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# School News

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**Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District**

**VOLUME 6, ISSUE 18**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**MAY–OCTOBER 2014**

## SUPERINTENDENT



### District Goes Mobile

As a superintendent of a large, suburban school district, I am challenged to find the most effective way to communicate to our parents, students, staff, and the community at large. In our ever-changing world, where having current information is critical, this challenge has become even greater. To that end, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Board of Education established Strategic Initiative 3.3 which reads, “Utilize all available resources to communicate with district stakeholders and the community at large.”

To address this strategic initiative, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District will launch a smartphone app that will enable individuals to easily access district news, calendars, information about district initiatives, and if they have children in schools, student grades—right from their mobile phones.

In addition to grades, the app can be customized to include an array of features useful to parents, such as lunch balances and student attendance. Translation is also provided in over 60 languages. The app can also be used to push important communications to parents as well as emergency updates. The app will be free for users to download.

Also included in this communication package is a notification calling system similar to the one currently used by the PYLUSD. This calling system allows for phone messages to be delivered to all PYLUSD families or any category an administrator chooses. Both the app as well as the notification system cost less than the current system being used by the district.

As you can see, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is changing the way we communicate in order to reach our parents, students, and staff, as well as our entire community.

## PYLUSD Students Take Top Spots in OC Spelling Bee

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

**Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District students took three of the five top spots in the annual Orange County Spelling Bee held on Saturday, March 1.**

Samuel Littrell from Golden Elementary won first place. He will represent Orange County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May in Washington, D.C.

Amber Huynh, also from Golden Elementary, won 4th place. Megan Loh from Tynes Elementary School finished in 5th place.

To compete in the final oral round, students had to pass a written test given in February to 105 students from across Orange County schools. Many of them were winners at their local school's spelling bee. Only 47 students advanced to the final oral round.



**Top awards winners Golden Elementary students Samuel Littrell and Amber Huynh with Teacher Kristi Coan.**



**Megan Loh placed in the Top 5 in the Orange County Spelling Bee.**

The winner emerged after 23 rounds of competition lasting five hours. The competition started at 9 a.m. and by 1:30 p.m. after 15 rounds with only four students remaining, a break was called. According to Spelling Bee Master Emon Kane, “This was the longest and strongest competition over the past 10 years.” It was also the first time a lunch break was called.

Some of the words in the competition were “ostentatious” and “sayonara.” The final winning word that Samuel spelled after five hours of intense competition was “editorial.”

## Students Harvest for Those In Need



**Please see Van Buren Elementary School page 13.**

## Full-Steam Ahead to Imaginology!



**Please see El Camino Real High School page 6.**



# R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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## Upcoming Events



**Julie Nibali**  
President

The 2nd Annual ShamRock n' Run was a huge success. We hosted a total of 1,064 runners. R.E.A.C.H. raised \$15,000 for our schools and gave an additional \$5,000 in direct donations to schools from on line registrations. Thank you to all who participated or volunteered.



Last year's ShamRock n' Run brought back the Middle School Track Meet which had been eliminated due to budget cuts in 2007. Students from all 6 middle schools participated in the event on March 6th at Bradford Stadium. The ShamRock n' Run will once again support the Track Meet which will be held next school year on March 3, 2015.

The Seat Dedication Campaign at the Performing Arts Center located on the campus of El Dorado High School is under way. This campaign will allow community members to purchase brass plaques that dedicate a seat in the PAC. We also offer a display memento with a replica of your brass plaque. The net proceeds will go directly to benefit the district arts programs. This is a perfect graduate gift!

R.E.A.C.H. was proud to be a workshop provider at the 40th Annual Very Special Arts Festival on May 3rd at Main Place Mall. This prestigious program was started in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith. Mrs. Smith is the sister of President John F. Kennedy, Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Ted Kennedy.

For more information about us or any of the events listed above go to our web site or call us.



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



The Superintendent's message emphasizes the importance of communication and specifically the use of technology. We wholeheartedly agree and offer many ways to receive *School News*. You may sign-up to receive digital copies emailed directly to you. You may launch our web APP to your Smart Phone from our web site. Or you may read each issue on your computer or iPad as we post all of our issues in their entirety on our web site. The hard copies are available at the libraries and delivered on top of the *OC Register* to the paid subscribers.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Our next issue is November 6.

Have a wonderful summer.

## School News

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**Covering the  
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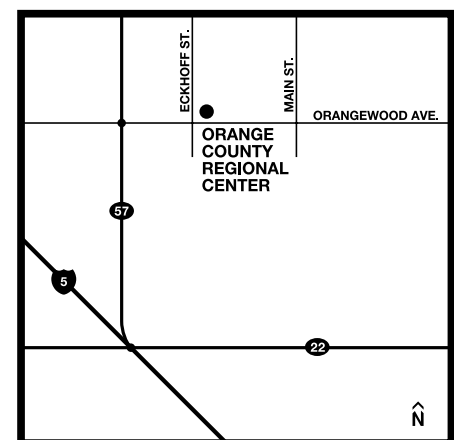
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# Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Celebrates Employees of the Year

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

Colleagues, families and students packed the April 8 Board of Education meeting as the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District celebrated its 2014 Employees of the Year.

Honorees are nominated and selected by colleagues across the district and they are deserving individuals who exemplify the district's core values of excellence, collaboration, innovation and integrity.

## The 2014 Honorees are:



**Kristin McDonald**

Kristin McDonald, first grade teacher at Golden Elementary – Kristin is a first grade team leader who colleagues greatly appreciate for her collaboration. Kristin shares her lesson plans and “flip charts,” which are important teaching tools for the classroom. More importantly, she is described as an organized and energetic teacher who cares so much about all the students and wants to give them every tool to succeed. She is constantly researching ideas that are fun and make lessons meaningful for students. Kristin's enthusiasm is evident in everything she does, whether it's “gushing” about her amazing students to parents or highlighting student work around the classroom.



**Janmarie Halliday**

Janmarie Halliday, Visual Arts Teacher at Tuffree Middle School – Artwork by Janmarie's students can be seen showcased throughout the district, including in school district buildings, the district art show and the foyer of the district's new Performing Arts Center. Seeing their work displayed in various public venues beyond their classroom keeps students excited about their work. Her students even started an after school club where they have an opportunity to knit caps for cancer patients. A teacher who is always full of energy, Janmarie also spends countless hours writing grants to fund additional large scale projects for her class.

With the most recent grant, her students created shadow puppets, a project that involved researching culture and history behind nursery rhymes, short stories, fables and fairy tales. Students wrote their own scripts, created props and built a theater for a standing-room only performance on the opening night of the district art show.



**Kathleen Switzer**

Kathleen Switzer, Drama Teacher at El Dorado High School – Kathleen's contributions are many. She teaches Beginning Theatre, Intermediate Theatre, Advanced Theatre, Musical Theatre and Scriptwriting. In addition, she supervises and directs student drama productions and serves as advisor to several clubs. She keeps students engaged by involving them in school and community activities such as the Terry Conley Memorial Mile, the March of Dimes and others. One of her most recent contributions was writing the language arts curriculum for the school's award-winning Digital Media Arts Academy as well as the new Broadcasting pathway. She is also involved in neighboring Brookhaven Elementary where she has coordinated their talent show, school play and spring musical.



**Susan Mason**

Sue Mason, Special Education Instructional Aide at Brookhaven Elementary School – Sue has served with the school district's special education program for 25 years. She was even instrumental in the development of the district's autism program from the very first day of planning. Whether she is working with an autistic child or a student with the most significant disabilities, she always finds success by adapting her training to whatever the students need. Sue is described as a collaborative professional who always approaches every student with a smile on her face and a positive attitude.



**Greg Ribeiro**

Greg Ribeiro, Print Shop Operator – As the print shop operator, Greg single-handedly produces all large print jobs for the entire school district. He downloads files, scans if needed, fixes coloring, prints incoming jobs, collates (often by hand), folds, staples, numbers, binds, packages finished work, stuffs envelopes and stages finished jobs at the warehouse. He excels at his job, has an incredible work ethic and is incredibly fast. Even though, Greg does not work directly with students, he is often heard saying, “Anything for students.”



