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School News

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Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District



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SVUSD Administrators Excited for 2018 – 2019 School Year!



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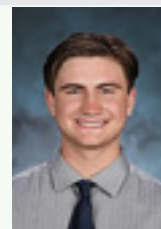
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**Dr. Crystal
Turner**

Welcome Back

As we settle into the groove of the new school year and the dust of back to school happenings settles, I wanted to take an opportunity to personally welcome you back to the 2018-2019 school year!

Reflecting on the first full year as the proud Superintendent of Saddleback Valley Unified School District, 2017-2018 was a year full of bright spots and innovation

throughout the district, with many final statistics coming in over the summer. Some of these include:

- 7 National Merit Scholars
- 87 Full International Baccalaureate Diplomas
- 44 Two Way Immersion Graduates
- Opening the SVUSD Virtual Academy, TK-6
- First Unified Sports Champion District in Orange County
- Platinum, & Gold PBIS Implementation Award Recognition (Los Alisos & Serrano Intermediate)
- Performing Arts Excellence with many award winners in performance & instrumental music
- 2 State, 7 CIF, and 13 League Titles
- 2 SVUSD Teachers named to the Top 10 & Top 25 Teachers by OC Parenting Magazine
- Supportive PTAs with 314,118 documented volunteer hours

These are just a few of the many great things happening throughout our district, and examples of what we can achieve when students, families, and educators work together with the common goal of supporting and providing a superior education for all students, and implementing SV Innovates. As you may recall, SV Innovates was the result of the many conversations I had with over 300 stakeholders when I first came back to SVUSD, and focuses on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and developing innovative practices that create successful students, both while they are with us in SVUSD and when they leave our campuses and pursue career goals.

Looking forward to 2018-2019, we continue our work implementing SV Innovates, and have spent the summer planning and creating opportunities for our students. We are proud to announce the openings of two new magnet schools for 2018-2019: Santiago STEAM Magnet

Elementary School in Lake Forest and Linda Vista International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Candidate Magnet School in Mission Viejo. Both schools had festive grand reopenings over the summer where families were able to tour the newly renovated schools, inclusive of innovation labs, flexible learning spaces, and technology upgrades.

The success of the K-6 SVUSD Virtual Academy (SVA) last year led to its expansion to grades 9-12 for the 2018-2019 school year. SVA blends online learning with face to face learning experiences to offer students in grades kindergarten through high school, a flexible and personalized online learning experience. While attending SVA, high school students have additional opportunities to participate in sports at their residence high schools. SVA, along with our two new magnet schools, complement our fabulous neighborhood schools and provide additional options and opportunities for our students and families.

It is also exciting to share that SVUSD students continue to outperform both the county and state in high school graduation rates and University of California/ California State University “a-g” course requirement completion. SVUSD continues to increase the amount of students taking Advanced Placement courses, the number of Advanced Placement exams taken, and the overall Advanced Placement exam pass rate. Again, SVUSD is committed to student success now and in the future.

In order to ensure our teachers and staff have the necessary tools to continue offering amazing learning opportunities for all students, in 2018-2019 SVUSD is:

- Adding 3,219 Chromebooks for our students’ use.
- Converting 102 teacher classrooms into innovative learning spaces with flexible seating and upgraded technology through an application process.
- Replacing 1,000 staff computers, and will continue to do so over the next few years, making all staff computers 4 years old or less throughout the district.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District is full of innovation and I will close by sharing that SVUSD is indeed a special place that continuously strives to meet the needs of all our students. We have many bright spots throughout the district, but continue to push the boundaries of what is possible. Thank you for entrusting your children’s education with SVUSD, and may 2018-2019 be a year of learning, growth, and innovation!





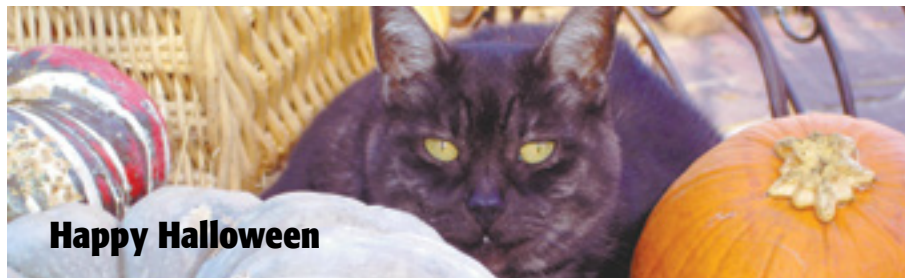
Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. By now students are settled into their routines and focused on academics. This issue begins with Superintendent Dr. Turner highlighting the past year's accomplishments and the focus this year. It truly is an exciting time to be a student.

Thank you for your positive comments when you email your contest entries. You've let me know how much you enjoy the student book reviews and many are included in this issue. It is wonderful to know SVUSD students are avid readers!

Our next issue is February 13, 2019.



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Human Resources

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Dr. Terry Stanfill
Assistant
Superintendent

The Best and the Brightest

Saddleback Valley Unified School District's Human Resources Department has been working hard all summer with our hiring practices to find the best qualified applicants who support the district's mission and goals. With the opening of two new elementary magnet schools, Santiago STEAM magnet, and Linda Vista International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, we searched for innovative staff

members within the district, and outside. In addition, we have added new counselors to our stellar mental health staff to help address the social and emotional needs of our students. Throughout the district we have hired the best and brightest teachers, counselors, psychologists, administrators, and program specialists. In addition, we have hired exceptional support staff at our sites, specialized departments and district office to uphold the innovative happenings in our classrooms and district. All of our hires bring a vast array of experiences in their field and are a great fit for our school district. We are very proud of our new hires for the 2018-19 school year and look forward to seeing them lead our students toward further academic success!

Services for English Learners

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



Dr. Rowena Mak
Coordinator

A Summer Enrichment Program

Each year, the ELD Summer Enrichment Program brings new and exciting ways for students to not only avoid the summer slide, but also to discover their artistic side. Coordinated by the Services for English Learners Department (SEL), incoming 1st-8th grade English learners (EL) from all over the district are invited to participate in a 4-week program that combines performing arts with lessons that aim to develop their literacy skills. Each class spends the first part of their day with either an SVUSD teacher or an instructor from the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, then alternates to their counterpart instructor for the second part of the day.

From learning about living and non-living organisms in the forest, exploring the Fibonacci sequence, creating Polynesian art, designing their own zoo, researching solutions to oil spills, or playing *Hamilton* music, students are immersed in an array of learning tasks that allow them to develop their English language, while the performing arts side allow them to develop their speaking and listening skills.

All of these domains are important for ELs, whose language proficiency hinges on the simultaneous development of interpretive (reading, viewing, listening), productive (speaking and writing) and collaborative (listening and speaking) skills.

