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Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District



Volume 6, Issue 19

October 2022

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Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!



Dr. Crystal Turner
Superintendent

Saddleback Valley Unified School District greeted TK-12 students at our 34 campuses on August 15. Staff and families were immersed in our next iteration of SV Innovates: SVUSD's re-envisioned guiding mission, SV Connects, focusing on equitable, intentional, and engaging practices which provide opportunities for each and every student to be successful.

I'm excited to share a few highlights with you.

This fall, we proudly increased our service to the younger students in our community by expanding SVUSD's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program. TK is at 10 school sites with a total of 22 classes. Our TK program supports students turning five years old between September 2, 2022 and February 2, 2023. Taught by credentialed teachers specializing in Early Education, our TK students receive high-quality instruction and are developing academic and social-emotional skills to promote their educational and developmental success. Additionally, SVUSD offers Dual Language Immersion TK, enriching even our youngest students with the gift of acquiring an additional language during their academic career.

SVUSD fosters an inclusive environment for all students. Trabuco Mesa Elementary School was recently named a 2022 Unified Champion National Banner School by Special Olympics International for the determination of their students and staff to embrace differences and create a community of inclusivity for people of all intellectual and physical abilities. They join the ranks alongside Robinson Elementary School, Trabuco Hills High School, and Mission Viejo High School as former recipients of this award, as well as multiple other SVUSD schools who are engaged in a robust culture of integrating general education and special education in academic, athletic, and enrichment programs.

Broadening the tradition of support for our students and families, SVUSD opened the Student Marketplace at Silverado High School this fall. The Marketplace works

with other community entities, such as Mission Viejo Community Foundation and Second Harvest, to provide food, home and personal care products, clothing, school supplies, and information about services available to our families and students for whom support is helpful at this time.

SVUSD continues our excellence in athletics, much of which is due to our dedicated and exemplary coaching staff. I am excited to share that Coach Chris Ashbach was recently inducted into the CIF-SS Hall of Fame Class of 2022. In his 24 seasons as the Head Varsity Baseball Coach at Mission Viejo High School, he led the program to county, state, and national recognition. His commitment to excellence and genuine care both inside the classroom and on the baseball diamond has helped 61 of his players continue to play at the collegiate level, including two who have advanced to the major league.

The 2022-2023 school year is already shaping up to be an extraordinary year! Joy in learning is evident in our classrooms and outdoor learning spaces, in our athletic programs and VAPA departments, clubs and extended learning opportunities — the list continues. I look forward to sharing more with you throughout the school year.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to a new school year. Superintendent Dr. Turner begins this issue with her welcome message and highlights on page 3. As you read the articles in this issue you can feel the excitement of being back in the classrooms.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on pages 27 (all ages may enter).

Our upcoming issues for this school year are February, April and June. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.



School News

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Covering the
**SADDLEBACK VALLEY
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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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Liza Zielasko
Assistant
Superintendent

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

SVUSD is very proud to announce that 19 of our school sites are being honored for their work in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is an evidence based, proactive approach to teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors at schools. The California PBIS Coalition put forth rigorous standards to school sites to achieve state recognition for their implemented practices.

This achievement recognizes school sites for creating a safe, positive, consistent, and predictable system for behavioral supports. The following elementary sites are

receiving the Bronze level distinction for developing Tier 1 PBIS practices: Gates, La Madera, Montevideo, Portola Hills, and Santiago. The sites who are being awarded at the Silver level are: Del Cerro, Foothill Ranch, Glen Yermo, Lake Forest, Lomarena, San Joaquin, Trabuco, Trabuco Mesa, La Paz, Rancho Santa Margarita, Serrano, and Silverado. Finally, the Gold status is being awarded to Melinda Heights and Los Alisos. Congratulations to all of these sites for their dedication to promoting a positive culture along with positive interventions and supports via the PBIS system.

Human Resources

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



Dr. Darvin Jackson
Assistant
Superintendent

Additional Support Staff

The SVUSD Human Resources Department continues to hire certificated and classified staff at a rapid pace in light of a tight labor market. SVUSD has benefited from additional funding such as the Extended Learning Opportunities and Visual and Performing Arts grants which have allowed the district to hire additional positions to reduce mixed grade level classes or increase the number of teachers to provide

additional art and music programs at the elementary level. To keep up with the demands of seeking highly qualified candidates, the Human Resources Department will be adding additional support staff for the near future to support the current needs of the district.

The District has also received funding to provide staff development specifically targeted for our classified staff. To ensure we meet the needs of classified staff, the Human Resources Department is in the process of creating a survey to ascertain the various learning opportunities our classified staff seeks. This survey will be delivered by email in the coming weeks.

As always, SVUSD is hiring for varied positions, so inform a friend or personally go to edjoin.org or scan the QR code for additional information. SVUSD is a highly desirable school district in which to work and provides rewarding experiences for staff and, most importantly, students. We look forward to you joining our team.



