

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 31
SUPERINTENDENT

NOVEMBER 2018–JANUARY 2019

Golden Elementary is Officially “Blue!”



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Supporting a Safe and Respectful Environment in PYLUSD

In the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, we recognize that a safe and respectful environment is

essential to student success. We work to foster a culture that promotes the emotional health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, families, and community. This includes developing, implementing, and strengthening specific safety and wellness initiatives. Here is a look at some of the District’s recent actions in these areas.

With the start of the new school year, the District successfully launched a new electronic visitor management system at all 34 school sites. Referred to as S.A.M. in PYLUSD, the “School Access Management” system serves as a great support in screening and tracking visitors on our campuses.

In addition, the District installed security cameras and equipment at our comprehensive and continuation high schools in various public areas. Coupled with new fencing systems that were also set up, the security cameras and equipment help maintain the safety of our campuses during the school day while adding an extra layer of assurance in securing our facilities after hours.

The District also continues to set aside essential time to focus on the important work surrounding student wellness and mental health. Recently, our Wellness Team identified and analyzed gaps in our existing student wellness and mental health services. As a result, recommendations were made to increase supports at all of our

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From the District

The Placentia elementary school has been named as the only school in Orange County to receive the 2018 National Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is proud to announce that Golden Elementary School has been selected as a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School, the country’s highest academic honor for K-12 campuses.

Notably, Golden is the only school in Orange County to receive this award, and one of just twelve throughout the state of California. In total, only 300 public and 49 private schools nationwide received this matching distinction for 2018.

“We are extremely proud of Golden’s tremendous achievement,” shared PYLUSD Superintendent, Dr. Greg Plutko. “Golden’s students, teachers, staff, administrators, and community members are to be congratulated for their dedicated work and remarkable success. This accolade shines a light on the school’s high expectations for all

students through rigorous and relevant educational experiences.”

Now in its 36th year, the U.S. Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

Selected as an Exemplary High Performing School, Golden had to meet specific academic-based achievement goals in order to be considered for the award. This includes ranking in the top 15 percent of schools in California based on recently administered state assessments and more.

Golden Elementary School and principal, Dr. Alison DeMark, as well as recently retired principal, Roann Turk, will be honored for this achievement in November during an official awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The addition of Golden’s new accolade marks the tenth time a Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District campus has been distinguished as a National Blue Ribbon School.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 11th year publishing the excellence from the PYLUSD. Time marches on, but the focus on academic success remains constant.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.



grateful for the men and women in our armed services.

Our next issue is February. In the meantime, Happy Holidays! We are always mindful and

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

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Julie Nibali
President

Have You Been in a Parade? The REACH Foundation has! We are proud to be a part of Placentia's Heritage Parade for 7 years in a row! We hope you saw the REACH Foundation in this years Heritage parade October 13th. We were represented by students from our Placentia schools walking the parade route carrying the most fabulous flags designed and created by art students from El Dorado,

El Camino, Yorba Linda, Valencia high schools and Kraemer, Tuffree Middle schools. We sponsored art students from to design and create flags based on the theme REACHing for the Future. Under the guidance of Janmarie

Halliday, Visual Arts Coordinator for PYLUSD art teachers at the participating schools, the students brought together creativity, imagination, and whimsy in these artistic flags. It was a delight to be a part of this awesome art project!



Heritage Parade flags created by PYLUSD art students.

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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

5 Star Students Shine at BYMS

This year at Bernardo Yorba Middle School., through the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) system, students are being acknowledged by staff for their positive behavior and through club and school event attendance by giving them Olé points. The students can have their ID card scanned to receive their Olé points. The 5 Star Students app is new this year for students, and through the app on their phones they can watch their points grow. They can then choose to redeem them for a long list of rewards including Instagram Shoutouts, Front of Line Passes, BYMS socks, hats, beanies or a Chick-fil-A lunch. Students are eager to demonstrate their positive behavior and 5 Star attitudes toward school and learning!



Bryant Ranch *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Green and Clean

Bryant Ranch School is excited to have our “Green Team” up and running again. As we kick off another year, one of our goals is to continue reducing the amount of lunchtime waste. We are sponsored by an award-winning non-profit environmental organization, which is helping us to continue with our program. In order to sustain our efforts, we have assembled the Green Team, comprised of students in second through fifth grades who are interested in becoming educated about recycling. The Green Team students help others remember how to sort their lunchtime waste and encourage fellow students to be more environmentally-friendly. Their dedication and compassion helps fellow students, our school, and the community grow into a better place for everyone. Our Green Team motto is: “Green Is the New Clean!”



Brookhaven *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Brookhaven Turns 50!

On September 28, Brookhaven Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary! Brookhaven opened its doors in 1968 with a flexible, open-space interior concept to accommodate both large and small groupings. It was considered a California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) Laboratory School, and Brookhaven administration and teaching staff worked closely with the CSUF staff to incorporate the latest educational trends. Brookhaven has continued its partnership with both CSUF and, more recently, Hope International University, accepting student teachers who work alongside and receive mentorship from the stellar and dedicated Brookhaven staff. In addition to being among the highest performing schools in the district, Brookhaven creates an environment where students form lifelong friendships and share memories that have led many alumni to send their own children to our school.