**Jose Serna**

Jose Serna, Plant Coordinator at Woodsboro – Jose is exceptional at his job and is always willing to help. In addition to taking scrupulous care of the school in cleaning classrooms, bathrooms and buildings, he even notifies teachers when their rooms are ready. He will even step up to translate for families who don't speak English so that they immediately feel a warm school welcome. Jose also makes things happen. For example, teachers across campus wanted some way to recycle and it was Jose who stepped up. He brought recycling containers, placed them around campus and now collects the materials for teachers.

On the day when the surprise announcement was made that he was an Employee of the Year, the crowd of students and staff broke into a joyous chant of “Jose, Jose, Jose.”



**Elaine Marshall**

Elaine Marshall, Risk Management Supervisor – Elaine wears many hats. She handles all health and welfare enrollment changes, worker compensation claims and communication with medical, dental, vision and life insurance companies. Most recently, as a member of the Health Benefits Committee, she was a leader in launching the school district's “Your Health Matters” employee wellness campaign. Endlessly patient and understanding, Elaine goes out of her way to help employees understand insurance options so that they can choose the best plans for their families. Even in difficult times when employees

lose loved ones or experience serious family illnesses, she helps them navigate the complex path ahead of them with insurance companies.



**Vivian Cuesta**

Vivian Cuesta, Principal at Melrose Elementary School – With great enthusiasm, energy and dedication, Vivian launched Melrose to a successful beginning in 2004 as the school's first and only principal. A former principal at many PYLUSD schools, Vivian is retiring this year but not before making a tremendous difference. She has created a school culture which established and maintains student success as the primary focus. Her personal slogan is “Do Whatever It Takes.” Under her leadership, Melrose School's Academic Performance Index (API) increased from 626 points to a remarkable 824. Through the school's success, Melrose Elementary has closed the achievement gap for English learners and some of the neediest students in the school district.

Three teachers, three classified employees and two managers are selected each year. The teachers and classified employees now advance to the Orange County teacher and classified employee of the year competitions.

# Adult Transition Program

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • [www.pylusd.org](http://www.pylusd.org)



**Libby Moore**  
Principal

## Valuable On-the-Job Training

The PYLUSD Adult Transition Program is proud of its partnership with more than 12 community businesses. Each business provides opportunities for work experience and employment for our young adult students. This month, we're spotlighting two more of our community partners—a pizza parlor in Yorba Linda and a department store in Anaheim Hills—and the job skills our adults are gaining.

Our young adults report that pizza parlor on Richfield in Yorba Linda is a popular place to work. Adults ready the restaurant daily to serve customers. As a community partner, the restaurant provides opportunities for our students to learn valuable health regulations and codes to follow as well as all food-service-related job skills.

Our young adults also enjoy their job site at the department store in Anaheim Hills. There, adults gain vital work experience in restocking shelves, product placement and providing introductory customer service.

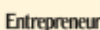
The PYLUSD Adult Transition Program values its partnership with community business leaders such as these. Their commitment provides our students the opportunity to develop on-the-job training. As our students are building ever growing employment skills, they are also looking forward to the possibility of paid employment in the future.

Everyone is excited and looking forward to our graduation ceremony in June, when nine of our young adults will graduate to postsecondary options such as paid employment or community college experiences. Returning adults will continue sharpening their transportation skills as well as on-the-job skills while attending summer school.

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# Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • [www.byms.org](http://www.byms.org)



**Cameron Malotte**  
*Principal*

## A Warm Welcome

The first two Fridays of April were special ones at Bernardo Yorba Middle School (BYMS). On Friday, April 4, we held our biennial Career Day. More than 22 speakers from a wide variety of professions presented information about their respective careers. Students had the opportunity to hear from seven different speakers during the day. During an extended break, the guests were treated to some delicious food and music by our choirs and orchestra. The students were very enthusiastic about the sessions they attended, and the speakers commented on how great the students were. Thanks to all of the speakers and to our counselor, Sandy Pendleton, who organized the event.

On Friday, April 11, we were visited by the sixth-graders from our feeder schools. Students from Fairmont, Glenknoll, Glenview, and Woodsboro Elementary Schools came to Bernardo Yorba for a fun orientation. They enjoyed performances by the jazz band, concert band, orchestra, and advanced drama class and saw videos of some of the other elective classes and activities that occur in middle school. Some students also had a chance to play some fun games and get BYMS Work, Attitude, Value, and Excellence (WAVE) spirit shirts. All in all it was a fun day, and we greatly appreciate the extra effort that it takes for the sixth-grade teachers and elementary school administration to make it happen. We look forward to the fall, when we will welcome these students as the newest Mighty Matadors!

# Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • [www.bryantranchschool.com](http://www.bryantranchschool.com)



**Dominique Polchow**  
*Principal*

## Enrichment Opportunities

Student achievement is at the core of PYLUSD mission and vision and the first focus area in the Strategic Plan. At Bryant Ranch, our students have many enrichment opportunities available to help expand their educational experiences. Some annual enrichment opportunities at Bryant Ranch include our Spelling Bee, the school musical, Art Masters, Read Naturally, JiJi Math, Walk Through California, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Fiesta Days, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Colonial Days, and GATE Academies to name a few.

A well-rounded education is important. Student achievement is the foundation of what completes a successful student. Here are the ingredients that help students reach their highest academic potential:

Set goals; Unique thinker and problem solver; Curious and courageous; Completes assignments; Early appreciation for reading; Self monitors and checks work; Seeks out answers and is self confident; Focused; Upbeat; Listens and learns from mistakes; Strong intrinsic desire to learn; Takes risks; Unforgettable; Diligent and disciplined; Eager to engage but also reflect; Never gives up; and Takes the initiative.

# Brookhaven *Elementary*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • [www.brookhavenelementary.com](http://www.brookhavenelementary.com)



**David Cammarato**  
*Principal*

## Kindergartners are Having a Ball

*By Teresa Vitelli, Kindergarten Teacher*

For the past 14 years, Brookhaven kindergartners have attended their very own Fairy Tale Ball to culminate a fairy tales language arts unit. The class reads and compares many traditional and “fractured” fairy tales. They incorporate math activities and art, and learn dances for PE.

And the ball is the “happily ever after”! Our “princes” are invited to attend with the “queens”—their moms—and the “princesses” attend with their dads, the “kings.” The evening is a semiformal event—both students and adults come dressed

in their very best. The multipurpose room enchantingly transforms into a “Magically Ever After” room in which the walls are decorated from floor to ceiling with the children’s work. Teams of parents and volunteers, including EDHS students, help staple, tape, and hang the work. Saturday morning, another team of volunteers inflates balloons to make arches and towers, and streamers of balloons are hung from the ceiling.

Then comes the big event. That evening, the children and their “dates” line up to be announced. A trumpeter and an announcer make each couple feel welcome. The children have fun getting their faces painted and their photographs taken, making crowns and tiaras, playing Pin the Tail on the Big Bad Wolf, and reading fairy tales with their dates. There’s lots of dancing while the D.J. plays songs for the PE dances. And they love the cotton candy and the other goodies!

One student told his mom on their walk home that it was the best night of his life. That in itself says a lot!

# El Camino Real *High School*

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



**Gordon Chamberlin**  
*Principal*

## Full-Steam Ahead to Imaginology!

On the last Friday before spring break, 40 students attended the Imaginology field trip at the OC Fairgrounds. Imaginology is part of the STEAM program—science, technology, engineering, arts and math—and seeks to inspire students to pursue endeavors in those areas.

Students arrived and walked through a pavilion where there were reptiles on display, bubble machines and morphing mirrors. In the second pavilion, there were science-fair projects on display, demonstrations and presentations about careers in digital media arts. During the presentations, students listened to people speak

about how they started in their careers and what careers in the digital media arts entail.

By the end of the day, students were inspired and had much fun exploring at Imaginology. El Camino students were ready to go full-steam ahead into their futures!



