

School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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MAY 2016

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Doug Domene

FIRST Robotics Regional Competition Held in PYLUSD

Most students love to compete. While we usually think of school competitions as taking place on the athletic field, there is a new kind of contest being embraced

throughout the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD). This exciting event combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, and celebrates those young people who dream of becoming leaders in this field.

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an international high school robotics competition. Often referred to as "Sport for the Mind," FIRST challenges students and their adult mentors to build a robot in six weeks using a standard kit of parts within a defined set of rules. These robots are then put to the test over a three-day period against other teams throughout the state and nation.

The "TiGears" team from Valencia High School jumped at the opportunity to compete, and was selected to host the first-ever regional competition at the school from Thursday, March 31, through Saturday, April 2. This was the first time the event has ever been held in Orange County, and it was a tremendous honor for the Valencia robotics program.

More than 40 high schools from across California came to Placentia to put their robots to the test in 12 different matches. Schools from as far south as San Diego and as far north as Fresno participated in this tournament with the hopes of advancing to the national competition.

This accomplishment could not have happened without successfully cultivating innovative collaborations and strategic partnerships with University of California, Irvine; Boeing, Raytheon; Rockwell Automation; Foxconn Interconnect Technology; and several other organizations.

First Dual Language Academy Set to Begin Next Year



From the District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is proud to launch a new Dual Language Academy at Glenview Elementary School at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Students enrolled in the innovative Academy will learn to read, write and communicate effectively in English and Spanish, while also achieving high levels of academic success in all curricular content.

The Dual Language Academy will be one of many exciting educational opportunities available to students at Glenview under the leadership Principal Alondra Ramos.

Families had the opportunity last fall to learn about the Dual Language Academy by attending a parent information session, after which they could apply to register their son or daughter for the program. Classes filled quickly, and a waiting list is currently being maintained.

Two classes have been formed that are composed of a balanced mix of English-speaking, Spanish-speaking and bilingual students. Daily instruction will be divided equally in English and Spanish using the 50-50 model. One teacher will be designated as the English teacher, with the other one identified as the Spanish teacher. The teachers will not break the language code, and

transitions between languages will be deliberate in order to provide students a true language immersion experience.

A full-day kindergarten schedule will be offered at Glenview for both dual language immersion and traditional kindergarten students. Kindergarten will be the only grade served in the Dual Language Academy this first year, with subsequent grade levels added each year thereafter.

Students who complete the K-6 Dual Language Academy will leave elementary school well on their way to possessing the dual language skills and cross-cultural competencies needed to be college and career ready.

Plans are underway to extend the Dual Language Academy through grades 7-12, with the ultimate goal of equipping students with the advanced Spanish language skills necessary to earn the Seal of Biliteracy with their high school diploma.

Information meetings will be held in the fall of 2016 for parents interested in enrolling their child in the Dual Language Academy in the 2017-2018 school year.

The Dual Language Academy is just one example of the many enriching and challenging educational opportunities available to all students in your award-winning school district.



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ARTWORKS!



Julie Nibali
President

The 21st annual “ARTWORKS!” student art exhibit was held in the Professional Development Center in April. The exhibit consisted of original artwork ranging from Preppy K to 12th grade levels, and includes paintings, ceramics, graphite, pastel, pen and ink, digital, 3D sculptures, and much more.

The REACH Foundation was pleased to assist with ARTWORKS! for the third year, by providing a reception for the opening night of the exhibit, and facilitating the student/teacher art sales. All proceeds from the sale will go to the PYLUSD Visual Arts Programs for supplies and equipment. Items ranging from cards, prints, ceramic bowls and vases, paper crafts and fiber art where available for purchase. Bernardo Yorba Middle School’s Mosaic Surf Boards where a big hit.

To see more of the beautiful art pieces visit our Facebook Page at facebook.com/reachfoundation.



These beautiful Surf Board Mosaics made by art students at Bernard Yorba Middle School.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The end of this school year is in sight. Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

In this issue you will read about the Robotics Regional Competition, the first Dual Language Academy planned for next year, schools the recipients of the CA Gold Ribbon award, Science Fun, and so much more...

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is November 3. Until then have a fun summer and remember to include the library among your activities.



School News

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**Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

History Night

Bernardo Yorba Middle School held its second annual History Night on Tuesday, April 12. This year's theme, "Explore, Encounter, and Exchange," was addressed in a variety of forms. Students created trifold exhibits, websites and original documentaries on a wide variety of topics, such as space exploration, technology, medicine, animation and more. Approximately 300 parents, students and community members attended the event to view and celebrate the projects. Seventh and eighth grade students were given medals of excellence in each category.



This event was in collaboration between the language arts and the social studies departments. The social studies department set the theme and project requirements, and the students wrote the research paper in their language art class to provide the foundation for their presentations.

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Gold Ribbon Award

Brookhaven Elementary School is pleased to receive the California Gold Ribbon Award! This award showcases Brookhaven's success in providing a supportive and positive learning environment for our students and reflects the dedication, commitment, and talent of the Brookhaven staff as well as the support of the community we serve.

Brookhaven began the application process in November and focused on the school's goals to provide research-based teaching practices, homework support, interventions during the school day, and positive peer interaction through our peer-mentoring model. Highlights also included our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, The Bear Necessities: Be the example; Encourage honesty and kindness; Always have a positive attitude; Respect your school, yourself, and others; and Strive to be your best (BEARS). These guidelines encourage our students to be the best BEARS they can be!

We thank our staff, students, and parents for their continued support and for making Brookhaven such a special place!

Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Excellent Explorers

Our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is the foundational framework that weaves through Bryant Ranch Elementary School's educational programs. Our MTSS, which is known as the Excellent Explorer Program (EEP), is designed to meet the needs of all learners. The goal of the EEP is to close achievement gaps, challenge students, and connect learning socially and emotionally through a school community where everyone belongs.

The EEP has additional benefits that create a well-rounded school environment. One of the highlights of the EEP is our Brag Cards. In order to earn Brag Cards, students need to demonstrate Excellent Explorer Behavior. Throughout the year, students can save up Brag Cards for

various incentives. A popular event this year is Bingo and Brownies with the principal. In order to earn a place at this event, students need to turn in 80 brag cards. Students look forward to these interactive experiences in celebration of their Excellent Explorer Behavior!



