

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Y2K to Today... Let's Learn

Y2K...then the next seventeen years (yes, that does seem incredible) raced by us filled with energy, bright ideas, new technology, grasping at traditions, all centered around so many impactful world and personal events. It was seventeen years ago that in public education, as well as business and government, the phrase 21st Century was attached to so many practices.

K-12 education was immediately confronted with defining and building “21st Century Classrooms.” Each of those new classrooms needed to be filled with “21st Century Learning”...and beyond. Each mission-like phrase was empowering, pushed educators across our nation and state to grow in new ways, and met the smart demands of our students. As we continue to embark on another successful school year, reflection on this journey should mark our investment.

Recently, I read an article that shared a frustrated tone, that after seventeen years, the working definition of a 21st Century Classroom and 21st Century Learning should by now be mature and well anchored. I certainly understood the author's intent for defining what “best practice” should look like...at the same time I would argue, 21st Century Instruction and Learning should never be asked to find a defined “landing spot.” Instead, I would confidently hope our instructional practices and guided learning evolve and grow by each of the descriptors that opened this article's first sentence.

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College and Career Mindset for All Grade Levels

From the District

In the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD), student achievement is at the core of its mission and vision. As stated in the PYLUSD Advantage Focus Area 1.0, Academic Achievement, the district expects all students to demonstrate continued and improved academic achievement in order to emerge college and career ready. Although all PYLUSD schools diligently emphasize a college and career ready culture on campus, there is one school in particular that takes it to a whole new level — Rio Vista Elementary School in Anaheim.

Upon entering the administration building at Rio Vista, students, families, and visitors are instantly immersed into an environment of college and career readiness. The walls are decorated with an array of college pennants, as well as a large mural outlining the specific college or university each Rio Vista teacher represents in their classroom. The school also has many ongoing partnerships with local colleges and universities in order to further facilitate conversations about higher education with students. This includes a new partnership with California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), which teaches students about financial literacy and saving for college.

Rio Vista concludes each school week with “College Fridays,” where administrators, teachers, staff members, and students are encouraged to show off their educational enthusiasm by wearing college gear.

“It is a joy to see our young scholars wear their college t-shirts to symbolize the dream of higher education as a vehicle to a brighter future,” said Rio Vista's proud principal, Jose Cabrera. “The impact of early conversations about this future-ready mindset is fascinating to witness.”



On College Fridays, Rio Vista's campus also gets in the spirit, as teachers enthusiastically display their designated college flag outside of their classrooms. Inside classrooms, educators dedicate lesson time to discussions surrounding college and career readiness. On the last Friday of the month, Rio Vista's entire campus comes together on the school's blacktop to partake in the much anticipated, “College Friday Flag Salute.” Classes line up with their flags proudly displayed and take turns performing their memorized college chants.

In a continued effort to advocate a higher education mindset, Rio Vista also arranges for certain grade levels to take field trips to local college campuses. For the 2017-18 school year, Rio Vista kindergarteners will visit Chapman University in Orange in October; fourth graders will visit CSUF in November; and fifth graders will visit University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles in May. During these tours, students will receive a unique glimpse of university campuses, educational paths, and career options.

Principal Cabrera has clear goals in moving forward with Rio Vista's college and career momentum. In the near future, he plans on arranging a school-wide career day, as well as visits to local colleges or universities for all grade levels.

Rio Vista's consistent and innovative emphasis on college and career readiness is certainly impressive, and just one example of how PYLUSD schools prepare each and every student for success now and in the future.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 10th year publishing the PYLUSD *School News* and the good news just keeps on coming. Thank you for being loyal readers and continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices and stepping away from an electronic device for a few minutes to enjoy the printed page. However, we do post on FB, TW, InStagram, and our web site where you will also find our podcasts.

Superintendent Plutko's message on the front page is very important... your ideas matter. It is an exciting time to be a student at PYLUSD!

Our next issue is Feb 15, 2018.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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Julie Nibali
President

Partnering towards a Brighter Future for our Kids

The REACH Foundation LOVES our hard working PTA's across the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. In support of healthy lifestyles for all our students, the REACH Foundation looks forward to being a Community PTA Sponsor in all the upcoming Jog-A-Thons at our elementary and middle schools.

In partnership with Golden State & Yorba Linda Water Districts, REACH has also arranged for the donation and delivery of bottled water for all participating student runners at the many Jog-A-Thons being held in the 2017-2018 school year. This new program is being funded by the REACH Foundation's ShamRock 'n Run 5K Run & 2K Fun Run.

The REACH Foundation's all volunteer nonprofit organization strives to provide new Academic, Athletic and Arts Enrichment opportunities and we look forward to our 6th year of supporting our PYLUSD Students!



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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

Students Recognized and Celebrated

Imagine that you are a middle school student, and you take a few minutes to help another student in your math class at break time. Your teacher happens to notice your compassion and generosity, and then invites you to the monthly Spirit Party.

Scenes like this occur on a daily basis all over campus, as our teachers and staff members are always looking to celebrate students who give to others, share their talents and expertise, and make a difference on campus.