Educational Services

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



Laura Ott
*Assistant
Superintendent*

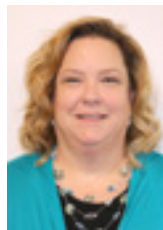
Professional Development

The Educational Services Division, which encompasses Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Technology, Services for English Learners, Special Education and Student Services, welcomes you to the 2018-19 school year. Our priority area this year includes advancing our work on a Multi-Tiered System of Supports that focuses on intentional lesson design and advancing innovation in teaching and student learning. To do this, we believe that effective teacher professional development that promotes responsive and equitable learning environments for all students is essential. As educators, it is our mission to ensure that every student has the opportunity and access to achieve academically, socially and emotionally, as well as be prepared for college and career beyond graduation. SVUSD is the place where it all happens! We are committed to all students receiving the best education possible.

Here is to a great school year!

Business Services

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



Connie Cavanaugh
*Assistant
Superintendent*

Nutritious Lunches

The Saddleback Valley Unified School District provided nutritious lunches daily, over a six-week period during summer break for children within our district, thanks to funding provided by USDA's Summer Food Service Program. This program helped alleviate food insecurity for the children in our community when meals at their school sites were not available. SVUSD Food Services provided these meals at El Toro Library and Laguna Hills High School. On average, approximately 200 children were fed each day, with more than 6,000 total meals provided throughout the six-week period!



Cielo Vista *Elementary*

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



Frances Hansell
Principal

Innovative Practices in Team Building

It is my great pleasure to start the 2018-2019 school year as Principal in Saddleback Valley Unified School District. Supporting the district's vision of engaging strategies is alive and well at Cielo Vista as evidenced by Ms. George's

sixth grade class during the first week of school. Evan and Mariana were leading the way with an innovative practice of team building in collaborative groups as they gave digital



presentations to their classmates about their favorite subjects, activities, and things of interest. I was impressed at how well the students took a risk in front of their peers and shared their unique strengths. From TK-6th grade,

Cielo Vista's high-flying hawks are off to a great start upholding the mission that all students will become: respectful and responsible citizens, effective

communicators, collaborative workers, and independent learners. It's going to be a great year at Cielo Vista! Go Hawks!

Cordillera *Elementary*

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



Deborah Shaver
Principal

Enriching Learning Environment

Cordillera's students, teachers, staff and parents excitedly welcomed in the 2018-19 school year at PAWSitively the best school around! Our cougars are off to a great start as we have been learning what it means to be a Cordillera cougar who is Positively respectful, Always responsible, Kind and Safe. Students attended a first day PAWS assembly and playground rotations where they learned problem solving strategies such as, "Vote, Do Over, Walk Away" and "Stop, Walk and Talk."

Our dedicated staff is committed to providing each student with a safe and enriching learning environment through a challenging and developmentally appropriate curriculum with a focus on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and developing innovative practices that create successful students.

Check out our Instagram page ([cordillerapride](https://www.instagram.com/cordillerapride)) and Twitter ([@cordillerapride](https://twitter.com/cordillerapride)) for more exciting beginning of the year activities, as well as more adventures in the year to come!

Go Cougars!



St. Council officers helped remind students about PAWS at our first day assembly.

De Portola *Elementary*

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



Off to an Amazing Start

De Portola's Patriots are off to an amazing start this year! New principal, Mr. Morrow, reports experiencing

multiple interactions with great citizens, a kind community, and a dedicated staff. He is pleased to have observed high level discussions throughout classrooms, including inspiring statements from both students and teachers, such as "It's not about the first try, it's about the re-try to overcome the challenge before



you" and "Answers are not the math, the process is the math." The work of our teachers to nurture math mindsets is paying off with our students. This was noteworthy when third grade students were recently observed as being so excited about their new strategies, they chose to forego their normal recess activity to practice new math games.

A focal point for the year will be KINDNESS. Students have been fantastic and we will continue modeling this quality, along with recognizing it. Thank you to our community for joining us and setting such a great example!

Del Cerro *Elementary*

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



Successful Start

Del Cerro staff, students, and parents have enjoyed a successful start to the new school year! Teachers and staff welcomed back our students and their families for another amazing year of learning and friendship.

Our very supportive PTA has already been busy planning fun family and school events for our community and collaborating with our staff on supporting our school and our district vision of SV Innovates. We are in the planning stages of creating both an Innovation Lab (iLab) and a MakerSpace for our students. Our vision for the new iLab is to provide a space for students to explore and learn using technology. A green screen studio for video creation will be available for classes to use as well.

Our MakerSpace will be a separate room for our students to visit. The vision for this space is to have the room stocked with art supplies and items for engineering design challenges. Teachers and students will have resources readily available for them to create, build, and experiment.

Our PTA sponsored Green Team will be expanding this year to include a compost bin and another planting bed.

Last, all of our school community is eager to begin our training in Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). We look forward to bringing new ideas and activities to Del Cerro to engage, motivate, and support all our students — every day!

Del Lago *Elementary*

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



Welcome Back Dolphins!

The school year is off to a great start at Del Lago, and we are excited about the year ahead. As always, we look forward to working with families to provide a welcoming and challenging environment to support student success and well-being.

During the first few weeks of school, our students have been busy engaging in group projects, STEM challenges, and other collaborative activities. Teachers and staff have been helping students to develop a growth mindset, believing in the power of positive thinking and effort to achieve success. This attitude helps our students to reflect on the strategies that support their learning and persevere with new challenges. Having a growth mindset also encourages our students to take risks, emphasizing the ways that mistakes help us develop as learners.

Thanks to our community of students, parents, and staff for making Del Lago such an amazing school!



El Toro High School

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



Terri Gusiff
Principal

A Culture of Connections

El Toro High School has a rich tradition of high quality instruction, outstanding extra-curricular programs, and phenomenal school spirit. It is our goal to provide all students with an innovative, highly engaging, positive, and safe learning environment, enabling

students to reach their highest potential in school and in the future.

While it is important to prepare our students for college and career success, we also believe that it is fundamental to build positive relationships and connections with



our students. This year, during tutorial passing period, while music is playing, our teachers, administrators, and support staff greet students at the door and personally welcome them into classrooms and buildings. This practice provides us with the opportunity to ensure that every student in our school feels welcomed and valued. In one week, students have already expressed that this greeting makes them happy and they feel this is the best part of their day! We are excited to create this new Charger tradition while fostering stronger staff and student connections.

Esperanza Special Education

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



Shelly Stewart
Special Ed School Site Specialist

Welcome Back

Welcome Back Esperanza Eagles and happy 2018-2019 school year! I am so excited to begin my second year as the principal of this incredible school. We are focused on intentional lesson design, student engagement and innovative practices. There are so many examples of these on our campus every day! A great example of innovation came from one of our parents when realized there was way to preserve our Pancake

Breakfast sidewalk chalk drawings. He had students use a large stand-up canvas for the chalk art which he covered in plexi-glass, preserving it for all to see. These beautiful pieces are now hanging in our quad instead of being washed away by Spring rains. How innovative!

