

**FREE**

# School News

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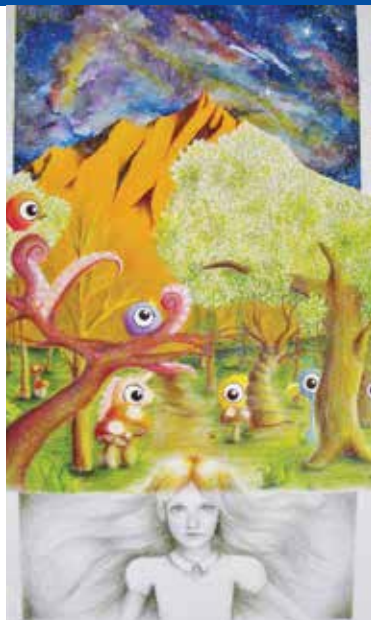


**Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District**

**VOLUME 5, ISSUE 14**

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**FEBRUARY–APRIL 2013**



**Esperanza - Faith Dela Cruz - Grade 11**



**Alex Fischer - Esperanza - Grade 12**

## Students Shine in PTA Reflections Program



**Travis Ranch - Isabella Paulus - Grade 5**

*By Rosemary Gladden-Director of Community Relations / Public Information Officer*

Every year students across the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District are invited to unleash their creative energy and submit entries for the National PTA Reflections Contest.

More than 10 million students across the country have participated since the program's inception in 1969. Inspired by a pre-selected theme, students first submit entries at their local schools for an opportunity to advance to the district, county, state and, hopefully, national level.

Inspired by this year's theme, "The Magic of a Moment," students across PYLUSD schools submitted 94 entries in the following categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Visual Arts, Music, Composition and Photography.



**Travis Ranch - Payton Bladow - Grade 7**



**Brookhaven - Eric Kim - Grade 2**

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Doug Domene**

As we begin the New Year, I am reminded of the importance of taking a fresh look at our lives and the work we do for others. This is especially true when it comes to the safety of your children

whom you entrust to us every school day. We believe there is no greater responsibility than keeping children safe. With that goal in mind, I want to share with you additional safety measures that our school district is implementing in partnership with our local police agencies. These efforts augment safety procedures that are currently in place.

*See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 14*

## District Launches Energy Education Program

*By Rosemary Gladden-Director of Community Relations / Public Information Officer*

Recently, the PYLUSD School Board took proactive steps to reduce the amount of money we spend on utilities by entering into a partnership with Cenergistic, formerly Energy Education. This firm earned the 2011 and 2012 ENERGY STAR Sustained Excellence Award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and was named ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for 2009 and 2010. For over 26 years Cenergistic has helped school districts and other educational organizations nationwide reduce energy consumption, allowing funds to stay where we need them—in the school district.

The PYLUSD cannot stress enough how critical this energy program is to our school district. The PYLUSD currently spends \$5.4 million each year in energy (electricity, water and gas). Ultimately, the success of our energy program will enable us to save jobs as well as important programs.

This energy program does not require the school district to increase the district's utility budget, purchase new energy equipment or upgrade our existing equipment.

The focus of the program is to change how the district uses energy. Below are some key elements of the program:

- All costs associated with the program are paid through the savings that the district generates.
- There will be minimal impact on the comfort of our students and educators. This program works by exploring thousands of energy savings opportunities such as daily management and auditing of our energy equipment when buildings are not in use.
- This is an organizational behavior-based energy program and will require complete cooperation and participation from each of us to be successful.
- This is not a short-term "green project." It's a comprehensive, rigorous and sustainable energy program to help us save money for years to come.
- The program will require each of us to change some habits affecting how we use our energy resources in each building.

This energy program is an exciting opportunity that will save significant money during these very challenging economic times while doing something very positive for the environment.





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## U9 thru U14

### Looking for Players

## U15 thru U18

### April/May

### Check Website for Dates & Times

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- Technical Director **Luis Balboa** (Former International Professional Player)

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- Girls Coach, **Lindsey Huie-Morinaga** (Former U of Portland player & National Player)
- Girls Coach, **Dale Ervine** (Former Professional Player)

**We are a strong competitive club that continues to grow and thrive and develop solid players on and off the soccer field. We measure success by the number of our players in collegiate level soccer and their success in all aspects of life.**

SCAN THIS QR CODE with your Smart Phone



# www.canyonpsa.com




**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



562/493-3193  
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

By now your new year is well underway and I hope it is off to a great start—the PYLUSD certainly is!

It is exciting to read on the front page about the district's sustainable energy program.

Be sure to sign up for the R.E.A.C.H. Foundation's first annual fundraiser Run/Walk March 17 to raise funds for schools. The info is on page 3 & 5.

You won't want to miss reading a single one of the school articles where you'll learn about the academic focus in the classrooms, community service projects, commitment to improved healthy live styles, and much more!

# School News

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**Covering the  
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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**Julie Nibali**  
President

## Run With Us!

Registration for our first annual fundraiser, a 5K timed run on a certified course and 2K Fun Run/Walk has begun. The ShamRock n' Run, from which all proceeds will benefit students in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, will take place on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at Veteran's Park in Yorba Linda.

Runners who register online can donate \$5 of their registration fee directly back to the school of their choice.

"We look forward to our first annual ShamRock n' Run," said R.E.A.C.H. President Julie Nibali. "We encourage all students, families, and staff to participate and earn funds for their schools."



The event will begin at 7AM with an Event Expo and late registration then ending with the Awards Ceremony. Runners can enjoy the VIP Leprechaun Lounge's live music, and tasty food from local restaurants. For more information visit our Web site.

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# Yorba Linda's Solar Program



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**Go solar for \$0 Down**  
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Attend the FREE solar seminar to learn more

**What:** Yorba Linda Solar Program Luncheon

**When:** Saturday March 2, 2013 at 11a.m.

**Where:** Yorba Linda Community Center

# 1.800.SULLIVAN

## YorbaLindaSolarProgram.org



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Leading the Solar Energy Revolution

# Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

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



**Cameron Malotte**  
*Principal*

## Intervention and Enrichment

Students at Bernardo Yorba Middle School enjoy attending a school with a tremendous tradition of excellence. But sometimes they experience challenges that are not easily addressed in the confines of the classroom. We have developed several programs to address those challenges and to further enhance the learning of those who want to enrich or accelerate their learning.