The rich history and traditions that make Brookhaven so special were shared and celebrated, both at a student assembly during the day and a community celebration in the evening. At the student assembly, two alumni, Mr. Cory D'Arrigo and Mr. James Harman, spoke about their time at Brookhaven and the incredibly positive impact the school has had on their lives. Both speakers are also current parents at the school.

Principal Mrs. Lucas, along with the Brookhaven staff, would like to thank Mrs. Diana Watterson, PTA Chair in charge of the anniversary celebration, for her many hours of work, her dedication, and her obvious love for Brookhaven, which led to a truly memorable and successful nighttime celebration!

Go, Bears!



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

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



Carey Cecil
Principal

Charting a New Course

This year, as part of our professional development efforts, our El Camino Real teachers are reading Teach Like a Pirate, by Dave Burgess.

This book is a launching point for an authentic dialogue about quality instruction. Burgess asserts that teachers, like pirates, are “daring, adventurous, and willing to set forth into uncharted territories with no guarantee of success.”

As we work to provide our students with personalized learning pathways, our team is examining new ways to provide further

opportunities for success in school. We are challenging ourselves to answer the following question: why will I be successful at this school if I have never experienced academic success in the past?

Drawing upon the three types of passion as outlined by Burgess (content, professional, and personal), our Raptor team is excited to be charting a new course this year. But our first commitment is for each of us to draft a statement of professional passion, digging deep inside to get in touch with that which drives us. We want to know “the why?” of what we do.



Esperanza *High School (9-12)*

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



Gina Aguilar
Principal

Aztec Pride

Esperanza High School (EHS) recently held an Elementary School Night at one of our home football games. Esperanza's Associated Student Body (ASB), Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), Medical Sciences Academy, PTSA, and football players visited our six feeder elementary schools during lunch time the week prior to the game. Students participated in a football-throwing contest, and a winner was determined at each grade level.

At the game, excited elementary students had their faces painted and were allowed field access before the game and during halftime to make a spirit tunnel for the players. Also at halftime, grade-level winners participated in a playoff, and the winners received signed footballs from the Aztec football team.



Over 400 students from our feeder elementary schools—Glenview, Glenknoll, Woodsboro, Fairmont, Travis Ranch, and Linda Vista Elementary Schools—were in attendance. It was a team effort, with so many EHS groups coming together to make this happen. This was a great community event, where we really got to show the community our Aztec pride!

El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

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



Joey Davis
Principal

PBIS

Our El Dorado Golden Hawks have gone "Hawk Strong" on PBIS.



PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. The idea is to put into place school-wide expectations that every student and staff member can agree upon, and then recognize those students who meet these expectations.

After almost two years of planning and training, the staff at El Dorado has established acceptable behaviors in various locations around the campus. Each classroom has a poster of the expectations. The students were also asked to create their own copies during second period as they were being reviewed.

We are excited about having the opportunity to recognize our Hawk Strong students for their positive behavior. Students are rewarded for their efforts with tickets that can be entered into a drawing. Prizes include coffee delivery, Pizza from the Principal, Homecoming tickets, football tickets and a meal, and more.

If you have any ideas on additional prizes for our drawing, please contact the school office.

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Fairmont *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Cynthia Rex
Principal

21st-Century Skills

In a world that's becoming increasingly complex, where success is driven not only by what you know, but by what you can do with what you know, it's more important than ever for our youth to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information. These are the types of skills that students learn by studying science, technology, engineering, and math, subjects collectively known as STEM.

Fairmont students in grades three to six are thus excited to have an enriched science experience each time they enter our new STEM Lab. Crews of four students experience hands-on explorations that provide



Mrs. Schubert's 4th graders learn their roles as crew members.

structured and guided inquiry into science content through engineering challenges, artistic activities, and math applications.

Students progress through the content together on-screen and complete hands-on projects as a team at their shared workstation. Our new STEM curriculum supports the Next Generation Science Standards and has energized our focus on 21st-century skills.

George Key School *(K-12)*

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



Kim Smith
Principal

Different Lessons, Same Quality!

George Key students and staff are in full swing in the new school year. There are many lessons at George Key that are quite different from those in any other school, but the learning looks just the same. Our classrooms are buzzing with the energy of exciting language-arts, math, social-studies and science lessons.

Teachers have spent hours and hours of time finding additional resources to bring curriculum to life. For students who are visually impaired, lessons are paired with realia to allow



students to use their sense of touch to make connections. For students who are unable to verbally communicate, assistive technology is provided to give them a voice in each lesson. Students are working on age-appropriate core-curriculum topics that are modified to allow them access.

It is amazing to see what these students are able to do with some incredible creative teaching from the George Key staff. Go Bobcats!

