

**FREE**

# School News



*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District**

Volume 3, Issue 11

April / May 2020

## SVUSD Celebrates the Arts



**Lomarena Elementary School's Production of Aladdin Jr.**

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS REIMAGINED



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# Superintendent



**Dr. Crystal  
Turner**

## Activities and Recognitions

As spring ushers in longer days and warmer temperatures, many exciting activities and recognitions are also taking place throughout SVUSD for both our students and staff. One of the events I look forward to most at this time of year is our district-wide Teacher of the Year program.

The process begins with teachers nominating deserving colleagues who exemplify SVUSD values and who go above and beyond to support our students. Through this process, one teacher from each site is selected and recognized as their school's Teacher of the Year. From this group of well-deserving educators, three are selected to submit an application to the Orange County Department of Education's county-wide Teacher of the Year program. The county program is the precursor to the state and national programs, culminating with the selection of the National Teacher of the Year at the end of 2019. We are still reeling with excitement over Mandy Kelly's (Trabuco Mesa Elementary) selection as a 2020 California Teacher of the Year, whose journey began as Trabuco Mesa's Teacher of the Year last year!

The three SVUSD finalists who were selected to submit an application to the Orange County Department of Education will be also recognized at a future SVUSD Board Meeting, and will partake in the county-wide festivities in November. Congratulations to: Carrie Nichols at Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary, Lori Musick at Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate, and Amy Martinez at El Toro High School. Below is a list of all SVUSD site winners, and I hope you'll join me in offering them congratulations and thanks for all they do. We are truly fortunate to have so many outstanding teachers in SVUSD and wish the finalists the best of luck as they continue at the county level!

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Cielo Vista Elementary    | Justin Kraft         |
| Melinda Heights           | Kimberly Caputo      |
| Cordillera Elementary     | Joanna Kokx          |
| Mission Viejo High School | Stephanie Jones      |
| Del Cerro                 | Alison Brick         |
| Montevideo                | Kristine Mata        |
| Del Lago                  | Sheila Dunphy        |
| Olivewood Elementary      | Devon Wirthgen       |
| Esperanza                 | Michelle Rodriguez   |
| Portola Hills Elementary  | Andrea Davidson      |
| El Toro High School       | Amy Martinez*        |
| Rancho Canada             | Stacy Bunte          |
| Foothill Ranch            | Mandy De Groot       |
| Robinson Elementary       | Susie Blinn          |
| Gates Elementary          | Beverly O'Brien      |
| RSM Intermediate          | Lori Musick*         |
| Glen Yermo                | Anna Lisa Williams   |
| San Joaquin               | Kay Park             |
| La Paz                    | Michelle Stafford    |
| Santiago STEAM            | Carrie Nichols*      |
| La Tierra                 | Shelley Grebner      |
| Serrano Intermediate      | Alison Stucky        |
| Laguna Hills              | John Lester          |
| Silverado                 | Megan Klaer          |
| Lake Forest Elem.         | Anmarie MacNevin     |
| Trabuco Hills High School | Emily Tombleson      |
| Linda Vista               | Jina Cerioni         |
| Trabuco Mesa Elementary   | Brenda Ridenour      |
| Lomarena                  | Deanice Trytten      |
| Valencia Elementary       | Nicole Palumbo-Grimm |
| Los Alisos                | Marti Wernle         |

## Board of Education



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Wong**  
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Tullis**  
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\* SVUSD Teacher of the Year

**Saddleback Valley Unified School District**  
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way Mission Viejo, CA 92691  
(949) 586-1234 • svusd.org



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Neta Madison*  
Netragrednik

# School News

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## #flattenthecurve

As I am writing this the coronavirus has caused everyone in our communities to practice social distancing and to adjust their way of life. All of the health officials have stressed good hygiene and social precautions. As a Nation we will get through this.

This is a particularly difficult time for students not physically being in school but the District responded and

students have adjusted. Reading is always good and in this issue we have included our popular student book reviews to help with reading choices. Of course, in this issue you will find our latest word search. I appreciate your positive comments when you email your answers.

Take care, be well and  
Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



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## Keeping Your Family Healthy at Home



**Marnie Baker,**  
**MD, MPH**  
*Pediatrics*

Being stuck inside all day can be difficult on the whole family. Often, families struggle with finding the motivation to stay healthy and active. Luckily, there are a variety of creative ways to make the most of your time indoors.

**Dance party:** Throw on some tunes and start moving! Your family will get some healthy exercise and have fun at the same time. As an added element, try stopping and starting the music for a freeze dance!

**Activity stations:** Add a little excitement to your daily routine by implementing activity stations around the house. Pull out the old craft supplies and spend some time together creating and building during your time at home.

**Stretch breaks:** Take a break from school and work together by scheduling daily stretch breaks. Use this time to connect with yourself and one another before starting your next virtual call. Remember to give your mind a break as well – it is just as important as exercising your body.

**Try Some Healthy Recipes:** Get creative! There are endless possibilities for healthy recipes that the whole family can enjoy. Try using the ingredients you have in your home to create something truly delicious.

**Virtual Games:** If you cannot get all your loved ones in the same room, try some online games. From card games to board games, there are so many to try that everyone can enjoy.

**Set Daily Goals:** Put your mind at ease by setting small, daily goals for yourself and your family. Children especially can benefit from meeting fun and useful objectives regularly. Remember, the point of daily goals is to improve your mood and uplift your day, so each should be fun!

**Household Projects:** Finish painting that fence, weeding your yard or organizing the garage. With a little time on your hands, household projects become less of a chore and more of a satisfying way to pass the time during the day.

**Get Outdoors:** Most importantly, try your best to spend time outdoors at least once every day. Take a short walk, have your morning coffee out on your porch, or work on those outdoor projects that before seemed so daunting. A little fresh air will help you stay healthy and active at home.

