

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 27

MAY 2017

Journalism is Alive and Well

By Doug Schultz,
Public and Media Relations

Bernardo Yorba's online student newspaper proves that journalism is alive and well

Journalism isn't dead – it's just gone online for a new, worldwide audience.

Seventh and eighth grade reporters and editors at Bernardo Yorba Middle School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) produce a daily online newspaper, *The Matador Messenger*.

The Matador Messenger is the first middle school School Newspaper Online (SNO) publication in Orange County, as well as the first in PYLUSD. It is published daily throughout the school year.

The Bernardo Yorba journalism



Bernardo Yorba journalism students working in the Matador Messenger room.

class is taught by Mrs. Christine Perez, a language arts instructor. The course was created five years ago to fill a need for a new English elective.

Today, students work diligently to find topics of interest, from campus events to worldwide news. With an average of over 6,000 readers a month, readers come from Australia to Siberia, Chile to London, and everywhere in between.

In an era of "fake news," the student-reporters are taught to research using multiple sources. They reach out and conduct interviews with experts,

entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, coaches, athletes, musicians, and community members.

They are also taught to write article in a journalistic style, using correct format and structure.

Campus coverage includes profiling every new student on campus, all clubs, awards, performances, and assemblies, as well as a focus feature on a "Student of the Week" for every subject area multiple times throughout the year.

Most importantly, these young journalists are transformed by the process of research, interviewing, writing, editing, and publishing. They are no longer just students in a journalism class – they are published authors with a worldwide audience, empowered by possibilities.

To read their latest articles, visit www.matadormessenger.com.

The Echo Chamber



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Superintendent

Did you hear that hammering noise? Yes, they are starting to assemble the diploma stages for all of our graduations! The end of each school year is always filled with a special energy and excitement for the celebration of our students, teachers, and families. It brings with it a time to reflect on the amazing accomplishments of our students as they take that last step off of the graduation stage and simultaneously stride into a new life adventure...and their records of achievement highlight their readiness for the journey.

As I reflect on the year and that "readiness for the journey," I am immediately connected to the high-quality teaching and learning that pours into our classrooms each school day. The importance of providing a diversity of classroom settings is becoming even more vital as we enter a new age of technology and learning. Recently, I was able to hear a speech by world-renowned photographer Platon. If you have a moment, I would encourage you to visit his website or see one of his thoughtful presentations on YouTube (Platonphoto.com).

Sitting in the audience, I was drawn to his powerful photographic talents. From world leaders to entertainers, his list of portraits was quite impressive. But as much as his visible talent was on display with engaging portraits, it was his words describing our world that moved me to think even more deeply about our classrooms. Although we were too enthralled to even share whispers during his presentation, we all made the same connection to his sage words and the importance of our classrooms.

Platon spoke about our daily world becoming an "echo chamber" of ideas. In other words (and his words are more eloquent) our digital-based society has allowed for people to read or listen to only the opinions and facts they want to

hear. If I were to have a particular ideology, then I could arrange to receive only those tweets, subscribe to those RSS Feeds, and even just TiVo those programs that fit my thoughts. He said it was just too easy to live in a silo of thought. Thus, the "echo chamber" is born.

This is where our classrooms must play a pivotal and vital role in the future of our students. The classroom should always represent an environment that is built for a diversity of both thoughts and expressions. A setting for students to challenge that "echo chamber" of what they might be reading or hearing from a single digital source. As author Carol Dweck would describe, the classroom will be their opportunity to resist a "fixed mindset" and instead build and live in a "growth mindset," a definite "must" to find the success our students will seek on that newly minted path after graduation.

Wishing our entire school community all the very best as we once again prepare for final exams and get ready to honor the age-old tradition of graduation.

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Covering the
**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



We are at the end of another successful school year for PYLUSD. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue, you will read about the AVID field trip, Battle of the Books, Team America Rocket Challenge, SPARKS, the Science Club, giving back to the community, and so much more...

Our next issue is November 2nd.



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Julie Nibali
President

The ShamRock 'n Run fully funds the Middle School Track Meet. This year's meet was held on April 5th and over 340 students from our 6 middle schools participated in this high school caliber Track and Field Meet. This event was hosted by Yorba Linda High School's Track & Field Team. We are grateful for Coach Gomez, the booster group and their students for their time and talent.



Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

Two recent REACH Foundation events brought out the best in the Bernardo Yorba Middle School community. Shamrock-n-Run hysteria "ran" wild on campus as teachers, students, and staff helped to promote this important community event. There were incentives for students and staff to participate. Assistant principal Mr. Marshall dressed up in his Irish kilt and challenged the school community to make a difference by attending the run. Activities director Mr. Kish and campus supervisor Tina Cusiter donned matador and bull costumes respectively to rally the school to sign up for the run, and the response was a whopping 150 participants!