Each month Assistant Principal Mr. Marshall provides our staff members with three Spirit Party cards, who in turn look for students who are making a positive impact with their school peers. The BYMS PTA also provides food and drink for the 60+ students who attend each month in the school library.

The students are also given gift cards for food, drink, and entertainment at local businesses. At Bernardo Yorba Middle School, no good deed goes unnoticed!

Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Student Leadership Abounds

During the first week of October, our students in grades four to six participated in Student Council Campaign and Election Week! The students running for office made posters and wrote and gave campaign speeches, while all fourth- through sixth-grade students electronically voted in the election via Chromebooks!

After very creative and well-thought out campaigns, we celebrate the following officers and students who took part in the election process: Evan Campuzano, president; Lucas Raya, vice president; Ezra Ponce, corresponding secretary; Diane Chang, recording secretary; Tanner Barber, fifth-grade treasurer; and Quinn Campuzano, fourth-grade treasurer.

The Student Council will hold many exciting activities for our students throughout the school year, such as our annual Food and Toy Drive, holiday lunchtime activities, monthly spirit dress-up days, and other service oriented projects.

One such activity where students demonstrate their leadership and give back to the community takes place each December, when our SC members visit a local nursing home and sing holiday carols for the residents after dinner. It is a special evening for all, and certainly demonstrates and represents the character, leadership, and service orientation of the students who attend Brookhaven!

We thank Ms. Leifeste and Mrs. Dykstra, both fourth-grade teachers, for their continued leadership as Student Council advisers. It's a great time to be a Brookhaven Bear!

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

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



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

Second Chances

El Camino Real High School is a place for second chances, smaller classroom settings, a more relaxed environment, and new opportunities. With the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), students are accessing information that they might not be exposed to unless they took higher level science classes at a traditional school. NGSS relies heavily on WICOR strategies and centers around problem based

learning. "It's amazing to see how receptive the students have been in learning these concepts. So far, they've been exposed to nuclear processes such as fission, fusion and radioactive decay, as well as calculations of and shifts in gravitational and electrostatic fields," says Lisa Gersbacher, known affectionately as Ms. G. According to Ms. G., these new standards are pushing students' learning to the next level. "It's going to be a challenging but exceptional year in science at El Camino."



Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Giving Back

Dorothy Height, American Administrator and Educator stated, "Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which

we ourselves grow and develop." Over the summer, former Bryant Ranch student, Mark Jorgensen, was doing just that; giving back to his elementary school. Mark met with Principal Polchow to discuss his Eagle Scout Service Project. The requirement for earning this merit badge, included planning, developing and carrying out a service project while benefitting others. Mark wanted to build something that students could use every day. He decided to build benches that students could use during recess and lunch. The benches were installed just before school started and now are enjoyed by Bryant Ranch students daily, thanks to Boy Scout Mark Jorgensen.





Gina Aguilar
Principal

Aztec PRIDE!

Esperanza is excited to kick off the 2017–2018 school year with our Aztec PRIDE campaign. As part of the school-wide implementation of PBIS, a team of stakeholders has determined the characteristics we hope all students will demonstrate in their daily lives as Aztecs.

These characteristics are represented by the acronym PRIDE: “P” is for positive; “R” is for responsible; “I” is for innovative; “D” is for determined; and “E” is for engaged. Our goal is to have both students and staff members demonstrate Aztec PRIDE in all they do.

The students and staff members were welcomed back to school with new signs of Aztec PRIDE all over campus. We have also implemented the 5-Star



Student Incentive System. Students and staff are encouraged to participate in school-wide dress-up days, and to attend various extracurricular activities and events. Student and staff IDs are also scanned at each event, and points are awarded. Our students work hard to earn prizes as more points are earned.



Joey Davis
Principal

Off to College!

This year the counseling staff at El Dorado has completely revamped their presentations to seniors for college. Golden Hawks go to college at an awesome rate! Over 80% of our seniors leave El Dorado and enroll in school the following fall. With that in mind, our three counselors, Dana Armstrong, Laura Campuzano, and Laura Carvelli decided that instead of splitting up the classes and doing presentations separately they would bring the class to the library, do a large group presentation, meet with students individually, and bring in counselors from local colleges, Fullerton College, Santiago Canyon College and CSU Fullerton, to help assist students in making a decision and knowing what steps they needed to complete. Topics covered are entrance requirements, financial aid, scholarships and much more. Thanks to the three counselors for such amazing support.



Strong Leaders
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At the growing Eastvale STEM Academy, high school students build knowledge in medical science and engineering within an innovative learning community guided by Kim Lu Lawe’s leadership and vision.



Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

Together in Excellence

Beginning with Back-to-School Night on August 31, parents and teachers at Fairmont Elementary School have worked together to build a community of excellence for our students. A taco meal fed parents' stomachs while teachers' presentations built the bonds of understanding for a successful school year. A few days later, teachers' appetites were satisfied by a lovely luncheon beautifully catered by PTA, welcoming teachers to the new school year.

