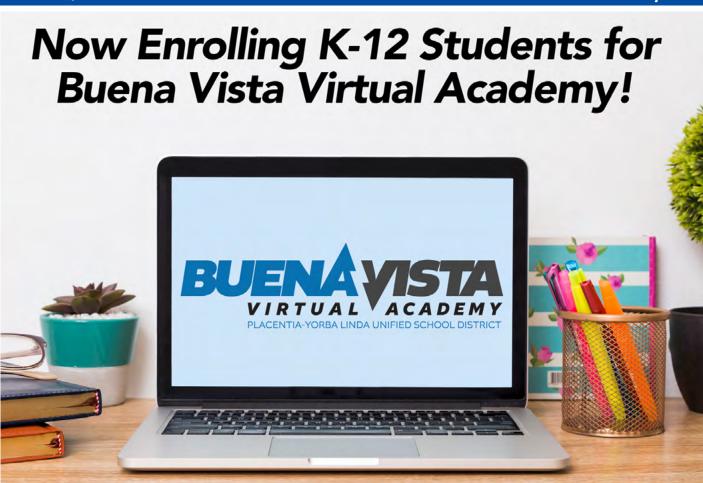
Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Volume 12, Issue 36

November 2020-January 2021



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SUPERINTENDENT

Eight PYLUSD Elementary Schools Named 2020 i-Ready Distinguished Schools



Dr. Gregory S. Pluťko

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is proud to announce that 8 of our elementary schools have been identified as i-Ready Distinguished Schools for Remote Learning Success. This includes Bryant Ranch, Fairmont, Glenknoll, Golden, Linda Vista, Melrose, Sierra Vista, and Wagner elementary schools.

Notably, i-Ready presented only 15 elementary schools in total with the same

distinction across four local counties-Imperial, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego. PYLUSD is honored that 8 of those 15 recognitions belong to our Placentia and Yorba Linda elementary schools.

The i-Ready Distinguished Schools for Remote Learning Success award was based on a review of i-Ready Personalized Instruction usage during remote learning in between the months of March and May in Spring 2020.

We are so proud of the students, families, and staff members at each of our awarded elementary schools for their diligent efforts and strong commitment to learning and achievement through an online environment.

With the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, our district is thankful to have implemented i-Ready at all 21 of our elementary schools in 2017. It has proved to be an invaluable resource for teaching and learning in addition to the district's newly upgraded fleet of technology devices to help meet the demands of remote learning. The start of the 2020-2021 school year marked the first time in the district's history that our device ratio is 1:1 for our entire PK-12 student population.

The i-Ready Distinguished Schools for Remote Learning Success award is just one example of remarkable student achievement, the core of our mission and vision in PYLUSD. Congratulations to our schools!

PYLUSD Launches New Online School

From the District

With the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) launched its new K-12 online school-Buena Vista Virtual Academy (BVVA). Buena Vista Virtual Academy is a free, public school designed to fit the virtual learning needs of all students.

The credentialed, highly qualified teachers at Buena Vista Virtual Academy are carefully selected experts in online learning and teaching. They utilize a blend of district curriculum and engaging online resources for kindergarten through sixth grade students. At the secondary level, teachers use Apex online curriculum to deliver engaging and rigorous courses fully online and through hybrid options for middle and high school students.

Students who attend Buena Vista Virtual Academy are not required to participate in regular attendance at the school site. However, open office hours are available for students to attend if they might benefit from inperson support with a teacher, counselor, staff member, or administrator. Buena Vista Virtual Academy, which replaced La Entrada High School in PYLUSD, is located at 4999 Casa Loma Avenue in Yorba Linda.

"It's been a pleasure to witness Buena Vista students find academic success since the start of school in September," shared Director of Instructional Support and Buena Vista Virtual Academy principal, Carrie Bisgard. "Now that classes are well underway, students are Zooming with teachers regularly and learning to appreciate the online learning environment."

As of October, over 600 students are currently enrolled in the new online school. For more information about Buena Vista Virtual Academy in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, please visit www.buenavistavirtual.org or call 714-986-7026.

Our Next Issue is February 3, 2021



Kay Coop Founder/Publisher

This is our 12th year publishing

have been many changes throughout

the PYLUSD School News. There

the years; however, I think we all

Americans are innovative and

educators are at the top of the

list. Zoom has taken on a whole

new meaning to this generation

agree this is the most challenging.





of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge. Thank you for continuing to

include School News among your reading choices.

Our next issue is February 3, 2021.

Happy Holidays from the School News Staff



www.schoolnewsrollcall.com **Covering the PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Melina Michaels President

Learn to Code - Change the World

Did you know jobs in computer and information systems are projected to grow faster than the average non-STEM jobs between 2019 and 2029? STEM job creation

over the next 10 years will outpace non-STEM jobs according

to the National Math & Science Initiative? Only 25% of Technology Information jobs are held by women? We believe STEM education is a key lever for future career opportunities and unlocking students' potential. This fall the REACH Foundation subsidized two programs offering coding classes. TechGirlz Club, for girls in grades 4-5, creates a fun and engaging space for girls to be introduced to coding and technology. To encourage boys and girls grades 4-8 to step into STEM, Coding4All features programming using Scratch and coding.





Bernardo Yorba Middle School (7-8)

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



Beth Fisher Principal

Navigating Challenging Times

This pandemic has presented challenges to our community, but it also has allowed us to come together as a community to tackle the uncertainties and create new opportunities for our students and families. This fall, Dr. Connie Bartlett, vice president of a medical group and an active pediatrician, joined licensed clinical social worker Monica Ramirez to host monthly

Clinical Lunch and Learn Zoom sessions. Families received guidance and advice on how to navigate this pandemic.

