

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



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May 2022

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's Annual Student Chef Competition



**Students from Tynes, Rio Vista, and Ruby Drive elementary schools
with district leaders and judges prior to the competition.**

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Student and Staff Wellness a Focal Point for PYLUSD



**Dr. James
Elsasser**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) fosters a culture that promotes the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff. In support of this focus, the district has made historic investments in wellness through the expansion of our school-based counseling and mental health supports in recent years.

The district's highly qualified mental health team works with students, staff, families, and interagency partners to assess and support challenges on campus and address possible barriers to student learning. We are proud to employ a diverse group of trained professionals ranging from school counselors, school psychologists, wellness specialists, mental health clinicians, and registered behavioral technicians—all of whom are equipped to support our school district community in unique ways. The district recently prioritized the use of funding to hire school counselors at the elementary level to enhance and expand the support of our youngest students. We also employ college and career technicians at each of our comprehensive high schools to allow our school counselors the opportunity to provide more direct intervention to students.

This school year, staff had access to the district's Mindfulness Monday series, which offers interactive classes for participants to share in relaxation techniques, as well as an opportunity to engage in yoga classes after

work. These supports were added above and beyond the district's existing network of staff wellness supports such as the district's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is free to all staff and provides quick and easy access to confidential counseling and referral services to help employees deal with challenges.

As our students and staff made their return to full-time, in-person instruction this school year, our district set a focus on academic achievement, campus health and safety, and providing a safe and nurturing environment for all. It is around that concept that our districtwide wellness campaign titled, "Noticed, Needed, Nurtured: Our Commitment to Each Child," was established. The goal of the campaign was to help students adjust, reacclimate, and flourish through a focus on their well-being. In particular, the district was intentional about creating a sense of belonging among all students by assuring they feel noticed, needed, and nurtured on our campuses. When students have a purpose and are valued within their school community, they are more likely to contribute positively and interact with others. They are also more likely to excel both academically and socially during their time at school.

As you can see, the wellness of our students and staff is a top priority in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Students, staff, and families are encouraged to contact their school site directly to inquire about or access the district's robust offering of counseling and mental health resources.

Student Chefs Craft Culinary Creations in District-Sponsored Menu Competition

From the District

Students from Tynes, Rio Vista, and Ruby Drive elementary schools recently competed with original entrées in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's (PYLUSD) annual Student Chef Competition hosted by Nutrition Services on Monday, April 4.

This cooking challenge was crafted by district chef Orlando Luevano with the County After School Activities (CASA) programs at the schools. The goal of the competition is to offer students the opportunity to showcase their culinary skills and to compete for their dish to be on the elementary school menu.

PYLUSD Nutrition Services held preliminary competitions at all three schools to determine which students would compete in the "Championship Cook-Off." Students worked with staff to create their recipes and present them to a panel of judges. Students were scored on originality, flavor, preparation, and presentation of their dish.

The final round of the competition was held in the culinary classroom at Yorba Linda High School (YLHS), where six student chefs made their recipes come to life with state-of-the-art cooking equipment to craft their delicious entrées. The elementary students cooked with the help of YLHS culinary pathway students who served as their sous chefs.

After hours of attentive preparation, skillful cooking, and deliberation from the judging panel, the first place entrée went to fifth-grader Delilah Hernandez Lopez from Rio Vista. Fifth-grader Maria Canizalez from Ruby Drive scored second place for her tasty dish. The winners will be able to see their creations on the district's lunch menu in May.

Congratulations to PYLUSD Nutrition Services for hosting a successful cookoff and to the elementary student competitors for their hard work and imaginative menu ideas.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylud.org



Melina Michaels
President

Did you Shamrock'n Run?!

It was an incredible comeback year for Shamrock'n Run at Yorba Regional Park. The REACH Foundation had over 600 sign ups and more than half of our runners were PYLUSD students. This year's Shamrock'n Run, encouraging healthy lifestyles, featured not only a timed 5K & 2K course through the park but an incredibly fun obstacle

course with under net crawls and tire flipping. The Shamrock'n Run Champion Perpetual trophy was awarded to the elementary, middle and high schools that earned the most points in two areas: 1) the number of students and staff that finished the 5K, 2K, & SQUARE Course 2) Placement in the Top 5 positions for gender and grade level. This year's Shamrock'n Run Champions are Glenview elementary, Valadez MS and Yorba Linda HS. Photos from Shamrock'n Run are at www.reach4pylud.org.





Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
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As this school year comes to a close I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 27 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is November 9. Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your reading choices.