This year brings many exciting changes. We welcome new staff members on our teaching staff and to our

instructional assistant team. Our teachers worked hard over the summer to learn our new vocational curriculum, Project Discovery. We can't wait to share all that our students will learn from this #jobreadylifeready curriculum!

Over the summer we poured a new pathway in the garden and installed a new drip system. The next phase of the renovation for the Outdoor Learning Space will be to plant as well as complete the outdoor instruments. We are grateful for the support our PTA has provided in outfitting this space.

Our teachers have lots of educational and engaging CBIs planned this coming year. One of our Adult Transition classes is writing a play that they will put on for one of our high school classes. Talk about engaging! Another class goes off campus several times a week to work at the Elks Lodge. Some of our high school students will be participating in Unified Sports this year. With so many fun activities our students will surely be excited to show up to school each day.

Let's make this the best year yet, Eagles!

Foothill Ranch Elementary

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



Ed MacNevin
Principal

Positive Changes

Mr. MacNevin is proud to continue for the 10th year as principal at Foothill Ranch Elementary. Mr. MacNevin has been an educator for 23 years. He also served in SVUSD as the K-12 Ed. Tech Coordinator and as the assistant principal at Foothill Ranch Elementary for three years. Prior to joining SVUSD, Mr. MacNevin was an elementary classroom teacher and a technology lead teacher in the Capistrano Unified School District.

Mr. MacNevin resides in Lake Forest with his wife and two children. Mr. MacNevin enjoys surfing, playing guitar, and spending time with his family and friends. He is proud to be part of the SVUSD family and he excited to continue the progress occurring at Foothill Ranch Elementary School. He looks forward to working with the community, students, and staff of Foothill Ranch in their pursuit of 21st Century teaching and learning through a strong foundation of core academics integrated with an expanding STEAM initiative. Positive changes are happening at Foothill Ranch; you cannot help but catch the enthusiasm for learning that is prevalent on campus!

Gates *Elementary*

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



Yvonne Estling
Principal

A Rich Variety of Cultural Experiences

As the 2018-2019 school year begins, I'm very excited to return to Gates Elementary and our multi-award winning two way language immersion program. With nearly 27 years of history, our program is the longest running dual immersion program in Orange County. Our innovative program is designed to provide students an exciting, enriching and challenging educational opportunity

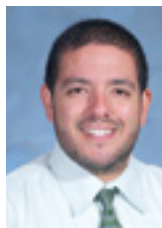
for the 21st century. Students learn to collaborate, communicate and think critically in all academic content areas in both English and Spanish. I am pleased to be

continuing our collaborative partnership with the Spanish Embassy, further allowing us to provide our students with the highest quality education possible.

Along with our rigorous academic program, our students and families enjoy a rich variety of cultural experiences. Our annual Día de los Muertos celebration will be held on October 26, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We welcome you and your family to join our Gator community for this fun event. In order to learn more about all Gates Elementary has to offer, please join us for a tour on either Tuesday, November 13, Wednesday, December 12 or Tuesday, January 15. Tours are conducted at 9:00 a.m. in our multi-purpose room. Hope to see you soon.

Glen Yermo *Elementary*

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



Michael Gomez
Principal

Mountain Lions ROAR

It was with great anticipation that Glen Yermo welcomed students back to school for the 2018-2019 school year. We are continuing in our journey to provide a great learning environment where all students THRIVE! We are fortunate to continue our efforts in building a college going culture with AVID Elementary.

Our focus on supporting student learning with ST Math, Reading Eggs, and Accelerated Reader has kicked into high gear. We have strategically targeted supporting student learning with a Title I Intervention teacher as well as adding a Title I Intervention and Prevention Counselor this year. With our school-wide PBIS, we are a school of bucket fillers that ROAR – showing respect, obedience, safety, and responsibility.

La Madera *Elementary*

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



Heather Ramsey
Principal

Welcome to the New School Year!

I am so excited for another great year together. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the Principal of this amazing Koala Family. I hope your summer was fun-filled and that you enjoyed time with the people you love.

I am thrilled to share that this year we are continuing our P.A.W.S. Program. I am so proud of our students at La Madera; they are exceptional citizens and scholars, and all around wonderful young people!

Our PTA continues to support learning here at La Madera with a variety of learning programs that will supplement our current curriculum. This summer, our La Madera PTA and Teachers joined forces to create our Next Generation Learning Lab. I am over the moon excited to have this new, innovative, and engaging learning space

for our Koalas to have a variety of STEAM experiences. encourage you to become a PTA member, we would love your support and input, and you would be part of a group that is making a difference in our Koala's lives every day!

My vision as an educational leader, is keenly focused on student safety and learning.

These points are paramount to a healthy, supportive environment, which fosters success for all students. Thank you for contributing to creating this safe and supportive learning environment. We are a team of educators and families, and I treasure that relationship.

We have the privilege and great fortune to be able to work together to ensure that all of our koalas can learn to their full potential in a safe, and nurturing environment. I value the input of all stakeholders involved in providing a high quality education for all of our students. You have my commitment to excellence and teamwork. GO KOALAS!

La Paz *Intermediate*

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



Jean Walker
Principal

50 Years of Excellence!

This school year the La Paz students, teachers, staff, parents and alumni are thrilled to celebrate La Paz' Golden Anniversary!

A lot has changed

over the past 50 years; however, one thing has not changed:

La Paz' dedication to providing students with a top quality education within a nurturing and caring environment. As a National School to Watch and California Gold Ribbon School, we are proud of our program and our students' accomplishments. In addition to a focus on reading, writing, math, and science, our students experience a variety of electives including STEM, International Art, Spanish, Band, Orchestra and Drama.



La Paz is a great place for kids to learn and grow. Mark your calendars and come be part of our 50th Anniversary celebration at La Paz on Saturday, February 9, 2019. We are all La Paz Leopards!

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
*Psychologist on
Special Assignment*

Preschool Welcomes You!

Welcome to the La Tierra Early Childhood Center (La Tierra ECC) in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District! We are excited to have begun the 2018-19 school year with our recently restructured early childhood classrooms, geared toward providing students with a consistent bell schedule and equitable access to our curriculum across programming.

As part of SV Innovates, La Tierra ECC staff take pride in offering personalized, intentional lesson design using engaging strategies as well as innovative practices in order to provide a quality, developmentally appropriate learning environment for each of our preschool students. The office staff at La Tierra ECC play a vital role in serving our community and are here to offer a warm "welcome" as well as provide information about our services to community members. We look forward to a year of continued partnerships between our staff, families, and the community as we prepare our students today for educational success tomorrow!