The Clinical Lunch and Learns are a part of a larger parent-advisory system at BYMS. Each week, we have close to a hundred families participate in these parent-advisory sessions in which we engage in a transparency process about the various challenges and changes we face that are related to school during a pandemic. Through it all, our community has been resilient, but most importantly, we have been together!



Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas Principal

Remote Learning 2020

As we know, the start of the 2020–21 school year is unlike any other we have ever experienced as students, teachers, parents or families! Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all students in PYLUSD and across California began the year in remote learning.

Prior to the Sept. 1 start date, our amazing Brookhaven staff embraced

the opportunity to participate in early professional development to increase and hone their technology skills to bring learning remotely into the homes of our Bears. They used either Google Classroom or Seesaw as their platform to connect with our students and families. Within these platforms, they posted lessons, activities and interactive platforms such as Flipgrid, slide decks and EduProtocols to make the learning both accessible and engaging.

As the principal at Brookhaven, I have been so impressed by and proud of both

our students and our staff for the growth mindset they have demonstrated since March 13! It has been an awesome time to be a principal and watch not only all of our students but also our teachers learn as well. We transitioned to hybrid learning on Oct. 21, and at Brookhaven, these awesome tools, strategies and lessons will continue for both our remote and in-person students. Bravo, Brookhaven Bears!



ELITE AQUATICS SPORTS TEAM



All EAST swim classes begin with a FREE assessment! Assessments take place by appointment @ Esperanza High School. Our year-round program offers swim lessons for ages 2+, youth water polo for ages 8+, & competitive swimming. For more information visit our website, email, or call Ashley Haney with any questions regarding our program:

www.eastaquatics.com

coachashley@eastaquatics.com 714-402-7166









Bryant Ranch Elementary (K-5)

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



Shannon Robles Principal

Bryant Ranch Positivity

This is the second year that Bryant Ranch has focused on positivity with Motivational Mondays. The amount of positivity that is

coming from our students, parents, and staff is amazing! Our students and staff wear shirts with motivational

messages on Mondays, whether it be remote or on campus. They have worked very hard to complete assignments, login remotely each day, and interact with their teachers and classmates all while keeping a positive attitude. This is of course modeled by our tremendously hard-working teachers and staff who set the example on a daily basis! From our office staff, to our custodians, our librarian, instructional aides, and our teachers, we are extremely

grateful for the intentional positivity that is spread. And of course we couldn't do it without the support of our parents and community. Supporting one another and staying positive makes our school the absolute best!





Buena Vista Virtual Academy

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



Carrie Bisgard Principal

A Variety of Pathways

Buena Vista Virtual Academy provides a variety of pathways to meet student needs.

Elementary Pathway: Teachers virtually host live morning classes using engaging, interactive software to teach and preview that day's material. The balance of the students' day is spent independently learning

and meeting in teacher-guided, smaller groups. An afternoon check-in on Zoom is followed by an opportunity for individual student/parent/teacher meetings. On Fridays, teachers welcome new students with small group or individual meetings and have appointments available for students who want additional support. Weekly on-campus, grade-level activities start in the Spring.

Middle School Pathway: Students move through core classes as a cohort. Teachers host weekly zooms in math, language arts, social studies, and science to give instruction and support learning. Throughout the week, teachers meet with small groups and individual students online. Students' independent work is provided through Apex Learning's digital curriculum. Small groups aligned



and provide peer interaction.

with students' interests are starting soon (cooking crew, book squad, etc.). These groups are an opportunity to expand academic knowledge

High School Independent Pathway: Teachers meet virtually with students one-on-one weekly to discuss content, deliver instruction, proctor tests and/or give feedback. Students work independently using Apex Learning's digital curriculum, and teachers are available to assist students via email daily, or during Zoom office hours multiple times each week.

High School Hybrid Pathway: Hybrid students attend two-hour academic support sessions on-site twice weekly. This time will be adjusted to two hours daily when physical distancing is no longer needed. The teacher assists with study strategies, content area clarification, and task and time management.

High School Accelerate College Enrollment Pathway: Students complete courses through the Independent Pathway and are enrolled with Fullerton College simultaneously, allowing students to complete their college Freshman year before graduating from high school.

El Camino Real High School (9-12)

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



Carey J. Aiello Principal

A Place for Peace

El Camino Real is eager to welcome students back to campus Nov. 9. Whether via a hybrid format or through remote learning, supporting students' mental and physical wellness is essential. The pandemic added more layers of hardship for our families, most of whom faced much adversity prior to school closures. By providing options and building relationships, we hope to offer students a sense of peace and safety in the midst of uncertainty.

We have established several new partnerships aimed at enriching learning, building relationships, and providing safe forums for expression. One program kicks off with a virtual school assembly followed by eight weeks of interactive sessions designed to help students discover their passions, cultivate meaningful relationships, and take ownership of their future stories. Digital media arts students will participate in a four-session series

featuring entrepreneurs, employees and executives from 24 companies, all of whom will share must-have skills. Another partnership with two local graffiti/mural artists will culminate in original student art covering the walls of our weight room.

We seek to empower, build grit, and offer healthy outlets for coping with life's many stressors. In addition to learning experiences and partnerships, we are creating more spaces on campus designed to promote wellness. We want to expand our weight room to include cardio equipment and transform the adjacent room into a student union with games and activities. Our newest space will provide a peaceful retreat for students to decompress, receive mental health support, or come as a class for a change of pace. The room will feature dedicated areas for reading, art, yoga and mindfulness. Through a neutral color pallet, nature-inspired décor, and lighting, students will enter a calming environment—a bit of peace they may not otherwise experience.