### Stay at Home

Take the necessary steps to protect your family during this challenging time by staying home and avoiding close contact with others. Be sure to clean and disinfect frequently and try your best to keep 6 feet away from other individuals outside your home.



6 feet / 6 pies

Keep one zebra of space between you and others!

¡Mantenga una cebra de distancia entre usted y los demás!



### Let Us Come to You

Regardless of location, keeping you and your family healthy is our primary purpose. New and returning patients can now meet with our top-notch primary care providers and specialists without leaving home through our secure video visits. To make it even more convenient for you, there is currently no copay for video visits.

During your telehealth visit, you can meet face-to-face with your provider or specialist, discuss an individualized care plan, ask medication questions or discuss test results, access and review your medical records, make follow-up appointments and learn about the treatments for common illnesses, allergies, skin conditions and more.

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or call **877-MYMEMCARE (696-3622)**

## Human Resources/Fiscal Services

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



**Connie Cavanaugh**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### True Colors Training

The District has been working hard to provide professional development opportunities for all of its employees. On the January 27th staff development day, classified employees had the choice to participate in “True Colors” training. True Colors is a model for understanding yourself and others based on personality temperament. Identifying your personality and others with whom you work provides insights into motivation, communication styles, and other values and behaviors that help better understand oneself and those one works with. Throughout the year, District Office staff have been participating in StrengthsFinder training. This training focuses on each individual's strengths, and how recognizing one's own and co-workers strengths allows the entire organization to succeed.

## Operations

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

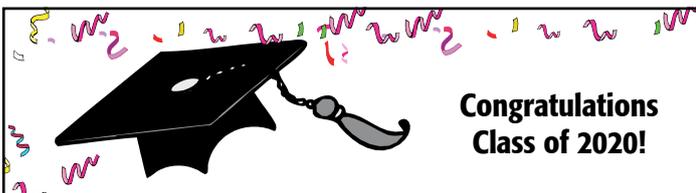


**Robert Craven**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### Safety Committee

Over the last few months, the District implemented a variety of new safety measures. This past fall, the Raptor Visitor Management system was deployed at all sites; this system checks all site visitors against federal criminal databases. At the beginning of the school year emergency backpacks and buckets were issued to all teachers. These kits contain first aid and food supplies that can be utilized in the event of an emergency situation. In February, representatives from all SVUSD schools attended a training for the Stop-the-Bleed kits; designed to stop traumatic hemorrhaging, these kits were distributed to every school earlier this year.

In order to best inform parents about School Site Safety, the Safety Committee will be hosting a Parent and Community Safety Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at El Toro High School in the Innovation Center from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Representatives from the District and OC Sheriff's Department will present about District safety procedures and resources available to families. Additional information will be shared by sites.



## Educational Services

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



**Liza Zielasko**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### Local Control Accountability Plan

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures that support positive student outcomes while also addressing state and local priorities. This Plan is reviewed & updated annually using input from stakeholders including parents, students, certificated, as well as classified staff. The LCAP provides an opportunity for SVUSD to share our story of how, what, and why programs and services are selected to meet our students' needs. The new 2020-2023 LCAP template was designed by the State Board of Education to make the plan more transparent and easier to understand. The drafting of the LCAP begins once all survey data is compiled, data is examined, and input is received by a variety of stakeholder groups. The LCAP, along with the budget, is eventually approved by the Board each year in June, and then is posted on the SVUSD website.

## English Learners

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



**Dr. Rowena Mak**  
Coordinator

### DELE Diploma Ceremony

Sixty-eight Laguna Hills High School students were recognized on Tuesday, March 24, for passing the DELE exam (Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language) last May. The exam certifies the degree of competence and mastery of the Spanish language, granted by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain. As a DELE center, Saddleback Valley Unified School District is proud to support our students' preparation for a global society. The DELE's international recognition will assist them in getting jobs while it is also prestigiously regarded in business and universities worldwide. Award recipients were recognized by Mr. Bill Hinds, Principal of Laguna Hills High School and Mr. Josu Baqué Ugarteburu, Education Advisor from the Consulate of Spain. Students were acknowledged by Mr. Rich Freda, Principal at Los Alisos Intermediate; Mrs. Diana Clearwater, Principal at Ralph Gates Elementary; Dr. Rowena Mak, Coordinator of Services for English Learners Department; Mrs. Karin Fortt, District Bilingual Resource Teacher; and other district dignitaries. Two-Way Immersion teachers and students parents also attended the ceremony in the Laguna Hills High School Theatre.

## Cielo Vista *Elementary*

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



**Frances Hansell**  
*Principal*

### Coaching Supports Systems

Collaboration and cooperation are components of a successful working relationship. This exemplifies Trish Carter-Anderson! She questions underlying assumptions and models courageous questioning to get at the truth of best educational practice. Trish understands that

learning and growth are valued and she coaches teachers to become the best they can be. Here's what they say about her:

Trish gives "all in" help through conversations. I am so thankful for the mental and educational support! (Carly)

Trish has challenged me to grow as an educator while putting students' needs first! (Pauline)

Third grade team is grateful for your expertise and willingness to assist! (Stephanie)

Trish is an incredible resource. She has helped me design lessons and transform my classroom! (Julia)

I always walk away from Trish's coaching with strategies I can incorporate into my daily instruction. (Becky)

Trish supports all teachers with encouragement and celebration. She is truly transforming Cielo Vista where everything is awesome and we are building success!



