

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

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



**Volume 13, Issue 38**

**May 2021**

## Two PYLUSD Middle Schools Named CA Distinguished Schools



**(Please see page 3)**

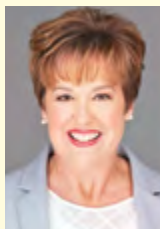
## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Karin  
Freeman**  
*President*



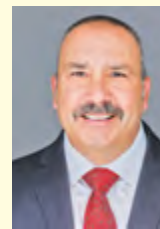
**Carrie  
Buck**  
*Vice-President*



**Marilyn  
Anderson**  
*Clerk*



**Leandra  
Blades**  
*Member*



**Shawn  
Youngblood**  
*Member*

## Employees are the Heart and Soul of PYLUSD



**Dr. Jim Elsasser**  
*Superintendent*

In an effort to recognize and uplift Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) employees, a team of representatives at the district level recently developed a digital campaign titled “Heart and Soul.”

The district’s strategic plan, The PYLUSD Advantage, states: “Our people are the heart and soul of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.” After what has been a

difficult year both personally and professionally for many, the simple purpose of the Heart and Soul Campaign is to boost morale through a unique expression of gratitude for PYLUSD employees’ extraordinary efforts.

District staff created a special video, email signature graphic, Zoom background, and vinyl banners for all employees to enjoy. The district’s Heart and Soul Campaign video may be viewed on the district’s YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/c/placentiayorbalindaunifiedschooldistrict](http://www.youtube.com/c/placentiayorbalindaunifiedschooldistrict). Graciously, the REACH Foundation—an all-volunteer, education focused, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in benefit of PYLUSD students district-wide—partnered with the district to donate the vinyl banners to be displayed outside of each school site.

Whether a teacher, classified staff member, or administrator, PYLUSD employees’ collective contributions are what makes the school district so successful for students, families, and the community.

# IN QUICKER. HOME FASTER.



**Placentia-Linda  
Hospital**  
Tenet Health Pacific Coast



**LESS ER WAITING  
ROOM TIME.**  
More peace of mind.

Visit [PLHER.com](http://PLHER.com), choose your preferred treatment time, and relax at home until it's time to go.



Check in online at [PLHER.com](http://PLHER.com)

For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.

# Two PYLUSD Middle Schools Named CA Distinguished Schools



## *From the District*

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is pleased to announce that Kraemer and Tuffree Middle Schools in Placentia were recently named 2021 California Distinguished School, the state's top award for campuses.

"On behalf of the Board of Education, congratulations to Kraemer and Tuffree Middle Schools on this tremendous accomplishment," PYLUSD Superintendent Dr. James Elsasser shared. "This acknowledgment affirms the unwavering efforts and commitment of our teachers, classified staff, and administrators in giving their best on behalf of students each and every day. We are so proud of their outstanding work."

Amid the unprecedented school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Department of Education (CDE) shared that this recognition is especially remarkable. Distinguished Schools were identified and awarded based on performance and progress on state indicators specified on the California School Dashboard, the state's accountability and continuous improvement system. Indicators included test scores, suspension rates, and conditions and climate. Awarded schools represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly successful, data-driven school efforts ranging from professional development to positive behavior intervention.

This is Kraemer Middle School's first California Distinguished School Award; however, the Cubs received the state's comparable Gold Ribbon School Award in 2015. From 2015 to 2017, California recognized schools that demonstrated exemplary achievements with the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program rather than the Distinguished Schools program, which returned in 2018 after a three-year pause while California transitioned to its new assessment and accountability system, the California School Dashboard.

On that note, Principal Michael Young shared: "Kraemer Middle School continues to thrive and succeed by putting students first. Our staff, students, and parents earned this distinction together demonstrating the strength of our Kraemer community."

Tuffree Middle School is no stranger to the title "California Distinguished School," having earned the same distinction several times in previous years including 2011, 2005, and 1988.

"I'm very proud of my staff and their resilience to have earned this honor during the hardest of times in education," Principal Cindy Freeman said. "They have relentlessly pushed themselves so that students not only achieve, but feel cared for during a world crisis. I'm honored to serve beside them."

For 2021, Kraemer and Tuffree stand as two of only 11 secondary schools in Orange County and 102 in California to receive the title of California Distinguished School.



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

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • [www.reach4pylusrd.org](http://www.reach4pylusrd.org)



**Melina Michaels**  
*President*

### Experience Your Environment Find\_Observe\_Share

Leading up to Earth Day 2021, the REACH Foundation expanded the second Experience Your Environment to explore and learn about

our environment. The virtual experience brought PYLUSD students and families together to identify over 200 species of plants and animals in our community. Using an app on our smart phones we learned how to find and identify plants and animals and prepare a Field Guide of what we observed. Then, we collectively shared our observations to create a PYL Community Field Guide that is posted on the

REACH Foundation website [reach4pylusrd.org](http://reach4pylusrd.org). Experience Your Environment closed with an engaging Virtual Nature Talk in Carbon Canyon Regional Park.