The REACH Foundation Middle School Track Meet was another big event for Bernardo. Bernardo fielded the largest contingent of athletes this year, with close to 120 participants. Three-time Paralympic gold medalist Bin Hou inspired the athletes with a special assembly the day before the meet. At the meet, the Matador spirit was evident all over the stadium!

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Spring has Sprung!
A walk through the classrooms and around campus at Brookhaven this spring quickly reveals that students are learning and growing! Our students and staff have been aflutter with learning, activities, events, projects and experiences. Many events that make Brookhaven special have taken place, beginning with kindergarten holding its 17th annual Fairy Tale Ball. The students, accompanied by their parents, dressed for the Ball and danced the night away! Our third-graders had the pleasure of performing their annual play, "Vacation to Mars," on the big stage at the PAC. In fifth grade, our students researched a state, made a hat or a rolling float, and held a schoolwide parade with student narrators sharing information about each state. Our GATE students have continued their enrichment, participating in our Brilliant Bears GATE Academy. The two most recent after-school sessions had our students participating in a mock trial and then learning some improv and acting skills! In March, over 100 students performed and showed us their talents in our schoolwide play, *Press Start*, directed by El Dorado's own Kathleen Switzer! All of our students and teachers shined at our Open House held the first week in April.

Yes, our students are definitely blossoming as spring has sprung! Go Bears!

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

Small Steps Towards Success
El Camino students Yohana Ayala, Israel Aranda, and Nerses Nercessian have many reasons to be proud of their accomplishments. From El Salvador, Mexico and Lebanon to America, the transition has not been without challenges. Not only has language acquisition been a struggle, but each student has had to deal with their own unique challenges as well. Yohana has overcome the loss of family. Israel has been separated from family and works hard both at school and at home. Nerses has had to deal with missing his extended family and his homeland. These three amazing students have persevered, despite obstacles, and are each reaping the rewards that come with grit and determination. The road ahead still has its challenges, but Yohana, Israel, and Nerses have overcome against all odds.



Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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




Dominique Polchow
Principal

Colonial Day
Each year, Bryant Ranch 5th graders travel back in time to the colonial era and participate in a living history, day-long event, known as Colonial Day. Our 5th grade teachers prep and plan for hands-on workshops, giving students a true taste of early America. Teachers, students and parent volunteers come decked out in proper colonial attire to further set the stage for the day. With the help of parent volunteers, students rotate through interactive stations that include crafts, trades, games, food, and daily chores of early America. From candle making to tinning, doll making and dancing, students are brought back to the colonial time period gaining an awareness of our nation's past and gaining an appreciation for life in another time period. This engaging and interactive experience is one that students forever remember!



Teachers See the Possibilities

In Jennifer Swanson's high school English class, seniors master material that prepares them for college and careers, gaining writing and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



Arroyo High School, Expository English Class, Teacher: Jennifer Swanson '96, M.A.Ed. '99

Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

State Leadership Conference
Esperanza High School took 46 MSA students to Sacramento to compete in the SLC (State Leadership Conference) with roughly 4,000 students from all over California. EHS completed the competition with 5 students scoring in the top 3 to win medals and advance to Nationals. In addition to the medalists, 8 others were recognized on stage for placing in the top 5 in State. Congratulations Aztecs, good luck at Nationals!!!
Silver Medal-Medical Spelling: Emily Pandhi
Bronze Medals-Creative Problem Solving: Samantha Assad, Jamie Lima-Sabtini, Diego Roque and Nathan Wilch
Esperanza Men's Basketball team is CIF Division 2 State Champions. The Aztecs competed in the State Finals on Sat, March 25th against Moreau Catholic at Golden 1 Arena in Sacramento. The Aztecs defeated Moreau Catholic 72-65 earning Esperanza their first State Championship in Men's Basketball.



HOSA medal winners at SLC with Teacher Valerie Easton.

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El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

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



Joey Davis
Principal

Some Fine Recognitions

El Dorado is proud to have one of three PYLUSD Teachers of the Year as part of its staff. That's because Ms. Tiffany Badger was recently named PYLUSD High School Teacher of the Year! Ms. Badger teaches ELD and AVID at EDHS. She is incredibly innovative, and demonstrates her caring attitude towards our students every day. She was also selected by the U.S. Department of Education to visit Morocco last year as part of the Teachers for a Global Classroom program.

Earlier this year Ms. Badger was even featured as a TED-Ed Innovative Educator. She is clearly an amazing teacher and El Dorado is lucky to have her!

