

FREE

School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



Volume 14, Issue 39

November 2021–January 2022

District Expands Intramural Sports Program to Middle School



(Please see page 3.)

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PYLUSD Students Benefit from a Variety of College and Career Readiness Opportunities



**Dr. James
Elsasser**

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is committed to offering an extensive list of college and career readiness opportunities to benefit students' success now and in the future.

The district's secondary career technical education (CTE) programs, known as CareerLink Academies and Pathways, allow PYLUSD high school students to see the real-world relevance and applicability of their curriculum, gain new industry-specific skills, network with professionals in their area of interest, engage in internships and job training in their fields, and earn credits and certifications that facilitate their transition into collegiate programs of study or the workforce.

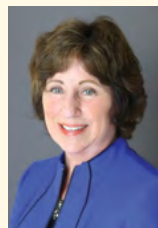
In total, the district boasts six CTE academies and a wide variety of CTE pathways for the 2021-22 school year. CareerLink Academies include Digital Media Arts (DMAA) and ED Law at El Dorado High School, Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing and Medical Sciences at Esperanza High School, Val Tech at Valencia High School, and Mustang Business at Yorba Linda High School. Across the district, CareerLink Pathways provide courses focused on an array of industry sectors such as education, foodservice and hospitality, construction, and more.

Esperanza High School's Medical Sciences Academy prepares students for a variety of medical careers and a successful transition to colleges and universities. Academy instructors equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for immediate employment, industry certification, and both college and career readiness through real-world experiences.

Aside from one of the district's CTE academies or pathways, El Dorado High School's "Reach Higher" College and Career Ready Initiative recently created an opportunity for all seniors to devote time to their college and career readiness. The Golden Hawks earned an "I Applied" sticker as an incentive to apply to a college, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, create a Federal Student Aid login, or submit a job application. Notably, nearly 98% of El Dorado's seniors were able to accomplish one of those tasks.

Both Esperanza and El Dorado's efforts in this area offer just two examples of how PYLUSD prepares students for higher education and the high-demand jobs of the future through a multitude of college and career readiness opportunities.

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District Expands Intramural Sports Program to Middle School

From the District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) has expanded its intramural sports offerings to students in middle school. On Friday, October 15, the district hosted its inaugural Middle School Sports Volleyball Tournament at Esperanza High School in Anaheim. All six comprehensive middle schools took part in the fun including Bernardo Yorba, Kraemer, Travis Ranch, Tuffree, Valadez, and Yorba Linda.

Leading up to the tournament, over 300 students had the opportunity to participate in after-school intramural volleyball to learn basic skills, practice, and form teams. Teachers and staff on campus served as coaches.

The tournament featured a round-robin style format with dozens of matches happening throughout the course of the afternoon. The final matches were played in front of a large group of cheering students, staff, and families.

In the end, Kraemer and Tuffree middle schools competed in the boys' final match with Kraemer prevailing as the champions. Bernardo and Yorba Linda middle schools also took the court for the girls' championship match, with Yorba Linda emerging as victorious.

Director of Middle Schools, Keith Carmona, and his team were instrumental in organizing this effort. Esperanza High School's administration and girls varsity/junior varsity volleyball teams also played a huge role in making the event a great success.

The district looks forward to offering more intramural sports opportunities for middle school students in the near future. The future opportunities will include a cross country meet, basketball tournament, and track meet.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 14th year publishing the PYLUSD *School News*. As we all know this year has been like no other and it is wonderful to have the students back in the classrooms.

Dr. Elsasser begins this issue with his message on page 3 about the College and Career Opportunities.

In this issue you will read about the PYLUSD two themes that intertwine: Rebound-Reignite-Restablish and Notice-Needed-Nurtured, a school garden,

connecting with community and giving back, Ecolutions, Red Ribbon Week, Peer Mentoring, and so much more...enjoy!

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays as there is so much to be thankful for beginning with dedicated teachers and involved parents. We are also thankful for you — our loyal readers and stakeholders in public education.

Our next issue is February 9, 2022.
Happy Holidays!



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Covering the
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Melina Michaels
President

On Your Marks...Get Set...GO!

To the delight of student athletes from each of our 8 middle schools, the Middle School Track Meet was held on May 27, 2021. When we received the green light to move forward, all the key stakeholders within PYLUSD, including the middle school principals and PE teachers sprinted to get the student



athletes trained and ready to compete in the 7th Annual Track and Field event.

Over the years the Middle School Track Meet has introduced thousands of students to outdoor sports and Track and Field and many students became members of their high school track and field or cross-country teams. Congratulations to the winners and all the participants who put forth their best efforts on the track!



