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School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



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PYLUSD Highlights High School Academies and Programs with New Videos



(please see page 3)

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Dr. Jim Elsasser

I want to start off by saying what an honor it is to serve as the Superintendent of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD). It is no secret that PYLUSD has experienced immense organizational success over the years, not only in the area of academics, but in athletics, arts, and activities as well. Whether you are a student,

employee, parent or guardian, or community member, I am looking forward to working collaboratively with you to build upon that success.

I have spent the last several weeks meeting with the Board of Education, staff, and members of the community. These meetings have been very informative and have included stories about the district's unwavering commitment to providing outstanding educational opportunities for our students. I have also been asked about my own vision and goals for PYLUSD and what I plan to accomplish during my first six to twelve months as Superintendent.

As a newcomer to this distinguished organization, I plan to spend the first several months getting to know the students, teachers, staff, and administrators and beginning

to establish positive working relationships with all stakeholder groups. This will also provide me with valuable time to better understand the district's revered history, analyze our strengths and programs, and begin working with the Board to build upon the district's mission, vision, and five focus areas outlined in our strategic plan, The PYLUSD Advantage.

I would also like to thank former Superintendent Dr. Greg Plutko for providing exceptional service and leadership to the district for the last several years. Among his many accomplishments, such as implementing full-day kindergarten and creating new professional development academies, Dr. Plutko skillfully navigated our district through many challenges associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you who work to support our Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District community to ensure our students will have the advantage of an outstanding education. Thank you for the warm welcome I have received, and I look forward to crossing paths with you in the near future.

PYLUSD Highlights High School Academies and Programs with New Videos

From the District

In the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD), students gain an educational advantage through future-ready course offerings at each comprehensive high school—El Dorado, Esperanza, Valencia, and Yorba Linda. The district recently shared new videos to highlight many of the unique college and career readiness opportunities available to high school students in various academies, pathways, and programs.

El Dorado High School in Placentia is the proud home to the Digital Media Arts Academy, affectionately known as DMAA, which offers students four-year digital storytelling programs in the fields of photography, broadcast and film, graphic design, and game design with an emphasis on college and career readiness. Students at El Dorado may also choose to participate in the E.D. Law Academy, which augments students' knowledge of the legal field and its various professional pursuits, exposes them to legal reasoning and writing skills, and enhances their ability to achieve success in collegiate and graduate-level academic coursework.

Esperanza High School in Anaheim offers two cutting-edge academies—the Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing Academy (AEM) and the Medical Sciences Academy (MSA). Students in the Medical Sciences Academy are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for immediate employment, industry certification, and college and career readiness in the medical field. Similarly, AEM students utilize industry standard equipment to gain hands-on, real

world experiences through an introduction to a variety of engineering and manufacturing careers.

Students at Valencia High School in Placentia benefit from two well-established programs including the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program as well as the Val Tech Academy. IB students complete a demanding pre-university course of study designed to give diploma holders access to the world's leading universities. The Val Tech Academy offers eight unique pathways for students with a special interest in and aptitude for technology.

Lastly, Yorba Linda High School's Mustang Business Academy (MBA) includes two innovative concentrations, the Culinary Arts and Business Management pathways, for students to participate in. Students in the Business Management Pathway gain an introduction to business, insight on business technology and communications, and business management and leadership experience. Through hands-on training, Culinary Arts students become immersed in the topics of hospitality management, hotel and hospitality occupations, and retail restaurants as a part of the Academy.

All of these academies and programs within PYLUSD provide the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in college and future careers as lifelong learners. Learn more by visiting the district's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/c/placentiayorbalindaunifiedschooldistrict to view a video for each of these academies and programs.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As this year is underway it is often difficult to think of it as a happy new year; however, after reading the messages in this issue you will realize the district has risen to the challenges during this pandemic.

First, I look forward to continuing to publish the excellence from PYLUSD under the leadership of Dr. Elsasser. Second, we converted all of our publications to digital with excellent results allowing us to reach a larger audience of parents, educators and stakeholders. Thank you for being loyal readers and including *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read articles about encouraging acts of kindness, project-based learning experiences, engaging students using household items, hosting international professors, a Girl Scouts Silver Award Project sanitizing and sorting books for a student book exchange, and much more...

Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 22 (all ages may enter).

If your child would like to be a guest columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for specifics.

Our next issue is May 5.

Be well.