**Julia Ibrahim, Carly Sullivan, Nancy Butler Wolf (author),  
Trish Carter-Anderson, Becky Prickett, Pauline Kim and Anna Tosches**

## Cordillera *Elementary*

25952 Cordillera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-3400 • svusd.org/cordillera



**Jennifer Kajdasz**  
*Principal*

### Kindness Week

Cordillera cougars know that our P.A.W.S. stand for many things, but the W represents "will be kind" and our students showed just

that during Kindness Week. The students were able to wear custom-made kindness

t-shirts, write friendly notes to one another, post ideas on how they will be kind around campus, and the week ended with a Friendship Picnic. The thoughtful notes were proudly displayed in our courtyard so others could read how they could make an impact on one another. In addition to being kind to our fellow cougars, we spread the kindness to our community by raising over \$2,475 for the American Heart

Association. The students were able to jump rope for this event, while contributing money towards a worthy cause. I am so proud of all of our acts of kindness and I know our cougars will continue to throw it around like confetti!



**Sixth graders getting into the jump of it for kindness week!**

## De Portola *Elementary*

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



**Brendon Morrow**  
Principal

### Honoring Heroes

De Portola started a new tradition recently to honor our heroes. With the help of our Student Council, our local Boy Scout Troup, and our teacher Mrs. Krieg, we celebrated our own student-led version of Military Appreciation Day. Family and friends of our students were invited to join us for a ceremony including patriotic songs,

student speeches, and introductions of our honorees. It was a beautiful morning as each of our classes joined together on the playground to pay our tributes.

We learned many of our current first responders such as police, sheriff, and fire fighters are former members of the military. Many of our students have family members who currently serve in our armed forces, and we felt so privileged to have them join us. We are planning our second such event later in the spring. We cannot wait to thank those who serve and protect us.



## Del Cerro *Elementary*

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



**Kristin Thomsen**  
Principal

### eSports

Mrs. Cavanaugh, one of Del Cerro's 6th grade teachers, has been working with her grade-level team to introduce eSports to our 6th grade students. Mrs. Cavanaugh applied for, and was awarded, one of 25 North American Esports Scholarship Federation (NASEF) Scholarship Fellowship grants. The NASEF Scholastic Fellow Program provides lesson plans, a professional

learning community, a stipend and instructional coaching for passionate educators who want to bring esports and learning into their classrooms. Mrs. Cavanaugh writes, "While volunteering in my children's classes, I knew I

wanted to devote my life to teaching. I began my college education at the age of 40, graduating with a master's degree in education. Although starting out as a lower primary teacher, I've found my niche in sixth grade for the last 10 years. As a former technology coordinator, I continue to incorporate technology into my lesson plans and classroom. As an inaugural member of the NASEF Scholastic Fellow Program, I plan to bring esports to my school to help students gain communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills they can use in their current and future lives and careers. Because cooking is a passion of mine, I also created a food science program for the sixth grade. When not traveling to ancient civilizations, I volunteer with the Pageant of the Masters' organization in Laguna Beach every summer."

## Del Lago *Elementary*

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



**Jonathan Kaplan**  
*Principal*

### Del Lago School Garden

Our third-grade teachers recruited help from parents and students and put together the plans for a school garden to be located on campus between one portable classroom and the MPR (Yeah Mrs. Steen!). We plan to raise funds through our PTA and donations. The idea is to give all of our students interactive learning experiences based in the New Generation Science Standards in growing and maintaining a living space. There are many standards the students will attack, but the Life Sciences are an area we want to give our kids hands-on learning. One third grade disciplinary core idea is Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity, and within that is Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning and Resilience. Our photo is our canyon field trip in which we gained our inspiration for a school garden. Go Dolphins!



## El Toro *High School*

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



**Terri Gusiff**  
*Principal*

### Intellectual and Emotional Support

El Toro High School aims to ensure that all students feel intellectually and emotionally supported so they can thrive. To increase mental health awareness and to provide students with mental health resources that address typical teen issues, the Wellness Wednesdays program was integrated into the work we do at ETHS to provide additional support for students.

Wellness Wednesdays include workshops for students to learn about teen-related mental health topics and/or participate in mindful meditation and yoga. On May 20, ETHS will hold a Mental Health Fair where students can learn about the various local agencies that provide mental health services within our community.

All of these programs are the inspiration and creation of ETHS Intervention Counselor, Ms. Rozie Sundstedt. Ms. Sundstedt is a school and district Bright Spot for her tireless work in helping students and staff build, maintain, and nurture positive mental health and to de-stigmatize mental illness.



## Esperanza *Special Education*

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



**Raymund Bueche**  
*Principal*

### **Student-Run Floral Delivery Service**

We have been busy creating on-campus vocational opportunities for all students. Mr. Mel Coe is spearheading the on-site recycling program, Mrs. Michelle Rodriguez a vending machine program and Mr. Eric Bunyan a bakery to name a few. One of the newest micro-business is Hope Blooms, a student-run floral delivery service started by Ms. Mary Margheim.

Officially launched on February 12th, Hope Blooms offers the students in Ms. Margheim's class an opportunity to run a small business. From deciding on the business name, making the arrangements, developing a budget and ensuring successful delivery. The students have a hand in every piece of the business. We appreciate Ms. Margheim for taking on this project to support the independence and growth of her students. In the picture, you will find Ms. Margheim and some of our community partners who give lessons on proper floral design each month.



## Foothill Ranch *Elementary*

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



**Deborah Shaver**  
*Principal*

### **Outstanding Employees**

Foothill Ranch is proud to celebrate two of our many outstanding employees. Teacher of the year, Ms. Mandy DeGroot, is an extraordinary educator who is dedicated to meeting the needs of all learners. As a 4th/5th grade combination teacher, she has a passion for collaborating with students, staff and parents to find resources and strategies that help all students succeed.

We are also very excited to have Mrs. Lynda Flynn come on board as our new office manager. Mrs. Flynn comes to us from the superintendent's office and before that Trabuco Hills High School as their office manager. She is a committed and compassionate professional who works collaboratively with our amazing office staff of Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Counter and Mrs. Walchli to meet the needs of our staff, parents and community. Welcome to FRE, Mrs. Flynn!

We are so fortunate to have both of these amazing staff members at Foothill Ranch!



