

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Torrance Unified School District

Volume 7, Issue 25

September / October 2020

Senior Class Presidents



Piper Takenaka (West High School) – Hoping to head to UCLA after high school. During this time Piper has really come to value her family and knows they will always support her.

Savannah Labarda (North High School) – Hoping to head to the University of California San Diego after high school. During this time Savannah has learned self-discipline and has improved her time management skills.



Dylan Chai (South High School) – Hoping to head to Pepperdine University. During this time Dylan has learned to be thankful for everything he has and really appreciates his family and spending time with them.

Jenna Irasusta (Torrance High School)- Hoping to head to UCLA after high school. During this time Jenna has learned not to take anything for granted, to use her time well, and to appreciate things more, especially her family.

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Dr. Tim Stowe

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Tim Stowe had the opportunity to meet with a few of the Freshman Class Presidents as they begin their high school journey. He chatted with them about how their first few weeks of school went and about how they are dealing with distance learning. They shared with him how they are staying connected to their classmates and finding creative ways to keep the student body engaged with virtual events and activities.



Torrance Education Foundation

P.O. Box 1397, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/320-7232 • www.torranceeducationfoundation.org



Shireen Ossanlo
Executive Director

TEF During the Pandemic

The Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) has been very active during these past few months! Even though many businesses are closed, more people are staying indoors, and distance learning has become the norm. The pandemic has not slowed TEF down one bit; instead, it has given us a bigger purpose. Here are some TEF highlights from the past few months!

TEF hosted the first-ever Virtual Event and Auction on May 27, 2020, where we raised over \$145,000 for Education. Thank you to our donors and sponsors for supporting our Torrance students and schools!

TEF hosts an annual summer enrichment program each year, the South Bay Enrichment Academy. This year our summer classes went virtual. We offered distance learning for grades K-12 and enrolled over 730 students. The Elementary online program was specially designed for small groups. Each class had a maximum of 10 students for a more intimate learning experience.

TEF donated \$60,000 to Torrance Unified School District to continue supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in our schools!

Funds will provide resources and materials in science labs for an engaging learning experience for all students. In partnership with our community businesses, TEF offered scholarships to 17 deserving seniors as they prepare for college and career. We are pleased to announce that we provided a total of \$29,000 in scholarship funds this year.

To be a part of the fantastic work TEF is doing in the community, help support our Annual Campaign. Your contribution will help raise money for Torrance students and schools in some of the ways highlighted above and beyond! Visit www.TEF4Kids.org/donate for more information on how to get involved.

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Alan Glasband

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Avoiding a Sedentary Lifestyle During COVID-19



Griselda Alvarez, M.D.,
pediatric endocrinologist, Endocrine & Diabetes Center, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Over the last decade, the incidence of childhood obesity has continued to rise. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 13.7 million kids ages 2 to 19 are obese. Childhood obesity is linked to other serious health conditions, such as Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

One of the best ways to prevent obesity is a well-balanced diet and exercise. With COVID-19 keeping most kids at home, it can be challenging to ensure your child gets daily physical activity. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children 6 years and older need 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on most days.

Start slowly and set a pace that is right for your child. Try scheduling the exercise into three 20-minute sessions or four 15-minute sessions. Combining aerobic and resistance activities yield the greatest benefits.

Traditional exercises, such as calf stretches and sit-ups, might not seem "fun" to your child. To make things easier, try incorporating play into their exercise with these activities:

- Running games (tag, hide and seek, etc.)
- Kicking balls (soccer, kickball, etc.)
- Exercise-based video games
- Jumping jacks
- Dancing
- Riding a bike
- Hopscotch
- Hiking
- Yoga
- Cartwheels

Staying active is a universal goal. By exercising together, you can reinforce the importance of staying healthy. However, activities that involve other participants should be reserved to household members to slow the spread of COVID-19.

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach has an Endocrine & Diabetes Center that treats children affected by Type 2 diabetes and other conditions linked to childhood obesity.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. There have been many changes throughout the years; however, I think we all agree this is the most challenging. Americans are innovative and educators are at the top of the list. Zoom has taken on a whole new meaning to this generation of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless

transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge.

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

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 24 and remember all ages are welcome to enter. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing his/her favorite book, please email me for details.



Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org



Denise Spellman
President

Project HOPE

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) oversees the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district. We are organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide information and instruction to our units, leadership training, and coordination of the efforts of our units.

This will be anything but a “normal” school year. Nonetheless, PTA is still—perhaps more than ever—a vital connection between schools, families, and the community. TCPTA worked with Torrance Unified School district and the community over the summer to organize Project BOSS (Bring Our Students Supplies). Even though school began virtually this fall, we still filled back packs with schools supplies to help those TUSD students successfully complete their school work. The collective efforts and donations allowed TCPTA to stuff close to 400 backpacks.