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# El Dorado *High School*

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



**Carey Cecil**  
*Principal*

## Staying Connected

El Dorado continues to seek new ways to connect with students, parents and the community.

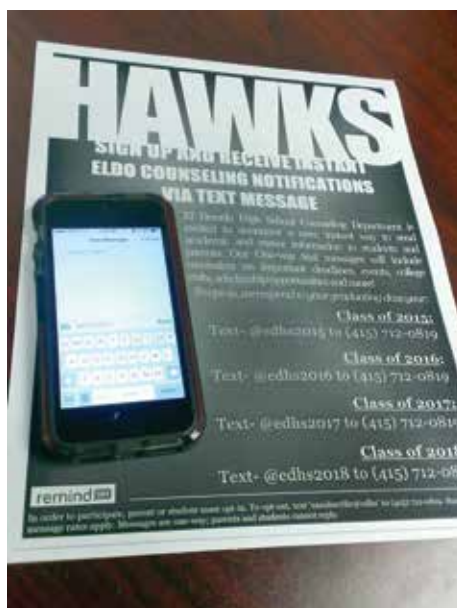
In addition to more traditional methods, such as the Web site and mailers, we also use Constant Contact. This is a distribution service through which our counselors can send mass emails. Subscribers are sent information on college visits, parent nights, scholarship opportunities and upcoming events.

Through our Digital Media Arts

Academy the community can also access Hawk Talk, a weekly video broadcast. This year our ASB leaders introduced yet another means of community contact: text messaging. By opting in, our students and parents can now receive text messages about school activities.

Communication via text has been so well received that we are expanding our options to include grade-level-specific numbers. For example, sophomores would get text reminders about the PSAT and CAHSEE, while seniors would be reminded of their application deadlines for college.

With so many communication tools at our disposal, the possibilities are endless!



# Esperanza *High School*

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



**Ken Fox**  
*Principal*

## Exciting Things Happening

Esperanza High School has had some great things happen over the last couple of months. Our Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) team competed at the California State Leadership Conference in Anaheim and came away with multiple awards. Daniel Le placed second in trans-cultural health issues and Anthony LaRosa took second in medical assisting. Jacob Shonkwiler earned third in prepared speaking. Kevin Connolly and Fredrick Dillon both earned third in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Lastly Kayla McGeorge received third in medical photography. We also had seven students place in the top 10 in their respective categories. It was a great conference for our HOSA students.

Also this past month Esperanza High School Cheer took first place at nationals in Anaheim. The cheer squad has been working so hard to regain this title, and they achieved their goal this year!

We are proud to announce that we are bringing Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC) to Esperanza in the fall. This program is open to all students and offers aerospace science courses, leadership development, aviation, rocketry, and marksmanship opportunities, sports meets, community service, and national academic bowl competitions. This program builds self confidence, character, and leadership skills. AFJROTC doesn't recruit for the military, but rather it builds citizens of character and future leaders. We are so excited to welcome this program to our campus.

Have a great summer!

# Glenknoll *Elementary*

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



**Doug Slonkosky**  
*Principal*

## Come Join Us!

Our Glenknoll second-graders recently dressed up for a living museum of famous Americans! Many other activities and projects continued to stretch our students' imaginations and thinking skills as we entered the third trimester.

On April 10, the students and staff showed off their hard work at our annual Open House. In addition to their writing and other achievements, the students also displayed artwork from our Fibo Art series and classroom projects. The second-graders later completed their American Symbols play.

Upcoming events include our first Spring Sing, which is scheduled for the evening of May 28. Due to the generosity of our PTA, we have added a vocal music program for the first- through fourth-graders. Mrs. Briggs has been teaching them songs for this program every Thursday.

The kindergarten students will present their Three Piggy Opera on May 29 at 6 and 7 p.m. Parents and community members are actively encouraged to join us!



**Miya Anderson as Eleanor Roosevelt, Isabella Gavrilovic as Sacagawea, and Kate Makridis as Clara Barton.**

# Fairmont *Elementary*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
*Principal*

## A Year of Change and Growth

How quickly the 2013–2014 school year has flown by! We have had a busy and productive time here at Fairmont. As always, we are proud of the growth our students have made, the many talents they have displayed, and the number of volunteer hours their parents have donated!

This year we implemented the Common Core State Standards in math. Our students and teachers were very excited about the “minds-on” approach to the subject. The students loved using the manipulatives, and gained confidence in explaining their thinking and reasoning processes. Next year we look forward to implementing the CCSS for English language arts.

Another change this year has been the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress for grades three to six (CAASPP). This test was administered on the computer, and our students did a great job in giving it their best. There will be no scores reported this year as it was a “test of the test” for all California students.

Fairmont students shined in many ways this year, from the classrooms to the stage. Some demonstrated their artistic talents in the PTA Reflections show. One of these students, fourth- grader Isabella Cervantes, even made it all the way to the state level with her poem *Softball Is My Game*. We are very proud of our Falcons!

Our PTA and parent volunteers continue to make Fairmont a special place. Their hours of service (and financial support) have brought many new and enriching activities to our students. Thank you, parents!



# George Key School

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/georgekey](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/georgekey)



**Deby Six**  
*Principal*

## Experiments, World Travel and Communication Devices

Second semester has taken our George Key students around the world as well as around the corner to our Golden Partners. While many of us have been traveling, others have been experimenting with rocks, seeds and reading. Another among us has shared how his communication device works!

Through the implementation of the Unique Learning System Curriculum's functional core standards, teachers continue to find creative ways to teach students to apply functional communication skills, cause and effect principles, physical attributes, sorting, matching and object identification. Since January, classes have traveled from Antarctica to Italy, China, Japan and Africa, studying penguins and creating pizzas, origami turtles and tribal masks while applying these skills. Others have used these skills as they experimented with rocks and seeds and enjoyed developing their own character interpretations of *Flat Stanley*.



**Ivan explores the properties of rocks!**

The most recent highlight centered upon one of our students, Dominick. He presented how his communication device worked to his friends in Mrs. Hanna's Golden Elementary class. His teacher, Michele Larson, and speech therapist Jayme McLeish supported him as he fielded many questions from his curious friends.

Such a functional world view we all had this semester, thanks to our George Key teachers and Golden partners!

# Kraemer *Middle School*

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • [www.kraemerms.org](http://www.kraemerms.org)



**Keith Carmona**  
*Principal*

## Connection-Oriented Curriculum

One hallmark of the Kraemer Middle School campus has always been the focus of providing unique ways to connect students to school. This is done by offering a wide variety of cocurricular activities and different elective classes that tap into a variety of interests.

For the past several years, Kraemer teacher Scott Morris has organized a Jam Band Club. All students are invited to come and jam together after school. Seventh- and eighth-graders bring their guitars, basses, drums, trumpets and violins to rehearse contemporary rock music. The Kraemer Jam Band puts on lunchtime concerts and performs at schoolwide assemblies to the delight of Kraemer staff and students.

Kraemer is quickly becoming a place where bilingualism and trilingualism flourish. Students have the opportunity to take Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and French classes. There are nearly 100 students on campus who are learning their third language. We are proud of our students who embrace the language and culture of countries from around the world.

The Leadership Development program at Kraemer Middle School now includes a variety of classes that offer adolescent leaders a chance to learn and refine the skills of building community, fostering teamwork and working toward a common goal. These classes include Associated Student Body Leadership, Peer Leadership, Leadership Communication in Video Production, Yearbook and an Online Newspaper course. Over 200 Kraemer students are involved in becoming young leaders through this program at Kraemer.

# Glenview *Elementary*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • [www.glenviewbulldogs.org](http://www.glenviewbulldogs.org)



**Moises Plascencia**  
*Principal*

## Enhancing Education

Glenview Elementary School's PTA and teachers continue to enhance the educational and overall school experience. Thanks to our PTA, our students in kindergarten through sixth grade participate in hands-on science assemblies, as well as other educational assemblies and field trips.