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Robert Craven
*Assistant
Superintendent*

Site Modernizations

This summer, the Facilities Department was busy replacing HVAC units throughout the District. To date, 546 units have been ordered and 176 have been installed. This project will replace all R-22 (freon) rooftop HVAC units throughout the District. These new units are energy efficient and, most importantly, provide students with a comfortable environment in which to learn.

The District is currently planning for the upcoming 2023 site modernizations. In the summer of 2023 we have Robinson Elementary, Foothill Ranch Elementary, Rancho Canada Elementary and Serrano Intermediate scheduled to start. These modernization projects will include new classroom finishes, updates to the fire and security systems, ADA accessibility upgrades, and new office layouts to improve security. Robinson Elementary will get a new front parking lot, drop off area, and playground area, while Foothill Ranch Elementary will get a new Innovation Lab with indoor and outdoor classroom space.



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Rest & Proper Training Can Help Keep Your Child Healthy During Fall Sports



Eric J. Wong, MD, FAAP
pediatrician,
MemorialCare
Medical Group
San Juan
Capistrano

Now that school is back in session, active young children and teenagers are going to start getting back into playing the sports they love for their school or club teams. While having them be physically active is important, it is equally as important to remember to ensure their safety, especially with fall and winter sports, such as football, soccer and basketball.

Physically intensive sports like football and basketball leave children at high risk of injuries such as:

- Fractures • ACL/Knee injuries
- Muscle strains and contusions
- Sprains, commonly within the ankles or hands
- Shoulder injuries

Fortunately, much of the risk for these injuries can be mitigated. Encouraging your child to warm up before, and stretching after physical activity, are also a very effective, yet overlooked, ways to prevent injuries, especially overuse injuries, sprains, and strains.

Warming up increases the blood flow in your child's body, allowing more oxygen to reach their muscles, which helps your child's body perform more effectively.

Stretching afterwards allows your child's body to not only maintain the joints' range of motion, but maintains the muscles' flexibility, strength, and health, allowing them to heal more efficiently.

Children who are actively participating or wish to participate in sports should understand when it is time for them to stop training, as rest is often overlooked in the pursuit of self-improvement. To avoid muscle strains and ligament and joint injuries, athletes need to give their bodies enough time to properly heal.

Encouraging and supporting your child to practice these safety tips will leave them better prepared to protect themselves from injury out on the field.

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Cielo Vista *Elementary School*

21811 Avenida de Los Fundadores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-7456 • www.svUSD.org/cielovista



Dr. Frances Hansell
Principal

Hawk Happenings

We are proud to be building self-confidence in our students. Upper grades are developing comfort with peers by demonstrating caring, interest and initiating interactions. They are overcoming fear in communication with peers who are unknown. Committed to supporting SVConnects, students have participated in a tribute to 911, organized Red Ribbon Week events and promoted a schoolwide Spirit Week devoted to the quote of the month ... "Be Yourself!" Hawk Happenings this month highlight students recognized for the AVID trait of being organized. Ivy, Maria, Jose and Nora are leading this work interviewing students. They say, "We are proud to be positive role models and risk-taking with editing and film. We are looking forward to training others. It makes us happy doing fun things and being inclusive." Cielo Vista is proud of our student leaders and we look forward to the video sharing in our school community. Go Hawks!



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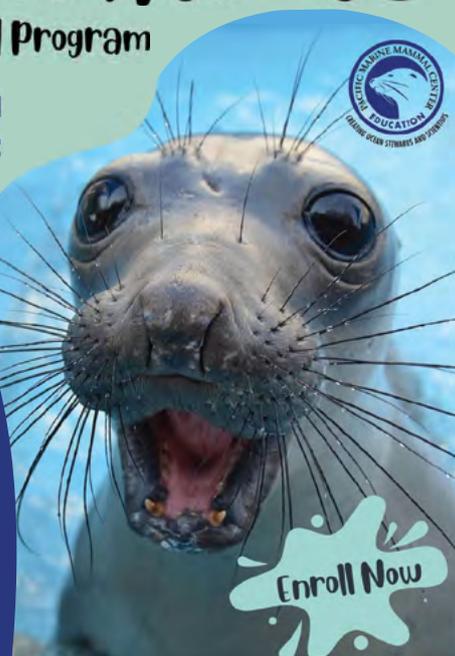
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De Portola *Elementary School*

27031 Preciados Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-5830 • www.svUSD.org/deportola



Brendon Morrow
Principal

Another Fantastic School Year

It is with pleasure I welcome our community for another fantastic school year. Along with academics, our staff will continue to focus on kindness and safety amongst both our children and adults this year. I am so thankful our community understands some of our safety procedures may include things that are more time-consuming or less convenient for our parents. I am equally

thankful our staff and parents continuously set high expectations and remain stellar examples of kindness each day.

Our new PBIS system will be kicked off soon. With the focus on our STAR words (Safety, Taking Responsibility,

Acting with Kindness, Respect) students will earn STAR bucks from our staff for exhibiting these taught expectations. Individual, classroom, and school-wide incentives will be available as the STAR bucks accumulate.

For anyone who has not already done so, please feel free to introduce yourself in writing or as you see me around. I am excited to continue this journey and be your partner in education. On behalf of our entire staff, it is an absolute pleasure and HUGE responsibility to take your most prized possession into our care each day. Thank you for your trust, your open mind, and most of all, your support.

