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# School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

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## Sharing our "Good News"

I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD).

Part of the reason why I'm so proud is because of all the incredible things that are happening in our district.

But therein lies the challenge: we have so much positive news to report, that we often can't share it all.

This summer, we decided to change all that.

We started by hiring a fulltime public relations professional to help us expand and promote our communications approach.

Next, we made an effort to increase our social media outreach. We added Instagram ([instagram.com/pylud](https://www.instagram.com/pylud)) to our lineup of existing communications tools, which includes Facebook ([facebook.com/pylud](https://www.facebook.com/pylud)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/pylud](https://twitter.com/pylud)). We ramped up our LinkedIn presence, now adding more professional content to that channel. Also, we established a YouTube channel for posting district-specific video clips. All of these accounts are updated on a regular basis with posts and pictures from around PYLUSD.

Most importantly, we launched a brand new website that will now house all of our good news. Titled The Advantage in Action – Your PYLUSD "Good News" Report, this website is continuously updated with all of the exciting activities in PYLUSD. It's fully searchable, and contains an archive of all previous good news entries.

To view this new site, simply visit [goodnews.pylud.org](http://goodnews.pylud.org).

A periodic email will be sent out to parents and staff featuring these recent stories, with links to even more good news.

Our entire organization is now living by the adage: "No one knows about our good news if no one shares our good news." Because if you don't promote, a terrible thing happens — nothing.

## PYLUSD is Enthusiastic About AVID



The August 2015 AVID Summer Institute in San Diego. Student speaker Andrea Cervantes, an eighth grader from Kraemer Middle School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, is pictured with her "AVID family" after delivering her speech. She is surrounded by students, principals, assistant principals, teachers and staff from Kraemer and Valencia High School, PYLUSD officials, her father, mother and grandmother.

### From the District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) prides itself on providing opportunities for all students. One of our most exciting student achievement programs that we've made a priority is AVID.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities, especially those traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Will every student pursue higher education? Not necessarily. Should every student be prepared for and have the option to attend college? Absolutely, and that's where AVID comes in.

AVID is important to our district. It provides support for first-generation college students by developing the habits, skills and behaviors to use knowledge and abilities. It also teaches content-specific strategies for reading, writing, thinking and speaking.

Moreover, AVID raises student achievement, and ensures college

access and success by closing opportunity and expectation gaps.

The history of AVID within PYLUSD is almost as old as AVID itself. In 1997 Kramer Middle School began a grassroots AVID program, and Valencia High School established its AVID program in 1998.

Our district now boasts 13 AVID schools at both the secondary and elementary levels. Secondary schools include Bernardo Yorba Middle School, El Dorado High School, Kraemer Middle School, Tuffree Middle School, Valadez Middle School Academy, Valencia High School and Yorba Linda Middle School. The six elementary AVID sites are Mabel Paine, Melrose, Morse, Rio Vista, Ruby and Topaz.

Currently, Valencia High School is working towards becoming a National Demonstration School, and is what the AVID Center calls an "Emerging Demonstration Site." Kraemer Middle School has added AVID Excel, which focuses on changing the trajectory of long-term English Learners by accelerating language acquisition and developing literacy.

PYLUSD actively promotes and encourages the AVID community within our schools. For example, earlier this year, Valencia High School hosted their first annual AVID barbecue tailgate party for over 500 VHS, Kraemer Middle School and Valadez Middle School Academy AVID students, families and staff members before a home football game. The purpose of the tailgate was to build upon the connection between the three AVID programs, and motivate these students to stay focused on their goal of attending a college or university.

Additionally, dozens of our teachers in all grade levels participate in dynamic AVID training courses AVID Elementary and AVID Secondary, as well as AVID Excel. This training and philosophy are grounded in the idea that the growth mindset can be taught to students to help them succeed in following their dreams and fulfilling their aspirations.

AVID is making a difference in the lives of all PYLUSD students, and PYLUSD is committed to student success with AVID.





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**Covering the  
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**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

**ADVERTISING SALES:** Leslie Rawlings  
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063  
leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Meshel Negrete

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:**  
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 8th year publishing the excellence from the PYLUSD. There have been many changes, but one constant is excellence and academic focus.

Superintendent Domene wrote about the exciting news of the District's social media outreach. Communication is important and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is February 18, 2016. Until then have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



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**David Vannasdall, Ed.D. '16**  
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**Julie Nibali**  
President

## Help Brighten the Future

The REACH Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education foundation. Our fund-raising efforts support enrichment programs for all PYLUSD students. Our mission is to provide academic, athletic and arts enrichment for every student at all of our PYLUSD schools.



It takes a dedicated community to make a real difference in the lives of our young people and help them meet the challenges to develop 21st century citizenship readiness. Our foundation is committed to addressing this need, and we hope you will join in on our efforts. Together we will create a more prosperous future for our entire community.

Your tax-deductible end-of-year charitable contributions and company-matching opportunities can go a long way to help our enrichment goals. Please explore our website—click on “Ways to Donate”—and Facebook page to learn more about us and our efforts to bring greater enrichment offerings to our students.



**Glenknoll Elementary School shows their school pride at the 2015 Heritage Parade.**

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

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



**Ken Valburg**  
Principal

## So Many Good Things

Bernardo Yorba Middle School (BYMS) is off and running in so many ways this fall. Speaking of running, the leadership class students promoted the first-ever Color Jog-a-Thon. The students had a great time raising money for their school as they splashed color on each other, enjoyed the festive atmosphere, and raised their heart rates!