**Carol Cinquepalmi, Health Office Aide, Chris Brayley, Office Manager,
and Dawn Done, Office Clerk**

Laguna Hills *High School*

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



Freshman Nest Program

The Freshman Nest Program at Laguna Hills High School has taken flight.

Our first 2018-2019 Nest activity was our Incoming Freshman Orientation, held on the first day of school. All but three of our new ninth graders met in their nests to find out about their classes, tour the campus, participate in team building activities, and to have questions answered by their 10th-12th

grade Nest Leaders. Orientation ended with a pep rally in the Main Gym complete with drum line, cheer, ASB, and a

big welcome from Principal Hinds. After the completion of the orientation, freshmen students went to their first high school class.

The Freshman Nest Program, which began during the 2017-2018 school year, was designed to help facilitate the transition to high school, develop a peer advisory cohort, and make connections to the various clubs and organizations on campus. Throughout the year LHHS freshman students meet in their nest twice a month during Tutorial to cover a variety of topics. Our first Nest Tutorials of the year were September 12th and September 26th.

Bill Hinds
Principal

Lake Forest *Elementary*

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



It's Going to be an AMAZING Year!

Lake Forest Elementary teachers and staff were so excited to welcome back their students this year. The year started off with the teachers and staff clapping the students back in to school. There was music,



balloons, and lots of smiling faces. This year, Lake Forest Elementary will be focusing on innovation and is in the process of opening a brand-new Innovation Lab, with help from their PTO. Students started off their school year with STEAM projects, an Enchanted Forest Book Fair, a visit from Flipper, the school mascot, and Clifford the Big Red Dog. With all of this excitement, it is going to be an amazing school year!

Audra Bailey
Principal

Linda Vista *Magnet Elementary*

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



School Re-Opening

The Linda Vista International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Candidate Magnet Elementary School Grand Re-opening

The Linda Vista IB PYP Candidate Magnet School celebrated a Grand Re-Opening on Thursday, August 23, 2018. Students, parents, staff and community members were on hand to help us begin a new chapter in the history of Linda Vista. After cutting the ribbon, everyone toured our beautiful 21st century classrooms, library and food service



Dr. Crystal Turner, Superintendent, Mr. Dennis Walsh, SVUSD Board Member, Suzy McMasters, Principal

cafeteria. Linda Vista Magnet Elementary is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Candidate School. The scholars are deep into learning the IB Learner Profiles of being inquirers, thinkers, risk-takers, communicators, caring, knowledgeable, principled, open-minded, balanced and reflective. Understanding and demonstrating the learner profiles is key in being globally minded citizens in our school, community and the world. Linda Vista Magnet Explorers Wonder, Navigate, Excel, and Strive to build a globally-minded community of citizens who contribute to a diverse world.

Lomarena *Elementary*

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



**Mona
Montgomery**
Principal

Happy New School Year!!

It is with great excitement that I have the opportunity to serve as the principal of Lomarena Elementary School. Lomarena Lions have a very family-oriented pride. In speaking to all of the staff, many parents, and students I continue to hear over and over that we are a community, a family, and we care about each other.

Thank you for the warm welcome to our school. Our staff is working hard as a team to create intentional lessons, that engage our students, and develop innovative practice in order to create the most successful students we can at Lomarena. As I walk the halls and into classrooms I see students smiling and their genuine excitement for the learning that is happening in their classrooms.

Lomarena Lions, you ROAR!!



Thank you Dr. Turner and the School Board for such an inspirational beginning of the school year Rally!

Melinda Heights *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Welcome to a New School Year!

2018-19 promises to be an exciting year of growth, learning and community building at Melinda Heights! Home of the Mountain Lions, Melinda Heights Elementary School is nestled in the hills of Rancho Santa Margarita, and serves more than 1,000 eager learners. At Melinda, our mission is threefold. We aim to challenge our students with purposeful use of technology, 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 staff at Melinda Heights has embarked upon this new school year with great enthusiasm and is committed to providing a safe and challenging environment that will empower our children to become innovative thinkers, and engaged, inspired learners prepared for a bright future.



Los Alisos *Intermediate*

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



Rich Freda
Principal

Deputies, Dogs and Backpacks

Los Alisos staff proudly partnered with a few local organizations to help make the start of the school year a memorable one for all students. Ms. Austin, English teacher, reached out to our local law enforcement to see if they would be interested in a fun activity to start of the year. They excitedly jumped on the opportunity and created Deputies and Dogs. To welcome them back, students enjoyed a lunch served by our wonderful deputies. Additionally, Mark

Florer, Carol Thomas and Scott Whitlock, from Bayley Construction Company in Lake Forest (pictured), donated 40 backpacks, filled with supplies, for any students in need. We are also thankful to Orange County Outreach for donating another 30 backpacks and supplies.



We are off to a great start of the school year, with the best students, staff, parents and community members. Here's to a fantastic 2018-19 school year...Go LOBOS!

Mission Viejo *High School*

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



Tricia Osborne
Principal

Exciting New School Year!

Mission Viejo High School welcomes you to the 2018-19 school year. We are excited to share that MVHS was ranked nationally by the Washington Post as one of the top high schools in the nation. Only 12% of all U.S. schools made the list!

Congratulations again to the Class of 2018 on their many accomplishments. \$7.5 million awarded in scholarships, 38 Full

International Baccalaureate Candidates, and countless awards in the Drama Program, Choral Program, Marching Band, Color Guard, Model United Nations, Agriscience Program, and Athletics.

At MVHS, we value relationships and family. One example is the MVHS Pep Squad who recently held their annual Junior Pepster Clinic. Seventy Junior Pepster Diablo cheerleaders joined the fun and performed MVHS cheers during halftime to a stadium filled with wonderful fans. Go Diablos!



Montevideo *Elementary*

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



Lisa Graham
Principal

Sharing the Good News!

Montevideo's KidsRock video team began their nineteenth year of production with a road trip to interview their new principal, Lisa Graham, and capture the school's Ice Cream Social gathering. This student group (supported by parents and PTA) is doing the work of a TV news crew. Their focus... sharing the good news that is Montevideo Elementary. Whether it is the news that

students want to know (Reflections Art Contest application process), need to know (playground safety), have questions about (What is my new principal like?), to capturing memorable moments on video, this team is on it! As for getting to know their new principal, Mrs. Graham shared how excited she was to become a part of such a remarkable SCHOOL FAMILY. The secret of this neighborhood school: powerful, student focused teaching and experiences, active parent involvement, and the love surrounding it all. It's going to be another fantastic school year!