Recently, our sixth-graders experienced ancient civilization in a unique setting. Each student played a role in the assembly, memorizing facts, learning the roles of important historical figures, and role-playing skits in costumes for an audience of their peers and parents. This was an exciting way to learn about ancient civilization.

Our next events include a school carnival, our career fair, and Pride Day, when teachers, parents and our community contribute to beautifying our school.



# Golden *Elementary*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • [www.golden.pylusd.org](http://www.golden.pylusd.org)



**Roann Turk**  
*Principal*

## A Special Visit

Golden Elementary School received a very special visit on April 2. A team of Orange County Office of Education experts visited to validate the two signature practices on Golden's California Distinguished School application: Power Up with Technology and Step up To Writing. The team was impressed with the learning happening in classrooms, with interactive flip charts and SMART board technology to multimedia projects in the new computer lab. We also just found out that Mrs.

Hanna's class placed third out of 7,000 classes participating in a nationwide contest MathMadness by completing 267,315 math problems online in six weeks.

Writing ability is also strong at Golden. The team enjoyed talking to the students, watching Document-Based Inquiries (DBQ) debates, and reading all the students' wonderful essays. We are anxiously waiting for the validation results, but, regardless of the outcome, Golden is proud to be the school where Every Student Shines!



**Mrs. Hanna's 4th Grade class.**



# La Entrada *High School*

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • [www.laentrada.pylusd.org](http://www.laentrada.pylusd.org)



**Libby Moore**  
Principal

## Congratulations, Seniors!

The 2013–14 school year has been a great one for our seniors. The freedom and flexibility of independent study provides the backdrop for these students to passionately pursue their dreams.

Senior Jason Aguilar has been racing motorcycles and winning superbike championships for over six years. This year is his first professional year, as he's now a member of the Tuned Racing Team. What a great start to 2014, with two third-place finishes in the 600 class races!

Jessica Yerkes, a junior who will graduate this year, is a student- and substitute-dance instructor at Nuevo School of Contemporary Dance. This training, coupled with her extensive classical ballet foundation, won her a position as a full-time company member with Colabo Youth Dance Collective. Jessica also dances with Dance 2 Your Door, a nonprofit organization that brings dance to local assisted-living facilities.

Senior Cole Souto is a member of the Los Angeles Junior Kings AAA Hockey team. His team travels extensively to compete across the country, wearing the classically styled purple-and-gold vintage LA Kings uniform. As of this writing, his team is on its way to compete in the national championship.

Congratulations to all of our students who are busy pursuing their dreams while completing their high school education! It's never too early to request an appointment to sit down and have coffee with the principal to learn how a personalized student-centered program next year can offer your child an individualized education specifically designed for his or her college and career interests.

# Linda Vista *Elementary*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • [www.lindavista.pylusd.org](http://www.lindavista.pylusd.org)



**Paula Kintsch**  
Principal

## Together in Excellence

Behind our success this year are the dedicated and energetic Linda Vista teachers and staff.

To our teachers and instructional aides: A school's strength can be largely attributed to its teaching force. Everyone who touches a child's mind and heart for the better contributes to the foundation of their later success. Thank you!

To our custodial staff: We all enjoy our beautiful campus maintained by hard-working, cheerful custodians. They make sure we enjoy a clean and safe environment every day.

To our office staff: The visitors who enter our front doors are always greeted with a smile and kind, friendly words. Helpful and knowledgeable, you guide and direct us all.

To our noon supervisors: You have always been dependable and dedicated to everyone's safety and well-being. Thank you!

To the PTA and all of our parents: A sincere thank-you goes out for your countless hours of free time. Thanks to the funds you raised, our students have again been enjoying outstanding assemblies and field trips. Moms and dads who are busy earning a living and raising a family still find the time to contribute their talents and resources to help create a school we are proud of.

To our students: Thank you for following the rules, being ready for school, and always trying your best. Congratulations to all of you on your successful completion of the school year.

So thank you, all, for contributing to this community of creative thinkers. We will, together in excellence, carry on with our journey to success!



# Lakeview *Elementary*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp)



**Katherine Dailey**  
Principal

## Constantly at the Ready

Thank you to our Lakeview families and staff members! I would like to recognize some of the terrific people who make each day really count for our students.

The noon supervisors are dedicated to our safety and wellbeing. They offer ice packs, open thermos bottles, pass out forgotten lunches, and help students settle playground conflicts. Thank you for what you do each day for our students.

Because of our custodians, we can all enjoy Lakeview's beautiful campus. In addition to their daily routine, these wonderful employees also fill playground balls with air, retrieve lost items, and make everyone feel special with their smiles and willingness to help. They make sure we all enjoy a clean and safe environment.

The amount of volunteer support we have received from our PTA is wonderful! Moms, dads and grandparents contribute their time, talents and resources to help create a school we're proud of.

Masters of multitasking, our office staff is also at the ready. They care for ill children, direct deliveries, answer questions, keep records and attendance, and answer every telephone call. Helpful and knowledgeable, they guide and direct us all.

Last but not least, a school's strength can largely be attributed to its teaching force. Because of our dedicated teachers and instructional aides, we have hundreds of children who are ready and able to move forward. They are secure in the knowledge of the world around them, confident in facing new challenges, and excited by the opportunities that lie ahead. Go, Lions!



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# Mabel Paine *Elementary*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp)



**Tamie Beeuwsaert**  
*Principal*

## Autism Awareness Month

In honor of all the disabilities that are recognized at Mabel Paine, and within our community, our wonderful PTA recently sponsored a “blue” spirit day. Wednesday, April 2 was the seventh annual World Autism Awareness Day, and so our students and staff members wore the color blue to celebrate their many friends on campus who have autism or other special needs.

The front of the school was lovingly decorated with large blue ribbons, and signs were posted near the drop-off and pick-up areas to remind our students and staff to wear their special color! The entire school was decked out in a sea of blue that day.

Everyone was thrilled to celebrate their friends with special needs.

Did you know that autism affects 1 in 88 children, and that boys are four times more likely to have autism than girls? Or that it varies from person to person, and no two people with autism are alike?



**100% of Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Thurston’s class wear blue to celebrate Autism Awareness Day!**

# Rose Drive *Elementary*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • [www.rosedrive.pylusd.org](http://www.rosedrive.pylusd.org)



**Dr. Linda Adamson**  
*Principal*

## A Year of Change and Triumph

The year has been filled with successes and wonderful memories, along with a great deal of change. It is with absolute pride that I recall the resolve displayed by our Rose Drive Elementary School team as we triumphed over each hurdle in our navigation of new territory in the adoption of the new Common Core State Standards in math and a brand-new approach to standardized testing: the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The determination our staff and students demonstrated as they embraced these changes is testament to the level of commitment they apply to each new opportunity—leaving room for nothing but success.

March and April were busy months, featuring our popular Family Roller Skating Night and our highly anticipated Open House, which showcased our fourth- and fifth-grade reading fair and the release of our fifth-grade Harvard Reading group’s first published book, a compilation of short stories authored by the students. Our spring book fair earned our highest profits yet, thanks to the incredible efforts of our PTA and the support of our generous families.

To our Rose Drive team, I say a giant “thank you” for your unwavering determination in maintaining the highest of standards by expecting nothing but the best from our students, encouraging them to reach ever higher. How proud I am to be a part of a community that places such high value and regard on the concept of “team,” allowing us to achieve beyond our wildest dreams.

# Melrose *Elementary*

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • [www.melrose.pylusd.org](http://www.melrose.pylusd.org)



**Vivian Cuesta**  
*Principal*

## Eggs-traordinary Understanding

As part of Autism Awareness month, Magnificent Marlin students at Melrose Elementary School showed their support by embracing differences with love and acceptance. Students raised \$2,000 to benefit the Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) Foundation of Orange County. Students donated a \$1 for each plastic egg filled with jelly beans. Some students found the lucky Autism Awareness sticker and earned a special trip to the Principal’s Treasure Chest.

