

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 29
SUPERINTENDENT

FEBRUARY–APRIL 2018



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

These Kids Today

As we head towards the completion of our second semester and soon the energy around spring testing...and while our focus on instructional best practices continues to be in sharp focus, I want to take a moment to comment on the other side of our common core...the “common core values” of what is shaping up to be an outstanding generation of young people. I am impressed daily by the altruistic and grateful gestures that our students display, both at our school sites and in our community. This generation of students, despite the need or craving for an occasional “selfie photo” with the latest technology, continues to display a generosity and concern for a larger world that is both energizing and refreshing.

The generational phrase, “ahhh, these kids today,” that we can be sure started no later than with the Greeks and the Bronze Age still rings true. Yet, I would challenge those of us who have achieved the life longevity to utter that phrase to sharpen the focus on our lens... “these kids today” are heading in the right direction. Recently, I spoke with one of our teachers who was all too proud to share that the students in her classroom had manners that have reached beyond years of teaching. Her daily routine with students has shown something very special about the “common core manners” that visit her classroom each day...woo-hoo for our future!

Evidence you say? Just recently, a community member was very kind in taking a moment to send an e-mail to one of our principals about their experience in just that same “everyday life situation” involving

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From the District

La Entrada High School's independent study model allows Placentia-Yorba Linda students to customize their learning experience

Since opening its doors in 1985, La Entrada High School's (LEHS) Independent Study program has afforded Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) students the opportunity to customize their high school experience through an alternative educational environment. Complete with WASC-accreditation and an extensive list of A-G CSU/UC approved classes, LEHS empowers its students through textbook, online, and/or hybrid-style coursework that results in high academic achievement.

Located at 4999 Casa Loma Avenue in Yorba Linda, La Entrada's small, yet spirited campus offers students a high school environment that is clean, comfortable, and unique.

“Students choose to attend La Entrada because some aspect of the traditional high school environment does not best suit their needs or learning styles,” shared Carey Cecil, who became principal in 2017.

Unlike a conventional high school structure that includes a yearlong class schedule, students at LEHS are enrolled in one subject at a time and complete an average of 20 hours of work independently per week. If preferred, the format allows students to work or participate in other activities during the regular school day, and focus on their studies in the evening.

In addition to their independent efforts, students must schedule and attend a weekly appointment with their assigned teacher to take exams, go over completed work, and receive an overview of the next week's assignments. While on campus, students are also to participate in counselor and teacher led workshops to encourage peer interaction and to build upon critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity skills.

Some students visit campus for their weekly appointment and exams and leave, while others stay for several hours to complete work or receive extra help from the school's dedicated staff of teachers



Elaine Hudson, Kim Peck, and Dan Sobschak, counselor, Sarah Miller, and secretary, Sarah Soberanes.

Each semester, LEHS students have the option to take up to two courses concurrently at their resident high school. Annually, 30% of students make use of this exclusive flexibility to take AP courses, lab sciences, or other classes of interest. La Entrada students are also welcomed and encouraged to participate in any and all extra-curricular activities at their resident school in order to increase their opportunities for social interaction and further develop their well-roundedness.

It is not unusual to see La Entrada's highly motivated students taking courses simultaneously at local colleges, thereby placing them on an accelerated path to complete high school. Each school year, roughly 10% of La Entrada students concurrently complete classes at local community colleges, resulting in 5% of students graduating early at the end of their junior year.

Students and families who are interested in receiving more information about LEHS are encouraged to call (714) 986-7026 or visit www.laentradahighschool.org to further inquire.

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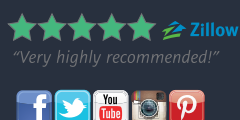
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**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By now the year is well underway and students are focused on testing and their end of year goals.

In this issue you will read about positive role models, starting the day with Words of Wisdom, engineering, the judicial system, GATE, investing wisely, the Kindness Challenge, universities early admissions results, and so much more.

Congratulations to Mary Hunin, winner of the November Word Search Contest. We didn't have space for a contest in this issue.

Our next issue is May 10.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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

Continuing to Support PYLUSD Students



Julie Nibali
President

The R.E.A.C.H. Foundation is in its 6th year of working towards providing opportunities and funding grants for the enrichment of Arts, Academics and Athletics.

Our goal is to exceed our previous year contributions to PYLUSD which included:

- \$6,700 Visual Arts Grant and \$5,028 Performing Arts Grant from our PAC Seat Dedication Sales
- \$3,890 of School specific pledges and \$7,000 for our District Wide Middle School Track Meet Event from our annual ShamRock 'n Run 5K Run/2K Fun Run.
- \$1,500 for our Elementary Spelling Bee Event.