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is now on the Bernardo campus. This highly effective philosophy is all about closing the achievement gap, and BYMS has seventh- and eighth-grade classes this year. The students are getting organized, taking effective notes, and learning how to be accountable for their own learning. AVID is



impacting the whole school, as all teachers have been trained to use Cornell Notes in their classes.

Finally, the digital revolution continues at Bernardo with the acquisition of 40 more netbooks, the use of Google Classroom, and the use of Criterion, an online writing evaluation program for students. What a great start to the school year!

## Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**David Cammarato**  
Principal

## Welcome to the “Bear Necessities”!

In an effort to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all of the students at Brookhaven Elementary School, our staff has developed a Positive Behavior Intervention Support plan (PBIS) that is designed to maintain a safe school environment by promoting positive behavior.

PBIS is a system-wide approach to behavior management, one where the behavior standards are infused into every part of the school atmosphere. It is a new process for Brookhaven, but this year we hit the pavement running by beginning the Tier-One implementation.

Brookhaven teachers were a shining example of collaboration as they spent time in the early weeks of school walking their students through six stations that taught them about the school-wide behavioral expectations in different settings around campus. These expectations are all part of our new “Bear Necessities” model for being a Brookhaven Bear. They are: Be the example, Encourage honesty and kindness, Always have a positive attitude, Respect school, staff and others, and Strive to be your best.

Teachers and staff look for teachable moments to reward their students for successful behaviors both in and out of the classroom. Our students have also been very much a part of this new process as well. Each morning, through student announcements, our Student Council shares one of these Necessities to work on throughout the week.

In addition, members of the Council can help support this program by working in the student store. Our student store is where the students can also turn in (for a prize) their “Bear Hug Coupons” earned for showcasing one of the Bear Necessities around campus.

This has been an exciting start to our year so far!



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

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



**Gordon Chamberlin**  
Principal

## The Excitement is Contagious

Great things are happening at El Camino Real High School! With Principal Gordon Chamberlin offering tips, support, and encouragement, many of our teachers are not just testing the waters; they are now jumping into the exciting world of Google Classroom!

Our students are arriving excited to see what the day's assignment will bring. Whether it be researching, watching a short informational video clip, going on a Selfie Adventure, creating a Kahoot quiz, writing a journal entry, or just clicking on a useful link, our students are learning how to manipulate their way around with ease.

The reaction is unanimous. "Sometimes I feel like they know more than I do, which is probably true, but that is okay," says Holly Pietsch, ECRHS. "I think my students like it when I ask them how to do something technical; they feel empowered with their knowledge and their ability to teach me. I am excited to learn all that Google Classroom has to offer, and I hope that excitement is rubbing off on them."



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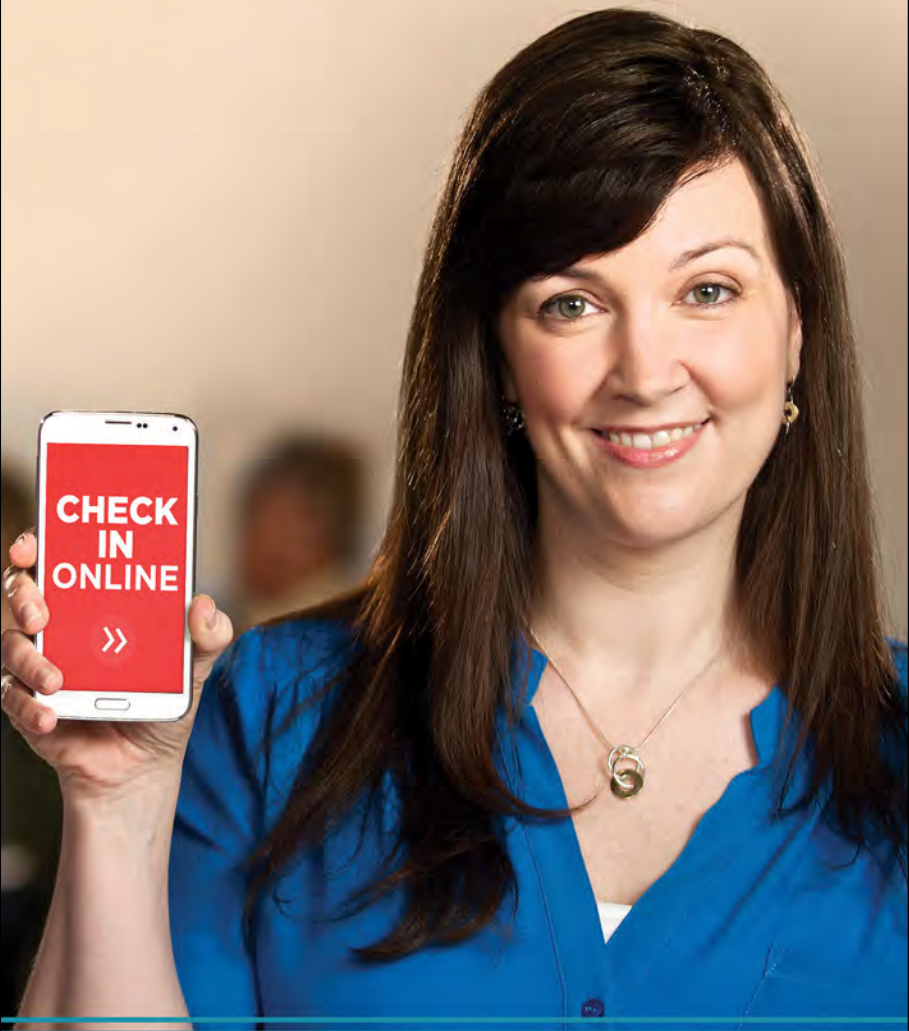