## Gates *Elementary*

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



**Diane Clearwater**  
*Principal*

### **Beverly O'Brien: Teacher of the year!**

It is my true pleasure to share some information about our amazing 2019-2020 Teacher of Recognition, Beverly O'Brien. This June Mrs. O'Brien will be concluding her 40 year teaching career!

We have been fortunate to have Mrs. O'Brien in our district for the last 20 of those years. Throughout her career, Mrs. O'Brien has been deeply devoted to bilingual education. Her dedication to education has taken her down many paths. She has been a bilingual resource teacher, a curriculum coordinator, a teacher coach and program director of our award winning two-way Spanish immersion program here at Gates Elementary. Mrs. O'Brien has been a wonderful example to not only our students, but her colleagues as well. She is upbeat and positive and always has a kind word to share. While Mrs. O'Brien will be greatly missed, the mentoring she has provided newer teachers will allow her legacy to continue here at Gates.

We wish Mrs. O'Brien our heartfelt congratulations on her successful career and hope she enjoys a relaxing and restful retirement.



## Glen Yermo *Elementary*

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



**Jennifer Televik**  
*Principal*

### **Parents in Action**

This year Glen Yermo is proud to offer Parents in Action, a program that helps to facilitate parent involvement and connections with the school. In addition to providing a series of parent presentations focused on student health, nutrition, and physical activity, Parents in Action utilizes

parent volunteers to lead playground games during lunch recess. Three days per week, our parent volunteers lead up to three different games including relay races, tag games, and team challenges. Parents love that they get to be involved with their children on the playground, and the students benefit from physical activity and structured play. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate, promoting our school values of kindness and inclusivity.



**Glen Yermo is already known for its strong family community,  
and our parents are happy to have yet another way to be involved with our wonderful school!**

## La Madera *Elementary*

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



**Jennifer Gass**  
*Interim Principal*

### Building PAWSitive Behavior

At La Madera, our students earn Koala PAWS tickets from adults on campus when they demonstrate positive attitudes, always are responsible, work and play safely and show respect to others. In the past, these tickets were entered into raffle and a handful of winners would be drawn each week to recognize students. Our teachers and student council members wanted to implement a system that provided an opportunity for all of our students to be recognized for these behaviors. To do this, we created a PAWS store where students can trade their Koala PAWS tickets for prizes. Our student council created a promotional video to share the store with the rest of our student body. We are so excited for the store to open this March!



## La Paz *Intermediate*

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



**Jean Walker**  
*Principal*

### Lights, Camera, Action: Julie Collins is a Star Teacher

La Paz Intermediate students are lucky to have Julie Collins as their Video Production teacher! Under her patient guidance, 13-14 year olds gain a deep understanding of the art of filming and news broadcasting. The students use state of the art cameras, microphones, Teleprompters, and video editing software to create commercials, movie trailers, music videos, PSA's, and school-related videos. Many of these videos are included in the weekly La Paz TV news show. 8th grader Gavin Westman, comments, "My favorite parts are being behind the scenes and filming with the green screen, and using final cut pro to edit. I feel a sense of accomplishment when the show airs." Mrs. Collins loves the students' creativity and chuckles as

she remembers the Jingle Bell Rock video, the Helpful Homework Machine commercial and the Invisible Man movie trailer. This exceptionally talented teacher is creating new stars every day at La Paz.



**Students filming La Paz's TV News – Ben Perkins, AJ Soltani and their teacher Julie Collins**

## Laguna Hills *High School*

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



**Bill Hinds**  
*Principal*

### e-Sports

Laguna Hills High School's e-Sports team competes against 300+ High Schools across the Nation. This past Fall, we finished 16th in our bracket and made the playoffs for the first time in the NASEF Overwatch Tournament. We are currently ranked in the top 10 for the Spring League of Legends Tournament. Right now e-Sports are the fastest growing sport in the world, but what are e-sports?

E-sports turns video game playing into a sport. The games are like different sports types, for example, in e-sports, Call of Duty and League of Legends are equivalent to, say, football and baseball. E-sports is the broader concept, while the games are the individual types of sports.

Competitive video game playing, more commonly known as e-sports, drew 258 million unique viewers globally last year. For perspective, the National Football League said 204 million viewers tuned into the 2016 NFL regular season in the US.



## Lake Forest *Elementary*

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



**Audra Bailey**  
*Principal*

### Congratulations Peggy Aungst

Lake Forest Elementary School is so honored to announce, Peggy Aungst, our very own 4th grade teacher, has been chosen as one of Orange County's top 25 teachers of the year for 2020. Mrs. Aungst teaches her class all about having a growth mindset, and learning from their mistakes. She models collaboration in her classroom and

helps the students grow both academically and socially. Mrs. Aungst teaches her students about the power of kindness. She makes learning fun and meaningful for her students. In addition to guiding her students learning through both traditional and project-based learning, Mrs. Aungst, along with Mrs. Crail, started a robotics club on campus this year. Together, they have taught the student how to build and code robots. Mrs. Aungst is definitely getting her students ready for all the world has to offer them.



## La Tierra *Early Childhood Center*

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



**Marion Springett**  
District  
Coordinator

### **“Providing Wonder and Curiosity!”**

This school year, the La Tierra Early Childhood Center (La Tierra ECC) proudly opened a new “STEAM Lab” that provides engaging, innovative, hands-on learning experiences for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math! Through a variety of preplanned activities each month, students are provided with meaningful, engaging experiences that promote curiosity while connecting their learning to real world experiences. Young children are naturally inclined to explore, build, and learn to problem solve. When provided with materials and manipulatives that allow for them to build, create, and experience “cause and effect”, the result is excitement, happiness, and pride! It’s a wonderful experience for educators to see deeper learning occur as their students engage in



fun, creative activities that also integrate the California Preschool Learning Foundations. The La Tierra ECC STEAM Lab experiences have shown tremendous, positive effects on our students!