Students learned via a virtual assembly that autism is a



nerve problem in the brain that can make it hard for children to communicate, and it affects each person differently. Students learned how to be “eggs-traordinary friends” to someone with autism by reading books about autism and asking for help if they are confused about autism. Students were reminded of the Golden Rule: treat a person with a disability the way you would like to be treated, and you’ll have a friend for life!

# Morse *Elementary*

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • [www.morse.pylusd.org](http://www.morse.pylusd.org)



**Cristina McCall**  
*Principal*

## Spring Tide of Activity!

Springtime brought excitement and fun to our Wildcats! First-grade students visited Upper Newport Beach Nature Preserve, second grade attended Mt. San Antonio College’s Ecosystem Extravaganza, and third grade saw a theater performance of Charlotte’s Web at Plummer Auditorium. Fourth grade took their annual trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano, and fifth grade visited the Quality West Wing Oval Office in Corona.

Families participated in special classroom activities for Loved One’s Day on Dr. Seuss’s birthday. A fantastic Jog-A-Thon was organized by our phenomenal PTA. Students, staff and family volunteers had a marvelous time!



We’re celebrating our 50th anniversary! To commemorate the event, over one hundred families and staff decorated ceramic tiles to create a wall. The entire staff and parent volunteers have organized a patriotic-themed event beginning at 5 p.m. on May 29 and will include a brief history presentation, alumni speakers, student performances and food trucks. Our Open House will follow beginning at 7 p.m., so stop on by!



# Parkview School *Independent Study K-12*

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • [www.parkviewpylusd.org](http://www.parkviewpylusd.org)



**Kathie DiRocco**  
*Principal*

## Spring Musical Is Happening!

Peter Pan flew in to Parkview School in December and has been leading students off to Never Never Land ever since. Over 80 students, kindergarteners through high school seniors, are taking part in this year's spring musical, *Peter Pan*. More than 20 parents worked with drama teacher Loree Begin to have everyone ready for opening night on May 15.

Students auditioned for lead roles, but all interested students were given a part. You might think this type of casting would compromise the quality of the production, but I know you would be surprised. Talented and skillful adults with positive and caring attitudes have worked wonders with the already-proficient and students who are learning at Parkview.

Two days a week of performance rehearsals with adults breaking the cast into small working groups started the process. With the performances only a few weeks away, the routines really came together, and the songs serenaded our afternoons. Those were just to have the moves and sounds right!

Costume construction was led by two parents with exceptional skills and creativity. Peter Pan, Tinker Bell and the Darling siblings will fly across the "sky" via the creatively designed and constructed props made by other parents. All of this together makes up the Forum Theater, a magical Never Never Land for a short time in May. This sort of dedication and participation is what makes Parkview magical all year long!

# Ruby Drive *Elementary*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • [www.rubydrive.pylusd.org](http://www.rubydrive.pylusd.org)



**Diana McKibben**  
*Principal*

## Ready for the Summer

We have many accomplishments to celebrate, and events to look forward to, as our school year comes to an end.

The SBAC testing is going well. Our kindergarten will be going to Centennial Farm on May 27, and will also be starting an "Animals Two-by-Two" science unit. There will also be an "Alphabet Countdown" to celebrate the last 26 days of school and review our letters and sounds.

Ruby's third-graders recently went on a field trip to Knott's Berry Farm where they studied Native Americans. The Bowers Museum also brought in artifacts from local Native Americans for our classes to observe. Some children even had an opportunity to try out a few of their games!

The sixth-grade students will be performing in our third annual show of Shakespeare plays. They will act out a series of stories in costume for their families and the school.

What a wonderful way to leap into the summer!



Sebastian, Alejandro and friend with K-9 officer.

# Rio Vista *Elementary*

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



**Rafael Plascencia**  
*Principal*

## Science Fun

Rio Vista Elementary School continues to be a dynamic learning community that involves many stakeholders. Our continual partnership with California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) is a great example of our commitment to excellence, collaboration, and innovation.

We recently held our annual Family Science Night with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The event began with a science demonstration from Mr. Rob Casaba. Our multipurpose room was filled with students and parents, ready to engage in activities at our 11 fun-filled stations. Each family was given a map and rotated to each station. On this epic night of learning,



we captured moments of families discussing and problem solving as they strengthened their bonds. The academic vocabulary and explanation of science content by students, parents, and teacher candidates was truly a joy to see.

We would like to offer special thanks to Mrs. Kim Case and the CSUF teacher candidates who planned, organized, and led this fun-filled night.

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# Sierra Vista *Elementary*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/sierravista/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/sierravista/index.asp)



**Cynthia Rex**  
*Principal*

## You are Our Sunshine!

The Sierra Vista staff and parents recently had the honor of recognizing our wonderful school secretary, Lori Goyette, as an Orange County Classified Employee of the Year! Many staff members and parents attended the event in Costa Mesa on a beautiful morning during spring break. Ms. Goyette's trademark is a happy face, and going above and beyond is her standard. As a staff, we marvel at Ms. Goyette's continual care for each one of us. Her cheerful, positive words keep everyone at peace, well informed and happy to be at school. She brings us together as a team and reminds us why we chose education as our life's work. She certainly provides a daily dose of sunshine.



School offices are the center for all communication, schedules, health and safety concerns, student and personnel records, school and community resources, and so much more. Perhaps only Siri answers more questions than a school secretary! Hats off to all school office personnel!

# Travis Ranch School

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • [www.travisranchschool.org](http://www.travisranchschool.org)



**Cindy Freeman**  
*Principal*

## A Sense of Community and a Spirit of Service

Twenty-nine Travis Ranch WE Club students recently traveled to Oakland for the WE Day California Rally, sponsored by Free the Children. Over 16,000 students from schools across California were invited.

To get an invitation to this yearly event, each school had to have demonstrated a year-long effort of service by performing both a local and global service project. Travis Ranch had several local projects, and also adopted a village in India last year, and one in Haiti this year, for their global projects.

WE Day is a day of speakers, celebrities, and CEOs coming together to inspire and congratulate youth on their work towards a better world. Last year's Travis WE Club president, Angela Chang, was called onto the stage to talk about her own involvement, and was awarded \$1,000 to do a local project here in Yorba Linda.

It was very exciting! This year, even our fifth-graders got excited about their service project in early March. They organized a "Pennies for Patients" campaign and set a goal of \$1,600. They ended up raising over \$4,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society!



Then on Saturday, April 5, we had a huge turnout for our annual Pride Day. Parents, students and staff members worked together to clean up and beautify our Travis campus by painting, planting flowers and bushes, and pulling weeds. A sense of community, and a spirit of service, is becoming quite evident here at Travis Ranch!

Go, Trailblazers!

# Topaz *Elementary*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • [www.topaz.pylusd.org](http://www.topaz.pylusd.org)



**Monica Barrera**  
*Principal*

## Positive Character Traits

I cannot believe there is only have a month left of the school year! I must say this has been an exciting first year as Topaz's principal. I thoroughly enjoy working with our children and our hard working staff members. On another note, parents are always asking how they could support the school with their child at home. In response, general parent meetings have been established for five sessions with a focus on family values. Our goal at Topaz is to instill positive character traits in all of our students. This is a great way to demonstrate the importance of the connection between school and home. As a result of this home-school connection, our Lunch on the Lawn Day was a success. Parents were invited to bring their lawn chairs and blankets to come eat lunch with their children. This was a great way to kick off our Spring Break!



# Tuffree *Middle School*

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • [www.tuffree.org](http://www.tuffree.org)



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
*Principal*

## Honors, Honors Everywhere!

We extend sincere congratulations to Mrs. Halliday, Art/Yearbook, named as a PYLUSD 2014 Teacher of the Year! We applaud her as a teacher of the highest level of commitment for every learner to aspire to his or her personal greatness.

Our focus on humanitarian outreach to increase students' understanding of their role in the community and world around them resulted in student support of our "Water for Love" campaign, raising enough money to supply water wells for 25 families in underdeveloped countries.