Also recently you may have heard that our EDHS Cheer program traveled to Florida for a national competition. The girls competed in and won their fourth consecutive national championship under the direction of Mrs. Bowers. We would like to congratulate all of the girls over the past four years who contributed to this awesome achievement.



George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Happiest Place—Anywhere!

A certain theme park we could mention has nothing on us! If you want to visit the Happiest Place on Earth, look no further than the classrooms at George Key School. Whether in circle time with Ms. Patti or cooking time with Ms. Kathy, the students are all smiles!

Here are some of the greatest accomplishments at George Key this year: Reiyan has increased his communication and can say the Pledge of Allegiance. Kason is showing greater control over his arms when working. Diego is now writing his name. James is walking without a walker and with just a gait belt. Nicole has shown an increase in her social behavior and is seeking to engage with others. Alfred can self-adjust his body when in his wheelchair. Everett is now sitting independently and completing work tasks. Briana can recognize safe and unsafe situations, and is transitioning with a visual schedule. Moorea is starting to communicate her wants and needs, using a communication device. Dominick is starting to have conversations using his communication device as well. Cynthia is showing greater independence using a stove—with close supervision—for cooking. Jose is now opening and breaking down boxes independently at his work site. Isaac has shown a great increase in following directions. Alta is demonstrating consistent independent transitions from classroom activities.

The staff at George Key could not be more proud of the great accomplishments of our students!

Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Falcon Fun Zone!

In addition to the selection of playground activities, Fairmont students can visit the Falcon Fun Zone during morning recess. They come with Pride Cards in hand, anxious to trade them in for a reward listed on the Fun Zone menu. Students earn and collect Pride Cards by demonstrating good choices. When a student is Prepared, Respectful, Inclusive, Diligent or Engaged, any staff member can reinforce good behavior by handing the student a Pride Card.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a new program to Fairmont this year and has contributed to the many smiles throughout the campus. The PBIS team of teachers—Deana Thelen, Lisa Smith, Jennifer Jacobson, Judy Furmin and Alexa Escobedo—have led the Falcons to



greater success and have helped create a positive, engaging atmosphere throughout the school. The Falcons recently held grade-level assemblies where they reset their commitment to demonstrating PRIDE in all they do.

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Investing in our Future

When I think about a school site, it is amazing how many people are involved in creating a positive, fun, and rigorous learning environment for the students we serve. I would like to take notice of the people who are making Glenknoll Elementary School a great place to learn!

Our supportive staff of secretaries, custodians, aides, noon-supervisors, and others are making a difference at Glenknoll. Often, these faces are among the first you may interact with. Each of these representatives works diligently, sometimes behind the scenes, to make the campus run smoothly. Their interaction sets the tone, and it has been amazing to see their positivity rub off on others.

Glenknoll's teaching staff is among the best. They are enthusiastic individuals who share a passion for educating children and are committed to using data and best teaching practices to make a difference in their teaching and in student learning.

Our PTA is filled with amazing, hardworking parents who volunteer countless hours to raise money to support Glenknoll's programs. Our recent jog-a-thon was an amazing success. We raised over \$10,000 dollars for our school! Thank you, PTA! Through fund-raising efforts, PTA helps to bring many educational opportunities to our school, including assemblies, art, books for our library, and funding for field trips.

The ground work for student success and responsibility starts in the home. For that, I thank our hardworking and supportive community, which definitely contributes to making a difference in the lives of the students at Glenknoll.

My challenge for you is to take a moment to thank someone who has made a difference in your life this year. I want to personally thank all of our stakeholders for welcoming me to Glenknoll this year and for making a difference in the lives of our students.

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

Science Innovation in Action!

Glenview scholars in grades third through sixth have received the opportunity to apply 21st century skills of critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity with engaging science education in a brand new STEM lab.

In a STEM Missions lab, students do not only learn science concepts and vocabulary, they experience hands-on nature of science and engineering while incorporating technology, math and language arts. In addition, students are exposed to various career connections in each mission through related reading, writing, math and science extension activities. Some of the many Missions completed so far this year are Matter, Motion, Energy, Circuits and Ecosystems where students work in teams of four in roles as the Commander, Materials



Specialist, Information Specialist and Communication Specialist, together as a crew to explore challenging science concepts in each assigned mission. The goal by the end of the year students will have completed 7 to 8 missions with teamwork and focus!

Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

Fun Connections

Kraemer Middle School is constantly seeking new ways to connect with students. We believe that young people who are a part of the campus life beyond merely going to classes will benefit in many ways, including earning better grades, having stronger self-esteem, and enjoying an overall more positive school experience. On top of the wealth of traditional school programs offered, we also seek out interesting, alternative opportunities for students. This is best accomplished during the school's PRIDE period—a 30-minute period in the middle of the day when students can choose which class to attend. This year, some of the fun and non-traditional ways students have connected to school have been in the Kraemer “test kitchen,” the Rock and Blues Band, and yoga sessions.