## Linda Vista *Magnet Elementary*

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



**Suzy McMasters**  
Principal

### **Meet Mrs. Cerioni**

Linda Vista Magnet Elementary School celebrates teacher of the year, Mrs. Jina Cerioni. Mrs. Cerioni has been an integral member of the Linda Vista Magnet family for seven years. She is an extraordinary teacher, chosen as the teacher of the year by her peers and she is celebrated by her scholars and parents. Mrs. Cerioni guides her students in becoming globally minded citizens with rich, innovative and engaging units of inquiry through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. Each week, through a generous scholarship, Mrs. Cerioni leads her scholars in yoga to promote healthy minds and bodies. We celebrate our Linda Vista Magnet Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Jina Cerioni!



## Lomarena *Elementary*

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



**Mona Montgomery**  
*Principal*

### Amazing kids and Teachers

Our Lomarena Pride is very proud of our teacher of the year, Mrs. Deanice Trytten. She continually searches for ways she can present instruction in her classroom in a better way. She gives her students choices and differentiates based on the needs of her students. She believes that all children can learn, but have

different needs with respect to instruction and time. Mrs. Trytten has created self-paced lessons in her math class. She has flipped the learning in her classroom and students love it.

The production of Aladdin Jr. was simply incredible this year. Over 130 students participated in this incredible PTA sponsored production. Not only do the children sing, dance, and act, they also learn life skills and create solid relationships. We are very grateful to all of our amazing volunteers, our supportive parents, and dedicated staff that make this production possible.



## Los Alisos *Intermediate*

25171 Moor Ave., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-9700 • svusd.org/losalisos



**Rich Freda**  
*Principal*

### AVID Pawsitivities

Diana Ashcraft is our amazing AVID Coordinator and teacher. She regularly plans college visits for our AVID students. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual

Determination and is a class designed to help our students navigate the pathway to college. Many students are in honors classes and are showing great improvement with the help of AVID. This year we began our Lobotivities program which allows any student to participate in one of our college visits if they complete Lobotivities. Students can choose from 20 activities in the areas of college exploration, career exploration and college/career skills. Two examples of Lobotivities are You Can Go! which requires students to visit a website to learn more



about preparing for college and career, and Virtual Tour Admissions where they can take a virtual college tour and respond to questions. Students pictured visited California State University San Marcos. Up next, University of California, Irvine.

## Melinda Heights *Elementary*

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



**Kathryn Martin**  
*Principal*

### Just Read Kids

The Fifth Grade Smarties at Melinda Heights came across this James Patterson quote last fall: “There is no such thing as kids who hate reading. There are kids who love reading and kids who are reading the wrong books.” This quote inspired The Smarties to create their podcast: “Just Read Kids.” Who better to make book recommendations for kids, than kids? Just Read Kids is a podcase intended to get great recommendations out to other children so that they are able to find their “right books.” For the last few months, students have been designing graphics, composing music, writing intros, editing sound bytes, collaborating, interviewing kids and publishing their podcasts. Sometimes, what begins as an informal class discussion turns into



something really amazing. You can access Just Read Kids on your Podcast app by searching the title. Check it out!

## Mission Viejo *High School*

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



**Tricia Osborne**  
*Principal*

### Choral Music Program

We are excited to highlight Mission Viejo High School’s exceptional Choral Music Program.

Under the direction and expertise of Mrs. Sarah Norris, the program has established itself as one of the premier choral music programs in Orange County! Our amazing students have competed

throughout the nation, receiving Unanimous Superior awards at the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) State Choral Festival the past two years, and took 1st Place in the Midwestern WorldStrides Heritage Choral Competition in Chicago in 2018. In 2016, the program received the distinguished national recognition of a Grammy Distinguished School Semi-Finalist. The MVHS Choir recently performed in Carnegie Hall, where students worked with Directors from Temple University

and the University of Michigan. Next month, MVHS Choral Program will travel to Washington to compete in the Pacific Northwest WorldStrides Heritage Choral Competition. We have no doubt our program will stand out as one of the best! Go Diablos!



## Montevideo *Elementary*

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



**Lisa Graham**  
*Principal*

### Called to Teach

Montevideo Elementary School is proud to recognize K-1 Academy teacher, Kristine Mata, as our 2020 Teacher of the Year! Kristine is a highly skilled and artful teacher who is constantly evolving her craft as an educator. She

builds strong relationships, and is relentless in her goal to meet the needs of every student in her classroom. When asked about her favorite part of teaching, she declares, "The kids! It is very important to me that my students enjoy being at school and look forward to returning each day to learn more. To see and be a part of the growth of each student is what I celebrate in my work."

As any teacher knows, teaching is more than just a job. It is a calling... and Ms. Mata excels in her calling. She is truly a gem, and we are so blessed to have her represent Montevideo School. Congratulations, Kristine!



## Olivewood *Elementary*

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



**Alex Perez**  
*Principal*

### Principal for A Day

On February 6th Olivewood Elementary welcomed Patrick Horn as Principal for a Day. Mr. Horn is the Director of an interactive entertainment company. He works to define and develop the game streaming product plans.

He develops and articulates the strategy for game streaming and then works with engineering teams across the globe to build and implement the game streaming technology and experiences. The students at Olivewood were eager to learn about Mr. Horne's experiences, and pathway. Not only did Mr. Horne discuss gaming and technology, but he also discussed the importance of learning, collaboration, and dedication. Olivewood looks forward to building a relationship with Mr. Horne and his company.