Glenknoll *Elementary (K-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Leading from Within

Glenknoll Peer Assisted Leaders (PAL), under the leadership of Jessica Leonard and Amy Huhn, have started the year making a difference for not only our own students but our community as well.

Fifth- and sixth-grade students at Glenknoll take pride in serving the primary students at Glenknoll. During recess, these PAL leaders help our first-through-third-grade students have positive structured playtime by spending time on the playground with them. In addition, they help our primary students with simple conflict-resolution strategies that they have learned from the PAL leadership classes that they attend weekly.

Recently, our PAL students have expanded their vision and set out to ask our community for donations that would allow them to send a care package to some of our active deployed military soldiers. These items would be collected and packed by our PAL leaders. They will work with an organization to help make sure that they get delivered to the field.

What an amazing group of leaders!



Glenview *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Alondra Ramos
Principal

Bulldog Run Gets the Bone

Glenview Elementary School kicked off the school year with a bang at their annual Bulldog Run event on October 5. Students in Preppy K through sixth grade ran laps in support of the school's fund-raising efforts as family and friends cheered our runners on. Together Glenview's community raised a record-breaking \$20K in donations for the school!

Student runners received Bulldog Run T-shirts, along with a wide array of other prizes. Glenview scholars collected pledges from family and friends in support of field trips and the school-wide Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program.

Students from the ABC Teaching Career Pathway at Esperanza High School partnered with Glenview to tally laps, cheer on runners, and pass out water. Glenview gives special thanks to the members of the school community who supported this memorable event, as well as to our PTA Bulldog Run chairs, Amber Fairburn and Kelly Farrell, for their leadership in organizing this incredible fund-raiser.

Go, Bulldogs!



Kraemer *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Keith Carmona
Principal

Get Scanned

Kraemer Middle School is implementing a new program called 5-Star Students. The goal of this program is to keep track of student involvement in school activities with barcode-scanning technology in an effort to support positive behavior. Students keep their identification cards on them at all times to be scanned, and each time they participate in an activity or exhibit positive behavior, they are scanned for points, which are redeemable in a student store. Our goal is to get students connected and engaged on our campus!

One place students can "get scanned" is at Guitar Club, led by teacher Drew Putnam. Each Thursday afternoon, students learn the basics of the guitar, including how to hold, strum, and play basic notes and chords on the guitar. All students are welcome—and the school provides the guitars!

Golden *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Alison DeMark
Principal

Officially "Blue!"

Golden Elementary School has been selected as a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School, the country's highest academic honor for K-12 campuses. Golden's teachers, staff, parents, and recently retired principal, Mrs. Roann Turk should all be commended for their perseverance and dedication. This is truly an honor. Golden Elementary is the only school in Orange County to receive this award, and one of just twelve throughout the state of California. In total, only 300 public and 49 private schools nationwide received the matching distinction. Golden Elementary School will be honored for this achievement in November during an official awards ceremony in Washington, DC. Go, Eagles!



La Entrada *High School (9-12)*

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



Carrie Bisgard
Principal

A Different Path

La Entrada High School's Independent Pathway has always been an excellent option for students looking for a more flexible way to complete high school. Students in this Independent Pathway focus on one course at a time, and can finish each course in four weeks. Independent Pathway students meet weekly with credentialed teachers who provide support, monitoring, and assessment.

This year, La Entrada High School is excited to add a new Hybrid Pathway designed for students who seek an alternative to traditional classroom instruction, but who also need more support than the Independent Pathway. The new Hybrid Pathway offers the benefit of daily one-on-one structure and guidance from La Entrada's professional staff, while still allowing our students the flexibility of personalized learning.

Students in this Pathway complete independently paced online courses. They attend school for two hours, and also work an additional two hours from home each day. Both college prep and credit recovery courses are available. The focus in this Pathway is on daily support and student wellness. It serves those students who would like a more flexible way to attend school or a different way to learn, but are also committed to quality education.

For more information about the Hybrid Pathway, or the Independent Learning Pathway at La Entrada, students should contact their high school counselors or La Entrada High School, at 714-986-7026.

Lakeview *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Teaching Academic Behavior

What a smooth opening to the school year it has been here at Lakeview Elementary School. We kicked off the year with our Back to School Night during the very first week of school, and we have been off and running ever since!

On the second day of school our students were taught explicitly how to ROAR (be Respectful, Organized, Accountable and Responsible) during our ROAR Behavior Station presentations. They are now earning more ROAR cards than ever in order to be eligible for our weekly drawings. We could not be more proud of the Lions that we have had in our Pride this year!

One of our school and district goals is to work on improving the academic language and/or formal English language of all students. One of the ways in which we are helping our students improve in this area is to teach them how to greet people in a scholarly manner. Most mornings you will see me out at the front gate greeting the children as they walk through onto campus, and hear them reply, "Good Morning, Mrs. Beeuwsaert."

During the first week of school I could barely get a "Hi" out of them, let alone a glance in my direction! But after only a month of school the students are now actually greeting me formally (and some of them greeting me first). They are also referencing me by looking in my direction.