For additional resources beyond this message, please visit the other links on our webpage where you will be able to access useful information, including links for PTA and electronic newsletters.

Del Cerro *Elementary School*

24382 Regina St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5430 • www.svUSD.org/delcerro



Kristin Thomsen
Principal

Welcome to Del Cerro

The Del Cerro staff is proud to welcome our new and returning families and students to the 2022-2023 school year! In partnership with our PTA, Del Cerro greeted new TK and Kindergarten families

with a Tears and Cheers meet and greet on the first day of school and, in September, hosted a schoolwide Welcome Back Hoedown event. Thanks to our fantastic staff, PTA, students, and families, our new school year is off to an engaging and positive start as our school community reconnects after the summer break.

Del Cerro has received Silver Recognition by the California PBIS Coalition for its excellence in implementing the core features of PBIS that are embedded in our Ride the WAVE initiative. Del Cerro is dedicated to supporting each student's daily academic, social, and behavioral needs. It is a pleasure to see our students Riding the WAVE each day.

Go Dolphins!



Del Lago *Elementary School*

27181 Entidad, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/855-1125 • www.svUSD.org/dellago



Jonathan Kaplan
Principal

Amazing Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The start of the school year has many new beginnings. For students and staff, a chance to connect, get to know each other and build community. For our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), a renewed passion for our students and school. We have many goals, but with one of the largest teams in our history, we plan on hitting all that we can. In just the first few weeks of the year, our PTA has collected 168 memberships, 206 students registered to the website, sold tons of spirit wear, (Spirit Fridays start soon!), sold almost 1,000 books at our fall book fair, and connected with families at Back-to-School Night. We are so proud of our



accomplishments so far, but we are just getting started. Please visit their new website, www.dellagopta.org, and be ready to join the fun! Go Dolphins!

El Toro *High School*

25255 Toledo Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-6333 • www.svUSD.org/eths



Dr. James Martin
Principal

Our New WellSpace "The rETreat"

El Toro's new WellSpace, named "the rETreat", was installed on September 21 and opened for viewing to students and parents at Back to School Night on September 22! This amazing new wellness center is a collaboration between OCDE, CHOC hospital, SVUSD, and ETHS.

This unique space builds upon our commitment to mental health and wellness and will provide an additional layer of supports for students. The rETreat features biophilic designs - interior design that incorporates elements of nature - creating a home-like feel to help students better cope with daily stresses and to support their social and emotional wellbeing.

It offers a space of calm, punctuated by mindfulness activities such as journaling, aromatherapy, crafts and more. Students may work with their counselor to learn techniques to help them build resilience and self-regulation skills so they may gain a better sense of control and return to learning.



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Esperanza *Special Education*

25121 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5470 • www.svusd.org/esperanza



Raymund Bueche
Principal

A Room for all Senses

In May 2022, ATP at Esperanza Education Center hosted its Pancake Breakfast, providing an opportunity to connect for families both old and new. Funds raised were used to develop a functional sensory room to meet all learners'

needs engaging in vestibular, proprioceptive, tactile, auditory, visual, and olfactory senses. At the end of an experience in the sensory room, both student and teacher gain a better understanding of the tools needed to help navigate unknown situations that are presented when in the community setting. Thank you to all the families who donated and the staff who helped make this event happen. A huge

thank you to Ms. Michelle Radmore, who volunteered her time and expertise in designing and creating the room. Please save the date for May 7th or our next Pancake Breakfast as we celebrate our school's 50th year!



Foothill Ranch *Elementary School*

1 Torino Dr., Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 • 949/470-4885 • www.svusd.org/foothillranch



Deborah Shaver
Principal

Lunch Recess Activity Coaches

Foothill Ranch Bobcats are so excited to have lunch recess activity coaches on campus this year. Each Tuesday, two to three coaches work with students during their lunch period to engage in a variety of sports activities. The PTA and school worked together last year to identify a need within

our school community and find solutions that could best support student development and social growth on the playground. In addition to fun games and activities, coaches teach conflict resolution strategies, teamwork, and collaboration skills. The first few weeks were quite a success! Students loved playing a game of four corners, tag, and dodgeball. Coaches will be introducing the students to new games and skills such as badminton, cricket and other lesser known sports. Our Bobcats have a great time while exercising and working together. Be sure to check out our Instagram page @frebobcats for more information and photos.



Gates *Dual Language Immersion Elementary School*

23882 Landisview Ave., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-2260 • www.svusd.org/gates



Diana Clearwater
Principal

Looking Forward to a Great Year

Welcome to the 22-23 school year. I am thrilled to embark on my 4th year as principal at Gates. Before coming to Gates, I worked in Santa Ana since 1994 in various roles including bilingual teacher, bilingual resource teacher, assistant principal and principal. My husband is also a teacher, and my children attended a two-way immersion program.