Kraemer's cafeteria lead, Vicki Self, takes time away from her busy schedule to organize a weekly PRIDE class, where students make and then taste fun, new, nutritious items that they can easily make at home. These classes are always very well attended, and the students are surprised to learn how much they enjoy the healthy food options.

Another fun connection is the Kraemer Rock and Blues Band. Led by physical education teacher Scott Morris (who moonlights as a blues band member), this garage-style band is an assembly of students interested in jamming together. Students of all experience levels bring their instruments and voices, and together they come up with tunes to play. The band regularly hosts lunchtime concerts for our school.

Kraemer students also have an opportunity to take yoga classes during PRIDE. What began as an activity during physical education is now something students choose to do during the day. Trained yoga instructor Karla Jones leads students through breathing exercises and basic poses as she helps students focus on mindfulness and relaxation.

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

‘Seussical Jr.’ Creates Community

Imagine a classroom with students ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. They sing, and dance, and act, and they learn about following dreams, friendship, loyalty and community.

For Golden Elementary School students, that classroom was the school play, *Seussical Jr.* Over 200 students ranging in ages from kindergarten to sixth grade journeyed together through the land of Seuss, navigating rehearsals among the homework assignments, baseball games and piano practices. In March, magic happened while these newfound friends worked in synergy to present an amazing performance.



Golden Elementary students develop multi-grade friendships performing Seussical Jr.

Even after the play was over, friendships remained. Kindergartener Peter Rasic was overheard saying as a fifth-grade student crossed the playground, “Look! It’s Mr. Mayor!” The play was an awesome display of the incredible talent Golden students have, but more importantly, it fed the soul of the Golden Eagle community.

La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

An Excellent Alternative

La Entrada High School (LEHS) is an award winning independent study program in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Students at LEHS complete 20–25 hours of coursework each week independently and attend weekly meetings and classes on campus for a few hours per week.

Advantages of the La Entrada program include the rigorous courses approved by the University of California to meet A–G requirements. Students also benefit from an individualized program tailored to fit their needs. They focus on one class at a time, completing a class every four weeks. La Entrada weekly due dates facilitate flexibility; students can work whenever and wherever suits them best! Students attend weekly appointments with highly qualified teachers and may come in more often when they need assistance. Students attend small workshop classes to boost skills in communication, collaboration, and technical skills.

Teachers work with students individually and form strong mentoring relationships. The school counselor leads frequent workshops on topics such as time management, coping with stress and anxiety, and strategies for college and career success.

LEHS students are also eligible for enrollment at their high schools of residence. This is encouraged for lab sciences, physical education, foreign language, and performing arts classes. Students may also participate in extracurricular activities at their high schools of residence.

Concurrent enrollment at the local community college is encouraged for LEHS juniors and seniors. These students may earn both high school and college credit for some courses. Motivated students may qualify for early graduation by taking advantage of concurrent enrollment opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about La Entrada High School, visit us online at laentradahighschool.org. Live the dream!

Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*
17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lak-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Katherine Dailey
Principal

A Positive School Culture

Mindfulness is being aware of our attention to this moment in time. The students and staff members at Lakeview Elementary School have been working hard to help us reinforce our many “mindfulness moments” during the school day.

What this means is that we create time during the instructional day to take deep breaths, have brain breaks, create moments for happiness and success, show more gratitude, and just take care of each other. When we practice mindful moments at Lakeview, we pause, reflect, and work to slow the rigor of the instructional day down just a bit in order to emphasize the feeling of “paws-itivity.”

Our Lion Pride student leadership team recently visited the classrooms to help model for their peers, at all grade levels, this important practice of mindfulness. They did so in order to help them gain confidence and be more successful at school each day.

Along with mindfulness, we are also striving to pass on more gratitude. Creating an environment of reflection and positivity is a process. It is what we are committed to in order to help our students feel happy and safe each day. Although there will be days when an incident may occur, or learning may be challenging, providing a sense of being mindful of our responses and actions can empower us to increase the positive culture we want for our school.

As the proud principal of Lakeview Elementary, I would like to extend my gratitude to those students who welcome me each day with hugs, high fives, kind words, and smiles. Thank you to our hardworking PTA as well, and to all of the parents who support our students in their learning.

Thank you also to our teachers and staff members. They do amazing things each day, often unseen or noticed, to help ensure a positive learning environment.

Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*
974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • www.me-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

For the Love of Science

Our Melrose staff has been working on improving educational outcomes for all students, including our 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 our students in science. Grade levels have worked with live goldfish, baby chicks, snails, crayfish, butterflies, plants, chemicals, and science and marine field trips.