Esperanza High School (9-12)

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



Gina Aguilar Principal

Each year, the California PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) Coalition recognizes schools for implementing a robust PBIS program. Esperanza High School's PBIS program is centered around the concept of "Aztec PRIDE," which was developed to create a culture of support and connectedness for their students. In 2019, Esperanza was awarded the "PBIS

Silver Award" for our efforts in creating belonging spaces for students and offering a wide range of opportunities for students to get connected to school. We are excited to announce that for 2020, we were one of 5 PYLUSD schools, and the only high school awarded the "California PBIS Community Cares Award" for our commitment to engage and support students during distance learning. We are so proud of our staff and students for their unwavering commitment to upholding Aztec Pride even during these unprecedented times.



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El Dorado High School (9-12)

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



Joey Davis Principal

Cut Out for Company!

One thing that is consistent about El Dorado is our passion to make it the greatest school on earth. We do that by building relationships and connecting with students in any way possible. Thanks to our dean of activities, Mr. Campuzano, we continue that mission into the 2020-21 school year. For a small fee, seniors can enjoy life-size cutouts either at home or share with staff on campus. It's no surprise when a senior cutout shows up somewhere to make us feel like students are here.

Secondly, we have partnered with a nonprofit called Find Your Grind. Each week, they produce a short video hosted by motivational speaker Mike Smith that helps our students engage with the question of what comes next. It's not about finding the right college necessarily but about making your passion your focus.

As Mark Twain said, "Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life."



Fairmont Elementary (K-6)

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



Cynthia Rex Principal

Saluting Our Community!

Every Monday morning, Fairmont students are leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the entire school. Students have the opportunity to share a Flipgrid or a video of themselves or their family, and one is selected for the recorded morning announcements.

The Falcons are flying high with remote

learning! Teachers have surpassed expectations with new technology and instructional skills and expertise. Many parents are watching Zoom as their children learn and have shared their thoughts.

"I truly believe you and the entire staff at Fairmont have been going above and beyond for all our Fairmont families, and I really appreciate all the hard work you are all putting in," Jenise Dorsman said.

Britney Bryant said, "Mrs. Case, you are an absolute blessing for these children! I couldn't even thank you enough for your kindness and patience with the class!!"

Another mom, Mandee Flanders, said, "Hi there, Mrs. Travassaros! You are doing a fantastic job, and Vaughn is having a good time being 'in class' with you. Thank you for all you are doing to keep the kids engaged."

Fairmont teachers, students and parents are certainly "Together in Excellence!"



Annabelle and Sophia Casillas, 2nd and 3rd graders, led the Pledge of Allegiance for Monday morning announcements through FlipGrid.

George Key School (K-12)

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

Minerva Gandara, Interim Principal

About Our Unique School

From the District

Oftentimes, individuals in the community wish to learn more about George Key School as it is less known than some of the other schools in the area. George Key School is the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's K-12 special education campus located in Placentia next to Golden Elementary School.

Founded in 1972, George Key School boasts a longstanding legacy of success that has been established together by students, families, teachers, staff, and community partners. Students at George Key receive an engaging, high-quality educational experience that is individualized to meet their unique learning needs and strives to enhance their personal life experiences.

The school's dedicated and attentive teachers and staff members focus on supporting each student in reaching their potential through a comprehensive curriculum with a heavy focus on communication and life skills in a safe, nurturing, and collaborative environment. Regardless of the nature or intensity of a student's ability level, George Key School believes that all students are capable of

For the 2020-2021 school year, many George Key students returned to campus on Monday, October 5, after months of summer and remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, families, teachers, and staff alike showed up that day with huge smiles on their faces and new aspirations set for the year together. Everyone looks forward to what is in store for George Key School this year!

Glenknoll Elementary (K-6)

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



David Cammarato Principal

i-Ready

Success in Challenging Times

The month of March marked a challenging time for all schools, as we were forced to transition to teaching and learning in an online setting. Glenknoll teachers took the charge to do the hard work of helping every student learn new material in this unique format.

As a school, we were committed to using online resources that helped address learning challenges and also enable students

> to practice the skills they needed through a program called i-Ready. I-Ready instructional resources help educators accelerate growth within the grade-level standards for both language arts and math. Glenknoll, along with seven other Placentia-Yorba Linda schools,

was proud to be honored as an i-Ready Distinguished School for remote-learning success. Criteria for this award included having at least 80% of students connected to the i-Ready program on a weekly basis, a minimum of six weeks of usage, a minimum of 15 lessons completed and a minimum of 500 minutes spent in both reading and math. This speaks to the commitment and dedication of our teachers to make this a priority during distance learning. Congratulations, Glenknoll!



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> Don't miss the book reviews on pages 25 & 26.

Glenview Elementary (K-6)

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



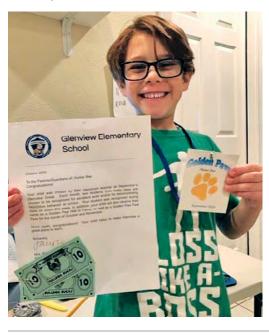
Jane Roh Principal

Showing Up Strong!

Glenview Elementary has had a very successful start to the school year! We are so proud of our students and cannot give enough thanks to our teachers and staff, PTA, families and community. Our students have been working hard, and our school family grows stronger and better as we adapt to this new normal. Our Back-to-School

Night via Zoom was successful, we honored our country's heroes on Patriot's Day with a special virtual assembly, and we recently celebrated our monthly Glenview Greats.

Our theme for 2020–21 is "Glenview Students Are Bulldog Strong." Our students are always a part of our "pack," and we show our PAWS whether in class or at home by practicing safety, acting responsibly, working together, and showing respect. We are very proud of our strong Positive Behavioral and Interventions Support (PBIS) program!