Olivewood *Elementary*

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



Alex Perez
Principal

Growing Together

Welcome to Olivewood Elementary School! Our Mustang team is excited to grow a new group of lifelong learners. We feel it's important to not only build academic capacity but also build social and emotional capacity. We promote an inclusive learning environment where students from different ethnicities, upbringing, and lifestyles can collaborate and combine abilities. With the support of our community, PTA, extended family members and local stakeholders, we will provide an exceptional learning experience for all of our students.

As your new principal, I believe in developing a community of lifelong learners, creative thinkers and responsible individuals by providing an innovative

educational program in a safe and supportive learning environment. I will shape our path toward success through collaboration, data disaggregation and specialized training. As a Mustang family, we will recognize our achievements and powerful moments by highlighting our bright spots.



Portola Hills *Elementary*

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



Dr. Joseph Ledoux
Principal

Modernized Classrooms

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! Everyone has been working hard to get ready for 2018-2019. If you have visited our PHE campus recently, you may have noticed all the construction taking place. Ten of our classrooms were modernized over the summer. Each of these rooms received new lighting, new A/C and heating, new carpet, new audio equipment, new student flexible seating, and two new 75" monitors. The next phase of construction should be completed in late fall/early winter of 2018. We are all so excited, especially the students, about these new and improved learning environments.



If you are ever in the area, stop by and check out all the new improvements taking place at PHE.
Go Explorers!

Rancho Canada *Elementary*

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



Dr. Larry Hausner
Principal

Meeting the Needs of Each Student

It is truly my pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our school community as we begin the new school year.

I feel extremely fortunate to be working with such an exceptional group of students, families, and staff members. Rancho Cañada is a close community that strives to ensure the safest and most rewarding



academic program a school can offer. The educational program at Rancho Cañada Elementary School is designed to meet the needs of each individual student. Our school's Vision Statement is: Rancho Cañada students will strive to become independent thinkers, resourceful problem-solvers, and confident citizens in tomorrow's world. High standards and expectations for each student in regard to academic performance and responsible citizenship are also at the foundation of our school. I am looking forward to

working with you and your student as we work toward an academically successful school year!

Robinson *Elementary*

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



Jonathan Kaplan
Principal

Student Engagement Strategies

Our school focus over the past two years has been student engagement strategies. We started with

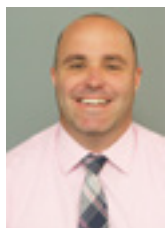
teacher actions to improve our understanding of whether our students were truly engaged in a lesson or simply compliant. This evolved into examining



flexible seating for students to see if we could better understand the effects of the classroom environment. To our surprise, we found kids completing more assignments, with less interruptions to their practice and improving scores. Our teachers have now taken this to the next level! We are innovating all of our classrooms with flexible options for kids, and our teachers have gotten creative! Here is an innovation from one teacher utilizing a flexible seating chart to help the students organize their choices. Improving engagement and learning is a win-win at Robinson!

Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

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



James Newton
Principal

Welcome to RSM

One week prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year I was introduced as Principal of Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate School (RSM) and it didn't take long for me to learn how truly fortunate I was to have this opportunity. At RSM we have incredible students, an exemplary faculty and staff, and supportive community.

Our roadrunner students returned to school enthusiastically and ready to engage in their learning. Within days, our ASB student-leaders hosted our first fun-o-rama lunchtime activity and our award-winning KRSM team, aired their first live broadcast of their morning show which set the stage for a positive and productive school year.



Our faculty and staff represent a strong professional community that work together to maximize student learning. This year we will continue our work with engagement, literacy, and technology within the classroom. We will work collaboratively to maintain high expectations for learning while expanding upon our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

RSM students, faculty, and staff are poised for another exceptional year. Go Roadrunners!

San Joaquin *Elementary*

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



Dr. Karen Schibler
Principal

Welcome!

San Joaquin is very excited to offer all-day kindergarten this year and wants to give a special welcome to our families who are brand new to San Joaquin. As always, thank you to our returning parents for all of your dedication and support. We will continue this year with our leveled reading, 1:1 devices throughout the school, robotics lab, PAWS lunch, our garden, and will continue our mission: SV Innovates, which focuses on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and developing innovative practices that create successful students.



This year we have quite a lot of staff changes, and a few people have changed roles in the office. We are very excited about the new energy of our team and are confident your students are in great hands. I continue as your principal and am looking forward to a fantastic year!

Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary

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



Howard Johnston
Principal

Innovation & Purpose

I would like to welcome you to the new Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary School. We have extremely high hopes for our new STEAM focus and look forward to sharing all the new elements with you throughout our year.

Santiago STEAM Magnet's mission is to provide meaningful, innovative learning experiences for a community of diverse learners who solve complex problems with creativity and confidence. We envision students who are empowered thinkers and creators positively impacting our global community.

This year we have a wonderfully talented teaching staff ready to support your children while creating an environment for all to thrive. Our primary goals center on High Quality Project Based Learning STEAM Instruction, Career and College Readiness and your child's Social-Emotional Development. We will also continue with College Field Trips, ST Math, Digital Citizenship, and improving our 1 to 1 Device Program. Our district has worked overtime this summer updating classroom technology, outfitting classrooms with flexible furniture, and supporting us in reimagining our library into an Innovation Lab!

We will strive to make Santiago STEAM Magnet your school of choice. We look forward to a great year and whenever you're around, come and say hello!



Serrano *Intermediate*

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



David Young
Principal

Serrano is Off to a Hot Start!

Serrano students are fired up for the new school year. Eighth grade science students learned that their attitude is the spark used to ignite the amazing things they can experience in their classrooms here at Serrano. They also learned that it was pretty cool to light their Principal on fire!

This year a new program, Unified Physical Education will begin. Students with disabilities unite with those without, in a Unified PE class. The combination allows students of varying ability levels and backgrounds to come together on equal terms through ongoing fitness, sports, leadership and wellness activities.

The California PBIS Coalition recently awarded Serrano with a Gold level status for our excellent implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral

Interventions & Supports). Students take pride and ownership of their campus and their actions and exemplify the 3 R's at Serrano: Readiness, Responsibility and Respectfulness.

We are all looking forward to an outstanding 2018-19 school year!

Go Seahawks!



Silverado/Mira Monte *Continuation High School*

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



David Gordon
Principal

Welcoming Newcomers

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year at Silverado High School. As we approach the new year with excitement, we would like to welcome several new members to our team: teachers Steve Miller, Stacey Hunt, Rachel Curtis, and unHunttJudith Schult, as well as assistant principal Dan Bode. We also would like to welcome our new parent advocate, Lizzette Nunez. We also

welcome to our campus, SVUSD's Virtual Academy for grades 9-12. There are a few other changes to mention. Our former Adult Education courses are now referred to as "Credit Recovery" courses, and we are excited to have Ms. Poonam Ganesan working exclusively with that program.