I am passionate about the benefits of providing our students a bilingual, biliterate, and multicultural education focused on high academic achievement. Students have the opportunity to continue the DLI program at Los Alisos M.S. and Laguna Hills H.S. Our SVUSD program is a member of the International Spanish Academies (I.S.A.), which is part of the Ministry of Education and Science of Spain.

We are also excited to welcome our new assistant principal, Cathy Rodriguez, who comes to us with lots of experience in dual language immersion. We look forward to a great year!

Glen Yermo *Elementary School*

26400 Trabuco Rd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-6766 • www.svusd.org/glenyermo



Jennifer Televik
Principal

Celebrating Every Student

Glen Yermo welcomed back our mountain lions this year by celebrating the traits that make each student unique. Students in grades TK-6th participated in a grade level project that included brainstorming ideas about their family, heritage, culture, language, religion, and other parts of their identity, before selecting the traits that were most important to them for their final project. The multimedia projects created

by our amazing scholars also showcased their artistic skills through drawing, painting, and poetry, resulting in displays that truly celebrate each and every student in our community.

Glen Yermo is known for its small, supportive community. This year, we look forward to celebrating our students and families through awards assemblies, family nights, multilingual student recognitions, and our Unified Champions program, which fosters friendships among students of all abilities. At Glen Yermo, we welcome and celebrate all scholars!



La Madera *Elementary School*

25350 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/770-1415 • www.svusd.org/lamadera



Jennifer Gass
Principal

We CARE

I am honored to serve as the Principal of La Madera Elementary School in Lake Forest, CA, home of the Koalas.

Each student and staff member at La Madera CARES each and every day. The “CARES” acronym is the heart of our school culture. Our entire staff aims to promote positive behavior expectations on our campus. Each Koala works to demonstrate: Community of Respect, Act

with Integrity, Responsible, Engaged in Learning, Safe & Self Controlled

La Madera is a beautiful school nestled in the eucalyptus groves of Lake Forest, CA. Whenever anyone visits La Madera, they always comment on the great energy on our campus, the friendly staff, and respectful students. In addition to being a place where people feel welcome, La Madera is also known for its academic excellence. All students and teachers are encouraged to be innovators, to take risks and grow together as a community of learners!



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La Paz Intermediate School

25151 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-1720 • www.svUSD.org/lapaz



Tiffany Harville
Principal

Station Rotations

Our Leopard scholars kicked off the 22-23 school year the right way! This year we focused on creating learning opportunities through connections and engagement. We know how important relationships are and have worked these first few weeks to build those connections. During our 1st 20 days our staff has been teaching and reinforcing the La Paz way. Students participated in station rotations where they were able to connect with staff and our School Resource officer. WEB leaders have taken our 7th grade Leopards under their wing and meet every Wednesday to ensure their transition to middle school

is a success. Supporting the whole child continues to be a priority. This year we have built in SEL and connection activities into every day of the week. Mindful Monday, Turn and Talk Tuesday, WEB Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Future Friday, are pieces of our culture that contribute to our positive Leopard energy.



Laguna Hills High School

25401 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/770-5447 • www.svUSD.org/lhhs



Bill Hinds
Principal

Laguna Hills Cross Country Invitation

On September 10th, the 38th running of the Laguna Hills Cross Country Invitational welcomed 138 teams, 3,000 athletes and thousands more spectators cheering them on from across Southern California.

Laguna Hills High School is very proud to hold the distinction of ushering-in the Orange County cross country season, and this year the meet's tagline, "OCXC Starts Here" once again held true, bringing the collective energy, mass and thrill that makes the sport so special.

Twenty-Four races later, runners had conquered the Kevin Dempsey Cross Country Course's, "Hawk Hill," "Death Valley," and "Final Ascent" and will always remember their time climbing the hills of Laguna.

Special thanks to the City of Laguna Hills, SVUSD M&O, LHHS Administration, LHHS Athletic Department, and LHCC Boosters, Parents, Alumni and Friends, for making this event a reality and such a positive and memorable day for so many.



Lake Forest *Elementary School*

21801 Pittsford Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/830-9945 • www.svusd.org/lakeforest



Audra Bailey
Principal

Mat Man

We are so excited to have two Transitional Kindergarten classes on our campus this year. Our TK program services students who turn 5 between September 2, 2022 and February 2, 2023. Mrs. Wilhelm and Ms. Costa work together to make learning fun and creative for their students.

They have been busy learning about teamwork and being kind. Students are also learning the alphabet and how each letter makes its own sound. Our TK students have also been learning about the colors of the rainbow, basic shapes and patterns. Our teachers utilize their TK STEAM room for lessons on engineering. They have completed a unit on homes and construction. Students also used shapes to create “Mat Man” a character from their Handwriting Without Tears curriculum. It has been such a great beginning of the program on our campus and we are excited for all that our students will learn this year.