What makes this even better is that I hear them greeting other staff members in the same way as they walk through our gates on the way to their lines. My plan is now to switch gates half-way through the year so that I can work with the students who come through the back gate as well.

Next up: properly shaking hands, looking at the person, and thanking them when receiving awards!

Mabel Paine *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Healthy Hearts

Our Mabel Paine Mustangs have "Healthy Hearts," all thanks to Mr. Bowman! Mr. Bowman was our PE teacher for many years, and within those years, he taught many of our staff members' children as well as thousands of other students.

Mr. Bowman retired in 2008, but his love for the school and students did not stop there. Every other Thursday, he hosts Healthy Hearts, a running program that gives crucial extra minutes of exercise time to our students. During these sessions, students and teachers alike come out to the field to run laps and learn healthy tips, tricks and habits from Mr. Bowman. He does an amazing job of keeping the students motivated and accountable for the time they spend with him. He involves the teachers by having them tally up the laps of their students. By the end of the year, some classes even reach a thousand laps!

Mr. Bowman has carried on Healthy Hearts for the past 10 years, and we can only hope that he will help keep our hearts healthy for many more years!



Linda Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Lead Lions

This new school year has brought with it new opportunities for our children to make a positive difference here at Linda Vista.

We have now officially launched the Lead Lion Peer Mentor program that encourages our eager fifth-grade students to serve as positive role models for their younger peers. Thus far, over 40 students have gone through the application process and have been selected to serve as Lead Lion Peer Mentors on campus.

Our Lead Lions generously volunteer their time to facilitate positive play activities during recess for our preschool and kindergarten students. They also ensure an enjoyable lunch experience for our first- and second-grade students by helping to prepare the lunch area, provide friendly reminders for expected behaviors, and assist the young students that might need help.



We are incredibly proud and appreciative of these young leaders as they exude the core values of our school, which are, "Practice Kindness, Always Do Our Best, Work Together, and Show Respect."

Mahatma Gandhi once said that, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." This is exactly what our Lead Lions are doing.

Melrose *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Cynthia Alvarez
Principal

Nurturing a Belonging Spirit

The award-winning Orange County Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership (OC GRIP) is a law-enforcement partnership that identifies at-risk youth and aims to increase school attendance and decrease gang activity. The Orange County District Attorney's Office has formed OC GRIP committees and partnerships with police departments from various cities.

In order to increase the success level of the OC GRIP program, the Parents Supporting Parents program has brought parents in as involved stakeholders. Meetings are three times a year and are facilitated by Anaheim GRIP. All parents are invited to attend these meetings to learn about local gang trends, how to identify at-risk behavior, drug trends and understanding social media.



In October we held our Parent Greeter Training to prepare parents to greet and welcome students. Parents arrive on campus each morning and are eager to welcome students to school.

Our staff is dedicated to mentoring students and nurturing that feeling of belonging. We held our Mentoring Breakfast in early October to facilitate the first meeting between students and their teacher mentor. What a magnificent way to start our school year—supporting students together!

Morse *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Noodling Around

Morse Family nights are always exciting gatherings of families and staff. During September’s AVID Family Night, families learned about AVID and to believe in the “power of yet.” Children often become discouraged when they do not achieve success the first time they try something new. Through the belief in the power of yet, children learn that it’s not that they don’t understand—it is that they don’t understand yet. This belief was shared in many forms throughout the evening.

The evening began with Morse students and staff dancing and singing to the song “The Power of Yet.” After, students performed a skit based on the story “Iggy Peck, Architect.” After the performance, families were challenged to create cars made of pasta. Families used the power of yet to design, build, and adjust the cars before competing in a race for prizes. It was a great evening of collaboration and community.



Rio Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jose Cabrera
Principal

A Communication Celebration

The start of the 2018–2019 school year has been filled with new friendships and centered around a sense of belonging. This year will include a variety of academic and personal goal setting.

The staff and students are embarking on a growth mindset. This process begins with a Sunday posting of the Word of the Week on our social media. As students arrive on Monday morning, they are encouraged to engage in scholarly conversations using this word. It is our goal and intention to create a community of learners who use powerful words to create

a learning environment the challenges our thinking and stretches our minds to become the best version of ourselves.

We are also, as a school community, seeking to celebrate each other with positive office referrals and student and staff shout outs. Collectively, we will celebrate each other by recognizing our high fives through these meaningful celebrations.



Parkview *Home Schooling (K-12)*

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



James Hardin
Principal

Leadership and Student Council

Recently, over 40 Parkview School students in sixth through 12th grades met to discuss election criteria for the current school year. Parkview’s leadership class aims to develop student leaders through service to our school and community. Officers plan and organize teen events through the year and service projects in our community, strengthening their leadership skills.