Soon after, the Fairmont PTA brought a book fair to students and families. This fun event was culminated with a Family Fun Night, when families gathered at school to enjoy books and a movie. Art docents have been trained to provide lessons about master artists to all students, and volunteer artist parents held a fun, lunchtime event to get students excited about submitting artwork for the PTA Reflections contest. A rousing assembly got students excited for the upcoming Jog-a-Thon fund-raiser, which will provide a

year's worth of assemblies and activities to support curriculum in each grade level, along with many other community-building activities.

Since the opening of the school year, the PTA has worked tirelessly to make Fairmont an excellent place to learn. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of parents working with teachers and staff to make sure everyone comes together in excellence.



Students enjoy lunchtime art to build interest in PTA's Reflections contest.

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Everyday Leadership

We have all influenced or had an impact on others' lives, no matter how old we are. Often that happens without ever realizing that we have made such a difference for someone else. In a recent video that I watched, this concept was referred to as "everyday leadership."

As we have begun this year, I have realized that evidence of this very concept is all around the campus of Glenknoll Elementary School. Our school is filled with everyday leadership from the staff, students, and our parent community.

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

The students take pride in their school and their learning. Students show everyday leadership in their interactions with others, pride in their school, and their willingness to take part community outreach projects. Currently, our students have mobilized to collect canned food to support families that are less fortunate.

Glenknoll's parents are among the best! They take pride in our school and provide everyday leadership by working with our staff for the best interests of our students. Whether it's through PTA, helping in the classrooms, or providing support from home, parents make a positive impact on the education and success of our students. Currently, parents are working diligently to support our school through our fall fund-raiser and preparation for our annual Fall Festival.

To the staff, students, and parents: Your everyday leadership is collectively making a huge impact for Glenknoll students! Thank you for the difference you are making!

George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Our Supportive Staff

George Key School's students are back, and they are all smiles! We are so proud to welcome back our incredible students and a staff of over 60 individuals who meet the needs of our very specialized population. It is solely due to the compassion and dedication of these remarkable teachers, aides, nurses, specialists, and therapists that our students make such amazing progress toward their goals each year.

The staff at George Key works hard—really hard. They show up every day with smiles on their faces and new ideas for helping our students become the best versions of themselves. A huge shout out to every staff member at George Key, including our school secretary, Karen, who keeps this place running like a well-oiled machine.

It takes a village, and the George Key village is second to none!



Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

Teachers in Training

Glenview Elementary School is partnering with Esperanza High School for a new PYLUSD career pathway for those high school students interested in a career in education. The program's entitled "ABC Connection," which symbolizes the coming together of the two sister feeder schools: the Esperanza High School Aztecs and the Glenview Elementary Bulldogs.

Esperanza High School juniors and seniors who are participating in the ROP course called "The Principles of Teaching and Learning" will serve as teachers in training. They will work with our Glenview students in the classrooms, and will assist our teachers in small groups three days per week during their first and second periods.

These aspiring teachers and high schoolers have received training in professionalism in the classroom, and will continue to study best-teaching practices as part of their coursework. Our Glenview Elementary teachers are looking forward to this partnership beginning in October, and the opportunity to have teaching assistants in every classroom to help support our students.





Roann Turk
Principal

Techy Camp

Techy Camp gave Golden Elementary School’s fourth-graders an opportunity to bond over technology. Inspired by attendance at the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District’s summer Google Summit, the fourth-grade teachers at Golden held their own summit just for students. Mrs. Voge, our technology Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA), Mrs. Hanna, Mrs. George, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Ayer, and Mrs. Bloomquist designed and taught engaging, fun lessons that introduced valuable skills to the children while allowing them to explore and learn as a unified group.

Our 154 fourth-grade students rotated to five different stations over a two-day period to explore and engage with GSuite in preparation for the year ahead. The lessons, including topics such as “The Art of Using a Chromebook” and “Superhero Digital Citizenship,” were set up in a special Google Classroom designed for Techy Camp.

Mrs. McDonald taught a Google Slides course. “Students learned how to make presentations with all sorts of fancy tricks to wow their audiences,” she said. “They loved it!” Mrs. Voge led students in Google Drawing, helping them to create their own emojis! Mrs. Ayer explained that students loved using the Google task cards Mrs. Voge brought to help them learn the program steps.

Mrs. Hanna shared, “Students explored Google Docs, and the best part was when they discovered the Share button, which allows them to work online in live time and to collaborate with each other.” Mrs. George shared that Techy Camp was her students’ favorite back to school activity.

“Techy camp was my favorite part about returning to school,” Cade said. “I got to work on the computer right alongside my friends.” Reese H. said, “Creating my own emoji was awesome!” Students are now able to use Google at a higher level as they apply the skills in all areas of the curriculum.



Keith Carmona
Principal

Kitchen PRIDE

Each Wednesday, the amazing Kraemer cafeteria staff hosts fun and engaging “Kitchen PRIDE” sessions during the school-wide tutorial period where students are able to learn about nutrition, cooking, and healthy eating. As a part of the lessons, students prepare something yummy to eat. In recent weeks, students have made Pico de Gallo, butternut squash soup, and other delicious recipes.