Preppy K and Kindergarten students enjoying Bingo & Brownies with Principal, Mrs. Polchow.

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

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



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

A Model Continuation High School

The El Camino Real High School staff is proud of its recent recognition as a “Model Continuation High School.” El Camino is one of 37 schools across California selected for this prestigious designation. The award is given in recognition of innovative teaching approaches that enable students with diverse needs to complete their high school

educations.

El Camino students benefit from these supplemental programs and services, such as independent study courses, career counseling, job placement, apprenticeships, and concurrent enrollment in community college. This year’s award also reflects the amazing support we receive from the district, as well as the unrivaled commitment to excellence that our teachers have in fostering 21st-century learning.

El Camino received this official recognition at the 2016 CCEA State Conference held in late April in Riverside. We are very proud of our own Lisa Gersbacher (science teacher) for being selected as one of the keynote speakers at the awards ceremony. Way to go, Lisa! Congratulations to our staff members at El Camino for a job well done.



El Camino Real High School Staff

Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

Future Healthcare Professionals

Esperanza High School’s Medical Sciences Academy had 58 students compete in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference from April 7 through April 10 at the Anaheim Marriott. The conference offers a chance for

future healthcare professionals to network with peers and industry professionals, as well as show off their knowledge and skills in a series of competitive events.

The students choose which events they’d like to participate in at the beginning of the school year, and spend their own time preparing for them. While all events have a healthcare focus, they also encompass many skills required of any profession, including public speaking, leadership, adaptability, communication and responsibility.

Esperanza had 24 of their students who competed qualify in the Top 10 within their event category, while 10 of them received medals. Medalists:

The 10 medalists will now compete at the 40th annual HOSA International Leadership Conference this summer in Nashville, Tenn.



Maitri Patel, Simi Johal, Sophia Luzzi, Michelle Polen, Natalie Kdeiss, Mrs. Easton, Corinne Butler, Hannah Friesen, Emilee Carr, Kayla McGeorge, Leslie Ramirez

Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Activities Abound...

First grade students at Fairmont had a grand time celebrating the birthday of a favorite author - Dr. Seuss! Students were invited to their pajamas to the evening event and listen to a special guest read their favorite Dr. Seuss book. Fun activities and yummy snacks tied to these fun rhyming books were also part of the night.

Fairmont's GATE students participated in a GATE Academy where they learned how to create a game on Chromebooks using

the Scratch coding program. A GATE Family Night was held at which students showcased their newly learned computer talents and parents were invited to play each of the unique games.

Parents were recently invited to a Parent Education night on Internet Safety. The district School Resource Officer, Deputy Neal Holmes, provided an informative presentation on the dangers of the internet, cyber-bullying and apps currently trending among school-age kids.



PE teacher Nate Babcock reading his favorite Dr. Seuss book to Fairmont first graders.

George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Deby Six
Principal

Spring Traditions

Spring has sprung at George Key School! Our traditional events at this time of year have been off to a fantastic start with the submission of students' artwork to the Annual Festival of the Very Special Arts (VSA) Organization on Arts and Disability, a nonprofit entity. The students' beautiful efforts were displayed from April 27 through May 16 at MainPlace Mall.

We are excited to announce that the VSA has selected the artwork created by Haruka Kawana, a student in Patti Linza's class, to be a part of their traveling Arts on the Move exhibit!

Our Parent-Student-Staff Organization (PSSO) has been hard at work

planning other spring events, including the annual jog-a-thon and carnival and the Open House barbecue. These events provide functional life-skills experiences for our students.

Throughout this season, students continue to enjoy the sensory exploration of the spring blooms in our beautiful garden, which has fast become another tradition—this one all year 'round!



El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

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



Joey Davis
Principal

A Golden Anniversary

El Dorado High School (EDHS) is currently celebrating its 50th year, and we are planning a celebration as part of our homecoming in October. The football game on October 14 will be at Bradford Stadium against Canyon High School. On October 15, the campus will be open for tours, so alumni can see all the awesome things that have happened since they graduated.

In preparation for the 50th anniversary, the district has been making some changes to the campus. The gym was painted over spring break. Later this spring, the floor will be sanded and repainted with updated logos. Other changes to the campus are coming, and we hope to have them completed well before the 50th-anniversary celebration.

This month, sophomores are taking life science exams, which are completed using the traditional pencil and paper method. Juniors are taking both the English language arts and math exams on computer. Their scores will be used for placement across the district and can also be used by state universities for placement in college after students have been accepted. This may prevent students from having to take remedial college courses and could save parents thousands of dollars, so we encourage our students to do their best and help EDHS shine.

Graduation is just a little more than a month away. Please encourage your student to work hard right up until the end of the year. Congratulations to the Class of 2016! We wish all of our students a restful, productive, and fun summer. School resumes August 29. Stay Golden!

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

California Gold Ribbon Award

Glenknoll is proud to announce we are recipients of the California Gold Ribbon Award! Representatives of our school will attend the county-wide reception on Monday, May 6th. We would like to thank our community, staff, and students for making this award a reality. For the second year "running" Glenknoll students took home the trophy for greatest percentage participation in the REACH Foundation Shamrock 'n Run 5K. It was a fun run and we raised funds to support our school garden. On April 15th, students participated in our annual Glenknoll Jog-a-thon, raising money for school Chromebooks and iPads. See our webpage at www.glenknoll.org for more information about our school.



Emma Garcia and Amanda Nguyen check the crop in the citrus section of the Glenknoll Garden.

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

ST Math Comes to Our School

Glenview Elementary School received a National School Scholarship to support the launch of ST (Spatial-Temporal) Math, a STEM program that incorporates the latest brain research in learning for students in grades pre-K through six.

Glenview Scholars now have the opportunity to work weekly in ST Math at school and at home on games designed to strengthen problem-solving skills and develop standards-based concepts using the animations of JiJi the Penguin as a learning guide.

Glenview students are on their way to progressing through

the ST Math syllabus, accessing the program on Chromebooks in their classrooms and during their visits to the computer lab. The addition of four new Chromebook carts this year at Glenview that comprise class sets of 40 laptops allows students from Preppy K on through sixth grade to have daily access to valuable programs like ST Math, Ticket to Read, Accelerated Reader and Google Classroom.



Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

Looking at the Future

Kraemer Middle School hosted a College and Career Week this spring. The event was put together by our AVID students and teachers at Kraemer Middle School.

College and Career Week is designed to have students begin to engage in conversations about what their plans will be for after high school. Each day during the week our Kraemer students had various lessons and activities that inspired them to consider their futures.



On Monday, former Kraemer students who now attend various colleges around Southern California came back to speak with our seventh- and eighth-graders about their journey to a four-year university. Each speaker had a unique and inspirational message that made a profound impact on these middle schoolers. On a video that was shown schoolwide, the AVID students also interviewed our Kraemer staff members about their own college experiences, including any extracurricular activities.

Kraemer students also participated in lessons about the wage gap and high school requirements for college entrance. For fun, each classroom door was also decorated to represent the universities of each teacher.

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

A Culture of Excellence

Golden Elementary School's sharp, unwavering focus on excellence in teaching mathematics was recently recognized by the state of California with the Gold Ribbon Award. The integration of a collaborative approach to teaching and learning, Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) and Extending Children's Mathematics (ECM) strategies, technology, and parent involvement led to 81 percent of our students meeting or exceeding standards in mathematics on the 2014–2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests.

These impressive results were achieved through our culture of excellence. Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through sixth grade, mathematical thinking is developed with CGI and ECM. To meet the needs of our diverse population, targeted strategies are used. Teachers and students who need extra support work together after school to close the achievement gap. During carefully crafted Math Happens time, students move from room to room to receive instruction specifically tailored to their learning needs; students who need additional support are taught using scaffold strategies, while students who have exceeded the standard are pushed to continue their academic growth.

This culture of excellence is at the heart of Golden's collaborative community. Teachers see themselves as lifelong learners and were on the forefront of the math pilot and implementation of the newly adopted math curriculum. Golden parents were engaged with educational evenings explaining the shifts in math required by the Common Core State Standards. Parents embraced the shift and supported the staff by providing additional technology for students to access online resources. Even the custodial and support staff exude excellence by providing a safe, respectful "home" for learning.

We are excited and proud to have been selected for this award, and we continue to work to provide the best programs and environment so all of our students can reach their fullest potential.

La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

Canning Hunger

La Entrada students are doing their part in the fight against hunger and poverty in our community. Students in La Entrada's independent study program are giving back to the community through the Canning Hunger Box of Love program.

Canning Hunger is an organization that was founded here in Orange County when a local food bank ran out of food. It is now a national organization dedicated to fighting hunger on a local level. La Entrada has partnered with Canning Hunger in this project for the last six years. In this project, students and families bring in canned food and nonperishable items to donate to the local food bank. Each year, families donate over 500 pounds of food to the program. La Entrada students help ensure that the local food banks will never run out of food again!





Katherine Dailey
Principal

Ready to Learn

As another school year winds down, it is a good time to reflect on important routines that help students to arrive at school ready to learn. Consider the routines below to make your child feel more...

Relaxed. Music can help your child avoid the morning rush. Play a soothing song and ask him or her to be dressed and ready by the time it is over.

Energized. A good breakfast increases concentration. Offer your child healthy choices.

Connected. Talking about the school day lets your child know you care. Ask him or her to share two good things that happened during the day. Also, ask specific questions, such as "Which multiplication table did you practice?"

Prepared. Studying a little every day is the best way to learn new material. Help your child choose a time for homework when he or she is most alert—and try not to change it. Establish the habit of getting all materials ready each evening—homework, books, even clothes. There should be an established place to keep ready-to-go school items.

Rested. A set bedtime helps children fall asleep more quickly. Elementary students generally need 10–12 hours of sleep each night. Encourage your child to get into bed 15 minutes early to read, make up stories, or talk quietly with you.

Nothing is more precious to a child than some time alone with a parent. Parents who make a point of scheduling one-on-one nights with each child reap great benefits. The activities should be positive and can be very simple, but they should not be a time to discuss behavior or poor grades. Play a game, read a book, take a walk, or just chat. Ten minutes daily can make a big difference! It is perfect for busy parents, too, since it makes the most of the limited time many have to spend with their children.

Happy parenting!



Paula Sitar
Principal

Celebrating 40 Years

Established in 1975, Linda Vista Elementary School has been making a difference in the lives of students for four decades. To celebrate our 40th year, we would like to invite the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District community, Linda Vista alumni, and former staff members to help us commemorate this major milestone. Our 1970s-themed Family Night is scheduled for May 6, promising a night of tile design and movie fun. We hope you can join us!

March and April were busy months, featuring our annual Open House, our spring book fair, our annual carnival, Earth Week and fifth-grade Colonial Days. Just typical days in the life of a Linda Vista student—learning and growing exponentially!

A final thank you to our team of dedicated staff members, committed parents, and passionate students for yet another wildly successful year.



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Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

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

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Gold Ribbon School Award

It is with great pride that I announce we have just been named a 2016 California Gold Ribbon School!! We applied for this award back in December based on our school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program called P.O.W.E.R. We were notified in February that our application was so stellar, we would not need a site validation visit in the spring to determine our eligibility. Instead, we were “unofficially” notified that we would be going onto the awards ceremony in May but had to keep it under wraps until the process was complete and all other schools were notified in April. We are thrilled to finally be able to share the good news with all. Congratulations, Mabel Paine! We are proud to be a Gold Ribbon School.



Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

Science Fun for Everyone!

Melrose staff has been working on improving educational outcomes for all students, including English Learners, through scaffolded science instruction. English Learners contend with the additional challenge of developing language and literacy skills in a second language while accessing grade level content instruction and texts.

Hands on science projects have been key to engaging students in science. Grade levels have worked with live goldfish, snails, crayfish, butterflies, and plants, chemicals, and science fieldtrips.



Family Science Night with CSUF partners at Melrose.
Students learning about homemade lava lamps.

We kicked off spring with a Family Science Night in partnership with Cal State University Fullerton's Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education. Melrose students and families came together to conduct hands-on science activities. Some activities included: chemical reactions, disaster survival, plate tectonics, bubbles galore, ocean zones, lava lamps, oil spills, and slime. Through our partnership with CSUF, student teachers have had the opportunity to collaborate with various grade levels, model sample lessons, and observe daily lessons. Science is alive at Melrose!

Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cristina McCall
Principal

Team Kids Challenge

Morse students enthusiastically launched a partnership with the nonprofit Team Kids, Inc.; Orange County Fire Authority; and the Placentia Police Department. The partnership is designed to empower them to learn so that they can change the world with their actions!

Morse is the first school in Placentia to participate with Team Kids. The school's fifth- and sixth-graders created a leadership team that met weekly during lunch and planned the student-run carnival to benefit endangered animals at the local zoo.

Morse students exceeded their goals for each challenge, bringing in five bins of gently used towels, blankets and other pet items for the Coastal German Shepherd Rescue and three bins of gently used books that were donated to the Cathy Torrez Learning center in Placentia. They wrote 500 letters to thank our U.S. deployed troops for their service.

Our students learned that one is never too young to make a positive impact in the world!





Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Self-Study Successful!

Parkview’s Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation preparation and visit was a huge success! Typically, WASC self-study reports and visits are for high schools and colleges, but because Parkview is a pre-K–12th-grade school, all facets were reported on and shared. The school staff teams met often and wrote vigorously about the fabulous programs and activities Parkview offers—a huge undertaking, headed by coordinator Letty Bernstein.

The WASC visiting committee, including three members from across the Southland—a high school special education advisor and seasoned WASC participant and lead, a high school counselor from Century Academy in Thousand Oaks, and an English teacher/WASC coordinator from Professional Accelerated Learning Academy in San Bernardino—spent three days at Parkview. The parents, students and Parkview staff warmly welcomed them.

Stakeholder meetings were held with parents, students, staff and district personnel. Monday night’s meeting was with the parent community. The team was very impressed with the knowledge, passion and experiences shared by those in attendance. Tuesday, students in grades K–12 also had the opportunity to share and answer questions. The visiting committee said that it was insightful and that they were very impressed at the turnout as well as with the articulation with which these students spoke. District personnel came to give their input and support, for which we are grateful.

Although an arduous process, it was a valuable experience, and the Parkview team did a great job! Bravo, Parkview!

Thank you for reading *School News*!



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Helping Children Succeed

A wealth of good news and community events continue to be the focus here at Rio Vista Elementary.

We were recently recognized as a recipient of the California Gold Ribbon Award for our work with English learners, AVID elementary strategies, the Tech Club, and Family Science, which continues to bring our campus together.

In collaboration with the CSUF, we also recently hosted a Presidential Roundtable that highlighted our partnership between CSUF and Rio Vista. During the event, attendees from OCDE, local universities, and local school districts and business partners visited our classrooms and saw students integrating technology with Chromebooks, iPad QR code readers, ELD realia, and reading tools.



At the conclusion of the event, several classrooms also participated in a special assembly. Every student from our state preschool to the fifth-grade – about 900 students in all – were provided with a new backpack filled with grade-level informational books and parent guides to help children succeed in the next grade level.

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MAY 2016 11



Diana McKibben
Principal

A New Program

Sixteen girls recently received a brand new pair of running shoes, along with a backpack full of running-related goodies, through a corporate partnership with Girls on the Run.

These third- through fifth-grade students participated in our popular Girls on the Run program, a 10-week after-school activity based on running. This is the first year that the program has been at Ruby Drive, one of four participating schools in Orange County.

The girls, under the guidance of teachers Alesa Kerr, Ligia Alvarado, and Sofia Vander Kooy-Hervey, met two days a week after school. They talked about various life skills, including having a positive self-image, healthy behaviors, and supporting each other.

Then they went on a short run. At the end of the program, the girls and some parents – along with Miss Kerr, Mrs. Alvarado, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Chappelle, Miss Eppink and Mrs. Vanderkooy-Hervey – all received medals in a 5K in Irvine!



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Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

Dare to Dream

This school year has been filled with many successes, team-building opportunities, and wonderful memories.

March and April were particularly busy. These months featured our annual Open House, the Walk through California and the American Revolution assemblies for the fourth- and fifth-graders, auditions for the upcoming mini-production of *Annie*, and the final construction of raised beds for our school garden.

We also had plenty of time to think of others. Our leadership group, Team Roadrunners, worked with Clothes for a Cause to collect used clothing, shoes, towels, and other textiles for recycling and reuse. Together our students and families collected a total of over 300 pounds of clothing items.

Looking ahead, we have plenty of wonderful events to enjoy, including our annual Spring Book Fair, Lunch with a Loved One, the Spring Carnival, Spring Sing, and the anticipated mini-production of *Annie* on June 3. We also anticipate the growth of our new school garden; we have many willing and excited classes eager to begin planting and filling the beds. We could not think of a more productive way for students to reap the rewards of their efforts while incorporating a hands-on approach to science and the life cycle of plants.

Looking back to the past year, it is truly with absolute pride that I recall the resolve displayed by our Rose Drive team for their unwavering determination to maintain the highest of standards. They have expected nothing but the best from our students, and have encouraged 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 a “team,” and which allows us to achieve beyond our wildest dreams.

To our team of dedicated staff members, committed parents, and passionate students, thank you for yet another wildly successful year!

Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Field Trips for Everyone!

Students may not remember every lesson learned in elementary school, but they will certainly never forget the annual

field trips! Our third-grade Eagles recently stepped back in time to walk the Tongva Trail at the Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach. Students learned how people once adapted and used the environment to survive. Is this plant poisonous or useful? What's the difference between tribal games of chance and games of skill? Ceremonial dances and songs were a highlight. Experiences like these leave meaningful impressions.

Our Sierra Vista Elementary School PTA makes sure that every child has a fabulous field trip every year. It is the PTA's dedication to supporting instruction at every grade level that creates these significant opportunities. Whether it is the farm, the zoo, or gold mining, experiential learning results.

We are grateful for an education-minded community! Thank you, PTA!



Students drilled holes in shells with hand-made tools to string on twisted sinew.

Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Monica Barrera
Principal

Another Exciting Year

I cannot believe there is only a month left of the school year! I must say that this has been an exciting year at Topaz Elementary School! I thoroughly enjoy working with our children and our hardworking staff members.

We have many programs on campus, which provide a fundamental foundation for our students to learn. Second Harvest Food Bank provides a fresh farmer's market to our community every month, our Gang Reduction Intervention Prevention (GRIP) program provides resources for students so they come to school every day, and our Topaz Clinic through St. Jude Neighborhood Health Centers provides most healthcare needs for our families and community. With all of these support systems in place, Topaz students succeed in their academics.