The Learning at Lunch program was designed to provide extra time during the school day for students who are struggling to pass some of their classes. The program, staffed by our school counselor and one teacher every day, allows students to work on homework and receive extra assistance. This program has helped numerous students raise their grades and achieve success.

Last spring we began hosting Saturday Enrichment Experiences (SEE), opportunities for students to spend four hours on selected Saturdays receiving supplemental instruction in a variety of subjects. Depending on the Saturday, students might attend courses in algebra, general math, language arts, social science, or science. In addition to the core content, study skills in preparation for the upcoming Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing program are emphasized.

Finally, this January, we began a new after-school Homework Club, where students can come for extra assistance provided by members of our National Junior Honor Society. This has proven to be a very popular venue for students to help their fellow students find success.

As you can see, Bernardo Yorba Middle School is living up to its motto of "Striving for Success."

# El Camino Real *High School*

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



**Gordon Chamberlin**  
*Principal*

## Another Way to Show Growth!

We are thrilled to be among the one hundred schools across the nation to receive an Urban Garden Grant from the Whole Kids Foundation. The goal of the program is to establish a school garden that will be a vital educational tool for our life-science students. The garden will have three components: raised beds for growing a variety of fruits and vegetables, a worm farm to create fertilizer and recycle food scraps, and a compost container to create soil from recycled organic-plant waste. This unique teaching tool will provide a one-of-a-kind experience and help students more deeply explore complex science topics, including sustainability, conservation, genetics, heredity and nutrition.

In addition to educational enrichment, the garden will benefit the local community. We plan to share the harvest with needy families in our community. El Camino Real students can also help in the garden after school to complete part of the 60 hours of community service required for graduation.

Special thanks go to Vicki Volmer, director of a manufacturer of recycled bling for benefitting causes, who has spearheading fund-raising efforts and is coordinating with life-science teacher Susan Rotkosky. One of the garden sponsors, an ecofriendly apparel company, is offering perks for donations. To get more information, visit [www.indiegogo.com/ElCaminoRealHighSchool](http://www.indiegogo.com/ElCaminoRealHighSchool).

# Brookhaven *Elementary*

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



**David Cammarato**  
*Principal*

## Going the Distance

The teachers and students at Brookhaven Elementary School are going the distance...literally! We have brought the 100 Mile Club to our school. The 100 Mile Club provides the opportunity for students to set a goal of running or walking 100 miles by the end of the school year and is committed to improving school readiness to learn, creating better educational outcomes, and building self-esteem and overall improved health in the lives of children.

With several teachers volunteering to bring the club to Brookhaven, we are off to an amazing start. About 100 students hope to cross the 100-mile finish line before the end of the school year. Many of Brookhaven's teachers have taken on this challenge as well. They run or walk with their students to help them meet their goal and feel energized to learn at school. Along the way, students are rewarded with incentives to keep the motivation going. After their first 25 miles, they receive T-shirts, which allow them to mark off how far they have walked or run in 25-mile increments. Other incentives follow and lead up to receiving certificates to celebrate achieving their goal.

Students are also encouraged to participate in community-based runs to earn miles toward their goal. A perfect example is participation in the Shamrock 'n' Run this March.

# Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

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



**Debra Silverman**  
*Principal*

## Healthy Lifestyles

It's that time of year again at Bryant Ranch Elementary School—time for the annual PTA Jog-a-Thon! On Friday, February 15, we held our annual Jog-a-Thon, the most important and only major fund-raiser of the year! Instead of selling products, gift wrap, or food items, the Bryant Ranch PTA embraces the healthy lifestyle philosophy and raises money through their Jog-a-Thon.

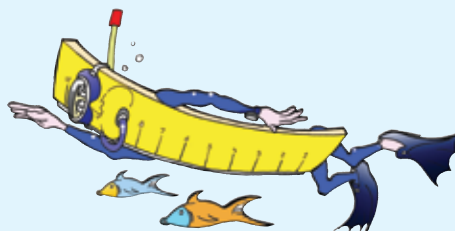
All of the monies raised directly benefit the students and help improve their academic achievement. These funds support such things as: an assembly and field trip for every grade level; teacher supplies in the classroom; student awards and incentives, including Accelerated Reader parties, books for the storybook garden, and certificates; Brag Card prizes; online Accelerated Reader and Read Naturally programs; technology; new library items; and much, much more.

After meeting those approved expenditures, the balance is used for special projects. Past examples include: the updated technology lab; the large screen, sound, and presentation technology in the multi-use room; mini-labs in every grade-level pod area; an electronic marquis; and, just this past year, implementation of ST Math's Jiji Math from MIND Institute. All of these projects help to enrich the education of every child at Bryant Ranch.

This year we are focusing our special projects money on upgrades for technology and sustaining our high-quality academic programs. This will benefit children in learning to create, communicate, and use critical thinking skills for the 21st century. We thank the community and our business sponsors for their support in making our event a huge success!



**Have a fun Spring Break!**  
**Our next issue is May 16**





# El Dorado *High School*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • www.edhs.org



**Carey Cecil**  
Principal

## We CAN Do It!

The WASC accreditation team visited El Dorado High last spring, and we received a six-year accreditation, with a midterm visit. We continue to be proud of our strong academic programs and positive school culture.

To identify Critical Academic Needs, we used myriad quantitative and qualitative measures, including CST, benchmark and perception data. Rather than wait until the year before our review, we've scheduled PLC time throughout this school year to focus on learning and meeting our planned goals. Social science teacher and former OC Teacher of the Year Sunshine Cavalluzzi has stepped in as our new WASC Coordinator, and she developed an authentic, comprehensive plan. Our motto, "We CAN," is an acronym for our critical needs: Connecting, Analyzing and Navigating. Each week, Mrs. Cavalluzzi sends ideas to staff about how we CAN make a difference.

"I am excited that we are approaching our action plan in small, focused groups with clearly articulated missions that were developed in a truly collaborative process," she said. "The energy that each team is bringing to their respective mission is invigorating and inspiring, and I am confident the results will give our students an even more empowering El Dorado experience."

In my first months as principal, I've been proud of the ideas generated by these focus groups and the sense of ownership each group leader expresses. When teachers, clerical staff and managers come together to achieve small goals, we effect more change. At El Dorado, we are focused on learning and what's best for students.