Here at Glenview, we remain committed to communicating regularly with our families, especially during this time. We are proud to have over 250 followers on our official Instagram page (@GlenviewBulldogs) and are excited to share a new weekly family newsletter, the "Bulldog Bulletin." Whether we are together or apart, we are Bulldog Strong!

Golden Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Alison DeMark Principal

Steadily Growing Expertise

Golden Elementary was one of several schools in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District to be recognized as an i-Ready School of Distinction for strong i-Ready usage during distance learning in the spring. This was no small feat considering that the concept of school online was not something we had kept in our wheelhouse prior to March 2020. We are very proud of our families for fostering their

children's learning through the i-Ready platform. This distinction is truly the result of great collaboration between our school and our families.

The first six weeks of school in a distance-learning model comprised an exciting time of learning and problem solving for our students and teachers. It was incredible to see our students' great growth as they navigated their online-learning environment. Our teachers became experts in many online modalities and found new and exciting ways to engage our learners. And our learners and their families rose to the challenge! Students produced complex work that highlighted their understanding of concepts and skills. This experience was much different from that of the spring, and our teachers and learners fully embraced the opportunity.

During this time, the Golden PTA launched our first Read-A-Thon to be held in lieu of our annual Jog-A-Thon fund-raiser. Golden's PTA Read-A-Thon Chair had to get creative in offering incentives that would be as exciting as the usual experience-driven incentives that we have had to put on hold for this year. Students continue to put our great effort, and our fund-raising goals are looking attainable!

Golden Elementary has transitioned into the hybrid distance-learning model. We welcomed approximately 450 students onto our campus on Wednesday, Oct. 21. With over 350 students choosing to remain in a remote-learning model, we are eagerly working to ensure an exciting learning opportunity for all of our learners.

Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

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



Michael Young Principal

Better Together!

Kraemer has developed and sustained an amazing partnership with Placentia Presbyterian Church (PPC). Because we both recognize how teamwork impacts the lives of students and families in our community, we are committed to working together. This

past summer, we mobilized a collection and distribution of school supplies to 100+ families in need. By doing so we equipped our learners with the tools to succeed in Remote Learning. When a KMS family was seriously impacted by COVID, again PPC partnered with us in raising funds to support the families housing and food needs. Finally, we co-hosted a virtual Ping Pong Tournament on September 12th with the goal of supporting families in need during the holidays. We surpassed our shared goal for the event and are extremely proud of how our strong partnership with PPC continues to impact lives in our community. Better Together!





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Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Suena Chang Principal

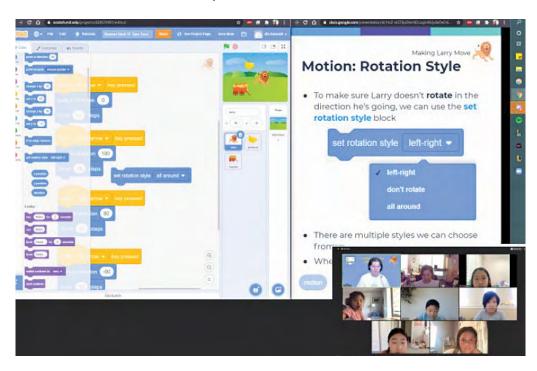
Coding Games with Scratch

The Pandemic has made Lakeview Lions technologically savvier than ever before.

Continuing to build on the technological adventure, our third, fourth. and fifth grade

students were given the opportunity to learn how to develop their own game using Scratch, the drag-and drop learning platform created by MIT Media Lab. Students use code blocks to bring their creativity to life through games, animations, or even stories. Students are gain experience in collaborating with friends in every step from design to development to debugging. This afterschool enrichment program offers an ideal ratio of 1 instructor to 7 students, and families were

excited to sign up and the waitlist was long. There will be two more after school opportunities in the realm of STEM: Let's Explore STEM (1st & 2nd grade) and Engineering for Kids (Gate cluster and students wanting to challenge in 3rd -5th). Go Lions!



Linda Vista Elementary (K-5)

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



Kristen Petrovacki Principal

Courageous Learners

Our students have become familiar with words and phrases we might have never thought would be part of their vernacular: Pandemic. unprecedented times, distance learning, hybrid instructional model and Zoom, to name a few. With this new vocabulary has

come a transformation for how and where instruction is delivered.

Since our school closure on March 13, I have been beyond impressed with the way the Linda Vista community has adapted and made the most out of the circumstances beyond

their control. Our teachers and support staff have worked harder than ever to implement meaningful instruction despite the obstacles they were faced with. Likewise,



our students have stepped up to the challenge and demonstrated grit, flexibility and growth. Our parents, too, have been called upon to support their children's education like never before while simultaneously balancing work and family obligations. Through it all, we have remained connected and focused on achieving the same goal. For that, I couldn't be more proud of this community.

As we look ahead, we embrace the 2020–21 school year as a Community of Courageous Learners. By learners, we mean children and adults alike. Together, we learn and we will face

challenges with open minds, confidence, optimism and brave hearts. Author Roy T. Bennet says it best: "Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you can imagine."

Mabel Paine Elementary (K-5)

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



Melanie Carmona Principal

Pizza Fundraiser

Mabel Paine Elementary School knows how to make some delicious pizza! The school's students and their families participated in our first fundraiser of the year by becoming chefs. When faced with the conundrum of how to build community and raise money for the school during a

pandemic, Mabel Paine's









Melrose Elementary (K-5)

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



Nicole Hernandez Principal

Stronger Together

On October 21st, Melrose opened our gates for our transition to Hybrid learning. Students entered in their new uniforms with their masks in place ready to meet their teachers and learn in person. Our remote learners continued as well marrying

both the in person and remote learning options. Our in person learners were reminded of the importance of remaining physically distant, wearing their masks, and washing their hands often. It was so heartwarming to see their faces as they entered our gates decorated with blue and white balloon arches. Our teachers and staff members have been amazing during this transition and continue to provide an academic program that both challenges and supports our Melrose learners. Working closely with our families, we are truly stronger together.