Project HOPE (Helping Our People Everyday), is in its 6th year as a community outreach program serving foster care/homeless students and Torrance families. TCPTA is currently collecting personal care items and non-perishable food and gift cards. We also help provide prom dresses or tuxes for our high school graduating seniors.

PTA continues to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. Each of our 30 school's membership campaigns are in full swing. If you have not joined PTA at your local school, please join and become part of the largest advocacy group in the United States.

TUSD Students are working on their entries for the National PTA Reflections program. The theme this year is “I Matter Because.” Original works will be accepted in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Students will be submitting their projects to be judged at their unit level in October. The first-place winner's submissions will then be sent in November to District, State and National for judging. It is always great to see all of the original art pieces that the students turn in.



Stronger Together

Thank you, Torrance Refinery Volunteers!



Torrance Refining Company facilitates and encourages employee volunteerism. Employees participate in a diverse mix of activities throughout the year, many of which support education, such as the District's Girl's Cardboard Regatta, TorBots, career days, our Innovation Education Grant Program and Youth Development Program.

"Our employees are always willing to step up and get involved in the community. It's important for us to show up for the organizations we support, as well as mentoring students and helping our schools. I'm proud of our enthusiastic and committed employee volunteers," said Steve Steach, Torrance Refinery Manager.

Torrance Refinery supports 50 local nonprofits

In 2019, 106 employee volunteers and their families contributed approximately 300 volunteer hours by participating in more than 10 community activities.



torrancerefinery.com

Arlington Elementary

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlington.tusd.org



Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

In This Together!

It takes teamwork to ensure that Arlington Elementary's virtual school gets off to a great start! Whether distance or blended, our Arlington teachers are working hard, planning and executing engaging lessons for our Superstar students.

We have to make sure our students feed their bodies to be ready to think and

learn, so our fantastic Nutrition Services staff is passing out meals to our students twice a week. To help answer calls about enrollment as well as tech questions, our office staff is busy



answering calls from our parents, helping them to navigate our virtual world of Google Classroom and Zoom calls. Arlington is a host site to YMCA childcare, so to ensure that our campus and rooms are cleaned and disinfected, our custodians and noon supervisors team up to ensure that things are sparkly clean for the children.

We all will continue to work together as a team to do what we can for our students and, when it is safe to do so, to prepare our school for on-campus learning. Welcome back, Superstar community! We miss you!



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Arnold Elementary

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Justine Lang
Principal

#ArnoldStrong!

Despite this unusual start to school, the Arnold community has remained stronger than ever. At our materials pick-up day, PTA volunteers manned a festive booth in front of school adorned with red and white balloons to add fun to the day and provide info to parents

and goody bags for students. Then on the first day of school, our Alleycats logged on to meet their teachers with their parents and then watch our first Virtual Flag Assembly together. It has been so fun to see the learning environments created at home! Even though we are not physically together, our Arnold Pledge remains a constant that keeps our community together. A - Accept all people. R - Respect yourself and others. N - Never give up. O - Open the door to opportunity. L - Learning is the key to success. D - Dream your future and make it happen. ARNOLD! We are in this together! #ArnoldStrong!



Check out how a family of three from Arnold works together in their Cyber School created by their dad in their home.

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Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • callemayormiddleschool.org



Dave Mosley
Principal

Virtual After-School Programs

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Calle Mayor Middle School! We hope that your children are excited about the new school year as much as we are!

This year, our teachers have worked really hard to provide an amazing virtual online educational experience. I have been in a lot of the classes, and the teachers are doing some awesome things, such as science labs

featuring three different weights used for building upon an understanding of qualitative vs. quantitative data. Another teacher is using historical images and having students develop place cards on which they discuss how and why the image affects people currently.

We are extremely proud of our Calle Mayor teachers and students and how they have adapted to this online learning

environment. It truly is a different time in education, and they have shown great flexibility, determination and having some fun learning in this new modality. Looking forward, we are beginning to have some discussions about virtually providing some after-school clubs to our students. Some programs that we are initially looking at bringing back are Speech and Debate, Model United Nations and after-school tutoring. These are after-school programs that can be supported virtually, and the students really enjoy participating in them.

We would like to thank our PTSA and Calle community for their continued support with these California Gold Ribbon after-school programs that truly provide our students with an opportunity to participate and learn many new challenging and fun skills that will prepare them to be 21st century learners.

Carr *Elementary*

3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • carr.tusd.org



Katie Schenkelburg
Principal



We were excited to welcome our Carr Cubs back to school!



Casimir *Middle School*

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • casimir.tusd.org



James Ashikawa
Interim Principal

Ms. Tina Gross is on the case as she leads Cougar Detectives to investigate biomedical mysteries through our exciting PLTW Medical Detectives course.



Edison *Elementary*

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • edison.tusd.org



Jayne Okazaki
Principal

Welcome Signs

Welcome Back to School, and to Edison Elementary!! To start our year off, we had several lawn signs welcoming families back to school. Students stopped by the front of the school to take their first day photos for their memory book (with their camera) and for our school Yearbook.