# Esperanza *High School*

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



**Ken Fox**  
Principal

## Off To a New Start

Esperanza has some personnel changes that will be taking place at the beginning of the second semester.

Gary Bower will be taking over the Aztec football program. Gary is an alumnus of Esperanza High School, and has had coaching experience at Los Alamitos High School and Fullerton College. Our engineering teacher, Larry Eynon, will be retiring at the end of the semester and Julian Gonzales will be taking his place. Julian has had experience working in the engineering field in both San Gabriel and Santa Ana. We are excited to welcome both of these new team members to Esperanza.

Two of our programs at Esperanza have received grants during the past semester. Manufacturing and engineering has received grants from both STEM and SME. The STEM grant will be used to buy new equipment, send instructors to trainings, purchase software updates, and spread community awareness. The SME grant will be used to help fund the UCI car project, buy new computers for SolidWorks software, and provide field trips.

Our German program has received the PASCH grant. We were selected because we have one of the largest German programs around and participate in the German government testing program. With this money we have purchased MacBook Pros for the teachers and MacBooks/iPads for students in the program.

In extracurricular activities our dance team won first place in all five divisions, and the sweepstakes award, at the Aliso Dance Classic at Aliso Niguel High School. They have upcoming competitions at Santiago and El Dorado High Schools in February.



# Fairmont *Elementary*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

## Enrichment and Learning Soars

We are wrapping up our second trimester of the school year, and our Falcons are flying!

Our students have had an opportunity to participate in some very informative and entertaining assemblies and activities this year. They have been learning about spiders and fossils through "Science on the Go." They also learned about making healthy choices in our "Go the Distance" assemblies, and were motivated to read and understand the value of being a good reader on our "Read for the Goal" day. That was when Wild Wing and the Anaheim Ducks organization visited our campus in October.

Our Fairmont students are also "reading for success" through the Accelerated Reader program. Each grade level has set a goal that their students will be working towards so that they can make our trimester "Wall of Fame" as well as improve their basic reading skills.

In January our parents were able to take part in a Parent Education Night that was sponsored by the PTA. The topic was "Internet Safety." A member of the Orange County Child Exploitation Task Force gave a presentation to our parents about the dangers of the Internet and how to keep your students safe. Go, Falcons!



## There's Something For Everyone!

### Run for a Great Cause!

Sponsored by the R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

Join hundreds of runners for this special event.

**Participate in either the  
5K run or 2K non-timed fun run/walk**

All proceeds go directly to benefit the students of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

**Registering on-line allows you to pledge the \$5.00 (part of your registration fee) to your school.**

What a great way to celebrate the coming of Spring, the educational benefits of Academics, Arts and Athletics and the merriment of St. Paddy's Day!

**More information and event registration at:  
www.reach4pylud.org**



The mission of the R.E.A.C.H. Foundation is to seek, explore and develop educational experiences and opportunities that help prepare our students in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District to become 21st Century Learners.

Greater exposure to the powerful benefits of critical thinking (Academics), creativity (Arts) and healthy well-being (Athletics) will aid students to reach their highest potential.

## R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

Resources for the Enrichment of Academics, Arts and Athletics for our Children to reach their ultimate Heights



# Glenknoll *Elementary*

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



**Doug Slonkosky**  
Principal

## Outdoor Education for All Seasons!

Glenknoll students and staff have had a very active winter and look forward to spring! Our courageous sixth-grade teachers and students completed a four-day OCDE-sponsored Outdoor Science School in early January, held near Green Valley Lake. Students explored mountain trails, observed wildlife, studied

the geological features of the San Bernardino Mountains, and played and “tubed” in the snow! They bunked with students from other schools and enjoyed meals in the mess hall. Thanks to the Glenknoll PTA and sixth-grade parents for helping to make this event possible!

Winter and spring activities at Glenknoll will include a talent show on Feb. 21 and individual grade-level field trips. The Glenknoll Garden will become active again this spring. Students will study life, physical and earth sciences in this hands-on environment. Spring Planting Day is March 9—everyone, especially parents and community members, is welcome to help out. Contact Principal Douglas Slonkosky at [dslonkosky@pylusd.org](mailto:dslonkosky@pylusd.org) for more information.



# George Key School

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



**Deby Six**  
Principal

## Partnerships Helping Students

The highlight of this winter has been the continuation of ongoing partnerships in support of our functional curriculum that have been forged over past years and also of the forging of new and exciting ones.

Our Annual Rotary Christmas luncheon, sponsored by our longtime community partners, the YL Rotarians, is now in its nearly 20th year! These Rotarians continue to outdo themselves with their gracious thoughtfulness in support of George Key children and young adults. This year, their generosity will allow teachers to enhance our students' communication and functional life skills. Through the use of cameras, teachers will soon be able to capture “teachable moments” through videotape playback and instruction paired with the SMART Board and assistive technology.

Exciting now is the addition of a new partnership with our neighbor, Golden Elementary School. Led by Golden teacher Karen Hope, students in the PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) Program devote their own weekly recess time to read to our students in the classes of Kathy Eidson, Barbara Howe and Beth Fox. And we're not sure who enjoys it more—the Golden or the George Key students!

Additionally, our students in Annie Haller's class have partnered with Jenner Rasic's Golden students to enjoy weekly interactive art projects. What fun for all, and an excellent application of functional social skills for our students!

We so very much appreciate these wonderful partnerships and the experiences they provide our students along their journey to achieving needed functional and life skills.

# Glenview *Elementary*

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



**Moises Plascencia**  
Principal

## Academics and Creativity

By Moises Plascencia, Principal  
and Lisa Dominguez, Teacher – 3rd Grade

Glenview Elementary School provides many academic and creative experiences during and after the school day. Mrs. Valerie Frank, a former Glenview parent, volunteers using her art degree to teach our students the many elements of art. She also introduces students to the masters in art, with lessons aligned with the Common Core State Standards for each grade level.

In addition, Glenview teachers bring classical music to the classroom with Music Me. Made possible through a partnership with California State University, Fullerton, this program enriches students with short lessons about composers and presentations of the composers' music.

We also offer several enrichment classes after school, including Chess Masters, Mad Science, and Adventures in Art. Through our variety of learning experiences, Glenview offers students many opportunities to cultivate their passions.

For more information about our programs, please visit our school Web site or contact our office.