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# Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dominique Polchow**  
Principal

## Well Prepared

The Bryant Ranch Elementary School Explorer community took part in Emergency Preparedness Week, thanks to Yorba Linda High School senior Shannon Marquiss. This former Explorer planned an amazing week for our community, as she is working to earn the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Orange County Fire Authority presented individual class lessons to primary students, and upper-grade students participated in the Pillow Case Project, sponsored by the American Red Cross.

The week ended with a Safe Awareness For Emergencies (SAFE) Family Night. Students, parents, community members, and Girl Scout troops enjoyed interactive booths, where they could learn about exit drills at home, smoke detectors, water safety, and overall preparation for emergency situations. Participants could even get hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation trainings. Additionally, there was a special visit from Sparky the Fire Dog and Freddy the Fire Truck.

As Alexander Graham Bell said, “Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.” How prepared is your family?



**Bowmie Troop #3305 with YLHS Senior Shannon Marquiss.**

# Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



**Ken Fox**  
Principal

## College and Career Ready

This year at Esperanza High School, one of our school-wide goals is to promote college readiness for students. Each week we highlight a college or university on campus, and we note which staff members and notable alumni attended the university. We also have instituted College Gear Thursdays, where students and teachers wear apparel from the colleges of their choice.

In support of our college-readiness campaign, Esperanza held an out-of-state college fair in October for all junior and senior students. Approximately 50 colleges from across the nation, the

United Kingdom, and Canada were in attendance, including public and private out-of-state universities, international colleges and a large number of Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) institutions. Every junior and senior had the opportunity to visit representatives and get information from the many colleges in attendance. Lastly, we were fortunate to be able to hire a full-time college and career technician in order to re-open our Career Center and provide assistance for students with the college process, as well as career readiness.

# El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • [www.edhs.org](http://www.edhs.org)



**Carey Cecil**  
Principal

## ED LAW

El Dorado High School is delighted to announce the inception of a new academy, ED LAW (Legal Studies/Advocacy/Workforce Readiness). ED LAW will build upon the successes of our mock trial team and our Advanced Placement program to provide enrichment opportunities for students interested in the legal profession.

ED LAW students will have the opportunity to earn community college credit during their high school academic journey, secure priority access to six California law schools through participation in the California Community Colleges/California State Bar's 2+2+3 Pathway to Law School program, interact with mentors from all facets of the legal profession, serve as peer court jurors, compete on our mock trial team, gain 150 hours of career exposure over four years, and pursue a specialized academic schedule geared toward building a skill set advantageous to the pursuit of a legal career.

Ultimately, we hope that participation in ED LAW provides our students with a rigorous and enjoyable experience that helps them develop as thinkers, advocates, and analysts with outstanding speaking, reading, and writing skills who are better prepared to contribute successfully to and make a difference in our global community.



# Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • [www.fairmontelementary.com](http://www.fairmontelementary.com)



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

## Monthly Principal's Lunch!

Welcome to the 2015–16 school year! Fairmont is off to a fantastic start, and students and staff are engaged daily in rigorous learning as well as fun activities!

We expanded our PK program this year, adding a third Preppy K class at the start of school, and are thrilled to welcome Jessica Olguin as our new PK teacher. We also welcome Geoff Smith, who teaches our SDC kindergarten class, and Debbie Kim, our new school psychologist. They join our already stellar staff and have been excellent additions to our school!

We also want to highlight our monthly Principal's Luncheon sponsored by our PTA. Each month, our principal, Mrs. Lucas, and our AP, Mrs. Bluemel, greatly look forward to having a pizza lunch with our students in our main commons. The PTA team decorates the main commons to set the tone for this special event. By the end of the year, every student in grades one through six has had the opportunity to have lunch with Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Bluemel!

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairmontelementaryYL](http://www.facebook.com/fairmontelementaryYL), or check our school website.



# George Key School *(K-12)*

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



**Deby Six**  
Principal

## Response to Intervention

This year, George Key School is further enriching students' educational, vocational, social, communication, gross-motor and sensory experiences. During the summer, teachers worked hard to rearrange classrooms in order to provide interventions for the early elementary, middle school, and high school/adult transition groups. Each team of teachers collaborates on their students' Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) goals to determine: what students will learn; what activities and strategies are required;

how to assess when goals are reached and concepts are understood; and what interventions should be implemented when goals are reached or require additional support.

Emphasis will include enhancing the implementation of multi-modal communication systems to increase the number of students reaching their IEP goals. These approaches vary depending upon student need.

With the ongoing wonderful support of our families and our awesome teachers and staff, we are looking forward to another great year!



# Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Doug Slonkosky**  
Principal

## Super Heroes in Action!

Glenknoll started off the year with a new theme, "Super Heroes in Training!" The school mascot, Glen K. Cougar, appeared at our opening ceremonies with his new Super Hero cape. Glen is pictured here, helping students and alumni hand out water as Glenknoll participated in National Walk to School Day in October.