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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Beth Fisher
Principal

Rebounding from the Pandemic

In PYLUSD we have two themes that intertwine: Rebound-Reignite-Restablish and our Notice-Needed-Nurtured campaign. As we have returned to full in-person learning, we were awarded with the great honor of being named in the top 30% of schools in California by *US World and News Report*. In addition to maintaining strong

academics while rebounding from a pandemic, we have not compromised our care for our students. During our Week of Welcome students were able to reestablish relationships with peers, as they connected through schoolwide games and activities. As you may have read in our May 2021 feature, our wonderful counselor, Mrs. Callaway has continued the tradition of 1 on 1 check ins with every student in the school. We are proud of the way our students have rebounded from this pandemic and have taken a collective approach to rebuilding our BeYorba community.

Brookhaven *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Friendships and School Culture Blossoms

In October, third and sixth grade classes joined forces to bring life back to Brookhaven Elementary's school garden. Led by 3rd grade teachers, Cheryl Torres and Lisa Dykstra, and 6th grade teachers, Karen Aleksic and Steve Nakanishi, students successfully planted a variety of flowers and succulents. Traditionally, it is the third grade

classes that would plant and tend the garden. However, this year 6th grade students lent some helping hands to support their younger peers.



School gardens encourage teamwork, individual responsibility and a commitment to success. This approach allows for an increase in interaction between students and faculty encouraging growth in interpersonal skills and cooperative skills that follow students throughout their lives.

The garden is centrally located at the heart of campus allowing students and faculty to admire the scenery as they walk by. Third grade students will continue to tend the garden for the remainder of the school year, replacing the plants and flowers seasonally. Way to "grow", Bears!



Bryant Ranch School (TK-5)

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



Shannon Robles
Principal

Bryant Ranch Explorers are Noticed, Needed, Nurtured

Our students and staff were excited to begin this year on campus, full time! In alignment with our district initiative, we work collaboratively with our amazing PTA to assure all students are noticed, needed and nurtured. With our PBIS focus, we revamped our

Explorer Store and it's now available to students during lunch on Fridays. Students are noticed when they exhibit Explorer behavior, following our school expectations, and earn Brag Cards/Scholar Dollars to redeem prizes at the Explorer Store. Our teachers provide safe and loving academic environments daily to show students they are needed. To nurture our students, we have created a variety of activities to participate in during recess and lunch. We set up craft/activity carts that students love. They also play structured games with our Counselors and Registered Behavior Technicians. Explorer students are definitely noticed, needed and nurtured!



Buena Vista Virtual Academy (K-12)

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



Jamie Jauch
Principal

The Accelerated Pathway

Buena Vista Virtual Academy is a K-12 independent study school. Families looking for flexible, nurturing, individualized instruction come to BVVA because the majority of the coursework is completed

independently at a time convenient for each family.

Teachers are experts in delivering high quality online instruction, with a focus on inquiry projects and STEM enrichment. Students also have opportunities to participate in group enrichment activities on campus. This allows students to enjoy hands-on learning and positively socialize with peers while exploring their creativity through technology and the arts.

BVVA also offers students the opportunity to be concurrently enrolled at a traditional school site for electives, sports, or

performing arts. The Accelerated Pathway allows high school students to take college level courses and graduate early. Senior Akash Shah is a National Merit Semifinalist who will graduate from BVVA with an AA from Fullerton College. BVVA can provide your child what they need to be successful now and in the future.



Senior student, Akash Shah, who is a National Merit Semifinalist.
Pictured are teachers, Dan Sobschak, Kim Peck, Akash Shah (student), Sarah Miller (school counselor), Dana Leon, and Tayler Perez.

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

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



Carey J. Aiello
Principal

Giving Back

In addition to preparing students for higher education, El Camino Real is dedicated to helping students build essential career and life skills. The school's most recent graduate is an excellent example of the traits they hope to instill in each student: A sense of pride

in one's community, a desire to engage in work that feeds one's soul, and the technical and interpersonal skills required to succeed in a professional setting. ECRHS graduate, Tessa Pennington, finished all of her high school diploma requirements on a Thursday. Three days later, she started her first job as an employee of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Tessa indicated she is excited to serve in her local community and looks forward to supporting the unique needs of students and staff at George Key School. With grit and determination, Tessa persevered during exponentially challenging times and finished her diploma eager and ready to serve.



Senior, Tessa Pennington, celebrates her early graduation from El Camino Real.

El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

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



Joey Davis
Principal

Out of State College Fair

The Golden Hawks are excited to be back and stronger together for the 2021-2022 school year. With over 2000 students attending we have been very intentional about creating events that will be great memories for our students. On the first day of school we had all 2000 students plus over 100 staff members join together on the turf field to form the letters EDHS in matching t-shirts.

More recently the amazing counseling department has put together two great events for our students. We hosted an out of state college fair where 60 universities came to the campus and allowed students to speak with college representatives and gather information from schools of interest to the students. In addition, the counselors have been visiting senior classes to help them prepare for their future and encourage them to apply to college. When a student completes an application they get a sticker to help them celebrate. Thanks to our counseling department for encouraging our students!