# Golden *Elementary*

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



**Roann  
Carpenter**  
*Principal*

## Our Golden Eagles Love Reading!

All of our Golden Elementary School students enjoyed the “Principal’s Story Hour” in January!

Caldecott Medal winners were highlighted, with different books being read to each grade level. One universal favorite was *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, illustrated by Erin E. Stead. According to Mrs. Carpenter, “Reading rich literature to students instills a love of reading. We are

never too old for a fabulous, award-winning picture book!”

The fifth-grade students also loved the contrast between the movie *Jumanji* and the Caldecott Medal-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg on which the movie was based. Of course, books are frequently deemed better than the movie!

Reading at Golden Elementary is celebrated through our PTA’s reading program, sponsored through the library. We also have a story hour reading focus by the principal, the Ticket to Read activity, and other supplemental programs that are implemented schoolwide. In some upper-grade classes the GEU (Golden Eagle University) encourages reading with special “diplomas” given to students who “graduate” with reading goals at a specific level.



**Golden Elementary Eagles listening to Caldecott Medal books read by their principal, Ms. Roann Carpenter.**

# Kraemer *Middle School*

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



## Thanks to the PTA!

At the beginning of the school year our Kraemer staff members and parent groups felt very strongly that each one of our students should have the opportunity to take a schoolwide field trip. We all recognized that there is great value in allowing children to extend their learning beyond the Kraemer campus.

Some individual classes had taken field trips to music performances, tours of universities, museums around Southern California, etc. But it had been some time since there was an “all school” field trip. So this year, regardless of academic program, each student at Kraemer will have the experience of being able to

learn away from the classrooms.

Soon our seventh-graders will be taking a field trip to the California Science Center in Los Angeles. There they will dive into great hands-on exhibits, tour the Space Shuttle Endeavor, and view a science-themed IMAX movie. This trip is definitely high-interest, and an excellent tie-in to the seventh-grade science curriculum.

The Kraemer eighth-graders will be attending the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Many of them have been reading stories related to the Holocaust, including *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Their classroom discussions about the tragedy of the Holocaust and the lessons that can be learned from literature and history will be greatly enhanced by the tour.

These trips were made possible by the support of the Kraemer PTA and our parent community. The funds raised in our PTA Jog-a-Thon have largely financed these incredible learning experiences.

**Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 14!**

# La Entrada *High School*

4175 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.laentrada.pylusd.org



**Libby Moore**  
*Principal*

## Cultivating Dreams

La Entrada Independent Study High School is designed for the student who has the desire to excel academically utilizing a flexible, accelerated program. Our school model is similar to some private universities, whereby students engage in one course at a time. Many of our junior students will graduate one year early this year through the accelerated program.

This flexible approach to learning provides students with the opportunity to accommodate other interests and fulfill their dreams in their chosen careers. While growing academically and personally, these students are cultivating their skills and talents by pursuing their passion as equestrians, playing hockey for the Junior Kings/Ducks Hockey Clubs, sharing their love of the arts as dance studio instructors,



**Jason is 16 years old. He is turning professional this year. He will be racing in AMA Pro Supersport this year on a 600cc Yamaha R6 that is capable of speeds up to 170mph. He has already ridden against and beaten many top professionals.**

modeling for professional agencies, acting in Hollywood, developing their own professional art portfolios, or racing professionally.

La Entrada High School is honored to have played a role in fostering enthusiasm for learning and allowing our students to cultivate their dreams.



# Lakeview *Elementary*

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



**Katherine Dailey**  
Principal

## Roaring to Achieve

The Lakeview Elementary School Lions continue to build upon our new motto, “Roaring to Achieve!” Students and staff continue to reinforce the principles of what it means to ROAR: Respect each other and yourself; On time and on task every day; Achieve your personal best...never give up; and Responsibility is key to success.

Recently, our kindergarten scholars opened our “paws-itivity” assembly with a special ROAR song. At this assembly we reviewed how special everyone is at our school and focused on how our “paws-itivity” shows when we ROAR. The staff and students work together to promote a positive environment, as we continue to model and reinforce positive choices and behavior. Our teachers are working hard to ensure each minute of the instructional day is a teachable moment, whether students are inside or outside of the classroom.

Lakeview teachers are reflecting and analyzing best instructional practices as they ensure students receive 21st-century learning opportunities. Teachers also are increasing their awareness and knowledge of the Common Core State Standards, which are designed to bring improved teaching, assessment, and learning to all, which then prepares students for college and career. Our school’s leadership team has and will continue to attend future trainings in Common Core State Standards to be best prepared when the state of California transitions to this instructional system.

# Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



**Paula Kintsch**  
Principal

## Involvement and Dedication

Parents are always a welcome partner in their children’s education here at Linda Vista, and I am so proud of the involvement that they have shown during the past two years. While we encourage our parents to work in the classroom to help support their children, Linda Vista also provides many other volunteer opportunities that can fit within everyone’s busy schedules.

This includes such PTA-sponsored events as coordinating the fall Jog-a-Thon, which is our biggest fund-raiser of the year; coordinating the book fairs; planning the carnival; organizing class parties as room moms; coordinating Reflections and Box Tops; and helping with our monthly Dad’s Sports Days.

Currently our students are busy conducting experiments and preparing their results for the science fair. This yearly event is also coordinated by the Linda Vista PTA. Through various assemblies and field trips, our PTA also raises the funds to help provide many exciting opportunities for Linda Vista students to experience the grade-level curriculum outside the normal classroom environment.

If you are interested in volunteering at our school, please stop by one of our monthly PTA meetings. They are held on the first Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

On behalf of our Linda Vista staff members, I want to thank all of our parents for their involvement in, and dedication to, the education of our Linda Vista children!

# Mabel Paine *Elementary*

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



**Tamie Beeuwsaert**  
Principal

## Musical Theatre Comes Alive

Mabel Paine Elementary School started the New Year off with an exciting field trip to the theatre to see Yorba Linda Spotlight Theatre’s production of “The Little Mermaid.” Thanks to a generous donation from the Beers family and their employer, a national defense and aerospace industry leader, we are able to order buses for 320 kindergarten through fifth-grade students and their

teachers and travel to the Fullerton College Theater to see a musical production for the second year in a row.

Our students were once again amazed by the singing, dancing, acting, lighting, and special effects, especially the fog machines. They were most excited to be greeted by the cast of characters after the show. One of our students even brought his favorite character, Ariel, a bouquet for after the show.