La Tierra *Early Childhood Center*

24150 Lindley St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/707-5276 • www.svusd.org/schools/elementary-a-/la-tierra-early-childhood-center



Emily Arias
Principal

Engaging Activities

La Tierra Early Childhood Center has adopted a new preschool curriculum this year to provide teachers and students with a research-based program built on the latest findings

in neuroscience, math, literacy and language acquisition. The curriculum provides concrete, hands-on, child-centered engaging activities that the students are loving. The children engage every day in greeting circle activities that set the tone for their emotional well-being and challenge them to focus on pro-social skills. Unite is the first step in the morning routine. Children are invited to join in singing a song that supports the week's theme. Next, they engage in learning and practicing five core calming strategies to use throughout their school day when

things get overwhelming. Connecting is the third step that encourages face-to-face interaction with others involving



eye contact, touch, presence and playfulness. These connecting activities provide opportunities for children to interact with each other, which builds healthy friendships, increases attention span, and fosters cooperation. Commit, is the final step to the morning routine when the students commit to being a responsible member of the class to help keep the classroom a safe place to learn and grow.

These students are engaging in morning circle time. A student is greeting Fernando the Frog with a hug.

The students are able to choose which way they would like to greet Fernando; a hug, high five, fist bump or wave. In the other picture, the students are singing a song called “We Wish You Well.” When there are students that are absent, the class wishes them well.

Linda Vista Magnet Elementary School

25222 Pericia Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-0970 • www.svusd.org/lindavista



Shannon Wyatt
Principal

Welcome Back to a Fabulous School Year!

Each year of school brings positive change. This year we are excited to add Transitional Kindergarten to our school!

Students as young as 4 years old will be joining our learning

community. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) bridges the path between preschool and Kindergarten and gives students the gift of time that will help them build a strong foundation for future school success. It blends social and emotional experiences with academic learning so that students not only learn essential pre-literacy, pre-math, and other cognitive skills, but



also develop social and self-regulation skills needed to succeed in school and life. Young students enrolled in TK at Linda Vista also have early exposure to the International Baccalaureate Units of Study that will be part of their educational journey here at Linda Vista.

Lomarena Elementary School

25100 Earhart Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-1370 • www.svusd.org/lomarena



Grace Cruikshank
Principal

Our Lions know PRIDE

At Lomarena Elementary School we take great pride in our commitment to serve the children and families of our wonderful community. We are honored to serve approximately 600 TK through 6th grade

creative and inquisitive students who are

challenged to grow in character, in academic skills, and in knowledge of themselves and others. Our school is also proud to be a warm neighborhood school holding high expectations for ourselves and our students while providing a nurturing environment where we cherish and celebrate each member of



our community. Students at Lomarena show PRIDE each and every day! Our acronym of “PRIDE” is at the core of our school culture as our entire staff aims to promote positive behavior expectations on campus and in our community. Our Lions know how to Persevere, show Respect, have Integrity, show Diligence & have Empathy!

Los Alisos *Intermediate School*

25171 Los Lobos Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-9700 • www.svusd.org/losalisos



Michael Marzilli
Interim Principal

Great Job Lobos!

The Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Coalition has announced the 2022 recipients of awards for implementing PBIS at their school sites! PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students.



A Gold level award is earned by schools that have established strong tier one behavior supports for all students and strong tier two behavior supports for students needing additional support. We want to congratulate the entire staff at Los Alisos for their hard work and commitment to helping our students. The school will be recognized at the next Board Meeting on October 13th at 6:00pm. Great Job Lobos!

Melinda Heights *Elementary School*

21001 Rancho Trabuco, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/888-7311 • www.svusd.org/melindaheights



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Our Mission is Threefold

We could not be more excited about the new school year!! The staff at Melinda Heights looks forward to a 2022-2023 full of connections, community, and purpose in every classroom. Melinda Heights Elementary is nestled in the hills of Rancho Santa Margarita and serves nearly 1000 eager learners. At Melinda, our mission is threefold. We aim to challenge our students with engaging

instructional strategies, provide a balanced educational program and instill the character traits necessary for success in the world of tomorrow. Melinda Heights Mountain Lions ROAR as they share: "I am Responsible, I Own my choices, I Act with Integrity and show Respect." The outstanding team at Melinda Heights has embarked upon this new school year with great enthusiasm and is committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment that will empower our children to become innovative thinkers, and engaged, inspired learners prepared for a bright future.



Mission Viejo High School

25025 Chrisanta Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/837-7722 • www.svUSD.org/mvhs



Tricia Osborne
Principal

Positive Culture

Mission Viejo High School welcomes you to the 2022-23 school year! Our tradition, academics, co-curricular programs, exceptional school spirit, and culture remain strong. Recently, MVHS received an

award as a 2022 Best High School in U.S. News and World Report! In addition, we are excited to share that MVHS is a Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environment for all students. It is our goal that every Diablo student feels connected, supports each other, and embraces diverse and global perspectives. We are proud of Associated Student Body (ASB) for their work in promoting a positive culture. Our amazing Diablo spirit is evident on



campus and at school events! Campus clubs have continued to thrive and student participation is impressive. MVHS is a truly a special place. Go Diablos!