Start them early. They will read forever.



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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Beth Fisher
Principal

Belong at BeYorba: The Return of Student Led Activities

This past spring as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, our students embraced the opportunity to rebuild connection and understanding through student led events. March 21 marks “National World Down Syndrome Day.” One of our

very own students organized a school-wide homeroom lesson on the joys of inclusion with highlights of Down Syndrome Awareness. Our Girls Gear Up launched a campaign called “Make Someone’s Day” where all students could write notes of encouragement outside of our science and art classrooms. The week before Spring Break was packed with an Anti-Bullying assembly where students shared their thoughts on how to make BeYorba a kinder place. We hosted a schoolwide pancake breakfast and ended our week with a career speaker day. Our students put belonging into action through these activities at BeYorba.



BeYorba students work for all to belong.

Bryant Ranch *School (TK-5)*

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



Shannon Robles
Principal

Bryant Ranch Students Can Make a Difference

Bryant Ranch has many opportunities for students to get involved and have fun learning. This year, we celebrated Earth Week with special events from Monday to Friday. Hosted by the school’s Green Team, students in grades TK through 5th grades had the opportunity to write an Earth pledge on how they want to protect the planet, earn

special Earth Week brag cards for bringing in reusable lunch containers, and made Eco Crafts using upcycled paper. The focus is to inspire students to make a difference and learn that it’s our job to keep our planet clean and healthy. To wrap up the week, we celebrated Earth Day, where students wore green and blue and students redeemed their well-earned Earth Week brag cards for cool eco-friendly prizes.



Brookhaven *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Fund Run Success!

On Friday, March 11th, all our Brookhaven Bears participated in our Fund Run jogathon as the culminating activity to our school-wide fundraiser. It was so exciting to be able to run together again this year on campus, after a year off from school wide in-person events! Our generous school community and hard-working, dedicated PTA made this event possible.

Our families raised funds to support various activities, field trips, assemblies and school materials that enrich our students' education. Each day of the week previous to our run, our students watched engaging and interactive videos about healthy habits and character education to motivate our students and help them gain the skills necessary to be productive and successful partners at school and in their daily lives.

Our Bears ran for fun and fitness and we had a wonderful morning of celebration together! We were especially thankful for our parent volunteers who were able to join us on campus to help organize the event and cheer our runners on! Way to go Bears and Brookhaven Community!



Buena Vista *Virtual Academy* (K-12)

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



Jamie Jauch
Principal

Richard Nixon Presidential Library

Spring field trips are happening at Buena Vista Virtual Academy! BVVA 4th and 5th graders were the very first student group welcomed back to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Museum and Birthplace since March 2020. The students participated in a walking field trip through the museum before spending the afternoon together to eating lunch and playing at

the park. The Nixon Library features permanent and temporary galleries and serves as an educational, cultural, and historical resource for visitors. Students learned about 1960s and 70s history and politics, as well as the life of President Nixon. Then, 1st through 3rd graders at Buena Vista Virtual Academy took a field trip to Crystal Cove State Park to learn about the tide pools. Students learned about various sea animals, the adaptation tools they use for survival, and how to respect and appreciate the environment.



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

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



Carey J. Aiello
Principal

Modeling Excellence

El Camino Real High School serves students in PYLUSD in need of extra support to recover credits and manage adversity. At the center of the staff's philosophy is the importance of showing up for students and meeting them where they are.

The following sentiment of author Brené Brown sums up the philosophy of the ECRHS team: "We need more people who are willing to demonstrate what it looks like to risk and endure failure, disappointment and regret—people willing to feel their own hurt instead of working it out on other people, people willing to own their stories, live their values, and keep showing up."

Through training on trauma-informed practices and a commitment to staying in touch with the reason they chose to work with at-promise youth, the team creates a

culture of acceptance with emphasis on a growth mindset. Recently, for the fifth time since 1996, ECRHS was presented with the California Model Continuation High School Award. The visiting team applauded the principal and staff for their "heart and passion," citing examples offered by the students, parents and district leadership interviewed as part of the model-school process. The visiting team commented on how "students consider ECRHS a home, a family, a place where they are safe and supported. They are shown patience, kindness and trust."

After speaking with district leadership, the visiting team also noted the following: "El Camino Real is not a one-size-fits-all school. Teachers are innovative and flexible." And finally, in conversations with parents, the team learned how, with the help of the team at ECRHS, "students show resilience, reclaim their motivation, and show a strong sense of self." ECRHS is proud to be among the 36 of some 430 continuation schools awarded this honor.