Prince Eric, Tyler Beeuwsaert & Ariel, Channel Moorehead

# Melrose *Elementary*

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



**Vivian Cuesta**  
Principal

## ‘Protect the Trophy’

Our district’s Every Day Counts Campaign encourages students to be responsible for attending school. As a result of this campaign, Melrose earned a trophy for Best Elementary School Attendance for the 2011–12 school year. Since the school opened in 2004, we have made a concerted effort to improve attendance. We employed a positive-behavior-intervention support system that is designed to improve behavior and responsibility for learning

We are striving to achieve perfect attendance schoolwide as we achieved one time before on May 10, 2009. Having every student in the school present was a very special accomplishment for us.

As a result of having earned the best attendance trophy, the students are being even more proactive and want to “protect the trophy.” They are telling their parents they can’t miss school and they need to schedule things like doctor appointments before or after school. Way to keep the trophy, Magnificent Marlins!



Perfect attendance students “Protect the Trophy”



# Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss



## Morse *Elementary*

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



**Kathie DiRocco**  
*Principal*

### The Gifted and Talented Program

Morse Elementary School is committed to providing its GATE and high-achieving students with a challenging educational program that can meet their needs.

Students in grades four to six are clustered within the regular classrooms and have teachers who have been trained in differentiated instruction. The lessons are designed so that each student is working to their fullest potential. Special emphasis is placed upon teaching students the art of “questioning” techniques in order to engage them in critical thinking.

We take pride in offering them a monthly academy as well. This is a two-hour block of time where GATE and high-achieving students can participate in rewarding activities in science, math, language arts and computer technology.

Past topics have included fire prevention, dissection, computer animation, acting, construction, poetry, CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) and photography. All of the teachers in grades four to six are actively involved in teaching these classes on a rotational basis. In addition to the academies, our Morse students are also provided with leadership opportunities in the Student Service Organization.

Although each teacher uses flexible grouping to accommodate advanced learners, the students in the upper grades are leveled for math. In the sixth grade the accelerated class is instructed in pre-algebra. Challenging math programs are designed to make sure that the students will reach their potential and be prepared for honors classes in the middle school.

In addition, a strong emphasis on explicit direct instruction and hands-on, real-world math situations can bring life experiences into the classroom.

## Parkview School *Independent Study K–12*

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



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
*Principal*

### A Blended Approach to Learning

Parkview celebrates another successful WASC visitation. The review committee observed Parkview’s blended approach that includes digital learning, independent study and flipped classrooms. Committee commendations were capped by an ultimate compliment from the review team chair: “I wish a Parkview was near me that my daughter could attend.”

Our team continues to set the “PACE” with schoolwide learning goals: Partners in education team with parents and teachers to reach their full potential and achieve through a personalized learning program. Academic achievers self-evaluate and reflect as lifelong learners; utilize technological skills to master content and efficiently produce and publish assignments; and collect, organize, interpret, analyze, and supply information to make decisions and solve problems. They’re compliant with state and district standards, complete assignments based on best practices, and demonstrate mastery of grade-level skills and concepts.

And effective communicators organize, analyze, evaluate, and deliver presentations as well as write and speak with a command of standard-English conventions.



**Parkview Talent Night Program 2012**  
Tone chimers perform with special guest conductor Darth Vader.



**Electric guitar performance by**  
singer/song-writer Jacky Yang.

## Rio Vista *Elementary*

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



**Jackie Howland**  
*Principal*

### Ready for Reading

At Rio Vista Elementary School, our Response to Intervention (RtI) teachers take pride in knowing that their students receive focused and comprehensive reading instruction. Rio Vista is continuing to look for ways to maximize student achievement in reading.

For the current school year, the RtI teachers rotate into second-, fourth-, and fifth-grade classrooms to facilitate small-group reading in order to differentiate instruction for all reading levels. Our RtI program utilizes Walk to Read with Project Read, Voyager Passport, and/or core literature in kindergarten through fifth grade. The students attending RtI reading group review Project Read phonics lessons previously taught in their home classrooms.

Students are continuously engaged and interact with the SmartBoard flipcharts every day with Project Read and Passport passages and vocabulary, thus allowing students of all learning types to access the information and concepts. Every two or three weeks, student progress is monitored with Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessments, helping the RtI teachers gauge student progress.

Every teacher sees the value of a strong RtI program for student achievement. Our RtI teachers are will soon administer benchmark assessments for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. We expect growth for every student at Rio Vista.

## Rose Drive *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Linda Adamson**  
*Principal*

### Wild About Learning

There are many highlights to recount this year, but our jog-a-thon tops the list. Can you believe we surpassed last year’s total by \$11,000? Thanks to our generous, supportive families, we raised a little over \$34,000! Thank you, PTA, for the enormous work and enthusiasm that went into this major event. As a reward for reaching our goal, the staff performed to Aretha Franklin’s “RESPECT,” with Aretha herself joining us.

Also making the list is our kindergarten holiday program, which featured the fine singing talents of our kindergartners in our newly updated multipurpose room. What a treat!

Looking ahead, students can look forward to several exciting, interactive activities. We invite you to visit our Open House on March 21 to admire their hard work. We embrace the opportunity to learn something new or celebrate an achievement each and every day, which is one reason we continue to be “Wild about Learning.”



**Roadrunners run to raise \$34,000**



# Ruby Drive *Elementary*

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



**Monica Barrera**  
*Principal*

## A Wonderful Success

Ruby Drive ended the year on a sweet note! Our family Winter Wonderland night was a great success. Thanks to some awesome performances we had over 300 people in attendance.

The students from CASA, our after-school program, opened the show with their grandiose flair for dancing and singing. The performances that followed were just as spectacular. The students who had performed at the Tamale

Festival the week before sang their little hearts out in front of family and friends.

The grand finale warmed the souls of our audience members, and students from Mr. Pike's and Miss Ybarra's classes performed their first-annual Gingerbread Man play. They performed their roles well, too. There were Christmas trees, reindeer, farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and the unforgettable Gingerbread Man and the Fox. All of the characters deserved an Academy Award!

A big thank-you goes to all of our staff members and parents who worked endless hours to make this show a great success!



# Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



**Cynthia Rex**  
*Principal*

## Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!