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Montevideo *Elementary School*

24071 Carrillo Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8050 • www.svUSD.org/montevideo



Lisa Graham
Principal

Our School Family

At Montevideo, teaching and education is a two-way process, and we greatly value partnering with our parents for student success. Goal Setting Conferences at the beginning of the school year provide the opportunity for learning

between families, teachers, and students, and begins the partnership. Open communication continues this work throughout the school year... but there is more! Family engagement within the school creates a school family, and our school family loves to come together for fun and fellowship. Our first event of the year was our Fall Family Lunch. Families joined our students at school for a picnic

lunch and recess play. We loved that we needed to print out more sign in sheets due to the large numbers of families that participated. At Montevideo, we know that when families and the school become one, our students receive the best education has to offer. We love our families!



Olivewood *Elementary School*

23391 Dune Mear Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-6682 • www.svUSD.org/olivewood



Alex Perez
Principal

Welcome Back TK!

Olivewood Elementary school is pleased to welcome back the Traditional Kindergarten program. TK is an exciting program that provides academic activities and allows students to learn through developmental play. Time is spent growing social

skills such as cooperation, sharing, and communication. Here at Olivewood, we embed music, art and kinesthetic opportunities into daily lessons as we believe these elements contribute to a natural enthusiasm for learning. Our goal is to provide students with a safe and caring environment that fosters creativity, independence and self-esteem. This sets students up with a love of learning and an eagerness for Kindergarten and beyond. Along with traditional TK and Special Education TK, Olivewood now offers a Dual-Immersion Spanish TK program. In this highly diverse classroom, students learn Spanish in a nurturing



and academic setting. Using the 90% Spanish/10% English model, students are immersed in the target language throughout the day.

Portola Hills *Elementary School*

19422 Saddleback Ranch Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/459-9370 • www.svUSD.org/portolahills



Ed MacNevin
Principal

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to see smiling faces on campus. Our PHE staff is committed to providing a rigorous standards-based curricular program for our students. At PHE we assure that students feel valued each day as they are personally

greeted by teachers and engage in activities to build classroom community. This year, all of our K-6 students will continue to receive music instruction once per week. We are also excited to welcome back our Physical Education (PE) team who will provide all 4th-6th graders two 50- minute classes per week. Lastly, our new onsite counselor will be helping us with the social

emotional learning (SEL) needs at the school site. We are fortunate for the support we receive from our PHE PTA, who generously provide valuable programs for our school. Together with our families, we look forward to a successful year. Go Explorers!



Rancho Cañada *Elementary School*

21801 Winding Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/786-5252 • www.svUSD.org/ranchocanada



Jennifer Kajdasz
Principal

Bringing Awareness

Do you know what's cooler than being ice cool? When you have students that step up to help Rancho Cañada be safer by bringing awareness to our students. Two of our sixth-grade students, Sky and Avery, had a vision of wanting to inform our bicycle

riding students of how to be safe on and off our campus. They saw a need to remind students how to ride a bike properly and to wear a helmet at all times, as well as how to ride safely around those who are around them, which is important on an elementary school campus. In order to get the goal accomplished, they met with the principal several times to review their presentation, made personalized invitations and even went the extra mile and called the City of Lake Forest to get insight from their safety department. We thank them for their dedication to our school!



Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate School*

21931 Alma Aldea, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/459-8253 • www.rsmintermediate.com



Tyler Morgan
Principal

Better Together

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. My name is Tyler Morgan, and I am honored and privileged to serve as Principal of RSM Intermediate. This is my third year at RSM, and I am excited to continue building solid relationships and the hard work of ensuring students are safe and have access to the best education. My wife Kristen and I have four children: Presley (15), Charlotte (13),

Hudson (8), and Robert (3). We are so privileged to be a part of the RSM community. Our family was able to camp and get to the beach this summer and enjoy the waves and warm water. I hope everyone had the opportunity to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with family and friends. It's now time to refocus and move forward this year.

Our theme this school year is "Better Together." As we put closure to the trials of this pandemic, we learned that we are Better Together as a staff and community. Working together side by side, agreeing to disagree, and being respectful to one another was the antidote to sustaining these obstacles for the past two years. We will intentionally work with stakeholders to continue the great work that makes RSM amazing!

As we start this year together, we will focus on learning through connections, intentional lesson design, and student-focused learning. We will work collaboratively to give our students a rich and meaningful educational experience that fosters a lifelong love of learning. We understand that students need interaction and community for developmental growth. RSM has great teachers, counselors, and staff to meet their needs.

I look forward to meeting you, and I am excited about this year's journey as we get "Better Together."

Robinson *Elementary School*

21400 Lindsay Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/589-2446 • www.svusd.org/robinson



Suzy McMasters
Principal

National Unified Champion School

Robinson Elementary School is proud to be the first elementary school in California to become a National Unified Champion School through the Special Olympics. Robinson received this honor by demonstrating commitment to inclusion by meeting ten standards of excellence, earning a national banner! The ten components and achievement standards encompass

Young Athletes, inclusive youth leadership, whole school engagement and sustainability. If you'd like to learn more, please see the National Standards for Elementary Schools from the Special Olympics or contact Robinson Elementary School. At Robinson Elementary, students are empowered with the aptitude to succeed in our evolving world, the ability to think and express themselves clearly, and the skills necessary to be responsible citizens. Way to go Rattlers!