## Camp Heritage Oak Summer ESCAPE 2021



Preschool-8th Grade

On-site Swimming Pool, Rock Wall, Splash Pad & Arcade  
Over 100 Academic & Enrichment Camps to Choose from  
Weekly Rates & Flexible Cancellation Policy

**Save 10% if you Register for Main Camp by May 31st!**

Register online at [www.campheritageoak.org](http://www.campheritageoak.org)

Camp Heritage Oak - 16971 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda - 714.524.1350 - [campheritageoak.org](http://campheritageoak.org)

**School News**   
 Education + Communication = A Better Nation  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
**Covering the**  
**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA**  
**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
 562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
 562/493-3193

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**  
 Emily Ung

**COPY EDITORS:**  
 Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison

 @SchoolNewsRC   

 SchoolNewsRollCall  

 SchoolNewsRollCall 

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
 P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
 562/493-3193  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
 Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
 Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated.  
 Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content.  
 The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



**Kay Coop**  
 Founder/Publisher



At last a bit of normalcy is returning to our lives and that is highlighted with students in the classrooms. There are many milestones children experience but we would never have predicted removing masks would be a milestone. We will all look forward to celebrating when that day arrives and especially for children.

This is the time of year when districts honor teachers and classified employees of the year. I would like to thank all of the district teachers and staff for their dedication to educating our youth and providing a clean, safe environment.

In this issue you will read about students returning to the classrooms and the excitement of reconnecting with classmates, new programs being offered, community collaboration, and much more.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our conversion to digital has been very well-received and will be our permanent model going forward.

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

Our next issue is November 10. Have a wonderful, healthy summer!

  
**RETIRING SOON?**  
**CONSIDER THIS...**

**LEO DO CARMO**  
 LPL FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Your Defined Benefit Supplement Account and 403b account can be your source of available money to cover unexpected expenses in retirement.

Before you annuitize it, explore your options.  
*Free consultations over the phone, video conference or face to face.*

**714-485-2269**  
**19761 Majorca Lane, Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2819**  
[www.ContemporaryRetirementStrategies.com](http://www.ContemporaryRetirementStrategies.com)

**FOCUSSED ON ACCUMULATION, PRESERVATION AND TAX EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME**  
**THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT I CAN RECEIVE ARE YOUR PERSONAL REFERRALS**



*Leo Do Carmo is a registered representative with and securities are offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA & SIPC.*

**Over 2500 teen volunteers in Orange County alone!**

 **LION'S HEART**  
 [teen volunteers and leaders]

**Over 1.4 MILLION volunteer service hours and counting!**

**Certifying Organization for:**  
 President's Volunteer Service Award  
 The Congressional Award

**Teen's join us to give back to your community in meaningful ways while building empathy, compassion, and positive leadership skills.**

**Why join Lion's Heart? We...**

- connect teens with local nonprofit volunteer opportunities.
- provide a vast array of ways to volunteer from home.
- encourage members to volunteer with causes they care about.
- track hours, leadership, & awards earned.
- provide a cumulative volunteer transcript to share with colleges through our partnership with Parchment Send.

**Now enrolling Grades 6-12, welcoming 5th graders, entering 6th grade in the fall, on May 1, 2021 at 9 AM P.S.T.**

**[lionsheartservice.org](http://lionsheartservice.org) 800.894.8877**



## Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



**Beth Fisher**  
*Principal*

### System of Care

At BYMS we pride ourselves on our system of care. One of our taglines is Be Yorba-Be you-Belong! A key member of our system of care our counselor Mrs. Staci Callaway.

We have had the great honor of returning to in person school 4 days a week. Throughout this

pandemic, it hasn't been a secret that we have all faced our various challenges. Through it all, Mrs. Callaway has been relentless in offering her care for our students and community. As we made our return to school the week of April 19, 2021, Mrs. Callaway made it a point to connect with each student at BYMS whether a remote learner or in person through "minute meetings" where students were given a survey ahead of time and then each student had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Callaway. We are so fortunate to have her student's first compassionate heart!



## Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
*Principal*

### Returning to a Bit of Normalcy!

On Friday, April 9th, our Kindergarten classes participated in their annual Boxcar Day in which students each created their own boxcar to "drive" to school and share with our students in what was this year a

very socially distanced parade on our upper grade

blacktop. Every student in grades one through sixth eagerly cheered them on as they fondly recalled their own boxcar day as a kindergarten student! With this single event, a much welcomed sense of normalcy began returning to campus.

On Monday, April 19th, nearly 90% of our Brookhaven students returned to campus for full-day instruction, quickly

bringing the feeling of normalcy and student connection back! As students returned to campus together as one group, they were elated to see their classmates whom they had only previously seen on Zoom this year. We look forward to sharing these last 43 days together as One School, One Community, One Family!