Esperanza High School (9-12)

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



Jeff Giles
Principal

Connecting with Community

Esperanza High School has started off the 2021–22 school year with a focus on reconnecting with our community after COVID-19 made that challenging last year. Energy and excitement reverberated through Shappell Stadium in October as over 250 elementary school students participated in

halftime spirit activities such as cheer, dance and some hearty high-fives for the players.

Decked out in complementary spirit wear, future Aztecs from Glenknoll, Glenview, Fairmont, Woodsboro and Linda Vista poured onto the field while parents snapped pictures from the sidelines. Aztec ASB students had visited these boys and girls at their schools to promote both the value of school involvement and the evening event.

EHS will continue to focus on community involvement through our Education Pathway and their outreach to Parkview students, a blood drive in November, clubs on campus reaching out to those in need, and externships arranged through our Medical Sciences Academy. Watch out for our next big community event when we take over Ruby Drive Elementary for a gift exchange extravaganza!



Future Aztecs show their spirit!

Fairmont Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Anne San Roman
Principal

Thank You Fairmont PTA!

We're so thankful for our PTA and all the programs and events that they bring to our school. We started off the school year by having a Welcome Back Picnic in August. Our Jog-A-Thon happened in October where students earned money for our school while rebounding, reigniting, and re-establishing one step at a time. Our school play has been

brought back this school year as well. Students have auditioned and are now in rehearsals for our upcoming production of Annie Jr.

We appreciate our PTA bringing such fun and enriching activities to our school in addition to many more events planned such as after school enrichment, book fairs, family fun nights and so much more.

We're fortunate to provide such a well-balanced education for all of our students! Our students are feeling Noticed, Needed, and Nurtured as they learn and have fun at Fairmont Elementary School!



George Key School (*Special Education*)

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

Rebecca Allan, *Principal* **Communication**

Students at George Key have been busy over the fall, returning to school and working on new goals. They have been learning to communicate in a variety of ways, using the 36 most common words used daily to express meaning. Staff and students have been learning to use aided language input to assist students in extending communication. George Key is working with one of our local universities, (California State University,

Fullerton, Professor Dr. Lisa Erwin Davidson), through a 5 year grant, to increase language and literacy skills for students with complex communication challenges. Supporting this endeavor, the Rotary Club of Yorba Linda presented George Key with a check of \$2,000.00 which is being used to purchase equipment for communication such as switches or mounts for student wheelchairs. George Key School staff is appreciative of the community support and partnership we have with California State University, Fullerton and our local service organizations.

Glenknoll *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



**David
Cammarato**
Principal

Building Community

It has been an exciting first trimester of the 2021-2022 school year. As students have returned to full-time, in-class learning this year, the need for connection and community has never been greater.

As the school year began, it was refreshing to hear words like, "I am so happy to be at school with my friends this year" coming from the mouths of students. With that said, our entire district has launched a campaign to make sure that each student is "Noticed, Needed, and Nurtured."

At Glenknoll, our staff has embraced this commitment. This year, our district has provided each of our elementary schools with additional support for the social-emotional needs of the students we serve. A part-time elementary counselor and a registered behavior technician have been

added to our staff to help support students who may need strategies for readjusting back into a full-time school setting after the events of the past 18 months.

In addition to these supports, Glenknoll is committed to building a community feel once again. We are excited to bring back our Friday morning spirit assemblies, as well as host our traditional Fall Festival complete with a book fair and a dress-up day for Halloween! It has been fun to watch our students begin to blossom and our families connect at some of these events.

Our student leadership and PAL (Peer Assisted Leadership) have embraced our student body. These groups have been active in helping support our Glenknoll pride through Halloween "Boo Grams" and working as peer models during recess on our primary playground. During the month of November, they will also be leading a thankfulness project within each of our classrooms. What a refreshing and welcoming community that is growing here this year!



Glenview *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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



Jane Roh
Principal

Campus Upgrades

Welcome to Glenview Elementary, home of the Bulldogs! This year, we welcomed over 620 students back to school. Our Dual Language Academy continues to grow and we look forward to being at full capacity in the 2022-2023 school year. Over the summer, various

areas of the campus have been renovated, most notably four new portable classrooms and new front and back parking-lot areas including landscaping, concrete, and slurry.

At Glenview, the core values that we represent are found in the school's PBIS acronym PAWS (Practice Safety, Act Responsibly, Work Together, and Show Respect). Students have many opportunities to show their PAWS on campus and through this positive behavior

system, they can earn incentives both in the classroom and schoolwide. Our climate on campus is one of school spirit, celebration, and community, as our theme for the 2021-22 school year demonstrates. Glenview is "Bulldog Strong" and our "pack" continues to thrive.