It was great seeing the students come with their “First Day of ... (grade level)” signs and saying hello from a distance.

On the first day of school we had our first virtual school wide assembly, and then students logged in to meet their new teacher and classmates. Even though everyone was at home, it was still an exciting first day of school using our new technology and seeing our friends online.

Fern *Elementary*

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



Michael Remland
Principal

Welcome back to Virtual Fern Elementary 2020-2021!

There have been many changes around the Fern campus during our pandemic closure. We have celebrated the arrival of a new school secretary with Mrs. Valerie Scott, and our new Office Assistant Mrs. Renika Lindsey. During the school closure we have been using our time well

and preparing Fern to be better than ever when our students return. One completed project being the red tile roof of the administrative building was completely removed, repaired and replaced. Another completed project includes a brand new playground just installed for all of our future falcons. We cannot wait for our students and staff to return to our new and improved Fern campus. Until we can welcome everyone back to our new and improved campus safely please stay healthy, wash your hands, attend your virtual class, and have some fun.



Fernie Falcon and Interim Superintendent Dr. Stowe in the Fern science lab conducting experiments.

Hickory *Elementary*

2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • w1.hickory.tusd.org



Maggie Mabery
Principal

Learning in New Ways!

Welcome to the 2020–21 school year! While our learning continues to be online, our Hickory students are engaging in meaningful learning experiences provided by our wonderful teachers. At Hickory, our teachers and staff collaborated and prepared for a smooth start of the school year all summer long.

Our teachers have participated in various professional-development sessions to learn a variety of technology tools and develop curriculum to ensure high-quality distance learning experiences for all students. Before the first day of school, our students and families drove by the school to pick up a Chromebook, textbooks and materials and also meet their new teacher.



Even though it was an unusual way to start the school year, our students had smiles on their faces while they waved to their teachers and got ready for a new school year filled with adventures and excitement like no other. Our commitment to develop academic growth of all learners remains as our highest priority while we all try to navigate this very different year. I am very confident that our Hickory students will learn and grow in ways they never thought possible.

J.H. Hull *Middle School*

2080 W. 231st St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4516 • hull.tusd.org



Patty Giris
Principal

New Routine

The “new” routine since school started looks like this: Getting out of bed, getting ready for class, eating breakfast, and turning on a device. The routine of coming to school has been different this fall. Now, attending school means turning on your device. Even for teachers, it is a different way to teach. Ms. Shari Russell, ELD Coordinator



Ms. Shari Russell teaches virtually from her classroom.

& English teacher, has been teaching her classes on her device. She still engages in reading stories, analyzing, and discussing student thoughts in whole class conversations. She, along with all of our Hull teachers, have worked tirelessly to make learning as engaging and meaningful, virtually as it is in person. Ms. Russell, like every Hull teacher, has been dedicated to all of our students and their learning. Thank you to all Hull teachers for the fantastic job you have been doing!

Lincoln Elementary

2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • lincoln.tusd.org



Katherine Castleberry
Principal

Hand in Hand, We Can!

Lincoln Elementary was excited to welcome 412 new and returning students on August 26th for the start of the 2020-2021 school year! Although the circumstances surrounding this school year are far from traditional, we are optimistic

that our efforts as a united school community will ensure that every one of our Lincoln Lions achieves success this year. We will do this by collectively meeting every challenge and opportunity, head-on and with an open mind. The partnership between school and home will be vital, more than ever, as school staff and parents step into new and different roles in support of effectively educating

our students. Without a doubt, this school year will be a memorable adventure for everyone; it will also be amazing because, as our school's motto and mantra states, Hand in Hand, We Can!



Lynn Middle School

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • bertlynn.tusd.org



LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Online Learning? No Problem!

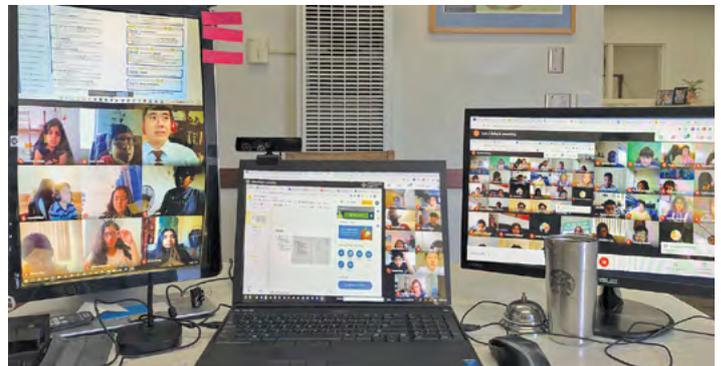
Our campus awoke from its summer slumber as 650 students returned to school, abuzz with renewed energy. But this year, there was one big difference: *all* of our students and teachers met online only. We are happy to report that students and faculty found one another online with very few problems.

As the clock struck 9 a.m., our classes began. Students with scheduling errors entered our virtual office, and our staff helped answer questions and helped with broken links. Shortly after first period, students and teachers quickly found a rhythm, and the day continued with a "new normal."