Fall events at Glenknoll included our Book Fair, Family Night, Red Ribbon Week Assembly, and our annual Fall Festival and Costume Contest. Battle of the Books will take place on Nov. 25.

Sixth-graders will attend Outdoor Education Camp on January 4-8.

As always, Glenknoll has a variety of volunteer opportunities for parents, guardians and community members. See our web page for more details.



Glenknoll students and alumnae celebrate National Walk to School Day. Chance Smith, Glen K. Cougar, Hailey Abler, Jeremy Abler, James Gomez, Adnan Harianawala, and Noah Currier.

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- Christmas for Kids (music, snacks, crafts) December 19, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
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# Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Alondra Ramos**  
*Principal*

## PBIS in Action

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) is a new schoolwide behavior system at Glenview Elementary. Teachers and staff teach schoolwide expectations each day and reinforce students for following Glenview's Core Values of Practice Safety, Act Responsibly, Work Together and Show Respect. Glenview students earn Bulldog Bucks and Class Compliments for demonstrating safe, responsible and respectful behavior and have opportunities to spend their Bulldog bucks in the classrooms or at the Dog Pound Student Store, or save for a VIP Pass to PBIS Principal Parties.



Last Wednesday, students spent their hard-earned Bulldog Bucks on an array of prizes and rewards at the Student Store's grand opening, thanks to the support of parent volunteers and PTA. Glenview Students of the Month also earn a special Golden Paw Fast Pass that can be used at the water fountain, lunch line and class lines for "Showing their P.A.W.S." and exemplifying outstanding P.A.W.Sitive behavior at school.

# Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



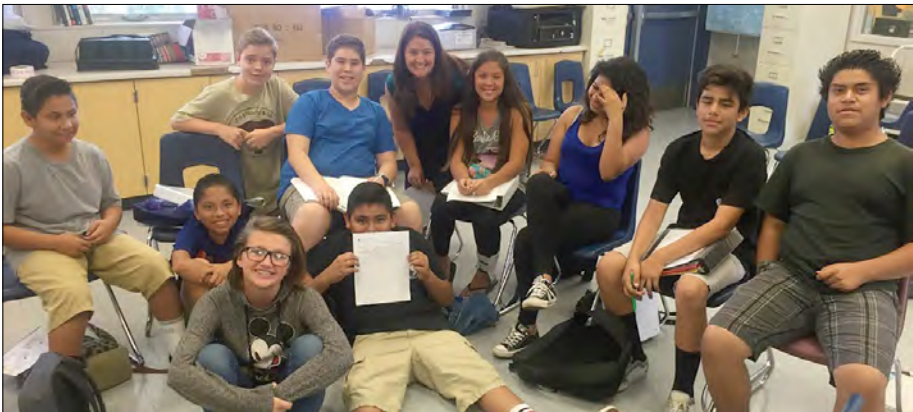
**Keith Carmona**  
*Principal*

## Striving for Academic Success

Kraemer has started a new mentoring program for those children who are potentially at risk academically or social-emotionally. Our staff wants to be proactive in providing support for students in a preventative manner, before they "self-identify" by struggling with low grades or off-target behavior.

Using data collected from the previous school year, we recently identified 100 students who could probably use some more positive adult interaction during their middle school experience. Fifty of our seventh-graders are now "Rising Stars," and 50 eighth-graders are "Kraemer Advancing Tigers," also known as KATs. These students are each provided with an adult mentor on campus who will meet with them during the tutorial period.

The Rising Stars and KATs will be developing positive relationships, goal setting, grade checking, and effective plans on how to deal with struggling in a class. Teachers and other staff members who are working as mentors personally volunteered for their role, and they are looking forward to leveraging their deep meaningful relationships into greater academic success.



# Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Roann Turk**  
*Principal*

## Golden Students Shine with Gratitude

*By Mrs. Mulcahy*

Golden Elementary School is truly a place where everyone shines, from the students to the custodian. Our students do a wonderful job of learning, and they do a fabulous job of showing their appreciation for the wonderful work that Nora Rubalcava does each and every day to help keep our campus clean and safe.

Nora is seen by our students tirelessly vacuuming, blowing debris off the blacktop, cleaning the lunch area, cleaning bathrooms, and inflating playground balls. Our students appreciate having an amazingly clean, orderly, and safe environment to learn and play.



**On Friday, October 16, 2015, Paytin, Lauren, Meghan, and Samantha presented "Miss Nora" with a lovely bouquet of flowers, a gift card, and a poster that was signed with messages of appreciation from students throughout the school.**

Four children with big hearts and great compassion have led their classmates in showing their gratitude for her dedication to excellence. These four students exemplify the kind of character traits that go far beyond what we expect our students to learn from books. Clearly, they have learned the most important lesson we hope to teach, and that is to be an empathetic and caring individual.

# La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



**Carrie Bisgard**  
*Principal*

## Online Courses Aboard

We started the school year off with a new director of alternative education, Carrie Bisgard, and a new school secretary, Sarah Soberanes. This adds to the excitement over La Entrada starting the year with our largest enrollment in four years!