Glenview Elementary School's New Exterior Logo

Golden *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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



Kristin McDonald
Principal

Bringing Back the Love

Golden Elementary started the 2021-22 school year off with a bang as we brought back the love of learning, the love of engagement and the love of connecting as a school community. The laughter, the smiles and the activity on campus have been rewarding. Students in classrooms are engaged in exciting activities such as building bridges, launching rockets, classroom meetings, fraction recipes,

big and little friends and road trips across California. Schoolwide positive office referrals are at an all-time high, and we love celebrating our students' respectful, responsible and safe behavior

This year, we are also thrilled to bring back our monthly Pizza with the Principals, a Halloween parade, Jog-a-thon, a school play and sixth-grade outdoor-science camp. Last Friday, the community happily showed up in droves to watch our students parade around in costumes.

Our Golden Eagles are definitely feeling noticed, needed and nurtured as we bring back all the exciting and engaging activities that make Golden so special!



Students celebrate Halloween by bringing back their annual parade.

Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

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



Michael Young
Principal

Week of Welcome

To begin the 21-22 school year, Kraemer Middle School hosted a special “Week of Welcome (WOW)” for all students. On the first day of school, our ASB greeted students with smiles, schedules and maps. On day 2, staff hosted and cooked pancakes for all students.

Finally, on day 3, we coordinated a full-day Positive Behavior Supports & Interventions (PBIS) “Launch Day” to teach students our schoolwide expectations: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. The morning began with a keynote speaker who encouraged students to “Be Kind” and “Try Your Best”. Students next rotated through 4 major stations including: touring campus

and learning schoolwide expectations, an engaging drum-circle activity, field day activities, and emergency preparedness. We were excited to reengage our learners and are grateful for the planning provided by our school’s PBIS Committee who actualized our mission of “Putting students first with a focus on innovation and inclusion.”



Lakeview Elementary School (TK-5)

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



Stephanie Given
Principal

Supporting the Whole Child

The launch of each school year comes with jitters and excitement for students and staff alike. At Lakeview, we approached the year with a focus on the whole child, grounded in our best practices as qualified educators who support the academic, social and

emotional wellbeing of each student. As we eagerly anticipate the return to many school traditions, we realize that our staff, students, and families have faced difficulties of varying degrees. To this end, PYLUSD has committed to creating a sense of belonging so that all students feel noticed, needed, and nurtured. To support this campaign, Lakeview has welcomed Jennifer Mrosek, M.S., PPSC, as our part-time counselor. Mrs. M teaches students about advocating for their needs, developing empathy and building a

positive self-image. Lakeview Lions continue to foster a R.O.A.R.ing learning environment by demonstrating Respect, Organization, Accountability and Responsibility.



Mrs. Mrosek teaches a third grade class about social skills and being helpers.

Linda Vista *Elementary (TK-5)*

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



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Linda Vista Lead Lions

At Linda Vista, it is our goal to foster a learning environment that is safe, inclusive, supportive, inviting, and nurturing. I continue to be very proud of the way our students and staff come together to live out this mission. One way we seek to accomplish this goal is through the work of our “Lead Lions” who have made a huge impact across campus already this school year. This special

group of fifth grade students applied and were selected to volunteer during recess to serve in various roles that include peer mentors on the playground, classroom tutors, and teacher’s aides. We have been so impressed with the responsibility and leadership skills these students have demonstrated. They are helping our younger lions feel a sense of connection and belonging through their work as mentors. Their eagerness to give back to the school and their commitment developing their leadership skills offers a vision of their future success.



Mabel Paine *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Game Day

Mabel Paine Elementary School is working hard to foster relationships among all students. Mabel Paine’s school site counselor, Vidhi Kantawala, and our registered behavior technician, Alyssa Gabel, host a game day twice a month on Tuesdays. On these days, teachers give one student a Game Day Coupon. After eating lunch, these

lucky students can invite a friend to attend Game Day in our Student Wellness Center. This structured activity, featuring several different age-appropriate games each time, allows students to connect with peers in meaningful and inclusive ways to develop social-emotional skills, such as sportsmanship, developing and maintaining positive relationships, and managing emotions. We kicked off Game Day by playing Getting to Know You BINGO and human Tic-Tac-Toe in which the students were the game pieces!



Melrose Elementary School (TK-5)

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



Nicole Hernandez
Principal

Drug Free is the Way to Be

Our Melrose Marlins celebrated Red Ribbon Week by participating in dress up days to remind them that drug free is the way to be. Throughout the week, students reflected

on how the choices they make now impact their lives in the future. At Melrose Elementary we focus on being kind, helpful, respectful, responsible, and safe.

Here our second grade students added red ribbons to the gate, committing to make healthy choices in their lives and remembering that a life without drugs is so very important.



Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Kelly Farrell
Principal

Trunk or Treat

On October 28, students, families, and staff enjoyed a night of fun as we gathered our first community event for the 2021-22 school year, Trunk or Treat! Families dressed up and decorated trunks, students had their faces painted, teachers read stories, and the night



concluded with a costume and pumpkin decorating contest. Kraemer Middle School leadership students volunteered and helped to make the event a success. It was a night to remember!



