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School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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NOVEMBER 2016–JANUARY 2017

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Thank You to Parent & Community Volunteers

Just recently, I was getting the now rare and even more valued opportunity to have dinner with my 27-year-old daughter Sara and her husband

Morgan. As they have been married for two years now, my wife and I often wonder about...well you know...becoming grandparents! Halfway through dinner, they began to ask questions about what it was like to raise children and the challenge of being parents. We thought for sure this was it! We would hear the magic words, but instead (and yes, it was a little bit of a let down) they sincerely wanted to know about the role of parents

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Students Focus On Exploration, Creative Problem Solving



By Cary Johnson, Director Secondary Education / Alternative Programs and Doug Schultz, Public and Media Relations

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is branching out with STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) laboratories.

Elementary school

Beginning this school year, PYLUSD and the North Orange County Career Access Partnership (NOCCAP) opened five STEM labs at Glenview Elementary School, Lakeview Elementary School, Mabel Paine Elementary School, Rio Vista Elementary School and Ruby Drive Elementary School.

These Pitsco Missions Labs are patterned after Space Shuttle crew roles with students acting as Commander, Materials Specialist, Information Specialist or Communication Specialist. Each crew works on their own unique five-day mission with titles such as “Matter Matters,” “Rocketry,” and “Force and Motion.”

Middle school

Middle school STEM lab teachers were recently introduced to the new Expeditions program at Travis Ranch School and Tuffree Middle School. The most engaging feature of this new initiative is the zSpace computer, which projects 3-D virtual reality environments that permit students to interact with simulated items. Want to see the inside of a beating human heart? The zSpace machine can show it to you.

Both the elementary and middle school STEM labs are part of the progression of career pathways across grade spans in PYLUSD: STEMLink (elementary), ExpeditionLink (middle school) and the culminating CareerLink Academies (high school).

These STEM labs address three goals of the California Career Pathway Trust Grant:

- Provide high-quality educational opportunities and formal learning that supports students' current skill sets, and accelerates their development of skills.
- Maintain rigorous and high expectations for students in developing, following and completing a career pathway plan.
- Expose students to career opportunities beginning at an early age.

High school

Finally, Valencia High School is making a name for itself in the robotics world. Last spring, the FIRST Regional Competition was awarded to Valencia High School, the first time Orange County has ever hosted the event. More than 40 high schools from across California gathered at Valencia to compete with their robots in exciting games

Hope Conant, the coach of Valencia's robotics team, the TiGears, was also awarded the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE) Foundation Teacher of Excellence Award. The SAMPE award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers for inspiring students in STEM fields.

Valencia has also hosted the Southern California Regional Robotics Forum's (SCRFF) Fall Classic two years in a row.

PYLUSD hopes to continue the expansion of both its STEM labs, and student access to technology clubs, like the TiGears.

Congratulations R.E.A.C.H. Foundation
Celebrating 5 Years Supporting PYLUSD
(Please see page 3 for article)



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 9th year publishing the excellence from the PYLUSD. We look forward to many more years as the excellence continues.

Superintendent Dr. Plutko's message on the front page is a reminder of the importance of volunteering in the classroom and community.

In this issue you will read about the great beginning to this school year as students focus on their goals.

Our next issue is February 15. In the meantime, have a happy Thanksgiving, fun winter break, happy holidays and Happy New Year!

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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

We Are Celebrating Our 5th Year Supporting PYLUSD!



Julie Nibali
President

The 2016-2017 school year marks our 5th year supporting the 34 schools of PYLUSD. When we started in 2012 we were a handful of parents with a mission is to develop and provide Resources for the Enrichment of Academics, Arts and Athletics for our Children to reach their ultimate Heights! In five short years The REACH Foundation has expanded our programs and proudly dispersed over \$90,000 dollars. The

following programs received donations from REACH:

Annual Spelling Bee	\$4,500
High School Serve Program	\$2,600
Visual & Performing Arts Teacher Grants	\$16,000
Concerts (PrepK & K)	\$4,000
4th Grade Music	\$3,000
Annual Middle School Track Meet	\$28,000
CPR Manikins	\$5,500
Playground Equipment & Balls	\$10,500
School Rebates from SRR 5K/2K	\$16,575

We couldn't do it without the many parent and student REACH volunteers, the support of our Placentia and Yorba Linda Communities. Just this year our Brighter Futures campaign is close to meeting our fundraising goal in just the first 6 weeks of school. Thank you for supporting REACH and our students.

If you have ideas, comments or would like to find out how to volunteer for our fun and dedicated foundation please email me directly at jnibali@reach4pylud.org



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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

Off and Running

Bernardo Yorba Middle School (BYMS) is off and running this fall. Speaking of running, the leadership students promoted the second annual Color Jog-a-Thon. 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! The first-ever BYMS physical education elective, Stay Fit, has kicked it into high gear as students are learning about how to develop and apply fitness plans and goals.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) continues to grow on the Bernardo campus with AVID Schoolwide, which promotes the use of highly effective instructional strategies for all students. Students are

getting organized, taking effective notes, and learning to be accountable for their own learning.