This is, in addition, the hundreds of volunteer hours provided by our Foundation Board Members, Student and Parent Volunteers and Community Partners!

And Middle School Parents: Don't forget to remind your student about the upcoming District Wide Track Meet on March 28th at Shapell Stadium (located on the campus of Yorba Linda High School). The Yorba Linda High School Track & Field Team and Coach Gomez, ensure we hold a high school caliber event, complete with USATF Certified Official, state of the art timing, medals for place winners and professional announcer.

Middle students not only explore sports such as sprinting and relay races, high and long jumps and shot put but they will learn important values associated with working towards a goal, sportsmanship, and team participation. It's a great enrichment opportunity!

Please visit our foundation website at reach4pylud.org to learn all the details about our recent activities and upcoming event.! It's also a great way to support your student's school.



Counselors Unlock True Potential

Tony Morrow has one goal for the students of Fallbrook High School—graduate ready for what comes next. With his guidance, young scholars and families put their plans for the future into action.



Fallbrook High School, College and Career Counselor: Tony Morrow '11, M.A.Ed. '12

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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

Make It a Great Day or Not

Every morning over the school's loudspeaker system comes a positive message called "Words of Wisdom." These messages set the tone for the day for our students and staff members.

At BYMS, character development and wise decision-making are an integral component of instruction and school life. Three behavior expectations are explicitly taught and reinforced throughout the year: respect, responsibility, and safety.

Because we value these behavioral expectations, we teach them in our classrooms and in various locations on campus, including the lunch tables, hallways, and multipurpose room, among others. We recognize and celebrate students whose behavior is consistent with our expectations at our monthly Spirit Parties and quarterly Spirit Rallies. Character development is not a random process, but rather a deliberate and structured element of life at BYMS.

Our academic standards are high, and our behavioral and character expectations are equally so. Each day the following words complete the message: "Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours."

Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Gifted Engineers

At Bryant Ranch School, we offer a comprehensive Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program through a cluster model. Our fourth- and fifth-grade GATE students are clustered in small groups within the regular classroom, where they receive a rich, in-depth education using differentiated instruction techniques. Through GATE academies, gifted students are brought together to help develop their inquiry skills and to discuss abstract ideas.



This year the focus is on invention and engineering. In monthly academies, scholars build their knowledge through investigations that delve into the history of engineering concepts. Our inventors have already learned about Leonardo da Vinci's six simple machines, constructed and launched catapults (as seen below in the photograph), and attended a field trip, where they engineered a project from recycled materials. Up next, our GATE students will work as a team to build a Rube Goldberg machine, which will be featured at our GATE Showcase.

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Positive Role Models

For the past three years our Brookhaven students have been modeling their "BEAR Necessities" through PBIS. Our Positive Behavior, an inclusive environment, and a strong sense of school community are displayed every day!

Our theme this year at Brookhaven is "Only One You." Here our students can celebrate what makes each of them unique, while also learning and recognizing how we all come together as one school community.

As a learning example, the school recently invited Fire Station 34 from Placentia to join us for our PBIS Pep Rally to help share their unique strengths and what makes them a remarkable team. During the Pep Rally, the fire fighters discussed their strengths, talents, and team-building skills. They also encouraged our Bears to always do their best and be their best.

We are proud of our students, and grateful to have such positive role models within our community. Thank you again Captain Sultzer and Fire Station 34!



Members of Station 34 and our Student Council representatives.

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

Meet Mr. Petersen

Since coming to ECRHS in 2011, our Mr. Petersen has been a favorite among the staff and students. Digital Design and Illustration is the name of the course that he teaches, but Mr. Petersen's impact reaches far outside the classroom.

From Snickerdoodles at Back to School Night, to working with our students to create the yearbook, to participation in lunchtime activities, or entering our students into numerous art contests and organizing our Job Fair, Mr. Petersen is an integral part of the details as well as the big events.

One of our favorite events of the year is the science department's Boat Races held at Huntington Beach. To them Mr. Petersen brings wetsuits, boogie boards, volleyball, and other beach toys. He literally jumps right in to help! He even teaches the children how to body surf. For some students, it's their first time at the beach. With camera in hand, Mr. Petersen can also be seen around the campus with a friendly smile, a cheerful hello, and an interesting story to help enhance any conversation.

The students and staff members sum him up best: "He is very fun and open to new ideas." Or, "Mr. Petersen has great character ... He says hi to everyone!"

"He is a great teacher. I like how he helps us." And, he's the "Greatest person ever!" Thank you, Mr. Petersen! We are lucky to have you at ECRHS.



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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

Continuing to Improve

This March, El Dorado High School (EDHS) will be visited by a team of educators representing the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) to complete the accreditation process. Every six years, high schools complete a self-study called Focus on Learning and then are visited to review the contents of that self-study. Accreditation is integral to a school's perpetual cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and reassessment based upon student achievement.