## Bryant Ranch *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Shannon Robles**  
*Principal*

### Virtually An Amazing Community

Bryant Ranch is an amazing community, pulling together to put students first and provide them with in-person and virtual experiences to remember. Celebrating Seuss Week was like none that have come

before. Our creative PTA decorated our school and created daily activities that got our students excited. We hosted two virtual family nights, a Storytime with the local library, and a Bingo Night. It was so fun to see our students laughing and our families coming together for these events. Our next virtual family night will be a baking night, and we can't wait to see the tasty treats our students bake. This year may have come with some challenges, but our students, staff, families, and PTA really worked together to make the absolute best of everything!



## Buena Vista Virtual Academy

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



**Carrie Bisgard**  
*Principal*

### Enrichment Classes

Buena Vista Virtual Academy staff is excited to see students in person with the roll-out of Enrichment Classes on campus this Spring. Teachers were so happy to be with the students who were on campus last week. Students were able to enjoy

one another's company while they participated in activities that supported their online classroom learning. They created art, completed a math and science activity with paper airplanes, played games, and had time to chat. Third grade teacher, Ryan Chang, said, "It was so nice to see and interact with students in person. The best part was hearing their laughter and joy as they just had fun with their classmates."

These classes will continue through the remainder of the school year and are planned to run on a weekly basis throughout the school year when we return in the fall. Future activities will include stories, games, art, music, movement, Spheros robotics, and other STEM concepts.





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

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • [www.ecrhs.pylusd.org](http://www.ecrhs.pylusd.org)



**Carey J. Aiello**  
*Principal*

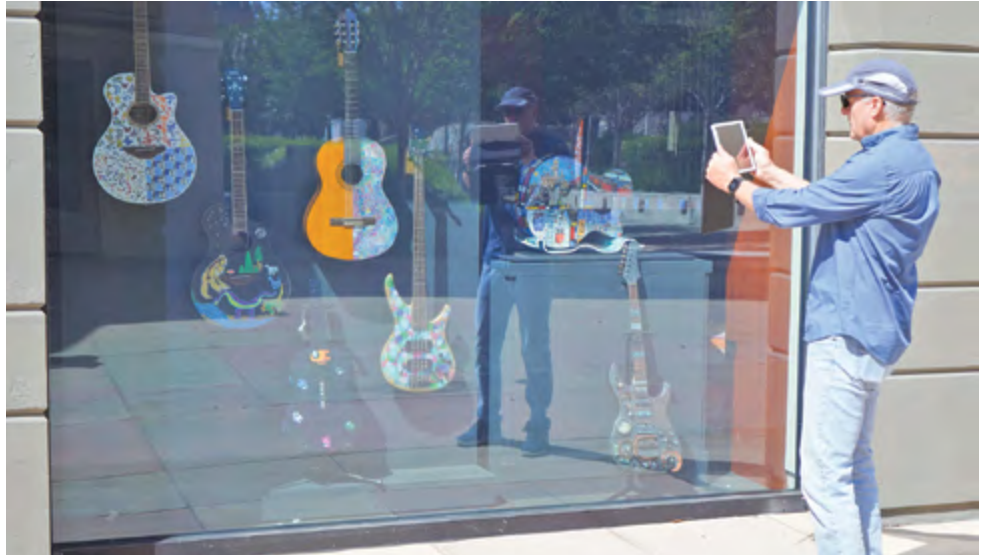
### Bringing it Home

While mandates to quarantine limited some educational opportunities for students, ideas of innovative educators at El Camino Real High School have kept students connected and engaged.

The mission: If we cannot take students on field

experiences, we will bring the experience to them via Zoom. Students in Mr. Petersen's Raptor Academy of Printing, Imaging, and Design (RAPID) have had no shortage of exposure to the elements and principles of design in action. Whether through guest speakers sharing their stories with students via Zoom, or via one of Petersen's wacky Wednesday walkabouts to local food chains to discuss marketing strategies, students have been exposed to graphic design throughout the

county. Most recently, RAPID students virtually toured the Muzeo in Anaheim. Through Mr. Petersen's live stream of exhibits, students studied environmental design and exhibits such as the guitar art depicted below. Covid-19 kept students from the classroom, but authentic learning never stopped.



**NOCROP Teacher, Reid Petersen, takes students on a virtual field trip to Muzeo in Anaheim.**

## Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • [www.esperanzahs.com](http://www.esperanzahs.com)



**Gina Aguilar**  
*Principal*

### New Program Coming Soon

Esperanza High School is proud to announce a new program coming to the campus beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Esperanza Early College will offer students a unique, educational experience with the opportunity to complete their high school graduation requirements while earning transferable college units through courses offered by Fullerton College. Students can take these college units to

their desired college or university. Esperanza Early College courses will be taught by Fullerton College professors and offered during 5th and 6th period of the school day. Students who have demonstrated a readiness and willingness to learn at a higher level in grades 11-12 are eligible to enroll. Tuition and textbook rental will be free of charge for students enrolled at Esperanza. Course offerings will vary semester-to-semester. We are so excited to provide another outstanding opportunity for enrichment to our students at Esperanza High School, "Where Excellence is a Tradition."