Parkview Home Schooling (TK-12)

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

First Annual Harvest Festival

October was a lively month for the Parkview School Community. Students in TK-12 had the opportunity to attend classes and activities on campus, while learning was still available online. Families also participated in field trip fun (hosted by Boosters) to the OC Zoo for our elementary students. One of our more popular activities for students is our performing arts group. Students in TK-12 practice each Wednesday and Friday, preparing for the musical Honk, which will be performed in January. Additionally, our amazing Booster Club hosted our first annual Harvest Festival and Book Fair. It was heartwarming to see students, staff and families connecting with one another enjoying food, festivities, and games. It was also a great opportunity for our high school students to earn community service hours as they helped run the game booths. We look forward to more school community events in the future.



Parkview students having fun at our first annual Harvest Festival.

Rio Vista Elementary School (TK-5)

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



Brandon Frank
Principal

Read for the Record

On October 28th, 2021 the Rio Vista Leopards visited their friends at Valadez Middle School Academy to celebrate “Read for the Record,” a nationwide event that emphasizes the importance of early literacy and provides opportunities for collaboration between partner schools. Our Leopards enjoyed reading Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon with their 8th grade buddies, and they also participated in fun activities such as decorating dragons of their own and discovering ways in which they had things in common with Amy Wu. This event is part of the culture of Rio Vista Elementary School, and our

former students take such good care of our Leopards! They fondly remember when they participated as 1st graders and they love to give back. Partnerships, collaboration, caring, creativity, and love of reading are just a few of the characteristics that make up “The Rio Vista Way.”



Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

The Roadrunner Way

This year, our schoolwide theme has changed. It is “Take Learning to New Heights, and Climb the Pyramid of Success.” We believe that all students can climb the pyramid of success by focusing on three goals this year: achieving their personal

best, aiming to be caring and respectful scholars, and learning how to have grit and perseverance. We have created a culture of caring and collaboration, and we recognize both students and staff for their efforts and motivation.

Students are recognized monthly for outstanding achievement in iReady reading and math growth. In addition, students are recognized for their outstanding behavior and grit through student shout-out certificates and monthly character-trait awards. In addition, our teachers and staff are recognized with our Rose Drive Gold Cup.



It has created a positive momentum to recognize all the hard work and dedication that our staff provides, thus increasing our self-efficacy as a team. We will continue to support student achievement this year by differentiating

learning for every learner and maintaining a safe and positive learning environment. We will also continue to support student-leadership opportunities through our Team Roadrunner, Kindness Squad, Environmental/Gardening Club and Makerspace. Roadrunners aim high to increase their knowledge and resiliency!

Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Read for the Record

What a memorable event Ruby Drive first-graders had with their Kraemer Middle School teammates. When opening the book “Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon” by Kat Zhang, the excitement mounted. As each Kraemer mentor read

with their Ruby Drive mentee, the pairs entered the world of celebration, cultural symbols, family, and self-affirmation. Afterwards, each duo made giant dragon puppets. They also solved dragon math facts and dragon puzzles using shapes like hexagons and triangles. To bring this special occasion to a close, the Kraemer-Ruby partners placed their colored cut-out dragon onto a

memory poster. The dragon cut-out had their names, signifying that they took this journey of reading, with its associated activities, together. This memory poster is now visible for all to see and marks an event (and a dragon) that will never be forgotten.



Sierra Vista *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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



Jacquie Bluemel
Principal

Ecolutions is Back

After a year and a half on hold, Sierra Vista is pleased to announce that Ecolutions is back in action and ready to help beautify our campus! Ecolutions is a dedicated group of 6th graders who meet at least once a month to clean

out and care for Sierra Vista's vegetable garden as well as the butterfly sanctuary on campus. Students are led by parent volunteer, Suzanne Hofstetter, who helps to instill in the students a love for and the benefits of caring for our campus and planet. In years past, students have also helped with the recycling program at Sierra Vista. We are hoping to have that program up and running again at some point this year. Thank you to our 6th grade Ecolutions students for your willingness to help keep Sierra Vista beautiful!



6th grade Ecolutions students Miley Coronado and Claire King.

Topaz *Elementary School* (TK-6)

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

Trunk or Treat

By Dr. Christa Borgese, Former Principal

Topaz Elementary is off to a "ROAR"ing good start for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Our students are most definitely enjoying starting the school year off fully in-person. Teachers have spent the first few weeks reviewing our PBIS expectations and building meaningful relationships with their Tigers. We are all proud of how hard our tigers are working.

Topaz PTA is also off to a great start this year by meeting their membership goal, selling Spirit Wear, and already campaigning for a successful fall fundraiser. Most recently, Topaz PTA hosted a fun-filled family night event, "Trunk or Treat". Families came in costume to celebrate the new school year and show their school spirit. They decorated their cars and passed out candy to the kids. BNC Burgers was on-site selling tacos and burritos to families. A fun night was had by all!



Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

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



Dr. Taylor Holloway
Principal

Annual Halloween Parade

The Travis Ranch School community is built on and sustained by the positive relationships that are nurtured on a daily basis. We really are better together! The theme for our 2021-22 school year is ensuring all students, staff, and families

feel Noticed, Needed, and Nurtured at Travis. Our teachers welcomed back students with open arms this fall and are working hard daily nurturing our students' academic and social-emotional growth. Our students were greeted by old friends and are learning how to make new ones as we reestablish our classroom and school-wide communities, where every student is feeling noticed and needed. Our parents are volunteering again and participating in school-wide events such as our annual Halloween parade and Jog-a-thon. These relationships and connections are



essential for our students to thrive at Travis. It really is all about community and we are fortunate to have such an amazing one! Go Trailblazers!

Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Tuffree's Peer Mentoring Program

WEB, which stands for "Where Everyone Belongs," is an elective leadership class where 8th grade WEB Leaders are mentors for 7th-graders. WEB Leaders interact with 7th-graders for the entire school year, starting at orientation in August. WEB Leaders meet every Wednesday with a small

group of 7th graders which alternate weeks, usually having groups of about 10 7th-graders and 2 8th-graders. WEB Leaders host small group activities, discussions, and community outreach fundraisers, such as Tuffree's Canned Food Drive, Sock Drive, and our 6th-Grader Welcome Day.

WEB Leaders hone their personal leadership skills through planning and facilitating small-group activities, as well as public speaking practice and going on Tuffree's Falcon Films morning announcements to advertise WEB activities. WEB Leaders build rapport with

one another through many team building activities and varied groupings for projects. WEB contributes to Tuffree's commitment to building 7th grade engagement with school and allows 7th graders to have a peer role model on campus.



Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

PTA Family Bingo Night

BINGO! Under a canopy of lights, Tynes Elementary hosted its first PTA Family night of the school year. With over three hundred people in attendance, the outside lunch area was filled with families enjoying food and friendship before the real highlight of the night, playing bingo.

Tynes' awesome PTA volunteers transformed the lunch table area into a fabulous Halloween party. Students and families came dressed in their Halloween costumes to play bingo for prizes. Even the Tynes Tiger showed up to join in on the fun! The lunch area was filled with laughter as bingo numbers were called. It was such an amazing night and wonderful to have families back attending an in-person family fun event!



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

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



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

Annual Read for the Record Event

Valadez Middle School Academy was once again proud to host Melrose and Rio Vista Elementary schools for their annual Read for the Record event. Each year, Read for the Record brings together millions of adults and children as they read the same book on the same day, building

an intergenerational community through the power of reading. To date, the campaign has amassed 22 million participants worldwide and has facilitated the distribution of hundreds of thousands of high-quality books to children in underserved communities. Organized by ASB director, Leslie Poling, VMSA 8th grade students

were partnered with 1st grade buddies from the feeder elementary schools under the supervision of their SOAR teachers. After reading *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* by Kat Zhang, the buddies participated in three different fun standards-based activities. Each student will also receive a copy of the book!



Valencia High School (9-12)

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Thriving as Academic Powerhouse

Valencia High School is proud to announce that 10 seniors are among the top 1% of students in the nation to receive the honor of 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist: Neha Abbas, Kayla Cheung, Joshua Hockman, Xavier Macalalad, Lauren Mirhan, Ellie Park, Akash Shah, Melody Sun, Tricia Tran, and Nicole Xu.

A remarkable 52 additional students scored in the top 5% in the nation and earned qualifying scores for the 2021 National Merit Commended Student Program.

In addition, four Val Tech scholars earned perfect scores on their AP Computer Science exams (of 335 worldwide): Jordan Hernandez, Junhyuk Jeon, Tany Vidhun and Melvin Yu.

And finally, VHS is proud to announce that 72 students were awarded International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas last spring, by far the most IB diplomas of any Orange County High School. The addition of the Cambridge AICE international diploma program will provide even more opportunities for our students to distinguish themselves academically.



62 VHS National Merit Scholars

Van Buren Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Storybook Character Parade

Van Buren Roadrunners are excited to return to their fall traditions as we begin the 2021-22 school year! On Friday, October 29, students came to school dressed up as a character from their favorite literature or story book. Students participated in the Storybook Character Parade,

proudly showing off their creative costumes and chosen book. They also cheered and applauded happily for the costumes of their schoolmates! Parents were able to watch the parade remotely from work and home with the help of our PTA President, Lindsay Espinoza. It was a festive time for all! In addition to the Storybook Dress Up Day, the Van Buren community has also enjoyed past fall traditions such as the Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast, Halloween Trunk or Treat and the school wide Jog-A-Thon! Thank you to our remarkable PTA for their tireless work in bringing back so much fun, excitement and joy to our community!