Students are in the middle of a team-building activity called “Mystery on the Leadership Express,” which ensures that all

students have opportunities to lead and to use their strengths to find solutions. Pictured (starting at the bottom and going clockwise): Brooklyn Burton, sixth grade; Lani Valencia, seventh grade; Hannah Frey 12th grade; Gabriella Mercado, eighth grade; McKenzie Schmidt, ninth grade; Elyse Proctor, sixth grade; Kayla Kim, eighth grade; and Bella Kientz, eighth grade.



Rose Drive *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

Culture of Caring and Communication

Our goal this year at Rose Drive was to create a positive learning environment for all students, continue our reputation for strong academic excellence, and meet the social-emotional needs of all our students. As a result, Rose Drive revamped our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports behavior strategies in order to recognize every student for his or her efforts in following “the Roadrunner Way.”

All students earn STARS tickets, and we have developed a schoolwide token system in which students can earn various rewards such as lunch with the principal or a “One of a Kind” T-shirt. Tickets are placed in the MPR to share with our community about how students are shining brightly. In addition, we have created a Big/Little

Buddy Program in which primary students are paired with an upper-grade buddy to be a positive role model.

Finally, we are also focused on communicating our goals with all our stakeholders and sharing our own story through social media. Please follow us on Twitter and Facebook and learn how our culture of caring is making a big impact on student achievement and success.





Diana McKibben
Principal

Sharing the Teacher Pathway

Ruby Drive students are benefitting from a new partnership with Valencia High School's Teacher Pathway! While the Valencia high school students learn about grade-appropriate teaching strategies, Ruby Drive students have an extra mentor to support student learning in the classroom.

Ruby Drive students have the opportunity to have a future teacher listen to them read individually, practice their facts, give them one-on-one tutoring, or assist in classroom activities. In several primary classrooms, Ruby Cougars practice their reading with their Pathway student to build fluency and comprehension.



In addition to the extra assistance, these Pathway students are excellent positive role models. On the first day they were in the classroom, they answered many questions about high school and their educational goals. What a wonderful way for Valencia Tigers to get training for a career in education and Ruby Drive students to get additional support and enriching opportunities!



Jacque Bluemel
Principal

Add a Little GLEE...

Sierra Vista students in grades four through six have the opportunity each year to participate in our GLEE program. GLEE (Great Leaders Every Day in Every Way) allows students to demonstrate their leadership skills by organizing and participating in different activities each week.

GLEE members started the year in August by meeting with our staff advisors—Ms. Gifford, Mrs. Page, Ms. Hendry and Mrs. Gallagher—to create Welcome Back to School posters that were



used to cheerfully greet students on the first day of school. Their enthusiasm was contagious as students and parents walked to their classes. GLEE students also sponsored the first Spirit Day of the year by asking students to wear clothing that represented kindness as part of our #choosekindness campaign. Students arriving to school were greeted with lots of enthusiasm and large emoji smiles.

Sierra Vista is proud of the GLEE students and their campus leadership.



Christa Borgese
Principal

Healthy Tigers

The Topaz Elementary School Tigers are excited to jump in head first in supporting the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District Wellness Initiative during the 2018–2019 school year. Last year a hydration station was installed through a grant from St. Jude Medical Center, which gives our students the option of refilling their water bottles. We will soon be hosting Rethink Your Drink assemblies to encourage students to drink more water and fewer sugary beverages.

Topaz teachers have also encouraged students to get their bodies moving by implementing Tiger Strides each morning. After students arrive on campus and eat breakfast, they walk the perimeter of the playground before lining up for class. This gets the blood flowing to the brain to make sure all of our Tigers are ready to learn.

Finally, on October 10, Topaz staff and families participated in Walk to School Day. Several students met Principal Christa Borgese in the neighborhood to walk to school together to promote health and wellness. Students received stickers and bracelets and were greeted with music when they arrived on campus.

Here's to a healthy and successful school year at Topaz!



Travis Ranch School *(K-8)*

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



Susan Metcalf
Principal

A Flexible Learning Environment

Our students returned this fall to new, flexible furniture in both their classrooms and the library! Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our PTA, these spaces have been updated as invitingly engaging areas where our students can study, collaborate, and relax.

In the library, our PTA donated more than \$40,000 to purchase soft seating such as S-shaped couches, as well as modular tables on wheels that can be easily moved to create a variety of workspaces. Tall cafe tables with laptop chargers were provided to our middle schoolers, while individual seat cushions for storytime and bright, flower-shaped sofas help soften the elementary side.

For our classrooms, the PTA donated \$20,000 in yoga ball chairs, wobble chairs, floor chairs with desks, and standing desks for student use. The addition of this furniture will help to provide a flexible learning environment for our students to increase engagement and reduce disruptive behaviors.



Tynes *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Debra E. Silverman
Principal

Doing the Right Thing

Our Tynes Tigers started the school year with great enthusiasm!

This year our theme is centered around the power of positive reinforcement. Students are expected to respect themselves, respect others, and focus their attention on learning. Through our comprehensive behavior plan (PBIS), every student has the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills in making good choices and doing good deeds.