El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

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



Joey Davis
Principal

Winning Team

The Academic WorldQuest (AWQ) competition was held in March and El Dorado had a team compete. The AWQ program attempts to prepare the next generation of leaders, scholars, and decision-makers to thrive in a rapidly changing world - where

our national interests are intertwined with the global community.

The El Dorado team members are Arya Darvish, Marlowe Snapp, Greeva Ramani and Bailey Alam and their advisor is social science teacher Kelly Smith. The four sophomores surpassed all expectations and took first place at the Orange County competition!

They beat 6 year in a row winner Marina High School as well the other 10 teams representing Orange County. The Marina coach complimented them on their performance and couldn't believe they were only Sophomores!

For their victory, each of the hawks competing were awarded a new iPad Pro! They also get an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC to compete at the national competition representing EDHS and Orange County. Winning team there wins a trip to Qatar!



Social science teacher Kelly Smith,
Team members Arya Darvish, Marlowe Snapp, Greeva Ramani and Bailey Alam.

Esperanza High School (9-12)

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



Jeff Giles
Principal

Washing D.C. Tour

During Spring Break, the Esperanza Entertainment Unit took 40 band members on a performance tour of Washington, D.C. While they were there, they had the opportunity to visit all of the major monuments and museums. The EEU also performed at several of America's most revered locations, including

the Jefferson Monument as well as at George Washington's home in Mt. Vernon. A major highlight of the trip was visiting the grounds at Arlington National Cemetery. After visiting John F. Kennedy's Memorial, the Eternal Flame, and watching the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, our students were honored to be able to represent Esperanza by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We could not be more proud of our band students and their amazing director, Brad Davis, for their passion for music and dedication to our country!



Fairmont Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Anne San Roman
Principal

Everyone's in the Game!

Following spring break, Fairmont welcomed a game-engagement company to our campus. The coach, Stephanie, worked with students during recess and lunch to help build a culture of play that enabled our children to feel a real sense of belonging.

Junior coaches—students selected from grades four, five and six—were trained to lead students in games such as Magic Tag and Scramble during recess. In addition, a few classes met with Coach Stephanie for a

30-minute period to learn some games and practice conflict resolution. All students on campus have learned the power of Rock, Paper, Scissors!

After recess, students were led through a short cool-down exercise that helped everyone calm down and return to class ready to learn. The team of adults on campus, including administration, noon-duty supervisors and teachers, could also be seen learning and playing these games throughout the week. It is so wonderful to see students trying new games and making friends at recess. And above all, everyone is having fun!



George Key School (Special Education)

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

Rebecca Allan, *Principal*

Parent Involvement Activity

George Key celebrated the start of spring with fun family activities, the annual Jog-a-Thon and a visit from the Placentia Fire and Police departments!



George Key held a parent involvement activity on April 22, 2022. Students and their parents participated in making birdhouses. The birdhouses needed to be assembled and decorated for our feathered friends! Parents were encouraged to come and participate with their student and staff as we took advantage of the warm Spring weather to spend some time outdoors building and decorating our projects! More family involvement activities are being planned for next year to promote friendship and support for our students and families.

Glenknoll Elementary School (TK-6)