In addition to our newcomers, we are happy to announce our first "Soaring Eagle" award recipient, Ms. Christa Elliott. Ms. Elliott exemplifies the true meaning of the

"Soaring Eagle". The "Soaring Eagle" is an award given to a staff member (certificated or classified), who goes above and beyond expectations. The award is presented to each staff member from the previous recipient during a scheduled meeting. Ms. Elliott is that person on campus who continually displays positivity and truly cares about her students. Congratulations, Ms. Elliott!

At Silverado, we are constantly looking for ways to improve. This year we have added an AVID elective for our ninth grade "On Track" students, as well as a select group of seniors. In addition, we have added a peer tutoring section for our higher-level students to work with students who may be struggling.

Communication is important to us, so we have set up several new ways to communicate the great things that are happening here. We have "REMIND," Twitter, and Instagram. For information on how to sign up for these applications, please go to the Silverado High School website.

SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-12*

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



Glenn Giokaris
Principal

Expansion to High School

After the successful opening of the SVUSD Virtual Academy (SVA) for our K-8 students last year, the SVUSD Virtual Academy has expanded to include high school. The SVA is now a WASC accredited, K-12 school providing our high school students with an "A-G" and NCAA course list. The SVA blends online learning with face to face learning experiences to offer students

in grades kindergarten through high school, a flexible and personalized online learning experience. In addition, high school students have the opportunity to participate on athletic teams at their residence high school while attending the SVUSD Virtual Academy and/or take one or two classes at their residence school. Students enrolled at their residence high school also have the opportunity to take one or two classes at the SVUSD Virtual Academy. For additional information on the SVUSD Virtual Academy, please visit our website or call.

Trabuco *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paisley
Principal

Math Discourse takes in Course!

At Trabuco Elementary this school year, we are continuing to develop the practice of facilitating meaningful mathematical discourse in the classroom. Students in all grade, K-6 will be engaging in Number Talks and fluency activities to begin each math lesson of the year. Teachers will be listening closely to students present and explain their ideas, reasoning, and representations of math ideas to one another in a variety of groupings. This will allow teachers to pose additional questions that will move thinking along. We are excited for our continued math focus this year. At Trabuco, we know that students need a strong math foundation upon which to build. These daily routines, along with a focus on the academic language of math will help strengthen students' number sense and prepare them for eventual success with Algebra. Go Coyotes!



Trabuco Hills *High School*

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



Craig Collins
Principal

Awesome News to Share!

We have a lot of great news to share from THHS! We are proud of our faculty and students for earning such great results in 2017-18.

96.5% Graduation Rate
76.7% EL Graduation Rate
92.3% SWD Graduation Rate
95.5% SED Graduation Rate
#1 in AP Exams Taken - 1,092

#1 AP Exams Passed - 868

#1 AP Percentage of Passed Exams - 79% (Two year increase of 3% for AP: Exams Taken, Passed, and % Passed)

It is important to understand that not only have we increased our AP offerings and the number of students taking AP courses, we have increased our student performance at the same time. This is a wonderful testament to the hard work of ALL our teachers to prepare students to this high level and building them up to be successful. We also have done this while increasing the participation and pass rates in our IB program, resulting in 34 IB diploma candidates in 2018. Additionally, we had 2 National AP Scholars.

Not all of our successes came from the AP and IB students. We are also #1 in SVUSD in ELA and math scores. In English, we continue to lead the district, county, and State by a large margin and in math, we are #1 in the District and still ahead of State averages.

In addition, Career Technical Education students at Trabuco had the greatest number of medallion recipients in the district. Medallions are awarded to students that successfully complete a CTE pathway.

Our students are back on campus for another great year and we look forward to sharing more news about THHS and look forward to growing in 2018-19!

Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

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



Caryn McGrew
Principal

Home of the Bulldogs!

We have a wonderful school community of great students, awesome staff, and supportive families who work together to reach a higher plateau of learning. Our staff is committed to providing a safe, positive, and engaging learning environment for

ALL students. Students strive to be safe, respectful, and responsible. Trabuco Mesa is a GATE regional school, with GATE classrooms in third through sixth grade. We encourage our students to have a growth mindset, become life-long learners, and learn scholarly habits to help them be successful in their educational journey. Our staff embraces the SVUSD Mission – SV Innovates: Focusing on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and innovative practices that create successful students. Trabuco Mesa's strong PTA supports and funds STEAM at our school: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math programs.



We are excited for our students to participate in collaboration, creativity and coding in our new Innovation Lab! Trabuco Mesa is a great place to be!

Valencia *Elementary*

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



Wendie Hauschild
Principal

Supporting Students in All Aspects

Valencia Elementary has a culture of community amongst our staff and the families we serve. It is built upon forming relationships and trust. "All means all" at Valencia and we approach our work with our students through the lenses of Equity and Dignity.

Your child is important to us. Valencia's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) buttresses your child academically, behaviorally, and social-emotionally. To highlight:

- Students are assessed with DIBELS and diagnostic assessments throughout the year. Progress is tracked and classroom interventions or enrichments are instituted to ensure optimum growth. Data and teacher input regarding individual needs is shared with next year's teacher so effective strategies occur on a continuum. Our plan includes a team of Valencia experts that gather in MTSS and Student Success Team (SST) meetings to offer further support to our staff.
- We utilize Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS). Valencia students STRIVE (Scholars,

Team Players, Respect, Integrity, Valor, Empathy) for excellence, realizing that growth is often made through mistakes. We utilize CICO (Check-in/Check-out) so your child can feel secure that there is a team of adults here at Valencia that cares about him or her. Communication is key. Parents and supervision staff are an integral part of our team.

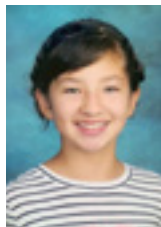
- Second Step is a Social-Emotional Learning curriculum utilized in each classroom. Students receive lessons on topics that include Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, and Solving Conflict.

Valencia's teachers explore flexible seating and engaging learning options within their classrooms. New technology upgrades to our classrooms not only enhance the tech that supports student success and innovation, but creates classrooms where learning and collaboration occur in 360 degrees.

We thank our PTA for their continued support in funding the many programs that facilitate growth of the whole child.

Valencia has a lot in store for each student, and we look forward to a great year of learning together!

B is for Book



Bailey

Leaves You Thinking

Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella by Megan Morrison is one of my fairy tale favorites.

Ella Coach and her mother are just poor people working for the terrible Lady Jacquard.

When Ella's mom dies, she has nowhere to go, but with her father, on the other hand, has married a rich lady and has a blooming business. For Ella, this life is terrible! The snooty, high-class people and knowing what the lower class is going through makes Ella Coach miserable. Will Ella make a difference for those with no power without ruining her dad's business? Or will the first class bring her down?

I really enjoyed this book because it opened my eyes to what is happening in the world, even though it is definitely fiction. The unexpected twists are jaw-dropping with wonderful characters. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.