Morse Elementary (K-6)

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



Tonya Gordillo Principal

Off to an Amazing Start

We are off to another amazing school year! Teachers have been working through the routines and expectations with students as we began school virtually. It is awesome to see how well many of our students have

adapted to learning remotely and the

technology that even our youngest students are able to do on a daily basis. I am so impressed with how well students are able to log-on to Zoom and Google Classroom and actively engage with our wonderful teachers.

This school year, PYLUSD and Morse Elementary provided the necessary school supplies to help our scholars be better prepared for remote and hybrid

learning. To facilitate the distribution of needed supplies, we designated times that families could drive through for pick-up. It was incredible to see the students and staff interact from afar and make in-person connections. What a wonderful way to start an unusual year!



Parkview Home Schooling (K–12)

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



James Hardin Principal

The American Rocketry Challenge

Parkview School is proud to recognize Regina Rodeghiero, Emily Rodeghiero and Timothy Louie for representing Parkview School in, The American Rocketry challenge. The American Rocketry Challenge is the

world's largest rocket contest with nearly 5,000 students nationwide competing each year. The contest gives middle and high school students the opportunity to design, build and launch model rockets with hands-on experience solving engineering problems. Regina, Emily and Timothy work from September to May taking part in this international competition for teams of student to test their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

in hands-on applications during rocket design, construction and flight. They are working to qualify for a chance in the national competition, where they must safely and



successfully complete two payload rocket flights, from three official launches. Each launch is scored against predetermined guidelines for flight duration, altitude and other metrics.

Rio Vista Elementary (K-5)

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



Jose Cabrera Principal

Dedicated to Purpose

What a memorable and lifechanging way start to the school year! Amid all the challenges and changes that have surfaced as a result of the new hybrid learning procedures brought about by COVID-19, our commitment to our students remains the one constant at Rio Vista. It is truly amazing to

see the excitement and display of our core values.

As we began the school year in a remote setting, our staff remained firm in their professionalism and have stretched their knowledge and increased their innovation and collaboration to further engage our students. Our kinship extended beyond the walls of our buildings and reached our parent community. The countless Zoom parent meetings and Friday materials distributions further strengthen our bond with parents.

As a collective unit of faculty and staff, we have found ways to show our students that they do matter and we want them to succeed.



Rose Drive Elementary (K-5)

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



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi Principal

Learning Remotely Together

This year was an unprecedented year, filled with many changes. Our students returned to school with 100% remote learning, and we all adjusted to our new norm of learning and communicating remotely.

Our Rose staff rose

to the challenge to participate in early professional development and collaborate on technology strategies to engage, teach, and support student learning. Our students and families also had to learn how to navigate remote learning, routines

and support their children in a new learning environment. Nevertheless, we have persevered and collaborated to be our students' educational heroes.

As a school community, we have partnered with the Harper for Kids Foundation in bringing Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success character traits to life, inspire our students to aim for their goals, and meet positive role



models to interview and learn from. Our fifth-graders will be Zooming this month with special guest Jaelin Kauf, 2018 Olympian, through this program. In addition, we have collaborated with Dreams for Schools in order to provide free STEM and engineering classes for students in grades one through five.

We are aimed at supporting critical thinking and creativity for all our Roadrunners

Ruby Drive Elementary (K-6)

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



Diana McKibben Principal

"At Your Service"... **Specialists Help Ruby Scholars**

Serving Ruby Drive Scholars is the highest priority of the school specialists. One key area is wellness. Health Clerk, Selina Brittain, shares:

"I enjoy helping our students with a Band-Aid, medication, ice pack, or even just to say 'Hi'."

Just as

important is behavioral and social health. Registered Behavior Technician, Bianca Pasillas, conveys:

"I help Ruby Drive scholars succeed by increasing student motivation and encouraging task completion, while giving strategies to help understand and regulate emotions."



Kathryn Voysey

Finally, ongoing academic support is especially worthwhile for the English Learner. English Language Development (ELD) intervention specialist, Kathryn Voysey states:

"I work with small groups in English literacy... The best part is seeing the joy on my students' faces when they accomplish their goals."

Our valuable specialists gladly serve Ruby Drive, while recognizing and enjoying our Scholars as priceless treasures.





Bianca Pasillas Selina Brittain

Sierra Vista Elementary (K-6)

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



Jacque Bluemel Principal

Distinguished Honor

2020 has been a year of memories for all of the Sierra Vista Eagles! Our teachers and students did a great job demonstrating their flexibility and grace as we switched to emergency distance learning in March. During this time, teachers worked hard to engage their students in the curriculum, and students reciprocated the effort while learning at home.

Part of the focus for students was participating in individualized online reading and math lessons from iReady. In all, 95% of our students participated in the lessons, with an average passing rate of 88%. As a result of the hard work and effort on the part of our Eagles, Sierra Vista was honored as one of iReady's Distinguished Schools for Remote Learning Success. This honor was bestowed upon only 15 schools in four large Southern California counties, with eight of those schools in PYLUSD. Well done, Sierra Vista Eagles and PYLUSD!