Welcome
Back to
School



San Joaquin *Elementary School*

22182 Barbera, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-3450 • www.svUSD.org/sanjoaquin



David Shun
Principal

Opening Doors with Our 2nd Annual Color Run

“Ready? Set? Go, Go Go!” is the shout from our PTA to kick-off San Joaquin’s 2nd Annual Color Run! Our PTA and staff have worked tirelessly to

bring our annual fundraising event to the next level, complete with a variety of activities to help engage students of all ages, skill levels, abilities, and interests. Building on our strive to provide a supportive fundraising experience for all students during our 1st Annual Color Run, our PTA has tiered our school wide goals and rewards so all classes and students are celebrated. What a wonderful way to make our fundraising event fun and accessible to all! Go Cheetahs!



Santiago *STEAM Magnet*

24982 Rivendell Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-2820 • www.svUSD.org/santiago



Howard Johnston
Principal

High Quality Project Based Learning

Santiago STEAM Magnet is beginning its fifth year. We are excited to continue to improve upon our foundation centered on High Quality Project Based Learning in all grades. This year, our efforts revolve around building and using outdoor learning spaces created by our amazing PTA and community supporters!

Throughout the school year, we have many exciting activities planned. To name a few...

- New STEAM GREEN Initiative focused on recycling, composting, and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Return of our PTA’s Fall Festival
- Wellness Center for All
- Heart and Kindness Challenge and Fundraiser
- Walk and Roll to School Initiative
- Ignite Night
- Book Fairs and many more.

Students will also have the opportunity to learn more STEAM skills, including ceramics, robotics/drones, black and white photography, gardening, and engineering. We’re off to a great start and nowhere to go but UP!



Serrano Intermediate School

24642 Jeronimo Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-3221 • www.svusd.org/serrano



David Young
Principal

Love One Another

Serrano's theme for 2022-23 is "Love One Another". We defined love as an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person, and students shared their ideas of what this would look like on our campus.

They shared that sacrifice, going out of your way to do something for someone, taking risks for another's benefit, and forgiveness are actions they can take to show love. While this is a lofty goal, our community is rising to the occasion and demonstrating their love for one another. A perfect example of this is 7th grader, Nicholas Quarles. Last spring, he wrote me a letter on behalf of his friend, Amber Field. Amber was seeking admission into Serrano's STEAM

program. Nicholas shared all of Amber's outstanding qualities and why Serrano would be a better place with her. Needless to say, both of these students are at Serrano and are an amazing example of Love One Another.



Silverado High School

25632 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8800 • www.svusd.org/silverado



David Gordon
Principal

Opening of the Student Marketplace

Silverado is off to a flying start with 244 amazing students. We welcomed 43 new students to campus to start the school year. Our students have participated in Music Mondays, Patriots' Day

remembrance of 9/11, a water balloon competition and a food drive. Our Back to School Night was a community event with Community Partners providing information about Saddleback College, military careers, community outreach, ELAC, Library resource, PBIS and senior graduation information.

The highlight of the school year so far has been the opening of the Student Marketplace. On a weekly basis we are able

to provide much needed resources to many families in need. The highpoint of each week has been opening the marketplace and helping families.



SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-12*

21001 Rancho Trabuco Rd., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/580-3457 • www.svUSD.org/virtualacademy



Glenn Giokaris
Principal

Supporting Student Belonging

Supportive, flexible and personalized; these are just a few of the words that students have used to describe the SVUSD Virtual Academy.

As an online school, students complete the majority of their coursework online with a significant amount of control over the place, pace, and path of their education. But as a community-based online school, creating a sense of community and providing ways for students to connect with one another is equally important as providing them with flexibility. We believe that a school that supports student belonging and develops a sense of community is better able to support student motivation, academic achievement, and student

well-being. Opportunities for students to learn in-person, family outings, student clubs, and live class meetings are all designed to foster a sense of community. Please visit our website to learn more!



Trabuco *Elementary School*

31052 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678 • 949/858-0343 • www.svUSD.org/trabuco



Dr. Lisa Paisley
Principal

Science Amplified

Students in all grades K-6 are off to a great start with science this year. In this picture, an upper grade group is working together to design and test a wind turbine. Our science program, Amplify

Science, is built to really prepare students for success, and it is so fun to see our students collaborating to solve problems. While Trabuco boasts our famous Field Study program that involves our students in many outdoor science experiences, it is so important that our students also engage in inquiry in the classroom with their own teachers. Our students also get to experience informative and argument writing through our science program, and this is a wonderful opportunity to think deeply and develop higher level skills. Great job



Coyote students and big thanks to our teaching staff for providing this learning environment each week.

Trabuco Hills *High School*

27501 Mustang Run, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/768-1934 • www.svusd.org/thhs



Alicia Foulk
Principal

Students Awarded with Academic Honors from National Recognition Programs

The following students have earned academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs:

Natalie Brooks, Brooks Brummell, Angelica Castaneda-Mendez, Abigail Longacre, and Brittany Reynolds. These honors can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect

students with universities across the country, helping them stand out during the admissions process. These students earned this recognition by excelling on their PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams and in their classrooms. Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.