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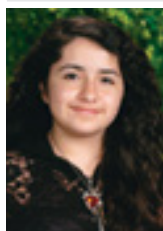
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The Center Stage Studio, 27101 Aliso Creek Rd #136, Aliso Viejo

Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

Consumed by Deception?

In a world divided by power and status, it takes everything that Mare Barrow's got to stay alive. But when she discovers a strange, otherworldly power she never knew she had, her chances of survival suddenly seem much slimmer. Battling heated emotions, twisted morals, and chaos, Mare fights to save herself and her people in an uphill battle. Will she stand against injustice, or will she be consumed by deception?



Although I loved this book, I'd have to give it only four out of eight trifold shards. The excitement, when present, was hardly noticeable- all of the politics and social issues were generic and dull. However, I'd attribute most of my disappointment to a low amount of challenges for Mare and an unnecessarily slow pace. Throughout the book, Mare tends to use deception as a first resort for solving problems, therefore not making herself seem like a strong female lead.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd." When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 trifold shards with 8 being the highest

Rabina's Review

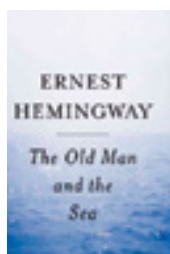


Rabina K.

An Impactful Book

The Old Man and the Sea

By Ernest Hemingway
This book is a literary fiction, a story of courage and personal triumph won



from loss. The story is tragic but it leaves the reader to appreciate the strength of the main character and his positive approach towards life.

Down on his luck with not much caught in 84 days, Santiago, an old Cuban fisherman, goes to try again in deep sea. He got lucky to have caught a giant marlin far out in the Gulf stream. He faces relentless agonizing battle with this creature who is as stubborn as he is. Though he succeeds in catching this big fish but the bad luck does shadow his efforts, and eventually the fisherman does not get to enjoy his reward.

I think this book speaks to the reader and teaches the reader that hard work does not always lead to rewards. Instead of getting frustrated from unsuccessful events, one should accept it positively and keep working towards one's goal.

Rabina is a 5th grader, who enjoys reading historical fiction and biographies. Writing is her passion. Besides, reading books and writing, she also enjoys playing soccer and piano.

Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

A Riveting Story

Something New;
Tales From a Makeshift
Bride by Lucy Knisley is a graphic novel describing Lucy's experiences in love and marriage. Lucy's

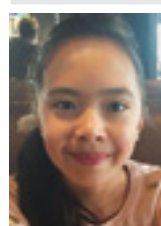


love life has its ups and downs just like anyone else. But when the love of her life, John, proposes, they leap headfirst into the whirlwind of preparing a wedding. From guest lists to dresses to catering and vows, Lucy gives the reader an honest depiction of the chaos and joys that comes with preparing a wedding. She also takes time to expand on the fears, hopes and worries that come with crossing the threshold of marriage that is quite relatable. The author keeps the story alive with a colorful art style and the story riveting with her trials to create a wedding out of society's expectations. Breaking through the 'weddings are easy' stereotype of books, I'd recommend this story to anyone and everyone.

Katrina rates this book five out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is an 11th grader who loves to sketch, read and write. She either wants to publish her own novels, work in animation or become a biologist (or maybe all three!). Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons.

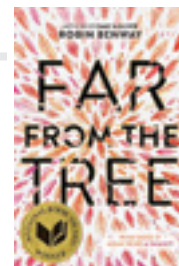
Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

A Powerful Read

Far From the Tree,
By Robin Benway
Family doesn't always mean that you're bonded by blood. In fact, Grace, Maya, and Joaquin depend on that



saying. All three were taken in by strangers when they were young, building relationships with people they barely knew. So, learning that the three of them are siblings is not something they would've expected. All three have gone through trying experiences, and soon they realize that having each other in life is the greatest gift of all. Through pain, joy, laughter, and love, the three begin to learn the true meaning of family.

I enjoyed this book for a multitude of reasons. I feel that the author brought forth a great message: that family will always be there for you even when you don't realize it. It's honest, raw, heartfelt, and simply a powerful read. I will warm you: it contains strong adult language and situations, but definitely worth the read for ages 13 and up. Five out of five bookworms.

Lucy is a 7th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Action Packed

Snared is a very heartfelt book about a hobgoblin trapeze artist named Wily Snare, who has never been above ground until he meets Odette, Pryvyd, and Moshul after they successfully defeat



his traps. From them, Wily learns that the Above is not so bad, and that he is actually human. He also discovers that in the Above the Infernal King takes hostages and brings them to prison, from which no one ever escapes. Wily then aids the fight against the Infernal King, in the process learning about sunsets, butterflies, and experiencing harrowing encounters with death. This is a book of fantasy and adventure that I would recommend for any sixth through eighth graders that don't mind the suspense of cliffhangers. I rate this book 4 out of 5 stars because although it was an action packed novel, it was not quite captivating enough to remember forever!

Keira is a 7th grader who loves to read. She also enjoys crafts, traveling, soccer and playing with her cats. Her reviews are rated from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Richard's Book Review



Richard J.

The Wednesday Wars

By Gary D. Schmidt

This book is about the boy named Holling Hoodhood in 1976. Throughout the year Holling deals with many difficult situations. He is



the only kid in his middle school who isn't

Jewish or Catholic, which means that during Religious Studies he has to stay in English Class, do classroom chores and study Shakespeare. It is 1976 and everybody is struggling with the fear of the Vietnam War. Holling had a rough year, which happens to all of us, but in the end he got through and won the respect of his teacher, family, and classmates.

I like that the story is set in a different time period. It's interesting to read about how people lived back then. The story is about perseverance and growing up under difficult circumstances. It's funny, but serious. I give it 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and learning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

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Something for Everyone

Common Sense Media

Healthy Media Habits for Young Kids

By Caroline Knorr



Despite pediatricians' ongoing recommendations to curb kids' screen use, the *Common Sense Census: Media Use by Kids Age Zero to Eight 2017* found that families with young kids are buying up mobile devices, using screens before bed, and streaming tons of video.

But plenty of parents think their own kids' media use is perfectly fine, and most believe that on the whole, it's good for kids. So what does it mean when the reality doesn't match the recommendations? It's time for new rules.

Not *no* rules, just different ones -- you may be OK for now, but studies show that media use steadily increases as kids get older, and there are risks to overexposure. Changing your approach to screen management before the tween and teen years will increase the chances that the stuff they're interacting with is (mostly) good for them. It also allows you to think more deeply about how, when, and why you want your family to be using technology, so it enhances and enriches your lives.