To close out our successful school year, Topaz families will come together to for an afternoon of festive music, fun, and games in June.



Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Safe Landing!

During second quarter, eighth graders embarked on a real-life simulation to land cargo safely on Mars' surface. First, they learned about challenges that NASA/JPL engineers faced when designing and building the Curiosity Rover, which landed on Mars in August 2012. Next, students designed and built landers that could sustain a two-story drop while protecting a raw egg inside.



After several test launches and a few improvements, students had their final launch mid-January. They recorded the entire flight and landing, and then teams of three to four students worked on the business end of engineering and design. Each team wrote a professional business proposal and assembled a marketing slide show in the hopes of "selling" their design.

At the end of January, teams presented their slide shows to a panel of judges, Shark Tank style, that comprised community members, teachers and administrators. Students walked away from this project with some true real-life engineering and business experience.

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Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

Career Exploration

We extend a shout out to our wonderful community for their incredible support! More than 40 professionals inspired Tuffree Middle School students at our school-wide Career Day on March 24!

A welcome reception, which included Tuffree's string quartet and a student artwork showcase, was followed by breakout sessions. Students pre-selected specific, high-interest careers. A special schedule was created so that each student could experience four different speakers.

Among the professions represented were: district attorney, judge/magistrate, forensic social worker, probation officer,

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineer, pastry chef, musician, athletic trainer, photographer, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) profiler, marine biologist, lumber company owner, amusement park creative costumer, teacher, makeup artist, pilot, and pediatrician. Two highlights included a California Highway Patrol (CHP) helicopter landing on the school's field and a Placentia Police Department K-9 demonstration.

Career Day was a great—and informative—experience for all Tuffree students as they increased the 21st-century skills needed for college and career success.



Officer Austin Martinez of the Placentia Police Department provided Tuffree students and administration with an impressive demonstration of the skills of their highly-trained K-9 unit dogs.

Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

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



James Hardin
Principal

Hope for the Future

In a continuous effort to inspire our youth to "Relentlessly Reach for their Dreams," Valadez Middle School Academy hosted its fourth Career Day event on Friday April 15.

Student data from the Kuder Navigator career-exploration program was utilized to generate invitations to the various professionals who participated. Some high-interest careers included governance, criminology, health care, engineering, mental health, education, and entertainment.

We were honored to have 30 professionals graciously volunteer their time to share 30-minute presentations with the students, which included information about their education, training, challenges, fulfillment in their career paths, and advice for youth as they prepare for the future. Additionally, many students were received tangible reminders of their career exploration, such as dental goodie bags, U.S. Navy gear, Superior Court gavel pencils, and more.

A continental breakfast hosted by PTSA was provided at our meet and greet session, where teachers had an opportunity to network and exchange student learning opportunities with our honored guests.

We were especially fortunate to have Orange County Superior Court Honorable Judge Frederick P. Aguirre and Dr. Myriam B. Perez, a neonatal intensive care unit pediatrician, both former Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District students, join us. An appearance by the Ochoa Brothers/Ochoa Boyz added a tremendous inspirational flare for students and staff. The culmination was a performance by Mary Desmond, an American Idol finalist, who sang about overcoming challenges and maintaining hope for the future.

The day was a tremendous success.

Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Gold Ribbon Award

John O. Tynes School celebrated its Open House event last week with a grand announcement: our school, along with several others in the district, has been honored with the Gold Ribbon Schools Award for its outstanding reading intervention program!

In the past two years we have improved our reading score from 58 to 75 percent of readers at grade level, which is an increase of 17 percent as measured by the district reading assessment.

We are so proud of our students, staff, and parents for accepting this challenge and then going above and beyond. Studies show that reading is the No. 1 factor in student success. We are serious about each of our students becoming successful and productive citizens.

We are also proud of our high expectations and rigorous academic program. Each year we set new goals for continuous improvement, and always strive to exceed them. We are thrilled to receive such an honor!



Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



Rick Lopez
Principal

Academic Competition Teams Excel

Valencia High School has had a banner year in academic competition!

Our Academic Decathlon team competed in Division 1 and won first place in the Super Quiz and second place overall in the County. This advanced them to the state competition in Sacramento.

The Science Olympiad team competed and captured fifth place in Orange County, which qualified them to advance to the state competition at Cal Tech. Our Chemistry Olympiad team

competed and captured second place in Orange County, and is proud to have two students advance to the National Competition.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Show Your STARS!

Roadrunners proudly announce that we've received the California Gold Ribbon Award. For the past five years, Van Buren has worked together as a community to implement a positive-behavior system that teaches students the necessary skills for school achievement and creates a positive school culture as well. This resulted in our schoolwide STARS behavior system.

Van Buren STARS strive to be Safe, There and Ready, Act responsibly, be Respectful, and Show Compassion across our campus. Students earn STARS Bucks and STARS Cards for daily demonstrating STARS at school. On the playground, in the hallways, in the restrooms, in assemblies and in classrooms, teachers and school staff watch

carefully for students demonstrating STARS and eagerly reward this behavior. The result has been a positive place for learning and individual effort.

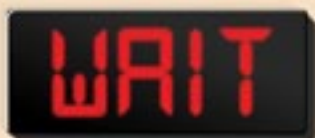
Congratulations, Van Buren community, for having created this award-winning program. We challenge members of the Placentia and Yorba Linda communities to get out there and show your STARS!