This year, we have identified three areas for professional growth: continued fine-tuning of our professional learning community (PLC), implementing a daily tutorial schedule, and increased differentiation for English learners, GATE students and struggling students. While we do not have state testing to reflect on, we have some early diagnostic data that indicates that Bert Lynn Middle School is on a good academic trajectory.

This summer, we spent time reviewing instructional practices and we focused on how to provide students better instruction online. With our first few weeks behind us, we believe that time spent discussing common learning targets during our Late-Start Wednesdays is key to our continued success. Guiding questions during our meetings are as follows: What do we expect our students to learn? How will we know they are learning? How will we respond when they don't learn, i.e., which interventions? How will we respond if students already know planned learning targets, e.g., GATE students?

Bert Lynn Middle School: "Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!"



Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • jefferson.tusd.org



Yvonne Marin
Principal

The Best Counselor

At Jefferson Middle School we have the best counselor in the world! Students who have passed through our school and moved on to high school and beyond will attest to this. Ms. Goli Balooch loves being a middle school counselor. She's a natural at connecting with students and their families as well as working closely with staff to ensure students' emotional wellness is at the forefront to allow for a positive middle school experience.



Ms. Goli Balooch

Ms. Balooch attended Torrance schools Kindergarten through 12th grade. Ms. Balooch attended Loyola Marymount to earn both her undergraduate and masters degrees along with her credential in counseling. She is asked every year to take in a counseling intern to mentor and she happily does so. Ms. Balooch not only supports our students and their families, but she spends a lot of time working closely with our staff. Ms. Balooch makes Jefferson a special place to be!

LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • launch.tusd.org



Teresa Lanphere
Principal

Skilled Young Learners!

This school year, because of public health concerns, all of the preschool students in both LAUNCH, our special-education preschool, and our students in our state preschool, Torrance Tykes, started new to school this year or returned to school in the virtual mode. Many of our young students are experiencing the use of technology in a whole new way and, for some, the first time.

While some may have had the chance to look at their parents' phones for a game or an activity or used an iPad at home, most young children have never had to do all their learning for school in the virtual realm. The staff in both programs have been working hard to support the students' needs and challenges regarding the use of technology to present learning activities, and they have worked closely with parents to troubleshoot issues that arise. This experience is not ideal, as young children learn best in an environment that promotes hands-on experiences, exposure to rich language and social activities, and lots of time to play and learn outside together. Nevertheless, staff and parents are working together to make this as meaningful as possible for each child.

We are looking forward to the time we can get our students back to school in person with their teachers, support staff and friends.

Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • magruder.tusd.org



Lisa Nunes
Principal

Essential Materials Collected

As the 2020-2021 school year begins we face a variety of changes in what we have traditionally known to be school. Though our students are all currently

working in virtual capacity, there was traditional work that needed to be done in order to ensure curriculum and materials were available to our Mustangs. Para educators, parent volunteers and certificated staff pitched in to collect all materials that students might need for the 2020-2021 school year. This included textbooks, core novels and the organization of over 150 chrome books



checked out to students.

I'd like to say thank you to those who contributed to the preparation and helping our registration and material pick up be as organized and streamlined as possible. We find ourselves in very non-

traditional and nonetheless some traditions including strong teamwork and building community, continue to be and will be sustained at Magruder.



Jeffrey Nielsen
Principal

First Annual Virtual Club Rush

Madrona Middle School is creating our first annual virtual club rush! In our current virtual learning situation, it is more important (and difficult) than ever to find ways for students to connect and engage in school activities. That is why Madrona is organizing a club rush. Students and teachers have been encouraged to create an advertisement for the club they want to create on campus.

Advertisements are now being shared with the student body who will sign up for the club(s) of their choice. Students will then find a teacher to be their virtual club advisor and create a time and space where they will meet. So far, students have created over 30 clubs! We look forward to creating an exciting space for our students to engage in their passions and interests.



Chris Shek
Principal

Unit Zero

NHS teachers came back to school this year ready to embrace our virtual platform and prepared to close the “distance” for our students through thoughtfully designed units and lessons. The time away from school saw many extend and enhance their technology-integration skills and adopted innovative tools before coming back together and collaborating to bring the best teaching practices to their classrooms.



As part of this preparation, NHS teachers spent hours creating and developing lessons designed to build community among our learners, establish routines, and foster learner readiness as part of their pre-content, Unit Zero. These unit lessons consist of intentionally designed synchronous activities that allowed students and teacher to practice and master myriad available technological tools before diving into specific course content in order to provide a positive experience for students and maximize learning time. This is all in an effort to provide a productive online-learning environment, promote positive peer relationships, and establish a strong social-emotional support base for all of our NHS learners.