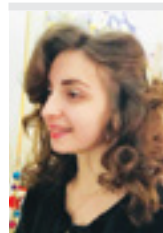
Interestingly, the census found that even with all the new things kids are doing, their total daily amount of screen time hasn't changed that much in six years. That's good news because as long as you have basic limits, you can focus on choosing quality media and tech to make screen time really count. And with many parents reporting that media use benefits their kids' learning and creativity, the new rules call for co-viewing and co-playing to boost those positive benefits (rather than screaming at your kids to turn off the computer).

Some parents ask: Why restrict media at all? Because honestly, nothing takes the place of the things that are proven to be best for little kids' bodies and minds, like talking, playing, growing bored, and learning how to do stuff -- especially in the crucial early years of a kid's life. At the end of the day, it's not your doctor you have to answer to -- it's your kids. Media and tech are and will continue to be huge in their lives. Start now to create a balanced approach that keeps everyone healthy.

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



Christina's Book Review



Christina J.

Politely Funny

How Rude!: The Teen Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior, and Not Grossing People Out By Alex J. Packer, Ph.D

The book title is self-explanatory. Hands down, this was one of the most enjoyable, fun, informational,

entertaining, captivating book I have ever read. "Good manners don't cost anything. You can have the BEST for free." You can look up a specific topic or read the whole thing for all-around understanding of manners. So, why choose good manners? I will answer with one quote from the book: "We used to spend every Christmas with my aunt. I was always nasty, bored and annoying brat. When she died, I lost out on her \$1,000,000 will." There are manners for behaving with friends, parents, teachers, employers and much more. The best part is that the book demonstrates how good manners bring you many benefits (for instance, get you a job or get help from teachers) versus how bad manners are detrimental to your life. I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars. 465 pages, but what a worthy reading!



Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Sophie's Choice



Sophie O.

Tuesdays at the Castle

This book is the start of an amazing story written by Jessica Day George. In this book, there is an adventure, a little bit of mystery, danger, and stealthiness. *Tuesdays at the Castle* is based on the Glower Family, who live in Castle Glower. Castle Glower is magical and every Tuesday a new room appears. Let me introduce you to the main characters, Lulath, Lilah, Rolf, Pogue, Celie, Bran, and Queen and King Glower. But, beware you might not want to put this book down. The King and Queen go to Bran's graduation, and on the way back they are thought to be killed! A funeral is taken place in which they meet some cruel and evil people, and find out that you can't trust everyone. This book definitely deserves a five-star review. Read this book and the whole series if you're curious to find out what will happen to the Glower Family.



Sophie O. is a 6th grader who loves to play soccer and bake. She's an avid reader and writer and is working on writing her first book. She hopes to be an architect one day

Katie's Review



Katie C.

Never take for Granted

If I Were You is a book that relates to everyone, because we envy each other oftentimes. In the book, a girl named Katie wants to live the life of her supermodel best friend, Melody. Secretly,



Melody wants to get away from the life of her mom whose only focused on the intake of her carbs. Both girls wish this on a bus and suddenly, they've switched bodies. At first, they're excited. They can't wait to live the life that they've craved! But, as time progresses, both of them learn that each other's lives are not as easy as it looks. Melody's parents never talk to each other, and Katie's twin stepbrothers are a handful. They realize that their lives were meant to be their own.

I rate this book a five out of five stars, because it showed me how you should never take your life for granted.

Katie is a ninth grader. Her passion is writing and she likes finding new ways to structure poetry. She is working on creating a story line with a series of poems. In her spare time, she enjoys soccer, song writing and reading books.



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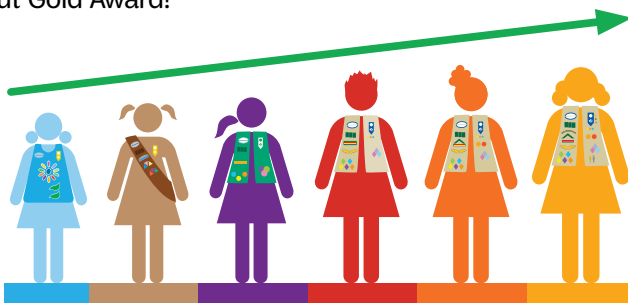
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History of the Wheel

By D.H. Coop

What seems like a simple idea was a long time in development. Humans had most likely build Stonehenge and pyramids using logs to roll the heavy stone block from one place to another. The wheel had been used for pottery, irrigation and milling farm crops. The first pottery wheel was found in the area that is today called Slovenia, around 3500 BC. The oldest chariot was found in Poland, and there is evidence that the origin comes from the Ukraine since the word *wheel* is derived from their language.

The chariot, iron horseshoe and stirrup most likely originated with nomadic people who were herders and not farmers. The chariot shows up in the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia and Egypt, also around 3500 BC. This new invention was made possible by the development of the axle. The wheel became a weapon of war, overshadowing its other applications. The Celtic tribes introduce an iron-rim wheel with spokes around 1000 BC. This did not change for several hundred years.

The wheelbarrow first appeared in Greece and then moved to China. It was a labor-saving device. Irrigation was accomplished by a wheel turned by humans or animals to raise water for that purpose. Then, during the medieval

period, the water wheel was turned upside down to harness the wind. The wheel also became a source of collecting confessions by torture.

R.W. Thompson was issued a patent for a pneumatic wheel in 1845. The timing was not right, and it failed to take hold in the marketplace. In 1844, B.F. Goodrich patented a process called *vulcanizing*, which involved adding carbon to rubber. This changed the wheel in time. John Dunlop took out a patent for a pneumatic, or air-filled, wheel in 1888.

It was at this time that the wheel was in completion with the new steel process. Gustave Elfie built his tower for the Paris World Fair in 1889 out of steel. Then George Washington Gale Ferris built his Wheel for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. And the wheel has become more than transportation. It has entered our language with the term like *fifth wheel*.

Not all cultures saw the value of the wheel. Early American societies knew of the wheel they used then in rolling toys for children to play yet saw no value in the workload that wheels would replace.

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

Things to Sit On—Word Search Contest

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

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TRIKE	SIDEWALK
BIKE	STREET
MOTORCYCLE	TRUCK
BED	VAN
BUNK	SWING
ROCKER	

**Congratulations Taylor & Nolan Bowman
and Leonard Bennett**

Winners of our June Word Search Contest!



Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

Adventure and Fun

The book *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass is about a 13 year old living in Manhattan with his mom and his friend Lizzy. Together, they convinced the mailman to give them a package. Inside, they find a letter and a box. The letter indicated that the box once had keys that were now lost. They decide to set out to find the keys. In the process, they sneak into a business and vandalize it. A policeman makes them do community service, as punishment they have to deliver packages. They ride around the city delivering antiques to the people who had once pawned those items. Almost all was planned by his dead dad

The friends must now do this the entire summer. Will they find the keys before Jeremy's birthday? Or ever?

I give this book 4 stars because it is full of fun and adventure.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.



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