It fosters excellence in secondary education by encouraging school improvement through a process of continuing evaluation. WASC also recognizes, through accreditation, schools that meet an acceptable level of quality in accordance with established criteria. One of the benefits of accreditation is that an El Dorado student's transcript will always be accepted at other institutions.

The last full visit was held in 2013, and it included a one-day follow-up in 2015. The staff chose several areas to focus on over the course of the term. These included support for all students in reaching their academic potential, interventions targeted for underperforming students, and implementation of effective reading strategies in all courses. These goals have led to a variety of changes at EDHS, including Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), critical reading strategies, increased technology in the hands of students, lunchtime tutoring options, and increased support for our English learners.

We are confident that when the visit takes place this March, the accreditation committee will see the growth that has taken place and realize that we are a dedicated team of professionals who will take the time to improve El Dorado for the betterment of all students. We want to ensure that our already awesome school continues to seek ways to improve.

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Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



Gina Aguilar
Principal

A Cutting-Edge Education

One of our primary goals at Esperanza High School is to build connectedness to the school for all students. Through our two Career Link Academies, Medical Sciences and Aztec Engineering Manufacturing, along with our Career Technical Education pathways and courses in teacher preparation, computer graphics and visual communications, culinary arts, and computer science, Esperanza students have the opportunity to experience hands-on education in a variety of careers.

We are fortunate to be receiving money through the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant, and our teachers are making purchases to further enhance and enrich the classroom experience, including commercial-grade machinery and equipment, curriculum, and technology. The Medical Sciences Academy will be the only high school in Orange County to have an Anatomage table, a fully segmented, three-dimensional human anatomy system, which allows students to explore the human body beyond what any other means of study can offer.

Esperanza is proud to offer students an industry-standard education in all our career pathways.



George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

New Garden

Our School is really shaping up! We have made it a priority this year to create various spaces for student learning and sensory experiences. Thanks to the Yorba Linda Rotary, we now have a beautiful sensory garden filled with herbs, water features, and hanging musical instruments. The students have enjoyed spending time in the garden using their senses of sight, smell, touch, hearing and even taste thanks to the great lemon tree! We have also added some outdoor furniture this year, including two swinging benches. We are grateful to have expanded our

learning space and created a beautiful area to benefit all students here at George Key School.



Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Advancing Instruction

Glenknoll hit the ground running at the start of the school year when the district rolled out a new Language Arts adoption called “Benchmark Advance.” This new adoption addresses both the California State Standards and English Language Arts/English Language Development framework to integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening language through both whole- and small-group instruction.

The Glenknoll staff is a shining example of the dedication and commitment it takes to fully implement the components of this new program, and the difference it will make for our students. Our staff members continue to collaborate with each other on this effort, as well as receive training from the district’s Professional Development Department on how to best implement and utilize these new tools.

As part of this adoption, we have had the opportunity to measure student abilities and growth through an online assessment system called “I-Ready.” These assessments give our teachers quick feedback about where their students are currently performing within their grade level. They can also track the growth of each student over the course of the year. The results help our staff members identify strengths and target individual needs during small-group instruction.

We are excited to see how our students will grow over the course of the year. Our staff is enthusiastic about continually refining their practices to become the best that they can be for our students.

Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Falcon PRIDE

Fairmont Elementary School students are Prepared, Respectful, Inclusive, Diligent, and Engaged (PRIDE), and our PRIDE really shows. We celebrated our Falcon PRIDE with the unveiling of a beautiful mural symbolizing our school values. Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) school-wide behavior lessons have taught students what PRIDE means in all locations throughout the school, and students display this behavior throughout the school day. This is what makes Fairmont an amazing place to learn!

At the entrance to the school that faces Yorba Linda Boulevard, a striking mural with our mascot, Freddy Falcon, and our PRIDE values was recently painted. At a school-wide assembly, each grade level recited chants created by students to express their understanding and enthusiasm for our Falcon PRIDE. Students were excited to view the mural for the very first time. From here forward, the mural will remind students, parents, and community members that Fairmont is a place where students show their PRIDE.



Assistant Principal, Terry Mulcahy, with Freddy Falcon and students who are viewing P.R.I.D.E. mural for the first time.

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

Technology takes Flight

New technology has been placed into the hands of our Glenview students this year in the form of iPads! Every Glenview kindergarten classroom is now equipped with a set of iPad learning tablets where our students can access learning apps such as ST Math, Ticket to Read, iReady, and iStation, to name just a few.

The iReady and iStation tools are new online resources available to students who are enrolled in either of Glenview's traditional or dual-language programs, and provide reading practice in English or Spanish. With this new hands-on technology, our students are practicing their important skills in phonics, reading, and mathematics in game-like formats, while also learning how to navigate logging in and out of the applications.