On October 5, KMS celebrated Kraemer night at the Valencia

football game. The Kraemer colorguard and band performed alongside the Valencia Tiger Regiment. Additionally, the VHS AVID program hosted a tailgate for all AVID students at Kraemer. Our KMS AVID students also attended the game and were there to cheer on the Tigers defeat Cypress.



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La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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Carey Cecil
Principal

What’s On Your Mind?

Drawing upon the research of Carol Dweck for the first assignment of the new school year, all La Entrada High School students explored the notion of a fixed-versus-growth mindset. After examining research in print and video, students completed a self-evaluation to better gauge how they think and the extent to which they perceive their thinking and abilities to be static or ever changing. Ultimately, students prepared a written reflection as to their current mindset and the impact it has on their learning.

Students primarily come to LEHS because some aspect of the traditional classroom setting does not match how they learn. We offer a chance for students to move beyond a fixed mindset—to acknowledge, as Dweck asserts, that “sometimes what we call failure is really just that necessary struggle called learning.” In her book *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, Dweck encourages readers to apply the growth model to parenting, business, school and relationships—all facets of our lives.

At LEHS, students are encouraged to view their thinking and capacity for learning as a skill that is continuously developed. They are working to embrace challenges, to acknowledge that effort is vital, and to learn from the success of others. Working independently challenges students to set clear goals and to give themselves grace when they encounter obstacles. Examining one’s mindset is a valuable activity for any person, regardless of age or level of education. Creating a culture in which students believe challenges are opportunities for growth is an ongoing and essential process.

Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

POWER Up!

Can you feel the POWER? At Mabel Paine, our students show their Mustang POWER daily. Students who take **P**ride in their work and campus, **O**wn their actions, are **W**ell prepared and **E**ngaged, and show **R**espect to others are recognized in a variety of ways throughout the year. Students who demonstrate these attributes during the school day are awarded POWER Tickets by teachers and other staff members. At the end of each month, the tickets go into a drawing and two students from each grade level win a prize.

Additionally, when students arrive at school on time each day, turn in homework, and behave in a way that aligns to our POWER standards, they can earn monthly POWER bands. These bracelets are valuable because they enable our students to participate in fun monthly rewards such as ice cream, Bring Your Own Device and extra recess. We are so proud of our magnificent Mustangs!



Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Showing College Spirit!

With the new school year came a new tradition at Lakeview Elementary. Each Wednesday has been deemed College Dress Day. On this day, the staff and students don college apparel from their favorite colleges or the one their classroom represents. Teachers each selected a college, dedicated a space in their rooms to that college, and proudly framed and displayed their own college degrees to show their students how important it is to be college and career ready.

Every Wednesday, you can see elementary students from transitional kindergarten to fifth grade showing their spirit for our incredible local colleges to faraway colleges such as Harvard and Dartmouth. Many of our students take great pride in representing the colleges their parents or family members attended and have expressed aspirations of following in their footsteps.

Elementary school is the first very important stepping-stone on the path to college, and every student at Lakeview Elementary is college bound!



Proud students in Mrs. Bilhartz’s 5th grade class (Avery Kim and Mason Kim) show their spirit for their favorite colleges.

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

Power of PAWSitivity

We have so much to be grateful for as we learn and grow together at Linda Vista Elementary! This year, we have launched a morning walking program that has helped to give all students an active, positive start to the school day. Our school community shares smiles and well wishes as they listen to upbeat music and walk around the perimeter of our blacktop every day before the start of school. We have also incorporated positive shout-outs written by students and staff into our morning video broadcast to the entire school.

Taking the time to share these small acts of kindness has made a big difference for our school. As we continue our journey together, we are focused on providing targeted supports that will enable all students to achieve academic, behavioral and social-emotional success. We believe in fostering a growth mindset and providing a positive learning environment for all students and staff.



Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

Technology is Alive at Melrose!

Melrose teachers and students are committed to incorporate technology into their day and use technology in ways to support learning. Several teachers attended Google Summit this summer and are utilizing their new knowledge to engage students in learning. Our students are utilizing various educational applications and tools. Kim Voge, our Instructional Coach for Digital Learning, was invited to teach Melrose 5th Graders the endless ways to use Google Drawings in the classroom. Google drawing can be used to create graphic organizers, create timelines to include images and text, classroom projects and posters, and to annotate images. Struggling students can create word webs to illustrate how key words or concepts are related to one another through graphic representations. Our 5th Graders were engaged and excited to add Google Drawing to their technology repertoire.



Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

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



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Aidan Shouts "Fore!"

Look out, Jordan Spieth! Aidan Tang is on your trail! Aidan, a fourth-grader at Parkview, is a precision golfer. He's been playing golf since the age of 5 and participating in tournaments since 7. You may have seen him practicing a few hours daily at a local country club. Aidan plays in numerous tournaments across the U.S., often placing in the top 10. He has won eight times and finished second 10 times in U.S. Kids Golf events in California this year already! This happy, gregarious young man is a force to be reckoned with on the golf course! Aidan has other interests besides golf. He is a bright, articulate, well-rounded student whose favorite subject is reading. He has a little piece of Dr. Doolittle in him too, by the number of pets he has: a rescued husky/German shepherd/Labrador mix, two turtles, one tortoise, one bird and five fish. Keep your eyes and ears on this young golfer. Soon, we may be reading about him, if not in the sports section, then in *Golf Digest* magazine!



Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Wildcats Show Their PAWS

Smiles are abundant at Morse Elementary School! Our Morse students and staff members are off to a very positive beginning of the school year. During their first week of school our students participated in Positive Behavior Interventions and Support rotations (PBIS), where they learned about what to do to be successful. Their focus was on the positive aspects of how to behave at school, as opposed to what not to do. Collaboratively, our teachers have developed new ways to motivate their students. Positive Attitudes Worth Sharing (PAWS) encourages students to have fun at school. Each day they can earn a "paw" for their desk by showing a positive attitude. They can also earn Cat Cards for demonstrating our school-wide expectations. The Cat Cards can be collected and redeemed at our Wildcat Warehouse for gift cards, pencils, and other items. Positive attitudes can be seen all around Morse Elementary!



Third grade students learning PBIS.

Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jose Cabrera
Principal

On the Move

The start of the 2017–2018 school year began with excitement on many levels as we welcomed the new members of our student body. We look forward to strengthening and refining our momentum as we engage and capture the hearts of our students and our parent community. The fabric of our school culture is rooted in the understanding that we focus on the whole child. As a result, students begin their day with breakfast and a morning walk rather than standing in line waiting for the bell to ring. This morning walk allows students to engage in conversations with peers and get their brains ready for a day of rigorous course work. Soon, students will continue this movement during the afternoon lunch recess, when they will participate in the 100 Mile Club. For more engaging stories, follow us on Twitter @riovistaschool1 or Instagram riovista310.



Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Off to a Great Start!

We are very fortunate at Rose Drive Elementary to have a high level of parent involvement and participation. Remember ~ Every Day Counts! When students miss school, they lose important instruction. If your child is ill, please keep them home to get well! At Rose Drive our teachers, staff, parents, and students work together as a team to ensure success for all of our community.

Here are Ten Ways to Help Your Child Do Well in School:

- Show you care. Your child needs hugs and words of support.
- Ask your child about their day
- Read, read, read with your child. Make it fun and talk about what you are reading.
- Make home a place for learning. Help your child practice reading, math, and writing.
- Promote healthy habits. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest, exercise, and balanced meals.
- Be a role model. Your child learns from you. Be positive about education and show joy for learning.
- Encourage independence. Allow your child to make mistakes and learn to accept consequences.
- Give your child responsibilities and household chores.
- Create a study routine. Set a time and quiet place for your child to work every day. Go over homework when needed.
- Get involved. Meet with your child's teacher, attend school events, and help out at school.
- Build success. Help raise your child's self-esteem by setting reachable goals and praising your child's efforts.
- Make school important. Insist on good attendance and punctuality.

The mission of Rose Drive Elementary is to teach all students the concepts and skills necessary for mastering the 21st Century competencies of effective communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity with the ultimate goal of enabling them to live responsible lives and successfully meet the challenge of the future.

Sierra Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

College Ready

Sierra Vista Elementary School has chosen "College Readiness" as the theme for this year. Each teacher chose a college or university as a class theme. California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), University of Colorado, University of Southern California, Pepperdine University, and many others are represented in our classrooms. It has been great to hear students begin talking about attending college.

One mother took her six-year-old to CSUF to visit and purchase a college T-shirt. While walking across campus, the child began asking questions about the school: "Why is this such a big school? Are there other schools like this? Why do students dress like they do at this school? How do you get to go here?" The mother shared that her daughter's new interest in college is the result of the school's theme.

Each teacher is talking to students about establishing personal academic goals based on the assessments that are administered. If a student is struggling in the area of vocabulary development, the teacher and student will agree that they will work toward this goal. College readiness has prompted new vocabulary and discussions about the skills students will need to become ready to attend college: logic and reasoning; active learning; flexibility and adaptability; reflection; and curiosity.

Sierra Vista students are on their way to being college ready!

Ruby Drive *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Diana McKibben
Principal

Learning Character Skills

Ruby Drive students have the opportunity to use a new community based program from the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District and the Placentia Library District that reinforces the positive character values they can use in their everyday lives.

Every trimester, a student from each class will be recognized for a selected character trait. For the first trimester, students from kindergarten through the sixth grade will be practicing their new communication skills every day, whether it be working with peers or adults. These first-grade students are looking at their partners, leaning in with good posture, and learning to be active listeners. The sixth-grade students also lead the school every morning in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Our students from every grade level are greeting each other with kindness and respect. In the future, we will be focusing on the character skills of collaboration, critical thinking, citizenship, and creativity!



Topaz *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Christa Borgese
Principal

Off to a ROARing Start!

At Topaz Elementary School, students have been focused and hardworking, as well as Respectful, Organized, Achieving, Responsible and Safe (ROARS).