School News

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Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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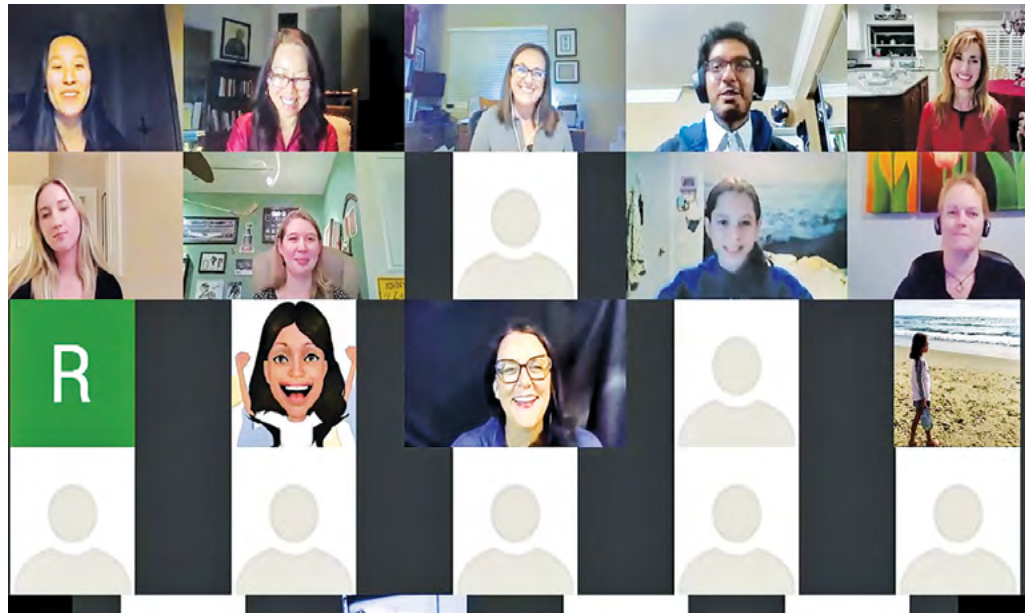
Melina Michaels
President

STEM-UP Club

Looking for inspiration and leadership for our community youth? The REACH Foundation didn't have to look any

further than our PYLUSD Alumni. The newest STEM-UP Club event called From the Inside debut on December 15th, 2020, featured four exceptional graduates. They shared experiences preparing for college, how to get internships and stories about managing college life with its rewards and challenges.

Both middle school and high school students asked thought-provoking questions as they consider pursuing careers in STEM. For more information



on the February From the Inside Speaker Series, go to the REACH Foundation website.

Join the STEM-UP Club for more upcoming events.



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History is about learning and understanding the past. The past does not change, but interpretations do. One cannot erase history and expect to remember the past.

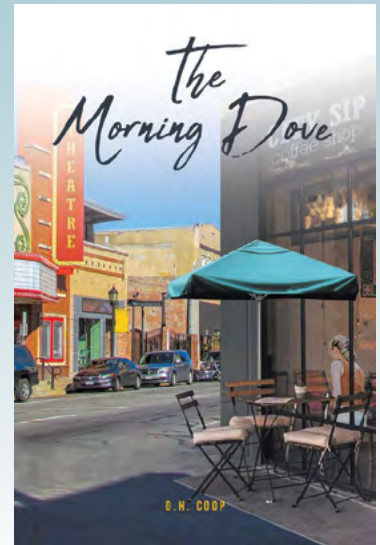
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by D. H. Coop

The Morning Dove is a madcap satire set in a small beach town. When an early morning small fire breaks out in a vacant theater, Mabel, the town gossip, starts a chain of events that has local, state, and federal governments in a state of panic. The fire is a catalyst for Mabel's colorful imagination. As the hysteria spreads, some of the politicians use the news reporters to promote their personal agendas. Not one to shy from the spotlight, Mabel seems to be everywhere the cameras are. The fire inspector, C. E. Hall, arrives upon the chaotic scene to investigate and separate fact from fiction. During his investigation, C. E. learns more about the residents' characteristics and often odd behaviors that make for a hilarious story.



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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Beth Fisher
Principal

Deep Kindness and Paying it Forward

As the pandemic continues, the challenges persist. The Be Yorba community has displayed resilience, turning to kindness as a means to meet this historic time.

Each month our ASB students host peer led lessons focused on social emotional elements. In the month of January, our student leaders taught our community

about kindness. As we have watched families struggle throughout this pandemic, this prompted our school to a call of action: Random Acts of Kindness. The Be Yorba community launched a school and community wide campaign to do a gift card drive for our families in need, as well as a clothing/canned food drive for our PYLUSD Family Resource Center.

When Be Yorba is faced with challenges, Be Yorba meets those challenges with resilience and kindness.

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Perseverance Reaps Rewards

Julie Andrews once said, "Perseverance is failing 19 times and succeeding the 20th." We can easily say that this past year has brought us unprecedented challenges. As principal, I have watched as our students, staff and parents have persevered greatly to find success in navigating challenges and in finding new ways to communicate, learn, and connect.

The students, staff and parents at Brookhaven Elementary demonstrate perseverance and resilience daily! Every student, every family, every staff member has a story that plays a role in our lives as we navigate through this pandemic. When we consider how, years from now, our students will retell this time of their lives, I am confident we will see that they were resilient and grew greatly

through the challenges of this time. Our students will remember Zooming with their teachers and classmates, learning how to advocate for themselves by emailing their teachers to ask for help or clarification about an assignment or even extra time if needed as they learned both in class and asynchronously. Our students will tell stories of finding a new interest or hobby that they were able to explore and learn about through all the technology available to us now.

Years from now, our students will be able to tell their own families about the year we wore masks and learned both remotely and in person. Our students look to us, the trusted and dedicated adults in their lives, to help shape them in their learning and growth. We are proud to be a part of their story and even more proud to be an example of persevering through and making it successfully to the other side. We will make it! One school, one community, one family!

Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Shannon Robles
Principal

Better Together

Bryant Ranch is fortunate to have an amazing, dedicated staff! To say that demands have increased, would be an understatement. Nonetheless, each and every staff member has stepped up to the challenge. The classified staff is flexible and helping out in all areas. Our

wonderful librarian has become a chromebook expert, and our media technician has become our tech support guru. While we are desperately missing our volunteers on campus, the noon supervisors are supporting teachers in new ways. The office staff adjusts and welcomes each change with friendly smiles to all. And we just can't say enough about all that our teachers are doing. Their dedication to their students, and going above and beyond



is to be commended. All the while, our PTA is sending support, and showing our staff how much they appreciate them. It truly takes a village, and we are a spectacular one!

Buena Vista Virtual Academy

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



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

Membership Drive

The past few months have been a productive and exciting time for Buena Vista Virtual Academy families. Establishing a new school is a process that requires the input of all stakeholders, so in early December students, parents and teachers worked together to create and adopt bylaws to form a Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) for the school. A PTSA allows students to develop leadership skills, learn about the legislative process and provide service to the school and community. Parents and teachers guide this development while gaining insight into the youth of today.

All classes participated in a membership drive where second grade students were victorious. The BVVA



founding organization is over eighty members strong, and Executive Board positions were filled by parent volunteers. The first PTSA Executive Board planning meeting was January 27, 2021. The school staff is looking forward to the collaboration and cooperation this new organization brings to BVVA.

El Camino Real High School (9-12)

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



Carey J. Aiello
Principal

Longevity in a Time of Uncertainty

El Camino Real is celebrating two teachers whose combined years in PYLUSD span more than six decades. Physical Education and Mathematics teacher, Marquise Hawley, and Special Education teacher, Helen Diavatis, have completed 35 and 30 years of service respectively.

Ms. Hawley cherishes the opportunity to form authentic relationships with students, many of whom affectionately deem her “their school mom.” She is proud students “feel comfortable sharing about their hardships.” Ms. Hawley was lauded for her dedication to the association’s adopt-a-family efforts during the holidays.

Mrs. Diavatis settled on special education because she “loves helping students see they can be successful, that they have both the skills and ability” to fulfill their goals. She spoke of her desire to hang on to her students, to “find 4, 5, 6 alternate ways, if needed, to help them manage life and school.”

Thank you, ladies, for your dedication to our students and school.



Principal Carey Aiello, surprises Marquise Hawley with a special recognition of her 35 years in PYLUSD.

Esperanza High School (9-12)

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



Gina Aguilar
Principal

Meeting the Challenge

Ensuring strong student engagement during this unprecedented time is a challenging goal, yet it is crucial to the social and emotional well-being of our students. With approximately half of our student body participating in remote learning, our ASB has been challenged to create a comprehensive activities program that engages all students. So far we have found great success, as our students now actively participate in both virtual and in-person activities.

Looking for a unique way to support our local business community, which has always been so supportive of the Aztecs, our most impactful activity has been Community Bingo. Recently, our students and staff members were given a



bingo card with each square representing a local business. Their challenge was to get a bingo by receiving a stamp at five different businesses.

Several staff members and students participated in this exciting challenge, with three students completing a full “black-out” of their bingo card to earn the grand prize. The feedback we received was so positive that we are looking forward to doing it all again.



El Dorado High School (9-12)

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



Joey Davis
Principal

Whatever It Takes

El Dorado High School is excited to have students back on campus, and we look forward to the day when all students can safely return to in-person instruction. While the virus has forced a number of changes, including masks, desk shields, and air purifiers, it cannot alter our dedication to our students.

This was obvious in the days leading up to winter break. Our leadership students and activities director did another tremendous job decorating the campus and providing activities for each day. Candy canes, snowy photo backdrops, and an elf on the shelf were just a few of the highlights.

High school is about learning, and academics will

always play the central role at El Dorado High. At the same time, we are committed to supporting the whole student. Our students have missed out on dances, sporting events, and activities that they have been looking forward to for years. We will do “whatever it takes” to help foster the sense of connection that we call Hawk Pride.



Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

To Exceed, We Read

Fairmont's Reading Extravaganza encourages students to explore new places, ideas, and people! This collaborative, community effort from January 11 through February 12 began with a Book Drive led by former Fairmont student, Julie Robertson, and collected over 1500 books!

This Girl Scout Silver Award project organized volunteers to sanitize and sort the books for a school-wide student book exchange. Fairmont students also acquired new books at a drive-through Book Fair held after school. The five-week Read-a-thon provided incentives and prizes for eager readers and promoted donations to PTA to support Fairmont's reading programs. President Angie Taberski and our parent volunteers exemplify "Together in Excellence" with creative energy.

While the pandemic has separated us physically, the Fairmont community continues to come together to support student learning and growth. Feeling isolated? Pick up a good book and travel the world! The Reading Extravaganza promoted positive, engaged minds focused on a healthy future!



Students in Mrs. Borrego's Kindergarten class listen to their classmate read a story.

George Key School *(K-12)*

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

Venture Academy *Adult Transition*

701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178 • <https://ventureacademy.pylusd.org>



Kelli McFedries
Principal

Community Connections

Although school may look and feel a bit different this year, one thing definitely has not changed, and that is the big heart of our PYLUSD students.