Richardson *Middle School*

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • richardsonmiddleschool.org



Tayo Balogun
Principal

Connecting to Campus

Last year, this article was written from the lens of a first-year principal exposed to a brand-new school and all of the excitement that it brings. This year, while working in the midst of a pandemic and everything else going on, we managed to make the first day

of virtual school as close to normal as possible. Mrs. Harrison and I worked with an amazing PTA to orchestrate a successful textbook and Chromebook pickup for our students. Ms. North, our librarian, managed to support children in need by having families donate to Shoes That Fit, an organization dedicated to supplying students with new athletic shoes.

Our staff also completed numerous hours of professional development to bring our Rattlesnakes an engaging and student-focused learning experience. And even though the students are not on campus, our Leadership students are hard at work in their Zoom meetings, planning ways to help students feel connected to campus from home. This week, they were



Richardson community giving back at the Welcome Back day.

working on theme days to celebrate Start With Hello week.

Even though students aren't on campus, it is important to continue to establish a culture that prevents violence and encourage students to look out for one another.

Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



Christie Forshey
Principal



Mrs. Hutchinson, Riviera teacher distributes essential items to kick off the school year!



Riviera essential item pick up!

Seaside *Elementary*

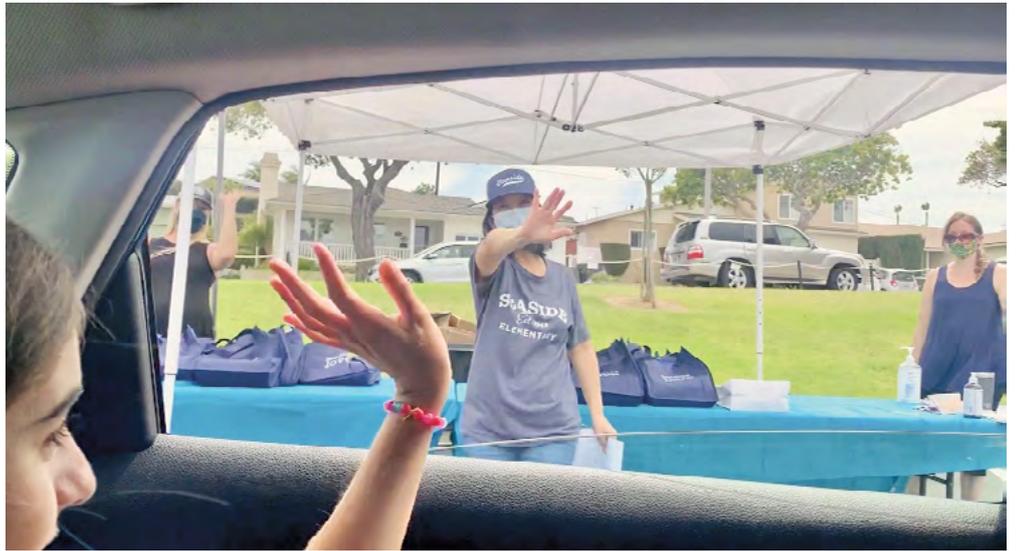
4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • seaside.tusd.org



Michele Bauer-Bean
Principal

Welcome Back to School Car Parade

A Seaside student looks out the car window waving to PTA moms as she drives through the Welcome Back to School Car Parade. Seaside PTA and teachers were desperate, as most of us were, to provide some fun and excitement around the start of the new school year. So, members rallied together under the direction of President Kirsten Bornstein, to set up balloons, music and a Welcome Back Goodie Bag. The bag contained learning essentials pencils, a folder, a white board with markers and an eraser and more. Music played as students drove by in grade level assignments to



honk their horn, wave hello to teachers, moms and friends and collect their gift. There are ways to create a sense of joy during these difficult times and there is nothing better than seeing a child's smile. We are all happy to be back at school, even online!

Shery *High School*

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • shery.tusd.org

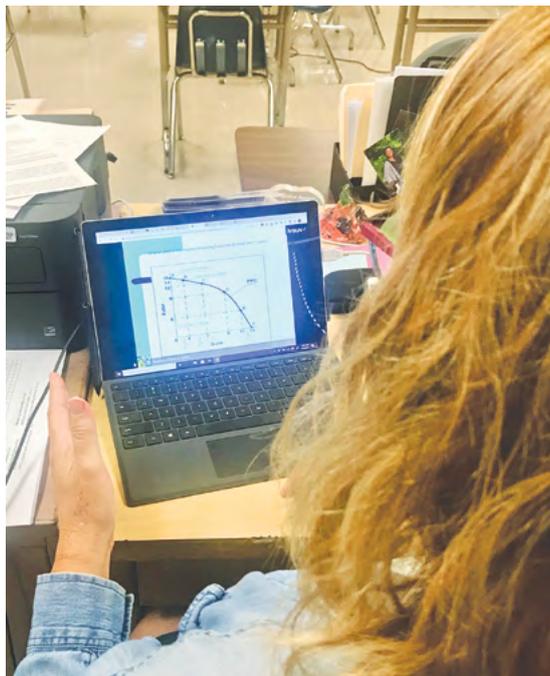


Jamie Jimenez
Principal

No Stopping Us!