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Be the "I" in Kind

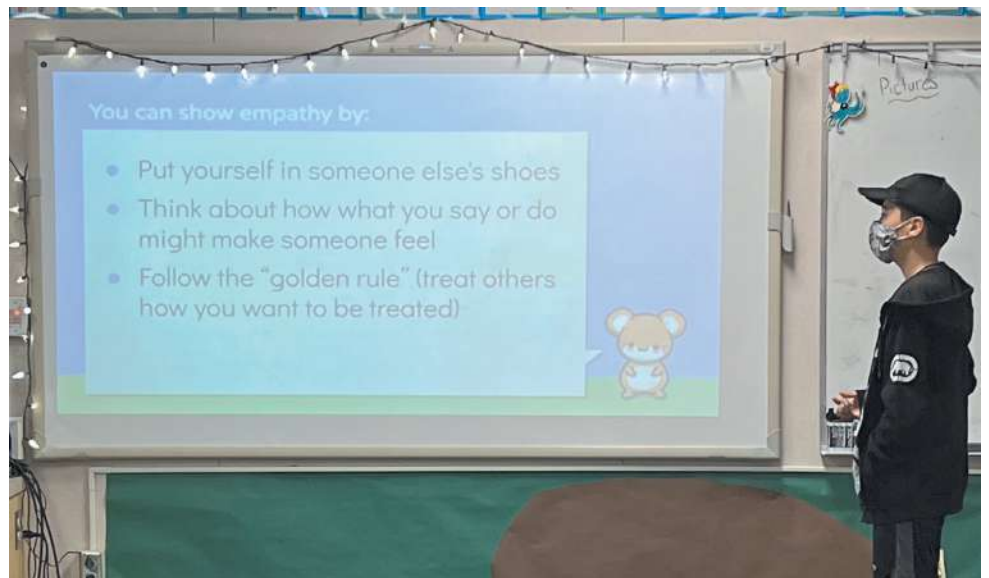
By Toby Foster, Teacher

Glenknoll Elementary students and staff have been focusing on a schoolwide kindness initiative. Each week in March, highlighted one character trait aligned with the kindness acronym ICARE:

Inclusion, Courtesy, Acceptance, Respect and Empathy. Every Monday, the sixth

grade Peer Assisted Leadership (PAL) team presented a kindness slideshow defining the word of the week, the objective, and examples of exemplary kindness acts, to each classroom. During recess and lunch, students had the opportunity to earn daily coupons, to place in a drawing, when they were "caught" being an example of the word of the week. Raffle tickets were drawn on Friday during Glenknoll's weekly morning assembly. Winners of the raffle

will attend a celebratory pizza party with the principal. The culminating kindness activity involved PAL students teaching the ICARE lesson to younger students and helping them create a kindness quilt. The entire Glenknoll campus was overflowing with kindness and demonstrated what it truly means to CARE for others.



Glenview *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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



Jane Roh
Principal

Exciting Field Trips

We have been busy this year at Glenview. Our students have been working hard and we are very proud of them! All grade levels have made academic gains in the areas of reading, writing, and math,

and we have celebrated our students' achievements at awards assemblies each trimester. For enrichment, all of our students have enjoyed going on field trips to exciting places such as the California Science Center, the Long Beach Aquarium, and even Centennial Farm. We are planning for a fun end of the school year and students and staff are looking forward to upcoming events such as schoolwide PBIS parties, 6th-grade promotion, and other fun assemblies. Go Bulldogs!



4th-grade students panning for gold on a field trip to Irvine Regional Park.

Golden *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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



Kristin McDonald
Principal

Recess Reboot a Success at Golden

Golden Elementary welcomed Playworks' Recess Reboot onto campus for a week in April. Students and staff members were trained to play new games at both morning and lunch recess times. Golden trained 25 students as Junior Coaches to help lead new activities such as Hungry Hippos, Magic Tag, Six Line Soccer, and Castle Ball. Student leaders not only model game rules, but

they encourage students to play fairly, resolve conflicts, and use positive language. "Good game, nice try" can be heard all over campus during recess, and staff members are passing out Gold Cards for positive behaviors aligned with PBIS. With the introduction of our new recess games, student behaviors have decreased, and students who may not have played during recess before, can now be seen running to the playground. Overall, the students love the new games!. Recess at Golden is a safe and fun experience for all!



Students playing Castle Ball.

Kraemer *Middle School* (7-8)

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



Michael Young
Principal

Holiday Assemblies and Performances

Kraemer's exceptional performing arts never skip a beat! Our dedicated students have dazzled and inspired audiences each performance this year. Each ensemble truly shined during holiday assemblies and performances. And this Spring KMS Bands and Orchestras earned unanimous Superior Ratings at our district festival. Additionally, KMS earned: 2nd Place at the Esperanza Jazz

Festival; Colorguard placed 2nd at the WGASC nationals competition; Dance Team won 1st place small team, 1st place jazz, and 1st place hip hop at Buena Park and also 3rd place large jazz, 1st place small jazz, and 1st place in hip-hop at Knott's. Finally, our Choir had the opportunity to attend a live recording experience at Disneyland late April. By participating in our performing arts programs at Kraemer, students get the unique opportunity to rehearse, perform, and compete with their friends, led by exceptional coaches. We are so proud of our high caliber programs!



Lakeview *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Stephanie Given
Principal

Lakeview Lions Showcase Their Collections

Lakeview has a new addition to our hallway: The Collector's Showcase!

Led by an expert collector herself, Mrs. Torres (left),

who serves as our librarian, and her best pal, Mrs. Vlastnik (right), a beloved 2nd grade teacher. Students entering the Lakeview Library are met with an expansive array of Stitch memorabilia from the Disney movie Lilo and Stitch. Mrs. Torres' passion opened up a wonderful opportunity for students to submit an application to showcase their passions too! Thus far, we have showcased unique collections of military coins, baseball caps, gems and rocks, Tsum Tsums, HESS model vehicles, and more! What a great opportunity



for our Lions to build a positive self-image and make connections with new friends! What do you collect?