Topaz Elementary (K-6)

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



Christa Borgese Principal

Off to a ROARingly Good Start

Our Topaz Tigers have been off to a ROARingly good start this school year! Teachers have been coming together to create dynamic and engaging lesson plans to deliver to students remotely via Zoom. Students "come" to school on their Chromebooks and have been successful learning to navigate new

programs like Nearpod and Flipgrid. Students have been showing their school pride by doing the best they can each and every day! Tigers who are especially Responsible, Organized, Achieving, Respectful, and Safe are recognized for their "ROARS" by their teacher with a "Tiger of the Week" award. Topaz principal, Dr. Christa Borgese, records Monday morning announcements announcing the Tigers of the Week. Three random students are then picked to be "special" Tigers and awarded with a home visit by Dr. Borgese and given a special Tiger of the Week award! Keep up the hard work Topaz Tigers!



Travis Ranch School (K-8)

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



Dr. Taylor Holloway Principal

Mission Achievement

Every school community relies on the predictable cycle each school year brings. It's a rhythm that all of us have set our lives to for decades. Experiencing a Global Pandemic has completely upended this. Under these circumstances, many of you are understandably apprehensive and anxious over how well this school year will prepare your child for the next. Despite these unprecedented circumstances the

Travis Ranch educators are committed to maintaining our tradition of excellence. We are dedicated to doing everything possible to meet expectations making the 20-21' school year as productive and memorable as every traditional school year. The progress of our students is our primary priority. In order to meet those expectations, we are instituting many new, engaging programs. The following are just a few examples:

- Implementation of universal diagnostic assessments in ELA and Math to determine individual student needs.
- Providing a school planner to all students. Thank you PTA & ASB.
- · Lunchtime activities facilitated by the ASB, WEB, and PE teachers are providing opportunities for students to connect virtually.
- Virtual Back to School Night was a success and may continue in the future.
- Virtual parent input and Q & A sessions have been implemented to further engage our community.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Travis Ranch parents, students, and staff that have worked together to face these uncertain times. Teachers have successfully implemented virtual instruction. Parents have supported one another in a myriad of creative ways. And certainly our students have had to face an unsettling and unnatural start to the school year. We are seeing a light at the end of this tunnel and continue to institute programs and develop strategies that will allow our students to reach their full potential.

Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



Cindy Freeman Principal

Support During COVID-19

Tuffree has worked diligently to increase the social-emotional support for students during this time of crisis. With mentalhealth needs on the rise, Tuffree has striven

to provide some sense of stability for their young adolescents during these unprecedented times.

The school counselor regularly reached out to students to provide

support via individual school-based counseling, referrals for outside counseling, crisis intervention and consultation with Tuffree's wellness counselor. Tuffree students accessed their school counselor through email, phone, virtual chats and video conferencing. Additionally, Tuffree



created a schoolwide Google Classroom to help streamline how students accessed resources and provided them with links to various mental-health services.

One way that Tuffree supported students was through their S.O.A.R. (Success Through Organization, Academics and Relationships) program that addressed the socioemotional needs as they pertain to the stayat-home orders, distance learning, mindfulness and the importance of self-care. Every student continues to receive these lessons through their

second-period class, and teachers are able to tailor the lessons to the specific needs of their students.

As validation for all their efforts during distance learning, Tuffree has received the state PBIS Community Cares recognition.

Tynes Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman Principal

Building the Future

Education has taken on several different forms since March! It has molded and adapted to the changing needs of our society. The effective strategies that teachers used

in what we refer to as pre-COVID times may or may not work during our remote learning. However,

what remains is the passion of our teachers to provide the best education possible to our 800 students.

The delivery method may look different, especially as we transition to a hybrid model, but the essential components remain. The four C's of 21st century learning—critical



thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity—have never been more important than they are now. Teachers and students alike are drawing on their own creativity to develop these skills more than ever.

At Tynes, we remain proud of the efforts of our teachers and are encouraged

by the resilience of our students. We look forward to the return of our Tynes Tigers and seeing the smiling eyes of our students. We remain dedicated to our commitment to excellence and our mission of "Building our Future" through relationships, routines and resiliency.



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

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



Refugio Gracian Principal

The Heart of Valadez MSA

Very so often teachers are said to have big hearts. They give and give for their students, and just when you think they've done all they can...they

give some more.

The prior is true for Valadez MSA teacher Leslie Poling. Yet, the prior statement doesn't explain the entire picture towards the value Mrs. Poling represents for Valadez MSA. Although Mrs. Poling gives to her students as many teachers do, it's how she gives that makes her a pillar towards the success of Valadez MSA and its student body.

Impact...this is what Mrs. Poling creates. She impacts the life of her students, but not just during their tenure at Valadez. The impact Mrs. Poling instills in her students follows them into adulthood. Valadez MSA is an urban, Title I school serving a dense population of students living in



Mrs. Poling

Placentia, CA. Mrs. Poling serves one of our most impacted communities with virtually 100% of our students living in poverty. Similarly, Valadez MSA serves one of the highest percentage populations of English Learners, students with disabilities, and homeless students in Orange County. Regardless of their background, Mrs. Poling serves and impacts the lives of our students by helping them believe in themselves, polishing up their rough exterior allowing their diamond shine to be visible, and guides their inner core values towards becoming the best version of themselves.

If the physical school is the body, Mrs. Poling is the heart of Valadez MSA. Her colleagues depend on her leadership to guide them through challenging times as the beacon of light that refuses to allow her peers to get lost in the mist of turmoil.

Mrs. Poling's footprints are everywhere on the our campus. From pep rallies, to fundraisers, to delivering clothing and food to our student's homes in times of need; Mrs. Poling's impact on our site is the bedrock of our success.