Finally, the digital revolution continues at Bernardo with nine new 40-netbook carts for student daily use. Also, our teachers are now using Google Classroom.

What a great start to the school year!



Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Flexible Learning Environments

We all like choices. On average, children make about 3,000 choices each day. As we move through the 21st century, it's exciting to implement new innovations, giving our students different options. Whether it is collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, or critical thinking and problem solving, teachers are always researching new ideas to reach our learners.

This year, our teachers are exploring Flexible Learning Environments. This allows students to work where they are more comfortable, allowing them to be more productive. These options

may include standing desks, round tables for collaboration, or small tabletop desks, which allow students to sit on the floor instead of at the traditional student desks. It is a well-accepted fact that children need to have movement throughout the day. In fact, the California Department of Education concludes that Flexible Learning Environments give student the opportunity for movement while better meeting their diverse learning needs.



The 4th grade students in Ms. McClain's class enjoy working at small table top desks while sitting comfortably on the floor. This is just one option of many students have.

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Stellar Start to the Year!

We've had a fabulous start to the 2016-17 school year! In a short time, we've already accomplished a great deal and have come together as a community in various ways.

In September, students attended our first PBIS Pep Rally, where they reviewed the positive expectations that were modeled and taught during the first week. They cheered on our Brookhaven Bear and their peers in a tricycle race. They're currently casting their vote to name our Bear mascot, with second- through sixth-graders voting by Chromebook and Preppy K, kindergartners and first-graders by paper ballot.



Students and families attended our Bears in the Hawks Nest Night at an El Dorado Football game and our annual PTA-hosted Family Movie Night, viewing Zootopia. Both events were well attended by our Brookhaven families, who demonstrated great school spirit and strong school community.

Each day, our students model our "B.E.A.R. Necessities" and "Be the Example" as model students at Brookhaven! We look forward to an outstanding school year!

Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

Epic Principal's Report

Welcome back! We are so excited about the 2016-17 school year! We're off to a great start and would like to welcome all of our new staff members. We look forward to see the impact they have on our students.

Please help me welcome the following staff members: Steven Kahn, math; Lynn Magnin, art; Dugan Miller, world language; Courtney Miller, science; Raymond Martin, social science; Erica Mc Nab, language arts; and Nataly Garcia, language arts.

So far this year, our women's volleyball team took first place at the Dave Mohs volleyball tournament, defeating Long Beach Wilson in the championship match. We held our first dance, with roughly 970 students in attendance. Students had a great time and are now looking forward to homecoming. Finally, we just held club rush, which highlights the 48 student-run clubs on the Esperanza campus this year. Club rush gives students the opportunity to sign up and get involved in multiple clubs.

We hope that you and your students stay involved in everything that Esperanza has to offer in the 2016-17 school year. Go Aztecs!



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

A Second Chance at Life

Hope and a second chance: that is what El Camino is all about. As we begin another year with our new and returning students, we also begin again our tradition of giving back to the local community.

Each year, El Camino partners with the Red Cross to hold a total of four blood drives. Our first blood drive was held in September under the direction of Mrs. Di Carlo and her capable leadership team. Staff and students joined the effort to collect 47 pints of blood. That's about a quarter of our student

population helping to save about 140 lives.

One student walked into class a little light headed, but said it was all worth it. "It was on my bucket list to save a life," said Destiny Moreno with a smile. The spirit of giving and helping others definitely is alive at El Camino. As Aldo Ocampo put it, "It feels good to help other people."

We are off to another good start at El Camino. There is so much hope for a second chance at a better future. Way to go, Raptors!



Student, Jerry Guillen, preparing to donate to the Red Cross.



Joey Davis
Principal

Prepared for the Future

El Dorado High School teachers are doing amazing things with technology. We received two new netbook carts this summer. We now have seven permanent labs and seven netbook carts. Here are some examples of the great things going on.

Mr. Newberry differentiates lessons in world history using netbooks for his classes. Students have options about how to complete their assignments, but technology makes it all happen. In Mr. LaMonda's computer science classes, students are learning to code. They start the year by exploring human and computer

interaction. Mrs. Cavalluzzi's law careers classes are using Google Hangouts to video conference with college representatives and do research on colleges they would like to attend after graduation. Technology is being used daily across the campus at El Dorado.

The revamped Digital Media Arts Academy has always relied on technology, but our new animation teacher, Mr. David Block, has already guided his students to publish a small animation project, which you can view at <https://goo.gl/YqeRLO>. Mr. Switzer's video production classes have already published some fantastic Hawk Talk episodes. You can watch them at <http://www.edtv3.org>. All three pathways—animation, video, and photo—are using industry-leading technology to train their students.