We kicked off the spring season 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 of these 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 instruction. Science is alive at Melrose!

Linda Vista *Elementary (K-6)*
5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lve-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Positive Behavior

Our students and staff are springing into action at Linda Vista! The beginning of March marked the official launch of Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a school-wide system of supports that is designed to enhance the overall school climate and increase our students' social, emotional, and academic success. Using a proactive approach, our behavior expectations are clearly taught, and students are regularly rewarded for doing the right thing. Targeted interventions are also established, and decisions are made based upon data.

Our staff came up with the following PBIS Mission Statement: “We, the Linda Vista family, strive to create a safe and nurturing environment that promotes kind words and actions, high academic expectations, and personal growth.”

Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*
4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.mabelpaine.org



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Poetry Café

In honor of National Poetry Month, Mrs. McNall's 3rd graders spent the month of April studying and writing poetry. To celebrate their finished pieces, Mrs. McNall opened a Poetry Cafe and invited parents and other family members to hear her students recite their poetry in an authentic café setting. Since poetry is about the rhythm and the phrasing of the words, the best way for it to be truly appreciated is to be read aloud.

For the big event, our multipurpose room was transformed into our Poetry Cafe. Tables were covered with black tablecloths, the stage was set with lights and a microphone, and the lights were turned down low to set the mood. In addition, students were asked to dress up and wear hats in honor of the beatnik culture in which poetry readings at small coffee shops were popular.



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 held their second annual Team Kids Challenge this spring. Partnering again with the nonprofit Team Kids Inc., Orange County Fire Authority and the Placentia Police Department, 40 students met weekly for five weeks to plan and prepare three philanthropic challenges. They also created and organized a culminating carnival held for students to participate during their lunch playtime.

The Placentia Police Department and OC Fire Department joined in the fun by participating in skits during the kickoff assembly. The skits illustrated the importance of teamwork. At the carnival, they played games and even had their nails painted!



Students, PD & firefighters are enjoying the games at the student-led Carnival.

The Team Kids Leadership Team selected three challenges: write 300 letters to military troops, collect art supplies for CHOC, and collect two bins of canned foods for H.I.S. House in Placentia. Our Morse community surpassed each collection goal! The carnival raised more money than last year! These proceeds were gifted to the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation.

Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*
310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • www.riovistaschool.org



Jose Cabrera
Principal

Starting a Spark

Rio Vista Elementary School continues to search for new ways to form partnerships that strengthen our mission to promote the importance of college and career readiness. Our newest partner comes from a group of dynamic college students at Arizona State University.

SPARKS is a student-led service organization that focuses on access to higher education throughout the community. SPARKS members inspire and motivate over 8,000 K–12 students per year to pursue and succeed in higher education by sharing their personal stories.



We were fortunate to have this group engage with our fourth-grade students from Mrs. Bates' class. Through Skype, our fourth-graders ask many profound questions and asked for advice on how to get into college. A week later, SPARKS students engaged with our parents during our Coffee with the Principals meeting via Skype. They shared information about college access, scholarships, and how to motivate young students to begin thinking about college.

Parkview *Home Schooling (K–12)*
2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • www.parkviewpylusd.org



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Science Club

Discovery Science Clubs are the ultimate in science enrichment! At Parkview, this science club takes place Wednesday afternoons. This program is free to the school and very affordable for parents. Scholarships are offered to enable all students to have the opportunity to attend.

The program topics include all areas of science from physics and chemistry to space and rocketry! These one-hour programs are designed to engage all children in a safe and exciting environment that is sure to capture the imagination of children of all ages. They also incorporate character-building activities. The program includes quality building projects and activities that the children ultimately get to keep and take home!

This past session was on astronaut training and space exploration. Students held on tight as they blasted off into outer space and explored the different planets and discovered the science behind the awesome world of astronomy. Discussions included the different surfaces of the planets, whether aliens existed on other planets, and how we might survive on a planet other than Earth. Students examined rovers and probes used by NASA and then went on to design and engineer a rover of their own.

As you can see, Parkview has many budding scientists!



Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*
4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

Memories, Opportunities, and Team Building

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

February, March, and April were busy months, ones that featured our well-attended Open House and the popular Imagination Machine Assemblies. We also performed a total of nine original student stories. Our annual “Lunch with a Loved One” event and Spring Book Fair provided additional opportunities for our parents to spend precious time together, while also helping to support a life-long love of reading among our students.

The third-graders once again benefited from the generosity of the Orange County Astronomers Association and their annual Astronomy Night at Rose Drive. This great event allowed our families to view the night sky from a different perspective. Using impressive telescopes and equipment, the students could view the Moon, the planets of Jupiter and Mars, star clusters, constellations, and galaxies.