Linda Vista *Elementary (TK-5)*

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



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Feeling the Love

Many exciting things happen on the Linda Vista campus during the month of May, including our school carnival, Variety Show rehearsals, field trips and assemblies. Add in end-of-the-year assessments and the shift of season when spring starts to feel like summer, and the pace can be relentless.

This is why it makes perfect sense to dedicate an entire week to recognizing the outstanding contributions of our teachers and staff. These educators have truly gone above and beyond to nurture our students and provide an exceptional experience for our young learners despite the many obstacles and challenges that they are presented with. I continue to be impressed by their collective commitment to ensuring that every student succeeds.

We are thankful to our PTA and school community who "rolled out the red carpet" for us this year during Teacher Appreciation Week. The celebrity treatment included delicious food and special notes from students. These gestures and tokens of appreciation mean so much to our dedicated staff, as they, too, deserve to feel "Noticed, Need and Nurtured."



Our PTA stopping by the front office to deliver a VIP breakfast.

Mabel Paine *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Mabel Paine Mustangs Have Talent!

Two hundred eight students took to the stage in Mabel Paine's talent show on March 24th, which included grade level, small group, and individual performances. PTA and parent volunteers dedicated countless hours to choreograph, design, organize, supervise, and host the event. Our first major public event since the pandemic was very well attended; the Valencia Auditorium, which seats 752

people, was almost full with eager Mustang families looking to support their students! Fifth-graders led the event with over a dozen emcees who entertained the audience and introduced each group act, which included dance, piano, drum, singing, and mind-reading performances. The night ended with a tribute to Tiziana Asrani Ramirez, the parent who has tirelessly devoted her time to leading and producing the Mabel Paine Talent Show for well over a decade. Her leadership and kindness will not be forgotten by the many lives that have been touched over the years.



Second grade rocks when they perform the Cupid Shuffle!



Our 1st graders were animals on the dance floor, showcasing their skills to Dance Monkey.



Our 5th graders danced into the end of their elementary career to Conga by Gloria Estefan & Miami Sound Machine.

Melrose Elementary School (TK-5)

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



Focus on the Whole Child

At Melrose we focus on the whole child. While academics are an important part of our students' day, we know that

students' social emotional needs are equally important. Our Wellness Team has created a calm space for students to come during lunch time to paint, color, draw, do puzzles, play with legos, or just read a book in a beanbag. This time to unwind during the school day has brought our students a sense of belonging as well as providing an outlet to share their creative talents as they recharge for learning.

Nicole Hernandez
Principal



Students unwind at lunch in the Wellness Room at Melrose Elementary.

Parkview Home Schooling (TK-12)

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



Outstanding Senior

Parkview is proud to recognize Dylan Proctor as our 2021-022 Outstanding Senior. Dylan maintains a 4.55 GPA while challenging himself with 11 AP/Honors courses and 6 college courses. Throughout

his school career, he's had numerous leadership positions, including that of NHS President and Student Council President. When he's not studying, Dylan is part of our Performing Arts Program and just recently completed the highest advancement rank in Scouting, receiving the Eagle Scout award. Overall Dylan exemplifies the "servant leader" role in all he does. This fall Dylan joins Vanguard University in their Scholars program with a generous scholarship.

Dominique Polchow
Principal



Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Kelly Farrell
Principal

AVID Family STEM Night

Morse Elementary hosted an AVID Family STEM Night on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, 2022. This evening provided Morse staff and students an opportunity to "Reintroduce AVID" to our parents and community since the pandemic. The evening began with sixth-grade AVID greeters high fiving and welcoming parents into the school. Students from first, second, and fourth grade sang and danced to a song about



AVID, then staff and students presented the parents with the path of AVID, what AVID is and how the program is run. After the presentation, families were challenged to build a leprechaun tower that could hold the heaviest pot of gold on top of it. Families used a growth mindset to design, build, and adjust their towers before a weighted pot of gold was utilized. It was an amazing evening of collaboration, connection, and community engagement!



Rio Vista *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Brandon Frank
Principal

All Means All

Our philosophy at Rio Vista Elementary School is that all children can learn...in fact, we often use the slogan "All Means All." This can be seen across our campus in many ways, but one of the most powerful is the way our Special Education

teachers work with their General Education teammates to ensure that their students have as many opportunities as possible to mainstream with peers in all of the activities and events that students participate in throughout the year. As a wonderful symbol of this commitment, our very own April Chaney was honored as an "Exceptional Educator" by the Special

Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC)! She was nominated by a parent of one of her students, who said it best: "she doesn't just tell her students she cares about them, she shows she cares [and] the impact she has made... will never be forgotten."



Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

Highlighting Traditions and Culture

These last few months have been exciting at Rose Drive in that we have been able, with the support of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), to bring back many of our time-honored traditions such as our Lunch with a Loved One, Bingo for Books and Muffins with a Loved One. In doing so, our families and our staff have

been able to connect with one another on campus, and we continue to focus on being a kind campus that supports each and every student.

In March, many of our families were able to come to campus, bring lunch for their children, and sit out on our fields to enjoy having a picnic lunch together. Music played during our luncheon, our Spring Book Fair was open, and fun was had by all! In April, our PTA also hosted a Bingo for Books and Muffins with a Loved One.

Our school year will end with lots of enthusiasm and energy in that we are planning our Donuts with a Loved One for May 27 and the Talent Show and Spring Carnival for June 3. We hope to have a great end to the year together as we focus on kindness and our personal best!



Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Engineers Excel at Ruby Drive!

Ruby Drive partnered with Dreams for School to give student engineers an opportunity to discover after school. Participating in the “Let’s Explore STEM” program, second and third grade scholars learned about engineering by building rockets. The young scholars studied how astronauts use rockets to explore space and were challenged to build a catapult

as they learned about engineering, math, and physics. In the “Engineering Inventors” program, 4th and 5th graders examined civil engineering. When making straw towers, they made necessary adjustments to form strong foundations. They made the connection that in the real world, engineers make buildings using different shapes. Our engineers were so excited to create and design! They now look at the world through new lenses and possibly will make a new invention someday!



Sierra Vista *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Jacquie Bluemel
Principal

Ecolutions is Back

After a year and a half on hold, Sierra Vista is pleased to announce that Ecolutions is back in action and ready to help beautify our campus! Ecolutions is a dedicated group of 6th

have that program up and running again at some point this year. Thank you to our 6th grade Ecolutions students for your willingness to help keep Sierra Vista beautiful!

graders who meet at least once a month to clean out and care for Sierra Vista’s vegetable garden as well as the butterfly sanctuary on campus. Students are led by parent volunteer, Suzanne Hofstetter, who helps to instill in the students a love for and the benefits of caring for our campus and planet. In years past, students have also helped with the recycling program at Sierra Vista. We are hoping to



6th grade Ecolutions students Miley Coronado and Claire King.

Topaz Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Eva Matthews
Principal

Topaz News

It has been an incredible honor and pleasure to get to know the PYLUSD and Topaz community and family. This year we had the privilege of hosting Open House, a successful Book Fair, and we are able to provide great educational experience through field trips. Celebrating these achievements we celebrate our teachers and staff that have tremendous passion and

dedication to our students during Staff Appreciation Week! We look forward to finishing the school year strong as we begin to take the state assessments (CAASPP) and prepare for end of year events and our 6th grade promotion.



Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

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



Dr. Taylor Holloway
Principal

Staff Appreciation Week

May is a month of celebration at Travis Ranch. Students perform at spring concerts and plays. The hard work of all is rewarded and recognized at awards ceremonies and assemblies. Parents are welcomed onto campus to attend Open House events, classroom

parties and enjoy the school carnival. May is also a month of reflection and thanks. We reflect on the growth students have made throughout the year. Our students at Travis Ranch have excelled and made tremendous Learning Leaps under the care of the Travis Ranch Staff and in partnership with our community! The Travis Ranch PTA also makes May a very special month for staff as they celebrate us during Staff Appreciation Week. This year, our

staff was treated to a trip around the world with first class service. The Travis Staff enjoyed the week and deserve the recognition. Thank you Travis Ranch Community!



Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Tuffree's History Night Back!

Tuffree Middle School Honors World and U.S. History students spent several months conducting in depth research projects that centered around the 2022 National History Day theme of "Debate and Diplomacy". Their task was to choose a topic related to the theme, gather resources, conduct their research,

and then identify and articulate a connection to the theme, as well as the historical context and significance of the event. Once their research and findings were complete, their next objective was to organize and present this information through a physical display, website, or documentary.

On April 28th families, teachers, and community members attended the annual History Night event at Tuffree and spent time viewing the projects and interacting with the students as they demonstrated their knowledge. Awards were presented for Outstanding Visual Impact, Quality and Originality, and Historical Investigation. It was a great night for attendees and participants!



Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

The Championship!