The EDHS counselors are offering multiple opportunities for assistance with college applications. On November 14 and 15 the counselors will offer a University of California application workshop at 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., and on December 12 and 13 they will offer a community college application workshop at 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. We will also be repeating our popular Cash for College presentation. We had over 70 families attend in October. For additional details about these programs, check the Web site at edhs.org.

Teachers See the Possibilities

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



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

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Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

It's for the Birds!

By Tonya Gordillo, Assistant Principal

This year our Fairmont Elementary Gate Academy students are becoming ornithologists.

As ornithologists, the students will delve deeper to gain knowledge on bird habitats, diet, migration, and other features. Throughout the school year our GATE Academy students will also participate in field trips, listen to guest speakers, view websites, and read educational materials to learn more about California's bird population. The students will present their

learning during a GATE Academy night in the spring.

To kick off this year's Academy, our GATE students spent the morning listening to guest speaker Steve Kaye, a bird enthusiast and photographer. Students and parents were actively engaged in Mr. Kaye's photos and stories as they inquired about the different birds and locations displayed in his slide show.

Afterwards the students used pictures from magazines and hand-drawn illustrations to decorate their personal journals full of collected research notes and observations. Our students left very excited, and inquired about future academies and events.



George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

A Special Day

George Key has had a great start to the 2016–2017 school year!

We were excited in September to be able to share our patriotism on Constitution Day and Patriot's Day. On September 9, our students gathered in front of the school next to their "hand" made American Flag. It was great to see the students place their hands on the flag and show their patriotic spirit.

We started the ceremony by lowering the flag to half-staff and then pledging to it. Using a specially designed curriculum, the students also shared the story of how Patriot's Day came

to be. With help from our speech pathologist, many of the students also used technology to read their part of the article. A big shout-out to our friends at

Golden who allowed us to record their voices!

At the conclusion of the event, the students shared the cards that each had made for our local police and fire department, and then enjoyed cookies together.

For Constitution Day, the halls of George Key were filled with the sounds of instruments and voices singing, "The Constitution is the law, is the law, is the law. The Constitution is the law in America." We are so proud to be Americans at George Key!



Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Everyday Leadership

Author and speaker John Maxwell once said, "One is too small a number to achieve greatness," and Glenknoll is a shining example of that! As we begin this year, teamwork exemplifies the essence of Glenknoll Elementary School with its leadership from the staff, students and the parent community.

Glenknoll is proud to celebrate its wonderful staff. Everyday leadership takes place in the classrooms, where students are given an outstanding education with high standards and strong academics, with an emphasis on success. Glenknoll teachers value the relationships that are built and the role they play in building positive connections with students and families.

Students take pride in their school and their learning. They show everyday leadership in their interactions with others, in pride in their school, and in their willingness to take part in community-outreach projects that arise throughout the year. Our students are currently supporting a canned-food drive alongside Esperanza High School. Our school is also in the process of selecting students to participate in our Student Council and PAL (Peer-Assisted Leadership) programs where they'll be trained in conflict resolution and leadership skills.

Glenknoll's parents are among the best! They take pride in our school and provide everyday leadership in working with our staff for the best interest of our students. Through PTA, as classroom helpers and with their support from home, parents make a positive impact in educating and helping us find success for our students.

We look forward to our community Fall Festival coming up this month to enjoy the company of our community and also to raise money to support our students. I want to thank each of our stakeholder groups for leading from every aspect of our school. Glenknoll is an amazing school!

Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

Balanced and Magical!

Glenview Elementary School launched the first Dual Language Academy in the Placentia Yorba Linda School District this fall. The new school year also brought a full-day kindergarten program to all four classes of Glenview students, with opportunities to participate in music, art, science, technology and physical education lessons.

For 64 of these kindergartners, instruction is delivered in the Spanish language for 50 percent of the day. Dual Language Kinder teachers Susy Magana and Rocio Sobschak have used innovation and creativity to build students' knowledge and skills in one language and a bridge to the other while opening their classroom doors to two classes of children each day, using seamless planning and collaboration.



Working alongside their fellow team members, traditional kinder teachers Elana Leiken and Cathy Mell have strengthened the full-day kinder program with their expertise for creating a well-balanced, magical kinder program.

Our Glenview Kinder Scholars have soared, and we look forward to sharing more about their growth and success this school year.