April featured the arrival of our much anticipated Aquarium of the Pacific assembly, complete with a hands-on mobile aquarium and plenty of opportunities for our students to touch a variety of sea life.

These past few months also provided plenty of time to think about others, and even give back to a good cause. Rose Drive's “Kudo's for Kindness” program continued to thrive as well, as our students could take the time to not only practice kindness but also recognize it in others. Team Roadrunners, our leadership group, led a highly successful school-wide cancer awareness campaign, which raised a total of \$501 for the CHOC.

Finally, auditions for our upcoming mini-production were also held, which provided a terrific show of interest, not to mention talent!

Looking ahead to spring, we eagerly anticipate our “Spring Sing Talent Show,” and the much anticipated mini-production of Seussical the Musical in June. While we are drawing to the end of yet another year, there is certainly no end in sight to the adventures and unlimited learning possibilities still to come.

Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

Art of Excellence
Excellence and advancement are everywhere at Ruby Drive! Over 20 parents graduated from a series of six classes held at the school. Parents learned advanced techniques and strategies to strengthen parent-child relationships. Students were proud of their parents for attending the classes and getting their certificates.

Students from all grade levels have been busy this year in all areas of the fine arts. Students learned about art based on Faith Ringgold and Andy Warhol, creating their own quilts and pop art on display at Open House. In addition, students have been using art as culminating projects across CORE subject areas. Congratulations go to Christopher Lopez, Lizzell Hernandez, George Bermejo and Kimberly Angulo for being named to the PYLUSD district



honor band. More congratulations to the Ruby Drive students asked to be in the honor choir: Elizabeth Capistrano, Larissa Valverde, Jewlyssa Meza, Genesis Ibarra, Lucas Ladu and Christian Zaragoza. Wonderful concerts!

Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

A Visit from Abraham Lincoln
Mr. Marestaing is a veteran teacher who taught at Sierra Vista Elementary School for his entire 40-year career. He retired from teaching but did not lose his passion for history—specifically, teaching about Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Marestaing has collected realia and artifacts from early American history and has brought his expertise and knowledge back to the first-graders at Sierra Vista. Students learned what a great man Abraham Lincoln was and about the great leadership he showed during the Civil War and his strong belief that all people should enjoy freedom. Students learned firsthand how people lived in the 1800s, how they chopped wood to heat their homes, the types of toys children enjoyed, and the clothing they wore.



Abraham came alive to the students while Mr. Marestaing told stories about Lincoln's life. He took on the persona of Lincoln and dressed and spoke as if he were the former president. It was a contrast of time periods when Mr. Lincoln met the robot that attended the presentation.

Thank you, Mr. Lincoln, for visiting Sierra Vista.

Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christa Borgese
Principal

Enrichment Saturday School
Together with a local church, Topaz Elementary held an exciting day of Enrichment Saturday School in March. Students from first to sixth grade participated in several fun and educational activities run by volunteers from the church and assisted by Topaz teachers.

Students made Oobleck in science class, played math games, created beautiful pieces of art, and participated in track and field competition. The students definitely enjoyed their lunch so kindly provided by food services. Almost 100 students attended this special day, and many left wanting to come back the next week.



Thanks to the popularity of the day and a request by many parents, we look forward to holding more Enrichment Saturday School sessions in the future. A big thank-you to the church, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Bermudez, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Lek and Mrs. Bishop for all your hard work for this fun day!

Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Exceeding Expectations
Spring is in the air, and our Tynes Elementary School Tigers are learning more than ever! Our students are working hard to meet and exceed reading goals. We are on track to have more than 80 percent of our students reading at grade level by the end of the year. We are so proud of our students who have made remarkable progress! This is a great accomplishment and a tribute to the hard work, focus, and determination of the students, staff, and community.

In addition to reading, our upper=grade students are writing using primary and secondary documents and integrating social science and language arts. These advanced reading and writing skills are foundational for life and will be critical for college and career.



Technology continues to be a huge focus for us as well, with students having access to computers every day. Students use technology for daily projects, including at Open House displays, Science Night projects, and our yearbook.

With a positive mindset, all of our students are gaining great learning experiences!

Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



Susan Metcalf
Principal

Giving Back to the Community
Our Travis Ranch teachers, students, and parents believe in serving the community by engaging in local and global projects. Our efforts are led by teachers who dedicate countless hours as volunteer club advisers. For instance, Paola Hellwig and over 100 WE Club students collected over 3,084 canned food and hygiene items for PYLUSD's food pantry, along with 326 new socks and blankets for the Orange County Rescue Mission. They also raised \$820 for Kenyan artisans, 1000+ pasta donations for needy children served by the Anaheim White House, and \$1,599 towards a rural China water project.



Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

New Broadcasting Studio Completed!
In Tuffree's Falcon Films class, students combine advanced computer and media technology skills to produce campus-wide videotaped broadcasts and independent films and projects. While completing these broadcasts, the students learn and develop skills including cinematography, effective lighting, shot composition, camera operation, advanced computer-video editing, and many more industry related skills.

To support this program, Tuffree Middle School is finishing the process of creating a brand new production studio complete with state-of-the-art video, audio, and editing equipment. The technical and artistic skills taught through this program also support the state's visual and performing arts standards.

This course encourages learners to pursue vocations in journalism, marketing, and public broadcasting, while also supporting our feeder high school's career pathway of Arts, Media, and Entertainment. Our Falcon Films program comes to life as students are exposed to real careers in the industry, which recently included a field trip to the Walt Disney and ABC Studios in Burbank, California.



Our Junior Upcoming Medical Professionals Club, advised by Mary Chapluk, also collected over 400 items for Toys for Tots. The Athletic Club, advised by Brian Shay and Marita Buckley, collected 200 pairs of shoes benefiting the Soles-4-Soles organization. The PTA collected 1,201 books for Title I schools in the PYLUSD.

Our Trailblazers value giving back. Their efforts mirror our school's mission of “positively contributing to our local and global community.”

Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

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



James Hardin
Principal

The Rocketry Team

The Valadez Middle School Academy Rocketry Team, led by teacher Jeff Schumerth, has been hard at work since last June designing and flying their model rocket for the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC).

TARC is the world's largest student rocket contest. Teams from across the country must fly their rockets as close to 750 feet as possible, land between 41 and 43 seconds, and bring back down its payload — a raw egg that is inside the rocket — safely. Twice a month, the Valadez team practices their launches and collects data in order to make a successful qualifying flight.

With many setbacks like crash landings, cracked eggs, and rebuilds, the team never gave up, and is now finding success. Valadez is very proud of the following students and all their hard work: Riana Villacampo, Tiffany Clubb, Yaritza Martinez, Izabella Padilla, Leslie Arce, Ian Lopez, Anthony Lara, and Emmanuel Torress. Special thanks goes to Mr. Schumerth for providing this opportunity for our Valadez students.



Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

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



War of the Words

In the 1930s, “Battle of the Books” was a radio program in Chicago. Today, it is a highly successful reading incentive program.

Wagner School recently inaugurated its own book competition, War of the Words. About 100 participating students third through sixth grades were grouped into 22 teams. Each team began by reading carefully selected books from their booklists, while paying special attention to comprehension and details.

Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



Hector Vasquez
Principal

AVID Demonstration School Honor

Valencia High School has been selected as a National Demonstration School by AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), a nonprofit organization that provides educators with proven real-world strategies to accelerate the performance of underrepresented students so that these students and all students across the entire campus succeed in college, career and life.

The school joins approximately 150 other AVID National Demonstration Schools and was selected through an application process, a screening and a review that included a site visit. AVID is implemented in over 5,600 schools across the nation, meaning that less than 3 percent of AVID schools earn the distinction of AVID National Demonstration School.

AVID chief executive officer Sandy Husk, PhD, notes the significance of attaining Demonstration Site recognition.

“Schools recognized as National Demonstration Sites have proven their ability to successfully implement the AVID elective course and take the strategies schoolwide to impact all students,” Dr. Husk said. “Valencia High School was selected as an AVID National Demonstration School because it has implemented the AVID System throughout the school and can serve as a model for new AVID sites.”

AVID is a nonprofit proven college-readiness system that closes the achievement gap. AVID implementation sites are presently located in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 other countries and territories and impact over a million students in grades K-12 and in 43 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school's academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education. For more information, please visit www.AVID.org.

This preparation culminated in a week-long, double-elimination contest among the teams to test their knowledge. All of the questions in the competition began with the words “In which book,” and the correct answers were always the title and author of the book. What a great way to read good books and have fun while competing with others!

Thank you to fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Carrie Pipkin for organizing and facilitating this program and to Mrs. Janet Vash, our librarian, for all her help.



Third and fourth grade participants in War of the Words competition.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Seuss-Style Week!

Van Buren students celebrated the wonderful work of Dr. Seuss! Each day during the week of February 27, students participated in a variety of literature activities that focused on and highlighted this beloved children's author.

Under the guidance of teachers Rosemary Pang and Makiko Shibata-Ellis, students participated in random acts of kindness like the ones in *Horton Hears a Who* as well as wacky dress-up days, Seuss style. Sixth-grade student Steven Altinawi helped to direct the principal and our younger students in daily video clips

highlighting the history of Dr. Seuss and some of his most popular children's books.