After a successful pilot of the Apex Online program last spring, we'll be increasing our online course offerings this year. These rigorous courses are aligned with the California Common Core State Standards and provide an excellent opportunity for students. Apex courses include presentations, interactive lessons, and immediate feedback about learning at any time from any location with Internet access. Our highly qualified teachers will work with students on these courses, ensuring the award-winning alternative education for which the school is known.

La Entrada is now offering algebra, geometry, Algebra II, government, careers and several language arts online courses. More subjects will be coming soon, including economics and additional language arts courses.





# Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Katherine Dailey**  
Principal

## New STEM Lab

Bringing science standards to life has been a goal for our teachers. Research shows a link between doing and understanding. In many classrooms, students are doing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities. Recently, third-graders learned about energy and what makes things move. They were asked, "How many ways can a car move without using gasoline?" and then watched an interactive video while constructing their own rubber-band-twist cars. They observed how the twist of the rubber band stored energy that the car could use to push it forward, thus bringing this concept to life.

The amount of engagement was undeniably a game changer in how we approach science instruction. To incorporate more STEM lessons weekly, the staff has transformed a classroom into a STEM lab where classes can use Chromebooks and space dedicated to building and creating!

We're all looking forward to an engaging year! Way to ROAR, Lions!



# Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Tamie Beeuwsaert**  
Principal

## Choices

It is our choices...that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.  
—J. K. Rowling

Recess and lunch can be a very difficult time for some students. They may feel alone because they don't have many friends, they may not enjoy outside activities, or they may be having issues with friends and need some time away. In order to better support the needs of all of our students at Mabel Paine both inside and outside the classroom, we have added some exciting "choices" to our recess and lunchtime activities.

At recess, our students can now choose to either take a favorite book to the library or go to the computer lab and work on their typing skills, ST Math, Learning.com and other academic activities. During lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays, they can even invite a friend to play board games in the multipurpose room with Mrs. Beeuwsaert.

In the few short weeks that we have offered these choices, we are already seeing positive changes in our students' self-esteem.



# Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Paula Kintsch**  
Principal

## Aligning to the Standards

Linda Vista Elementary School is off to a great 2015–2016 school year. Just in the first two months of school alone we have elected our Student Council officers, held our third annual Trunk or Treat, have had two Meet the Masters Assemblies, held an Imagination Machine writing assembly, and celebrated our PTA Jog-A-Thon. The funds raised at the Jog-A-Thon help to pay for all our exciting family activities, learning assemblies, field trip transportation, and extra technology.

At Linda Vista, technology is an integral component of our daily instruction. Thanks to our supportive PTA, and a generous donation from the Orange County Community Foundation, our Linda Vista students now have five mobile Google Chromebook carts to use on a daily basis.

Through these Chromebook carts, and our computer lab, our students are able to access some highly engaging web-based programs. This includes their own Google Drive (Docs, Sheets, Slides), Ticket to Read, and IXL for K–5 math and 2–5 language arts.

The students use Ticket to Read and the IXL language arts programs to work towards high academic achievement in all parts of the subjects. Ticket to Read focuses on the child's basic foundational skills in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The IXL language arts program is also aligned to the new California State Standards, and provides complete coverage of the language arts concepts applications.

The IXL mathematics program offers the same focus on the new California State Standards in math. The IXL programs track each child's progress, and then provide a report on their proficiency towards the California State Standards.

All of our students are motivated to do well by earning points to reach their individualized goals. These web-based programs will help to prepare our students for the SBAC testing in the spring.

# Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Cynthia Alvarez**  
Principal

## AVID Elementary Implementation

This year, Melrose is proud to join the AVID family! Our fourth- and fifth-grade teams are committed to implementing AVID methodologies and strategies across all academic subject areas. Teachers attended the AVID Foundations and Implementation Training, where they deepened their understanding of student success skills, organization, writing to learn, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading to learn (WICOR) and partnerships with the community.

Parents readily participated in our first of three AVID workshops planned for this year, where they learned about the embedded best practices and strategies that all students will benefit from through our AVID Elementary implementation. Students have prepared their three-ring binders to utilize for organization and have begun their use of Cornell note-taking strategies.

We are proud of our new partnership and the pathway that has been established for our students to continue their participation in AVID through middle and high school as they prepare for successful careers.





## Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Cristina McCall**  
Principal

### Learning How Students Learn

Much excitement is underway at Morse Elementary! With Common Core Standards at the heart of instruction this year, Morse teachers began the year with extensive professional development. Partnered with Segerstrom Hall and UCI, third-through fifth-grade teachers spent five days of summer vacation attending science training that models integrating art and dance into science instruction.

Several teachers attended a four-day Cognitively Guided Instruction and Extending Children's Mathematics training that continues with two days of follow-up during the school year. Teachers learn how students' intuitive strategies for solving word problems can provide a basis for learning and understanding mathematical concepts.

In October, Morse teachers spent a full day analyzing student data, determining students' areas of strength, and determining best practices for reaching identified goals. Our Morse Wildcats are very lucky to be in the care of such outstanding and dedicated educators who give of their time to ensure that their students get the best instruction every day! Thank you, Morse Teachers!



**3rd grade students share their Successful Student drawings.**

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

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



**Dr. Linda Adamson**  
Principal

### Dare to Dream

The warmest of welcomes goes out to our youngest Roadrunners: our Pre-K and kindergarten students. They have brought with them the energy and passion for life and learning that is simply beyond compare. We cannot express sufficiently the gratitude we have for the addition of these delightful students to our campus.

