a way for every student at the school to become involved in some sort of co-curricular activity. The staff believes that students who are connected to school feel better about themselves and, in turn, perform better academically.

This is why Kraemer has a long-standing tradition of offering a large variety of clubs, activities, and extracurricular opportunities. These include the performing arts: dance, color guard, hip hop, orchestra, band, choir, and even a rockin' blue

jam band. Additionally, Kraemer students interested in science and math enjoy the Science Olympiad, You Be the Chemist, Math Counts, Video Production, and Creative Coding Clubs. For other students, involvement comes by way of Speech and Debate Club, National Junior Honor Society, Spelling Club, photography, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), and several student leadership programs. Our athletic Kraemer students enjoy after-school intramural sports, Kraemer Distance Runners, and track and field. There's something for everyone!

We have a very diverse student body. It is our belief that no matter your background, if you come to school and participate in fun, meaningful school activities, you'll meet new friends, learn how to be a part of a team, and learn valuable life lessons.

Lakeview Elementary (K-5)

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



Katherine Dailey Principal

Roaring in the New Year!

The STEM Lab has sparked a great amount of excitement in our Lakeview students!

Our third-through fifth-grade students often ask, "Is it STEM Lab week?" They look forward to working together and learning new information in each of their situations as they rotate through a variety of missions. All of our teachers have seen their leadership and cooperative learning skills improve.

Our STEM Lab is student-centered and student-led, with a commander, communication specialist, information specialist,

and material specialist. They completely rely on the gifts and skills that each peer holds to accomplish the tasks at hand.



We have all enjoyed watching our students grow through this new opportunity. The fifth-grade students stated how they are enjoying learning about microscopes, using angles to launch rockets, and creating energy with circuits! Lakeview is fortunate to be one of the few schools piloting this program for our district.

La Entrada High School (9-12)

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



Carrie Bisgard Principal

Welcome, Mrs. Miller!

The 2016-2017 school year has brought an exciting addition to our team at La Entrada High School. Mrs. Sarah Miller is our new school counselor!

Mrs. Miller attended California State University, Fullerton and Azusa Pacific

University. She previously worked as a high school counselor at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach, California. She believes every student is unique and enjoys helping them explore their strengths, values, and future goals. As an active member of the many professional



counseling organizations, she frequently attends conferences and webinars to stay up-to-date with the latest counseling trends.

Mrs. Miller provides one-on-one counseling, small-group workshops, and parent consultation at La Entrada High School. Workshops address the specific needs of La Entrada students, covering topics such as coping with stress, learning styles and study skills, and career searches and college majors.

We are thrilled to have Mrs. Miller bring her skills, expertise and warm caring ways to La Entrada High School.

Mabel Paine Elementary (K-5)

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert Principal

Multiple Choice, in the Best Way!

"It is our choices...that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." ~ J. K. Rowling

Recess and lunch can be very difficult for some students. They may feel alone because they don't have many friends, they may not enjoy outside activities, or they may be having issues with friends and need some time away.

To better support the needs of all students both inside and outside the classroom, we offer "choices" during recess and lunch. At recess, students may choose to either take a favorite book to the library or go to the computer lab and work on their

typing skills or computer-learning platforms. During lunch recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays, they may invite a friend to our POWER Play day, where students play board games with our school counselor.

Offering daily choices during recess and lunch continues to promote positive behavior and boost our students' self-esteem.



First graders enjoying playing the game "Googly Eyes" during lunch recess.

Melrose Elementary (K-5)

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

Cynthia Alvarez Principal

The Power of Our Imagination!

At Melrose writing is an essential skill practiced daily, but recently students participated in an exciting writing project. Students put pencil to paper and created colorful stories fueled by

their imaginations. Students utilized various thinking maps to support their implementation of the writing process. Stories were submitted for selection by the team to be theatrically retold.

Students' stories were brought to life by professional actors, music, props, and costumes. Both students and teachers were entertained by the wonderful stories written by our very own Magnificent Marlins. Students were able to see how important good writing is and also that their imaginations are powerful tools with endless possibilities for inspiring others. Our writers were recognized for their writing achievement

This opportunity was made possible because of the collaboration between our teachers, students, and PTA.



Linda Vista Elementary (K-5)

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



Kristen Petrovacki

Creativity is in the Air

Linda Vista students have had several opportunities recently to tap into their creative sides. This year, over 100 students are participating in our school play Seussical Jr., which debuts in early February.