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Roann Turk
Principal

Golden Students SHINE with PBIS

The spiky-haired boy begins to sprint across the blacktop, then checks himself and walks to the court to play a game of handball. Everyone plays by the same rules, and knows how to settle disputes. All around campus this year, Golden Elementary students are treating each other with respect, being responsible, and playing safely. PBIS lessons and rewards have helped everyone to SHINE! We are Safe, Here and ready, Inclusive, Nurturing, and Exceptional! During the first week of school, lessons in each area of campus taught students how to be Responsible, Respectful and Safe. Since then, students have earned lots of “Gold” cards for “SHINE - ing”. Last week, they got to use those cards to buy fun items and passes for privileges like being first in the lunch line at our SHINE Shop! We have had a wonderful start to a “Golden” year where all students SHINE!



Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

I'm Going to College

On Saturday October 1, 150 Kraemer Middle School AVID students attended a special “I’m Going to College” event at the Rose Bowl prior to UCLA football game that night. The college fair provided students an opportunity to learn about different college classes and programs, as well as meet UCLA students and hear about campus life. After the event, the kids were provided free tickets to the UCLA football game. AVID is a national program which helps students get on the track to enter a four-year university directly out of high school. AVID equips students with the academic skills to perform in high level classes in middle and high school. From learning UCLA’s fight song to enjoying the camaraderie of the game, the Kraemer kids truly got a unique college experience.



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La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

Excited to Be Back

La Entrada High School staff and students are excited to be back at school for the 2016-17 school year! La Entrada is PYLUSD's award winning Independent Study program. Students at La Entrada work on one course at a time and finish each course in four weeks. This year students will have a new opportunity to learn new skills this year, in addition to their independent studies, students at La Entrada will be attended collaborative workshops three to four times per semester. These workshops integrate important 21st Century skills like listening, speaking and collaboration to the independent study environment. The workshops cover cross curricular topics and are fun and interactive. Sample titles of these workshops include Aboriginal Art Painting, Get Going with Google, It's Just Water Under the Bridge Building (see picture), The Mathematics of Music, Munch: Things that Make Us Scream.



Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lve-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

A Solid Foundation

At Linda Vista, we are "Building our Future" one student at a time. Thanks to our incredibly supportive and generous PTA, we have started the year out with new Chromebooks, new playground equipment, and a new school website.

Having these resources in place has set the foundation for an exceptional 2016-2017 school year. The PTA has also planned all kinds of enriching experiences that promise to further connect our students, staff, and families to this wonderful school. This year in particular we are excited about our Jog-a-thon, carnival, school play, book



Parent volunteers enthusiastically reveal the new Jog-a-thon posters at our first PTA meeting of the year.

fairs, family picnics, holiday boutique, family nights, assemblies, field trips, and science fair.

We are forever grateful to our generous parent volunteers who dedicate their time and talent for the good of the school. This partnership makes such a positive difference for the entire school community. It is truly going to be a year to remember. Go, Lions!

Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lak-pylusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Roaring to Achieve!

Our fourth-grade students are "Roaring to Achieve" in the new STEM Lab! Students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades at Lakeview Elementary are enjoying a strong curriculum and hands-on activities as they participate in our new STEM Mission Lab.

While learning new concepts and vocabulary, the students experience the hands-on nature of science and engineering by incorporating technology, math, and language arts. They are also exposed to various career connections in each Mission through



extension activities. It is incredible to see our students navigate through their learning while working in collaborative groups.

We enjoy seeing students have a unique role in the lab groups, building self-confidence and a love of learning. A big thank-you also goes to our teachers in these grade levels. They have attended added trainings and went the extra mile to make sure that this new STEM Lab runs successfully. Way to roar, teachers and students.

Go, Lions!

Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tamie Beeuwaert
Principal

STEM in Space

Mabel Paine Elementary School kicks off the school year by opening a brand new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) lab designed for students in third through fifth grades. Created by Pitsco Missions Labs, the lab is patterned after the space shuttle, with students filling crew roles including commander, materials specialist, information specialist, and communications specialist. Each crew works on their own unique five-day mission, with titles such as Matter Matters, Rocketry, and Force and Motion.

Through the STEM lab, students have the opportunity to experience hands-on engagement with the subject, and they learn through a high-energy, high-interest teaching model. The fifth-graders were fortunate enough to test out the lab first and have already completed their first mission. The fourth-graders have recently been trained and are embarking on their first missions too.

The lab is not only fun and engaging, but it also exposes our students to career opportunities beginning at an early age. We love our STEM lab!



Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

AVID Strategies at Work!

This year Melrose third, 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 3 ring binders to utilize for organization and have begun their use of Cornell note taking strategies. We are proud of our 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.



Mrs. Toscano's 5th graders were using an AVID strategy to summarize their choice of learning in science, social studies, or language arts through the use of a one pager.

Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

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



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

For the Benefit of the Students

Parkview School is one of Placentia-Yorba Linda's hidden gems. The pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade school serves the homeschooling community. Families meet with their site teachers regularly to share student work and receive lessons and support, but Parkview offers so much more. Each week, classes are available to all students. Some are to support the academic learning, especially in the core areas of mathematics, English language arts, social studies, and science. But others are enrichment, including an elective wheel, music and drama

performing arts, leadership, chess, and sports. This year, middle school students will participate in Lego robotics. Students and parents can also participate in monthly field trips. This year they include the Los Angeles County Fair, San Juan Capistrano Mission, and more. High school students participate in online discussion boards in the academic subject areas, connecting with teachers a minimum of one hour per subject per week.

Last school year, our Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation was renewed for six years. Staff, students, and families work hard to continue to improve Parkview each year.

Families find homeschooling meets their needs for different reasons. Whatever their reasons, families come together to make the Parkview community a tight one. They care about each other and especially about the students. Parents help in the classes and even run some. When it comes time for the spring musical, they sew costumes, help with practices, and coordinate the production.

Parkview is truly a collaborative effort of a united school community working for the benefit of the students.

Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cristina McCall
Principal

AVID Expansion

Morse Elementary excitedly continues its quest to implement schoolwide Advancement via Individual Determination! Teachers in kindergarten through second grade attended the AVID Summer Institute to learn how to embed strategies in lessons to maintain schoolwide structures.

AVID Elementary's philosophy is grounded in the idea that the growth mindset can be taught to students and lead them to success in following their dreams and fulfilling their aspirations. Teachers in grades three through six attended specialized workshops to enhance their implementation of WICOR strategies that raise rigor in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading. All kindergarten through sixth-grade students are participating in AVID! We are working on goals such as utilizing two- and three-column notes to help

organize our writing skills in each classroom.

A parent AVID rally was held in October and was well attended. Parents learned all about how AVID supports their children in becoming 21st century career- and college-ready individuals!



Third grade students use two column notes to better understand social science text.

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Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jose Cabrera
Principal

Coin of Our Kingdom!

As we begin this 2016–17 school year, we are eager to share the engaging and innovative initiatives at Rio Vista. We are proud to be part of a collaborative group of elementary sites within PYLUSD that are piloting a STEM lab. Our 15 third grade to fifth grade classes are engaging with the content that will allow students become advanced 21st century learners.



Our community engagement has extended beyond the walls of our school. We now offer Coffee with the Principals twice a month. This is a time when parents meet with our administrative team to learn and engage through conversations and technology.

I am proud to share that Rio Vista has embarked on a journey to challenge all stakeholders through our very own Challenge Coin. Inspired by the work and legacy of former Superintendent Domene, we will share our story via this coin on our school website and social media.

Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

New Preschool and Lab!

We are pleased to announce that Ruby Drive is now home to a state preschool and the new STEMLink lab. These two new additions to Ruby Drive demonstrate how we will best serve our community from age three through sixth grade.

Excited parents and students were on hand to open the preschool at the end of September. This new preschool will provide high-quality, developmentally appropriate instruction for the three- and four-year-old children in the surrounding neighborhood. Welcome, preschoolers!

Ruby Drive is also opening a new STEM lab for our third- through sixth-grade classes. Students will have the opportunity to be part of a “mission” that tackles a hands-on project. Not only will this new STEM lab instill a lifelong interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics but it will also give our students an awareness of STEM-based career opportunities.



Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Linda Adamson
Principal

Dare to Dream

Two months into the new school year and our Roadrunners are still celebrating the successes of their mini-production, *Annie Jr.* Each showing was completely sold out, and the feedback was unanimous: the students outdid themselves!

A warm thank-you to our fabulous students for such memorable performances, and to everyone involved for their unwavering support. You know it must have been a success when parents and students are already asking about next year's production, the title of which we are pleased to announce will be *Seussical*.

September offered several important events, including the 15th commemoration of the anniversary of September 11th. Rose Drive students and staff gathered in remembrance to demonstrate strength and unity in honor of our community heroes. Thanks to a new PTA-sponsored art program, the students were also introduced to the famous artist Pablo Picasso and his technique of cubism through the creation of their very own unique pastel masks. September also featured the renewal of our school garden. Classes have adopted sections of each bed and are eager to watch the transformation as seedlings magically become plants.

October was equally as eventful, featuring our annual Red Ribbon Week and a special K-9 assembly that highlighted healthy choices and steps to creating a bully-free school. We also launched our school-wide Kudos for Kindness program, imitated by eighth-grade YLMS student Cristine Philips. Students are being encouraged to “scatter kindness” and acknowledge one another for their kind acts. Student kindness will be recognized with kindness-wristbands when their names are drawn from our Kindness Kudos box, and during our weekly announcements by awards of kindness certificates.

The month ended with our annual Jog-a-thon and popular “Trunk or Treat” family event – both a huge success! With so much to report after just two months, we can only imagine what the next two months will bring.

Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

A Very Special Student

Sierra Vista Elementary School is filled with 485 hardworking, well-behaved students. Our parents are very involved, and we encourage them to participate in the many school activities. There are a plethora of opportunities for parents to volunteer in classrooms, at PTA activities, and at family events, to support their students at home, and to simply be part of the Sierra Vista family. This will be the best year yet.

There is one particular new student who has added much to our campus. Kennedy is six years old and has spinal muscular atrophy, type 1 (SMA1). She uses technology to speak and utilizes breathing and nutrition devices. Kennedy has provided Mrs. McBenttez's kindergarten/first-grade class with opportunities to learn about how special those with special needs truly are.

SMA1 is a degenerative neuromuscular disease that makes Kennedy's muscles weak. She has little voluntary muscle movement except in her lower arms and fingers. SMA does not affect cognition, so Kennedy is fully aware of her environment. She is bright and social, and she loves to come to school. Although she can speak, her speech is impacted by her weak muscles, so she can be difficult to understand. She often communicates via a computer that speaks for her, using her eyes to select what she wants to say.

One of Kennedy's good friends in class is Betty, another first-grader. Betty and the other children line up to play special games during recess, sometimes blowing bubbles, and other times playing Go Fish. Betty told her mother that she would be friends with Kennedy and not let anyone be mean to her. It is remarkable to see the bond that has developed between Betty, Kennedy, and all the students in Mrs. McBenttez's class. Mrs. McBenttez has created an environment where kindness and love flourish.

Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christa Borgese
Principal

Growing Great Learners

The 2016–2017 school year is up and running at Topaz Elementary School! Our behavior expectation assemblies were held during the first week of school, and the students are being Respectful, Organized, Achieving, Responsible, and Safe (ROARS) and “ROAR”ing their way to success. Go, Tigers!

Over the summer, six new garden beds were installed near the portables. On September 22, Doug Gould of the nonprofit group All About Food was on campus working with students in first through sixth grades to plant our first vegetable garden. The students planted carrots, onions, beets, radishes and lettuce, along with other delicious greens. Mr. Gould and his volunteers will visit Topaz several times throughout the year to present standards-based lessons in our classrooms on topics such as how plants grow, using recipes, composting, and baker’s ratios. The Topaz staff and students are looking forward to harvesting vegetables in a few months!



Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Clndy Freeman
Principal

Technology Lab

Tuffree Middle School is one of two middle schools to receive a full pilot upgrade to it’s Technology Lab. It is a multimedia, hands-on project driven program that incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Our students get to see and experience what they may want to do when they go into the world of work. Students build it, race it, test it, and see how fast and high it will go. There are 18 different subjects-modules that students may get to experience during their time in the “Tech Lab.”

What is really exciting are the 3 “ZSpace” modules! These are project-based, 3D augmented reality displays that allow students to model, test and explore areas of electricity, magnetism, robotics, heart surgery, and protective sports equipment. It’s truly the next generation of human to computer interaction!



Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



Susan Metcalf
Principal

Clear Expectations

Understanding that academics is just one factor in a student’s success at school, the Travis Ranch School staff kicked off the year by teaching positive behavior expectations, which will be reviewed and reinforced throughout the year.

At the elementary level, administrators met with all students to discuss expectations in positive, child-friendly terms. Students practiced procedures such as lining up and lunchtime routines. Staff focused on recognizing students who correctly exhibited these behaviors and re-teaching for those who needed more practice.

In middle school, students spent an entire day team-building, learning about behavior expectations, and hearing inspirational stories. Students traveled to engaging stations across campus, including: participating in a drum café, where more than 200 students played hand drums in unison; hearing from a motivational guest speaker, who talked about respect; playing with diablos after watching a professional demonstration; and learning our expectations directly from staff members at 10 interactive stations.



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Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

A Growth Mindset

The Tynes Tigers are so proud to be a California Gold Ribbon and Title I High Achieving School.

Our theme this year is “Mindset: How We Can Learn to Fulfill Our Potential,” based upon the research of Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D. We believe that we can make positive changes in our children’s lives by using the right motivational tools. We are now challenging all of our students to reach their full potential by moving from a “fixed” mindset to a growth mindset. Teachers and staff members are helping students accept and welcome change,

be persistent in accomplishing goals, put maximum effort into their work for mastery, take criticism and use it to grow and learn, and find inspiration in their lessons.

It is an exciting year for us as we move our students to new levels of success in all areas. We are so proud to be the Tynes Tigers!



Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

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



James Hardin
Principal

A Hand Up to Technology Skills

The Valadez Middle School Academy and after-school GOALS organization want to extend our greatest admiration and gratitude to the Tender Care Community Outreach Program (TCCOP) for supporting our students. We have the privilege of announcing the donation of 25 iPads to our site GOALS Manager, Grace Cardona, who was ecstatic about the opportunities our students are going to have to utilize the iPads on a daily basis.