Valencia High School (9-12)

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



Olivia Yaung Principal

Academic Achievements

Valencia High School is proud to announce that a record-breaking eighteen seniors have been named among the top \\\% students in the nation to receive the honor of 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists: Douglas Chen, Caroline Ives, Yunseo Lee, Audrey Leung, Alan Luong, Aqil Naeem, Donovan Nguyen, Justin Oh, Lauren Owen, Catherine Park, Aarav Patel,

Kamron Popal, Woo Hyun Song, Rohith Venkatesh, Victor Wen, Brendan Wong, Junhyeok Yang, and Elliot Yoon. In addition, thirty six seniors scored in the top 5% in the nation and earned qualifying scores for the 2021 National Merit Commended Student Program: Abby Allers, Arvan

Bajaria, Gavin Bilhartz, Eric Carson, Samuel Chen, Vincent Cisneros, Jacqueline Duong, Andrew Eck, Alexis Fonseca, Jackson Hartman, David Huang, Hyun Jin Im, Nandini Iyer, John Kang, Jeff Khang, Emily Kim, Joshua Kim, Lauren Kim, Cassidy Lee, Daniel Lee, Edmund Lee, Ethan Lee, Grace Lee, Abigail Lutes, Darius Manoiu, Sarah Mard, Megan Meng, Vivian Min, Lindsey Nguyen, Junsoo Shin, Kenton Trinh, Nundini Varshney, Vivian Wang, Joey Wu, Audrey Yun, and Renee Zhao. These eighteen National Merit Semifinalists and thirty six National Merit Commended Scholars make for an unbelievable grand total of fifty four National Merit Scholars this year. Valencia High School is incredibly proud of the academic achievements of its seniors.

Van Buren Elementary (K-6)

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



Connie Roe Principal

Creative Ways to Engage

Van Buren Elementary School has had a terrific start to the 2020-2021 school year! In August, teachers and staff members were welcomed back to the new school year with beautifully decorated sidewalks and school walkways, courtesy of our wonderful Van Buren PTA. The messages were inspirational and uplifting and gave our staff members

a boost of confidence and positivity as we began the year remotely. We have had a very successful year working together with our families in distance learning. In fact, our school theme this year is, "Van Buren S.T.A.R.S. Shine Brighter Together!" Our teachers have found creative ways to keep even our youngest learners engaged and on task. We are very much looking forward to seeing our students in person when school resumes in hybrid mode in October!



Venture Academy Adult Transition (18-22)

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

Minerva Gandara, Interim Principal

About Our Unique Program

From the District

Oftentimes, individuals in the community wish to learn more about Venture Academy as it is less known than some of the other programs in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Venture Academy is the district's adult transition program situated alongside George Key School and Golden Elementary School in Placentia.

Venture Academy is a post-secondary program that helps young adults ages 18 to 22 develop a greater level of self determination and independence as they move from the educational setting into the work and/or college environment. The program serves as an educational support network that assists young adults with disabilities as they transition from K-12 education into adult life. Venture Academy's highly qualified teachers and staff help students apply their learned skills to real life situations and experiences that will guide the students successfully into career and life pathways.

With great dedication, the program helps students gain work experience and training at local businesses, plan and participate in recreation/leisure activities, access the local community (shopping, banking, library, etc.), learn household skills to encourage independent living, navigate and utilize public transit, connect to community agencies, and register for classes and training programs through local community colleges.

Venture Academy encourages students to be as independent as possible in the community. The level of support each student receives is based on their own individual needs. The program prides itself on having a network of independent community partners and businesses who support Venture Academy students as they work to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Together, Venture Academy staff and students are dedicated to their motto of "ROARS," which stands for Respectful, Ownership, Advocates, Responsible, and Strive for Success. Everyone is looking forward to what is in store for Venture Academy this school year!

Wagner Elementary (K-6)

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



Janice Weber Principal

Better Together

I am very proud to share that even through times of change and uncertainty, Wagner teachers, students, and families remain dedicated to helping students grow

their hearts and minds. For our efforts in Spring of 2020, Wagner

was awarded the "California PBIS Community Cares Award" for implementing socio-emotional and behavioral preventions and interventions that help Wildcats be Respectful, Responsible, Ready, and Safe. In addition, Wagner Elementary School was recognized as an "iReady





Distinguished School" for remote learning success in reading and math. We are one of eight schools in the district and one of only fifteen schools in the entire county to

receive this honor! 83% of Wagner students were connected to their iREADY lessons during Spring with a median 86% passing rate!! Wagner students achieved a median of 814 minutes of on task learning time! These celebrations truly show how our Wagner community is "better together."

Woodsboro Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. George Lopez Principal

Catching Up from Last School Year

When we left school last March due to Covid 19, there was confusion, concern, and even tears. It was a time like no other.

But regardless of the conditions we were under, our scholars and teachers pushed on and continued learning.

We couldn't let our 6th graders leave without officially honoring their hard work. So we put together a drive-through graduation, while wearing masks and social distancing. 133 students received their graduation certificates. Each drove through with their families. As they individually approached the stage they got out of their cars and went on stage, where they were honored by their respective teacher and Dr. Lopez. It was a very special photo opportunity for the families also.

We are proud of those students and know they will carry on the Woodsboro tradition of working hard and and making a difference in this world.



Yorba Linda Middle School (6-8)

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



Greg Kemp Principal

Not the Same, But Connected

The start of the 2020-21 school year was unlike any other at Yorba Linda Middle School. Students did not return to campus but started school virtually. Typically there is a buzz on campus as students enter the campus, and we get to welcome our returning students and our newest Bobcats. To create a buzz around the new school year, our ASB had parents and students submit their first day of school photos to post them to our social media accounts. This allowed students to see each other in a virtual environment. For the first week of school, our social media accounts posted many photos of our students, which all got many "likes." Even though it is not the same as being at school, our student leaders have worked to find ways to keep students connected to the school, including virtual dress up days.