Only two months into the year, and every one of our students has already collected a grocery list of new discoveries, skills, and adventures to add to their ever-expanding learning banks. I am so impressed with the passion and dedication with which they approach each day. I want to commend each of them for their full commitment to this year's theme by how they actively pursue their dreams without reserve. Impressive!

September marked our fourteenth commemoration of 9/11. This gave us the perfect opportunity to demonstrate strength and unity in honor of our community's heroes. The first-graders also brought Johnny Appleseed to life, discovering for themselves his quest to sow apple seeds wherever he went, so that, "Not a soul would go hungry."

An additional activity for the month included the return of the Fibo Art Academy. This is an art program that is provided by our generous PTA, and which thus far has included lessons and techniques from the famous Northern Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer.

October featured the highly anticipated Imagination Machine Assembly, which highlighted a handful of student-written stories as performed by the actors themselves. We also had Red Ribbon Week complete with a special K-9 assembly, where students learned about making healthy choices and maintaining a bully free school. The month culminated with our annual Jog-a-Thon, and our brand new "Dance or Treat" family event. Both were huge hits.

Yes, it was just another regular month in the exciting life of our Rose Drive Roadrunners!

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

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



**Kathie DiRocco**  
Principal

### A Strong Team

Parkview School had a great start to the new school year. Teachers met with each student in August, before school started. Parkview's teachers can have students from Preppy K to eighth grade, and some range up to seniors in high school. Each student meeting in August includes a great deal of paperwork, even before they get to the curriculum, books, lessons, and assessments. As the average hour-long meeting ends, the family rolls a cart out to their car with all their materials and lessons for the first four weeks of school.

The first official day of school is quieter at Parkview than at the other district schools, but there is still much to do. It is a very busy time with new families, some of whom are still making the decision to educate their children through the blended model of independent study, on-site classes, and online, teacher-directed instruction that Parkview offers.

In between working with new families, teachers are getting their first online instruction out to the high school students. Soon after, the onsite classes begin, and then Parkview is filled with the energy of lots of students together. Teachers roll quickly in and out of the three classroom spaces at Parkview. Teachers do individual instruction in their offices and group instruction in the classrooms. Parkview teachers are knowledgeable and skilled in the many areas needed to guide the learning of their students.

Parkview families are great partners and extremely dedicated to their children and their education. They work full time on the home front, teaching and guiding the learning at home as well as keeping track of the schedules and shuttling the students back and forth to school for various classes.

You can't ask for a better team, working together for the benefit of the students.

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

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



**Rafael Plascencia**  
Principal

### Promoting the Spirit of Success

The start of the school year has brought much excitement to Rio Vista Elementary School.

Our fourth- and fifth-grade teachers began preparing for the school year in August by attending the Advancement Via Individual Determination Summer Institute (AVID) in San Diego. AVID provides the tools to help our students close the achievement gap with college readiness skills and success through the WICOR program (Writing Inquiry Collaboration Organization Reading). All third- to fifth-grade students and

their teachers will be creating a "foundation of success" that will continue through middle school and high school.

We are also back to highlighting colleges and universities every Friday. Each of our classrooms adopted a national university such as Harvard, USC, Cal, Stanford, Oregon State, and more. The classrooms proudly display their university pride and aspirations by wearing college T-shirts and reciting the chant of their adopted university.

At the end of September, all of our students and teachers gathered together to recite the pledge, show their school and college pride, and perform their university's chant in front of the entire school. Once a month we will continue to come together to promote college awareness, academic readiness, and student success.





# Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Diana McKibben**  
*Principal*

## All About Food

Ruby Drive Elementary School is participating in a gardening project. Our partner volunteer organization has as its mission “Eliminating childhood malnutrition and obesity through nutrition training.” With education about nutrition, students become empowered to have long-term, healthy interactions with food.

This program supplements our existing school curriculum by linking the concepts of the Common Core State Standards to real-life examples. Trained instructors have begun to give classroom presentations about growing food, eating food, and the history of food. Seasonal produce will be planted, and students will be able to sample what is harvested.

A huge thank you goes out to our volunteers, who spent a hot Sunday afternoon building the foundations for the garden beds. Also, we are also grateful that representatives from the volunteer organization made themselves available to discuss the project with families at Back-to-School Night. We are very excited to continue this insightful learning opportunity!



# Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Monica Barrera**  
*Principal*

## Community Building

Greetings from Topaz Elementary! We are excited about the 2015–16 school year and ecstatic to be able to continue to provide the best education possible for all of our students.

Our first month of school went smoothly. We kicked off our school year with our Parent Greeter meeting through our Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership (GRIP) program. Over 70 parents were in attendance, and approximately 60 parents signed up to welcome our students and their families every morning and afternoon. Our mission is to build community between our school and our families.

In addition, we are supporting our district’s Every Day Counts campaign with our Attend for Success at Topaz incentive program. Our school goal is to increase our attendance percentage rate by 50 percent from the previous year’s month comparison. Students who attend school every day will be rewarded for weekly, monthly and trimester attendance. We look forward to a successful year!



# Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Cynthia Rex**  
*Principal*

## Why They Teach

The challenges of teaching are many and the expectations are high, so our teachers keep learning

and working together, always striving for improvement. Their devoted, smiling faces greet children each morning, and at day’s end, they’re sometimes exhausted but are also fulfilled and encouraged.