Students will be guided through various character-building activities and lessons that include the use of the iPads. These lessons will take place at least four times each week, with all 150 students enrolled in the after-school GOALS program.

Our students will have the benefit of increasing their technology knowledge base in an environment supportive of students, with an array of competency

levels in technology. This very important aspect of better preparing our students to compete in a global economy has been made easier by the TCCOP organization.

Once again, we would like to thank the TCCOP for their kindness and generosity.



Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



Hector Vasquez
Principal

Pride, Tradition, and Excellence

I am excited to serve my first year as the principal of Valencia High School. Valencia HS believes in Pride, Tradition, and Excellence. These shared beliefs were evident as we started the year celebrating our academics and preparing for our validation visit to be an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Demonstration School.

Twelve of our seniors qualified as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. In addition, the National Merit program recognized seven Hispanic Scholars and 37 Commended Scholars. We also began the final preparation for our AVID validation visit, which recognizes our program to support our students’ college and career aspirations and ensures effective teaching and learning school-wide.

Finally, Valencia was designated as a 21st-Century Learning Exemplar School and will be the subject of a case study on high-performing schools developing 21st-century skills.

Valencia HS is proud, focused, and ready to continue our record of success!



National Merit Scholars

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

How Our Students Shine!

Van Buren STARS are shining bright in the new school year! Students spent the first week learning how to be Safe, There and ready, Act responsibly, be Respectful, and Show compassion. Across our campus, teachers modeled STARS behavior, then practiced together with students, and finally had students demonstrate each action.

In their classrooms, Van Buren STAR students are rewarded with STARS Bucks. “Bucks” are saved and spent on items found

on the Café Menu, which includes school supplies and extra fun privileges around campus. STARS students earn STARS Cards at the lunch tables, on the playground, in the hallways, in the bathrooms and at assemblies. STARS Cards are drawn each week for each grade level, and selected students come to the principal’s office for rewards and prizes.

This year, students have been challenged to show their STARS to their parents and our community every day! Keep shining, Van Buren STARS!



Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Patrick Brown
Principal

A New Addition

This summer the Wagner campus was hectic with a flurry of preparations. A special room was readied with brand new pint-sized furniture, a playground was painted with a miniature race course, and a new safety fence was installed. The excitement was growing in anticipation of our new pre-kindergarten, or “Preppy-K” program, scheduled to begin at Wagner in September.

Principal Brown and Mrs. Trish Wong welcomed the new students and their families at a meet-and-greet event a few days before the official start of school. Everyone was ready for their new adventure when the first day of school arrived!

Twenty-nine students are currently participating in the program. To the delight of everyone, the Wagner PTA also bought four new tricycles for the Preppy K and kindergarten students to share on their new “race course.” Wagner is so proud of this new addition to our school.



Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Hard at Work!

We are so pleased to announce the opening of Venture Academy in its new Placentia location! The district and staff worked diligently to ensure the successful start to the school year for these adults.

With their focus on developing job skills and preparing for the work world, the students at Venture Academy currently work at 14 local jobsites. Their duties include jobs such as stocking, cleaning, customer support and organization. The gentleman pictured works at a local hardware store. The team there helps to clean, restock shelves, and set up displays like the fall pumpkins pictured.

Following graduation from Venture Academy, it is the goal of our teachers for students to transition to part-time or full-time paid employment. Using



both district and public transportation, the students are on their way to becoming independent members of our community. On campus, students learn basic daily living skills to increase their level of independence in the home setting. Many of our students have become quite self-sufficient with laundry, basic food prep and cooking simple meals. We are very proud of these adults and their work to become as independent as possible.

Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

Off to a Great Start

Woodsboro started off the year recognizing both Patriot Day and Constitution Day with special school-wide assemblies. This year, Woodsboro is beginning implementation of the AVID Elementary program, which will help our students develop organizational skills and focus on college readiness. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, and AVID Elementary is a foundational component of the AVID College Readiness System.

Fall events at Woodsboro included our Book Fair and Fall Festival Costume Contest on October 13th, Red Ribbon Week Activities the week October 24. Future events include the Sixth Grade Outdoor Science Camp, scheduled for January 3-6.

As always, Woodsboro has a variety of volunteer opportunities for parents, guardians, and community members. See our web page at www.woodsboro.org for more details.



Evan Gess and Camille Ives, Flag Bearers for Patriot Day Ceremony

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Cameron Malotte
Principal

Spirited Activities

It is still early in the school year, but the students and staff at Yorba Linda Middle School have been keeping busy with a wide variety of events and activities. The first day of school was, as usual, filled with excitement, as students arrived early to pick up their schedules and find their classes. Associated Student Body (ASB) students were attired in their red shirts and held bright signs offering assistance. Representatives from our district office were also here to help the new school year start smoothly.