Creative students soar at Sierra Vista! This month over 100 students are singing, dancing and rehearsing for our theater production of Seussical, a delightful musical that includes some of Dr. Seuss' most creative characters.

Our parents, principal and teachers first collaborated on the project. They were then awarded a fine arts grant to help fund their exciting endeavor, which will be performed in early March.

Another grant that was recently awarded to our school will help fund the Student Council's plan for developing a new student newspaper called The Eagle's Eye. The students are anxious to

share the great things that happen at their school every day by using the latest technology to record and report their findings.

A regular feature of the newspaper will be their sharing of the "Top Readers of the Month," a schoolwide program that was developed by our librarian, Mrs. Schall, and organized by a Sierra Vista parent, Mrs. Doppieri. With this level of teacher and parent support our Eagles will continue to fly high!



**Cast Members for "Seussical" to be performed in March.**

**(Back)-Karson Hauck, Marissa Jaquez, Jessica Laboissonniere, Tomi Lattenhauer, Keely Glennan  
(Front)-Adrian Cabrera, Blake Berggren, Dr. Seuss, Heather Rocheford**

# Topaz *Elementary*

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



**Rafael Plascencia**  
*Principal*

## Laying a Great Foundation

*By Lizette Garcia, Teacher – Preppy-K*

In the short time since its inception, Preppy-K at Topaz Elementary School has blossomed beyond expectation. Comprised mostly of second-language learners, the students have excelled tremendously. Thanks to the wonderful support of the warm staff members, along with parental participation, children encounter a warm and loving learning environment. Word of mouth throughout the community has been overwhelmingly positive. The collaborative work our wonderful kindergarten teachers adhere to allows for a smooth transition for our students from Preppy-K to kindergarten.

Some highlights that have enriched our students' academic experience have been: a field trip to Pretend City, courtesy of a grant from a national box store chain; the donation of light table; and the launching of ST Math, a computer program that nurtures critical thinking skills.

There is no doubt that we are laying the foundation necessary for the academic achievement of our current and future students.



**Mrs. Garcia's Preppy-k students.**



# Travis Ranch School

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



**Cindy Freeman**  
*Principal*

## WATCH D.O.G.S.

Travis Ranch is launching an innovative parental-involvement program called WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). WATCH D.O.G.S. is the father-involvement initiative of the National Center for Fathering. Inspired by one father's desire to increase male involvement in his children's school and supported by the school's teachers and administration, WATCH D.O.G.S. was created in 1998 at George Elementary in Springdale, Arkansas. Since then, the program has spread to thousands of schools in the United States and abroad.

Some students don't have a father-figure present in their home, and the number of male teachers has been steadily declining in recent years. More positive male role models are needed in the school setting. Through this program, schools gain an extra set of eyes and ears. The presence of WATCH D.O.G.S. can increase a sense of security at school for students and staff, and it helps create an environment conducive to learning.

Fathers and father figures can spend meaningful time with their children at school, become aware of the positive impact they can have on their children's lives just by being a "dad," and learn how to better partner with the school. Our WATCH D.O.G.S. will provide valet car service in the mornings and afternoons, greet students as they enter the school, monitor gates and hallways, assist with elementary playground games and sports, help in the library or computer lab, assist in the lunch area, tutor in classrooms, or referee middle school lunchtime sports. The possibilities are endless.

For more information, visit [www.fathers.com/watchdogs](http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs).

# Tuffree *Middle School*

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



**Rosie Baldwin-Shirey**  
*Principal*

## A Collaborative Culture

Tuffree Middle School's third year of partnership with the Orange County Department of Education in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) implementation brings meaningful program feedback to teachers through analysis of specific behavior data. In areas where data shows frequent behavior concerns, we roll out a school-wide plan to reteach each focus behavior expectation.

Recognition of on-target and improved behavior is reinforced with Spirit Cards. Students select items from our Spirit Store or exchange cards for teacher rewards, such as school supplies, special interaction sessions, photo sessions, or student choice opportunities. Time is dedicated weekly for school-wide instruction on specific behavior expectations. Common language and rewards provide consistency for students and makes us more effective as a cohesive staff.

With improved school-wide behavior, we see an increase in distraction-free learning and academic achievement. As we turn our focus to Common Core State Standards and assessment, we are confident this collaborative culture benefits our students.



**Spirit Cards immediately acknowledge successful learning behaviors; students value being recognized by the Principal in morning announcements.**

# Tynes *Elementary*

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



**Cristina McCall**  
*Principal*

## A Busy School Year

The second half of the school year began with our Tiger Reps spearheading a successful coin drive of nearly \$3,000 for Pasta for Patients.

The month of March kept Tynes students very busy! The Walk Through Assemblies provided by PTA gave 4th, 5th and 6th grade students great

opportunity to not only study their social science standards but also to express personal flair and creativity as they brought the curriculum to life. Sixth graders thoroughly enjoyed their anxiously awaited annual participation in the week-long Science Camp and other activities.

March culminated with Open House and our 35th Anniversary Celebration. Family decorated ceramic tiles were displayed along the perimeter of the main atrium to commemorate this special event. Students also eagerly shared what they learned throughout the year with visiting families. PTA's additions to the festivities made it an extra special evening.

These are but a few of the many special events and great learning opportunities the second half of the year has brought to Tynes students!



## Spelling Bee Participants

**Tynes ended 2012 in grand fashion with our annual Spelling Bee.**

**We commend our thirty 6th grade participants for studying extra hours to give their best effort in this annual competition. We're also looking forward to cheering on our 1st and 2nd place recipients in the county competition.**



# Valadez *Middle School Academy*

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



**Minerva  
Gandara-Boggs**  
*Principal*

## Eagles Soar to New Heights

Valadez Eagles are having fun spreading their wings! Valadez students were challenged this year to explore their interests, and they are rising to the challenge. Our cross-country team has 55 students competing, and 45 students are strumming away in Guitar Club. Our music program continues to grow larger every year. Even more Eagles have flocked to participate in Dance Team, Color Guard, Yearbook Club, Tech Club and Robotics Team. Students also have an opportunity to participate in enrichment classes during PRIDE Time if they work hard to maintain grades of C or better in all classes.

Valadez teachers get to share their talents as they teach the students origami, soccer, doodle drawing, the history of rock and roll, scrapbooking, basketball, leadership, multicultural arts and crafts, and more. There is no limit to where our Eagles can soar!