Topaz was fortunate to start the year with several community alliances. One of our strongest partnerships is with the Orange County District Attorney's office and the Fullerton Police Department through the Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership (GRIP) program. GRIP offers at-risk students support through

mentoring, meet-ups, and incentives. The focus is on improving the three As: academics, attitude, and attendance. In addition, GRIP works with the community to form our Parent Greeter Program and provide parent education nights.

Another partnership we have is with the Fullerton Assistance League. Thanks to their support, on Thursday, October 6, 50 students in need were each able to shop for \$100 worth of school clothes and shoes at a local retailer. It was heartwarming to see so many happy, grateful faces!



Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



Susan Metcalf
Principal

All Letters Covered!

This school year marks Travis Ranch's 30th! With almost 1,400 students in grades Preppy K–8, we proudly celebrate our traditions while continuing to move full STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) ahead to prepare students for the future.

As we incorporate science, engineering and math, we have a new middle school Science Olympiad elective encompassing all areas of science as students prepare for regional competitions described as “academic track meets.” In teams, students compete in areas such as genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology through active, hands-on participation.

In our middle school, we also are partnering with App Jam Design for an after-school app workshop where students build software and learn about STEAM career fields. During the workshops, students are mentored by college undergraduates and learn to make mobile apps that will be used by young children. To encourage further technology use, we collaborated with our PTA to add four new Chromebook carts to our campus this year.

Finally, in the area of art, Travis Ranch continues to be the only school in the district offering music for ages four through 14, starting with PTA-supported instruction for our younger students. Our appreciation for the arts is evidenced by the 230 students who are participating in our annual school musical, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* And we continue to be the only school in our district with a show choir.

We believe the integration of STEAM into our curriculum will result in well-rounded, future-ready students!

Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Student Valet Program

It has been a fantastic start to the 2017-2018 school year for the students at John O. Tynes Elementary School! Every September students in grades 4-6 are encouraged to participate in our Student Valet Program. This year

we have over 50 students taking part in this wonderful student leadership program which allows participants to assist their fellow students as they arrive at school each morning. As cars flow through our front parking lot, the student valets are there to greet each family with a friendly “Good Morning” and a smile as well as help students with backpacks and instruments as they exit the car. Student valets are trained in proper safety protocols for themselves and those students exiting their vehicles ensuring a safe drop off for all. We look forward to another successful year of Student Valet at Tynes!



Assistant Principal Jacque Bluemel explains safety procedures to Tynes Elementary Student Valets.

Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Where Everybody Belongs

Tuffree Middle School has a new program—Where Everybody Belongs (WEB). This is the first group of eighth-grade mentors to be fully-trained in the WEB program, which is similar to its high school counterpart, Link Crew.

The program kicked off with the Seventh-Grade Orientation Day last August, where students toured the school and participated in teambuilding games and activities to get to know their new WEB groups and leaders. Our new seventh-graders received advice on how to make a successful transition to middle school. WEB leaders will meet with their groups every few weeks throughout the school year to provide academic help and social activities. For the month of October, WEB leaders help their assigned seventh-graders to review their progress reports, and they attend the Back-to-School Dance together.



The goal of the program is to create an environment where every student feels connected, informed, and successful, with a sense of belonging to something special. We take care of all our Falcons at Tuffree Middle School.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Helping Each Other Grow

While our Van Buren Elementary School Roadrunners strive each day to be Safe, There and ready, Act responsibly, be Respectful, and Show compassion (STARS), it is the last of our STARS behaviors, showing compassion, that we are highlighting this year!

With the help of third-grade student Chloe Lee, students are striving to “Root for Each Other and Help Each Other Grow!” Using this year’s theme as inspiration, Chloe designed a Root for You poster, which is proudly displayed in every room of our school. Each day, students and staff watch for acts of kindness and compassion in those around them. Root for You cards are filled out and turned in. Each morning, the cards are read during morning announcements, and we thank others for their acts of kindness and compassion.

Thank you to Chloe and all of our Van Buren students for shining like STARS!





James Hardin
Principal

Helping Out

On September 26, Valadez Middle School Academy had 26 students display their leadership skills by volunteering time to help facilitate the Second Harvest Food Distribution at Melrose Elementary and Valadez Academy. This event takes place every month, and it is the third year we have participated. Teacher Leslie Poling helped students distribute approximately 10 pallets of fresh produce and USDA food to our many parents, students, and neighbors in the community.



Statistics indicate that one in five Orange County students are at risk of hunger, and so the impact that these Valadez Academy students had on our community was priceless. Our students also assisted in the distribution of the food, helped with the clean-up, and worked diligently to prepare the stations before community members entered the event. Our parents walked away with 30–50 pounds of produce! The event was an incredible success.