There are multiple rewards for student kindness, helping others, following the rules, being a role model, and taking care of others. Our students save their Tynes Tiger Tickets as they earn them. They can redeem them for prizes such as a weekly drawing grab bag, pencils, notepads, free books, front-of-the-line lunch passes, lunch with the principal,



playday with the principal, or a full length movie with fresh popcorn at the end of the year.

We are so proud of our students who choose to do the “right thing, at the right time, in the right place.”

Tuffree *Middle School (7-8)*

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



Cindy Freeman
Principal

Celebrating 50 Years

On Wednesday, November 7th, Tuffree Middle School celebrated its 50th anniversary!

In the morning, our school hosted a special ceremony on the back field for the students and parents, and then a VIP luncheon for all former staff members and administrators. In the afternoon, we hosted an Open House in the multi-purpose room which was open to the public. It included a choir performance and an alumni band made up of former band students.

Our Tuffree students also created projects that illustrated what Placentia was like in the late 1960s. These projects were on display for both the luncheon and afternoon open house events. Tuffree students were on hand to explain their projects.

Tuffree Middle School was named after a local historical figure, Colonel John Kendall Tuffree. He was born in 1841 and came to California in 1871. Upon his marriage to Carolina Borromeo Polhemus, they both received from her parents a wedding present of land. Colonel Tuffree was also an agent for the Robinson Trust, and had many other businesses as well. The big Tuffree reservoir that irrigated the surrounding ranches is currently the lake at Tri City Park. As it stands, our school is built on part of the Tuffree family's land holdings.

In total, three Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District schools opened in 1968 — Glenknoll and Brookhaven Elementary Schools, and, of course, Tuffree. Congratulations on 50 great years, Falcons!



Valadez *Middle School Academy (6-8)*

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



Refugio Gracian
Principal

Student of the Day

A “Student of the Day” is recognized every day during our academic school year. Each of our amazing teachers is awarded multiple opportunities during the school year to recognize a student in one of their classes who meet the following criteria:

Students who are an example to others of P.R.I.D.E. by displaying excellence in any area of performance or moral character exemplified by work in and out of the classroom. “Unsung heroes” who don’t always get the “spotlight”.

Think about students who might not perform well continually but have had a “shining moment” so we can encourage that positive behavior.

Students representative of our school wide expected behaviors of being respectful, responsible and/or kind.

Our student of the day received a daily “Facebook Live” broadcast as he/she receives their student of the day parent letter, teacher letter, P.R.I.D.E. ticket, front of the line pass, and raffle ticket where they could win an I-Pad mini in the December raffle or X-Box in the June raffle (items donated by Principal Gracian).

Our example of student of the day is Richard Ceja. A proud eight grade Valadez Soaring Eagle from Ms. Lodge's class. Per Ms. Lodge, “Richard, you have become an excellent role model both in our classroom and around the school. It brings me so much pride watching you maturely demonstrate independence and citizenship. You are respectful to your teachers and peers, show a great deal of responsibility for your violin, and show love from your kind heart to those in need, I am so very proud to be your teacher.”



Valencia *High School (9-12)*

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



Olivia Young
Principal

National Merit Recognition

Valencia High School is proud to announce that ten seniors are among the top 1% students in the nation to receive the honor of 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist: Sienna Bishop, Daniel Detchev, Andrew Huh, Caitlin Lee, Curtis Liu, Lauren Mard, Nicole Park, Jackie Pierce, Bryce Tsuyuki, and Adelina Woltkamp.

Forty-two additional students listed below scored in the top 5% in the nation and earned qualify scores for the 2019 National Merit Commended Student Program: Max Adams, Armaan Bhatia, Karen Bhatt, Kara Brushwyler, Con Chang-Chien, Chloe Chavez, Jordan Chen, Natalie Chen, Nicole Chen, William Chung, Sunay Dagli, Anooj Desai, Alex Duong, Avery Eun, Justin Figueroa, Amanda Fortner, Alexandro Gomez, Siffat Haq, Garrett Ho, Noah Holland, Jasmin Joshi, Lis Joshy, Neil Kamdar, Emily Kusumoputro, Dana Kwan, Caominh Le, Chris Leung, Chelsea Ly, Jenna McCloskey, Ethan Moy, Ashley Nguyen, Brian Nishimine,



Joseph Park, Ayush Somani, Rachel Soong, Kailey Suda, Nicholas Toller, James Tran, Kristen Tsai, Stephen Vo, Megan Vu, and Victor Yoo.

In addition, ten seniors earned qualifying scores for the National Hispanic Recognition Program: Kara Brushwyler, Dan Bustamante, Chloe Chavez, Jordan Chen, Justin Chen, Alexandro Gomez, Saleem Haider, Elyssa Hernandez, Keilani Sparks, and Stephen Sweet. Lastly, three scholars also earned perfect ACT scores: Alex Duong, Frank Kim, and Caitlin Lee.