By the time the tardy bell for first period sounded, 954 students were safely in their classes. The next day, students took turns attending our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) assembly and participating in campus tours as our ASB students taught their peers about appropriate and expected behaviors in various areas of the campus.

On Wednesday, the third day of school, Mrs. Taylor, our Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) leaders, and the sixth-grade teachers met in Lasorda field house to -provide our new sixth-graders with a half-day orientation packed with fun and informative activities.

The first week concluded on Thursday with the kick-off for our fall fund-raiser. Students were excited to learn about the products to be sold and all of the prizes they could win for various levels of sales. Many noontime activities accompanied the sale, and the students brought in nearly \$90,000.00.

In subsequent weeks, we recognized Patriot's Day, Constitution Day and Spirit Days. Our marching band and color guard held Pastries in Parking Lot, a dress rehearsal for the Placentia Heritage Festival Parade, in which they marched the following day.

Many more activities are planned in the near future as we strive to balance academic excellence with spirited activities.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Opportunities for Involvement

Welcome to Yorba Linda High School, a 2013 California Distinguished High School and a 2015 Gold Ribbon/Exemplary Arts High School. In August, the school was also recognized by *Newsweek* as one of the top high schools in the nation and was ranked fifth in Orange County.

Yorba Linda High School is a four-year comprehensive high school that exceeds state and college expectations in preparing our students for academic excellence while providing opportunities to excel in athletics, fine and performing arts, leadership, and the business-technology field. Last spring, a visiting team from the California Department of Education commended the staff and community for their continuing focus on maintaining enthusiasm and support for student success. Yorba Linda High School is proud to be recognized as a model school for the work that we have done to integrate the best practices for all students on a daily basis.

Our focus for 2016–2017 is connecting students to the total high school experience. Whether it is participating in our award-winning band, orchestra, choir, yearbook/newspaper, theater arts, speech-debate, mock trial, Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, or video yearbook programs or competing as part of one of our 28 athletic, cheer, or dance teams, we encourage students and parents to support the many organizations that proudly represent Yorba Linda High School on campus and in our community.

Go, Mustangs!

Whole Health Everyday Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put PYLUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2016
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FIBER	NATURAL	VITAMINS
FRUITS	NOURISH	WATER

Congratulations to Lauren Stanley
Winner of the last Word Search Contest!



The Playground Zone



Kate Karp

For some, particularly the younger some, hip-hop is a playlist staple. For others a generation or three older, it's at best an acquired taste. And the menu on this lively collection is sufficiently spicy and substantial to satisfy any listener. It was cooked up by teacher/artists, songwriters and performers Kaitlin McGaw and Tommy Shepherd, along with the various other guest artists who comprise Alphabet Rockers.



As their website says, the songs were “fully kid tested” in Oakland-area schools and apparently pronounced delicious. The lyrics are a call to anyone who needs a hand up—or wants to put an elbow up, is different externally or internally, or just wants to move. “Players’ Life” sings about each child’s right to play in a safe area and his or her responsibility to create one. “That’s Your Name, Wear It Out” tweaks and twiddles with children’s own names and identities, inviting listeners to join in. “Gimme Some Skin” and “Oddball,” to which a lot of us young and old surely can relate, wondrously segue into appreciation and acceptance, and “Change the World” sums up the collection. And just for fun, there’s “Wiggle Jiggle”—and why not? That’s what hip-hop’s about. No matter what your musical tastes are now, this collection guarantees that everyone’s going to taste it, feel it and put those elbows up!

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

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1




Dr. Gregory S. Plutko


through our eyes. It was one of the memories Sara shared that led me to this brief article.

Sara recalled her fourth-grade classroom and later another memory from her sophomore year. The commonality in both cases had to do with volunteerism and the role her mom played in shaping her views. She vividly recounted that fourth-grade year and how proud she was that her mom was volunteering for the teachers to make copies, staple, and organize papers for the classroom. The next memory came from her sophomore year, and how her mom again (there is a theme, and yes, I was there from time to time) volunteered to help with yearbook and PE clothes sales for the start of school. She admitted she was a little more embarrassed and even shared a teenage concern or two with her friends. Quickly, though, she added that deep down, she was thrilled and so appreciative. It was the connection that her husband Morgan shared that reminded me of the work that has been done for our students from kindergarten through graduation. Each day, our families find ways to support their students, as well as all the other students who are connected to this educational journey. Morgan said, “I guess it will be really important for Sara and I to volunteer a lot at school.” Yes, Morgan, it will!

As we reflect upon the great start to our school year, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank all of our parent and community volunteers. I am confident that just as Sara has fond memories of support, our students today carry the very same special moments of support with them as well. From PTSA to booster clubs, and VIPs to so many who were always ready for action at the first call or email for help...THANK YOU!



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