Students from the Yorba Linda High School CSF Club have generously volunteered to read books to our students at George Key. But because of the new guidelines surrounding the COVID-19 regulations, the YLHS students cannot visit our classrooms. They have instead found a creative way to virtually read to our students at George Key. The CSF Club has recorded videos of themselves reading children's books!

The George Key teachers can select which stories to play for their students. This allows George Key students to hear authentic student voices reading to them. The YLHS students are very animated, and they genuinely enjoy reading to our students.

In addition, the Yorba Linda Rotary Club hosts an annual Christmas Gala for our George Key students and staff members, but now they had to rethink the entire event. This year they generously donated a cuddly blanket throw for each student to enjoy over the winter break! Our George Key students also had a "Giving Tree" this holiday season, and thanks to the generosity of the PYL staff members and community, the tree was filled with gift cards!

We want to thank all of our volunteers for "getting connected" to our students.

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**David
Cammarato**
Principal

Community

The 2020-2021 school year has been one of great change. We found ourselves implementing new routines and procedures with the goal of working to put our students' needs at the forefront. Together with our community, we have navigated these new waters with collaboration and flexibility, knowing that we were sharing the responsibility of providing the best education we could given the circumstances that we faced.

John Wooden, one of the greatest coaches in history, once said, "If we fail to adapt, we fail to move forward." As I think about this quote, I also reflect upon the ever-changing year in which our staff, students, and families had to adapt to doing things very differently than before.

As partners, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my thanks for your flexibility during this year. You have worked hard alongside our school as we have

made adjustments to address the health and safety of our campus, as well as the structure of a shorter school day. I am especially proud of our staff members and the way in which they have adapted to teaching a shorter day, while still working to cover the essential standards that our students need to follow during the academic school year.

In addition, they have adjusted to fluctuations and changes between Zooming and Hybrid while helping the students prepare to utilize the delivery model that meets their family needs the best. Shorter days in school or on Zoom, along with asynchronous work at home, have put a greater strain on families than ever before. Our staff is thankful for your efforts and investment as we have all shared more responsibilities than usual.

But we couldn't do this without your support. Together, our community will continue to keep our eyes on the road ahead, knowing that we can't change the circumstances of the past. In partnership together, we are grateful for your support and commitment!

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jane Roh
Principal

Our Spirit's Strong!

The second trimester is in full swing here at Glenview! Our students are not only engaged in hybrid learning

but they are thriving as well. While this school year does look different from any we have experienced previously, I am thankful for and proud of all the hard work our teachers and students are putting in. Our PBIS program remains strong as students demonstrate their PAWS behavior at school and at home. Student Council is also up and running, and they have been serving their student body in new and creative ways this year. For example, Student Council officers have been helping to record weekly video announcements to ensure that all students, whether in-person or remote, have access to important school information.



We are proud to keep our Glenview spirit alive this year. Students enjoyed a holiday spirit week in December and a family night at a frozen-yogurt franchise, and we have more activities planned in conjunction with PTA this spring. As always, we continue to provide specific and targeted services for our students, including counseling, support from our registered behavior technician, English language development and, of course, special education and speech services. We are Bulldog Strong!

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Alison DeMark
Principal

Read-A-Thon

The past trimester we have seen teachers develop creative ways to engage learners in two different learning environments. It has been exciting to watch as our remote learners and in-person students zoom in together for some quality interaction. Our teachers have looked to find ways to keep cherished Golden traditions alive while fitting into the parameters of social distancing, and hybrid learning. Our PTA has also found ways to ensure that the things that make Golden, Golden are still a part of our common shared experiences.

This past fall we saw our beloved Jog-A-Thon manifest into a Read-A-Thon. Our students read their hearts out and we saw a very successful Read-A-Thon drive. Our PTA was able to continue to make the prize-levels meaningful and exciting for our students.

Although we had to move away from our typical experience-based prizes, our “drive thru” prize distribution was a success and wildly fun!



Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Michael Young
Principal

Remote Learner of the Week

At Kraemer, we are always eager to recognize the effort students put into their learning. When we opened this school year in a completely remote format, we had to rethink how we meaningfully recognize students. Our amazing staff eagerly developed a plan where teachers hand-pick students to recognize every week. We launched our “Remote Learner of the Week” and have maintained it since we switched over to a Hybrid model. Each week we organize the delivery of multiple certificates and rewards to these remote learners. “If they can’t come to us, we’ll go to them.” Each of our home visits have been a welcome surprise for students and parents. We genuinely appreciate all of our dedicated in-person and remote learners for making the best of our situation. By continuing to demonstrate your best effort each and every day, you inspire us and those around you!



Lakeview *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Dr. Suena Chang
Principal

Not Letting COVID Thwart Our Spirit

Nothing can stop the Lions from celebrating the holidays!

While there are many things that the pandemic has limited, the spirit of festivities at Lakeview was not one of them. Lakeview Lions celebrated with holiday song themes such as “Deck the Halls,” “Baby It’s Cold Outside,” and “Holly Jolly Christmas”

as we counted down to the Holiday Break. COVID did not have any power over Rudolph or Santa. The students and staff showed their spirit and festivities as they dressed up in Santa hats, reindeer antlers, and red/green winter gear. The halls were decked with ornaments of gratitude and students continued to sing and dance with those holiday songs. We are proud of our Lakeview Lions ROARing through this time.