These learning apps reward students with positive feedback as well as with points, which teachers and parents can monitor to track progress. The best part is that each of these learning apps can be accessed by our students from home on any device of their choice, such as a tablet, laptop, or computer.

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

Great Kindness Challenge

Golden's PAL Advisors, Mrs. DeGraw and Mrs. Hope, are starting the third year of The Great Kindness Challenge. A new tradition welcomed in our community to promote kindness, the perfect antidote for hateful/unkind behavior!

All students school-wide received a check-list of acts of kindness.

When they perform the kind deed, they check it off. Students who accepted the Kindness Challenge and succeeded, hand in their sheets to a PAL member at their recess. The students write their name on a paper heart which is posted on our Great Kindness Banner. Each day of the Great Kindness Challenge week starts with a wonderful quote read by PAL student members.

As we wore pink all week, we remember how important showing kindness is to creating a positive happy learning environment for all students!



Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

Judicial System

In January, a group of eighth graders from Kraemer Middle School were able to learn about the judicial system in real life. The students, accompanied by eighth grade teachers Deniz Fierro and Rachael Collins, visited the Santa Ana courthouse. During their trip, the students were able to view actual cases being tried, learn about the judicial system, and participate in a mock trial with an Orange County Superior Court judge. The students fortunate enough to attend were the winners of the annual Kraemer Constitution Bowl.

Each, Kraemer eighth grade students participate in an Constitution Bowl, which serves as the culmination of a month-long curricular unit on the United States Constitution. The Constitution Bowl is an in-class game-show type event where teams of eighth graders compete against one another answering questions about the Constitution.



Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Be Kind

Lakeview's Peer Mentor/Mentee Leadership Group chose to donate some very special Christmas trees for their first trimester service project.

Samuel's Trees is a non-profit charity organization centered around encouraging and loving babies and families in the Neonatal Intensive Critical Care Units of Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, as well as other surrounding hospitals. Through Samuel's Trees, these mini-Christmas trees are adorned with \$300 worth of gift cards and notes of love, and then given to a

family whose baby (or babies) is currently residing in the NICCU.

Through the generous donations of our Lakeview families, we were able to collect over \$6,000 in gift cards, which enabled us to create 20 mini-Christmas trees (more than one tree per classroom) to donate to families with babies in the Neonatal Unit. Many heartfelt tears of love and gratitude were shed upon the receipt of one of these special trees in December.

As Father Faber said, "An act of kindness never dies, but extends the invisible undulations of its influence over the breadth of centuries."



La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



Carey Cecil
Principal

Celebrating Community

Growing up in Placentia-Yorba Linda and having worked in this community for 20 years, I am incredibly proud of the quality education offered to our students. After serving as principal at La Entrada High School this semester, I am all the more proud and grateful.

One of the district's core values is collaboration. The team at La Entrada High School (LEHS), in collaboration with the Board of Education and district administration, provides students with a non-traditional yet rigorous program. Students complete courses online, through traditional texts, and, in some cases, via concurrent enrollment at a local community college.

Independent study requires discipline, maturity, and excellent time management, all of which are useful qualities for students as they move forward to college and career opportunities. Independent study is not to be mistaken for students working at their own pace. In fact, students must discipline themselves to complete entire courses in four weeks. The alternative environment at LEHS means more individualized support, more flexibility as to when school work is completed, and an opportunity to accelerate completion of high school requirements.

PYLUSD is committed to providing all students with access to educational settings and programs that meet their unique needs and stories. As I continue to serve as principal of this fine school, I will work with teachers and families to know students' stories in order to better support them in meeting their educational and personal goals.

As the semester comes closes, we are proud to announce that six students recently completed their graduation requirements and are now enrolled in community college. We are also pleased to share that, in response to parent and student concerns, we were able to provide a permanent, private office space for our school counselor. We wish you a happy and healthy 2018!

Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Science is in the Air

The Linda Vista community has recently come together for our annual Science Fair, an event that sparks curiosity, shares information, and celebrates all things science. This tradition also serves as a wonderful opportunity for our children and adults to gain new knowledge about how the world around them works.

Each of our fourth- and fifth-grade students worked diligently to design an experiment that tested a hypothesis related to their own interests and life experiences. They then presented their projects to our esteemed science judges.

Special guests this year included School Board Members Mrs. Carrie Buck, Mrs. Karin Freeman, and Mrs. Judi Carmona. We are so thankful for our various community partners who served as judges and listened intently while our students eagerly presented all aspects of their science projects.

The Science Fair culminated with a special Science Night. Here our families had an opportunity to see each of the student projects and participate in engaging scientific activities. All in all, our Science Fair was filled with curiosity, enthusiasm, learning, and, of course, fun!



Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Kindness

For many, January is a time to start a new, reinvigorated by the fresh start of another year. Our 2018 resolution at Mabel Paine is centered on kindness. On January 16, we greeted Mark Beckwith from Segerstrom Center for the Arts who presented “Kids for Kindness.” This was the perfect kickoff to the 2018 Great Kindness Challenge, happening January 22-26, during which Mabel Paine Mustangs will join over 20,000 schools across the country to create a culture of kindness. We believe our students are part of a powerful and positive bullying prevention initiative that will lead to more kindness, unity and respect at Mabel Paine and beyond. We will be celebrating the Great Kindness Challenge through a week of spirited dress-up days and student-led activities focused on kindness.



Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Working Together

Building character and caring for others is an important lesson for all students. Our Morse Elementary students learn what it means to give through the work of the Student Service Organization (SSO), which is headed by fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Ricotta.

The SSO meets regularly during lunch to plan events. In October, it collected over 500 pairs of socks for donation to the H.I.S. House in Placentia. In November, our Morse students also created 250 Thanksgiving cards to be included with meals bound for the Seniors Project in Orange County.



Other collections included the donation of gently used shoes and clothes, along with food items. During December, the SSO also organized a food donation drive. Flyers were sent home to encourage all of our students to help out. They were also posted throughout the school as well. The items were gathered together and donated to local families in need.

Through the SSO, our students learn the value of helping others.

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.



Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

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



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Panther Heads to Alabama!

Cathryn Salladin, an 18-year-old Parkview senior, has signed to swim for Crimson Tide in Alabama with a full-ride scholarship for academics and athletics.

Cathryn has been swimming since she was 5. She's currently ranked top six in the 10K Open Water event on the U.S. National Team. She chose open-water—swimming in lakes and oceans—because “it's raw swimming, no technique, more of a racing environment.”

Cathryn's both a star athlete and a stellar student. She's a National Merit semifinalist, scoring higher than 1 percent of all U.S. high school students. She concurrently takes both high-school- and college-level classes, maintaining a 4.4 GPA.



Cathryn also enjoys singing and performing. Currently, she's in rehearsal as the Baker's Wife in Parkview's latest endeavor, *Into the Woods*.

Cathryn's short-term goals include placing in Nationals and improving last year's time. As for long term, she's quite pragmatic and open to whatever the future holds.

Parkview's so proud of Cathryn Salladin!

Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jose Cabrera
Principal

Save the Date!!!

Rio Vista will proudly present “Aladdin Jr” on March 22nd and 23rd at Valencia High School. Since November, students have been preparing twice a week during after school rehearsals. Part of the commitment to join the theatre production, students sign and must uphold a school compact that outlines behavior and academic expectations. “Every rehearsal begins with a 20 minute focused study session for the cast to do homework. It’s clear these actors know their first job is being an excellent Rio Vista Scholar,” States their theatre director. This talented group of 63 3rd-5th grade students are under the guidance of Mr. Diaz, 3rd grade teacher and Mrs. Ashton, 4th grade teacher. This magical production can not take place without parent engagement. Our parents participate on a range of committees from Sponsorship, makeup and set construction. Join us and support our young artists as we showcase this captivating production.



Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

Reader’s Theater

Our students have been hard at work the past few months collaborating inside and outside the classrooms. As we actively implement the new Benchmark Advance English Language Arts program, Ruby Drive students have been excited to collaborate together to perform the Reader’s Theater. Reader’s Theater provides a creative way to practice reading comprehension and fluency. This enrichment activity has been very motivating for our scholars! Some of the highlights include the fifth grade students reenacting Tom Sawyer’s white picket fence and third grade students performing several Greek Myths. By working together, they were able to practice their skills and play to each other’s strengths!



Fifth grade Tom Sawyer play.

Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Crystal Cove Exploring!

The Rose Drive Elementary School fifth-grade teaching team and our district-office partners worked along with the Crystal Cove Conservancy to provide a wonderful, enriching field trip for our fifth-graders. What a fantastic opportunity it was to engage our students in an outside classroom to learn about ecological restoration at Crystal Cove Park! This is a two part field trip in which students examine UC Irvine’s research project, which is investigating how nurse plants and other factors affect the growth of native seedlings. Fifth-graders continue ongoing investigation, inquiry, and participating in classroom lessons. During the second part of the Crystal Cove field trip in the



spring, students will continue to collect data and develop recommendations that they will actually present to park officials. This innovative opportunity for our students is just one example that demonstrates the compassion and commitment our teachers have to provide our students with many unique, creative learning opportunities.

Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christa Borgese
Principal

Thank You

Thanks to the help of OC United, Topaz PTA, and the Topaz AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) leadership team, each and every student from preschool to 6th grade was supplied with a “Topaz Tigers are College Bound” t-shirt to promote “College Shirt Wednesdays” and to reinforce a robust college-going culture at Topaz Elementary. AVID is a program dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing ALL students for college and other post-secondary opportunities. Teachers trained in AVID’s research-based strategies apply these proven practices to ensure their students are college and career ready. As an AVID Elementary site, Topaz has all teachers from grades three through six trained in student success skills, organization skills, and WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading). We cannot wait to see all of our Topaz Tigers “ROAR” with pride wearing their new t-shirts!



Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

A Happy Word

Members of Great Leaders Every day in Every way (GLEE) Club make Sierra Vista Elementary School a happy place that promotes leadership, community service, and fun. Every year our GLEE leaders

decorate classroom doors with positive messages to greet teachers when they return to school in August, fund-raise for charitable organizations, and collect food donations for holiday meals for families in need right here in our community. Not only do they serve our school and community, they learn leadership skills, such as performing for an audience, speaking in public, and the importance of giving back.

GLEE has two outstanding teachers, Mrs. Hendry and Ms. Gifford, who give up their lunch time and other personal time to meet with the students, plan activities, and teach students how to be leaders. You can see many of their talents on YouTube by typing in SVTV Sierra Vista. We love our GLEE Club!



Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



Susan Metcalf
Principal

Never Too Young...

Travis Ranch students value service to others, and this is, in fact, part of our mission statement. We strive to cultivate students who will “develop integrity while recognizing and positively contributing to our local and global community.”

At the elementary-school level, our PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) Club students have been busy. In the fall, the club oversaw a schoolwide project to make thank-you cards for veterans as well as senior citizens who are celebrating their 100th birthday. Students also have made and delivered Valentine’s Day cards to our neighbors in senior apartments, created birthday boxes for low-income families, and fund-raised for a cancer support organization.

Our middle schoolers also understand the importance of giving. Students in the HOSA-JUMP (Health Occupations Students of America-Junior Upcoming Medical Professionals) club organize two major donation drives each year. In the winter, they support the Toys for Tots drive. In the spring, they collect much-needed baby supplies for a local homeless shelter. Additionally, they work to spread community awareness of important health topics and healthy living.

WE is also a middle-school service club where students get together to make a difference in our world through kindness, collecting donations, and fund-raising. This year, WE Club has collected food and winter items to help those less fortunate in our own communities, donated money to the family of a victim of the Las Vegas shooting, and made a donation to help those affected by the hurricanes. Globally, the WE Club is raising money for Ecuador in the area of health.

We are proud of our Trailblazers, who know they are never too young to make a positive impact in our world.

Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Unique GATE Opportunity!

Tynes’ Honors Gate Program is the only one of its kind in PYLUSD. Students in our district who qualify with 11 points on district criteria for our Gifted and Talented Education Program (GATE) in grades four through six may either stay at their home school in a cluster program within a regular classroom or attend one of the district’s three GATE magnet schools across the district. Tynes is one of the three magnet schools offering high academic rigor for instruction of all state standards; accelerated, complex and advanced curriculum in math and literacy; and writing. Enrichment activities and field trips pique students’ curiosity and provide them with real-world experiences to prepare them for college and career. As an AVID school, Tynes students are building college-ready skills in the upper grades with rigorous instruction, organization, note taking, and a field trip and a tour of a local college.

We also offer a unique opportunity for students across the district who are in the qualifying range for GATE—within a point or two—to be a part of our advanced program. Our Honors Program challenges students and takes them to the next level. All of our honors students are included in the magnet class and work with all of our advanced learners. At Tynes, 100 percent of the students in our GATE magnet classes, honors students included, meet or exceed standards on the state assessments.

This year, we will hold an informational night regarding honors and GATE at Tynes during February in our multipurpose room. Please check out our website for more information, or call and make an appointment with the principal for a meeting and A tour. We invite you to find out how you can help your children excel and be college and career ready by becoming Tynes Tigers!

Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

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



James Hardin
Principal

Investing Wisely!

For the first half of the school year, every other Friday, our eighth-grade AVID students participated in an investing program called “The Stock Market Game,” an online simulation of the global capital markets. It engages fourth-through 12th-grade students in economics, investing, personal finance and financially independent futures. InvestWrite, an innovative national-writing competition produced by “The Stock Market Game,” adds a critical-thinking component to help reinforce classroom concepts.

Our program was spearheaded by AVID tutor Christian Sanchez, Cal State Fullerton.