Why do they do it? Here are some thoughts from our first staff meeting:

“I enjoy seeing students begin to love learning as much as I do.”

“I loved it when I heard a student say, ‘Best. Day. Ever.’”

“I used a new strategy successfully! I’m anxious to do it again!”

“My pod mates made all the difference—they encouraged and supported me through my first year.”

“I loved seeing my second-language learners grow so much.”



“I’ve learned that change can bring many opportunities and blessings in spite of the challenges.”

Teaching is hard. Yet these teachers return every day to provide a safe, stimulating place for young hearts and minds to grow.



# Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



**Cindy Freeman**  
*Principal*

### Good Role Models

Travis Ranch hosted its fourth annual “Watch DOGS” kick-off event, with over 200 fathers and their children attending this annual “Going Bananas” event to make paper airplanes and have banana splits together!

Watch DOGS, an acronym for “Dads of Great Students,” is a nationally recognized program that is active in 3,156 schools across 46 states. Sponsored by the National Center for Fathering, the program’s purpose is to provide more positive male role

models for our students, and to serve as an extra watchful eye on campus for safety. For more information about this national program, check out [fathers.com](http://fathers.com).

Travis has also implemented its new “Miles of Smiles” walking program for grades one to five. Every day before school our students walk for 10 minutes as music plays over a loudspeaker. This program supports our mission of developing healthy, well-rounded students. Staff and parents join in, too. It’s a great way to start the day!



# Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
*Principal*

### The Highest Standards

Tuffree has an exciting focus this year on implementing AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), a program that is dedicated to preparing all students for college and post-secondary careers.

Our Advantage PYLUSD Strategic Plan notes the expectation that every student should demonstrate

literacy, and math skills. Our goal is to help fortify similar achievement and success on the newer CAASPP state assessments as part of our students’ path to college and career readiness.

To us, AVID is not just another program. It is a philosophy that holds our students accountable to the highest learning standards so that they can be ready for the future.

continued and improved academic achievement in order to emerge college and career ready. Tuffree’s AVID program targets this expectation with two focus components: each student school-wide, and those students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Tuffree has historically demonstrated high achievement in our state assessments, and is now ending the API achievement reporting cycle at 913. AVID provides a systematic infusion of school-wide instructional strategies that can develop critical thinking, inquiry, collaboration,



**Collaboration and interpersonal connections are practiced as 7th Grade AVID students meet with Mrs. Baldwin-Shirey, Principal.**



# Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Debra E. Silverman**  
Principal

## Developing Effective Strategies

Our Tynes Tiger staff is truly amazing! On September 30, the Tynes Elementary School's special education department provided an excellent PLC training to our general education teachers about effective behavioral strategies and accommodations.

The SDC preschool department, K-6 SDC team, two psychologists, and two occupational therapists led small groups through rotations that covered such topics as functions of behavior, reinforcement tips and tricks, sensory information, and suggestions for accommodations, as well as useful strategies for dealing with specific, challenging behaviors.



**SDC Preschool teachers Kristina Mahan, Amy Ortlieb, and Naomi Taber present information to the Tynes staff about reinforcement strategies including token boards.**

The staff left with a better understanding of student behavior. They also developed good ideas on how to successfully accommodate challenging behaviors while at the same time reinforcing the positive. These interventions tied directly into our school-wide PBIS plan, and will help support the new SST process.

We are continually striving for our students to, "Do the right thing, at the right time, in the right place."

# 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

## Fresh, Clean Start!

Van Buren is off to a new, clean and fresh start! Over the past months, we have undergone some wonderful changes to beautify our school.

First, a huge thank-you to our most generous PTA and community for dedicating the proceeds from the silent auction at our 50th Anniversary Celebration to the purchase of our new marquee. It is beautiful! To improve safety and accessibility, our district maintenance department has been hard at work adding new planters, grass and garden plants at the front entry of our school. Additionally, the kindergarten yard now has a grass field for the students to run and play on during their recess time! Thank you to all of our maintenance crews for your hard work in the very hot weather!

The staff and students are excited to begin our schoolwide Reading Counts reading program. We plan to have lots of fun with reading while we increase reading fluency for all. As students read new and interesting books, they will earn rewards for their efforts and progress! Keep reading, Roadrunners!



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

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



**James Hardin**  
Principal

## Helping Hands and Hearts

In September, Valadez Middle School Academy students were able to volunteer at Melrose Elementary School, partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank to distribute food to the local community. It is currently estimated that 11.4 percent of Orange County residents, or nearly 350,000 people, struggle with hunger in Orange County. Children and seniors make up 50 percent of those in need of food assistance. Families who once were able to contribute to their community are now finding themselves out of



work and in need of help to make ends meet. Valadez Middle School Academy Students were able to volunteer and support these community families by helping set up the food bank and even helped tutor prekindergarten students who came with their parents.

Valadez Middle School Academy Students are achieving, thriving, and serving their community at the highest level. We could not be more proud of our students and staff!