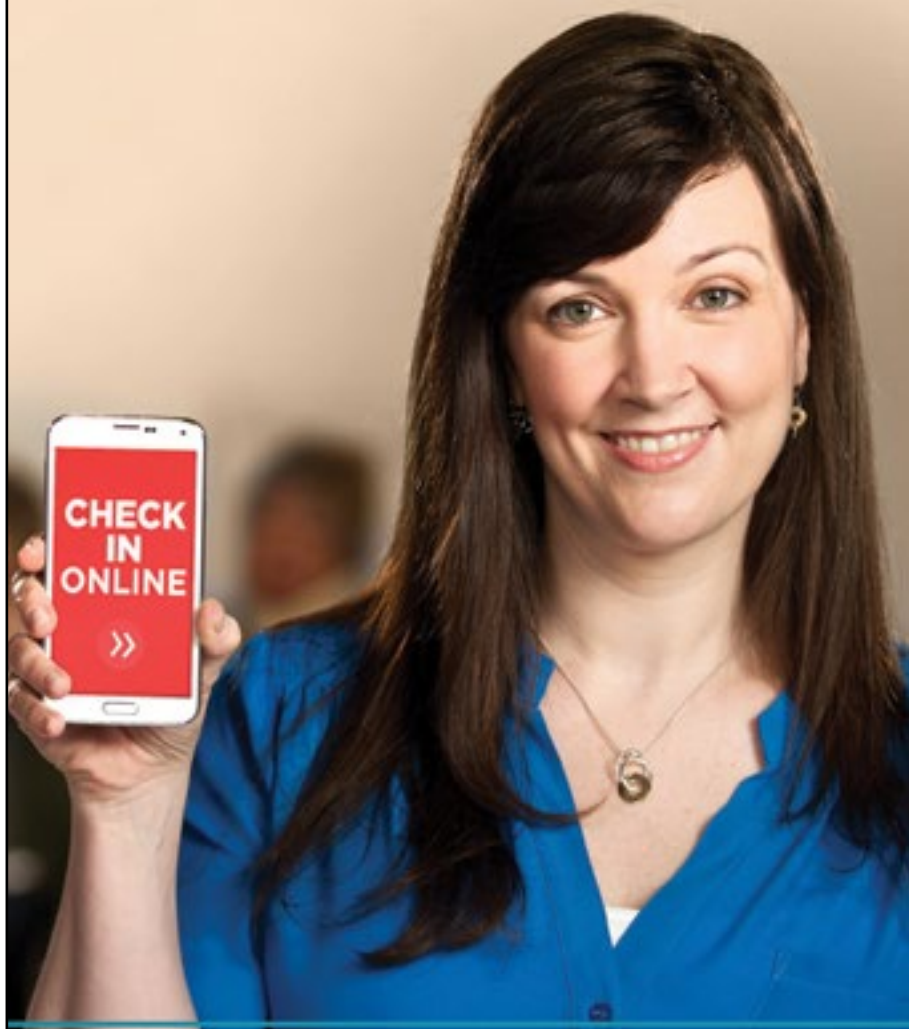
Valencia's inaugural CyberPatriot team is off to a great start too! They won first place in the Gold Tier West Region. Our Robotics Team "TiGears" also hosted the FIRST Robotics Orange County Regional competition and advanced to the quarterfinals.

We are proud of our students and coaches for their dedication to excellence. Go, Tigers!

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Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Patrick Brown
Principal

We're the Tops

How many of you have fond memories of playing a fierce game of kickball in elementary school? Did you know that kickball was invented around 1917 by Nicholas C. Seuss in Cincinnati, Ohio? Kickball is truly an all-American game!

The third-graders at Wagner School are currently participating in a kickball tournament at lunch recess. But this is not your traditional kickball tournament. In this tournament the students receive points not just for winning, but also for showing good sportsmanship, being positive role models, and practicing the Wagner Ways of being "ready, respectful, responsible and safe."

So following the rules, using encouraging words, being positive, being on time, and returning equipment after the game are just as important as who scores the most points.

Individual students who demonstrate these behaviors during a game also receive Wagner Bucks, which are good for a trip to a treasure box full of prizes. Each week of the tournament an "Athlete of the Week" is also announced. This is a special student who has had a standout performance both on and off the field. The grand prize of the tournament is an ice cream party for the winning team!

This tournament was planned as part of Wagner's PBIS plan to encourage its students to engage in fun and friendly competition. Wagner would like to thank Devon Rodriguez, an instructional aide in Megan Cardinal's special education class, for the time and energy she has contributed to this event.

Wagner is proud to announce that two of our teachers have been recognized for excellent and outstanding teaching. Sixth-grade teacher Peggy Mendez was honored as the Outstanding Elementary Theater Educator of the Year by the Orange County Music and Arts Administrators. Kindergarten teacher Joan Brewer was also named Top Teacher of 2016 by Orange County Parenting Magazine.

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Cameron Malotte
Principal

The Reasons Behind the Honor

For the 12th straight year, the Yorba Linda Middle School activities programs recently received a prestigious award from the California Association of Student Leaders. The notification letter from CASL stated in part, "As California's official representative body for student leaders, our interest is in identifying and highlighting schools whose leadership programs are extraordinarily successful in their mission to foster an inclusive and supportive school culture. After reviewing the self-study prepared by your leadership class, it is our pleasure to name Yorba Linda Middle School among the finalists for the California Association of Student Leaders' Outstanding Leadership Program Award, an honor presented to only 5% of eligible schools."

Our leadership program is multifaceted. The ASB Leadership class, taught by Mrs. Holt, is the umbrella organization under which the other classes operate. That is the class that provides activities, assemblies, dances, spirit days and much, much more. Under that umbrella, we have WEB (Where Everybody Belongs), taught by Mrs. Taylor, whose main goal is to provide a welcoming climate for our sixth-graders. GET (Get Everyone Together) helps sponsor various activities and recognition programs. BCTV (Bobcat Television) provides morning announcements, public-service announcements and special presentations. Get and BCTV are also taught by Mrs. Holt. Finally, the journalism and yearbook class, taught by Mrs. Hinson, rounds out the field.

These groups do so much more than what is listed here, and they are very deserving of this recognition.

Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Saturday School Newspaper Project

Reading, writing, researching and creativity are important at Woodsboro! Nearly 70 students showed up on a Saturday for four hours to read, write, research and be creative.

Students from kindergarten through sixth grade wrote and illustrated articles about topics they researched on their Chromebooks and electronically submitted them to the editors. Two sixth-grade boys, the editors and creators of Woodsboro World—the first electronic elementary school newspaper in Southern California—put their minds together and created the idea of an electronic newspaper. They hosted the Saturday school and were supported by the sixth-grade GATE teacher and parent volunteers. As students submitted their stories and articles to Josiah Chung and Arjun Patel, they were read aloud to all of the students and the authors were recognized.

It was thrilling to see the enthusiasm of students researching, writing, and discussing topics that they were learning from the articles they read online. Kudos to Josiah and Arjun for the amazing leadership, demonstrated as they managed nearly 70 students through the writing process.