Venture Academy (*Adult Transition Program*)

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

Rebecca Allan, Principal

A Variety of Learning Experiences

Venture Academy has been working hard this fall, returning to their job training program and Friday community based instruction events. Venture Academy provides a variety of job learning experiences for our students including retail, food services, and clerical duties. Local businesses are great partners allowing students to learn skills, transitioning from school to the working world. Students and staff are eagerly

anticipating starting their coffee cart service, pet treat business, as well as other student-run businesses. Students are also participating giving back to our community by assisting in collecting and donating food to homeless facilities in our community. Friday activities have included shopping trips, outings to parks, local restaurants and other locations of interest. Looking toward December, Venture is eagerly anticipating holding their annual Holiday Boutique fundraiser. Lots of fun for all!

Wagner *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Janice Weber
Principal

Be Here, Be You, Belong

Wagner Elementary School is proud of our inclusive practices. At Wagner, all Wildcats are recognized and celebrated for who they are, their stories, their ethnicity, gender, abilities, and languages. One of our ongoing mantras is, “Be Here, Be You, Belong.” Wagner staff

are intentional about teaching diversity and inclusion and creating opportunities for students to integrate. Every week, students in our general education classes partner with students in our special day classes to engage in meaningful learning activities, dialogue, mentorship, and friendship. Daily, students with disabilities can be seen playing, laughing, and exercising with general education peers on the playground. Wagner is living out the district’s vision that every student be “Noticed, Needed, and Nurtured.” As a principal, I am very proud of our students and staff for the way they embrace and care for every Wildcat!



Woodsboro *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Dr. George Lopez
Principal

Immigration Simulation

GATE students at Woodsboro Elementary got a taste of the struggles many of our ancestors went through in order to get to America. The event was called “Immigration Simulation.”

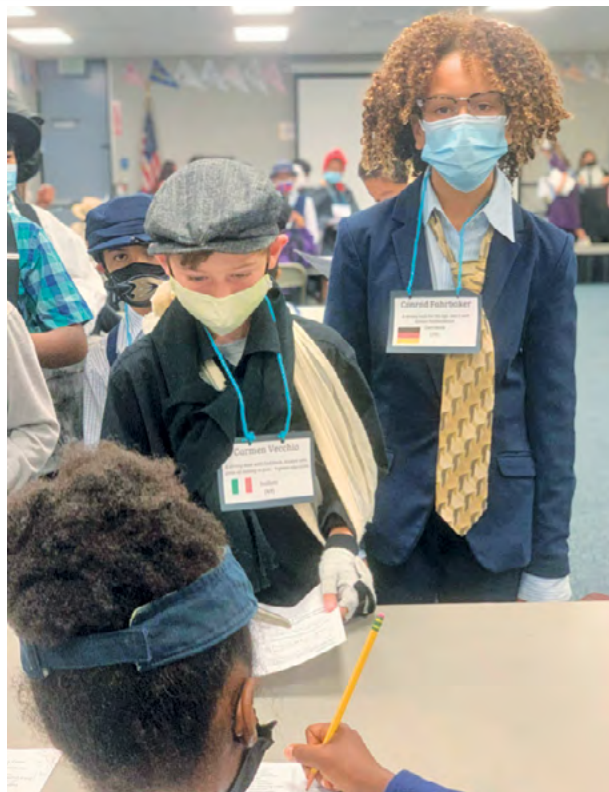
The students were assigned a character to portray. They went through processing stations as if they were at Ellis Island.

It was a real eye-opener, said Kaleb Mendez. “I learned that if they were not vaccinated for such things as chicken pox, they couldn’t get into our country.”

Student Landon Partida said even though America is “Land of the Free” immigrants weren’t allowed in if they didn’t know how to speak English.

Siona Tripathi said she really got a feeling of what our ancestors went through. “It had to be a difficult experience for many.”

5th grade Gate teacher, Amy Livergood, said after going through all the questioning she is happy to report no one was denied and all students took the oath and became US citizens.



Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Greg Kemp
Principal

Bobcats REPresent

Yorba Linda Middle School received the Gold Level Award for successful Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) implementation by California PBIS Coalition’s System of Recognition. This award reflects excellence in the implementation of the core features of PBIS.

In 2018–19, the YLMS PBIS team modernized the PBIS motto and rewards system to serve our students better. Included is the new motto of Bobcats REPresent. REP stands for “resiliency, empathy and potential.” New signage with our new slogan has been posted throughout the campus to remind students of our message. Bobcats REPresent posters can also be found in every classroom and office. The signs outline expected behavior in various settings around school and online.

YLMS started using the five-star electronic point system to reward students for doing the right things while at school. Staff can scan student barcodes on their ID cards to award points, using their phone or barcode scanner. At the end of each quarter, students can redeem points for prizes: restaurant lunches, socks, hats and various other items.



PBIS has been in place at YLMS for a long time and has prided itself on being a leader of implementation across the district.

Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Richard Dinh
Principal

Excellence in Academics, Activities, Arts, Athletics

At Yorba Linda High School, our focus is to prepare students for post-secondary success. During the 2020-2021 school year, over 500 students participated in taking at least one Advanced Placement exam with an 86 percent passing rate. A record 27 Mustang students earned the recognition of National Merit Scholar. Through our Professional Learning Communities, teachers collaborate and incorporate skills into the curriculum and instruction that are beneficial for our students' success beyond high school.