Olivia Young
Principal

National Merit Recognition

Valencia High School is proud to announce that seven seniors, Ashwin Bhupathy, Erika Kim, Erin Kim, Junil Kim, Ethan Thio, Christy Yee, and Amy Yoon are among the top ½% students in the nation to receive the honor of 2018 National Merit Scholarship

Program Semifinalist. Thirty-seven additional students listed below scored in the top 5% in the nation and earned qualify scores for the 2018 National Merit Commended Student Program. Alex Behura, Russell Buhler, Verna Chang, Evan Chase, Matthew Choi, Matthew Cuan, Ishani Desai, Akshat Donti, Ethan Frisone, Nathan Garcia, Ju Han, Paige Harakuni, Inaaya Hassan, Ryan Hon, Digvijay Jani, Ji Yoo Jeong, Jason Keung, Jin Seo Khang, Nathaniel Kim, Nicholas Krohn, Saw Kyaw, Michael Lee, Grace Nguyen, Jacob Pan, Justin Park, Alton Ru, Tyler Sanders, Ishaan Shah, Mitali Shah, Riya Shah, Spencer Valenti, May Wang, Samantha Won, Joshua Wong, Ashley Yoo, Ethan Young, Chanson Zhao. In addition, four seniors, Edward Fletes, Max Garcia, Avery Olivar, and Sandy Pantoja earned qualifying scores for the National Hispanic Recognition Program.



Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Real-World Program

Summer is gone, and fall is upon us as Venture Academy students and staff dive into the new school year. Venture Academy, adjacent to George Key School, is an adult transition program (ATP) that offers an alternative postsecondary option for 18-to-22-year-old adult students. We provide students with real-world job experience at various local businesses as well as functional life skills such as cooking, mobility training, social skills, health and wellness, and accessing resources. The unique nature of an ATP is the ability to adapt relative to each individual student's needs, goals and aspirations.



Venture Academy is a diverse program comprising 64 incredible adult students, 16 experienced aides and job coaches, four veteran education specialists—Bill Greenfield, Jamie Randall, Ryan Shaw and, new to the team, Joey Borgese—and principal Kim Smith. When you see us around the PYL community, feel free to say hello!

Wagner *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Janice Weber
Principal

Wildcats WOW

Wagner Elementary School's news report is a story of celebration and alliteration! Wagner Outstanding Wildcats (WOW) cards are given to students who exhibit the Wagner Wildcat Ways (Be respectful, responsible, ready, and safe). Students turn in their WOW cards to grade-level boxes throughout the week. Winners are drawn randomly and announced on WOW Wednesdays by Mrs. Weber! The students choose prizes from the treasure box at lunch.

These efforts to recognize students' excellent behaviors are supported by research as part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program. Acknowledging students for identified expectations



increases the likelihood of these behaviors happening again and again. It promotes positive interactions between staff and students, creates a culture of joy, and fosters learning!

In my short time at Wagner, I am inspired by so many wonderful Wildcats caring for each other, helping out around campus, and showing respect for others and our school!

Novelist 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, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

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IPAD	IDEAS	KEYBOARD
SPELLCHECK	PEN	TELEPHONE
PRINTER	BROWSER	WIFI
PUBLISHER	GOOGLE	IMAGINATION
NOTEPAD	INTERNET	

Congratulations to **Mike Grismer**
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!

Another contest...listen to our Contest podcast
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com/audio-2
to hear the word of the month and email to
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Doug Slonkosky
Principal

Helping Out

Our Woodsboro Bees were abuzz as the 2017 school year got underway!

The students were most excited about helping those in need when they participated in a canned food drive organized by Esperanza High School. Under the direction of Woodsboro's PAL program, the children brought in cans and boxes of food, as well as gift cards, and with all of the proceeds going to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Sixth-grader Kaya Jedrzejczak was very passionate about the drive, remarking that, "All of us bringing in food are helping those who are less fortunate. We don't want people to be hungry, especially children. I want a world where everyone has food and is healthy."

Second-graders Nevaeh Luna, Kathleen Pham, and Nico Infante were very excited to help others, and they brought in a lot of cans! The three agreed that it makes them happy to help the homeless, who don't have food or money.



2nd graders Kathleen Pham, Navaeh Luna, and Nicholas Infante, along with 6th grader Kaya Jedrzejczak, help with food drive.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Opportunities to Shine

Welcome to the 2017–2018 school year at Yorba Linda High School, a 2013 California Distinguished High School and 2015 California Gold Ribbon/Exemplary Arts High School. Our school was also recognized in August 2017 by US News and World Report as one of the top high schools in the nation.

As the staff embark on another promising school year, we reflect on the successes our students experienced last spring, with a 90-percent pass rate on over 1,000 College Board

Advanced Placement exams and SAT scores that are 59 points and 82 points higher than the state averages in reading/writing and math. Our California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) data indicates our junior class is meeting or exceeding the state grade-level standards with the highest scores in the district.

Our staff uses the state, district and departmental assessments to plan instructional activities that provide more students with opportunities to meet and exceed academic standards in all curricular areas. Along with our academic focus, connecting students to the total high school experience makes Yorba Linda High School a great place to learn. Whether it is taking a class, such as our award-winning band, orchestra, choir, yearbook/newspaper, theater arts, speech-debate, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, and video yearbook, or competing as part of one of our 28 mens and womens athletic teams, including cheer and dance, we encourage students and parents to join the many organizations that proudly represent Yorba Linda High School on campus and in our community.