Our school community couldn't be more excited about this upcoming performance at our district's very own Performing Arts Center. This state-of-the-art facility will truly showcase the incredible talents of our students across all grade levels. Also, Linda Vista students recently had a chance to demonstrate their creative writing skills. During a recent Imagination Machine

Assembly, stories written by our students were performed live for the whole school. This was a fun way to celebrate the art of storytelling.



2nd and 3rd grade students were entertained at a recent Imagination Machine assembly where their own stories were performed live.

We are also looking forward to our school's upcoming school science fair. We can't wait to see the students apply their creativity and curiosity to science experiments and demonstrations. This promises to be another great learning opportunity for everyone in attendance.

Morse Elementary (K-6)

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morseschool.net

A Scientific New Year



Cristina McCall Principal

The new year has brought science into the limelight at Morse Elementary School! Fourth grade is transitioning to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Fourth-grade recently explored magnetism and electricity using the NGSS standards. NGSS performance expectations require students to demonstrate proficiency in asking questions, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

The Morse PTA sponsored Family Science Night in January. Students from California State University, Fullerton shared student-created projects, including: the Titan Rover; the Arduino widgets that control the rover; a three-dimensional sandbox that demonstrates rainfall, water storage, and



Students collaborate by partner sharing the results of their magnet exploration

ground movement; and a volcanic eruption. Cerritos College provided an instant ice-cream demonstration and some mathematics magic. Members of Valencia High School's robotics team shared last year's robot.

Morse students are moving forward with the NGSS with great enthusiasm!

Parkview Home Schooling (K-12)

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



Kathie DiRocco Principal

Variety Show

Parkview School's annual variety show was a huge success. The night started with a staff parody of Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" entitled "Read All Day." Then more than 75 students, including many of our professional performers, exhibited a wide range of talent and creativity.

Students performed dances, vocals, and martial arts demonstrations and played piano, guitar, viola, and cello. Our kindergarten through second-grade students performed "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," and our third-through fifth-

grade students performed hip-hop dances. The improvisation class shared "The 12 Dancing Princesses." There were performances in Russian and Japanese, as well as from "Les Miserables" and "Spamalot!"



Congratulations to all who participated and to Mrs. Debra DeSpenza, who organized the spectacular night. A huge shout out to the district technicians and the El Dorado High School Performing Arts Center for their professionalism and generosity in making this show a wonderful experience for all!

Rose Drive Elementary (K-5)

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



Adamson Principal

Past and Future Achievements

Practicing a combination of compassion and kindness over the holiday period, our Rose Drive students and their families recently filled two giant bins with new and unwrapped toys for donation to children in need. Firefighters from the Brea Fire Department then stopped by on the last day to collect the toys, thanking students with hats, stickers, and pencils for their generosity and dedication to making the holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

We also recently enjoyed several PTA-sponsored family nights, including Pajama Night to promote our book fair, and Moana

movie night - both wildly popular with students of all ages. December offered our annual kindergarten holiday program, which was a resounding success. Students dressed in their finest attire to perform their favorite holiday songs to an overwhelmingly enthusiastic and supportive audience.

Looking to the months ahead, fifth-grade Harvard students are working on finalizing their short stories as they prepare for the final step of publishing and printing. A copy of this year's printed book called Harvard Short Stories will proudly join the three others in the school library, all from prior fifth-grade classes authored and illustrated by the students themselves!

We are also anxiously anticipating the arrival of our Imagination Machine assembly, which will feature the performance of several original writing submissions from select students in every grade level. Finally, our students are beyond excited about the auditions and rehearsals about to begin for our upcoming mini-production of Seussical, to be performed in June. So much to look forward to, and so many opportunities that await our students as they continue to engage their imaginations and discover all they can when they pledge to "reach for their goals."

Rio Vista Elementary (K-5)

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



Jose Cabrera Principal

A Special Time

Rio Vista is off to a great start to the 2017 New Year. The month of January is a special time for our school community. Building and maintaining our school culture is at the heart of what we do at Rio Vista. The faculty and staff have made a commitment to our SPARK(Student Centered, Professionalism, Advancement, Responsibility and Kinship) which drive our actions throughout the day. Our students have their own commitment with our PBIS High Five (Safe, Responsible, Positive, Ready, Respectful). Together, we have joined forces to support



the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Student Series, Pennies for Patients has taught our students and community at large the valuable lesson of giving to those in need. The Gomez family has graciously allowed us to nominate their daughter,Geneva as our Hero for this year's campaign. More information on our service project and Geneva's story is on our website.