## Portola Hills *Elementary*

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



**Ed MacNevin**  
*Principal*

### Every Child Participates

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to our fantastic school! At PHE, everyone matters! From our Principal for the Day program to our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program, we take pride in being

a school that focuses on all of our students. With the support of our community, local partnerships, and various student and family programs, we are able to provide quality services to meet your child's physical, mental, emotional, and academic needs. Our scholars are given many opportunities to discuss and dialogue with their peers around various projects and academic tasks. You will also notice that every student

can participate in group discussions in each classroom, and offer their own ideas and suggestions. Every child participates! Our teachers actively incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) to help guide student inquiry and understanding.



**SVUSD Principal For The Day Program**

## Rancho Canada *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Larry Hausner**  
*Principal*

### Dedicated Employees

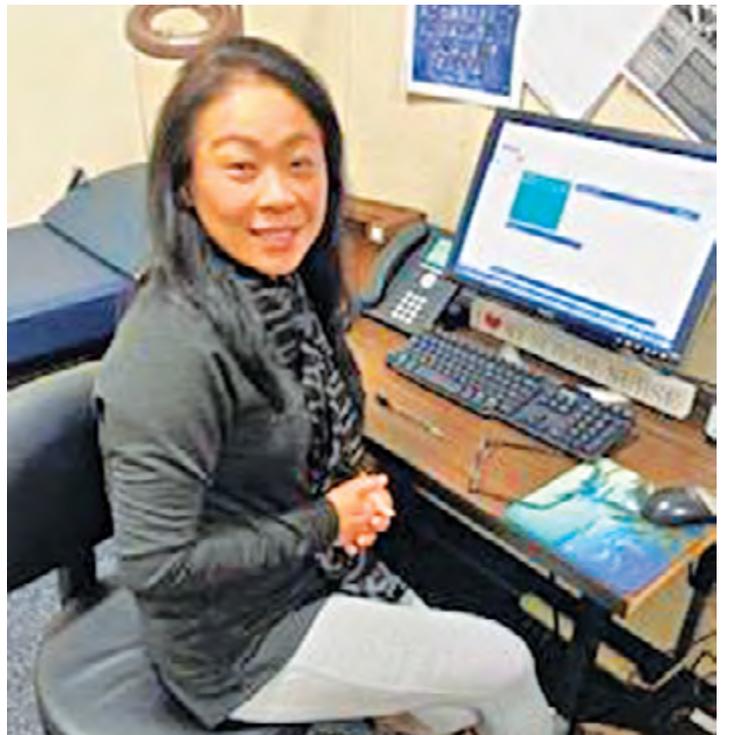
This month we are shining the spotlight on one of Rancho Canada Elementary School's most dedicated employees-Mrs. Michelle Ong, Health Office Aid. Mrs. Ong has worked at Rancho for six years and thoroughly loves her job. She stated, the most rewarding aspect of her job is, "The ability to help students when they are not feeling well or hurt. They often need

emotional support and I enjoy making them feel better."

In addition, Mrs. Ong enjoys working in the school's front office which she describes as a positive environment. "Rancho is a special place because the staff works so well together. The students are enjoyable and it's a great school."

She is also the proud parent of two sons who have attended SVUSD Schools.

In her free time, Mrs. Ong enjoys participating in triathlons. In fact, she has competed in three full Iron Man's and eight half-triathlons.



## Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

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



**James Newton**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating a Bright Spot

RSM Intermediate values taking the time to acknowledge our Bright Spots, the efforts and actions of our staff that are worthy of celebration. For the past twenty years, few have shined brighter than our teacher, Mrs. Laurie Ammirato.

Mrs. Ammirato is a teacher-leader that intentionally designs opportunities to positively impact student learning and experience. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and her work-ethic is unparalleled. She is an advocate for all, leading with kindness and empathy, and she approaches every opportunity with an open mind and desire to work collaboratively.

During her tenure, she has served as a special education, college preparatory, and honors teacher, Advisor to Peer Assistance Leadership, Model United Nations, and Associated Student Body, and site representative for the Saddleback Valley Educators Association.

It is a privilege to acknowledge our Bright Spot, Mrs. Laurie Ammirato, an exemplary mentor and colleague to generations of Roadrunner students and staff.



## Robinson *Elementary*

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



**Megan Hannen**  
*Principal*

### 9th Annual Chalkfest

We are very proud to celebrate our 9th Annual Chalkfest this year, a collaborative event that harnesses the creativity of all students, grade K-6. The day begins with a professional chalk artist sketching on the blacktop and sharing with the students

their techniques for working with chalk. The students take that inspiration and work as a class to color, draw and shade in a completed work of art. To think our 6th graders have been creating beautiful and challenging chalk drawings for the last seven years is pretty phenomenal. You can see the progression of skill advance in the students as the years progress. The image that each class chooses becomes more complex as the students become more confident in their ability to create using chalk. We thank the PTA for their commitment to the Arts at Robinson and we look forward to celebrating year 10 together!



## San Joaquin *Elementary*

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



**David Shun**  
*Principal*

### **A Catalyst for Excellence**

Est-ce que vous parlez français? Mrs. Karla Turner's students do, they speak French! Mrs. Turner, who is fluent in French, Spanish, and Italian enjoys sharing her love of language with her students. She masterfully weaves in foreign language learning opportunities throughout her day allowing her students to experience additional layers of educational engagement.

Mrs. Turner also shares her love of STEAM with her students and has guided her students through Sphero robotics lessons, logical problem solving, and hosted a "Build Your Own Paper Circuit Lightsaber" activity during our San Joaquin STEAM Expo Night.

Mrs. Turner also shares her passion and commitment to excellence with her colleagues. She is always ready and available to collaborate and share her ideas. She also enjoys presenting a variety of strategies and programs with our staff. Mrs. Turner is definitely a positive catalyst who enriches our campus, from students to colleagues, with the enjoyment of learning.



## Santiago *STEAM Magnet*

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



**Howard Johnston**  
*Principal*

### **Kindness is Queen!**

In February, Santiago STEAM Magnet launched "The Great Kindness Challenge." This was a month long endeavor to challenge students to participate in acts of kindness. From simple things like smiling at passersby, to learning how to say, "Hello" in a new language, to holding the door open for someone, students shined.