Students are given 100,000 virtual dollars, placed in teams of four, and ranked among grade-level participants in the L.A. area. Our K&N team placed first locally. Members Kerry Bueno, Noel Galindo, Paulino Salinas and Leonardo Silva showed great skill by integrating investment strategies to place them ahead of the game. Noe Galindo entered an essay competition as a result of his performance and is a contender for first place locally.

Congratulations, Valadez eighth-grade AVID students!



Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Our Music Program Rocks!

Tuffree Middle School is proud of our huge music program, including an award-winning color guard, marching band, concert band, jazz ensembles, percussion class, string orchestra, string quartet, and choirs. It's quite spectacular to see 176 middle school band and color guard students marching in parades, including the Placentia Heritage Day Parade, Disneyland Main Street Parade, and, just recently, Knott's Berry Farm.

The Tuffree Middle School Color Guard has been coached by a former Tuffree student, Rachel Garner, for the past four years. Under her mentorship, the color guard competes in all Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) events, and they were the 2015 Southern California champions. The band and orchestra director, Jim Hahn, has been a teacher at Tuffree for 32 years and has mentored 29 student teachers, who are now successfully teaching all over the state. Tuffree has represented the district by giving demonstrations at Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) conferences and for the California Music Educators Association (CMEA).



Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



Olivia Young
Principal

Early Decision Admission Results

As principal of Valencia High School, 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. Armaan Uppal-University of Pennsylvania, Sophia Bae-University of Notre Dame, Emily Wong-Chapman University Provo Scholar, UNLV, & University of Arizona, Rohit Deshpande-Texas A & M, Nina Chakraborty-Northern Arizona University, Macy Soukup-Northern Arizona University, Almica Duardo-San Francisco State, Mauli Gandhi-University of the Pacific, Yulissa

Labra-Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Lizbeth Reyes-Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Marlene Rodriguez-Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Marco Torres-Cal State University Dominguez Hills. Many of these students have also been recognized by the National Merit Recognition Program and are enrolled in the AVID Program and prestigious Valencia Academy.



Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Outstanding Imagination

Our Van Buren Roadrunners are full of imagination! Over the past several weeks our students have become official creative writing authors!

Using all that they have learned about storytelling, they crafted wonderfully entertaining stories that were brought to life in school wide assemblies. Stories were submitted by our primary and upper grade students and performed by the talented acting troupe Imagination Machine. Parents, students and staff were entertained by skits including: The Unexpected Surprise (K); Dance Class (2nd); The Banana Fight (2nd); The Dragon & The Knight (3rd); Space Adventure (3rd); Bunnies and Evil Carrots (4th); The Real Cinderella (5th) and The Totally 80s Argument (5th). Thank you to these wildly creative students for entertaining us with your outstanding imagination!



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Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Valuable Experience

Our academy is in full swing and students are attending 10 community work experience sites each week. The Venture team has worked hard to find new job sites as well as to improve the sites in which students already engage in unpaid internships. The managers at many of these community businesses have seen the benefit to having our adult students in their stores. Students, along with their job coaches, help to create a cleaner, more organized environment for customers to experience. From restocking shelves and clothes to waxing the bars on clothing racks (Who knew this is the reason the hangers don't squeak?!?!?), students are gaining valuable experience at work sites which prepares them for paid employment upon their graduation from the program.



Woodsboro Elementary *(K-6)*

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

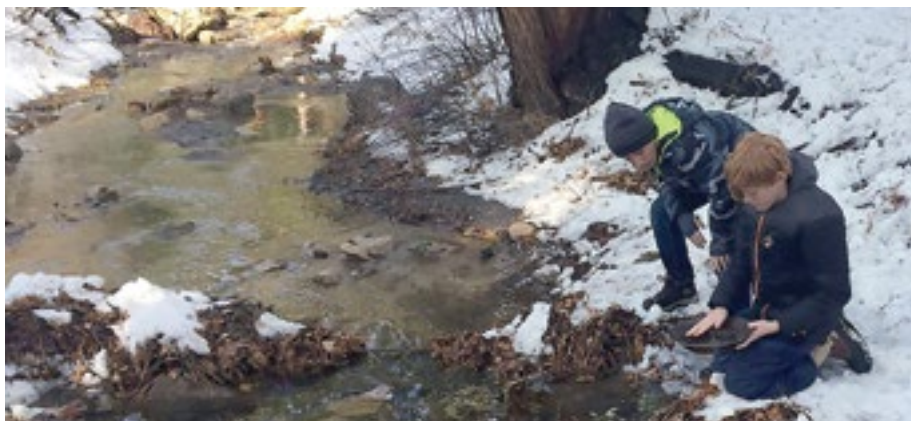


Outdoor Science Camp

"It never rains in Southern California." However on January 8, the day Woodsboro 6th graders headed to Outdoor Science Camp, it poured and poured—and snowed at their destination, Camp Cedar Crest, in the San Bernardino Mountains.