Arjun Patel and Josiah Chung
leading Saturday School

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

All Systems Go!

In March, Yorba Linda High School went through a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation visit. All of the extensive work conducted by the school and community over the last three years was validated with a positive visiting committee report. The visiting committee team chair, Dr. William Brinegar, gave YLHS commendations for maintaining the school's focus on the mission and action plan of the school, "Run with the STAMPEDE": being resourceful and creative, adapting strategies to support at-risk students regardless of the changing nature of available resources, and maintaining enthusiasm and support for the school's mission.

"Rarely as a visiting team chair have I been so consistently graciously treated by everyone I have encountered at a school," Dr. Brinegar stated. "The strong culture of the school and the pride the school community takes in the school and its program certainly shows."

YLHS is proud to be recognized as a model school for the work that we have done to integrate best practices for all students on a daily basis. A big thank-you goes out to the YLHS staff and Scott Mazurier, site WASC Coordinator. Go Mustangs!

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Build It Back Again



Kate Karp



I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks. *Build It Back Again* by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.

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

Lucy's Book Review

Magical!



Lucy Davis

The Land of Stories – Beyond the Kingdoms
Author: Chris Colfer



The Masked man uses a portal potion to jump from story to story to recruit a powerful army of the worst fairytale villains! Alex has been un-godmothered, so she and Conner are in trouble. No one believes her except Mother Goose. Conner, Alex and Mother Goose along with a few other friends they make along the way, follow the Masked Man through some of literature's most loved fairytales. Meanwhile, Bree discovers a family secret that you just won't believe.

The author delivers another MAGICAL book, while using different fairytales than the first three books of the Land of Stories series. The book jumps back and forth from one setting to another so you must pay attention to what's happening. For those that haven't read the first three, I encourage you to do so before reading this book.

Another five bookworms out of five, it's a brilliant read!

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



Keira's Book Nook

True Friends Stick Together



Keira

I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906
By Lauren Tarshis

The I Survived books are a *New York Times* best seller series. I loved this book about Leo, Morris and Wilkie, the main characters who lived through a disastrous earthquake in San Francisco. Wilkie and Fletch are two bullies who torment Leo, but when Wilkie gets buried under a pile of bricks, Leo and his friend Morris realize nobody deserves to die, and they save the bully Wilkie. When Wilkie finds out his supposed “friend” Fletch leaves him to die, he becomes friends with Leo and Morris who saved him.

This book is about how true friends always stick together no matter what. In difficult times is when you find out who your friends really are. I found this book to be really interesting.

I give it 5 out of 5 apples!



Keira Fukuwa is a fourth grader. Besides reading, she enjoys soccer, jazz dance, crafts and cooking. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 the best.

Have a fun summer and remember to include the library among your activities!

Growing Up—Summer Vacation



Jodie Lynn

Q. We are hoping to possibly go on a vacation this summer where there are activities just for the kids. Our children are both girls ages 10 and 12. The oldest has begun to pull away from her younger sister and we are afraid she will not want her hanging around her on the trip, particularly during the activities. How much should we allow the oldest to do on her own?

A: It sounds like your oldest daughter is perhaps striving to become a little more independent from not only her younger sister, but also from you and your husband. This is a perfectly normal development that most kids her age go through, especially if she is close to turning 13. Before deciding on your summer vacation destination, read as much material as possible about the activities offered for kids. It should have a breakdown pertaining to age and gender, an in-depth description and where it takes place, including a specific schedule for each. Depending on the oldest girl's maturity level and what grade she will be in for the fall, she could meet the criteria of activities geared for the middle-school age range. It is important that you and the kids are satisfied and that the activities are fun for each one. For example, if somewhere you are considering for your vacation sounds great for one but not so much for the other, keep looking until you can find a more balanced plan for both. This way, they will both feel appreciated and comfortable with what is being offered for them individually. If the brochure or online information does not answer all of your questions, there may be a toll-free number to call to ask more questions or an online form you can use to contact customer service.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Anaheim Surf Soccer Club



Anaheim Surf is a proud franchise of arguably the best soccer club in the country, San Diego Surf Soccer Club. We are excited to provide an environment of mastering the game and offer our players the opportunity to participate in ECNL, EGSL and the US Developmental Academy programs. Our teams play in the Southern California Developmental Soccer League. Anaheim Surf will be entering it's 19th year of existence under the direction of the Club Founder and Club Director Eddie Carrillo we are excited about the upcoming season. We are a strong competitive club that continues to grow and thrive with the focus to develop solid players on and off the soccer field. Through the years our Alumni has grown strong and our players have become collegiate players.

Train with us, see for yourself www.anaheimsurf.com

Club Directors

Eddie Carrillo— Club Director: Anaheim Surf was founded and has been under the direction of Eddie Carrillo since 1998. Eddie is currently the Director of Coaching at Chapman University. Eddie has over 25 years of coaching experience with both men and women at the College, High School and Club levels. Eddie is a math teacher in the OUSD and resides in Anaheim Hills area.

Jose Vasquez— Club Technical Director: Former LA Galaxy and Hall of Fame Inductee. Jose has been an icon in the soccer community. His experience playing professional soccer in Mexico and the United States will be an incredible asset to all of our Anaheim Surf players. Jose is currently the Men's Soccer Coach at Santa Ana College.

Rob Viviano— Boys Youth Director: Rob brings over 7 years of coaching experience to Anaheim Surf. He is a former player at St. Louis University, won a U18 National Championship. Coached at McKendree University and is currently the Asst. Coach at Chapman University.

Brent Whitfield— Girls Youth Director: Former Chivas USA and Cal State Fullerton player is now part of the Surf family. Brent played four years at Cal State Fullerton where he earned all-conference honors during his junior and senior years'. He played professionally in the USL with the Seattle Sounders and in the MLS with Chivas USA during the 2006 season. Brent comes to us with a “B” coaching licenses and has coached at the professional, college, high school and club levels.

Bob Ammann— Club Goal Keeper Coach: Bob played soccer from 1987-94. College years he played for Cal State Fullerton, 1983-86. Bob was the Head Men's Soccer Coach, Cal State Fullerton, 1995-2005. Anaheim Surf is very fortunate to have a designated Goal Keeper Coach that will train and develop our club players that aspire to play at the highest level in the Goal.