Ruby Drive Elementary (K-6)

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rub-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Diana McKibben Principal

Dinosaur Science Unit

Ruby Drive Preppy K class has just started their dinosaur science unit. Students are excited to adopt the role of paleontologists who will be learning facts about four different dinosaurs (Apatosaurus, Stegosaurus, Tyrannosaurus rex, Triceratops) and one flying reptile! They have the opportunity to learn about the dinosaurs' names, size, diet, and habitat. The students completely immerse themselves in dinosaur experiences: structured dinosaur writing, dinosaur flashcards, dinosaur shapes, colors, and numbers card games. They even



get to dig for fossils during free time and do dinosaur puzzles to help with fine motor skills! Ruby Preppy K is the place to be and fills up fast. Registration begins on February 23 for the 2017-2018 Preppy K class! Don't miss your opportunity to be involved with this wonderful program or State Preschool for three and four year olds which will begin a second session soon.

Sierra Vista Elementary (K-6)

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.sierravistapta.com



Shirley Fargo Principal

Reading is the Focus

Sierra Vista benefits from a strong library program. The library is a focal point of our campus. When one enters the library it is clear that it is a warm and inviting place to spend time.

Our librarian, Mrs. Schall, takes her responsibilities seriously. She has a passion for reading and instills her love for it in her students. Not only does she manage the library, process books, and then gets them into the hands of the students, she also spends her lunch time hosting book clubs.



Here the students bring their lunches and discuss grade-level literature. This month her fourthgraders read and discussed James and the Giant Peach. After school on the early release day, she spent her personal time showing the movie to her book club and then discussed the similarities and differences between it and the book.

Sierra Vista is fortunate to have a child-centered and passionate reader as our librarian. Thank you, Mrs. Schall!

Topaz Elementary (K-6)

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



Christa Borgese Principal

Happy Holiday, Guaranteed

Happy new year, and welcome to 2017 from the Topaz Tigers! Our staff, students and families wrapped up a busy holiday season of giving and receiving. Thanks to generous gift donations from PLUM managers, families from Fairmont Elementary and other charity foundations such as Pathways of Hope, our families in need were able to celebrate a very merry holiday season. Many students and parents left for the break knowing they would have gifts to open on Christmas morning.



A special thank-you to Steve Marshall for bringing the opportunity to participate in the program Bicycles for Children to our staff at Topaz. Topaz teachers worked with Mr. Marshall to surprise students at home over the break with brand new bicycles and helmets donated by this foundation.

The joy and gratitude of being a part of this special day is evident on the faces of the students and teachers!

Tynes Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman

Thanks to the PTA...

We're so thankful for our PTA and all the enrichment programs and assemblies they bring to our school! Recently, our fourth- fifthand sixth-graders participated in interactive history assemblies for their grade levels. California history, United States history and ancient worlds were represented in these assemblies. Every student had a

part to play in the assembly, taking on roles of historic figures and seeing firsthand how history can shape our culture. Students wore appropriate costumes for their parts and had to cite historical events during the assembly.

These assemblies are fun and engaging, and they teach students through the standards for their specific grade levels. We appreciate our PTA bringing such enriching activities to our school in addition to Imagination Machine, which promotes writing, and our annual Jog-A-Thon, which promotes health and wellness.

We're fortunate to provide such a well-balanced education for all our students! Learning is fun at Tynes!



Travis Ranch School (K-8)

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



Susan Metcalf Principal

Arts for All

Travis Ranch School is known for its rich tradition in the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, dance, and theater. Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, our Preppy-K and first-grade classes receive weekly instruction in vocal music.

Our second- and third-graders participate in ST Music to learn to play the piano. In the fourth- and fifth-grades, all students participate in band or vocal music. Our sixth- to eighth-grade instrumental music programs include concerts, parade marching, performing at Disneyland, and playing with professional artists.

Additionally, our school is home to an award-winning show choir called Encore, which just performed its annual holiday music revue Singing in the *Snow*. It is now gearing up for hosting a regional show choir competition this spring.

We also provide our students with the opportunity to participate in an annual school musical. This year more than 200 K-8 students performed in The Lion King.



Valencia High School (9-12)

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



Hector Vasquez Principal

Happy New Year!