Go, Mustangs!

Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Tamar Kataroyan
Principal

Achieving Excellence

Yorba Linda Middle School (YLMS) has a rich history of providing world-class educational experiences to meet the unique needs of all of our students. Our staff takes pride in helping our students to reach their full potential by providing quality instruction and a safe and nurturing environment.

Led by our Associated Student Body (ASB), Pride, and Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) student leaders, we kicked off the start of the 2017–2018 school year with enthusiasm as we welcomed all of our students to our amazing school. Our student leaders hosted a special assembly for our sixth-grade students to help the students feel connected and to teach them the "Bobcat Way."

Achieving excellence is a project that takes effort in many different aspects of life. At YLMS we strive to do our best each and every day with one goal in mind: student achievement. The implementation of district-adopted programs has been a vital tool to the alignment and integration of Common Core instruction.

We are extremely thankful for our supportive PTSA, parents, and community, who have been strong partners in supporting our school.

SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page 1*



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

During the school year, it is a privilege for me to return to my teaching roots and visit the amazing classrooms in our district. Powerful teaching and learning is truly the guiding light, and I greatly enjoy the opportunity to share, compliment, and support our teachers and students in that daily exercise of building a future. While I have seen classroom instruction connect with students in new ways, I have also seen so many traditional practices of teaching excellence that ring true today as well. While I hope we never find that landing place for 21st Century Learning, I do believe there are some guideposts that mark an effective classroom in 2017.

To begin, the classroom should be a Collaborative Environment, i.e., students and teachers working in concert to find new ideas and integrate diverse views of thinking about the complexity of a literary passage or the equation that might help a small group solve a future sustainability issue. A second area is Technology Integration, i.e., more than calendars, to-do's, and e-mail...but rather a seamless tool to share, develop, design, and create with their classmates, teachers, and others who make up the powerful learning environment. Next, we should hope to see different forms of Reflective Writing. Reflective writing allows for students to reinforce their learning in long-lasting ways...and it helps breed a unique brand of creativity and personal expression...your ideas matter!

An Inquiry Based approach to learning is empowering. The opportunity for students to approach a new topic or challenge in the context of answering a question is a cornerstone in all best practice models of teaching and learning. Engaged Assessment is another key guidepost in today's classroom. Students perform better when they have a stronger connection to the material they are studying moreover, they need to understand what is expected of them and just how to demonstrate their mastery. The use of portfolios, rubrics, and formative assessments are examples of just a few resources for achieving this.

Lastly, and quite possibly the most important, is the teacher serving as the Lead Learner. The flexibility to impart key fundamentals and then deftly shift to a "side-by-side" guide with their students to support the inquiry model that needs to challenge and support a student's journey. The teacher as "Lead Learner" in the classroom is a model that will forever transcend a 21st Century calendar and the expectations of an era.

Wishing everyone an engagingly successful journey as the 2017-18 school year continues...filled with "21st Century Learning!"



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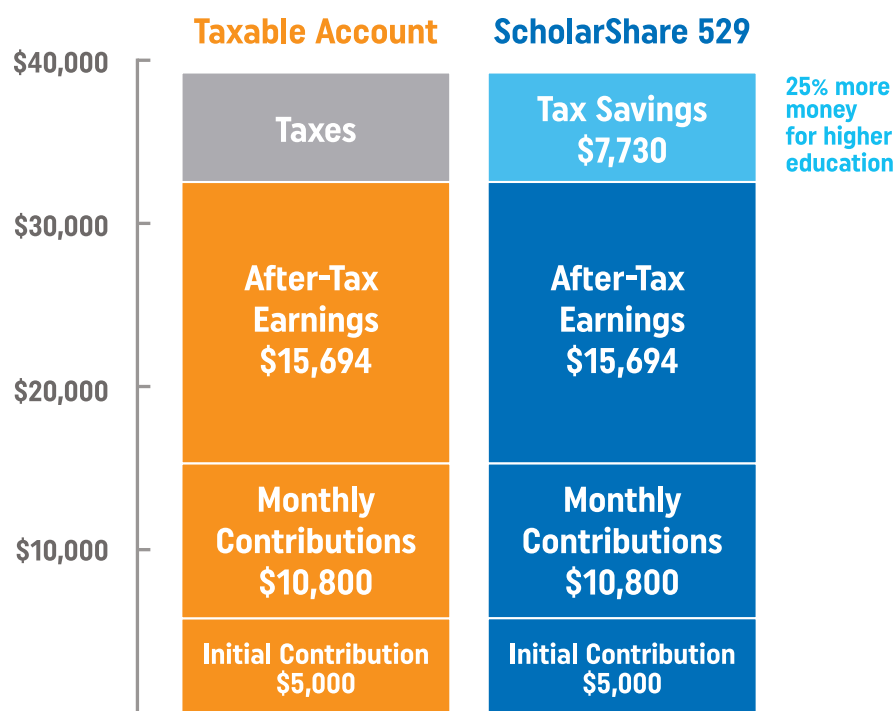
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