Despite everyone's disappointment about having to start this year virtually, the students and staff at Shery High have decided to not let this pandemic slow them down from achieving their goals.

The teachers spent many hours this summer attending district-provided training and also found training on their own about how to best deliver virtual lessons that are interactive and help the teachers check for understanding throughout the direct instruction.



The add-on I see used most often is Pear Deck. Pear Deck is used when a teacher is doing a Google Slide presentation. Using Pear Deck, they add slides that include students responding to questions during the class time through the slide itself. These responses are logged so the teachers can see who participated and what their answers were. They can go back and reach out to students that did not do well to provide them some extra help.

It is great to see the teachers and students engaged in class and know that learning is taking place on a daily basis!

South High School

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • shs.tusd.org



Return of the Spartans

There is nothing that quite matches the anticipation of the start of a new school year; new clothes, fresh supplies and that feeling that everything

is possible. This year was no exception, but instead of new clothes we bought new glasses, new computers, larger screens and headphones to prepare us for the start of our first ever Virtual School Year. The staff at South High was so excited for school to start again that they “videod” into the year cheering our students on with a Welcome Back to School Video. We know this year’s changes are daunting, yet we all showed up, game faces on, ready to take on this



new challenge. Despite the nerves and the newness we started, and we all know that getting started is often the hardest part. Welcome to the Return of the Spartans!!

Torrance Elementary

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torranceel.tusd.org



Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal



Future Scientists, Engineers and Mathematicians at Work.

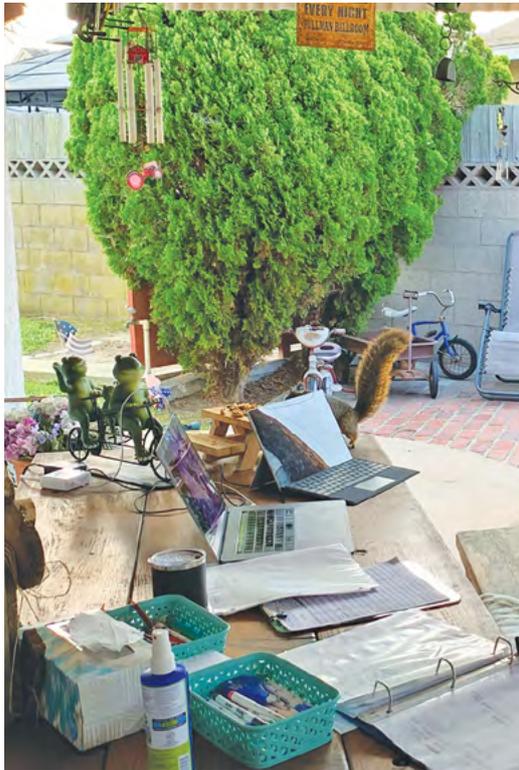


Torrance High School

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • ths.tusd.org



Karim Girgis
Principal



We know that Ms. Spradlin is missing THS but we did not think the squirrels would follow her home and help her teach AP World History!



Torrance Adult School

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 www.tastusd.org



Dr. Wayne Diulio
Principal

Careers for Essential Workers

Marlyn Cudeback is from Guatemala and has been in the United States of America for four years. She has studied English as a second language (ESL) at Torrance Adult School (TAS) the entire time. She received her citizenship two years ago when she reached the course for the highest ESL level that TAS offers. At this time, she felt confident about her skills in the English language and continued with her desire to learn and enter a career in allied health.



Marlyn received a 98% as an ESL student in her first allied health class, Medical Terminology. She continued her studies in the Medical Assisting Program, which consisted of five months of didactic theory that included a hands-on skills lab and 160 hours of externship. After giving birth to a beautiful and healthy baby boy, Marlyn became employed as a lead medical assistant at the facility where she did her externship!

Congratulations, Marlyn, for your successes!

Towers *Elementary*

5600 Towers St, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • towers.tusd.org



Sandy Skora
Principal

Aloha Day

On Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 was our first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year. It was different not welcoming students back onto campus and all the excitement it brings. However, school began and we started our day with a live virtual flag assembly for all students and parents to attend. Students welcomed in the school year wearing Hawaiian clothes for our Aloha



Day and smiles at seeing many of their friends on zoom. Since that first day of school our students have been busy virtually meeting with their teachers. In the photo, you can see one of our students connecting with their class listening to his teacher about what exciting things they are going to learn during the day. Our teachers are masterful in creating virtual engaging and motivational learning activities each day for our students.

Victor *Elementary*

4820 Spencer St, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • victor.tusd.org



Bill Baker
Principal

Although we are all doing virtual learning, many of our teachers are working onsite from their classrooms. Here are some members from Victor's fabulous 1st grade team. Looking forward to having all our teachers and student back one day.



Walteria Elementary

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4487 • www.walteriaelementary.org



Show Us Your Setup!