This school year, Valencia High School (VHS) chose engagement as our schoolwide focus. VHS is committed to making sure all students are engaged in and out of the classroom. Our teachers understand that students need to be actively engaged and energized every time they step into the classroom. They also know that in order for our students to fully participate in today's global community, they will need to be creative, critical thinkers, communicators, and collaborators. I would like to take a moment to share some of the great things that happened during

the first four months of the school year.

Fall sports teams dominated Empire League play. Our football and boys cross country teams earned their third consecutive league championships. Boys cross country finished sixth in Division 1 CIF finals and earned a seventhplace finish in the CIF state finals. Our girls golf team won its third consecutive league championship. The girls tennis team added to their dominance and won their 11th consecutive league championship. Equally impressive, our girls cross country team won their second consecutive league championship.

All orchestras performed at the annual Orchestra Staff Appreciation Breakfast, where orchestra members played classical music and provided a wonderful international breakfast buffet for the entire staff. The fall production, Neil Simon's comedy "RUMORS," was a hit with the audience. The Valencia Tiger Regiment placed fourth in the 5A bands division at the Southern California Band and Orchestra Association Championships. The color guard won first place, receiving the Outstanding Color Guard award.

I'm very proud of our students and their achievements. I'm also proud of our teachers and staff and the roles they have played in the development of the outstanding programs here at VHS. I can't wait to see what's next.

Go, Tigers!

Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



CIndy Freeman Principal

Visual Arts is On Fire!

In Tuffree's Visual Arts classes, seventh- and eighth-graders are busily rotating through six stations. The eighth-grade stations include a dragon pencil drawing, an Art Master research essay, campus beautification banners, cardstock bowls, metal mask stands and an extra-large painting for a local performingarts complex. In addition to these projects, our seventh-graders are creating optical illusions and a pencil drawing of a kitten's

Also, a new art club called Art Attack has been added to our campus and is held every Tuesday after school. Open to all Tuffree students, this fun after-school club is well attended and provides a multitude of art projects that students can complete and take home to enjoy.

In an effort to share the creativity and talent of our students with the community, our art teacher, Mrs. Halliday, has partnered with a local credit union. They have graciously designed a niche for student artwork in their recent renovation. Each month, the artwork will rotate, and new artwork from PYLUSD schools will be on display. On display this first month are abstract chalk pastels by Tuffree eighth-graders, using inspiration from artist Alexandra Nechita.

A brand-new TV studio is being constructed for our digital-arts program, Falcon Films and is anticipated to be completed by March. The goal is to have daily live video announcements each day. Stay tuned!

Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

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



James Hardin Principal

App Developers

Valadez Middle School Academy is proud to have participated in the 2016 AppJam+ through the University California, Irvine (UCI). Twenty-four of our students collaborated with UCI technology, working three hours a day for several months to design and develop an application for mobile devices.

Students worked on coding and algorithms to develop their apps. They competed against 18 teams from five different schools when they presented these apps at the annual Fall Program and Showcase Finale Event last November.

AppJam+ uses the concept of building software in a short time period as a tool to excite and inform middle school students about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields while teaching them the creative and hands-on technical process of mobile application development and exposing them to careers in STEM.



Van Buren Elementary (K-6)

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



Connie Roe Principal

S.T.A.R.S

Van Buren 5th and 6th grade Peer Mentors show their S.T.A.R.S.! Every Tuesday and Thursday at recess, these kind and caring student leaders cross our campus to join their Peer Buddy on the

primary playground. There, they assist their buddy with social interaction and play. Mentors teach and model how to play games appropriately, how to make and be a friend, how to communicate to others in order to solve problems and especially, how to have fun with their peers on the playground. Under the guidance of 5th grade teacher, Shauna Radicelli, these young leaders demonstrate our Van Buren S.T.A.R.S. behavior expectations of Safe, There and ready, Act responsibly, be Respectful and, perhaps most importantly, Show compassion to all. Thank you to these wonderful school leaders for helping our younger students find success and fun at school each day!



Venture Academy Adult Transition (18-22)

701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178



Kim Smith Principal

Ready, Set—Go Wildcats!

We've got spirit, yes we do! The Venture Academy Adult Transition program is running full steam ahead, and students wanted to embrace their new school site. Following research about local schools and sports teams, students were

asked to think about a mascot and school colors to represent Venture Academy. Submissions were accepted and ballots were created to represent the creative ideas of these incredible adults.

After the votes were tallied, the official announcement was made. We are pleased to introduce you to the Venture Academy Wildcats! Students also chose burgundy and silver as their school colors. What an honor it was to see the faces of the students as their new colors and mascot were revealed!