Students also built upon Santiago's Kindness Challenge by taking on raising funds for students with special hearts. Santiago students raised over \$5,000.00!!

Everything culminated with a visit from their local medieval theatre's Royal Queen to Knight Kids for Kindness and a "Heart Challenge" of jumping rope by the whole school to improve physical fitness and to build a strong heart!

While February focused on kindness, their second Ignite Night was a success. Students presented their current Project Based Learning deliverables to parents and community members in Royal Fashion! The STEAM is filling the sky above Santiago!



# Serrano *Intermediate*

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



**David Young**  
*Principal*

## Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Stucky, 8th grade science teacher, seeks to excite and engage her students by focusing on exploration and application for the real world. “I have always loved to DO science, so sharing those exciting moments with students is so much fun and watching their curiosity and excitement to explore the world around them is amazing.” She enjoys seeing students find answers—rather than

being told answers.

Mrs. Stucky also serves as ASB advisor. She teaches our leadership class and organizes school-wide activities and events. Her dedication, determination and leadership are inspiring. She guides our leaders to work hard, create change on campus and plan events which brightens our students’ days. ASB, through her leadership, is making a difference in students’ experiences at Serrano.

Her students know her care, concern and advocacy for them. Mrs. Stucky, Serrano’s Teacher of the Year, you make a difference, and we’re proud of you!



## Silverado *High School*

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



**David Gordon**  
*Principal*

## A Model Continuation High School

Silverado High School students are powering toward graduation. With nine students already graduated,

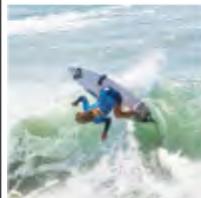
eighteen more will join them at the end of second trimester. Twenty-seven graduates before Mid-March is a great start and we expect many more to join them in June. I am so proud to announce that Silverado received official recognition as A Model Continuation High School. This is a six-year recognition and one which SHS has earned. SHS will be recommended to the state for recognition for our PBIS program. Our staff and students have embraced PBIS as a part of our culture and the growth is visible! Not only are Silverado students graduating, but they are contributing to our community. SHS students raised over \$2,000 for the Leukemia Society. Keep SOARing Eagles!



## GERALD PHOTOGRAPHY VILLALUZ & DESIGN



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657.201.9775



**Glenn Giokaris**  
*Principal*

### Living with Intention

Living with intention is one of the most important lessons we can learn. Being intentional aligns our actions with our values and provides a compass to move in the direction we want to head. To teach the power of living intentionally, Mrs. Nellis has helped her K-6 students find and focus on what they want to accomplish and what inspires them. After watching inspirational videos about living deliberately and brainstorming different ideas, students each choose just the right word to remind them to live deliberately in the direction of their value. Each student created a slideshow to define, share and explain their word choice to their classmates. As a personal reminder, students also created bracelets and painted a rock with their word on it. Students are now conducting a research project on a hero of their choice who demonstrates the importance of living with intention.



### Trabuco *Elementary*

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



**Lisa Paisley**  
*Principal*

### Maximizing Outdoor Spaces

Pictured here are our Kindergarten and First Grade class enjoying the beautiful outdoors in Trabuco Canyon. While we have over a 1:1 ratio of technological devices and teachers who utilize the most engaging high tech strategies to promote student collaboration and agency, being outdoors is always our priority. The combination of farmland, county park land, and stunning

view of trees and mountains from our campus, allow for students to read, write, and complete STEM activities outside in nature. On the day depicted here, our students are reading with reading partners to practice reading with fluency and prosody. In the background, you can see the buses that bring students from other school sites to take advantage of these same resources by attending our Trabuco Field Study Field Trips. If you would like to experience our atmosphere, join us for our Annual Hoe Down on May 21st from 5-7 PM. Go Coyotes!



## Trabuco Hills *High School*

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



**Craig Collins**  
*Principal*

### **Dr. Seuss Day**

On Friday, February 28, Trabuco Hills held our fifth annual Dr. Seuss Day! It was a huge success! Amanda Bentley brought the concept to us and about 150 Melinda Heights students took part.

They loved working with high school

students. We appreciate the teachers that opened their classrooms and created fun activities for the students in Computer Graphics, Art, English, Math, Choir, Drama and Robotics. The 2ND graders enjoyed playing Dr. Seuss games in the gym and laughed at the Dr. Seuss Skit in the theater. The Docent, PAL, Rho Kappa and other student volunteers made gift bags or made sure all

the students were accounted for and had fun! A huge thank you to the one and only, CAT IN THE HAT our very own Mr. Moothart!! As it is every year, it was a great event and a wonderful opportunity for our students to give back the community.



## Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

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



**Caryn McGrew**  
*Principal*

### **Mrs. Elo is a Top Dog**

Congratulations to Heather Elo, 3rd Grade GATE Teacher, for receiving an Ovation Award for being an Outstanding Elementary School Teacher in SVUSD. Mrs. Elo is an amazing educator who provides a rigorous and engaging instructional program for students everyday! She is a passionate and dedicated GATE Certified Teacher, who differentiates instruction utilizing GATE

strategies of depth, complexity, acceleration, and novelty to extend her students' learning experiences. She believes in strength-based education and student agency, focusing on learning activities that are meaningful, relevant, and of high-interest to her students. Mrs. Elo gives students a voice and choice in how they learn. Students love the active and engaging learning experiences that she provides through her animated personality. She sets high expectations for her students and maintains positive student-teacher relationships. We are so proud of Mrs. Elo and the high-quality education that she provides our students!