Think Pawsitive. Be Pawsitive. Act Pawsitive.
Go Lions!



Linda Vista *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Serving the Community

This year, our fifth-grade students are benefiting from a wonderful project-based learning opportunity that allows them to learn job skills, improve the school site, and make a positive impact in the community.

Serving as student interns, they have been tasked with developing a Stormwater Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Linda Vista. This involves collecting data, inspecting drains, removing debris, testing runoff samples, analyzing results, developing an action plan, and presenting the plan to esteemed community officials. Many students have also taken the initiative to maintain drains in and around their homes as they have become passionate about environmental education and sustainable solutions.

Our young interns have stepped up to the challenge and have begun this important work under the leadership and guidance of fifth-grade teacher Barbara Wilson. We are incredibly proud of these young interns, and we look forward to hearing more about their findings and experiences in the coming months.



Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Mustang Pride

The students and staff at Mabel Paine Elementary School were excited to start off the New Year with school spirit.

Like many elementary schools, we want our students to take pride, and identify themselves as part of a community now more

than ever. Leave it to our wonderful PTA, which helped organize a project to allow all students, “Roomers” and “Zoomers”, the opportunity to display their Mustang pride here on campus. Students were presented with the opportunity to decorate a Mustang to be displayed in the front office for all to see.

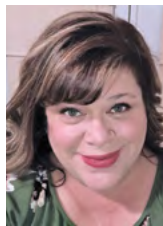
When you open the front doors here at Mabel Paine, you can feel the love and pride the students and staff have in being a Mustang. While the photo highlights just a few of our Mustangs for their amazing artwork, we are proud of all of

our Mustangs for their school spirit here at Mabel Paine Elementary School as we continue to be Ohana Strong.



Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • <https://melrose.pylusd.org>



Nicole Hernandez
Principal

Holiday Spirit

Melrose Elementary staff and students got into the holiday spirit by dressing up to celebrate the impending holidays. Students wore holiday hats and socks, holiday sweaters and finished the week off with Pajama Day.

Here at Melrose we are still making great memories even during these difficult times.



Morse Elementary (K-6)

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Wildcats have School Spirit!

Morse Wildcats have school spirit, even during Hybrid Learning! Each Friday, Morse students are encouraged to wear yellow and blue to show their school spirit. Our fabulous Morse PTA helped make this possible by providing Morse Wildcat shirts for every student.

Thank you, PTA!!!! Every Friday the school is teeming with Wildcats in blue and yellow!

In the month of December, we took school spirit days to a whole new level. Students were asked to show their school spirit by dressing in holiday colors as part of spirit wear Fridays at Morse. Each week, students and staff got into the holiday spirit by wearing red, green, blue, and/or white, along with ugly sweaters and other holiday-themed outfits. It was wonderful to see both in-person and remote learners participate every week. It truly brought everyone together as ONE student body!



Parkview Home Schooling (K-12)

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



James Hardin
Principal

Quarantine Horology

During this time when many students have to stay at home because of COVID, it can be difficult to find something to do, they can become bored and it can be lonely. Here is an innovative and creative idea that one of our Parkview students, Nathan Guerrero, came up with and will hopefully inspire others to think outside of the box and create something.

Nathan designed and built a Grandfather Clock. In the 1300's, the very first mechanical clocks were produced. Sadly, the profession of repairing and building these clocks (Horology) has become almost non-existent. Nathan, being a first generation horologist in ninth grade, is self-taught and it started during the time of quarantine that he began to design, create and build something. His project, a Grandfather Clock, modeled after a British Longcase Clock. This was Nathan's quarantine project and his message, build something!



Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jose Cabrera
Principal

Spreading Kindness

Every January, we welcome the new year and revive our efforts to set goals and stretch our minds to new heights. This year is no different although we continue to live amidst a pandemic.

Our students will embark on a journey to make an impact and be a beacon of light utilizing these 4 key words: Kindness, Confident, Caring and Generous. Spreading kindness requires intentional action. Each student at Rio Vista will be given a calendar with random acts of kindness. To be a Confident scholar also requires intentional action and each week we will challenge our students to meet their I-Ready Reading and Math goals. We will celebrate their accomplishments each week with the winners posted on our Challenge

board. The generous heart and giving spirit of our scholars is truly an amazing sight to see as we enter our 9th year of service to the Pennies for Patients Campaign.



Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

Kindness Counts

The new year has brought new changes to how we do things, but not our “why” and purpose. Our students remain at the center of all of our decisions as we strive to keep many of our traditions and activities alive.

This year our Rose Drive “Kindness Squad” was established to help meet the social emotional needs of our students, build student connections, and help spread kindness within our school and community.

We hope to inspire and encourage our students to think beyond themselves and seek opportunities to make a difference.

The Kindness Squad is led by our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) team, which consists of eight staff members and now students in grades three to five. They will focus on being ambassadors to new students, creating kindness posters to share, creating and delivering morning announcements, and creating spirit days to encourage and help spread positivity and kindness.

Follow us on social media as we undergo a new year with our Kindness Squad supporting the school community!



Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

Safe and Respectful Guardians

Ruby Drive honors our valued members who support our team in FOCUS AREA 4.0 SAFE AND RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT. This type of environment is essential to student success.

"Thank you, Mr. Alex!"

"Thank you, Mrs. Butler!"

"Thank you, Mr. Mike!"

These are comments we hear all day long at Ruby. "Thank you Mr. Alex for sanitizing

our rooms and the playground equipment, keeping it safe in-between cohorts!"

"Thank you Mr. Mike for your safety clean up measures in the afternoon and evening so that it is safe when we return in the morning!"

"Thank you Mrs. Butler for helping our families with chromebook and other issues so they stay connected to learning!" And on and on..... These faces of Ruby Drive are truly guardians who keep us safe and connected! We are beyond grateful for their patience and passion to serve Ruby students, families and staff.



Mr. Kisner



Mr. Servin



Mrs. Butler

Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jacquie Bluemel
Principal

SOARing Eagle expectations

Sierra Vista Eagles SOAR each and every day while learning. Our successful Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program teaches the students positive behavior expectations that will allow them to be successful whether they are learning at school or at home. Students are taught to SOAR ~ Stay safe, Own their own behavior,

Accept Responsibility, and Respect people and property.

During a traditional school year, students are rewarded with SOAR Tickets which can be redeemed at the SOAR Store for a variety of incentives. Many of the teachers at Sierra Vista will also exchange classroom rewards for SOAR tickets. Students who continuously demonstrate SOARing Eagle behavior may also receive an Eagle of the Month Award from the principal.

Students at Sierra Vista continue to exemplify our SOARing Eagle expectations every day. We are so proud of their hard work and diligence during hybrid learning!



Topaz Elementary (K-6)

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



Christa Borgese
Principal

Keeping Tigers Motivated

Our Topaz Tigers have ROARed through the first trimester and now half of the second trimester. We have welcomed back the majority of our Tigers to campus for hybrid learning and students have been flourishing with in person learning. Students who learn remotely at home benefit from direct instruction from their teachers via Zoom.

In order to help keep all students motivated with attendance, academics, and attitude (whether it be in person or via Zoom), Topaz has continued its partnership with the Orange County District Attorney's office and Fullerton PD through an alliance with GRIP (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership). GRIP mentors students with goal setting and offers incentives for students meeting their goals. In November, student who met their goals were awarded with a gift card to a local grocery store to help with their Family's Thanksgiving meal.

Keep up the good work Tigers and thank you GRIP!



Travis Ranch School (K-8)

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



Dr. Taylor Holloway
Principal

Acts of Kindness

After facing an unnatural start to the school year, Travis Ranch has settled into a comfortable rhythm. We continue to find ways to maintain our valued traditions both in the classroom and as a school.

Celebrating kindness during the month of January is one of our treasured traditions. Students are sending messages of kindness to one another. They are inviting new friends to sit with them at lunch and going the extra mile to make someone smile. Events are planned all month long! Students are being led in compliment circles, and teachers are explicitly instructing them on how to deliver an appropriate compliment. All are encouraged to give

air hugs, elbow bumps and friendly waves to one another throughout each day. Quotes of kindness decorate our campus blacktop, and scavenger hunts, limbo and music fill lunchtime with noisy merriment.

Our kindness efforts extend to the community as well. Students have made thank-you cards for our local health-care workers and first responders. We hope to instill in our students a sense of community and appreciation for others. Students are being challenged each week to assist a family member, a neighbor or a friend with daily tasks, as no act of kindness is too small.

We continue to reinforce these small acts of kindness and nurture the resilience of our students. Ultimately, it's the connections we make with our students and one another that are of the utmost importance, especially now.

Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Medieval Times

Tuffree seventh-grade World History students have a project-based learning experience each year in which they create either a castle, a trebuchet, or a medieval church model. Despite the current challenges of hybrid and remote-learning, this year's projects were some of the best to date.

Our students have been able to discuss various topics throughout the unit, including the ideal of chivalry in the medieval period as well as today. They also discussed why mounted knights became a relevant fighting force throughout Europe, and how they were a cornerstone military unit throughout the feudal period. The students also learned how these knights eventually become an irrelevant class of soldiers over time. One of the main reasons for this is due to siege warfare and the development of fortified buildings such as castles.

As a fun aspect to the unit, students also created one of the three items mentioned earlier. As a culminating activity, they had a one-day battle where they could launch their trebuchets at the castles and churches built by the other students. Each class earned points based on how many times their trebuchets struck the opposing castles and churches. It was such fun!



Tynes Elementary (K-6)

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



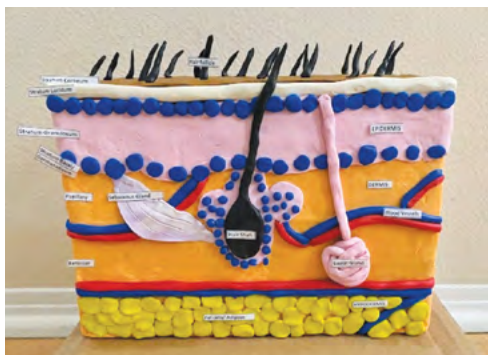
Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

GATE Synergy

Each trimester, the fifth-grade GATE students at Tynes have an opportunity to participate in Genius Hour. This program allows them to research, present a slideshow, and create a product about any topic that interests them. A daunting task for students with a slew of interests, to be sure!