During their four-day stay, the students went on animal wildlife hikes, visited the camp zoo to study chinchillas and snakes, and learned about the eco system. On night hikes the students learned about animal adaptations. On the geology hike, students panned for gold in a mountain stream. For many it was the first time they had ever played in the snow—or even seen it. Students learned self-reliance and interdependence, and enjoyed the comradery of their friends.

Spring at Woodsboro will see auditions for the play Aladdin. Please visit our website for information and dates on all activities.



Carter Hicks and Camden Grabner pan for gold at Outdoor Science School

Wagner Elementary *(K-6)*

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



Janice Weber
Principal

English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC)

Our School serves 46 English learners whose home languages include Spanish, Bengali, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Farsi, Korean, Tamil, Italian, Kannada, Gujarati, and Chinese. English learner parents and students have the opportunity to attend English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) meetings to find out more about language development supports. Our last ELAC meeting was held on Monday, November 13, 2017 and the turnout was fantastic!

Mrs. Karen Dunn, 1st grade teacher, hosted the meeting, providing pizza and snacks for families. Mrs. Roxanne Ybarra, parent, did a wonderful job of facilitating the meeting. Guests included Mrs. Erika Ontiveros, ELD teacher, and Mrs. Pam Munoz, 6th grade teacher and Single Plan for Student Achievement Coordinator. Parents learned about the ELPAC assessment and logged into their child's CLEVER account to explore Ticket to Read, Benchmark Universe, Think Central, and Rosetta Stone. Wagner is grateful for the staff and families that support our English Learners!



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

the all too important common core values of our kids. That e-mail that follows is just the evidence that our school districts, communities, and families are seeking...yes, our future is bright!

Dear Mr. Principal

Early Tuesday evening, I stopped at one of our local community restaurants.

Usually, I go there to pick up a sandwich to take home.

On this occasion however, the restaurant was very quiet so I decided to dine in the restaurant.

I placed my order, got my soda, and sat at a table near the window. I looked out and saw a crowd of at least 30 students from your high school approaching the restaurant. My first thought was to rush to the counter and have them pack my meal to go. When crowds of high school students show up, the places become circuses. They are smart-aleck kids with their pants falling down, yelling, laughing, using language that would make a Marine blush and a parent cry in shame. I expected to see that with your high school crowd as well. After all, they are high schoolers. That's the way all kids act today. Or, at least that was what I thought.

Boy, was I wrong! Your students were quite well behaved, well dressed, and respectful. When I went to get a refill of my soda, one of the young men smiled and stepped to one side to allow me access even though he was there first.

I commented to the restaurant manager about how the students were acting. She said they are always that way.

I suspect that you have your share of behavior issues to deal with as Principal of such a large school. If the young people I experienced in the restaurant today are a reflection of how the rest of your student body behave, you and your staff should be proud. Proud of yourselves and proud of the generation of new citizens you are preparing for the future. Congratulations. Keep up the good work.

Ahh, yes...“these kids today!”

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Tamar Kataroyan
Principal

Inspiring and Motivating

We have so much to be grateful for as we continue to learn, grow, and strive together at Yorba Linda Middle School. Our set goals are accomplished through the hard work and dedication of accomplished students, caring and committed staff members, and our extremely supportive parents and community.

Our student leaders recently took first place in a fabulous presentation at the district's APP Jam Showcase in late

November. Here they displayed the innovative ways in which our children are learning on a daily basis. And with the continued implementation of Chromebook devices to help enhance their lessons, we have really begun to see a rapid movement towards 21st-century learning.

Our students also recently led both a Thanksgiving Food Drive and a Holiday Toy Drive. These community service efforts were a more public demonstration of the simple acts of kindness that are being spread throughout our school every day.



Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Galloping to Success!

Mustangs were excited to start the new year! Student Services is working closely with students and parents. Counselors meet individually with all students to select courses for fall 2018, create four-year plans for current freshmen, and travel to feeder middle schools to meet with current eighth-graders. Along with PTSA, they'll also be hosting Mustang University. Topics include college admissions, junior planning and Mock SAT/ACT exams. The popular "Coffee with Counselors" program will also continue with relevant end-of-the-year topics like scholarships and

summer programs. Finally, the Guidance Department is bringing a new program to our school and district. Ron Franek, editor-in-chief of Princeton Review, will discuss with students how to apply their talents and interests to achieve college dreams.

Our Video Production class was recognized at the 15th Annual OC Film Festival! Rich Cadra and his students received 25 nominations across 15 categories. They were awarded best in cinematography, independent film, original score, broadcast anchor, short film, best action film and filmmaker of the year! Congratulations to Mr. Cadra, Alex Lee, Nick Frankly and Andy Martinez!



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