The start of the year is always rough, especially this year. But, the right tools and the right set up will help

you really get back into the groove of things. Check out Mrs. Radeski's set up! She is ready to engage with her TK students- just look at all of the devices! Can you spot them all?

How many tools are in your set up?



West High School

20401 Victor, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4299 • whs.tusd.org



Celebrating What's New!

All around us today, we hear that these are “unprecedented times” and that we are traveling through “uncharted territory.” It's true; everything is new! And here

at West High, we have three new leaders helping to pave the way for our students and staff. As the new principal, I am joined by our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Ian Eddy, and Mr. Jason Druten who is not new to West, but new to his position as our Athletic Director. Our staff theme for the year is “Celebration!” As we get to know our students and staff, we want to celebrate all of the things that make the West High Team proud. We are celebrating the resilience of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and all of the



new technology being used to promote engagement and learning in our virtual classrooms each day. We're excited to celebrate all that is new!

Wood *Elementary*

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • wood.tusd.org



Dr. Shawn Johnson
Principal

Wood Elementary was excited to start the school year off on a positive note. The day before school began, teachers and staff passed out bags with pencil pouches filled with school supplies, a whiteboard and grade level materials to every Woodchuck. Mr. King, a fourth grade teacher at Wood, stopped to pose for a picture after welcoming his new student from a safe distance.



Yukon *Elementary*

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • yukon.tusd.org



Elaine Wassil
Principal

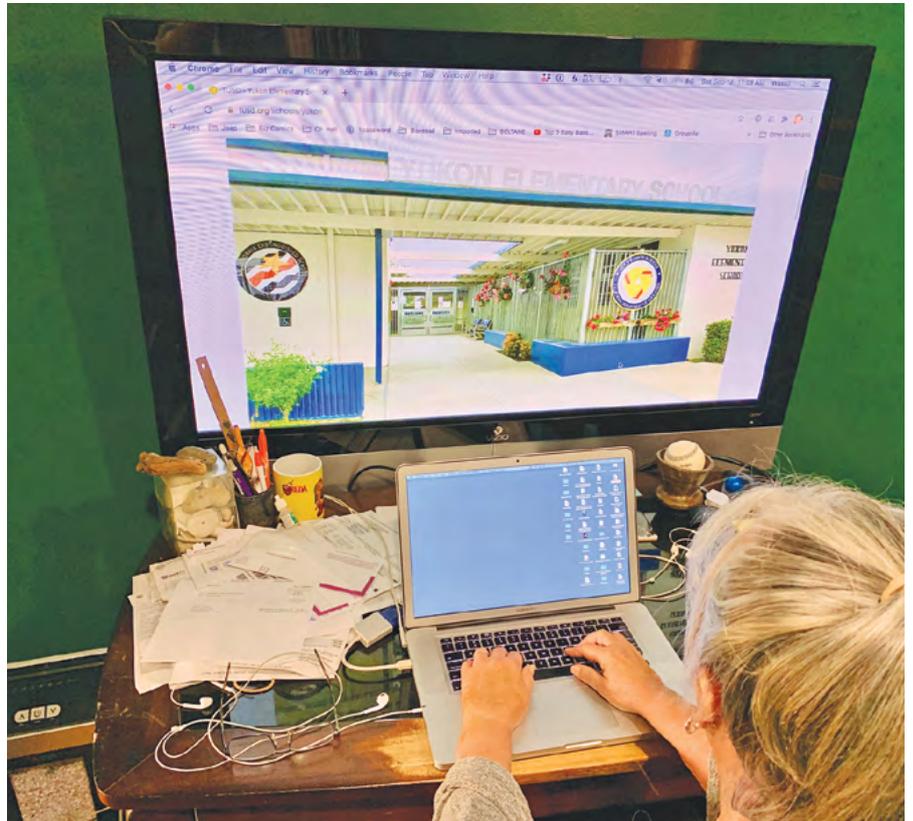
New Ways to Connect

Yukon kids and parents love their teachers and their school. We wondered how to keep that sense of community and school spirit alive. We found ways!

First, our virtual Assembly. It begins with a slideshow of our traditional fun events, past and present; then our school cheer; a presentation of ways we live our Husky B.A.R.K. (Be kind, Act responsibly, Respect others, Keep safe); and closes with “Wonders of the Week” featuring students and their great work. You can search Facebook, #YukonTUSD, for these assemblies.

Each classroom has an app for parent-teacher communication and students can drop in to chat with the principal in a Google Meet three times each week. Yukon is currently training moderators for meets featuring drawing, games, and other special interests kids might have.

Our shared experiences are alive and well as Yukon finds ways to stay in touch and stay together!



Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Surprise for Charlie

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl. The story is about Charlie, a poor boy who lives in a small house with his parents and 4 grandparents.



One day, Charlie found some money buried in the snow. He used some of that money to buy Wonka bars. He found the fifth and final ticket to join 4 other lucky children who got to go on the tour of Willy Wonka factory. The factory is magical and mysterious. Inside the factory, the children were distracted by various wonderful creations. The tour of the factory had a hidden intention that was revealed at the end.