Take Time to Thank a Teacher



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

When I remember my fourth-grade teacher, I see a woman with strawberry-blond hair wearing a prim dress. In my mind, she bears a close resemblance to the character Ethel Mertz from “I Love Lucy.”

But Mrs. Crane’s class was no sitcom. She was strict and task-oriented, and her students learned quickly that acting out would not be tolerated. At first we feared her. As time wore on, we feared disappointing her.

With May designated as National Teacher Appreciation Month, it’s a fitting time to celebrate all the educators who inspire and support students, and who drive learning forward by nurturing their aspirations as well as their aptitudes. It’s important, too, to recognize those who have shaped our own lives. This column is about one in particular.

Mrs. Crane might seem an unusual nominee for favorite teacher. By today’s standards, she wouldn’t be perceived as especially warm or affable. But she showed love in other ways, teaching us with patience and holding us to the highest of expectations, no matter our socioeconomic backgrounds. And when she did flash a smile or send a compliment in your direction, it was currency.

By the time I reached the fourth grade at Eastman Elementary School in Los Angeles, my family had moved many times, and I honestly wasn’t sure if I liked school. But something changed in that portable classroom building out on the Eastman blacktop, where many of us trekked from a nearby housing project.

Not once did Mrs. Crane express pity or make us feel like we were less than capable. Investing whatever time was necessary, she guided the class through the fundamentals of reading, teaching us to attack words with passion and vigor. We were going to spell these new words, pronounce them correctly and read them in context, and that was that.

Her patience and persistence solidified my ability to read that year, but her impact on my life goes much deeper. Mrs. Crane helped instill a love of learning, and her work opened my mind to receive inspiration from other great educators. That long list includes Mr. Massey, a gregarious junior high school social science teacher who acted out the parts of historical figures, and Mr. Purcell, a 10th-grade biology teacher who saw potential and encouraged me to pursue college.

Very recently, I was having a conversation about favorite teachers, and I was asked if I ever returned to Mrs. Crane as an adult to tell her of the profound impact she’s had on my life. Sadly, the answer is no. Sometime after transitioning grade levels and changing schools, I lost track of my fourth-grade teacher.

In this month dedicated to honoring teachers, I hope you will learn from my missed opportunity. Tell your favorite teachers — and your children’s favorite teachers — how much they mean to you. And to Mrs. Crane, and all of the Mrs. Cranes out there who have dedicated their lives to making a difference in the lives of children, holding them to nothing short of the highest standards, let me take this moment to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ships 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 June 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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FERRY	REPAIR	YACHT
FREIGHTER	SUBMARINES	



A Page-Turner



Isabella A.

Flexible Veda Stamps' first novel. The main Summer, wants swim team, but are in the military around often. finally on a team, if she wants to



Wings is full-length character, to be on a her parents and move When she's she doubts participate. is deployed! come while Summer with her up she throws becomes a to breath does get

To make matters worse, her mom Dad says that Grandma would Summer's mom is gone. Soon, makes new friends, but fights younger sister, Emiko. To make a surprise party! But the party disaster when Emiko is unable because of a bee sting. Emiko better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!

I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Positive Parenting

Prepare Children for Success



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

When you are taking a child or children outside of the home, you need to be pro-active, "We are going into a restaurant for dinner. You need to walk with us in the restaurant, use your quiet inside voice at the table, stay at the table, and eat your dinner with a fork. Anyone who breaks a rule, will (get a penny in my Minute Drill System on Parentingsos.com or) be in the Penalty Box for 5 minutes when we go home to watch a movie together." Call in your order ahead of time to minimize waiting time.

I was waiting to go on a boat to Catalina Island and the father ahead of me squatted down with his four small children. He gave each of them something to carry, told them to follow him to the baggage section and to wait for him to lead them to a seat. When they were aboard the ship and he thanked his children, I offered, "I like how you prepared them for success. High five, Dad!" He gave me five and smiled, "I learned it from you!" He had read my books.

Children need to know what you expect of them. Acknowledge that the child listened and participated positively. "We all got on the boat easily, high five for helping." Children want to be valued and appreciated--and they respond to favorable comments with more favorable behavior.

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



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Congratulations Class of 2016!

A Bit of History

Music to the Ears

By D.H. Coop

I do not know exactly when music became important to me. It may have been on the ride in the car back from Valley Forge in 1949 with my mother, uncle, aunt and grandparents singing “Home on the Range.” Or it may have been the radio shows of the day, such as *The Lone Ranger*, whose theme was from the *William Tell Overture*, or *The Green Hornet* and the theme “Flight of the Bumblebee.” It could have been the two blocks of wood with sandpaper on them that I made music with in the first grade.

I do know that music made life enjoyable and that it became markers for events in my life. Elvis takes me back to the mid-fifties, Hank Williams to the lonely mornings in the fields, and Jack Benny to radio and television when families sat listening together to the same shows. Jack Benny would always get a laugh with his poor violin playing when in reality he was an accomplished violinist.

The truth is, music is good for our soul. For many of us, our music studio is in our bathtub or shower. What would humanity be without music and the teachers that pass the knowledge on to others? It is difficult to imagine a world without music.

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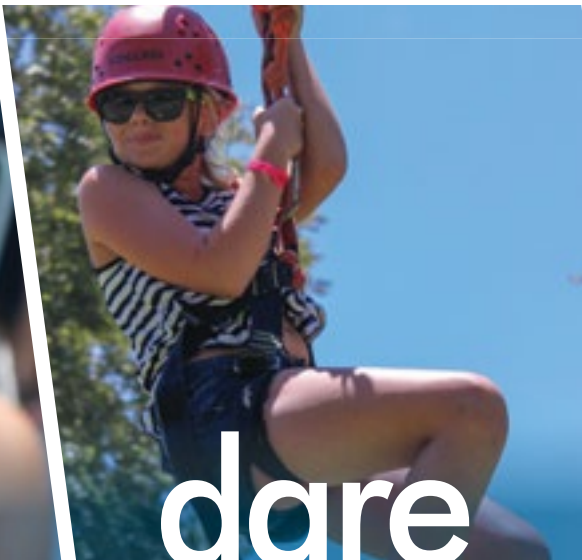
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