## El Dorado High School (9-12)

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



**Joey Davis**  
Principal

### A Memorable Year

We are so excited to have 1200 students back on campus, an abundance of sports going on and our performing arts ramping up to end the year with some actual in person performances. Activities have begun to return to normalcy. Last week we celebrated Unity Week with a highlight on some of our students with special needs. Lunch time

events were held and all students were able to participate. This included a fun game of freeze dance! This week we unveiled a donation from the class of 2021 -- a new mural that says "Once a hawk, always a hawk". In athletics, all sports are getting a season. Having over 20 sports in season at the same time has led to a number of challenges for field sharing and students who play multiple sports. Thanks to our outstanding Athletic Director and tremendous coaches, we continue to do "whatever it takes" to make this a memorable year.



## Fairmont Elementary (K-6)

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

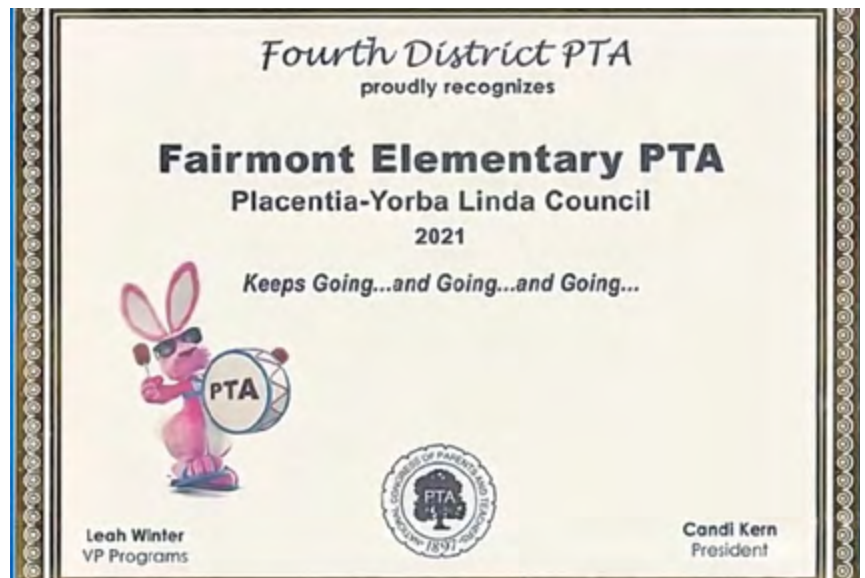


**Cynthia Rex**  
Principal

### Award-Winning PTA!

When presented with the challenge of no volunteers on campus, PTA president Angie Taberski, rather than passively moving through the year, got creative! She was cheerfully followed by a host of dedicated parents into the world of virtual family-fun activities and beyond.

The Fourth District PTA reviewed over 400 schools and chose to honor the endeavors of our unit with an Award of Recognition! The Book Exchange utilized over 1,500 donated books, all cleaned, sorted and sanitized for student use throughout the year. Virtual Family Fun Nights included a Halloween Bingo, electronic-card making, wobblebot creations and a Dr. Seuss-directed drawing night. Fairmont PTA helped fill every need, keeping families connected and students engaged. They even provided virtual field trips, with our sixth-graders "going to camp!" Dedicated PTA members



### PTA 4th District Recognition Award to Fairmont 2021

worked with the Shawn Knutson Memorial Scholarship Committee to fund scholarships to former Falcons who are graduating from one of our PYLUSD High Schools.

Our PTA is flying high out here in Falcon country!

## George Key School (*K-12*)

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

## Venture Academy *Adult Transition*

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



**Kelli McFedries**  
*Principal*

### Establishing Businesses

Venture Academy students typically spend 40% of their day in the community, our alternative classroom. This alternative classroom, provides students with the opportunity to practice and generalize skills (purchasing, self-advocacy, travel training, etc.) and build important employability skills through community based work experience. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

students have not been able to access the community, so the teachers worked collaboratively to develop Venture Academy's student run businesses. Venture Academy is currently working on establishing three student businesses: a coffee cart, a flower arranging business, and a student store. These businesses are giving students the opportunity to practice employability and advocacy skills now, and provide students with more opportunities in the future.

## Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Jane Roh**  
*Principal*

### Third First-Day-of-School

The 2020-2021 school year has been a wonderful one here at Glenview Elementary. On April 19, we are opening for full-day instruction for both in-person and remote students. We are excited to welcome students back for a "third first-day-of-school" this year.

We are also proud of Glen's Academy, which has provided reading intervention, social-emotional support, and after-school academic tutoring for over 100 of our students this year. We remain committed to supporting all of our students.



Glenview proudly hosted our new superintendent, Dr. Jim Elsasser, in March. He was able to visit all twenty-two of our classrooms and see our students hard at work, both in-person and remote. Some other highlights from this trimester include an art-themed virtual Principal's Party and a school-wide virtual dance party to celebrate the end of the school year. Our students also wrote cards and notes of encouragement for the health workers at St. Jude. We appreciate all of our frontline workers!



## Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • [www.glenknoll.org](http://www.glenknoll.org)



**David  
Cammarato**  
*Principal*

### **A Commitment to Success**

Glenknoll Elementary School, like so many others, has had a year of “Firsts.” It was the first time we started the year all online, the first time we began a hybrid program at school in October and April, and it was the first time this year that we have returned to a full day of instruction at school.

All of these transitions are because of our shared commitment to serving students in the best possible way, given the circumstances of the pandemic. Every day our staff, students, and parents have showcased strong leadership around our campus. Glenknoll is proud to celebrate its wonderful staff and their commitment to making the appropriate schedule adjustments that best meet the needs of our students.

Our teachers also value the relationships we have built, and the role they play in creating an intellectually

and emotionally safe environment in which to learn. Our students have also remained resilient and adaptable to each of the great changes that have occurred throughout this school year.

Glenknoll students take great pride in their school and their learning. Students across the campus continue to show leadership in their interactions with others in and outside the classroom. Our parent community too remains strong and supportive. In a year where we were very limited as to how we could raise money to support the PTA, our parents came together to raise over \$25,000 in a recent PTA event. We are grateful for the community we serve!

Every one of us has helped to influence the positive things that have happened during this school year. Collectively, we have made a positive impact on Glenknoll. Whether you realize it or not, you have sent a message to our community. Thank you for the difference you are making for everyone at our school!

## Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Alison  
DeMark**  
*Principal*

### **Full-Day Instruction**

What a thrill it was to welcome back students to full-day instruction. Golden had over 700 students return to campus for in-person learning and almost 100 students joining us for a full day online. There is

a buzz in our classrooms, and an excitement on our playgrounds that can only come from a school site. Our teachers and staff continue to ensure our students safety by providing sanitizing wipes and ensuring classrooms are cleaned and ready for learners each day. Students have adjusted well to all of our new practices and are respectful of one another and all the policies that are in place. It has been a wild year, and our Golden community has come together to support one another as only a school community can!



## Kraemer *Middle School* (7-8)

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



**Michael Young**  
*Principal*

### Women's History Month

Kraemer Middle School believes in celebrating the many contributions women have made in shaping society, culture, and industry. By doing so, we seek to create an environment where

students recognize the power of diversity in a globalized world. During Women's History Month this March, our student leaders blanketed campus with colorful posters of famous women alongside inspirational quotes. We also launched a poetry, art, and video contest where KMS students were encouraged to honor the legacy of an accomplished woman (historically famous or a woman in their life) that is an inspiration to them. Our PTA sponsored a lunch prize for the three winners of the contest, once again showing that our Kraemer Family is dedicated



to creating meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

## Lakeview *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Dr. Suena Chang**  
*Principal*

### Principal for a Day at Lakeview ES

What do principals do? Aiden Mercer (3rd grade) was our top "Move-A-Thon" fundraiser winner and won the privilege of being a Principal for a Day. "Move-A-Thon,"

a pandemic rendition of Jog-A-Thon, is one of the largest fundraisers PTA puts on to support Lakeview. Principal Mercer took part as a principal during the Read across America Week. Because Friday was pajama day, he came dressed in his pajamas and performed duties such as ensuring safety in the parking lot and routing traffic, as well as reading to the Kindergarten students. It was an exciting day!

Thank you, Principal Mercer.  
Go Lions!





## Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kristen Petrovacki**  
*Principal*

### **Courage, in Unlikely Places**

As I reflect back on the past year and the major disruption in our lives caused by the pandemic, I find solace in the courage that has been demonstrated by the students, staff and parents of the Linda Vista school community.

We started the school year the same way we ended the last one, in a distance-learning model and doing everything possible to engage students virtually. In October, the school successfully transitioned to the hybrid learning model, with cohorts of students coming onto campus throughout the day and benefiting from both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. April 19 marked another significant day across the district as we welcomed all students back to school for the full day. This was a momentous occasion that we will all carry with us for years to come.

Since the pandemic began, we have all endured unique challenges and losses in our lives; however, there has also been much to be gained through the adversity we have faced. We have been called upon to step out of our



comfort zone, embrace uncertainty, and move beyond our fears. Our school community has done just that and more. The courage we have all channeled to push through has increased our self-confidence, our sense of gratitude and our resiliency. Persevering through difficult times has taught us that we are more capable than we ever imagined. I am beyond proud of this community of courageous learners!

## Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Melanie Carmona**  
*Principal*

### **Transition to Outdoors!**

Physical education was tricky during hybrid instruction, with students Zooming in from their living rooms during asynchronous time. Now that we are in person for full-day instruction, students are enjoying spending time with their peers outside while still following safety guidelines.

Our energetic and passionate PE teacher, Mr. Stoffel, shared how Zoom instruction helped prepare our students for the return to in-person and outside instruction.

"I can tell many students were participating and watching my videos," Mr. Stoffel said. "They knew exactly what to do when I said 'penguin!' (stretch) or 'washing machine!' (twist). Our students did their part by watching the instructional videos and learning these commands. It allowed us to have more time on activities and less time relearning routines."