Van Buren *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Connie Roe
Principal

Work Hard, Be Kind

Van Buren Elementary School students are leading the way to a successful year!! Our school-wide theme this year is "Work Hard, Be Kind, and Wonderful Things Will Happen," and our students are helping to bring this theme to life!

In October, our fifth- and sixth-grade students campaigned for election to our first student council! Sixth-grade students ran for the office of president, while fifth-grade students had the opportunity to seek the vice-president position. Two representatives were also elected from each fourth- through sixth-grade classroom.

This group of elected leaders will work hard together to bring fun activities to our student body. They will also model how to be kind when they spearhead our annual Pennies for Patients drive in the spring. Under the guidance of teacher leaders Mrs. Adams and Ms. Raichel, these students will continue to look for new and exciting ways to lead our school.

Student leadership is also found in our peer mentors who, through volunteer efforts, demonstrate our theme in a positive way! These upper-grade students dedicate two recesses each week to help on the primary playground. Teacher leader Mrs. Radicelli pairs upper-grade mentors with primary buddies in order to assist with play and making new friends. Mentors model sharing, kindness, and positive playground interactions for their buddies in order to make recess fun for all!

Finally, our GLEE (Gifted Learners Excited and Enthusiastic) tutors are a small group of sixth-grade students who help in primary classrooms at specific times each week. Tutors support our young learners in various areas, including reading and math. The GLEE tutors' schedules are coordinated by sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Vale.

What an exciting year this is for our Van Buren Roadrunners, as staff and students work together to prove the power of our theme...Work Hard, Be Kind, and Wonderful Things Will Happen!

Venture Academy *Adult Transition (18-22)*

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



Kelli McFedries
*Coordinator,
Special Education*

Student-Union Space

We are off to a great start at Venture Academy, and I am incredibly excited as I think of the fantastic year ahead of us! Our theme is "Yes We Can Together," and we are looking forward to making this our best year yet.

With 36 additional students and one additional classroom, we will be focusing on building a sense of community and belonging for every student. Our incredible staff has decided to convert the multipurpose room into a student union where our adult

students can interact and engage with one another while they work on social skills and explore their recreation/leisure interests. These are essential components of the adult transition program.

Venture Academy will be hosting our first annual Holiday Boutique this December to raise the funds to create this room. Our students have been working diligently since September creating holiday gifts from recycled items, and their work will be featured and on sale December 4 and 5. We hope you can join us to support our adult students as we showcase their designs, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Holiday Boutique Samples.



Janice Weber
Principal

Completing the Picture

This year's theme at Wagner Elementary School is, "We are all Wildcats. Be here. Be you. Belong."

Wagner is a wonderfully diverse community. One-third of Wagner students come from many parts of our school district. We are a community that welcomes a wealth of ethnicities, languages, cultures, and abilities.

Did you know that unlike many other elementary schools, Wagner has the honor of serving four classes of students with special needs? This year's theme was selected to celebrate and honor our uniqueness as individuals, and to highlight all that we have in common. We are all Wildcats!

At this year's Back to School assembly, the theme was introduced to students through a reading of Shane Derolf's *The Crayon Box that Talked*. The story begins with arguing crayons who come to realize that, "We are a box of crayons, each one of us unique, but when we get together, the picture is complete."



Yummy Food - Word Search Contest

Rules!

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

Entries must be received by December 15, 2018

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

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| ICE CREAM | CARAMEL | JELLY BEAN |
| SNOW CONE | CHOCOLATE | CANDY BAR |
| MAC N CHEESE | NUTS | PEANUT BUTTER |
| POPCORN | SPAGHETTI | POPSICLE |
| CANDY CORN | LASAGNE | APPLE |
| LICORICE | STEAK | ORANGE |
| CAKE | HOT DOG | BANANA |
| PIE | HAMBURGER | PUDDING |

Congratulations to Enrique Montova
Winner of the last Word Search Contest!



Woodsboro *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. George Lopez
Principal

Off to An Exciting Start

Woodsboro Elementary is abuzz with a new principal, Dr. George Lopez, who came from the La Habra School District. Dr. Lopez can be seen all over the campus interacting with the “scholars.” It is his belief that “every student on our campus is a scholar, ready to take on the academic challenge to be college and career ready.” He also supports building relationships with our surrounding schools, such as Esperanza High School, who sent members from the football team, ROTC, and cheer to strengthen connections with Woodsboro students.

Woodsboro got off to an exciting start and now looks forward to increasing the AVID program, the start of BEE News, and Dj L., Friday lunch jams. Woodsboro will continue growth in both academics and social opportunities for all the students we serve.



Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Welcome, New Bobcats!

Yorba Linda Middle School was excited to welcome back our returning students and our new students to our school! YLMS prides itself on developing student leaders on campus. One of those student-leadership groups is Where Everyone Belongs (WEB). Our new students are getting help from 35 WEB leaders so they can learn their way around Yorba Linda Middle School.