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# Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



**Rick Lopez**  
*Principal*

## Congratulations Scholars!

Valencia High School is proud to announce that nine seniors: Joyce Chew, Zoha Jamal, Yoonsik Kim, Julia Lai, Andy Li, Andrew Nguyen, Tanya Nguyen, Milan Patel, and Rubin Patel are among the top 1/2% of students in the nation to receive the honor of being recognized as National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists. 38 additional seniors scored in the top 5% in the nation and are recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars. Clarissa Aguirre, Connor Chase, Celeste Chen,

Max Chiu, Jaein Cho, Nien-Shaun Chou, Braden Durian, Lidia Habtai, Jonathan Hu, Jason Huynh, Tiana Huynh, Kota Kawamura, Brian Kim, Sydney Kusumoputro, Caitlyn Lee, Jee Eun Lee, Jidam Lee, Kaitlyn Lee, Suhhyung Lee, Jacob Leiken, Suvir Mehrotra, Jason Min, Chadi Nahal, Deanna Nguyen, Juneho Park, Carly Pawell, Jethro Pobre, Sophia Rosas-Smith, Mihir Shah, William Soong, Alexander Sweet, Daim Tabb, Andrew Truong, Caroline Vu, Tyler Vu, Grant Wang, Jessica Zeng, and Terriann Zhu.



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

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



**Dave Flynn**  
*Principal*

## Mustang Families

Welcome to the 2015–2016 school year at Yorba Linda High School, the home of the Mustangs. We are excited to be opening our doors to over 1,800 students and a full range of academic and co-curricular courses and activities.

Each year we work to add the kind of new course offerings that our students, counselors, and teachers feel would help enrich the YLHS experience. New courses this year include Advanced Placement Human Geography, business fundamentals, entrepreneurship, marketing, business applications, and information technology applications.

Yorba Linda High School's new business courses will focus on developing the Mustang Business Academy, which will become the YLHS signature MBA program for our current Culinary Arts/Hospitality Academy and the new Business Academy for the 2016–2017 school year.

Not only are we excited about our new programs, we are also very proud of our academic performance on last year's SAT exams. Yorba Linda High School scored 164 points above the national average. We also had a 91 percent pass rate on our 928 Advanced Placement College Board tests.

Please take a minute to visit our [ylhs.org](http://ylhs.org) website and see our 2015–2016 Yorba Linda High School Profile. We look forward to another very successful year as your 2015 California State Gold Ribbon School. Go, Mustangs!



# Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Patrick Brown**  
*Principal*

## Working Together

Wagner students have said goodbye to summer and hello to a new school year full of adventures in learning! Throughout September and October, our teachers, students, and parents have once again settled into the exciting routine of daily life at Wagner.

Wagner is doing its part to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Thanks to the Special Education Team, a recycling program is running smoothly. This program began when Wagner received a \$5,000 grant from a local retail company to purchase a sorting

container and the supplies needed for recycling. The PYLUSD provided the fencing around the larger outdoor recycling bins to help keep everything safe and clean.

Everyone at school is careful to deposit their plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the blue recycling bins that are located in our classroom building pods, front office, the MPR, the teacher's lounge, and childcare rooms. Staff members, parents, and students are also encouraged to bring recyclables from home, too.

Each week a small group of students from Ms. Amaya's, Ms. Cardinal's, and Mrs. Lee's special education classes, along with an instructional aide, all travel around the school to empty the bins of recyclables and place them into larger containers. A high school special education class taught by Mr. Galvan then picks up the bags of recyclables and takes them to a recycling center.

All the proceeds from this program go to help pay for the special education students' community field trips. Not only does this program contribute to the well-being of the environment, it also reinforces valuable life skills. The Wagner School family greatly appreciates the hard work of both its students and teachers in their recycling efforts.

At this time of year, we at Wagner are thankful for the remarkable community of people who work together each day to make our school a success.





Shirley Fargo  
Principal

An Energy Star

Woodsboro Elementary School is an ENERGY STAR school! Many of the household appliances purchased today come with an ENERGY STAR designation, indicating that the appliance uses less energy than other similar appliances not holding this certification. Over the past year, Woodsboro, in conjunction with district, has been working diligently to reduce our energy consumption and emission of greenhouse gases. Woodsboro has been awarded this recognition by the United State Environmental Protection Agency for reducing our energy use. Our school uses 35 percent less energy and generates fewer greenhouse gas emissions than similar buildings across the nation.

We have accomplished this by turning off computers nightly, turning off lights when leaving classrooms, and being aware of any switch that is left on and does not need to be on. We are grateful to our students, staff, and parents, who have worked together to earn this recognition.

We are proud to be an ENERGY STAR school!



Cameron Malotte  
Principal

Family Picnic

Friday, October 16, was an eventful day at Yorba Linda Middle School. At lunchtime, we held our Bobcat Family Picnic. Parents were invited to come to school to share a picnic lunch with their students. And come, they did. This was a very well-attended and well-enjoyed event. Then, at the end of the school day, we enjoyed an all school “M3 Rock n Talk” assembly which featured a professional rock band with a message. There was student participation as the band invited several students to sing and dance with them. They also intertwined motivational messages about overcoming challenges and encouraging students to be kind to one another. It was very entertaining and inspirational. Between the picnic and the assembly, it was a great day to be a Bobcat!



Food and fun at the Bobcat Family Picnic.



Eighth grader Lia Mimun featured at the M3 Rock n Talk assembly.

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)

Word Search by Kai Coop

Entries must be received by December 15, 2015  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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

Congratulations to **Nicole Smith**  
May Word Search Winner

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



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