Yorba Linda High School (9-12)

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



Dave Flynn Principal

Ready for Hybrid Learning!

Hello, YLHS community! I want to thank our staff, students and community for the first-quarter start to our 2020-21 school year with distance learning and online classes. Over 98% of our students attended daily online classes each week, with guided curriculum and instruction, teacher interactions and group activities.

Our first-quarter remote classroom instruction has included large- and small-group presentations, online shared activities and assignments, along with time for individual student academic support and tutoring.

On Nov. 9, we will bring our students back on campus in a hybrid learning model under the guidance of the California Department of Public Health and the Orange County Health Care Agency. This plan provides students the opportunity to attend in-person classes with small cohort student groups. Students who wish to remain 100% remote learning will also have that opportunity.

Under the guidelines for wearing face coverings, maintaining six-foot social distancing, and hand sanitizing, students will experience in-class instruction along with the students Zooming in from home.

We are eager to make the transition to in-person hybrid learning to prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and community. We look forward to welcoming our students back on campus. Go Mustangs!

Justin's Review

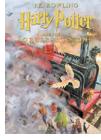


Justin K.

Zap!

You should read *Harry Potter and*

the Sorcerer's Stone because it has imagination. It is about a boy named Harry Potter whose parents died when he was young. Harry makes new friends called



Ron and Hermione at Hogwarts, a magic school. Would you want to go to Hogwarts? I would. I think Harry likes

Hogwarts. My favorite part in the story is when Harry gets to go to Hogwarts. I also like the part when Hagrid gives Dudley a pig's tail. Another part of the story I like are the Quidditch games. But Harry goes crazy on his broom. Why? Read the story! Eventually, Hermione saves him. My favorite Quidditch game is when Gryffindor goes against Slytherin. They go against Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff, too. Harry Potter is my favorite book.

I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars because there is magic.

Justin is a second grader. He likes reading, writing and making his own comic books. He also likes math problems, playing piano & chess, swimming, and soccer.

Jenna's Review

Jenna C.

A Rocky Road

Title: Fish in a Tree Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt

This story is about a girl named Ally who is struggling with reading words. Ally was always the "bad student," but it all changed when her teacher



had to give birth and the sub teacher, Mr. Daniels came. Almost everything flipped around. She made friends,

she worked harder, she was happy, and she started chess lessons with Mr. Daniels. Only one thing doesn't change, she can't stand up to her bully. Ally tells Mr. Daniels about what's going on about the words that she can't read. Mr. Daniels says that he can help her. Next, an election goes on for class president and Ally gets nominated. Can she win? Can she learn to read? Last but not least can she stand up to her bully? I give this book a 5 out of 5 as it is such an inspiring book for all of us.

Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

Poems, Poems, Poems!

"Everything On It" by Shel Silverstein isn't really a book, but is a collection of wacky poems. He is a creative writer with a very strange sense of humor. Some of his poems are funny, most are strange, and almost all are unrealistic! Look at this poem called "Housebroken."

On'

The puppy's housebroken at last? Lord only knows when he was needin' it. You've trained him to go On the newspaper? Fine. But please-not while I'm readin' it.

See what I mean? The puppy is finally house trained, but Shel Silverstein twists the poem by questioning why the puppy is doing his business on the newspaper while the person was reading it! Shel Silverstein thinks out of the box and brings unexpected ideas to his poems. Not all books need to have a storyline. A book of poems can be just as enjoyable! Read this one and you'll like it too!

Tyson is an athletic 7th grader who loves basketball and skateboarding. His favorite subjects are PE and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of puppy, Chewie, and 3 guinea pigs. He enjoys going out to eat and trying different foods.

Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

Books Link Worlds

The Invisible Library by Genevieve Cogman is a peculiar story centering on a cryptic Library that is filled with millennia of knowledge from



hundreds of dimensions. Tending to this massive collection of information is a number of Librarians whose sole purpose is protect

these paperback treasures. They also have to collect new stories from across multiple worlds, whether it's a scroll from Viking times, a novel from a secret society or just a cookbook for trolls, these books all have one thing in common — the library must have them, no questions asked. And for all of her life, Irene has accepted the Library's beliefs. But now, as she seeks out the mysteriously stolen book of fairy-tales, Irene and her partner Kai realize there's more to the Library than meets the eye. With delightful world building, contraptions and a giant centipede, this book is perfect for bibliophiles as a whole. Katrina gives this book four out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is a senior in high school. She spends her time drawing, writing and reading whenever her APs let her. When she isn't creating something, she's known to watch cartoons like OK KO let's be Heroes, Star vs. the Forces of Evil and Steven Universe. When asked what she wants to be, her reply is simply, "Everything".

Katie's Review

Katie C.

Magical World

Title: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Author: Roald Dahl

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to live in a world where waterfalls spewed chocolate, chairs were marshmallows, and mystical animals were at every corner? If so, you should visit Charlie

and the Chocolate Factory. Coming from a poor family, Charlie could only dream of chocolate once a year on his birthday. However, when he finds a dollar bill on a snowy, cold day, he's just in luck. He's transported from his small shabby room to a magical world: the Chocolate Factory. Willy Wonka and the Oompa Loompas show Charlie the inside of the wonderful land that the factory hid from the rest of the world. As he travels through the factory with other children, Willy Wonka teaches them the importance of generosity, kindness, and a humble attitude. If you want to read a heartwarming story of a young boy who finally sees his kind characteristics pay off, read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.



Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari **Sweetnam**

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

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

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the

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

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- Learning: Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- Networking: Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- Building the Résumé: Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- Personal Growth: As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

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



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