**Valadez Cross Country Team**

# Valencia *High School*

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



**Jim Bell**  
*Principal*

## 2014 National Merit Projections

Like all high schools in the nation, Valencia recently received its results from the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) administered to interested juniors in early October. The PSAT is the assessment tool utilized by the National Merit Corporation to determine which students are eligible to enter the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Corporation will name about 16,000 semifinalists from about 1.5 million program entrants representing less than 1 percent of each state's high school seniors. These students will have the opportunity to advance to actual cash awards given as Merit Scholarships by the universities they ultimately attend. Each year, qualifying scores may differ by a point or two based upon a perfect score of 240.

Based upon the 2012–13 calibration of scores, James Bell, principal of Valencia, has announced that 11 Valencia juniors should be named National Merit Semifinalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. Equally impressive are the 25 juniors who should be named National Merit Commended Students. Commended Students are those who placed in the top five percent. Both of these groups are record highs for Valencia High School and for high schools in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

# Van Buren *Elementary*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • [www.vanburenelementary.org](http://www.vanburenelementary.org)



**Ken Valburg**  
*Principal*

## Math Pays

Students gathered around the tables in the multi-purpose room to purchase items from the Math Store. PTA volunteers manned the tables and helped students select their items and complete their purchases.

As adults, we know how important it is to know the basic math facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. When students have a reason to know and use those facts in a real-world situation, they become motivated to learn them. Each month students take

timed basic math facts tests, starting with addition and subtraction in first grade and then all four operations starting in fourth grade. For each test passed each month, students earn Math Bucks to spend at the bi-annual Math Store.

As you can imagine, the students were eager to spend the money they had earned for the items of their choice, just like adults are!





## Wagner *Elementary*

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



**Patrick Brown**  
*Principal*

### An Awesome PTA! An Awesome Community!

The students and staff at Wagner Elementary School are fortunate to have an active PTA that supports programs, family support and activities that we would not be able to provide if not for this association. The PTA Board includes parents, teacher representatives and the principal, who meet once a month.

Our PTA provides annual events, which include Red Ribbon Week activities, fund-raising, family nights and book fairs. Our PTA also funds student planners, classroom supplies, field trips and assemblies. As if all of this weren't enough, they also provide website maintenance, parent-volunteer support, special supplies, community recognition and a comfort crew.

All of these wonderful things would not be possible without the great support our community gives to our outstanding PTA. Every fall and throughout the school year, PTA conducts fund-raisers that are successful, as are the annual membership drives and donations.

Wagner has an awesome PTA!

## Yorba Linda *Middle School*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • [www.ylms.org](http://www.ylms.org)



**James Hardin**  
*Principal*

### A.C.E.S.

YLMS staff works diligently to meet our students' academic needs through A.C.E.S. (Academic Curriculum Enrichment and Support). For 24 minutes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:07 p.m. to 12:31 p.m., we help struggling students and provide enrichment for those meeting that week's academic goals. All students receive an A.C.E.S. Card that holds half a semester's schedule with rotating subject priorities so that students who have multiple weaknesses can address them.

By the end of each week, teachers submit their A.C.E.S. offerings for the next week. The following Monday, the schedule is published campuswide. For students mastering their goals, teachers create classes to pique their interests, such as learning about Ancient Greece, creating their own films, taking a class on Roman tessellations, running the mile with an English teacher, watching historic footage of the day Disney opened, making monster bookmarks or just tossing around a basketball or volleyball with friends.

A.C.E.S. directly contributes to student achievement. Each core subject or department gives a quarterly standards-based benchmark, and students who don't master a standard will come to A.C.E.S. For example, the sixth-grade language arts team divides up the tested standards, and each teacher selects a specific one that needs to be retaught. Students are then given the opportunity to relearn the standard in a small-group setting. Not only have we seen astonishing results from this method but students have also said that they better understand the curriculum.

We're proud to say that A.C.E.S. has improved benchmark assessments and CST and API scores!

## Woodsboro *Elementary*

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • [www.woodsboro.pylusd.org](http://www.woodsboro.pylusd.org)



**Shirley Fargo**  
*Principal*

### Parent Empowerment

Woodsboro is wild about learning! Our PTA has coordinated four different parent education evenings and filled them with incentives that will encourage our parents to attend these relevant seminars.

The first seminar was presented by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Six of their officers came to the school for a presentation on Internet safety. The parents were all abuzz about this first seminar. They were grateful to be able to obtain information that can help support their children as they navigate through their new technological world.

They also had the opportunity to learn about what their children are doing, and seeing, on the Internet. One parent said that she felt more empowered after leaving the seminar because she was able to obtain useful information for talking to her three children about the Internet.



Subsequent seminars will offer current information about how to prepare the brain for learning, conflict management, and how to raise happy, healthy and confident children. Woodsboro has also opened these activities up to the other schools in our district so that everyone can benefit from this important information. Our entire community continues to be wild about learning.

## Yorba Linda *High School*

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



**Dave Flynn**  
*Principal*

### Sharing Our Success

Yorba Linda High School is preparing for its first-ever four-day visit and evaluation by the California Department of Education and Western Association of Schools and Colleges. In March, a team of seven educators from across California will spend four days with our staff, students and community to analyze the quality of all of our students, learning programs and activities. The staff at Yorba Linda High School has prepared a detailed self-study report that describes Yorba Linda High School's profile, vision and purpose. We are excited to share our success and expectations for students at YLHS.