These young adults take pride in their school and now are ready to don some burgundy and silver to show it. Go Wildcats!



Wagner Elementary (K-6)

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



Patrick Brown Principal

Awards and Celebrations

"It takes a big heart to shape little minds." Recently, several Wagner teachers were honored for their heart, creativity, and exceptional dedication to their students.

Kindergarten teacher Judy Lancaster and Special Ed preschool teacher Teri Krueger each received a CAPES grant (Cultural Arts Project for Every Student). This grant enables teachers to bring curriculum-related art projects to life by using music, visual arts, dance, drama, poetry, photography, or graphic arts. Winners are selected by the Cultural Arts Commission. Mrs.

Lancaster received her grant for a Mother's Tea and tulip festival, and Mrs. Krueger received hers for a Cinco de Mayo fiesta celebration.



Joan Brewer, Teri Krueger, Judy Lancaster

On December 7, Superintendent Dr. Greg Plutko, Deputy Superintendent Candy Plahy, and special education representative LuAnn Craik brought a surprise to kindergarten teacher Joan Brewer. She was awarded a special grant from the California Retired Teachers Association! Congratulations to these outstanding teachers for their well-deserved awards.

Woodsboro Elementary (K-6)

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



Doug Slonkosky Principal

Outdoor Science School

Woodsboro students and staff have had a wet and active winter and are looking forward to spring! Our courageous sixth grade teachers and students completed a four-day Outdoor Science School in early January. Students explored mountain trails, observed wildlife, and studied the geological features of the San Bernardino Mountains. They experienced a major snow and rain storm and got a chance to play in the snow! Our students met and interacted with students from other schools and bunked together in cabins. Many Woodsboro parents remember their own outdoor education experience as one of the high points of their education.

Winter and Spring activities at Woodsboro will include a Grade 4,5,6 Winter Concert on February 23, GATE Parent Night on March 10, Open House on April 6, and performances of "The Wizard of Oz" at the Performing Arts Center on April 27, 28, and 29, and 30th.



Pictured from the top, clockwise Nathan Rhee, Tony Zheng, Alex Kim, Jeremy Duong

Yorba Linda Middle School (6-8)

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

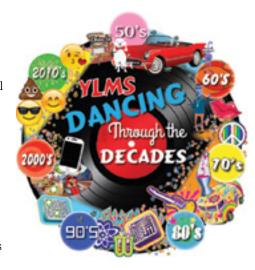


Cameron Malotte Principal

YLMS Showcase

The students and staff at Yorba Linda Middle School are eagerly anticipating the upcoming annual YLMS Showcase. The theme for this year's Showcase is "Dancing Through

the Decades" and it will feature performances by ASB, GET, WEB, AVID, Yearbook, the dance team, yearbook, vocal ensemble and a special performance by members of the faculty. Each of these groups will select a decade and then perform a routine to a song from



that decade. It is all student-led and student choreographed (with the exception of the faculty routine). The YLMS Showcase is one of the highlights of the year.

Yorba Linda High School (9-12)

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



Dave Flynn Principal

Worthy of Recognition

Yorba Linda High School is very excited to recognize our 2016 Mustang football team as CIF Division 8 champions. Head Coach Jeff Bailey and his team made their dreams come true with Yorba Linda's first CIF-SS Ford Football Division 8 title on December 2, 2016.

Since the opening of our school in 2009, Coach Bailey and his staff have developed a program where students, staff members, and the community are very proud to be called Mustangs. Yorba Linda's band, color guard, cheer, song, and student-organized

Stable cheering section, along with our community, supported our team at home and away games during a very exciting football season. The Yorba Linda City Council and the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District School Board will recognize the team's championship during the month of February with special presentations. Congratulations to Coach Bailey, the football staff, and, of course, the athletes!

Yorba Linda High School also wants to recognize four very talented Mustang Band members who were chosen to participate in the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade Honor Band this past New Year's Day. Congratulations to Adam Carrillo, Michael Frelly, Cory Hoo, and Natalie Suvarnesuddhi. We are very proud you are part of our Mustang Band and Guard!

Go, Mustangs!

Board of Education



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$\textbf{ROTC} \bullet From\ Page$

their personal lives," said Esperanza Principal Ken Fox. "AFJROTC is creating tomorrow's leaders today."