This week, students warmed up with a brisk walk around the track and then played a new game called Medic, in which everyone can participate. Our Mabel Paine Mustangs are eager to continue building lifelong habits of health and fitness!

## Melrose Elementary (K-5)

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



**Nicole Hernandez**  
*Principal*

### Third "First Day of School"

April 19th marked Melrose's third "First Day of School." Melrose students returned to class for full day instruction. The entrance was

decked out with balloons to celebrate this exciting reunion. Students were happy to be on campus and follow all the safety guidelines set forth to keep our campus safe. One third grade student shared that this was her best day ever as she got to see ALL her friends at one time. Making connections is what this transition is all about. We are connecting to each other, to the learning, and to our school. At Melrose we are definitely going to "Finish as a Family."



## Morse Elementary (K-6)

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



**Tonya Gordillo**  
*Principal*

### Morse Community Collaboration

Community support is always appreciated, but to have a Morse alumnus continue to be dedicated to our school and students is awe-inspiring! Last year, the Valencia Service Committee, VSC, hosted a book drive for elementary schools. VSC committee members collected over 1000 books from Valencia High School students to donate. Prior to delivering them to our campus,

VCS organized, sorted, and sanitized the books. Before Spring Break, VSC Co-President, Michael Tang, a Morse alum, along with the other committee members, delivered over 200 gently used books for our young readers! We look forward to sharing these books and promoting the love of reading with our students. The support from our community partnerships continues to make a difference in the lives of our Morse students. We hope that this model of service continues in future generations of Morse alumni!





## Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

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



**James Hardin**  
*Principal*

### Parkview Rocketry Class

Through Parkview School's first-ever "Introduction to Rocketry Course," we're readying students for the marvels of a future in outer space. In class, we simulate each step of rocket design, manufacturing and simulation to foster a better understanding of aerodynamics.

The aim of The American Rocketry Challenge is to reach a series of goals specified by the rules for that year. These goals include a target apogee, flight time, payload and recovery system. Throughout the course we cover a wide variety of rocketry topics including rocket component design, aerodynamics, fluid mechanics, meteorology, data analysis and Computer Aided Design/simulation.

Parkview students explore the mechanics of rocket simulation through advanced computer programs that allow you to design any size rocket and simulate its flight to see how high and how fast it will fly. Parkview students are able analyze statistics of rocket stability and safety for launch through the programs.



## Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • [www.riovistaschool.org](http://www.riovistaschool.org)



**Jose Cabrera**  
*Principal*

### Full Day of Instruction

On April 19, 2021 Rio Vista Elementary welcomed students back to campus for a full day of instruction. It was such a joyful experience to welcome the smiling eyes of our students. Many of our students were happy to see their friends in person and

reconnect with those who they missed while on Zoom. These moments have made all the difference and captured the sentiment of this new transition. Throughout this entire year, our Physical Education Teacher, Mrs. Sain has focused on the health and wellness of our students by making sure they make the connection between

physical fitness and having fun at school. Pictured below is a group of Preppy K students learning the importance of directional throws and following multiple steps. This picture captures the old saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." We believe this picture is priceless and tells a story of young resilient learners enjoying school.



## Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi**  
Principal

### Learning is Our Superpower!

Our theme this school year has been “What Is Your Superpower? Superheroes in Training,” and it has guided us to think outside the box and plan supports for all students. In trimester 2, we created an RtI plan for students needing academic interventions in kindergarten through fifth grade. Our RtI Zoom program, titled Rosie’s Academy, focused on reading comprehension, grammar

and writing.

We had 60 students participate in Rosie’s Academy during asynchronous learning, and students worked together to focus on specific reading standards and also become a team of scholars.



Additionally, this year, we have had multiple opportunities to have virtual Zoom assemblies to provide Positive Behavior Interventions Supports, inspire grit and personal best, and more. Recently, students Zoomed with author Laura Numeroff from the book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. They participated in FIBO art learning about anime, and we also participated in Literacy Reading Assembly, sponsored by a medical-health-plan provider, to promote a love of reading.

Here at Rose Drive, our students are superheroes in action, and learning is their true superpower!



## Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Diana McKibben**  
Principal

### Ability and Resilience

The amazing scholars of Ruby Drive have adapted to many new things this school year, and we are all proud of them. They have learned to use different educational platforms, such as Zoom, Google Classroom, and Nearpod to name a few. Our student remote learners from home and even some of the

students in the classroom use Zoom to closely see their teacher give instruction. Many of our scholars have learned to navigate Google Classroom to work on lessons. Nearpod offers interactive presentations that the students can do at their own pace or on-pace with the teacher. They can answer a poll to check for understanding, take a quiz, watch a lesson or video, “post” their response on a storyboard, and even read the responses of their classmates. We stand in awe of the ability and resilience demonstrated by our Ruby Drive Scholars with support from their awesome families. Go Ruby PRIDE!





## Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • [www.sierravistapta.com](http://www.sierravistapta.com)



**Jacquie Bluemel**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back

Sierra Vista teachers and staff were excited to welcome our Eagles back to campus for full time return to school learning. On Monday, April 19, students in grades PK - 6 participated in their third 1st day of school for the 2020-2021 school year. Approximately

90% of the student population opted to return to school in person while the remaining 10% remotely joined their class in the learning via Zoom. Students arrived at school excited and ready to learn. Teachers spent time the first week getting to know their students as a whole class together and allowing the students time to learn about one another. Classes were also able to participate in person in PE, library, computer lab and music. Sierra Vista staff and students are definitely BETTER TOGETHER and look forward to finishing the 2020-2021 school year strong!



## Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Christa Borgese**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back

Topaz Tigers were enthusiastically welcomed back to campus for full day instruction Monday, April 19th for the first day of school 3.0. Unfortunately the school campus lost power in the early morning hours, but that couldn't stop the excitement of students and staff. Several

grades had their first PE class in over a year and Mr. Snow made it more fun than usual with upbeat music and engaging games. All teachers reviewed school safety protocols, recess and lunch procedures, and the Tiger PBIS incentives. In first grade, Mrs. Bermudez welcomed her Tigers with a social-emotional themed activity where the students drew pictures about how they felt being back at school full time. The overwhelming responses were "happy" and "excited". Here's to a phenomenal end to the 2020-2021 school year!





## Travis Ranch School (K-8)

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



**Dr. Taylor Holloway**  
*Principal*

### Mission Accomplished

The energy is back at Travis with 95% of Elementary and 75% of Middle School attending in-person, full time. We are pleased to put cohorting behind us and excited to support students as we move forward

learning together. Our focus is ensuring every student feels cared for and connected to school including our “zoomers”. With this in mind, we kicked off our third, “first week back” with a spirit week, dress up days, lunch activities, music, PE and grade level friendly competitions. The smiles are wide and the hustle and bustle is back. This special time enables us to regroup as a community

and provide our students with the attention they deserve. We started with a school motto of, “Mission Possible”, and as we welcome back close to 1100 students we can proudly claim, “Mission Accomplished”!



## Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



**Cindy Freeman**  
*Principal*

### Tuffree Middle School Keeps On Dancin’

Tuffree Middle School started a dance program 4 years ago with just a half dozen girls who designed and performed their own dances as a small student club. Tuffree teacher, Mr. Huicochea, agreed to stay after school and allow them to practice. It has now grown into a team of over 30 students led by an amazing coach, Megan Kitts, who has ties

with the El Dorado Dance Program. Madelyn Gallagher, a current El Dorado Dance Team senior and captain, has generously donated her time for the past two years to help grow our program. The TMS dance team currently has three different groups including, “Intro to Dance” team which is for anyone and everyone who wants to learn how to dance, an advanced Hip Hop team, and a Jazz team. Next year we hope to keep growing the program and have a competition team.





## Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



### Welcome Back!

On April 19th, the excitement was palpable as our students arrived on campus for the first time

**Dr. Debra E. Silverman**  
*Principal*

this year for a full day of instruction. Balloons lined the sidewalk as they entered the school, and many warm “Good Mornings!” filled the air.

On this special day, classrooms full of students stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance as one collective voice. The children raised their hands to share with one another and collaborate on projects with friends they hadn’t seen in person for over a year. Returning to full-day instruction was one of the greatest days for so many of our students and staff members alike.



Tynes has taken great care to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We take our charge seriously, and want to make sure that all students have a safe place to learn. We have also separated out our recess and lunch periods to provide space for social distancing.

Music, physical education, library, and computer lab fill our schedules and allow our students the opportunity to safely participate in the activities they love. We are beyond excited to be able to say the words, “Welcome back!”

## Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

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



### Thank Your Ruth

Author Theodor Seuss Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss) once said, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot. Nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” The prior quote is a fitting description for our amazing Valadez MSA librarian Ruth Sheffield.

Mrs. Sheffield has been at Valadez almost since its inception and is highly respected by our Valadez students, staff, parents and community members.

As an vital part of our school leadership team, Mrs. Sheffield’s is a vested team member looking to add value beyond the four walls of our library. Her welcoming attitude embraces students and staff members making them feel at home while visiting our library.

We as a Valadez MSA staff are honored and humbled to have Ruth Sheffield serve our school.

Thank you Ruth!



**Ruth Sheffield**

## Valencia High School (9-12)

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • [www.vhstigers.org](http://www.vhstigers.org)



**Chris Herzfeld**  
Principal

### Valencia adds Cambridge AICE Diploma Program

*By Courtney Fenstermaker, VHS Cambridge Coordinator and Chris Herzfeld, Principal*

VHS is proud to announce that we were approved to offer the highly-valued Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education diploma beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The Cambridge

AICE Diploma is an internationally recognized rigorous high school program with the following features:

- Cambridge AICE is a pre-university diploma that utilizes international standards and is infused with globalism.
- Students take 6 college-level courses over three years in each of the three combined groups: Math/Science, Language Arts/World Languages, Arts/Humanities, plus a Global Perspectives and Research course.
- The Cambridge AICE Diploma can be combined with AVID or our Val Tech programs for an experience that positions our students to be highly successful beyond high school and very attractive to universities.