This accreditation process engages all of the staff in a detailed look at our successes over the past four years and in setting student goals—expected schoolwide learning results—for the next six years. The WASC Team visit will produce an in-depth evaluation of our school and focus on our goals for a student-centered program and instructional action plan at Yorba Linda High School. Our full report will be available on our website

## School News

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- “Adopt a School” –The transition to the Orange County Sheriff’s Office assuming the duty of policing the city of Yorba Linda has presented an opportunity to engage in conversations about school safety. This process includes the establishment of a working relationship with all schools in the city of Yorba Linda and initiating an “adopt a school” program. As such, officers have introduced and familiarized themselves with school administration and will provide assistance and support as needed. Additionally, a team of officers walked all Yorba Linda school campuses during winter break to become familiar with the physical plant and to evaluate tactical response in a variety of scenarios. In January, district staff also met with Placentia Police to discuss implementing the same measures for Placentia schools. They were extremely receptive to walking each school site with district administration to evaluate Emergency Response Plans.
- School Site Walks – The PYLUSD’s crisis response team is also in the process of conducting “site walks” on every school campus to assess current safety plans and identify additional measures that may be needed to maximize security. The Anaheim and Placentia Police Departments as well as the Orange County Sheriff’s Office are receptive to providing staff trainings as needed.
- Safety Drills – All three municipalities have adopted a tiered lockdown procedure which details the type of response a school would initiate based on the nature of the incident at hand and the proximity of the event to the location of the school. Police will assist with the training of this tiered response to school staffs.
- Anti-Bullying Training – Every school in the PYLUSD is also taking active steps to address bullying. This includes anti-bullying assemblies for students at the elementary schools, school-wide positive behavior intervention programs and staff trainings to intervene when bullying is reported.
- While we feel strongly that our schools are safe places to learn, we also believe that we can continue to improve our level of safety on our school campuses. My commitment to the families of the PYLUSD is that our team will continue to find ways to improve on the good work that we already have in place.

**Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District**  
**1301 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870**  
**(714) 996-2550 • www.pylusd.org**

# Leadership Word Search Contest

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

## Word Search by Gunnar Coop

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2013**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

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



# Keeping Ahead of the Game



**Susan D. Marshall**

Cards are a favorite pastime when our family goes camping or whenever we get together. If you were with us as we sit around a big round oak table, you would hear laughter and teasing. We love to tease Uncle Glynn, accusing him of making up new rules as we are learning his favorite game of Mau Mau. Good times...

As our nation is moving into a new year, the rules of the financial game are changing in a tremendous way. Uncle Sam is still not showing his cards and we are not laughing. Currently, we are wondering what the impact will be when the dust settles. How will all of these changes affect the big ticket decisions we will be making; buying a home, sending our kids to college, paying our taxes, and funding our retirement?

Now is not the time to give up, bury your head in the sand or take the "wait and see" approach. Stay sharp and educate yourself. Information is easier and faster to obtain than it has ever been. Focus on your end game. Know how colleges determine what your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be. Consult with trusted advisors that take into account your future financial aid eligibility when they make recommendations and can help you strategize knowing your personal family situation.

When your child goes to college you are going to want to reduce the potential out of pocket expense your family might have. EFC Planning and Tax Planning are powerful tools that will save you thousands of dollars in the long run.

EFC Planning is much like tax planning as it is a formula driven process. Similar to the savings that occurs when working with a CPA to legally pay less tax; you can take advantage of certain financial aid strategies by understanding the formula that maximizes the money available to you.

When the dust settles, take note of the tax strategies and tax credits that your family can still utilize. Investigate how the new laws and your investment decisions will affect your aid eligibility or your ability to save and pay for college. Be an active participant in the game and you will come out on top.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at [www.college4less.com](http://www.college4less.com)

## Note-ables

# Grammaropolis



**Kate Karp**

I don't often review multimedia, but this assemblage is exceptional. If you cringe at grammatical and usage errors and want your children to use language correctly—a key to future success—send them to Grammaropolis.

Grammaropolis is the hometown of the parts of speech. There's even a mayor—his name's Coert Voorhees, and he built this town. Mayor Voorhees is a former seventh-grade language teacher who found that his students had more fun personifying parts of speech than memorizing them. They learned them thoroughly, too, which is the idea.

"Sure, you can memorize the fact that an adverb modifies a verb," the Mayor said. "But if I show you a video of an adverb pulling a verb over for speeding and giving him a ticket, not only are you going to connect more deeply with that information but you're also going to have more fun doing it."

The CD, produced by indie-rock artist Dr. Noize and performed by the Mayor and other vocalists, is your Grammaropolis guidebook. Meet Roger the Pronoun who has this indefinite feeling about himself. Power couple Vinny the Action Verb and Lucy the Linking Verb rescue nouns from inaction and link up insecure ones with states of being. Interjections, the lives of the party, get invited everywhere. And there's Slang, spouting street stuff and stealing the show. Children—and you—can interact with them all through the website's games, e-books, quizzes, entertaining slide presentations, and hilarious, clever videos starring the sentence builders themselves.

Grammaropolis's website, [www.grammaropolis.com](http://www.grammaropolis.com), has a number of subscription options. Go play for a spell—or an entire paragraph.

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

## Do the Math!

This is a special series dedicated to emphasizing how important math is in every job and our everyday lives. If you would like to be included in this series, email me how you use math. The age limit is 5 to 105 so here's my email [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) —I can't wait to hear from you!



**Joe Mazzeo**  
Co-Owner

## Math Multiplies Success

As co-owner of a small communication/cabling company in Orange County, I am thankful to have learned some strong math skills as a youth growing up in Whittier.

When I started in the cabling business, I was asked to install computer wiring in the buildings where I worked. As I learned more about my trade, I was asked to do bids or proposals for customers needing cabling. To do these bids, I needed to calculate footages of wire I used to connect each computer/work station to the main computer room. This seemed fairly easy; I added up the wire and purchased what I needed for each installation. This worked well for simple jobs with 10 or 15 users.

As my company grew, we began bidding on larger jobs, such as entire buildings and campus environments connecting several buildings with networking and fiber optics. Now the mathematics required to create an accurate proposal became a bit more complicated. Because I was responsible for hundreds of users in multiple buildings, sometimes requiring as many as three connections per user, simple addition and multiplication were no longer enough.

These larger jobs required me to use averages. I determined cable lengths to certain areas of each building and the average, or approximate length, for the cables to a specific area. For example, if I had 100 cables in an area and the longest was 225 feet and the shortest was 175 feet, I would determine the average length of 200 feet and use that as the approximate cable length for that area. I then multiplied by the number of users and the number of cables per work station. It sounds easy, but errors in my math could cost my company a significant amount of money.

Besides calculating job costs, my partner and I also use our math skills to calculate our expenses for the company, such as gas, auto repairs, tools, building rentals, utilities, insurance, phones, internet access, and parts for the jobs we are working on. We also calculate our profits, the money left over after we pay our expenses. Sometimes our profit ratios are good, and sometimes they aren't, so we determine profit percentages on different jobs to see if they are worth doing in the future.

I can't imagine doing what I would do without the math skills I have acquired over the years. I realize now that my math education has really been an asset to our company!

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