More than ever, our students are excited to be back on campus, and desire to get connected. In September, over 850 parents attended Back to School Night. One parent commented, "So excited to be able to go in person. Thank you to all the teachers for their hard work, extreme flexibility, patience, and resilience throughout the

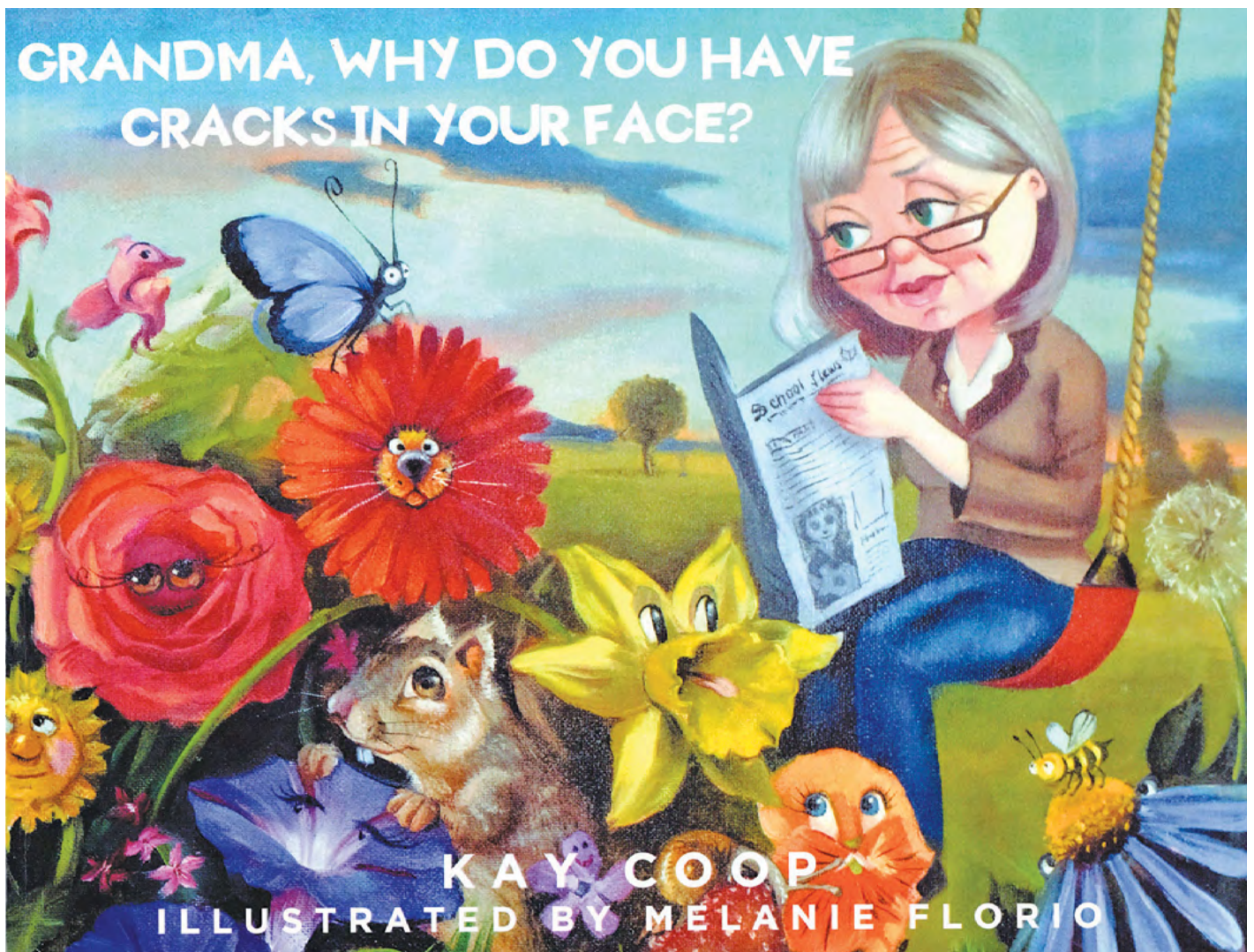
pandemic. YLHS teachers really are amazing! I love this school!"

In October, we had a record 65 student clubs participate in Club Rush, and 1,100 students attended the Homecoming Dance. Our Band and Colorguard took first place at the Loara Parade. And all of our fall sports found great success, with women's volleyball, women's tennis, and football each earning undefeated league titles.

As we head into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons, I would like to share something that we all have in common: An appreciation for human kindness and compassion. In the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people." At Yorba Linda High School, we encourage our Mustang community to offer up an act of kindness, because it is kindness towards others that will be remembered and will help us become stronger and more unified.

Go, Mustangs!





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