Tuffree's Color Guard experienced a stellar season—the diligent, focused work put forth by each of these outstanding girls resulted



**Winter Guard Association Of Southern California (WGASCC)  
Division AA 2014 Champions".**

in the building of leadership skills, development of teamwork strategies, and the refinement of technical skills. We are proud to share the reward for these efforts received by our Color Guard team as they won the Division AA Championship for the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASCC).



# Tynes *Elementary*

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • [www.tynes.pylusd.org](http://www.tynes.pylusd.org)



**Debra Silverman**  
Principal

## GATE is Fabulous!

The Tynes Elementary School staff is extremely proud of our rigorous academic program, based on the standards as well as the extended project-based learning and enrichment available to ensure that our students reach their highest potential. We continue to build our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education for elementary with robotics, engineering, and technology projects at every grade level. Next year academies and additional extended learning will be offered.

All students are challenged to demonstrate different learning styles, abilities, and interests. This includes interesting field trips, hands-on learning in the music lab, science-fair projects, and participation in the

sixth-grade school newspaper. The staff encourages our students to become collaborative and independent thinkers while keeping social and emotional goals in mind. Our program continues to focus on acceleration, depth, complexity, and novelty.

We are excited about all the new ideas for the coming school year!



# Van Buren *Elementary*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • [www.vanburenelementary.org](http://www.vanburenelementary.org)



**Ken Valburg**  
Principal

## Students Harvest and Donate Organic Produce

On Valentine's Day, under the leadership of fifth-grade teacher and Student Service Organization (SSO) advisor Makiko Shibata Ellis and parents Kevin Kwan and Lynn Sioson, the fourth-through-sixth-grade SSO students harvested the Van Buren Community Garden. The organic produce, which included romaine and iceberg lettuce, bok choy, spinach, peas, carrots, radishes and beets, were donated to the Homeless Intervention and Shelter House (H.I.S. House), located in Placentia.

H.I.S. House director Teri Neibuhr said that "we get food donations from around the community, but these vegetables are probably the healthiest of them all." Our students agreed as they sampled the tasty peas and carrots during the harvest.

For the spring, Mr. Kwan has planted tomatoes, bell peppers, eggplant, watermelon, okra, beans and pumpkins. There will be more organic produce for the Van Buren SSO students to share with families in need.



# Valadez *Middle School Academy*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • [www.pylusd.org/schools/valadez/index.asp](http://www.pylusd.org/schools/valadez/index.asp)



**Minerva Gandara-Boggs**  
Principal

## Good Luck Girls Rocketry Team!

Valadez Middle School Academy Girls Rocketry Team heads to the Nation's Capitol to compete against hundreds of future aerospace leaders! The TARC (Team America Rocketry Challenge) requires students to build rockets that must reach a height of 825 feet and return to the ground between 48-50 seconds with their payload of two raw eggs in tact. Of more than 700 teams that competed this year, our girls team qualified in the top 100 schools and has been invited to compete at the national level in Virginia on May 10. We are all extremely proud of these six young ladies and we know that they will make excellent ambassadors for the school and the community. The girls are busy planning fund raisers at school and in the community. Good luck VMSA Girls Rocketry Team, we know you can do it!



**Valadez Rockets to Virginia!**



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# Valencia *High School*

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



**Jim Bell**  
*Principal*

## Academic Competition Teams Win Championship—Again!

In February, Valencia's Academic Decathlon team competed in Division 1 at Westminster High School and captured the county championship for the third time in the past six years. In addition, they also finished first in the Super Quiz competition.

This is the sixth consecutive year that Valencia qualified for state competition in Sacramento. On their road to the county championship, Valencia Decathletes captured 78 individual medals. Team members included Collin Amano, Brisa Cepeda, Brian Chu, Billy Fletes, Allie Guerrero, Allison Kim, Benjamin Liu, Maddy Rychlik, Milie Savalia, Deszra Shariff, Alex Vargas and Joseph Yen. They were coached by Fred Jenkins, Danielle Connor, Mindi Foote, Kay Kerby and Sam Myovich.

Also in February, Valencia's Science Olympiad team competed at Goldenwest College and captured fourth place in Orange County, missing third place by one point. In doing so, they, too, advanced to state competition. Seven Valencia Olympians earned first-place medals; they included Alison Pin and Terry Yau for Forensics, Christian Hong and Brian Chu for Chemistry Lab, Harrison Hsueh and Joseph Yen for Physics Lab, and Grant Wang and Harrison Hsueh for Glider Plane. They were coached by Rita Phillips, Linda Leonard, Brady Bilhartz and Connor Drake.

More recently, Valencia's Chemistry Olympiad team, coached by Brent Shenton, finished second in Orange County after finishing first the previous three years. Team members included Lisa Jian, Nikhil Shah, Chad Atalla and Collin Amano.

2013–14 is the sixth year in the past seven years that Valencia was number one in Orange County, based upon the cumulative results of these three national competitions.

# Woodsboro *Elementary*

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



**Shirley Fargo**  
*Principal*

## Always Willing to Help

It takes outstanding people to create an exceptional school district. The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

is made up of those people. Woodsboro Elementary School is proud and privileged to recognize one of those amazing employees.

Jose Serna is the Plant Manager at Woodsboro, and he was selected as one of the Employees of the Year for the district. Because of his dedication to children, his pride in his work, his commitment to our school, and his determination to create a safe, clean environment for our students, he was nominated by many staff members.

Some of the comments about Jose were “a man of integrity,” “always willing to help,” “goes above and beyond,” and “Jose is a problem solver!” The Woodsboro Elementary School staff, students, and community are fortunate to have such a competent, kind, hardworking man employed in our school and district. We are very proud to recognize our outstanding plant manager, Jose Serna!



# Wagner *Elementary*

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



**Patrick Brown**  
*Principal*

## 50th-Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, April 4, 2014, Charles Wagner Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary with over 1,200 in attendance. It will be a day remembered by all. There were many distinguished and honored guests participating in the festivities. Congressman Ed Royce from the 39th Congressional District sent a representative, Nick Capito, to present Wagner with the Congressional Recognition Award and an American flag to honor the school's 50 years of service to the city of Placentia. Mr. Chuck Wagner, the great-grandson of the school's namesake and now a resident of Houston, Texas, came and spoke about the school's first opening days and early years. Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District band members, Superintendent Dr. Domene, and many previous Wagner principals, teachers, and school personnel were also in attendance. Another great honor was the memorial flag presented by the wife of the school's first principal, Clayton Lee. Mr. Lee truly loved Wagner!

The entire student body participated in the program. Each grade level sang a popular song from each decade from the 1960s to today, and our current principal, Patrick Brown, gave an overview as to the highlights of each decade. Kindergarten ended the program with “Happy Birthday, Wagner.” It truly was fabulous birthday for all!

# Yorba Linda *Middle School*

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



**James Hardin**  
*Principal*

## Field Testing:

This year Yorba Linda Middle School participated in “field testing” the Smarter Balanced Assessment to ensure that all questions were formatted correctly and consistent with the Common Core State Standards.

At Yorba Linda Middle School students were assessed in:

## (SB) Smarter Balanced & (PT) Performance Task Assessments Combined

- Sixth Grade – (SB ELA & Math) 2 hours + (PT ELA) 2 ½ hours = 4 ½ hours
- Seventh Grade – (SB ELA & Math) 2 hours + (PT ELA) 2 ½ hours = 4 ½ hours
- Eighth Grade – (SB ELA & Math) 2 hours + (PT Math) 1 ½ hours = 3 ½ hours

## (PT) Performance Task Assessments

- Sixth Grade – ELA (PT) Growth & Expansion of America (2 hours) plus (½ hour prior instruction). Total = 2 ½ hours
- Seventh Grade – ELA (PT) Technology in the Classroom (2 hours) plus (½ hour prior instruction). Total = 2 ½ hours
- Eighth Grade – Math (PT) South Pole (1 hour) plus (½ hour prior instruction). Total = 1 ½ hours

## California Standards Tests (CSTs)

The standards test was designed to assess the extent to which students have mastered the state's content standards. This test was the state's primary vehicle for determining whether students were mastering the curriculum adopted by the state. The only California Standards Test that was administered this year was:

**Science:** All students in 8th grade took the Science CST test.



# Yorba Linda *High School*

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



**Dave Flynn**  
Principal

## Recognizing Student Achievement

Springtime means the start of Yorba Linda High School's recognition of students' hard work during the school year and dedication to co-curricular activities and community service. In March, the National Honor Society inducted 58 new students for their scholarship, leadership, and service. In April, PTSA recognized 86 freshmen, 61 sophomores, 65 juniors, and 68 seniors with the Academic Mustang Award for maintaining a 4.0 or higher grade-point average in all of their classes. Our 2014 school-wide Renaissance Assembly recognized 92 outstanding students for their success in academics, fine and performing arts, community service, and athletics.