## Cambridge Assessment International Education

### Cambridge International School

Perhaps Cambridge Coordinator Courtney Fenstermaker summed it up best, "I am so excited to start the Cambridge program at Valencia because I believe it will open so many opportunities for our students. The program offers a rigorous curriculum while giving students the autonomy and choice to pick a path that best suits their needs and interests."

Valencia High School continues to offer the largest and most successful International Baccalaureate (IB) program in the County for those seeking the very highest level of academic preparation available.

Check out [vhstigers.org](http://vhstigers.org) for more information, under Academics.

## Van Buren Elementary (K-6)

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



**Connie Roe**  
Principal

### Full-Day Return

Van Buren Roadrunners are excited to report that our return to full-day learning has been a remarkable success! With the collective support of our staff, teachers, students and community, we are once again together and on a "traditional" daily bell schedule! With nearly 90% of our students in person, we continue to maintain all of the safety protocols while we come together to finish the year strong!

In addition to the full day of classroom instruction, students are enjoying all of the extras, including computer class redesigned for art and other extension activities, library, music and PE. Thank you to our wonderful support teachers and staff Nikki Gomez (library), Taylor Stephenson (computer/extension lab), Julie Young (PE), and Jeff Evans, Rebecca Dominguez and Sharon Edmonson (music) for expanding our students' learning and keeping it fun!

As we look toward the end of this extraordinary year, we all realize that indeed our theme this year stands truer than ever: "Van Buren STARS shine brighter together." Keep shining, everyone!





## Wagner Elementary (K-6)

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • [www.wagnerwildcats.org](http://www.wagnerwildcats.org)



**Janice Weber**  
Principal

### Better Together

Upon our return to full day in-person instruction, the teachers and staff at Wagner Elementary School worked very hard to prepare for a successful transition.

The energy on campus on April 19, 2021 was palpable.

Students were eager to be

with their friends whether at home on Zoom or at school for the entire school day. Our first day consisted of rebooting procedures and safety protocols, and most of all, reuniting students who have not been together in a long time. What has continued to make Wagner successful all year are the same things we reopened with: a focus on relationships, routines, and resilience. We continue to lock arms as a community of students, parents, and staff knowing that our Wagner Wildcats benefit most when we work “Better Together.”



## Woodsboro Elementary (K-6)

7575 E. Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • [www.woodsboro.pylusd.org](http://www.woodsboro.pylusd.org)



**Dr. George Lopez**  
Principal

### Back to School

As the world stood still on March 13, 2020 none of us ever imagined that it would take 13 months to get back to some type of normalcy at school. Yet it did. On April 19th we held our breath and

let the tears of joy flow as the cars pulled up again and the Woodsboro children ran out excited to see each other and their teachers and to be in school all day. Some said it was the little things they had missed so much like recess and having lunch, while social distancing, with friends. Many staff said it was wonderful to hear and see the students in the hallways again. It's not 100% normal but we are making giant steps and for that we are grateful and have hope.



## Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • [www.ylms.org](http://www.ylms.org)



**Greg Kemp**  
*Principal*

### Welcoming Back Students

Yorba Linda Middle School welcomed back 600 students to campus four days a week on April 19th. For over 100 of the students, it was their first time on campus for the school year. The energy on campus was through the roof as students were excited to see their classmates. The combining of cohorts was a positive step towards normalcy for the students. Our ASB and WEB student leaders welcomed students as they entered the campus. They also gave campus tours for students who are not familiar with the campus. All in all, it was a great experience and what we have called our third first day of school for the 2020-21 school year.



## Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • [www.ylhs.org](http://www.ylhs.org)



**Richard Dinh**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back, Mustang Family

Mustang family, welcome back to the final quarter of the school year! And what a year it has been.

On April 19th, Yorba Linda High School welcomed back over 1,000 students and faculty members to campus full time. The students were greeted with warm smiles, and our campus was filled with decorations and activities to help them feel welcomed and valued.

Yorba Linda High School's tradition of getting its students connected was on full display too as we hosted a fully live-streamed event. It included live performances by our band, cheer and song, theater, and choir groups to help welcome our future Mustangs to school.

As our students exit out of the pandemic and back to traditional schooling, we will continue to make every effort to get them involved in one of our many athletic teams, visual or performing arts programs, or 50+ student clubs on campus. Looking back at this school year, the theme of family, and phrases such as "Mustang Strong," have given us strength. We look forward with continued optimism to finishing this school year "Stronger Together"!





## Parent To Parent



**Jodie Lynn**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

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](http://www.ParentToParent.com)) has been successful for more than 20 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites including *School News Roll Call* and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)



# HistoryDepot



**Learn about  
World History • US History  
Videos • Art • Music  
Study Habits**

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

**FREE  
Enjoy!  
History Buffs  
Teachers  
Students**

**HistoryDepot.com**