This Spring, Tynes Elementary 6th Grade Co-Ed Kickball tournament kicked-off. This is a tradition that hopefully will carry on for many years at Tynes.

As our 6th graders finish their remaining days as Tynes Tiger, Mr. Newbill, our amazing PE teacher, hosted a Tynes 6th

grade Double Elimination Kickball Tournament. After a few days of sign-ups, nine teams of eight submitted their team name and rosters. Whether it was the Placentia Raptors vs. the HeHeHaHa's or the Hawks vs The Lightning, memories were created and fun was being had by all. Spectators even created signs to cheer on their fellow Tynes Tigers.

As the tournament came to a close, players shared stories of the wins, the losses, the tiebreaks, and the extra-inning games. The tournament was a memorable way to close the chapter of their time at Tynes Elementary. Way to go 6th grade class!



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

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



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

Annual Masonic Lodge Awards

Valadez Middle School Academy (VMSA) was pleased to recognize three outstanding Eagles at the annual Masonic Lodge Awards night and dinner on April 28th. Mrs. Sharon Bethencourt, one of our ELA and ELD teacher, was recognized as an outstanding educator for the compassion, dedication, and high standards she demonstrates for her students each and every day. She is known for going above and beyond in

meeting the needs of the students and staff at VMSA. Additionally, Tebo Torres-Moreno was recognized as an outstanding scholar. Tebo is known around campus as a student who continuously strives for success and shows initiative in learning. They lead with kindness and compassion and they are a shining example of how our Eagles at VMSA can SOAR. Lastly, we recognized Madelyn Nolasco-Mancia as another outstanding scholar. Madelyn is positive, kind, and genuine and has worked hard to overcome challenges. She has a resilient attitude that drives her to succeed.



Valencia High School (9-12)

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Incredible Success in Academics and Beyond

Valencia High School has had another exceptional year in academic competition. Our Academic Decathlon team competed in Division 1 and took 3rd place in Super Quiz and 2nd place overall in Orange County! The team then competed at the State level placing 3rd in Division 2! Our Chemistry Olympiad team captured 4th place in Orange County with one student advancing to national competition. Four of the VHS CyberPatriot teams reached

the platinum level in a series of competitions putting them in the top 12% of 4000 teams across the nation. The VHS Robotics team, "TiGears" took 2nd overall out of 40 teams in the First Robotics regional competition. Our Future Business Leaders of America did extremely well in State competition (placing 11th) with 10 Tigers qualifying for National competition this summer. Violinist Aaron Kim was named Orange County Register Artist of the Year. And finally, VHS Counselor Mark Stanley was named OCDE Counselor of the Year. We are proud of our students, coaches and staff for their dedication to excellence. Go Tigers!

Van Buren *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Family Book Fair and Science Night

Van Buren students and families were treated to an exciting night of books and science! Through the collaboration of our PTA and Van Buren staff, Family Book Fair and Science Night was held on Friday night, April 29. The night began with a science assembly demonstrating the many forms of matter and how matter changes.

Throughout the evening, students and their families visited booths to learn more about science in our everyday world! Electricity stood students' hair on end! Students learned how to combine matter to make a bouncy ball to take home and they learned how to



change sugar into delicious cotton candy they could eat. The book fair was open all evening ensuring students could build up their home library for summer reading. Food was also available and many families enjoyed homemade street tacos and burritos as well as Italian ice! A great time was had by all who attended and everyone left having enjoyed the fun and excitement of science all around us!



Venture Academy (*Adult Transition Program*)

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

Rebecca Allan, Principal

Jog-a-Thon

Venture Academy students are known for their helpfulness to others and their good works. On April 29, 2022, the Venture Academy students assisted George Key students with their annual PSSO sponsored Jog-a-Thon. Venture Academy students helped to push

wheelchairs, cheer joggers on and provide general instructions to participants. The activity included many parents and staff and culminated by a visit from the Placentia Fire and Police Departments. Everyone had a great day and our PSSO raised money for next year's activities. Way to go Venture Academy! Thanks for your helpfulness!



Wagner Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Janice Weber
Principal

STEM Family Night

Wagner hosted STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Family Night on March 18, 2022. We couldn't have

asked for a more gorgeous Friday evening to gather as a community. Thank you to Ms. Sherri Cruz and our fabulous PTA for planning an evening of exciting experiences. Students and families joined with teachers and staff for balloon magic, shaving cream clouds, straw rockets, super slime, kinetic sand, and spaghetti skyscrapers. Fun was had by all!