# Valencia *Elementary*

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



**Wendie Hauschild**  
*Principal*

## Everyone is Important

This is what the heart of Valencia looks like! Mr. Frankie Ramos is the adored Plant Manager at Valencia Elementary. His dedication and love for our school is evident in everything he does. He arrives at school early every day, checking the grounds and classrooms to make sure everything is clean, neat, safe, and ready for our students and teachers to start a day of learning. Mr.

Frankie whistles while he works, and spreads his joyous smile to us all. He knows every nook and cranny of our school. A model for our students, he is a problem-solver, an expert in fixing just about anything, someone who perseveres, and an exemplar of kindness. There is not one team member more important than the other at Valencia, yet we don't know what we would do without our Mr. Frankie.



**The heart of Valencia.**

## Day at the Beach –Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put SV in the subject line.

Entries must be received by May 15, 2020

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 give card compliments of Barkate Orthodontics  
[www.BarkateSmiles.com](http://www.BarkateSmiles.com)

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| SUN BLOCK  | SURF BOARD    |
| TOWELS     | FLOAT         |
| SWIM SUIT  | SHIRT         |
| SUNGLASSES | SANDWICHES    |
| UMBRELLA   | SHORTS        |
| HAT        | CHAP STICK    |
| FLIP FLOPS | FIRST AID KIT |
| PAIL       | COOLER        |
| SHOVEL     | DRINKS        |
| BLANKET    | SNACKS        |
| BOOK       |               |

**Congratulations to Hudson Donnelly**  
Winner of our February Word Search Contest!



## B is for Book



Bailey

### A Legendary Read

*Legend* by Marie Lu is a dystopia that includes lots of action and unlikely romances.

June is what is considered a “prodigy.” She is smart, agile, and ready for anything. Her country’s

response to this is money, luxury, and a high class life. Living secretly in the slums of the same country is Day. Day is a criminal who has yet to be caught by the Republic. Like June, he’s incredibly agile and intelligent. When Day kills June’s brother, June vows to get revenge. She indeed finds him, but her intuitive gut nags her. Suddenly, secrets come to the light and June must ask herself, what is the right decision? Who should she fight for? Is Day really who she thought he was?

This book is crafted well in every way. Lu uses a variety of language that creates vivid images. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she’s not dancing or with her friends.



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## Sean’s Book Review



Sean

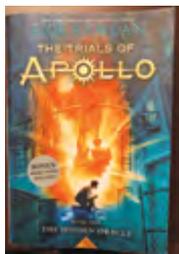
### Banned from Olympus

*The Hidden Oracle Book 1 of Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan

Some of you guys may enjoy Greek mythology, and if you do, this is the book for you. Apollo, the god of poetry, music, and the sun, was banned from Mount

Olympus (the home of the Greek gods) and is now a wimpy, mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos. He starts his quest to show his father, Zeus, that he belongs in Mount Olympus. Apollo runs into many new and ancient encounters, such as Roman emperors and peach spirits. He works with a daughter of Demeter, Meg, who is his new master and helps him along the way his treacherous journey. I think that everyone who reads this book will enjoy the twists, jokes, and adventures that Apollo experiences. Overall, I loved reading this book and I enjoyed the way Rick writes because you can understand and imagine everything that’s happening. I give this book a 10 out of 10.

Sean Cheng is a 5th grader who enjoys cubing (Rubik’s Cubes), watching Rubik’s Cube videos, and playing basketball. His favorite subjects at school are math and P.E. He loves his 3 guinea pigs and looks forward to summer vacations.



## Manhar’s Book Review



Manhar M.

### Half Man Half Dog

*Dog Man Unleashed* is a great book. It is very humorous. The best thing about *Dog Man* is that it is very entertaining. Once you read it for a while you get addicted to it. My favorite characters are Petey and Dog Man. I like them because they are very smart and witty.

It is a great choice for someone who does not like to read. My favorite pages are the “flip-o-rama” pages that show animation. I also like how Dog Man fights against injustice.



Manhar M. is in first grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

## Yoona’s Review

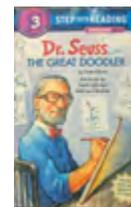


Yoona C.

### Dr. Seuss’ Life

Title: *Dr. Seuss The Great Doodler*  
Author: Kate Klimo

Have you read any Dr. Seuss books? Dr. Seuss was actually called Ted. His mother read to him a lot when he was young. Ted also liked to doodle. He doodled pictures of animals.



After college, he worked on a humor magazine. He signed his drawings with just his middle name: Seuss. He wrote his first book titled *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street!* When Ted was having trouble with a story, he wore wacky hats to think better. Ted wanted to write a book using 225 simple words. Do you know what this book is? It is the *Cat in the Hat!* I like this book because I can find many facts about Dr. Seuss and learn about how his books were created. This book also includes rarely seen artwork by Dr. Seuss. I recommend this book to kids who are interested in Dr. Seuss and his books.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to create stories as well.



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## Tyson's Book Review



**Tyson**

### Never Give Up

*Touchdown Kid* by Tim Green

Cory is an awesome football player from the Westside. He is 11 years old and is just moving into middle school, along with his friend, Liam. A

well-known coach from HBS, an elite junior high school, is giving a scholarship to a player he thinks is good enough to play football there. If Cory gets it, he will get to live in a nice neighborhood with a host family in a cozy home, and play football, his passion. His best friend's brother isn't the nicest guy and pulls him into trouble. If he is late, he won't play. What will he do? This is his dream. Find out more about this crazy adventure and read *Touchdown Kid*. This book is great and pulls me in. I can relate a lot to this book and if you're an athlete, you'll love it. I'm not much of a bookworm and I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!



Tyson is an athletic 6th grader who loves basketball, soccer, and volleyball. His favorite subjects are P.E. and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of his 3 guinea pigs with his brother. He looks forward to going to Lakers games with his dad.

## Appliances—Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put SBV in the subject line.

Entries must be received by **May 15, 2020**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 give card compliments of

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| HEATER     | COMPUTER  |
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