The story is funny and full of magic and mystery. I felt like I was on the tour of the factory while I was reading this book. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves chocolates or anyone who loves reading a funny and mysterious story.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

A New Inspiration

Title: *Love That Dog*
Author: Sharon Creech

Jack is a second grade boy who has no interest in writing poems. When encouraged to do so by his teacher, he feels that he has no business to do so however, once he writes a poem, it is clear that he has talent in writing poems. His poems make it to the classroom's blackboard, where his teacher anonymously wrote one of his poems. As he continues developing his love for poetry and grows to enjoy writing them, he reveals a heartbreaking secret through one of his poems: the death of his beloved dog. As this poem attracts attention from his teacher and classmates, Jack writes to a poet to come to the school. Jack is surprised when the meeting is arranged and his love for poetry is inspired even more. I recommend this book to people who like reading poetry, as the book is written in a poem format.



Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

Yoona's Review



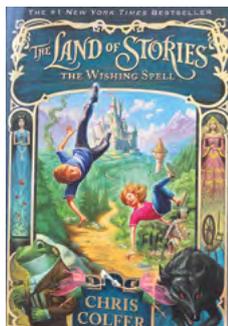
Yoona C.

Twisted Fairy Tales

Title: *The Land of Stories The Wishing Spell*

Author: Chris Colfer

Do you like fairy tales? This story is about twins named Alex and Conner that got stuck in a fairy tale



land. They found a talking frog who told them how to go back home. The frog said that they would have to get the items so Alex and Conner decided to get the items. After they got the items and were about to go home, the Evil Queen kidnapped them! What did the Evil Queen want from the twins? Will Alex and Conner eventually escape from the kingdom? I like this book because it is full of adventurous events with full details. I recommend this book to the kids who enjoy classic fairy tales but at the same time a little twist.

Yoona is a 3rd grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys singing and listening to music.

Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

A Rocky Road

Title: *Fish in a Tree*

Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt

This story is about a girl named Ally who is struggling with reading words. Ally was always the "bad student," but it all changed when her teacher



had to give birth and the sub teacher, Mr. Daniels came. Almost everything flipped around. She made friends, she worked harder, she was happy, and she started chess lessons with Mr. Daniels. Only one thing doesn't change, she can't stand up to her bully. Ally tells Mr. Daniels about what's going on about the words that she can't read. Mr. Daniels says that he can help her. Next, an election goes on for class president and Ally gets nominated. Can she win? Can she learn to read? Last but not least can she stand up to her bully? I give this book a 5 out of 5 as it is such an inspiring book for all of us.

Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

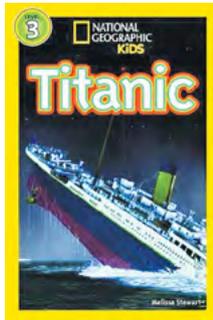
Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

The Wonder Ship

National Geographic Readers: Titanic by Melissa Stewart is a book based on a true story. This book talks about what happened to the famous ship



Titanic, why and how it sank and many amazing facts about it. I got interested in this book after watching the movie Titanic. It has a lot of weird but true facts like the Titanic was as tall as a 17 story building. I also liked the ship diagram that tells about various parts of the ship. You will find great illustrations in this book. Do read this book to find out more facts about this amazing ship and the people who took this voyage!

Manhar M. is in Second Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking and reading about world geography and trivia.

Sean's Book Review



Sean

Crazy Neighbor

Have you ever heard of a horror game called Hello Neighbor? If you have, and are interested in the backstory, *Hello Neighbor: Bad Blood* by Carly Anne West is the book for you. The main character is a kid named Aaron. He moved to a new place and discovered that his grandparents are very famous. But while he's there, he gets asked questions, which stresses him out, so as a choice, he goes places he should not have. Throughout the book, there is a lot of mystery, action, and suspense that will have you hooked. Want to start off right? Then read the other 3 books in the series before this one. But if you want to jump right in, read this one as all of them make you understand their world more than ever. Overall, this is a really fun book and I would rate this a 10/10 on the 'Awesome Book Scale'!



Sean Cheng is a 6th grader and enjoys speed cubing, playing basketball, and performing tricks on his scooter. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. He loves teaching tricks to his new puppy and taking care of his 3 guinea pigs. He looks forward to boogie boarding at the beach!

Halloween Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by November 30, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT | HALLOWEEN |
| CANDY | JACK O LANTERN |
| CARVE | MUMMY |
| CEMETERY | SKELETON |
| COSTUME | SPIDER |
| DECORATIONS | SWAMP CREATURE |
| FRANKENSTEIN | TRICK OR TREAT |
| FRIGHTFUL | VAMPIRE |
| GHOST | WEB |
| GHOUL | WEREWOLF |
| GRAVE | WITCH |
| HAUNTED HOUSE | ZOMBIE |