On May 19, the Yorba Linda High School staff will honor the Class of 2014 at the annual Senior Awards Night. Over 200 seniors will receive awards and certificates for college scholarships, department awards, and academic achievements. Co-Valedictorians Rachel Buscaino and Eric Chiang, along with Salutatorians Paige Gulley and Vivian Pham, will receive special recognition for their top honors.

This has been another outstanding year for student achievement and co-curricular participation.

## College 4 Less

# Summer is the Time for Edu-tivities



**Susan D. Marshall**

Typically I write to address the parents, but this is for you and your children. Soon we will all be thinking, "Hooray! School is out!" This is the time to swim, play sports, and enjoy some R&R.

One question though: Have your children ever wanted to study sea animals or to learn to play an instrument but there just isn't enough time during school to do it? Maybe they wanted to learn about rockets, how to cook or sew, the choices are endless!

Kids: Now is your chance to learn about what you are interested in, to discover and to explore things that YOU have always wanted to find out about. Now is the time to satisfy YOUR curiosity.

Simply stagnating for 3 months will eliminate some of the knowledge your children gained throughout the year. As a parent, I always wanted to cultivate my children's desire to learn and explore. If they were interested in something we would research that subject, learn all we could and then do an activity related to their research. Sometimes time is not on our side but I found that having a membership to museums, the zoo, or an amusement park would allow us to explore for a shorter amount of time on days throughout the year would allow us to gain more access and a better experience than trying to fit all of the attractions into one day.

The benefits of membership at different venues stretch far beyond simply the ability to visit the various attractions. They typically have special member only classes for the children, discounts for behind the scenes tours, and much more. If money for a family membership sounds out of reach there are FREE activities to be found.

Of all the venues for learning opportunities, the best place is still your local library. Before you say "sounds boring..." ask yourself when was the last time you went? Library cards are FREE! You can get videos, music, even find books that can rock your world. There is story time and other shows at many libraries, but you won't know about them until you look. Plus, the knowledgeable librarians will help you on your quest, showing you the right sections to find the information you need.

Who will you be at the end of summer? It's up to YOU...

Note to the college bound: Your summers are as important as the school year. Stay competitive, be productive.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

## Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us

# OCDE Strategic Plan



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

## Orange County Department of Education Vision:

*Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.*

As educators, we are preparing our students to succeed in an increasingly globalized and competitive workplace. It is imperative that students develop competencies in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, and character to assure their success in college, careers, and life.

Recognizing the essential need to keep pace in education, and to assure our accountability, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) undertook a strategic planning process. This activity will enable us to stay ahead of the vast changes in technology, culture, and the global economy - while working hard to close the achievement gap. In developing our plan for the next five years, we looked at our history, core strengths, areas of improvement, challenges, and opportunities. Through the process, we affirmed our Mission, developed our Vision, and outlined the blueprint to achieve our goals.

We come away from the strategic planning process with a living document and the compass for our ambitious journey. A journey that sets high expectations and allows us all to unite on the path to ensure Orange County students lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. The plan includes a set of strategic priorities, goals, key performance indicators, and a learning vision to guide our work. It revolves around our primary focus of student achievement, which is at the center of everything we do on a daily basis. The plan will enable us to build upon the successes of the past as we continue to enhance our services to students, parents, and the community.

To lead the nation in college and career readiness and success is a high ambition, but within the reach of Orange County students. We recognize that OCDE plays a supportive role in reaching this vision and its fulfillment is ultimately dependent on the engagement and the contributions of educators at all levels of student development from early childhood through higher education. Success will require that our students cultivate not only academic mastery but also emotional and social development in safe and supportive schools and communities. Individual student interests, choices, and capacities define college and career success, but we know students need support to acquire competencies that will allow them to succeed in learning experiences beyond their PreK-12 education.

I want to express my gratitude to the many of you who contributed to the development of the plan by responding to surveys and participating in discussions with our leadership team members. I truly appreciate your constructive, thoughtful, and valuable input. I am confident that if we work together, our students will graduate from high school prepared with the competencies they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Thank you for your interest in the students of Orange County and for your contributions to their success.

For additional information about OCDE services, visit [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us).





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## Remember When?

## Helping Out



**Charlene Ashendorf**

I remember as a child my parents would “help out” at school. I really don’t recall them using the word volunteering, in those days they were just helping out. I believe that in the beginning, my “parent volunteers” started out as a way to quell my separation anxiety. Holding onto dad’s hand that first week of kindergarten gave me the security I needed to take the first steps toward independence. In actuality, dad was a yard duty volunteer in the morning, but to me, it meant that I would be able to spend ten more minutes with him before taking the walk into the classroom on my own.

The transition to first grade meant long days away from home. To help me cope, dad would come into my classroom each week, and sitting on a child’s size chair as we crowded around his feet, he would read to my friends and me. It was comforting and familiar, just like those nightly bedtime stories.

Because my mother worked during the day and dad worked a night shift, it seemed natural to me when dad became the room parent! Mother would bake cookies after dinner and package them for dad and me to take to school the next morning, but having a dad as the room helper a special treat!

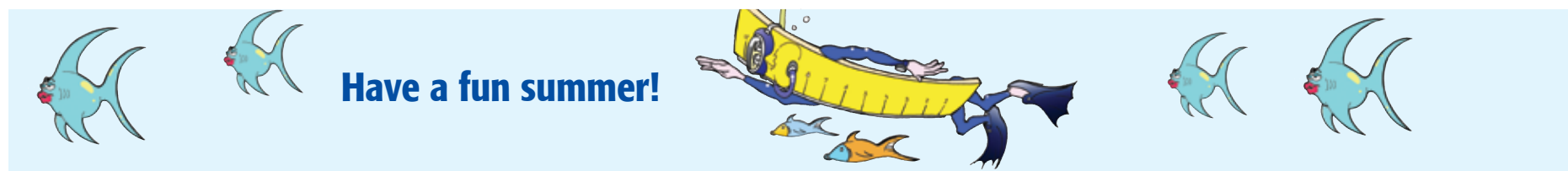
Fourth and fifth graders seemed to want their parents around less often, but having dad help with the SRA reading program meant he’d have a watchful eye on my progress in school. I recall him being so kind to the some of the children who weren’t fast readers. I believe my friends didn’t feel the pressure from him as from their own parents.

In middle school my parents wanted to help out more in school; I wanted them around less. So the subtleties of parental involvement came into play. Because I was a “joiner,” there were school plays, talent shows, poetry memorization contests and pre-teen jeopardy. With each of the extracurricular activities, parent volunteers were needed. What I learned in the process was that my mother and dad were great to have around behind the scenes; helping with set designs, costume fixes and even as judges!

The distance grew between my parents and me. I was a teenager and the last thing I wanted was to see my mother or dad on my high school campus. And yet, having my mother involved in the parent teacher association or seeing my dad selling cookies and drinks at the snack bar to raise funds for school sports meant more to me than I ever let on.

My parents had this simple philosophy: “There are so many wonderful things that will never get done if we don’t take the time to do them.” I am grateful that they were just helping out!

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. She is the executive director of Laurel House, a shelter for at-risk teen girls. She is active in her church and community. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>





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Flowers and Life



Nancy

Taking a break from mowing, I decided to participate in one of those silly on line questionnaires a cousin posted, namely “What Flower Are You?”. It came back “rose”.