The following students have been named as Commended Scholars through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation: Raymond Alvin, Mckayla Ashley, Vaidehi Bhardwaj, Elena Cheung, Anum Ghulamali, Graham Hales, Samantha Lo, Khushi Modi, Hana Nguyen, Suhani Pawar, Megan Regier, Atherv Vidhate, Annika Vinekar. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2023 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended students placed among the top 50,000 who entire the 2023 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

We also have two students that have been recognized as Semifinalists: Harika Amineni and Claire Stuvland. Semifinalists are the highest scorers in each of the 50 states and represent less than 1% of each state's high school seniors. Before they can be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Award, semifinalists must qualify as finalists by completing the National Merit Scholarship application. Congratulations again to these amazing Mustangs!

Trabuco Mesa *Elementary School*

21301 Ave de las Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/858-3339 • www.svusd.org/trabucomesa



Caryn McGrew
Principal

Inclusion Revolution

Our school has received National Banner Recognition from California. We are the 2nd elementary school in the state to receive this award. We are excited to embrace inclusion through Unified Sports and Unified Gardening.

We have worked hard to go above and beyond to display the 10 standards of excellence to become a National Banner Unified Champion School! At Trabuco Mesa, we want all students to feel included and welcome at our school. Our goal is to Choose to Include every day in every way. #UnifiedGeneration.

We also received a California silver recognition for our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Implementation. Our school continues to focus on creating a safe and positive environment by using a consistent and predictable system for behavior supports. Students understand our School Wide Expectations with a goal to be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible every day.



Valencia *Elementary School*

25661 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/830-3650 • www.svUSD.org/valencia



Carolyn Fries
Principal

School Wide Incentives

Valencia students, teachers, staff and parents excitedly welcomed in the 2022-2023 school year at the best school! Our Valencia Oranges are off to a great start and have been learning what it means to be a student who is respectful, responsible, and safe. All students attended

the first day of school Strive assembly and were introduced to a giant thermometer that they will be using to earn school wide incentives with Strive tickets. In fact, they have already earned an incentive for filling the thermometer to the first line! Students are also earning weekly prizes delivered by the one and only Squirt, our school mascot! During the first week of school, students also participated in playground rotations. In the rotations, students learned the expectations for all the different areas of the school and problem-solving strategies which are aligned with our social-emotional learning curriculum. We're off to a great start!



School mascot, Squirt, with the giant Strive ticket thermometer

Halloween 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 Saddleback Valley in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 30, 2022

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Thank you Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics for sponsoring our contests.

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| CEMETERY | SKELETON |
| COSTUME | SPIDER |
| DECORATIONS | SWAMP CREATURE |
| FRANKENSTEIN | TRICK OR TREAT |
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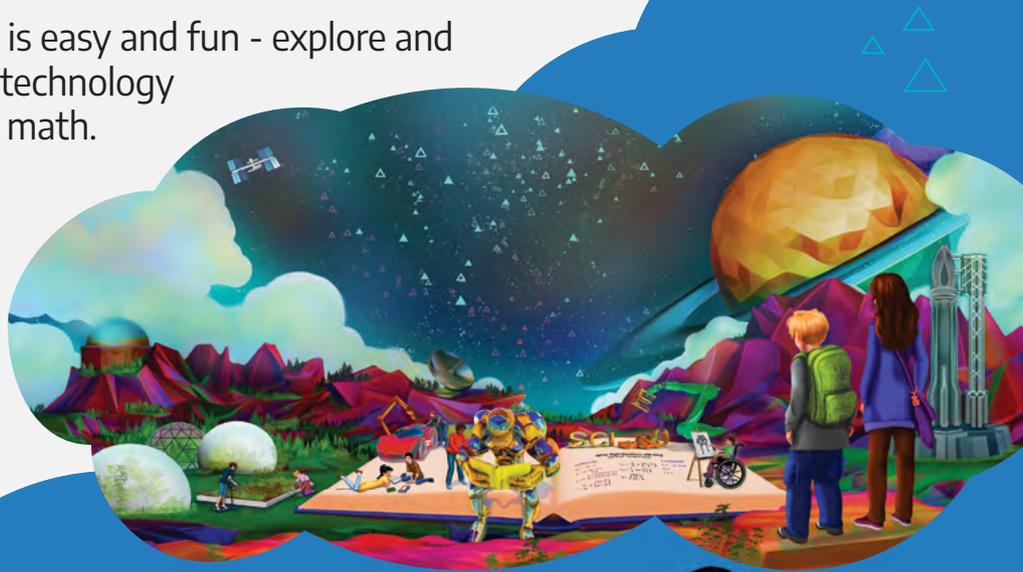
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Eager readers earn virtual tickets to win bonus prizes! Here are just some

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- ▶ Coding lessons
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Visit **ReadSteam.org** to sign up

Science ▲ Technology ▲ Engineering ▲ Arts ▲ Mathematics

- ▶ Registration begins **October 1, 2022**
- ▶ Open to SoCal students' grades TK-12
- ▶ Endorsed by the Orange County Department of Education