Our Genius Hour became more difficult this year, as the creation of these products was now an independent task. Working with a partner has always been an option, as many students share like interests. But because the hybrid model involves

students divided into four different groups separated by time and a computer screen, the partnerships now seemed to be impossible.



Tyger Nguyen practicing his presentation on the Anatomy of Skin.

What emerged were partnerships between cohorts A and B, as well as between students Zooming into learn and students still in class. This resulted in our students actually connecting into a tighter-knit community of learners. Students even Zoomed into different cohorts to watch the presentations which interested them. Some of the topics included Anatomy of the Skin, History of Yellow Fever, WW I War Machines, Religious Rituals of India, Global Warming, and the History of Animation, just to name a few.

Developing independence, creativity, and a sense of ownership, as well as meeting our Common Core Standards, makes Genius Hour a perfect 21st-century project.

Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

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



Refugio Gracian
Principal

Caring for Others

Holocaust survivor Viktor E. Frankl once said, “For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side-effect of one’s dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of one’s surrender to a person other than oneself.”

This quote exemplifies the love and dedication Valadez Middle School’s plant coordinator, Adolph “Frankie” Valenzuela, displays toward serving our students, staff and community members. His daily work demonstrates his understanding of the “we” over the “I,” as demonstrated by his ability and commitment to building the leadership capacity of his custodial colleagues as well as his district-wide counterparts.

Frankie’s dedication to mentoring our Eagles illustrates his understanding of our school vision and demonstrates how his heart guides his core values. Frankie understands that students don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care!

Our school is a better place because of Frankie’s commitment to being part of the team and looking for opportunities to create “impact” beyond his job duties.



Plant Coordinator Adolph “Frankie” Valenzuela.

Thank you, Frankie—for leading by example and always placing the needs of our students and school as your top priority.

Valencia High School (9-12)

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



Chris Herzfeld
Interim Principal

University Acceptance Begins - Even Amidst a Pandemic

Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic and immersed in distance and hybrid learning, the majority of students are still being highly successful and impressive in their studies. As principal of Valencia High School, I am proud to share the exciting news many of our seniors have received in recent days as some universities are announcing Early Decision Admission results.

Baylor - Ethan Martin; Fordham - Audrey Leung;
Cornell - Riana Pauline Villacampa; Duke - Elliot Yoon;
Vanderbilt - Sarah Mard; Colby - Emily Jeon;
Temple - Parker Bono; Indiana University - Jordan Sandoval;
CSU-LA - Daisy Jeronimo, Mohannad Zeinneh, Kimberly Torres-Juarez, Diego Vasquez, Jason Gutierrez, Rosa Ortiz,
Bryant Reyes, Mark Gutierrez, Kristina Siquieros;

CSU-San Marcos - Vanessa Harman, Jacob Ruffalo, Emily Martinez; Hope International - Lizette Mota; Northern Arizona - Kristina Siquieros, Rosa Ortiz

Many of these students have also been recognized by the National Merit Recognition Program or National Hispanic Recognition Program and are enrolled in our prestigious Valencia Academy (International Baccalaureate and Val Tech) and/or our AVID National Demonstration Program.

We applaud the tenacity, perseverance and resilience displayed by the class of 2021 who have experienced their education in a most unusual manner. Similarly, we applaud and appreciate our Valencia High School teachers who have demonstrated determination, flexibility, creativity and patience throughout distance and hybrid learning. We all hope that improvement in pandemic conditions will allow us to host on-campus events for our seniors this spring. As you can see, they’ve earned it.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

International Professors

Van Buren Elementary had the privilege of hosting International Professors to our campus! Thanks to Cal State Fullerton Professors, Erica Howell, Dr. Melinda Pierson and Dr. Janice Myck-Wayne, nine professors representing Germany, Spain, Bulgaria, Japan, Australia and China came to see American education in action. Teachers Veronica Gomez, Lyn Chadez, and Kim Voge welcomed the professors into their classrooms

to observe the progressive programs found in American schools. The scholars were very impressed with the students' use of technology in the classroom, positive behavior supports throughout the school, engaged learning, and student choice making opportunities. The visit ended with a presentation of the school plan for improvement, including school demographics and how student performance data are used to drive school goals. The visitors were inspired by this clear, cohesive plan for the school. What a privilege it was to share the outstanding work of the Van Buren team with this international audience!

Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Janice Weber
Principal

Better Together

As I was curating resources to prepare for a school year like no other, three themes emerged that are vital to all of us and our well-being: relationships, routines, and resilience. It occurred to me that

in all of our roles, (students, families, teachers, staff, and principal), living out the 3 Rs would help us to not only survive, but thrive. Some of the ways in which we build relationships and resiliency at Wagner are to show



kindness, empathy, and compassion in abundance. Routines help everyone know that there are traditions we can rely on, even when times are turbulent. At Wagner, we continue to implement PBIS. We continue to celebrate with Spirit Wear days and WOW Wednesdays. Our community and staff can bank on weekly communication. It is inspiring to see our students, families,

and staff come together to rally around the 3 Rs. Wagner Wildcats are "Better Together."

Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. George Lopez
Principal

Keeping Busy

Our public schools obviously don't look the same right now. The halls have been quiet lately because many of our students are Zooming at home, while others have returned to class for a few hours of daily instruction.

During these difficult times, it has been up to our teachers to keep everyone interested and engaged in order to continue the learning process. Woodsboro teacher Jodie Hawkins feels that hands-on science has helped to keep everyone connected and motivated, whether in-class or on Zoom.



For example, her fifth-graders recently worked the "candle in a mason jar" experiment. They lit a candle, covered it with a jar, and quickly discovered that this action would cause the surrounding water in a pie dish to be sucked up into the jar and create a vacuum.

Our parents at home also helped their Zoomers perform this online experiment so that everyone could learn about atmospheric pressure, vacuums in nature, and a fire's need for oxygen.

During these difficult times it does indeed "take a village." Hats off to our creative teachers and supportive parents!

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Greg Kemp
Principal

Racing and Learning

Yorba Linda Middle School students have been learning about physics in their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) class. Teacher Mr. Cure has creative ways to engage students at home and school using household items.

Students were tasked with creating

an advanced vehicle that will maintain high safety standards and move faster than other cars. Each student built a car that raced down a track with an egg inside and collided into a wall at the end of the track. Students were given guidelines for the size and weight of the vehicle and what materials could be used. Students who are 100 percent remote were able to pick up wheels and axels from school and drop off their completed vehicles.



Students who come in person two days a week worked both at home and at school on their vehicles.

On race day, Mr. Cure used multiple cameras for students to experience the races at home while each class of in-person students helped to stage the cars. Students created many unique designs and had a lot of fun learning about gravitational potential energy, acceleration, and kinetic energy.



Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Richard Dinh
Interim Principal

Mustang Strong

Hello, YLHS community! During the past four years I have had the true honor of working alongside Principal Dave Flynn, who has now retired after 45 years of service.

As we look ahead to the future, we will continue Principal Flynn's legacy of "finding the joy in each day in being a source of joy in the lives of others."

I want to thank our staff, students, and community for a great first half of the school year. Our first semester student survey saw an amazing result, with over 1,300 students responding. Through these survey responses we can understand the success and the challenges that our students, staff members, and families are now experiencing, and we will continue to work with our entire academic community to celebrate the successes and address these challenges together.

As always, YLHS strives to prepare all of its students for college and career. We focus on student wellness, and actively support the effort to stay connected. Together, we remain resilient, and will seek to thrive in these circumstances. Go, Mustangs!





From Stage to Sidewalk

In London in 1743, a performance was done using a brand-new invention to mimic ice skating on stage—the first recorded use of roller skates. That performance was followed in 1818 in Berlin, Germany, with the production of *Der Maler oder die Wintervergn Ugunger* (*The Artist, or Winter Pleasures*), a ballet. The following year in France, a patent was issued for the first roller skates.

By 1857, London had its first roller-skating rink. All of the early skates were of the in-line type. Then in 1863, the first quad skates with four wheels were invented. The wheels allowed for easier turning. The skates had two wheels in front and two in the back.

Skating became a popular sporting activity for men and women. It was not long before roller-skating became a sporting event for endurance in miles or days. Over time, endurance racing became a team sport.

By 1935, Chicago had the first roller derby rink, and soon the teams were paired together on the same track. Then on November 19, 1948, the CBS-TV network broadcast the first roller-derby race between New York and Brooklyn teams. Most people did not own a TV at the time, but spectators were able to watch the race in store-display windows. The following year, the sport had grown so much that 55,000 spectators filled Madison Square Garden over five-days.

Roller skating had become part of the world culture. In the United States, Hollywood made films with roller skates as early as 1913. Behind the Iron Curtain in 1977, the East Germans produced a film called *Die zertanzten Schuhe* (*The Twelve Dancing Princesses*). The film industry has produced films with social commentary, such as *Kansas City Bomber* (1972) and *Rollerball* (1975).

Roller skating has even made it into popular music. Melanie's song "Brand-New Key" tells the story of a young girl going by a boy's house to see him, but he is never home. And there is the song by Jim Croce about the Roller Derby Queen—how she is the meanest hunk of woman, called Spike, and how he fell in love.

From that one performance in 1743, roller skating has become a popular activity for children and competition for dancing and sports. It has been suggested as a sport in the Olympic Games. So, the next time you see someone glide by you, remember that the activity was born on a stage in a play back in 1743 in London!

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

Novelist –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put PYLUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 30, 2021

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

Thank you Barkate Orthodontics for sponsoring our contests!

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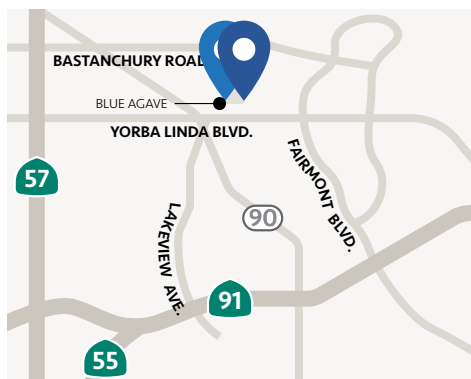
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