The week culminated with a schoolwide Read Across Van Buren activity on the field, which paired upper-grade and primary-grade students for shared reading fun. Finally, a vote was held for the most popular Dr. Seuss book. With 188 votes, the winner was *Green Eggs and Ham*!

Thank you, Dr. Seuss, for this amazing week!



Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Our Students' Voices

“I like the Adult Transition Program because it helps me to teach how to work and earn some money. And also talking to my friends after work.” Zaul N., Ms. Randall's class

“I like about how I make ideas for CBIs and cooking. I like the field trips I go to. I like how the cooking tastes good. I like my teachers—they taught me so much.” Carlo A., Mr. Shaw's class

“We clean the windows. We clean the refrigerators. I work at Sears. We clean the stoves. We cook nachos. We clean laundry. I work out every day. We are always busy.” Andrew R.,

Ms. Callahan's class

“What I like best about Venture Academy is that we can have an opportunity to get job skills from different sites. I work at Brookdale, which is a retirement home. I am in the kitchen, which is great because I want to be a chef one day. Venture Academy is a great school, and to anyone who wants to learn more job skills, I strongly recommend Venture Academy. Venture Academy rules! Go Wildcats!!” Annie G., Mr. Greenfield's class



Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

A Year of Exciting Events

Woodsboro students and staff took part in their annual PTA Fun Run on March 24th. The Fun Run raised money for a variety of PTA activities and programs including field trips for all grade levels, special assemblies, and additional technology for the school. On April 27-30, Woodsboro students participated in the Wizard of Oz musical, performing for the first time at the PYLUSD Performing Arts Center. This year, the Woodsboro 6th Grade Class will be attending a special recognition day at Disneyland Park, in honor of their Class Community Service

Project. Throughout the year, they have been recycling bottles and cans, using that money and their own donations to purchase supplies to make personal care kits for homeless families. The kits will be distributed through the Orange County Department of Social Services.



Woodsboro Students enjoy their annual PTA Fun run.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Season of Recognition

Springtime 2017 starts 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 YLHS National Honor Society inducted 65 new students for their scholarship, leadership and service. In April, the Yorba Linda High School PTSA recognized 160 freshmen, 95 sophomores, 85 juniors and 121 seniors with the Academic Mustang Award for maintaining a weighted 4.0 or higher GPA in all of their classes. Our 2017 schoolwide Renaissance Assembly recognized 98 outstanding students in academic excellence, fine and performing arts, community service and scholar athletes.

On May 15, the Yorba Linda High School staff will honor the Class of 2017 at our annual Senior Awards Night. Over 200 seniors will receive awards and certificates for college scholarships, department awards and academic achievements. Valedictorian Joseph Toubbeh along with salutatorians Ryan Birchfield and Jasmine Yu will receive special recognition for the top honors for the Class of 2017.

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

Enlightening Field Trip
The Yorba Linda Middle School AVID students recently went on a field trip to California State University, Fullerton. AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an elective class that focuses on organizational and study skills to help students achieve at a higher level. AVID also stresses WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading) and Cornell Note-taking strategies.
On the field trip, students were able to experience life on a college campus to help motivate them to strive for the opportunity to attend college after high school. It was a great experience for all.



Book Review by Abbas

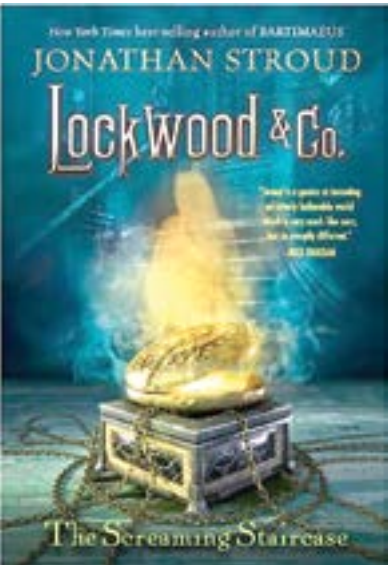
A Creepy and Fun Read



Abbas D.

Lockwood & Co. by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?

This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 5 smiley faces.



Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

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www.anaheimtenniscenter.com

Swim 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)

Word Search by Gunnar Coop



- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Anchor | Flippers | Paddles |
| Backstroke | Freestyle | Pool |
| Boards | Goggles | Pulleys |
| Breathe | Headcap | Race |
| Butterfly | Kickboards | Relay |
| Chlorine | Kicking | Strokes |
| Diving | Lane Lines | Surfacing |
| Dolphin | Medley | Times |
| Earplugs | Meets | Underwater |

Congratulations to **Theresa Jacobsen**
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!

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Session 2 June 26 - 30
Session 3 July 24 - 28
Session 4 July 24 - 28 (Adv. Skills)

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