I found the rose to be a humorous choice because I had used it as an example of my life in a conversation with a friend recently. I wake feeling like a brand new rose bud, brush my teeth and then as I shut the medicine cabinet door I see myself in the mirror and realize no matter how I feel I shall forever resemble the last rose of summer. We chuckled about that. Now, it seems the internet quiz has decreed me a rose!

Actually, it came to me that at 72 years of age one my very best of the very best days, even with a trampoline, I shall never jump higher than Kareem Abdul Jabar’s eyebrows and that on my very lowest of the very lowest days I shall never be able to slide beneath a frog’s belly. So, if we use those two as my high and low points and if we realize none of us remain at our very high or our very low points for a long period of time, life is purely manageable.

There! The random thought through the garden of my mind today.

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

Buy One Get One Flea, Dog on Fleas



Kate Karp

For some time, creators and performers of young people’s music have been dispensing with the cheap, synthetic sound of electronic tracks and replacing them with real live instruments. I’m surely not the only one who’s delighted beyond words. Dog on Fleas is one of the groups that plays in its own band, called the Backyard Orchestra; the combo includes but is not limited to a sousaphone, duck calls, a bass drum, a bassoon, a clarinet and several kazoos. The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slaphappily good CD.

The content is composed of songs original, familiar and obscure. Imagine, if you will, “Over the Waves” and the “Grand March” from the opera *Aida* played solely by kazoos, albeit skillfully. The original songs, written by Grammy Award-winning producer and band member Dean Jones, are based on themes that both child and parent will appreciate. “Hundredaires” is about the joys and disadvantages of a simpler life and a lighter wallet. “It’s a Ruse” warns about things that seem too good to be true and likely are. “Pardon My Pajamas”—well, who hasn’t longed to spend an entire day in jammies?

And “Hinterlands” is plain wonderful—brilliantly arranged and tuneful, with an energy that you can jump on and ride. You’re certain to get an itch for Fleadom.

The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slaphappily good CD.

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

Summer Fun 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put PYLUSD in the subject line)

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

- Awesome

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Hot

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Lemonade
- Lessons

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Popsicles

Sand

Summer

Sunny
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Volleyball

Water

Wave

Congratulations Faye Bliss and Jean Keyburn  
Winners of the February Contests!

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



## So You Think You Can Drive



**Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel**

My children are in their 40s, and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since I parented them. One of the most memorable areas of difficulty is when they learned to drive. It is bad enough that your precious baby is on the roller coaster of hormones and exhibiting moments of extreme independence; now he or she wants to get behind the wheel of a car and disappear into the teenage world. Yikes! Besides ensuring that your teen has lots of supervised practice with driving, which will allow him or her to react appropriately when faced with an unexpected situation, it's also important to impress upon your young person the magnitude of the responsibility the privilege of driving entails. Following are some thoughts to share with your children at this important stage of life.

It is critical that your teen understands that driving an automobile is wielding a deadly weapon. You are not only risking your life but someone else's life.

Today's teens also have to deal with the impact of the world of electronics on their driving. Texting and driving is the same as playing Russian roulette, only the stakes are higher, because more lives are at risk. According to [textinganddrivingsafety.com](http://textinganddrivingsafety.com), there are 1.3 million crashes involving cell phones each year. If you look down for five seconds while driving 55 miles per hour, it is the same as looking down while driving the length of a football field. Too many people have lost their lives or killed someone else while texting and driving. Whatever you have to share can wait.

Drinking and driving is not new, but it is still unacceptable. I warned my children that if they came in from an evening with friends and I could tell they had been drinking or doing drugs, they would lose their driving privileges. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) has plenty of graphic pictures on its Web site, which clearly illustrate that alcohol dulls the clarity of a person's thoughts. Alcohol inhibits your ability to make wise choices, so it should never be mixed with driving.

Distracted drivers are also a danger on the road. Driving a car requires your full attention. Reaching into the glove box, turning to talk to friends, or singing and bouncing around distracts a driver.

All of these behaviors need to be emphasized with young drivers. But they all boil down to one truth of life: you always need to be responsible and make good choices. From incurring parking tickets or allowing someone else to drive your car to driving while intoxicated, poor choices have serious consequences for your teen, and he or she should know that before you hand over the keys.

Finally, before you send your teen out on the road solo for the first time, remind your child how much you love him or her. Let your teen know that you are aware of the dangers driving may impose and you trust him or her to make good choices. When your child knows that your trust is at risk, hopefully he or she will think twice before making a life-threatening poor decision.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

## Driving Is a Responsibility



**Karley Cable**

HAPPY SPRING! I am so glad that the days are finally longer and we are getting closer to summer vacation. As a new driver, the freeways can be pretty daunting, especially during rush hour and driving is always a lot harder for me in the dark.

It was just over year ago that I got my driver's learning permit. As excited as I was to get behind the wheel, my first few driving lessons with mom and dad were a disaster. It was much harder than I anticipated and I wondered if I would ever be able to navigate my way around by myself without nearly running into something. Add to that the fact I live in a crowded, busy, beach community. Skateboarders and cyclists are constantly flying out from alleyways and tearing down narrow streets in the wrong direction. Young kids are can always be found playing in the streets. Animals are frequently running out into the road, and nothing is worse than trying to parallel park. You need to be very cautious. I'm glad I didn't give up on learning to drive because it is just like learning any new skill, it takes practice for it to become second-nature.

I have a lot of friends who are getting their driving permits this year and other friends that don't seem the slightest bit interested in learning to drive. I can understand where both are coming from. Driving is amazing! It is so empowering and it gives me such a sense of freedom. I finally feel like I am no longer a child. However, learning to drive does require a big time commitment and expense. Training courses can take a few months and they can be very boring, not to mention pricey. And, in addition to the training, you must put in a lot more time practicing behind the wheel with an adult.

Summer is an ideal time to learn to drive. The days are longer, and for most teenagers, school is not in session so there is more time to dedicate to learning.

If you are the parent of a teen nearing driving age, I imagine you might be thrilled if your teen has no interest in learning to drive, but I would recommend you encourage them to do it. Here's why: In order to get behind the wheel and drive, you must first pass a driver's permit written exam and complete a training course which usually takes a few months. Then, if you pass your exam and get your driver's learning permit, you must get professional "behind-the wheel" training as well as put in 100 additional hours of practice with an adult. This is a great opportunity for you to help get your teen off to a good start by practicing a lot with them. For most teens and their parents, this can be a very stressful time. Just remember, the more they practice, the better drivers they will be. By the time they receive their license, you will hopefully be very confident in their driving abilities. Plus, you will become a better driver as you realize how important it is to set a good driving example yourself.

Even after your teen has mastered the driving courses, and has met all the requirements to finally get their driver's license, they still need to go to the DMV and take a behind-the-wheel driving test. Some DMV's are very tricky. After driving countless hours in crowded cities with heavy traffic, I quickly learned that a green light means nothing if pedestrians are still crossing the street or cars are in the intersection. I can give you the names of twenty people, myself included, who failed their first driving test for slowing on a green turn arrow.

Learning to drive is a rite of passage and the experience of teaching your teen to drive will no doubt provide many memories. The best part for parents is that once your teen starts driving, there is no better motivation for getting good grades, a job, and being responsible, like the privilege of driving a car. They can also run out to the store and grab a few things you need or fill the car with gas for you too! And while the thought of an auto accident is extremely scary, we can drastically reduce the likelihood of injury by wearing seat belts, obeying traffic laws and certainly NEVER TEXTING WHILE DRIVING.

I urge you to require your new driver to log onto my website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com> and TAKE THE PLEDGE to never text and drive. Karley Cable is a junior honors student at Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach. She recently received her second President's Volunteer Award from President Barack Obama and was a state honoree for the prestigious Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for her "Don't Text and Drive/It Can Wait" campaign efforts. For more information on Karley and her campaign, visit her website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com>



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