WEB, which is led by teacher Dion Taylor, kicked off the school year with a sixth-grade orientation in which students got to know one another better and learn more about the campus. Each month, there is a WEB Wednesday when students meet with their WEB leader at lunch. This gives them an opportunity to check in and see how their school year is going.

WEB helps create a positive school culture and also helps develop leadership skills for our students.



Yorba Linda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dave Flynn
Principal

Off to a Great Start

Welcome to the 2018–2019 school year at Yorba Linda High School, and the celebration of our ten-year anniversary!

Our opening day began with a picture of YLHS staff members and 1,840 students in our Center Quad. Additional celebration activities this year included free admission to our 2018 Homecoming football game on October 19 for all alumni, and a December Open House event in celebration of our ribbon cutting in 2009. We hope to see our graduates at both events to share their memories.



We also look forward to sharing our school's successes and future plans with an eight-member Western Association of Schools and Colleges visiting team in March. Working with our community, students, and staff members, we are currently preparing a “Focus on Learning Report” that will be shared with the PYLUSD School Board, parents, students, and staff. Highlighted areas will be the academic success of our Mustangs and our many school-community involvements for the past six years.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

schools with the hiring of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, as well as Registered Behavior Technicians, Wellness Specialists, and additional Intern Psychologists. These individuals now provide counseling, guidance, and behavioral support to students both inside and outside of our classrooms.

Lastly, the District now provides all high school student athletes with pre- and post-concussion testing at no cost to our families. Provided by ImPACT Applications, the test is an evidence-based tool that helps in the concussion management and wellness of our students. The goal of concussion testing is to provide our families' medical providers with additional objective data to assist in the treatment planning of students as they return to the classroom and their sport.

Although the work I mentioned is great and meaningful, it is not complete. We will continue our efforts in creating the very best educational environment for our students, staff, families, and community. Thank you for your support!

A Happy Kid in the Digital Age



Happiness is a warm puppy. If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. Don't worry, be happy! Rules for how to live happily are nothing new. But lately, our well-being -- and that of our kids -- seems to be in free fall. Depression, anxiety, and even youth suicide rates are increasing, as is cell phone and device use and the constant expectation

to be "on." Raising kids to be happy in today's world isn't impossible: Many generations of parents have managed to do so when the threats were way worse than FOMO. We just need to rewrite the rules for the digital age.

The quest to make sure our kids are happy may have led us in the wrong direction. While media and tech deserve some of the blame for our collective stress, no one really knows how much. However, we do know that turning everything off doesn't magically make us happier. In fact, studies show that some types of screen-based activities can be beneficial -- and we all know the warm, fuzzy feeling we get when we enjoy media together. As more research emerges on the impact of media and tech on kids' mental health, it confirms what we've always known about how to be happy: Supportive relationships, a feeling of self-worth, strong character, and other positive influences are what really matter. And while you can't mandate joy, supporting your kid -- both online and off -- creates an environment where happiness is there for the taking. These tips can help you raise a happy kid in the digital age:

Get gritty. Grit -- the combination of perseverance and resilience that helps you bounce back from disappointments -- plays an important role in well-being. At school, online, and even with friends, kids feel pressured to achieve something on the first try. Instead, instill what's called a "growth mindset," the process of trying, failing, and learning from mistakes. When they feel defeated, their inner voice will say, "You got this!"

Nourish their sense of self-worth. Likes, comments, and other indicators of online status are part of kids' social-media lives. But there's a tipping point when a kid's perfectly natural curiosity about what others think about them turns into a harmful fixation on peer validation that can cause depression. You can help inoculate your kid against this by fostering an internal sense of self-worth. Encourage activities and hobbies that give kids a sense of accomplishment on their own terms.

Be grateful. Being aware and thankful is a tried-and-true life hack that leads to a stronger sense of well-being. You can actually use media and tech to cultivate a sense of gratitude. Check out sites and apps that let kids help make the world a better place. Watch TV shows and movies that inspire gratitude. At home, create a culture of appreciation by discussing what you're grateful for.

Go outside. Seriously, that's all you need to do. Nature is scientifically proven to boost well-being. If you need inspiration, watch nature movies or download apps that encourage outdoor exploration. Or just put down your phone, close the laptop, turn off the TV, and go for a walk.

Foster connection. In the digital age, kids can make new friends and strengthen existing relationships online, whether it's in a rousing game of Fortnite, a few hearts on Instagram, or even a FaceTime session with the grandparents. But the happiest people are the ones who consistently find a balance between screens and the rest of life. And as the grown-ups, we're the ones who need to model healthy habits. So, carve out screen-free times at home. Unplug everything so you can make eye contact and really listen to family and friends without distractions. By all means, enjoy media together -- but set limits so it doesn't interfere with face-to-face interactions.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

Teachers See the Possibilities

At Oaks Christian School, Mary Kay Altizer applies her passion for the arts and educational technology as she leads the school's performing arts department, including a cutting-edge digital recording and production program.



Oaks Christian School, Advanced Digital Recording Class, Performing Arts Chair, Mary Kay Altizer, M.A. '15

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