Enrollment in AFJROTC does not subject students to any military obligation, and it is not a recruiting program. However, there are additional benefits available for qualified AFJROTC cadets wishing to pursue military avenues, including scholarships, college credit, direct application to military academies and a higher military pay grade than normal enlistees.

Above all else, the Esperanza High School AFJROTC program is a leadership development opportunity that provides its students with the tools for success during high school and beyond, regardless of the chosen career path.







Note-ables

The Rocket Went Up!



Kate Karp

Educational rock band The Deedle Deedle Dees have swept out the corners where the history texts are stacked and come up with The Rocket Went Up!, a CD that will introduce you and the children in your life to people, animals and other things that may but

briefly have touched your radar. And if you or your child's teacher is developing research skills, every subject in the compilation will jump up and yip, "Pick me!" "No, me!"



You've heard of the Boston Tea Party, but what about the Boston Molasses Flood? Yes, it really happened, and no one was happy except for maybe the pancake houses. Everyone's familiar with Thomas Edison, but did you know about his association with Nikola Tesla? Yes, boys and girls, there was an actual person who came before the car, and you can compare both him and Edison in this pun-filled rap. There's a hilarious love song to pi. It goes on forever in all its irrational emotion. Even Typhoid Mary has a moment—was she guilty, or was she made a scapegoat? And for any of us who's felt different from others—and haven't we all at one time or another—there's "This Is for You."

The musical accompaniment is varied and masterful: Bob Dylan-style folk with a talking bridge, ragtime piano, rap—at least one genre for everyone. So rev up your search engines for a good hunt through all the twists, bends and corners of our world's history and culture!

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







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Courtney's Book Review

Sand Dollar Summer

Spirit Animals—Fire and Ice



By: Shannon Hale Follow the team of Meilin, Abeke, Conor, Maya, Tarik, and Rollan as they travel across Arctica to find Suka the polar bear in hopes of retrieving her talisman. After losing one of the teammate's family members, the team thought they had received their fair share of

broken families but they seem to have thought wrong. What will happen when a close relative to one of the team members shows up in Arctica as a minion of the Devourer?

I won't spoil who this story is mostly about (although you can probably just look at the cover and tell) so that you will be surprised at who the relative is. I'd probably give this book four stars because while this is a fantastic story, it outlines one of the main character's confusion and depression so it makes me depressed.

Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

Courtney M.

The book Sand Dollar Summer by Kimberly K. Jones is about a mom and her two kids Lise and Free. After Annalise dropped the kids off at school she went to go get groceries, but on the way home someone slammed into Annalise and she had many broken bones.

But once she gets a little better they

go to Fiddle Beach, Maine. As they passed all the great beach houses they continued on for at least another mile. They found a tiny shack and it was old, stinky, and basically going to fall down if you touched it. Meanwhile Annalise said let's go get in the water but Lise was terrified because she has never been in the ocean.



If you want to find out what happens next check out the book. I would rate this book with a 4 a good read.

Courtney likes to play Softball, Football, and ride her bike. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Curious George Goes to the Zoo—Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by March 15, 2017

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

Giraffe **Amazing** Water Animals Headquarters Wild Climbed Wonderful Hippo Curious Zoo Leaves Park Zookeeper Danced Fun Party Rhino George

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Congratulations to

Joe Shuylmistras

Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

Kubo and the Two Strings



Aldegarie

Kubo and the Two Strings, rated PG, is a fantasy action adventure film directed by Travis Knight, written by Marc Haimes and Chris Butler, and produced by Laika. The film features the voices of Art Parkinson, Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey, Ralph Fiennes, George Takei and Rooney Mara.

I have recently seen this movie which is very action packed and good for the family with kids over 10. This movie stars Kubo, a young boy who lives with his ill mother,

in a cave on top of the mountain. Every day he goes to a nearby village to tell stories by magically using origami that moves by listening to music played from Kubo's instrument. He lives a fairly peaceful life until he accidentally summons a vengeful spirit from the past. As he runs from the evil, he is accompanied by a monkey and a beetle while they battle the Moon King and his mother's sisters.



What I liked about the movie is it was very mysterious and full of action. What I did not like was it left the viewer confused due to a lot of different stories that made up this movie. Therefore, it would be hard for a younger viewer to follow this movie. Overall it was a movie about heroism, love and forgiveness. I would give this movie a 3 out of a 5.

Marissa is a 7th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

Michael's Book Review

The Missing Mitt



Michael H.

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to

win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.



Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.



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