Woodsboro Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Dr. George Lopez
Principal

Spring Music Concert

After two long years, the halls of Woodsboro are slowly coming alive. An example of that recently was the Spring Music Concert for the primary scholars. Students practiced for months in hopes of finally being able to perform in front of their parents. And that wish recently came true.

As parents gathered out on the playground, you could hear them saying, "Getting back to normal feels SO good."

The students, dressed in the best concert clothes, were so excited to be performing for their parents and guests.

As the 1st graders kicked off the event, their opening song was most appropriate—they sang, "I Want to Be Happy." And you could feel that mood throughout the crowd.



Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Greg Kemp
Principal

Celebrating Traditions

At Yorba Linda Middle School, we are excited to be getting back to many of the traditions that we have not been able to do since 2019. One of the first events that we brought back was our Showcase Night, in which many of our school organizations and teams came out and performed for parents and students. It was standing room only for the Showcase as it was well attended.



Our ASB put on our Staff vs. Students Volleyball rally to end our third quarter. Again many of our student organizations were able to perform throughout the rally. The YLMS Staff took on multiple student teams over four games in which the staff came out victorious. We look forward to our Bobcat Teacher Awards night and our Staff vs. Students Basketball rally in the coming months.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Richard Dinh
Principal

Top Ranking!

Once again, Yorba Linda High School was ranked as one of the best high schools in the nation by a national digital-media corporation. Our highest ranking

to date placed YLHS as the number-one high school in the PYLUSD; number 145 school in California, making us the top 6%; and the number 1,032 high school in the nation, in the top 3%. Congratulations to our students, staff and Mustang families for their hard work in making this happen.

Among many factors, rankings are based on our 99% graduation rate, 52% of our student body passing at least one Advanced Placement exam, and math, reading and science proficiency that ranks among the top in Orange County.



Theodore Adams, Sophie Zhang, Esther Yang, Kayla McKechnie

As we close the school year, we personally thank our teachers, families and students for all of their hard work and dedication. A special congratulations to our valedictorians, Theodore Adams and Sophie Zhang; and salutatorians Kayla McKechnie and Esther Yang. We look forward to celebrating with the class of 2022 and our families at our graduation ceremony on June 15.



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Ages
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Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

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

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

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

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

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Camp Heritage Oak - 16971 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda - 714.524.1350 - campheritageoak.org

Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

Activities Away from Technology

Q. My 10-year-old son only wants to stay indoors, play video games and eat chips and the like. He doesn't like sports. I'm trying to get him outdoors and moving but he complains about the heat. Any ideas on how to get him away from becoming a couch potato and away from the TV?

A. There are plenty of programs that your son might like such as swimming, drawing, painting, camping, making pottery, volunteering at a pet shelter, cooking, graphic design for kids, etc. The whole idea is to get him into a scheduled activity three to five days a week. Some of the facilities where the activities take place have lunch served to the kids. It's usually a pretty healthy one at that. They should give you a weekly copy of them. If not, ask for one. Some programs allow kids to bring their lunch. This means that he will be eating less of the bad things and more of the good. He might even decide that eating fruit is a good break from chips. If your son can find something he likes and can participate in it with a friend, he'll be more willing to stick with it, especially if there's no pressure to be a super star. This will also give him less time to play video games or to watch TV.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. www.ParentToParent.com

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Lacrosse—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)

ATTACK	MOUTH GUARD
CLEATS	NET
COACH	PLAYERS
CREASE	RULES
DEFENSE	SCORE
FIELD	SHAFT
GOAL KEEPER	SIDE LINES
HEAD	STICK
HELMETS	TEAMS
MIDDIES	UNIFORMS

Congratulations
Charlotte and Xander Cook
winners of our February contests

Entries must be received by July 15, 2022
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.





KARINA'S BACKPACK PROJECT



[Karina's Backpack Project \(KBP\)](#) was founded by Karina Tarsadia in 2018 to celebrate the back to school experience and equip young students with the necessary supplies to begin the school year. She created the Backpack Project to help other young students feel equipped with the materials they needed to put their best foot forward in school.

Karina found like-minded partners to help support her cause. The project is fiscally sponsored by [Joy of Sharing Foundation](#) and the implementation partner is [Dreams for Schools](#), a local education organization.

Karina's Backpack Project has helped distribute over 35,000 backpacks & school supplies to kids in the last 3 years in Orange County & Los Angeles.



Get involved and learn more about how you can help support students during back-to-school this fall by providing backpacks and school supplies.



To learn more visit
karinasbackpackproject.org
or follow us on Instagram
@ [karinasbackpackproject](#)